80/35 is a multi-day music festival in Des Moines, Iowa celebrating music and the people who support music. The festival’s multiple stages feature independent and alternative rock acts and jam bands.

The Iowa Public Radio 80/35 Play In is a contest between top Iowa bands, who will compete on-air and online for the chance to perform at 80/35. The contest will be heard statewide on IPR’s Studio One, and all performances will be featured online at iowapublicradio.org.

ELIGIBILITY

Artists or bands having at least one member living in the Iowa Public Radio broadcast area or anywhere within the state of Iowa are eligible to enter.

Entrants must agree to perform live on IPR’s Studio One program in order to be eligible and must also have three (3) of the following evenings available to perform live if selected to move on to the semi-final round:

April 29, April 30, May 1, May 2, May 6, May 7, May 8 or May 9, 2013

Entrants must be available on Thursday, June 6, 2013, and willing to perform live at Wooly’s in Des Moines, Iowa at a time that will be determined by Iowa Public Radio and the 80/35 staff.

Entrants must be available July 5 and 6, 2013 and be willing to perform as part of the 80/35 lineup in Des Moines, Iowa, at a time that will be determined by the 80/35 staff.

The performance of songs containing profanity or language and/or content containing potential FCC violations will result in immediate disqualification.

For clarification of FCC rules regarding obscenity, indecency and profanity, please refer to the information found at the following link: http://www.fcc.gov/guides/obscenity-indecency-and-profanity

Once an entrant is selected to move on to the Semi-Final round, the entrant is required to represent themselves in an appropriate manner.

By submitting an entry to the Play In, entrants agree to allow Iowa Public Radio and 80/35 to use their names, likenesses and contest performances in conjunction with the contest.

All entrants who participated in the 2012 Play In are eligible to compete in the 2013 Play In EXCEPT the following:

- Entrants who were selected as one of the three finalists for the 2012 Play In.
- Entrants who played in the 2012 80/35 festival as a winner or runner up in the 2012 Play In.
Iowa Public Radio 80/35 Play In | Official Rules of Entry

Paid staff members of Iowa Public Radio, 80/35 or the Des Moines Music Coalition, or board members of Iowa Public Radio or the Des Moines Music Coalition, are not eligible to participate.

**TO ENTER THE IOWA PUBLIC RADIO 80/35 PLAY IN**

Submit at least one or up to three (3) ORIGINAL songs to Iowa Public Radio by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2013. **Entrants must submit musical compositions in .WAV or .MP3 format. ONLY .WAV or .MP3 FILES WILL BE CONSIDERED.** Files can be sent on CD to the attention of Al Schares, Iowa Public Radio 80/35 Play In, 3rd Floor CAC, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614. .MP3 files can be emailed to aschares@iowapublicradio.org. **ENTRIES CONTAINING MORE THAN THREE (3) SONGS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Entries must be accompanied by complete contact information including name(s), mailing address and phone number. If possible, please include email address.

Songs submitted that contain profanity or language and/or content containing potential FCC violations will not be considered and will automatically disqualify an entrant.

**Addendum (4/15/13):** Entries must be received by Monday, April 15, 2013 at 11:59:59 p.m.

**THE CONTEST**

Eight (8) semi-finalists will be chosen based on the submissions received by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2013.

Semi-finalists will be announced on IPR’s Studio One program on Monday, April 22, 2013. Semi-finalists will also be notified prior to being announced on-air.

Semi-finalists will perform five (5) songs live in Iowa Public Radio’s Studio One facility in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Each entrant (band) will be given $50.00 to cover mileage and expenses for travel to Cedar Falls, Iowa. This performance will be broadcast live and a podcast of the performance will be posted on the Iowa Public Radio website by noon on the day following the performance. These performances will be open to the public.

Details regarding the information needed by IPR’s technical staff will be provided to each selected entrant and a full list of the entrant’s technical requirements must be returned to IPR by Thursday, April 25, 2013.

A video of one (1) song in each entrant’s performance will be produced by IPR (or IPR partner) and will be posted to the IPR website following the performance. Entrants may choose this song/video from their performance.
Listeners will be able to vote on the entrants’ performances posted to Iowa Public Radio web site through Thursday, May 16, 2013.

Finalists will be announced on IPR’s Studio One on Wednesday, May 22, 2013. Finalists will also be notified prior to being announced on-air.

Three (3) entrants moving on to the final round will perform live on the same bill on Thursday, June 6, 2013, at Wooly’s in Des Moines, Iowa. Each entrant will play a set approximately 35 to 40 minutes in length.

Performance order will be chosen randomly prior to the performance by IPR and 80/35 staff.

Details regarding the information needed by IPR’s technical staff and the staff of Wooly’s will be provided to each selected entrant and a full list of the entrant’s technical requirements must be returned to IPR and Wooly’s by Tuesday, June 4, 2013.

This performance will be open to the public.

These performances will be broadcast live and a podcast of the performance will be posted on the Iowa Public Radio website by noon on the day following the performance.

Additionally, a video of the performance of one (1) song by each entrant will be posted to the IPR website following the performance. Entrants may choose this song/video from their Play In performance.

Audience members will be able to rate each entrant live at the finals. Iowa Public Radio listeners will be able to vote on the entrants’ performances posted to Iowa Public Radio web site through Tuesday, June 11, 2013.

The winning entrant will be offered a slot on the main stage at the 2013 80/35 festival in Des Moines (July 5 – 6, 2013, set time TBD). The runners up will be offered a slot on one of the free stages at the 2013 80/35 festival in Des Moines (July 5 – 6, 2013 set time TBD).

The winner will be announced on IPR’s Studio One program on Thursday, June 13, 2013. The winning entrant will also be notified prior to being announced on-air.

**JUDGING**

First-round submissions will be judged by a committee of Iowa Public Radio and 80/35 festival staff (Play In Committee).

Submissions will be judged on a scale of 1 (lowest score) to 5 (highest score) in three (3) categories:
Songwriting (quality of original musical and lyrical compositions)

Musicianship (execution appropriate to the material)

Presentation (overall effectiveness of performance)

Appropriateness (is the material submitted a fit for 80/35)

Committee votes will be averaged in each category and added to arrive at a final score. The top eight (8) final scores will be invited to move on to the Semi-Final round.

In cases where an entrant must withdraw because the entrant is unable to fulfill contest requirements or the entrant is disqualified, the next highest scoring entrant will be offered their slot. If the next highest scoring entrant is unable to fill the slot, the slot will be offered to the second next highest scoring entrant, and so on until the slot is filled.

Semi-Final performances will be judged by IPR listeners and Play In Committee.

Semi-final performances will be judged on a scale of 1 (lowest score) to 5 (highest score) in three (3) categories:

- Songwriting
- Performance
- Overall Presentation

Listeners will be provided a method of registering their votes online. The voting period will run from the date of the entrant’s performance to 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2013.

Audience members will be encouraged to register their votes online.

Online listener votes will be averaged in each category and added to Play In Committee voting totals. The top three (3) average scores will be invited to move on to the Final round.

In cases where an entrant must withdraw because the entrant is unable to fulfill contest requirements or the entrant is disqualified, the next highest scoring entrant will be offered their slot. If the next highest scoring entrant is unable to fill the slot, the slot will be offered to the second next highest scoring entrant, and so on until the slot is filled.

Final-round live performances will be judged on presentation using a scale of 1 (lowest score) to 10 (highest score.)
Final-round performances will be judged by live-event audience members, IPR listeners and Play In Committee.

Audience members will be able to register their votes at the event.

Listeners will be provided a method of registering their votes online. The voting period will run from the date of the performance to 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2013.

Online listener votes and live-event votes will each be averaged and added to Play In Committee totals. The top score will be invited to play a main stage slot at the 2013 80/35 festival in Des Moines (July 5 – 6, 2013 set time TBD). The second and third scores will be invited to play side-stage slots at the 2013 80/35 festival (July 5 – 6, 2013 set time TBD).

In cases where an entrant must withdraw because the entrant is unable to fulfill contest requirements or the entrant is disqualified, the next highest scoring entrant will be offered their slot. If the next highest scoring entrant is unable to fill the slot, the slot will be offered to the second next highest scoring entrant, and so on until the slot is filled.

**TIE BREAKERS**

In case of a tie for the final spot in either the semi-finals or the finals, or a tie in the final rankings, the Play In committee will reevaluate each of the affected entrants using the above ratings. The average rankings of the committee will be used to break the tie.