



NEWS RELEASE
September 2012

Nationwide search for best unsigned Blues Musicians

- musicians from across the country urged to enter now!!

It has just been announced that entries for this year's highly prestigious and nationwide competition - **The New Brunswick Battle of the Blues** - will open on 1st October. For a third year the cream of unsigned bands and singer/songwriters is being sought from across the UK and particularly from the North of England where, organisers believe, the area's great blues talent deserves higher recognition.

Five heats will take place around the country, with Northern heats being held at the **True Blues Club, Newton-le-Willows on 11th January** and **Redcar Blues Club on 8th February** (although musicians are welcome to enter any of the 5 heats – see below). Heat winners plus a 'judges' choice' will go head to head at the final in London in March 2013, with the overall competition winner being taken out to play main stage at the world renowned Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival in New Brunswick, Canada, during September 2013.

Says Lisa Gagnon, who's organising the competition in the UK for New Brunswick, "Harvest Jazz & Blues is one of the world's great music festivals. Once again we're thrilled to be offering this chance to British blues musicians to play alongside the best of the best. New Brunswick's capital Fredericton,

where the festival is held, is a wonderful place to visit at any point in the year, but at Harvest time the atmosphere is electric!"

And she continues, "The winners will play gigs on the Festival's main stage and have the chance to make contact with some of the all time blues greats who come here from across North America and indeed the world. And we'll even take our winners whale watching, sea kayaking and sightseeing – all expenses paid, of course.

Last year's winners – Groove-A-Matics from Gateshead – said this of the competition, "It's a fantastic opportunity for emerging or established British blues artists to raise their profile and play on a world stage at this brilliant festival – as well as experiencing the wonders of the Canadian province of New Brunswick."

Interested bands and singer/songwriters are invited to register initially at www.tourismnewbrunswick.co.uk between 1st October and 30th November 2012. Artists will need to demonstrate the ability to produce new and original work, though some covers are permitted. To qualify, they will need to be unsigned at the time of the competition (including the final). Musicians may enter whichever heat best suits them – choose from Newton-le-Willows in the North West, Redcar in the North East, Billericay in the South East, Hove in the South and Cupar, Scotland.

ENDS

For further information, interview, images or press tickets, please contact Rachel Shimell or Miranda Johnson on 02380 732981 / 01962 890208 or email: Rachel.shimell@ntlworld.com or mirandajohnson@btinternet.com

Note to Editors

New Brunswick is one of Canada's 3 maritime provinces and is known as the 'Jewel of Atlantic Canada'. The province is rich in history, culture and natural beauty and music is an integral part of its psyche. Visit www.tourismnewbrunswick.co.uk for more information
The Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival is an annual music festival held in Fredericton, the capital of New Brunswick. It has an international following and features blues, jazz and world music, taking over the city for 5 days in September.

Details of heats:

- 11th January, True Blues Club, Newton Le Willows

- 24th January, New Crowdaddy Blues Club, Billericay
- 25th January, The Brunswick, Hove
- 8th February, Redcar Blues Club, Redcar
- 23rd February, Blues & Beyond club, Cupar, Scotland