

## Just 'Cuz is TBS Entry at Youth Showcase

by Stacy A. Jeffress

The Topeka Blues Society is proud to be sponsoring Just 'Cuz at the first ever Youth Showcase to be held in conjunction with the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge on February 6<sup>th</sup> in Memphis. Just 'Cuz, which recently did a superb job



of opening for 2008 IBC champions Tramped Under Foot at Uncle Bo's, is composed of brothers Mike Hern, 18, on bass, Nick Hern, 15, on guitar, and their cousin, Drew Hern, 14, on drums. Mike and Nick trade off on lead vocals, and the group has a widely-varied repertoire of blues standards, classic rock, and originals.

Just four years ago, Mike and Nick received their first guitars as last-minute Christmas presents from their parents. They started teaching themselves which led to upgrading their instruments, formal lessons, and teaming up with Cousin Drew, who took up the drums four years ago and played piano before that. The trio performed for family and friends and made its public debut at a student concert at Seaman High School in 2007. Since then, the group has performed at Knuckleheads in Kansas City, the Kickstart Saloon, Kobie's in Bonner Springs, the Slow Ride Roadhouse in Lawrence, and at two Topeka Harley Davidson events.

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We applaud the talent and enthusiasm for the blues demonstrated by these young men and also congratulate their parents for supporting their sons' musical aspirations. The Topeka Blues Society could not have picked better representatives for our club and our city in Memphis.