

## Delta Blues Museum

### Arts and Education Program

The purpose of the Delta Blues Museum's Arts and Education Program is to continue the great musical tradition born in the Mississippi Delta – the Delta Blues. The Arts and Education program teaches students to play music and keeps the history of the Delta Blues alive. Students are taught to play the Blues on the instrument or instruments of their choice. Instruments are provided by the Museum for use in the classroom and authorized performances. However, we encourage students to purchase their own instruments.

Instructors utilize the oral tradition, recorded music, video, instruction books and handouts to educate the students in a classroom environment. The students progress from learning the basics of playing music to working together as a band. Students may advance quickly if proficiency at a lower level is noted, or may begin at the level at which they are most comfortable.

## LEVELS

### Beginner:

Students learn where the Blues originated and the primary artists associated with the Delta Blues. Students are given an overview of the various instruments used to play the Blues and are allowed to try them. Beginners are shown the basics of how to play each instrument, as well as general music theory, and are taught to play simple Blues riffs.

#### Primary skills learned:

- \* General history of the Blues, its origins and heritage;
- \* General music theory, notes, chords and beat;
- \* Basic Blues riffs – I, IV, V, I Progression

Classes are held Mondays and Tuesdays weekly from 4-6 p.m.

### Intermediate:

Students are taught a deeper understanding of the Blues music and to play it. At this level they learn to play as a group. Students are given the opportunity to play songs on different instruments, thereby broadening their experience and skills. Intermediate students are encouraged to assist other students, allowing them to teach and learn as peers. Students may perform with the advanced students, which provides the "journeyman" atmosphere of learning and playing music.

#### Primary skills learned:

- \* A deeper understanding of the Blues masters;
- \* More in-depth use of Blues riffs, turn-a-rounds, and beat;
- \* Students work out songs with other students in a band setting and learn to perform solo.

Classes are held Wednesday and Thursdays weekly from 4–6 p.m.

## Advanced:

Students have shown proficiency on their instrument and have given a live performance. They are encouraged to perform as a stand-alone ensemble and mentor the students in the other levels. Advanced students learn more about recording, stage presence, and working in the music business.

#### Primary skills learned:

- \* Ability to work out a piece of music by themselves, or as a group;
- \* Ability to play together as a band. A working knowledge of instrumentation, including equipment;
- \* Students will mentor other students;
- \* Have a general working knowledge of the music business – contracts, booking, and recording.

Classes are held Wednesdays and Thursdays weekly from 4-6 p.m.

### Performance and Behavior:

Public Performance opportunities will be arranged for the students by the Delta Blues Museum. Students will be instructed how to conduct themselves in public, both on and off the stage. Students are expected to be on their best behavior in the classroom and during performances. Use of foul or abusive language, unnecessary horseplay, fighting, lewd behavior, use of drugs or alcohol, stealing, or destruction of museum property will not be tolerated. Violation of these rules of behavior will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

**DELTA BLUES MUSEUM**  
**P.O. Box 459 #1 Blues Alley**  
**Clarksdale, MS 38614**  
**USA**  
**Phone: 662-627-6820**  
**[www.deltabluesmuseum.org](http://www.deltabluesmuseum.org)**

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned has read and understands the class curriculum and rules and agree to pay the appropriate participation fee.

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Museum Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

**FEES:**

Coahoma County Students: \$25.00 Annually

Adult Students (18 and over): \$25.00 Monthly

Please mail or return to:

Delta Blues Museum

P.O. Box 459

Clarksdale, MS 38614

The Delta Blues Museum is dedicated to creating a welcoming place where visitors find meaning, value and perspective by exploring the history and heritage of this unique American musical art form known as the Blues.

As a public education institution our vision is to:

\* Encourage a deep interest in the story of the musical style known as the Blues and those who shape, play and preserve it;

\* Establish a clear and a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between the Blues and other forms of American music;

\*Provide relevant, creative educational programs, performances, exhibits and visitor experiences;

\*Create a museum environment where ideas are shared with objectivity and respect for our diverse audiences.

The Delta Blues Museum values:

\*The preservation of our music community's unique cultural resources;

\*A spirit of cooperation, trust and open communications between ourselves, our visitors and those who continue to preserve the Blues traditions;

\*The highest professional standards and institutional integrity in all organizational endeavors.

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