7th Annual

International
Cigar Box Guitar Video Playoffs
Fall 2026

A worldwide open call for musicians of all ages -- amateur or professional -- solo, duo or group -- to compete for $1,000 in cash prizes by submitting a performance video featuring at least one handmade stringed instrument.

GUIDELINES

- Anyone ***except*** previous performers at any of the New Orleans or Samantha Fish Cigar Box Guitar Festivals or Top 3 finishers in the six preceding Video Playoffs may enter.

- Each individual, duo or group may submit **one video** which must be **between 3 and 5 minutes in length**, **newly created specifically** for this year's competition. Those submitting solo videos may not also participate as a member of a duo or group, and no one may participate as a member of more than one duo or group.

- Videos must begin with a **real-time** spoken introduction, stating verbatim:
  "I am (*We are*) _____NAME_____**from** _____CITY_____**, and I** (*we*) **will be performing** ____SONG____ **as my** *(our)* **submission to *the International CBG Video Playoffs*."**

- **The performance must feature at least one handmade stringed instrument.** You may *very briefly* describe the instrument(s) if you wish. Songs may be traditional or contemporary, original or cover, instrumental or vocal/instrumental. *Please, no overtly political songs.*

- **Videos must be recorded in landscape orientation** in an indoor setting with no audible or visible audience. A legible sign, whiteboard, or digital graphic reading ***NewOrleansCBG.com*** must be visible during most, if not all, of the video.

- **Contestants should post their video on YouTube** and send a link to: **info@NewOrleansCBG.com** Within a week, an email reply containing a *Participation Certificate* will officially acknowledge registration of the entry.

- **The deadline for submissions is 11:59pm CST, December 15, 2026**.

- A panel of unbiased music business professionals will select the **Top 10** videos ***based on overall appeal***. On January 14th at the **New Orleans Cigar Box Guitar Festival**, the audience will view the Top 10 and cast votes for their favorites to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place. Winners will be announced on Saturday, January 16th during the *Saturday Night Shindig*, and later on the festival website (**www.NewOrleansCBG.com**).

- The **1st Place** winner will receive $500. **2nd Place** = $300. **3rd Place** = $200. Remaining **Top 10** contestants will receive a *Finalist Certificate* and full bragging rights.