



KEEP

THE

BLUES

RED

HOT



Photo by Glenn Kaupert



Blues Camp International · Columbia College Chicago

Blues Angel,

It has been a dream of mine since childhood, over 5 decades ago, to have a centrally located place where student musicians could come play and perform the Blues in a nurturing, organized, professional environment. Fast-forwarding to adulthood, the dream has come to fruition via Blues Camp.

I'd like to invite you to join our team and establish a formal strategic partnership between your organization and mine (Blues Camp International, and Blues Kids Foundation — a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization registered with the IRS). Visit FernandoJones.com and BluesKids.com for more information.

With you as a strategic partner, we can continue to:

- promote and champion Diversity and Equitable Inclusion through music.
- establish free *Blues Camps* and workshops for children and educators.
- create new STEAM opportunities in underserved communities.

- Fernando Jones | 773-841-5262

Photo by Fernando Jones



Blues Camp Palm Beach County, Florida



Who We Are

In 1989, *Blues Kids* was established as a brand. Blues Kids Foundation is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. Our mission is to preserve, perform and promote the Blues among America's youth, educators, parents and community members. We establish free Blues Camps for children, and professional development workshops for educators globally.

Through the lens of *Music as a Second Language* we focus on Social & Emotional Learning enrichment activities and blended learning opportunities, Literacy, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math).

Though Blues is the root of American music, unlike Jazz and Classical music education programs, respectfully, there are fewer funding sources, resources, and endowments setup for nonprofits such as ours. And because of support from people just like you we are at the vanguard, internationally, of Blues pedagogy. Bring Blues Camp to your town and consider us as your charity of choice. For the child who may not have access to a “structured” music appreciation or band program — that’s the void Blues Kids Foundation fills.

— Fernando Jones

Photo by Fernando Jones



Blues Camp London, England · The Premises Recording Studio



Photo by Fernando Jones

Blues Camp North Carolina · Winston-Salem State University

Global Impact

Fernando Jones' Blues Camp International has been presented in performing arts centers and on college campuses (HBCUs and PWIs) in North America, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean. Blues Camp is free! Each participant receives a tuition waiver scholarship. The technology and resources invested in each of them has a value range of \$1,500 to \$2,500. All vocalists and instrumentalists are welcome. This program is designed to give *the Blues Kid* a cultural enrichment and intercultural music opportunity in an organic, nurturing environment with like-minded others. Blues Kids Foundation uses the Kennedy Center ArtsEdge Standards.

Goals

- Introduce the Blues to new youth audiences, globally.
- Provide public performance opportunities for the Blues Kids.
- Teach Blues Kids the art of playing and singing songs by ear.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Use critical thinking skills while collaborating with others.
- Use proper dynamics to ensure appropriate volume levels for vocalists and songs.
- Communicate using cross-generational/regional “musician” language.
- Critique and self-evaluate performances and provide feedback to others.
- Apply practical skills learned in class in a culminating public performance space.
- Perform publicly and proficiently, before community and family members-at-large.

Photo by Glenn Kaupert



Blues Camp International · Columbia College Chicago



Photo by Glenn Kaupert

Blues Camp Chicago · Columbia College Chicago

Blues Camp Family,

Sixteen years ago, I met Fernando at the Chicago Blues Fest with his Columbia College Chicago Blues Ensemble. After the set we spoke, and he shared his vision about a free Blues Camp. Here we are twelve years later and what a ride it has been. Countless kids have participated in Blues Camps from coast to coast and various locations around the world, but *Chi-Town* is the flagship and has been growing strong. *Fourteen years of Blues!*

Every year, at the end of Blues Camp, on the final performance day, I'm reminded how lucky I am to have a part in this event. When I watch the young performers, my eyes water and the hair on my skin stands at alert. Pure joy as each group lays it out for all of our enjoyment. I always say it's my favorite day of the year. To Fernando and all his teachers, to the parents and all the students — let's keep this rolling.

— Reuben, Mary Barnes Donnelley Family Foundation





Blues Camp Palm Beach County, Florida

Traditional Blues Camp Days at-a-glance.

3 to 5-Day Blues Camp (Week)

Monday to Friday (Tentative Schedule)

- 8:00AM - Welcome to Campus
- Blues Kids Morning Jam Session*
- 8:05AM - Healthy Morning Snacks
- 8:30AM - Morning Assembly / Roll Call
- 8:45AM - Ensemble Sessions Start
- 11:00AM - Ensemble Sessions End
- 11:10AM - Lunch
- 11:30AM - Dismissal

Friday (Tentative Schedule)

- Culminating Activity and Blues Kids Fundraiser*
- 5:30PM - Soundcheck
- 6:30PM - Donor Reception | Meet & Greet
- 7:30PM - Blues Kids of America Concert
- 9:00PM - The End

2-Day Blues Camp

Friday (Tentative Schedule)

- 5:30PM - Reception | Meet & Greet
- 7:00PM to 8:30PM - Ensemble Sessions
- 8:45PM - Dismissal

Saturday (Tentative Schedule)

- 9:00AM - Welcome to Campus
- 9:05AM - Healthy Morning Snacks
- Blues Camp Morning Jam Session*
- 9:30AM - Morning Assembly / Roll Call
- 9:50AM to 12:20PM - Ensemble Sessions
- 12:25PM - Lunch
- 12:50PM - Dismissal
- 6:30PM - Reception | Meet & Greet
- 7:30PM - Ferrando Jones & My Band! Concert
- 8:00PM - Blues Kids of America Concert



Blues Camp · House of Blues Chicago





Photo by Jeanette Fyke

Blues Camp California · Fender Center for the Performing Arts



FERNANDO JONES | THE ART OF PLAYING + SINGING THE BLUES BY

LEARN

ONLINE MASTER CLASS SESSIONS FILMED IN 4K BY EMERGING LIGHT MEDIA · FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

[FernandoJones.com/MasterClass](https://fernandojones.com/masterclass)



Allstate



Blues Kids Foundation and Friends Present The 13th Annual Blues Kid of the Year Contest | 2025

Parents/Legal Guardians go to www.BluesKids.com/Contest for all instructions.

Eligibility: Contestants entering the *Blues Kid of the Year Contest* (BKOTY) must live in North America and be between the ages of eleven (11) and fifteen (15) by July 1st. Blues Kids who've attended Blues Camp before are ineligible. Proof of age may be requested at any time during the process. Contestants can enter under parental/legal guardian supervision only. They can sing and/or play an instrument(s) accompanied by one of the backing tracks on the page. Be creative and have fun.

The winner gets transportation that may include either two (2) roundtrip plane tickets on Southwest Airlines (or a comparable airline) of a commercial passenger train or bus. And six (6) nights of lodging accommodations in a chain hotel across the street from Blues Camp. The BKOTY will also receive an award, swag from D'Addario, Rotary Club Chicago, Jim Dunlop, Blues Kids Foundation and more.

Deadline: Submit entries between Saturday, February 1 and Saturday, June 20, 2025 at 12P CST; The 2025 BKOTY will be announced on Monday, June 23rd by 5P CST on our social media platforms.

The 2025 BKOTY must be accompanied by a legal guardian to Fernando Jones' 16th Annual Blues Camp International at Columbia College Chicago Sunday, July 6 to Friday, July 11, 2025. Charlie Bienemy, from Mississippi, was the 2024 BKOTY. She's a drummer and bass player.



Blues Kids Foundation Presents Fernando Jones' 16th Annual
BLUESCAMPINTERNATIONALTUR

FREE FOR BEGINNER, INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED LEVEL SINGERS + INSTRUMENTALISTS AGES 12 TO 18
Audition today for all Blues Camps here @ BluesKids.com/EarlyBird · (779) BluesMe · Info@BluesKids.com

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO · SUNDAY, JULY 6 - FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025

• • • • • Additional Blues Camps towns below. For more info and updates visit BluesKids.com • • • • •

CHICAGOLAND · TOKYO (JP) · LAS VEGAS (NV) · WINSTON-SALEM (NC) · PALM BEACH (FL) · GULFPORT (MS)

This experience is presented in-part by: Mary Barnes Donnelley Family Foundation · Allstate · Columbia College Chicago · LeFort-Martin Fund · Tom Liebman · Facebook/Network for Good
D'Addario Foundation · Chicago Public Schools · Knotty Luxe Arts Foundation · Jim Dunlop · Chicago Federation of Musicians (Local 10-208) · PERT Foundation · Rotary Club of Chicago
Chicago (IL) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated · Navy Pier · Chicago Community Trust · DCASE · Blueniversity of Chicago · Bobbie's Screen Printing

Enter your Blues Kid into the "13th Annual Blues of the Year Contest" BluesKids.com/Contest

RollingStone

"The non-profit Blues Kids Foundation holds annual Fernando Jones Blues summer camps, where students as young as eight or nine years old hone their chops."

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO



Blues Camp History

- 2010 1. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
- 2011 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
2. Huston-Tillotson University (Austin, TX)
3. Fender Center for the Performing Arts (Corona, CA)
4. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
- 2012 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
5. Huston-Tillotson University (Austin, TX)
6. Fender Center for the Performing Arts (Corona, CA)
7. Lahora High School (Anaheim, CA)
8. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
- 2013 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
9. Galveston College (Galveston, TX)
10. Fender Center for the Performing Arts (Corona, CA)
11. University of California - Irvine (Irvine, CA)
12. McPhail Center for Music (Minneapolis, MN)
13. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
14. The American Theatre (Hampton, VA)
- 2014 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
15. Fender Center for the Performing Arts (Corona, CA)
16. California State University (Los Angeles, CA)
17. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
18. The American Theatre (Hampton, VA)
19. Miami Dade College (Miami, FL)
20. The Premises Music Studios (London, England)
- 2015 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
21. Corona Civic Center (Corona, CA)
22. California State University (Los Angeles, CA)
23. Tennessee State University (Nashville, TN)
24. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
25. The American Theatre (Hampton, VA)
26. Miami Dade College (Miami, FL)
27. The Premises Music Studios (London, England)
28. Italy (Private Location)
- 2016 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
29. Corona Civic Center (Corona, CA)
30. Tennessee State University (Nashville, TN)
31. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
32. Tokyo School of Music and Dance (Tokyo, Japan)
33. The Premises Music Studios (London, England)
34. Havana, Cuba (Private Locations)
- 2017 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
35. National Blues Hall of Fame (St. Louis, MO)
36. Tennessee State University (Nashville, TN)
37. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
38. Tokyo School of Music and Dance (Tokyo, Japan)
39. The Premises Music Studios (London, England)
- 2018 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
40. Los Angeles Unified School District (Los Angeles, CA)
41. Kappa Kamp Paul Quinn College (Dallas, TX)
42. Tennessee State University (Nashville, TN)
43. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
44. Chicago State University (Chicago, IL)
45. Logan Center for the Arts (Chicago, IL)
- 2019 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
46. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
47. KOP Mentoring Network (Palm Beach County, FL)
- 2020 The Pandemic
48. Blues Camp Online from Chicago (Pandemic)
- 2021 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
49. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
50. Winston-Salem State University (Winston-Salem, NC)
51. KOP Mentoring Network (Palm Beach County, FL)
- 2022 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
52. B. B. King Museum and Interpretive Center (Indianola, MS)
53. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
54. Kappa Kamp Paul Quinn College (Dallas, TX)
55. Winston-Salem State University (Winston-Salem, NC)
56. KOP Mentoring Network (Palm Beach County, FL)
- 2023 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
57. Winston-Salem State University (Winston-Salem, NC)
58. B. B. King Museum and Interpretive Center (Indianola, MS)
59. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
60. LaGuardia H.S. of Music & Art & Performing Arts (New York, NY)
61. KOP Mentoring Network (Palm Beach County, FL)
- 2024 Blues Camp Kick-Off Weekend at the Chicago Blues Fest
62. Boys & Girls Club of Southern Nevada (Henderson, NV)
63. Columbia College Chicago's Music Center
64. Governors State University (University Park, IL)
65. Winston-Salem State University (Winston-Salem, NC)
66. KOP Mentoring Network (Palm Beach County, FL)
- 2025 Visit [BluesKids.com](https://www.blueskids.com) for the updated list in real time





2023 Blues Kid of the Year at Blues Camp Chicago

NOTES

Strategic Partners

Blues Kids Foundation Blues Angels

Mary Barnes Donnelley Family Foundation | LeFort-Martin Fund | Allstate | Tom Liebman Fidelity Charitable | HawkAuto.com | PERT Foundation | The Chicago Community Trust | United Way Knotty Luxe Arts Foundation | Jim Dunlop USA | Chicago Police Department Dist. 25 | Bikes & Music Fidelity Charitable | Chicago Federation of Musicians (Local 10-208) | Hungry For Music | Rotary Club of Chicago Illinois Arts Council Agency | IL Blues Magazine | Facebook / Network for Good | Navy Pier Chicago D'Addario Foundation | The Chicago Metro Chapters of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated

Blues Camp Education Partners

B.B. King Museum and Interpretive Center (MS) | Columbia College Chicago Tokyo School of Music and Dance (JP) | M.U.S.T Foundation | Winston-Salem State University (NC) Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center | KOP Mentoring Network (FL) | Governors State University Chicago Public Schools: Pershing, Hendricks, Esmond, Powell Paideia Academy, and Owen American Jazz Museum (MO) | Delta Arts Center (NC) | School of Rock (Oak Park, IL)

Blues Kids Foundation Friends

NAMM | WGN TV | One Brick Foundation | South Shore Cultural Center | Thinking Computers Buddy Guy's Legends | Edward Giles Irvin Foundation | Music Box Foundation | A Sound Education Downbeat Magazine | The Society Incorporated, The Chicago Chapter for the Arts | C. Ron Allen Dr. Frances Carroll | Dr. Grace Dawson | Reggie's Rock Club | Elizabeth Scott & Friends Bobbie's Screen Printing | DCASE | ETA Creative Arts Foundation

BluesKids.com/Give

Thanks in advance for making us your charity of choice.

Give without remembering if our mission is in alignment with yours.

Four-Year International Partner • **\$250K** | Two-Year International Partner • **\$150K**

One-Year International Partner • **\$75K** | One-Year National Partner • **\$50K**

Partner of the Week • **\$7.5K** | Blues Kid of the Year Partner • **\$5K** | General Support • **\$2.5K**

Musical instruments, performance space, food + beverages,
and transportation service donations are welcome.

Zelle®



Credit/Debit



Fernando Jones' Blues Camp International

(In-residence since 2010 at Columbia College Chicago's Music Center)

1014 S. Michigan Avenue | Chicago, IL 60605 | FernandoJones.com | BluesKids.com

(779) BluesMe | Info@BluesKids.com

Chicago Public School Vendor #41604 and #21794