



Martins Downtown

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MARTIN'S DOWNTOWN / DXDT BATTLE OF THE BANDS

WHO MAY ENTER:

1. Battle of the Bands is open to any kind of musical ensemble. Please no solo acts or singer/songwriters for this competition. This is a battle of the BANDS.
2. All performers and/or band members must be at least 18 years old at the time of their Preliminary Round performance.

SCHEDULE:

1. Preliminary Round: Four consecutive Thursdays beginning Feb 2, 2012 and concluding Feb 23, 2012; five bands will each perform a 20-minute set. If only four bands are scheduled in a preliminary round, or if a scheduled band fails to appear, the event will start a half-hour after its scheduled 9 p.m. start time. The top band (or performer) from each week will advance to the finals with the remaining bands becoming eligible for a 'wildcard' entry into the finals. Wildcard bands will be announced on Feb 25, 2012.
2. Finals: Saturday, March 3, 2012. The Finals will consist of six bands (or performers), each performing 30-minute sets.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT:

1. To participate, bands must completely fill out the registration form published on the Martin's Downtown website (www.MartinsDowntown.com) and send it to or drop it off at 413 1st St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24011 along with \$25 registration fee.
2. Registration will remain open to all qualified bands until event organizers announce on the Martin's website that registration is closed. The first 20 bands that meet registration requirements will be accepted for the competition.
3. Once registration is closed, bands may be accepted as alternates who will be invited to compete in a Preliminary Round if a registered band is unable to perform. Alternates will be designated as "first alternate," "second alternate" and so on, based solely on the order in which their registration form was received. Alternates unable to perform when a performance slot becomes available will move to the last alternate number available at that time. Alternates that do not perform will be refunded their \$25 registration fee.

SCHEDULING AND ORDER OF PERFORMANCE:

1. Each registering band must properly fill out the Order of Performance preference on the registration form.
2. In the Preliminary Round, bands will be scheduled in the order their registration is accepted. Bands will be assigned to the first date on which their first choice of playing time is available and that band is available to play. If the band's first choice of playing time is not available on a night that band is available to play, the band will be assigned to the first date on which their second choice of playing time is available. If neither the band's first or second choice of playing time is available, the band will be assigned to the first date on which their third choice of playing time is available. This process of scheduling bands based on their preferred playing time will continue until all slots are filled.
3. In the finals, Order of Performance will be based on each band's preference and the Judges' raw score from the preceding round. (The band with the highest Judges' raw score from the preceding round will have first choice of playing time, based on its stated preference; the band with the second highest Judges' raw score from the preceding round will have second choice, based on its stated preference; and so on.)
4. Assignment of performance dates and times are final. Bands unable to perform during their assigned Preliminary Round date and time and who notify Martin's Downtown at least two weeks in advance may become alternates and may still qualify to compete.
5. If a Band is unable to perform during their assigned Final round date and time, that band will be replaced by the band with the highest **judges' raw score** from the previous round not otherwise advancing. If that band is unable to perform, the band with the next highest cumulative score will be invited.

SCORING AND JUDGING:

1. Scoring in all rounds is based 50% on audience voting and 50% on Judges' scoring.
2. Audience voting: Each member of the audience may purchase one ballot for \$2. Only one ballot per person will be allowed. To vote, audience members circle the name of the band they want to win and turn in their ballots. The percentage of the total audience vote earned by each band will be added to Judges' scoring percentage for each band to achieve a final score.
3. Judges' scoring: Each of four Judges awards points to each band for each of five criteria: Technical Skills (up to 15 points); Song Quality (up to 10 points); Originality (up to 10 points); Stage Presence (up to 10 points); and Crowd Response (up to 5 points). The votes are tallied to achieve the Judges' raw score, after which a percentage of the total Judges' raw score will be calculated for each band. Each band's Judges' scoring percentage will be added to its percentage of the total audience vote to achieve a final cumulative score.
4. In the event of a tie, tie-breakers are as follows: 1st tie-breaker, judges' points for Technical Skills; 2nd tie-breaker, judges' points for Song Quality; 3rd tie-breaker,

judges' points for Originality; 4th tie-breaker, judges' points for Stage Presence; 5th tie-breaker, judges' points for Crowd Response. If tie-breakers cannot break a tie, a coin toss will determine the winner.

5. Scores will be tabulated immediately following each show, and results will be announced immediately as soon as they are available. Official results will be posted on www.MartinsDowntown.com the following day.

BAND PERSONNEL:

1. Only the members of the band listed on your registration form may perform. If you have a lineup change during the course of the competition, the lineup change must be submitted in writing to Martin's Downtown for approval, either by mail or e-mail (jmart1175@aol.com) at least 10 days prior to your scheduled performance.
2. Guest performers are not permitted.
3. All members of each band are required to be present at least 30 minutes prior to their scheduled performance time; and at least one member of each band must be present for the 8:30 p.m. scheduled band meeting each performance night.
4. No one under the age of 18 may perform.

EQUIPMENT:

1. Equipment provided each night: monitor rig, mics and mic stands, mixing board and cables along with sound technician. Bands must bring all other gear, including drumsets.
2. Any special equipment needs must be reported to sound technician Tony Espelage at least one week prior to the band's scheduled performance date. We will do our best to accommodate all reasonable special requests.
3. All equipment must be delivered to Martin's Downtown and either set up in the staging area or on stage 30 minutes before the scheduled performance time. A stage manager will be on hand between each set and will assist in tearing down and setting up.
4. Bands should keep in mind that 20 minutes are allotted for tearing down and setting up between sets and plan accordingly. Up to 15 points may be deducted from a band's Judges' raw score for delays in set changes caused, in the determination of the judges, by the band either setting up or tearing down. Penalties for delays in setting up or tearing down will be determined by judges in consultation with the sound technician and stage manager.
5. Bands are responsible for any of Martin's Downtown equipment damaged or lost during their set-up, set or tear-down.

PERFORMANCES:

1. This is an original music competition. Only one cover is permitted per set, and that cover must not exceed one-fourth of the performer's set length (five minutes of a 20-minute set; 7-1/2 minutes of a 30-minute set).

2. A cover can be a medley of cover songs, provided it does not exceed the maximum length.
3. A cover or partial cover included as a fragment of an original song counts as that band's allowed cover.
4. Bands intending to perform a cover song or song fragment must identify the song or song fragment to judges prior to their performance.
5. Rules concerning cover songs and song fragments apply to hip-hop as well as other genres. Hip-hop acts may bring pre-recorded music and press "play," but their material must be original. A "sample" is considered a cover, and the same rules apply as other types of covers.
6. These requirements should not be construed as an effort to discourage bands from including a cover song or song fragment in their set. Points for originality are not deducted because a band performs a cover; in fact, if a band performs a cover song well, it can help its overall scores, both with judges and audiences.
7. Sets are 20 minutes in the Preliminary Round and 30 minutes in the final round, with 20 minutes allowed for set changes between bands. Five points will be deducted from a band's Judges' raw score for each minute the band plays over its allotted time. Bands playing more than five minutes over their allotted time will be disqualified.

OTHER RULES:

1. All participants are required to be courteous and respectful toward other participating musicians. Participants who fail to respect other musicians' performances will be subject to point deductions and/or disqualification.
2. It is a good idea to tell your family and friends *not* to lobby the judges on your band's behalf. This does not help (and can actually hurt if the judges get too annoyed).
3. Bands that must withdraw from the competition must inform Martin's Downtown in writing at least two weeks prior to their scheduled performance. Bands who fail to show for their scheduled performance or withdraw after this deadline will be barred from participating in any future Martin's Downtown event, including Battle of the Bands.
4. All judges decisions are final.
5. Any performer that appears to be heavily intoxicated or under the influence of illegal drugs is subject to disqualification for that performer's entire band for this competition.
6. In the event, fewer than 10 bands sign up or qualify, the event may be postponed or cancelled. Prize money will also be subject to change.

PRIZES:

1. First place: \$750 cash, Slot on the Main Stage for DXDT on April 21, 2012, a Headlining show (with pay) on a Thur, Fri or Sat to be determined later at Martin's Downtown and a \$100 Martin's Downtown Gift Certificate.

2. Second place: \$250 cash, \$50 gift certificate from Martin's Downtown