



Keeping Classic R&B Alive

# Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society

*Affiliate Member of the National Blues Foundation*

[www.bluespreservationsociety.org](http://www.bluespreservationsociety.org) | 12 Kipling Street, Providence, RI 02907 | 401.461.0012

## **RHYTHM & BLUES NEWS of NOTE**

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Whiting

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### ***From the President's Desk***

Why we support R& B designation as RI official State music - - -

Rhode Island is a musical state. It is full of citizens who love to hear music and citizens who love to play it. We like our music live. There are cozy

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President: Cleveland Kurtz  
Vice President: Max Whiting  
Sec/Treasurer: Sylvia Whiting

#### **Instruments Program Director**

Tom Colantonio

#### **Board Members**

Tom Colantonio  
Clarice Smith  
Paul Williams  
Dhana Whiteing

#### **Honorary Board Members**

Richard & Donna Pena  
Lynn & Elizabeth Pegg  
Sylvia Ann Soares

venues throughout the state where one can visit and enjoy the beautiful sounds. There are also a host of festivals, outdoor performances in parks, on campus grounds, Newport mansions, and backyards scattered throughout the state.



President Cleveland Kurtz

Rhode Island is a diverse state, and within that diversity, thrives a multitude of musical traditions. From classical to hip-hop, from gospel, country and western to the sounds of Asia, from rock, jazz and bagpipes, we got it all here. The musical traditions of the Caribbean, Central and South America and most of Europe thrive in Rhode Island. When it comes to music, whatever you like; we got it.

Rhythm and Blues, however, has a special place in the hearts of Rhode Islanders. It is the music most likely to bring all of these groups together. When you include offshoots and relatives of 'Rhythm and Blues' which include rock, country, jazz, Afro-Caribbean, the size of the groups grows even larger. The Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society's informal survey shows that there are so many venues in Rhode Island that showcase Rhythm and Blues because Rhode Islanders love hearing the music played live. You will find classical music lovers, rockers, country and western fans huddled together playing and listening to live Rhythm and Blues. Venues from Chan's in Woonsocket to the Knickerbocker in Westerly, the Met in Pawtucket to the Narragansett cafe in Jamestown, the sounds of Rhythm and Blues fills the air. These places always have, on tap, a nice crowd of devoted Rhode Islanders who cherish R&B.

Rhythm and Blues is a gift from America's black community to America and to the world, and the Rhode Island community seems determined to get its fair share of that gift. Rhode Island not only has a large number of venues that showcase the music; but also, a significant number of its citizens who perform

the music and some of those have made an impact on the American and the world's music scene. The Osborne dynasty, Billy, Jeffrey, and Clay, Room Full of Blues, and Tavares are just a few.

Our founder, Dr. Edward Coates, first proposed the idea of Rhythm and Blues being designated as Rhode Island's official state music. Prof. Coates also first proposed the idea that gave birth to the Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society. You can't beat that. Prof. Coates is full of great ideas, and the R&B state designation is another one of them.

The bill to designate Rhythm and Blues as our state music is wandering around somewhere in the state legislature. Take a few minutes and let your legislator know that you support R&B as the official music of RI. I think it can use your helping hand. HB 5123 was spearheaded by Rep. David Bennett of Cranston. He proposed legislation that would designate Rhythm and Blues the official "state music." He is spearheading this effort on behalf of the Rhode Island Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society. We ask that you contact your state representative to show your support.

Juneteenth @ Roger Williams Park

**Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> All Day**

Come visit the RIRBPS Table

Renew Your Membership

#### **Vice President / Music Director – Max Whiting**



Winter brings relative quiet for RIRBPS; the exception being the Instruments for Kids program which continues to be a very positive and successful part of our activities. Hats off to Tom Colantonio, Program Director, for his excellent work and leadership.

The upcoming months will provide for the planning and implementation of several important activities. We will continue the annual Meet & Greet (late fall) and '**A Day in the Life**' series that began last summer at several local libraries. We plan to expand this to area organizations in greater Providence. We were able to establish a relationship with the St. Martin De Porres Center in Providence (*highlights on page 4*) and will work to provide other events at the Center.

Planning is underway for the Juneteenth Celebration. We will have a table with information for attendees at the Juneteenth event at Roger Williams Park on June 18<sup>th</sup>. RIRBPS will also provide our First Annual Scholarship of \$1,000 to a graduating senior at the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA). The Scholarship Award will be presented at the Awards Night in mid- May.

The R&B Heritage Month Festival will be special this year as 2023 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RIRBPS. We are working to develop a special event to commemorate the organizations' accomplishments. Plans are focusing on musicians and entertainers as well as others, past and present, who are why this

organization was founded and existed for the past 20 years. As plans proceed we will post information on the website and in local media. Stay tuned!

## **OUR PROGRAMS**

### ***Director, Instruments for Children Program, Tom Colantonio***

Our Instruments for Children is receiving instrument donations and will run an ad when requests increase. Need for instruments at local schools have been met. Some donations are received via google search where donors are able to find us. Thank you to all the music teachers in the RI Education System exposing students to music and keeping it alive and well. Also, thanks to Roberts Music, Musicians Corner and Village Drum

for their support in cleaning, refurbishing and repairing donated instruments.

### ***Musical Instruments Needed***

**Keyboards, Violins, Violas, Trumpets,  
Flutes, Trombones, Clarinets,  
Saxophones**

Call Tom @ 401.793.1281

### ***Instruments Program Tom Colantonio***



***Tom Colantonio***

Anyone with a musical instrument to donate or information on a school or program in need of our assistance, please contact Tom at 401.793.1281 or Cleveland at 401.461.0012. We will arrange to pick up the instruments, if necessary.

### ***BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT Barbara Bardsley***

Long term Board member and friend of RIRBPS has decided to move on as we accept the resignation of Barbara Bardsley. Barbara joined the Board in 2004 under the leadership of Prof. Ed Coates. She was instrumental in recruiting new members and helped to develop the early Instruments for Children Program along with her cousin, long time Board member Elizabeth Pegg. Along with her contributions over those years, she managed to leave a significant legacy to the Rhode Island music community. Barbara helped at many events over the years and promoted RIRBPS within the local music scene.

Barbara's initial and primary interest in the group was our goal to support public education of Rhode Island young people. Past President, Ed Coates and a host of his musician friends recognized the need due to budgetary cuts in public school music programs. To address this deficit the Instruments for Children Program was created to make musical instruments available to struggling schools. Barbara joined the program when Elizabeth Pegg recruited her. She was one of the original administrators of the project and has remained 'old faithful' as it became what it is today; thanks to the continuing efforts of Program Director, Tom Colantonio.

### ***Barbara & past Board member Sylvia Ann Soares @ Chans in Woonsocket.***



We will miss Barbara but she promises to stay in touch and help when needed. We thank her on behalf of all those who benefitted from her efforts and never knew her name. "Thank you, Barbara" for your many contributions to RIRBPS and your lasting support.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
*[www.bluesperservationsociety.org](http://www.bluesperservationsociety.org)*

## **A DAY IN THE LIFE**

We were pleased to present 'A Day in the Life', highlighting the music of R&B to the life of an R&B musician in Rhode Island, to an enthusiastic audience at St. Martin DePorres Center on March 14. Accomplished guitar player/singer (Board member) Paul Williams and Keyboard player Daniel Hill entertained the luncheon group. The event featured R&B hits, smooth light jazz and soulful songs



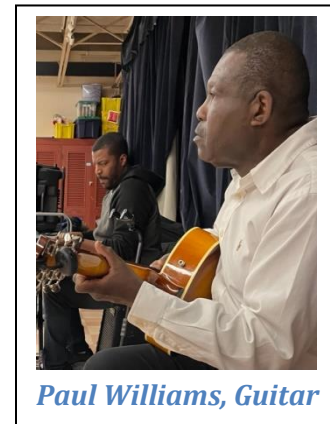
***Daniel Hill,***  
***Keyboard***

by the duo. The audience rocked to such hits as A Train, Blue Bossa, Sunny, All Blues and other favorites from the R&B past.

Tom Colantonio provided an update of the Instruments for Children program.

We plan to return to this venue later this year. 'A Day in the Life' creates a picture to the audience of what it was like for 'road musicians' from Rhode Island, going to cities and towns throughout the northeast and Canada. Our musicians shared interactions with

with the unions, pay, police stops, racism and getting along (or not) with bandmates and others while travelling as a musician. We are scheduled at the Rochambeau Library on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Other dates will be added as scheduled.



***Paul Williams, Guitar***

## **2022 Meet & Greet**

The TAPA house rocked on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) in downtown



Providence. **Meet & Greet** offers an opportunity to showcase student

musicians as part of our Instruments program. It also is an opportunity for members and friends of RIRPBS to meet and mingle with other members, students, faculty and supporters. Groups of student performers, at the





direction of faculty Artist in Residence, Avi David, performed classic R&B musical selections to a full house of students, parents and friends.



The R&B Preservation Heritage Band, featuring Max Whiting



(bass), Paul Williams (guitar), Randy Ashe (sax) and Miles Wolcott (drums) joined students from TAPA for soulful closing of the event.

**August 1<sup>st</sup> - A Day in the Life**  
**Rochambeau Library**  
**708 Hope Street, Providence, RI**  
**5:30PM - 7:30 PM**

🎵🎵🎵 **OF INTEREST**

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

### **WHERE IT'S AT -**

- - **Where music lovers may go to satisfy a healthy R&B craving !!!**

## **Board Members & Friends**

### **Tom Colantonio, Board Member, Bass Player, *Edge of Dreams***

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 8-12 PM & June 10<sup>th</sup>, Lafayette Club, 289 Aylsworth Ave., Woonsocket, RI.

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 8-12 PM, Elks Club, 380 Social St., Woonsocket, RI.

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 7-11 PM, McT'S Taver, 940 Mendon Rd, Cumberland. RI.

May 27<sup>th</sup>, Safe Harbor Marina, Warwick, RI.

### **Paul Williams, Board Member, Guitar & Vocals**

Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2-5PM & Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 11-4PM, **Coastal Cultivator Classic**, 999 Main St., Pawtucket, RI. [www.motherearthri.com](http://www.motherearthri.com).

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6-8PM, **The Parlour**, 1119 N. Main St, Providence. [www.theparlourri.com](http://www.theparlourri.com).

Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 12-2PM, **St. Martin DePorres Center**, 160 Cranston St., Providence, RI.

Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, **Tavern on the Hill**, 8-12PM, 809 Nooseneck Hill Rd, West Greenwich, RI.

Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8-10PM, **The Trinity Beer Garden**, 1 Kennedy Plaza, Providence, RI.

Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30PM-9:30PM, **Bar & Board Bistro**, 282 Thames St., Newport, RI.

Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 7-10PM, **78 Pub**, 80 Greenville Ave, Johnston, RI

### **Tish Adams**

EVERY THURSDAY MORNING, 8 - 10am, "THE VOCALISTS & LOCALISTS SHOW"

90.3 FM WRIU, Kingston / [www.wriu.org](http://www.wriu.org)

Tish Adams Presents... Season 3 / Show #3, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>, 1 - 3pm

"ELLINGTONIA", Songs of Duke Ellington, THE MUSIC MANSION, Providence RI

Event Info: [www.tishadams.com](http://www.tishadams.com). Venue Info: [www.musicmansion.org](http://www.musicmansion.org)

## Local Venues

### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION** *Application on Page 8*

**TT's 133 Club**, Sunday, 29 Warren Ave., East Providence 401.438.1330 – Blues/Jazz Music Series, call for details, dates, times. Mac Odom Band. Motown R&B - NO COVER



**ASKEW**, 150 Chestnut St., Providence, 774-526-9736. Music evenings, Wednesday Jam. Call for details.

**Cady's Tavern**, 2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI, 401.568.4102. Blues Jam, Sunday afternoon at 3-7PM. No cover.

<http://www.cadystavern.com/#!ricks-roadhouse-blues>.

**Fifth Element**, 111 Broadway, Newport 401.619.2552 - Jazz in bar. Sat., Sun., Mon.

**Knickerbocker Café** 35 Railroad Avenue, Westerly, RI. 401.315.5070. **Featured Events.** Classic Blues, R&B, Rock, Oldies, Pop. <http://www.theknickerbockercafe.com>. No cover.

**Murphy's Law** 2 George Street, Pawtucket, RI. 401.724.5522. Blues Jams. No Cover. <http://murphyslawri.com/events>.

**Sardella's Italian Restaurant**, 30 Memorial Blvd., Newport 401.849.6312 Wednesday, 7-10 PM Live Jazz.

**Tarragon Bar**, 311 Westminster St., Providence RI, Blues and jazz Sundays, 7:30 PM. No cover.

**The Pub on Park**, 661 Park Ave., Cranston RI - Vintage R&B Ensemble, call for featured bands. 401.781.8888

**The Revolution**, 2190 Broad Street, Cranston, RI, 401.780.8700. "Excellent Food + Good Music = Fun", Check their schedule for Blues greats.

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### **Secretary/Treasurer - Sylvia Whiting**

Your contribution as a member helps us continue to offer the programming, information and instruments that we strive to provide. Dues are only \$15 for individuals/Musicians, \$5 for students and \$25 for couples. Through your support we continue to grow our Instruments for Children Program with many instruments donated this past year. Many require repair and cleaning, pick-up and delivery. We also offer the **Annual Meet & Greet**, a free event for members featuring student musicians from the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts and other local music programs. A newest program 'A Day in the Life' was offered at four venues this summer. We plan to continue it year round.

The Membership Form is attached to the Newsletter. All membership fees are tax deductible. For information, volunteer opportunities, musician listings, programming and donations please visit us at [www.bluespreservationsociety.org](http://www.bluespreservationsociety.org).

## RIRBPS Membership / Sponsor Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Membership Types / Dues</b>		<b>Payable to RIRBPS &amp; mail to:</b>
Student	\$ 5/year	Sylvia Whiting, Treasurer
Individual/Musician	\$15/year	24 Jennifer Lane, Stoughton, MA 02072
Couple	\$25/year	857.222.1785 / sylmax99@yahoo.com
Non Profit	\$50/year	<b>Payable on-line @ <a href="http://www.bluespreservationsociety.org">www.bluespreservationsociety.org</a>.</b>
Venue/Club	\$75/year	
Corporation	\$100/year	<b>Membership renewal year runs from June 1 to May 31.</b>
<b>Advertising Prices for Newsletter &amp;/or Website:</b> Business Card \$25 (2x3.5)   ¼ Page \$50 (4.5 x 5.5)   Half Page \$75 (5x8) Full Page \$150 (8x11). All Ads require camera ready jpeg file.		
<b>Sponsor Flyers:</b> Members only, 1 <sup>st</sup> time free – You Print – We Attach (inserted if mailed).		

Instrument played: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Membership</b>		\$ _____
<b>Voluntary Donation</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>		\$ _____

### **Volunteer Information (optional):**

In addition to supporting RIRBPS with my Membership, I would like to volunteer in the following way:

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## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Your support is valuable to us in many areas. Here are some ways you may help:

- Promotion and advertising
- Bookkeeping and banking
- Social media coordination (website, twitter, etc.)
- Producing and staging shows
- Coordinating and compiling our history projects

Our needs have grown along with our organization and we could really use your help. We are easy to work with; we have a lot of fun; and we serve our community. Now, you can't beat that. Please contact us at your earliest convenience.