

**Gibson Guitar- Robert Johnson Blues Foundation New Generation Award:
Awarded to the year's most promising young blues musician.**

The contest is open to all young blues musicians at least 12 years of age, but no older than 18 years of age, as of **May 9, 2009**. Entries must include an essay and a VHS or DVD videotape. The video must not exceed five (5) minutes in length and should contain two songs. Contestants must perform two solo pieces; either instrumental (with or without vocals) or acapella (singing without music).

A downloadable application is available at Robert Johnson Crossroads.com. Contestant will be judged by an independent panel of music industry professionals. Entries will be judged on artistic ability, confidence in performance, technique, and knowledge of blues music.

The winner of the Gibson Guitar/Robert Johnson Blues Foundation New Generation Award will receive a Gibson "Robert Johnson" Edition guitar, a certificate signed by Claud Johnson (son of Robert Johnson) and an invitation to perform at the **Annual Robert Johnson Blues Foundation Spring Festival held in May 9, 2009 in Crystal Springs, MS. Transportation and lodging for the winner will be provided by the Foundation.**

The Robert Johnson Blues Foundation hopes to ensure that Robert Johnson's legacy and the delta blues heritage continue into the future by recognizing and assisting young blues musicians through the New Generation Award. We express our appreciation of Gibson who shares sponsorship of this award and makes possible the promotion of new upcoming talent.

**Gibson Guitar-Robert Johnson Blues Foundation New Generation Award:
Awarded to the year's most promising young blues musician.** Each entry requires all of the following:

- **Non-Professional VHS or DVD of a 3-5 minute solo performance by the entrant. Performance can include vocal and/or instrumental performance.**
- A 150-word essay on why the entrant believes he/she deserves the award, typed double spaced.
- Completed entry form.
- Payment of \$5.00 nonrefundable entry fee by check or money order made payable to the Robert Johnson Blues Foundation.
- **Entries can be sent via sonicbids on line or mailed to: The Robert Johnson Blues Foundation c/o Cathy Gurley PO 150657, Nashville, TN, 37215.**

Deadlines for 2009 entries will be March 31, 2009.

Any video or audio performance at the Festival becomes the property of the Robert Johnson Blues Foundation ****Past winners are not eligible for entry****

Rules:

1. Entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2009 to be eligible for the 2009 contest. Winner will be notified by March 30, 2009.
2. All entrants will receive notification of receipt of their application. Please do not call the RJBF to inquire about your entry.
3. Neither RJBF nor any of its affiliates are responsible for lost or damaged entries. If a damaged product arrives by mail you will be notified and will have the opportunity to resend the material. The resent material must be received within 5 business days after you are contacted to be eligible for that year's competition. Videotapes and DVDs will not be returned. Do not send the original copy of your material. All entries and videotapes become the property of the RBJF Foundation.
4. Entrants must be at least 12 years of age, but no older than 18 years of age, as of May 5, 2009. Employees of Robert Johnson Foundation, their families, etc. are not eligible.
5. The winner will be selected by an elite panel of judges. This panel will consist of music industry professionals. Entrants will be judged on musicianship, stage presence, and ability to communicate their feelings about blues music through their musical performance and their verbal statement. Recording quality will not be considered. Home recordings are acceptable and will not negatively affect the judging.
6. The winner of the New Generation Award will receive a Gibson "Robert Johnson" guitar, a Robert Johnson harmonica, a certificate signed by Claud Johnson (son of Robert Johnson) and an invitation to perform at the Robert Johnson Central Mississippi Blues Festival held on May 9, 2009 in Hazlehurst, Mississippi.
7. The winner will be notified by mail. An affidavit will be included and must be returned to RJBF within 10 days granting the foundation use of your name, information and likeness. Any false information submitted will result in immediate disqualification and an alternate winner will be selected. Affidavits of individuals under 18 years age at time of award must be countersigned by their parent or legal guardian. Affidavits are subject to verification by RJF and its agents. Entry constitutes permission to use the winner's name, likeness and voice for future advertising and publicity purposes without additional compensation.
8. Rules and regulations are subject to change at RJBF's discretion. RJBF reserves the right to make any final decision should any problematic or unforeseen issues arise. Prizes, contest rules, and entry to the contest are subject to all laws set forth. It is the contestant's responsibility to investigate and abide under any and all state or local laws. Void where prohibited. All federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply.

- 9.** Entrants and any signing parent or guardian hereby (1) agree to release the organizers, participants, officers, directors, employees, members, volunteers, judges or agents, from any loss, damage, liability or injury arising out of or resulting from this contest or any participation therein; (2) agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend them from and against any and all claims for loss, damage, liability, or injury however caused, resulting directly or indirectly from competitors entry or participation in this contest or from acts or omissions of organizers or organizer's agents.
- 10.** By participating in the contest, entrants agree to be bound by these rules and by any subsequent published revision of these rules, and by the decisions of RJBF, which are final in all matters relating to the contest.