

FEBRUARY 2022



# Charlotte Blues Society

*Monthly E-Bluesletter*

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Ana Popovic

Feb.24

Southern

Avenue

Feb 28

Eddie Turner

pg 6

Vanessa

Collier pg 8

Diane Durrett

pg 10

Christone

"Kingfish"

Ingram

March 9

Marty

Gunther's

Red Hot & Blues

Reviews

**FEBRUARY  
BLUES SUNDAY  
CANCELLED**

FEBRUARY 2022

# Musings

from outgoing President  
Mary London Szpara



Well, Omicron Virus got us off to a rocky start for February. We are sad to announce the cancelation of the Blues Sunday February 6, 2022 at Neighborhood Theatre. The band scheduled to perform and head the Jam cancelled due to illness, with a band member hospitalized and others in isolation.

After careful consideration, the board made the tough decision to cancel the February event,

Still time to grab some great shows in February:

**Ana Popovic** at Neighborhood Theatre **Feb. 24** **Ana** is always a huge crowd pleaser and one of blues finest female guitarists.

**Southern Avenue** at Neighborhood Theatre **Feb. 28**, Winner of Blues Music Award for Emerging Talent, SA has been touring extensively supporting their latest album. Many will recognize lead guitarist Ori Naftaly who has played here at DDI, and SA has also wowed audiences at Whitewater Center for River Jam. Front person Tierinii Naftaly is electrifying on stage is this is one performance you do not want to miss.

CBS favorites: **Bill Miller Band** will be opening the show.

We have a VERY exciting lineup for the CBS Blues Sunda in March & April with a positive attitude and Great lineup!

We are heading to a new venue in March and April for two very special shows. Join CBS at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts, 1030 Woodward Ave in Charlotte. This is a GREAT venue!

**March 6:** Charlotte Blues Society Blues Sunday with **Eddie Turner!** pg 9

**April 3,** Charlotte Blues Society Blues Sunday  
**29th Anniversary Bash with Vanessa Collier!**

All ticket holder presales from the 2020 show will be honored.

New ticket sales through Eventbrite begin Feb 15,

*Special discount pricing for MEMBERS ONLY*

*(you will receive a code via email)*

Advance sales to the public begin Feb. 22

Tickets at the door: \$35

**May 1,** Charlotte Blues Society Blues Sunday returns to Neighborhood Theatre with Award winning **Diane Durrett & Soul Suga**

Advance tix available at MaxxMusic for \$10. Tix \$20 at the door

**Special note: I no longer will be writing the newsletter after March 6. We need a new editor and webmaster. If you have passion for the blues, and want to be the voice of CBS monthly, let us know!**

~Mary London Szpara  
Outgoing President

# THE IBC RETURNS TO MEMPHIS IN 2022

The Blues Foundation is excited to announce the new  
dates for the  
International Blues Challenge: May 6 – 9,  
2022

It will be a full week of blues this May in Memphis as we celebrate the Blues Music Award nominees and winners on Thursday, May 5 and are Back On Beale with IBC beginning Friday, May 6.

## IBC Important Dates

**Friday, May 6: Quarterfinals Night 1**

**Saturday, May 7: Quarterfinals Night 2**

**Sunday, May 8: KBA Ceremony, Youth Showcases, & Semifinals**

**Monday, May 9: IBC Finals at The Orpheum**

Stay tuned for the updated IBC event schedule that includes workshops, panels, and showcases.

All previously purchased passes will be honored for the new dates, without any action on your part. Passes will now be mailed out in mid-April.



with

**Rick Ballew**

Get YOUR BLUZ on!

Every Sunday night from 8-10pm, Rick Ballew brings you two hours of great blues and blues rock on WYTX

His "Keeping the Blues Alive" Award winning show features artist interviews, new releases and music from the masters of this genre, along with the fresh new talent shakin' up the blues world today.

Don't miss a single show from former Charlotte Blues Society president and well-known radio personality Rick Ballew

*You can find his weekly playlist on our Facebook Group page every Thursday.*

**C**harlotte **B**lues **S**ociety  
Upcoming  
*Blues Sundays*

**SAVE THE  
DATES**

**EDDIE TURNER**

**MARCH 6,  
2022**

Heist Barrel & Arts  
1030 Woodward Ave.  
Charlotte, NC  
7:00 PM Doors

**Diane Durrett  
& Soul Suga**

**MAY 1, 2022**

Neighborhood Theatre  
511 36th St.  
Charlotte NC  
7:00 PM Doors

All tickets sold for the  
original April 2020 date will  
be honored!

29th Anniversary Bash

**Vanessa Collier**

**APRIL 3, 2022**

Heist Barrel & Arts  
1030 Woodward Ave  
Charlotte NC  
7:00 PM Doors

All tickets sold for the  
original April 2020 date will  
be honored!

Members only advance  
discount tix Feb. 15 at  
Eventbrite  
General advance sales Feb 22

Charlotte Blues Society Presents

**EDDIE TURNER**



**March 6, 2022**  
**EDDIE TURNER**



**HEIST BREWERY & BARREL ARTS**

1030 WOODWARD AVE CHARLOTTE, NC

**BLUES SUNDAY**

**6 MARCH 2022**  
**7 PM - DOORS 8PM SHOW**

**MEMBERS \$5**  
WITH VALID CARD  
**NON MEMBERS \$15**

## Eddie Turner March 6, 2022

### CBS Blues Sunday at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Born in Cuba and raised in Chicago, IL, Eddie Turner got the musical bug when he was 12. He would get his education by sneaking into the local clubs or hanging out in the alleys to hear the greats like Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Smith, and Chicago. He and his friends would jam every weekend at someone's house and "argue about who copied Clapton's solo the best in "Crossroads" or whatever. You know; what kids do." his close friend/bass player Kenny Passarelli (Joe Walsh, Ringo Starr's All-Star Band, Stephen Stills) called him to form The Otis Taylor Band, a stint that lasted for about ten years for Eddie. They toured all over the U.S. and Europe, which gave Turner a taste of the full-time musician life, which he loved. He went on to record five albums with Otis before leaving the band in 2004. "A visionary and maybe, a misunderstood artist. He doesn't fit in the standard Blues guitarist category," Kenny Passarelli proclaims.

In 2005, Eddie signed with Canadian blues label, Northern Blues and he released, Rise which resulted in a Blues Music Award nomination for Best New Artist Debut and was followed by 2006's The Turner Diaries, both to rave reviews from the press and fans. In 2010, he released his third album with the label, Miracles & Demons, which displayed his dynamic guitar work and strong original songwriting. The album was a combination of songs with rap-style lyrics and funk- and groove-based rock that gave way to an infectious, psychedelic urban blues. That release was nominated for a 2011 Blues Blast Magazine Award for Best Contemporary Album. In 2016, he self-released Naked In Your Face, a live album recorded at Calgary's Blues Can during August of 2015. Turner finds himself playing with an essential trio with bassist/vocalist Anna Lisa Hughes and drummer Kelly Kruse for this exciting live set. For these past few records, Eddie Turner has seen each of them appear on the Living Blues Magazine Charts and the Roots Music Report charts with durations up to 30 plus days.

A life-long student of music, Eddie tries to echo the energy and passion he has behind his guitar and vocals to the listener. "Vocal-wise, everyone keeps telling me I sound like (Jimi) Hendrix, which I don't think so, but I'm not going to fight it," he said. "But if I could, I'd sound like Bobby Blue Bland, who is my favorite singer of the blues. He's one of the greatest blues singers ever, along with Magic Sam, who I also love." (from Blues Blast mag 2011). His influences run from Miles Davis, British Blues to Rock to classic rock, "You've spent your life listening to every great player, and you try and sneak in those influences," Eddie Turner (from Blues Blast mag 2011)

A diverse blend of rock, voodoo blues, and R&B peppered with African rhythms, Turner's music moves the feet while simultaneously haunting the soul. Vintage guitar quoted his album Rise as "personal super-modern music with verve and drive." Guitar Player Magazine praised Eddie - "Turner's otherworldly, atmospheric guitar style colors the inventive disc, offering a modern take on a classic genre."

Fast forward to 2021, after years of touring and playing on records; he went into the studio before the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic hit with an armful of new music. His latest, Change In Me, a melting pot of blues, jazz, and rock while addressing social issues, love, a unique mashup of a Lou Reed song, and a Taj Mahal classic but always bringing his signature guitar tone and vocals to the album. This was produced by himself with his longtime friend, Kenny Passarelli at Kirk Yano's Studio 99 in Brooklyn NYC, NY and Tim Stroh at Madhouse Studios in Colorado.

Eddie continues to live in the Denver, Colorado area, with his beloved dog, Cookie.

CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY  
PRESENTS

# VANESSA COLLIER



**03**  
APRIL

7PM DOOR  
**8PM**  
SHOW

HEIST BREWERY & BARREL ARTS  
1030 WOODWARD AVE. CHARLOTTE NC

DISCOUNT ADVANCE TIX AT EVENTBRITE

**CBS 29TH ANNIVERSARY BASH**



## Vanessa Collier Sunday April 3, 2022

CBS 29th Anniversary Bash!  
at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts  
1030 Woodward Ave, Charlotte NC

“There’s a young lady [Vanessa Collier] came onstage with me, I forget where I was, but she’s playing an alto saxophone, and man, she was amazing.”

Those are the words of Buddy Guy in American Blues Scene, describing an impromptu performance with Vanessa Collier on the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise. If you haven’t been fortunate enough to meet Vanessa and witness one of her head-turning, fiery, and passionate performances, you should definitely make sure you do. As a master musician and multi-instrumentalist, Vanessa Collier, weaves funk, soul, rock, and blues into every powerful performance and she is downright impressive. With soulful vocals, searing saxophone, and witty songwriting, Vanessa is blazing a trail, racking up an impressive arsenal of honours, and has already singled herself out as an artist of distinction and one we would all do well to watch.

It’s not simply the accolades she has accumulated so far, although they’ve been many -- two Blues Music Awards for “Horn Player of the Year”, seven Blues Music Award Nominations (BMAs), a Blues Blast Award nomination, the Jammingest Pro Award bestowed by the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, First Place for lyrics in the International Songwriting Competition, Best of 2014 Blues Breaker on Dan Aykroyd’s BluesMobile -- it’s the fact that she has accumulated all these honours even while her career is still in its infancy. A 2013 graduate of the prestigious Berklee College of Music, she’s toured nationally and internationally, released three critically acclaimed albums (2014’s Heart, Soul & Saxophone, 2017’s Meeting My Shadow, and 2018’s Honey Up), and released her highly anticipated fourth album, Heart on the Line, to crowdfunders in May 2020. Honey Up spent 9 weeks atop the Billboard Blues Album Charts Top 15, 3 months on the Living Blues Charts at #10 and #23, and continues to be spun on Sirius XM’s B.B. King’s Bluesville radio station!

“Vanessa Collier is a fresh face on the American blues scene, and in addition to her soulful vocals she brings a mighty sax to the table. I am not the only one that thinks so, as Vanessa was nominated for the best horn instrumentalist at the 2017 BMAs...Vanessa is an important part of the future of blues, and it would cool to support her journey. ”

– Rex Bartholomew, Blues Blast Magazine

# Charlotte Blues Society

*present*



**DIANE DURRETT  
& SOUL SUGA**

**BLUES SUNDAY MAY 1, 2022**

**DOORS: 7PM, SHOW : 7:30PM**

**\$10 ADVANCE \$20 DOOR TIX AT MAXXMUSIC.COM**

**NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE**

**511 E. 36TH ST, CHARLOTTE NC**

[www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org)

**DIANE DURRETT BLUES SUNDAY MAY 1**  
at Neighborhood Theatre, 511 E. 36th St, Charlotte NC

The last time Diane performed for CBS was at the Double Door inn to a receptive and cheering audience.

Our Music Guru Marty Gunther reviewed her new album "Put a Lid On It" in the January CBS Bluesletter in his Red Hot & Blues Review

Internationally recognized as a singer/songwriter and producer, Diane Durrett is always rocking the house with her distinctive vibrato, she can belt gut-bucket blues with the best of them. She proves it, again with her 2021 American Roots release 'Put A Lid On It'. The album soared to #2 on the Soul Blues International Roots Music Report.

*"Triggers forgotten pelvic movements.." (D. Grandi, Il Blues, Italy)*

*"Flirts with perfection, while remaining full of feeling and spontaneity"*  
*(F. Delforge, France)*

*"The smoldering B3 and stark crisp piano (Yoel Yehuda) back Diane's heavenly rising vocals" (Blues in The South, UK)*

In 2019 her album 'Diane Durrett & Soul Suga LIVE' was reviewed as "Killer, high octane soul throughout" and rose to #5. In 2017 she was a Global Peace Song Award winner for 'The River Sings' co-produced and written with Soul Suga drummer Melissa Junebug. Durrett was the winner of the 2015 'Peoples Choice Award' by Atlanta Blues Society, as well as awarded the 'Best Self-Produced Album' for "Soul Suga' & Diane Durrett" which charted in the Top 10 of the RMR Contemporary Blues chart. Her song catalog includes co-writes with William Bell, Jerry Ragovoy, Oliver Wood, Emily Sailors and Bonnie Bramlett.

She continues to host the highly successful Women In Blues event sponsored by the Atlanta Blues Society highlighting female blues musicians in Georgia. In 2020, Durrett produced three music videos for 'Put A Lid On It', including 'Blue Water', 'Good News' and 'Make America Groove'. This led to editing, producing and hosting a two part video series for the Producer & Engineer Wing of the Recording Academy, best known for the GRAMMYS,

With a blend of raw soulful vocals, sultry tones, and strong original songs Durrett has sung with Sting, Gregg Allman, The Indigo Girls, and Chuck Leavell (Rolling Stones). Durrett has opened shows for Tina Turner, KoKo Taylor, Tinsley Ellis, Delbert McClinton, and Derek Trucks. As well as lending her vocals to recording sessions for GRAMMY award winning producer Brendan O'Brien and Kristian Bush (Sugarland).

She sings  
from her soul and writes with heart & humor

Charlotte **Blues** Society  
 must see  
*Blues Shows*

**ANA POPOVIC**  
**FEB 24**



Thursday February 24  
 Doors at 7:00 Show at 8:00  
 \$25 General admission



Charlottebluessociety.org



511 East 36th Street  
 Charlotte, NC 28205

**SAVE THE DATES**

**SOUTHERN AVENUE**  
**FEB 28**

*Southern Avenue*



with **BILL MILLER BAND**

tix available at MAXXMUSIC.com

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 8PM**

NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE  
 511 36TH STREET · CHARLOTTE, NC



**CHRISTONE INGRAM**  
**Kingfish**  
 WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 2022  
 KNIGHT THEATER  
 CHARLOTTE, NC

**CHRISTONE KINGFISH INGRAM**  
**MARCH 9, 2022**



**Bernard Allison – Highs & Lows**  
 Ruf Records RUF 1294  
[www.bernardallison.com](http://www.bernardallison.com)  
 Bernard Allison is at his all-time best on this CD, celebrating the joys and sorrows of life as he reunites with longtime producer Jim Gaines who's supervised his recordings since the mid-'90s and is the man responsible for supervision several of Bernard's dad Luther's biggest hits. Now 56, Bernard's joined his father's band at age 18 and has carried forward the family tradition of being one of the most powerful, emotive performers the world has ever known. A collection of nine originals and two covers, this album should go down as the most focused album in his career. An extended guitar run opens as Bernard celebrates being back in the studio again with "So Excited" before the funky title song, "Highs & Lows," foreshadows what's ahead. The hits come hot and heavy, including "My Way or the Highway," "The Hustler," "My Kind of Girl," "Satisfy Her Needs" and "Last Night." And don't miss tasty reworkings of Luther's "Gave It All" and "Now You Got."

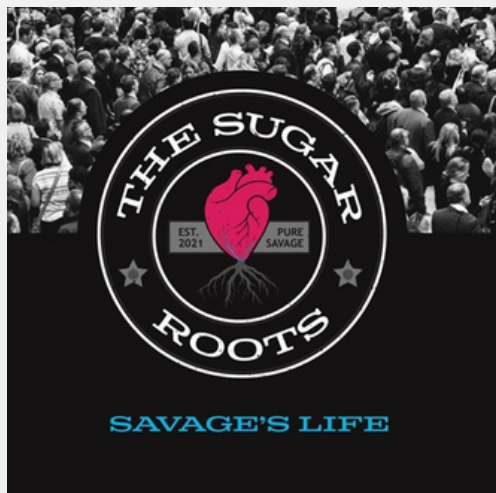
e!

**Mississippi MacDonald – Do Right, Say Right**  
 Another Planet Music Ltd.  
[www.mississippimacdonald.com](http://www.mississippimacdonald.com)

Possessing one of the sweetest voices in Britain with six-string skills to match, London-based Mississippi MacDonald has been a consistent chart-topper in his homeland, and should make waves on this side of the Atlantic, too, with this deep-in-the-pocket serving of stylish soul-blues. This is the third solo release for MacDonald, who's been performing since age 11 and is so involved in the American blues scene that he was a prime mover in securing a headstone for O.V. Wright's unmarked grave. He's a frequent visitor to Memphis, where he studied at the feet of the masters, and has recorded three CDs in partnership with U.S. harp player Steve Bailey. Opening with eight originals before a rock-solid cover of Denise LaSalle's "Your Wife Is Cheating on Us," be sure to tune in to "I Was Wrong," "I Heard It Twice," "Drinker's Blues," "That's It I Quit," "If You Want a Good Cup of Coffee" and "Keep Your Hands Out of My Pocket."



**Chickenbone Slim – Serve It to Me Hot**  
 VizzTone Label Group VT-CBS-01  
[www.chickenboneslim.com](http://www.chickenboneslim.com)  
 A fixture on the San Diego blues scene for the past 30 years, Chickenbone Slim - aka Larry Teves - traveled to Kid Andersen's Greaseland Studios in the Bay Area to record his latest CD, an all-original mix of greasy blues, West Coast swing and rockabilly loaded with interesting stories and danceable grooves. Slim's tight four-piece ensemble - which includes the sensational Laura Chavez on second guitar and ex-Fabulous Thunderbird Marty Dotson on drums - cooks from the jump. He also gets a helping hand from Kid on keys and six-string, and Aki Kumar sits in on harp, too. A 13-tune, 51-minute set, highlights include "Serve It to Me Hot," "Queen of the Wires," "Ought to Be Loved," "Squares Everywhere," "Crying Tonight," "Hey Shakolo," "I Will Stand for You," "City Girl" and "Hook Me Up."



## The Sugar Roots – Savage’s Life

Lightning in a Bottle Records

[www.lightninginabottlerecords.com](http://www.lightninginabottlerecords.com)

Formed in Portland, Ore., by multi-instrumentalist front man Chad Rupp and featuring several of the top regional talents, the five-piece Sugar Roots swing from the hip and explode out of the gate with this debut CD, a stylish mix of contemporary, soul-infused blues. The roster includes frequent Lisa Mann bandmate Jason “JT” Thomas on guitar, percussionist Chandler Bowerman and bassist Timmer Blakely, who works regularly with Lloyd Jones. The roster includes a horn section with backing vocals from Karen Lovely, Rae Gordon, Melanie Owen and Mann herself. Give a listen to the smoking originals “Going Nowhere Fast,” “Havin’ a Party,” “Savage’s Life,” “Rain Checkin’,” “It’s a Sin,” “Something Wicked This Way Comes,” “Divine Fire,” “Next to You” and “1 and 5 Boogie.”

## Katie Henry – On My Way

Ruf Records RUF 1293

[www.katiehenrymusic.com](http://www.katiehenrymusic.com)

New Jersey-based Katie Henry’s career has been on a steady upward trajectory after earning Blues Blast and International Bluegrass Music Association nominations for debut album of the year honors four years ago. She’s proven to be an international talent, too, since joining the Ruf Records lineup and touring and recording as part of its most recent Blues Caravan Revue. A multi-instrumentalist with a honeyed voice, Katie co-wrote all of the material on this mature, polished follow-up in partnership with bassist/slide guitarist Greg Wiczorek in a set that was recorded live in Brooklyn and produced by three-time BMA nominee Ben Rice, who also sits in on six-string along with British harp player Giles Robson. Rooted in blues but encompassing elements of rock, R&B and country, too, tune in to “On My Way,” “Empty Cup,” “Without a Fight,” “Setting Sun,” “Got Me Good,” “Too Long,” “Running Round” and “Catch Me If You Can.”



## Reddog and Friends – Booze, Blues and Southern Grooves

Survival South Records PEC 2137-2

[www.reddogandfriends.com](http://www.reddogandfriends.com)

A fixture in Underground Atlanta in the ‘70s and ‘80s but based out of Pensacola, Fla., for decades, Reddog – aka JK Higgins – teams with some of the biggest talent from the Muscle Shoals music scene for this tasty, sweet and relaxed collection of blues, rock and blue-eyed soul. Once described by Guitar World magazine as one of its “50 Bluesmen That Matter,” Reddog’s a talent vocalist who’s backed by keyboard player Clayton Ivey and bassist David Hood – founding fathers of the Muscle Shoals sound and hitmakers since the ‘60s – in a set that features other top talent from the region. If you’re a fan of deep grooves and songs with straightforward messages, you’ll adore “Love, You’ve Got to Spread the Word,” “The Blues Will Get You Everytime,” “She’s a Georgia Peach,” “Simple Song,” “Why Oh Why Are You Calling Me,” “Don’t Muscle That Shuffle” and “Honest Man.”

## Reddog and Friends



# RED HOT & BLUES REVIEWS

By Marty Gunther



PIERCE DIPNER GOIN' BACK

## Pierce Dipner – Goin' Back

Self-produced CD

[www.piercedipner.com](http://www.piercedipner.com)

Already an established bluesman at age 17, Pittsburgh-based multi-instrumentalist Pierce Dipner makes his full-length CD debut with this album, demonstrating the mature skills that have made him a three-time representative of the Blues Society of Western PA at the IBCs. A guitarist with old-school sensibilities can double on cello, bass and percussion, Dipner's backed by a full band here. His mid-range voice compliments his precise, tasteful phrasing on the six-string perfectly. He penned seven of the ten tunes in this set, a follow-up to a previously released EP. Pierce is the real deal. Give a listen to "Fools Gold," "Empty Bed Blues," "Nobody but Myself to Blame," "Goin' Back," "We're Not Leaving," "Won't U Come Home" and "Memphis in the Rain" and I'm sure you'll agree.

## Hanna PK – Blues All Over My Shoes

Booga Music/VizzTone Label Group VT-BOOGA-04

[www.hannapk.com](http://www.hannapk.com)

Born and raised in South Korea but based out of Rochester, N.Y., keyboard player Hanna PK has two previous CDs to her credit, but hits the big time here, teaming with producer/harp player Kenny Neal in a full-band setting to deliver ten contemporary originals and a single cover – all with a uniquely traditional feel. Neal discovered her talent after viewing a video of a tune she recorded in the U-Haul storage locker that served as her studio. Playing primarily in barrelhouse and stride stylings and possessing strong alto voice, she's a former IBC semi-finalist who performs frequently in a duo setting with bluesman Joe Beard when not fronting her own band. You'll enjoy "Mirror Mirror," "Bad Woman," "Insomnia Blues," "Love Keeps Walking," "No One Will Ever Know," "Ain't Gonna Be Looking Back No More," "Bad Habit" and "Two and Four."



## BigLlou Johnson – Bigman

GoldenVoice Audio Recordings

[www.bigllou.com](http://www.bigllou.com)

One of the most recognizable voices in the blues as an emcee and the voice of SiriusXM's B.B. King's Bluesville, BigLlou Johnson captured new artist of the year honors at the 2013 BMAs with his debut album, but waited almost a decade before this follow-up. It was definitely worth the wait. Showing far more range than his dulcet basso profundo that graces the stage, commercials and TV and movies, too, Llou penned all ten tracks, which range from Chicago blues and jump and Barry White-like love ballads. The star-studded lineup includes Joe Louis Walker, Victor Wainwright, Anne Harris and far too many other talents to list. "Lightnin' Strike" will grab you from the first notes, and lend your ear to "Bigman," "Let's Misbehave," "Shucky Ducky," "Sunshine on You Face," "Stuff to Do," "Never Get Over Me," "I Got the Fever" and "Beezthatwaysometimes."



# RED HOT & BLUES REVIEWS

By Marty Gunther



## Rene Trossman – Live in Prague

Hold It! Records

[www.renetrossman.com](http://www.renetrossman.com)

An ex-pat Chicagoan who's based in the Czech Republic, guitarist Rene Trossman shines like a diamond on this 13-tune, mostly original collection of contemporary blues that will have you dancing from the jump. A veteran sideman who formerly worked in support of Dietra Farr, Sharon Lewis, Byther Smith, Chick Willis and others, Trossman has been a fixture on the Central European blues scene since emigrating in the mid-'90s. He's a skilled, no-frills musician with a pleasant, well-worn voice, and his backing five-piece unit shines throughout. Lay your troubles aside for 70 minutes and tune in to "Ain't Gonna Hurt Me No More," "You Sure Left in a Hurry," "I Don't Need No Technology," "I'm on a Roll," "Who Do You Think You Are," "My Endless Blue Mood," "Down at Rosa's" and a stellar take on Albert King's "As the Years Go Passing By."

## Various Artists – Blind Raccoon Nola Blue Collection Vol. 4

Blue Heart Records

<https://nolablue.bandcamp.com/album/blind-raccoon-nola-blue-collection-vol-4>

Here's a chance to hear some bands you might not be aware of and to do a good deed, too. Blue Heart Records delivers 34 tunes on its latest collection, and all of the proceeds raised from digital sales will benefit MusiCares, the Recording Academy charity that delivers preventative, emergency and recovery funds for artists in need. This two-CD set includes contributions from several big names, including Grammy nominee Teresa James, 12-time BMA-nominee Trudy Lynn, guitarist Clarence Spady, artists from Canada, the United Kingdom and 13 U.S. states, including John Nemeth and the Love Light Orchestra and several rising talents, too. There's also one big treat in this package: A recording of "Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby" delivered by 96-year-old showbiz legend Dick Van Dyke, too. It's classy, sweet and true blue, too!



## Peter Veteska & Blues Train – So Far So Good

Blue Heart Records BHR 021

[www.peterveteskabluesrain.com](http://www.peterveteskabluesrain.com)

One of the most exciting bands to emerge out of the New York metropolitan area in the past decade, Peter Veteska and Blues Train strip down to a three-piece, but call on a baker's dozen of guest stars to keep the heat on high for their sixth album in the past seven years. Fronted by Veteska on guitar and vocals and anchored by Coo Moe Jhee (bass) and Alex D'Agnesse (drums), they deliver incendiary big-city blues aided by Jeff Levine on keys, Mikey Junior and Gary Neuwirth on harp, guest singers, a full horn section and more. A collection of eight originals and four tasty covers, don't miss "Done with Bad Luck," "I've Got the Blues This Morning," "My One and Only Muse," "Lovin' Oven," "Low Down Dirty Blues," "So Far So Good" and "Can't We All Get Along."



# RED HOT & BLUES REVIEWS

By Marty Gunther



## Whitey Somers – The Call of the Blues

Motorhome Records

[www.whitesomers.bandcamp.com](http://www.whitesomers.bandcamp.com)

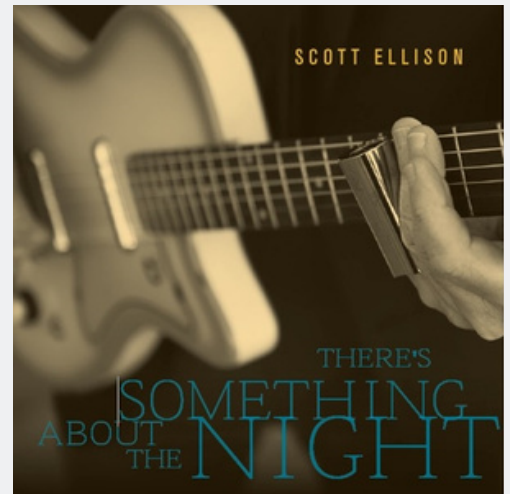
The nephew of a classical composer and based out of Qualicum Beach, B.C., Whitey Somers usually works solo, but the 40-year blues veteran takes the spotlight here in full-band alignment backed by several of the top session players in the Canadian Northwest. Whitey's a tunesmith who's placed high in his nation's songwriting competition. His compositions here vary from unhurried, topical ballads to blues-rock and toe-tapping shuffles – all of which are contemporary and delivered in a pleasant tenor. Some of the top tracks include "The Call of the Blues," "Can't Control It," "Chicken Feet," "Wot You Got," "Ain't Nothin' But the Morning Blues" and "Rise Above."

## Scott Ellison – There's Something About the Night

Liberation Hall Records

[www.scottellisonband.com](http://www.scottellisonband.com)

A veteran road dog based out of Tulsa, Okla., Scott Ellison joins forces with members of the Albert Lee and Eric Clapton bands as well as his own unit to deliver this hourlong CD – a driving and swing-from-the-hip set of Texas- and Chicago-based blues and blues-rock. This is the 13th album in Ellison's solo career since bursting on the scene in the late '70s behind Conway Twitty's daughter, Jessica James. Formerly a first-call session player in Los Angeles, he toured with Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown for a couple of years before launching his own band. He penned ten of the tunes in partnership with Michael Price and cover's Price's best-known tune, too – the Bobby "Blue" Bland classic, "Ain't No Love in the Heart of the City." There's a lot to like here, including "Half a Bottle Down," "There's Something About the Night," "Bury Your Bone at Home," "Salina," "Meat and Potatoes," "Good Year for the Blues," "I'm Ready Baby," "Revolutionary Man" and "Where Do You Go When You Leave."



## Raphael Wressnig & Igor Prado – Groove & Good Times

Pepper Cake Records PEC 2137-2

[www.rafaelwressnig.com](http://www.rafaelwressnig.com)

Two of the funkier musicians on the planet, Austrian B-3 master Raphael Wressnig and Brazilian guitarist Igor Prado delivered one of the funkier albums of the year in 2016 with *The Soul Connection* and follow it up with this masterful work that will have you grooving throughout. Both men have made a major impact in the U.S. music scene during the past 25 years. Wressnig is a five-time *Downbeat* magazine nominee for organist of the year, and Prado, a former member of the Mannish Boys, is the first-ever South American to be nominated for a BMA thanks to his 2015 release, *Way Down South*. A greasy set that updates the sounds of Jimmy Smith, Groove Holmes and other keyboard wizards, it bridges soul and blues. Give a listen to "Kissing My Love," "I Know Who You Been Socking It To," "Blues & Pants," "You Bring Love," "Ain't No Love (in the Heart of the City)," "Shrimp Daddy" and "Soul Shakedown Party."



A member of the CBS board since 2018, Marty is no stranger to the area or the Blues. A native Rhode Islander who attended App State, his first exposure to the music came through Muddy Waters at Newport in 1960. His complete baptism into the Blues came in 1966 when Howlin' Wolf was crawling across the Newport stage and singing "Moaning at Midnight." A longtime member of the Chicago blues community, where many international stars were close friends, he was taught by harmonica player Sugar Blue, and co-founded the Nuclebusters, one of the hardest working bands in South Florida, where he resided previously. In addition to writing the "Red Hot 'n Blues Reviews" column and contributing occasional articles, Marty's an in-demand journalist across the Blues spectrum. Senior writer at *Blues Blast Magazine*, he's also a contributor to *The Groove*, the monthly newsletter of the Crossroads (Ill.) Blues Society, and his CBS reviews appear regularly in *Chicago Blues Guide*.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE CHANGES POLICY REGARDING COVID-19**

Thanks to the love and support of numerous patrons and the city of Charlotte, the **Neighborhood Theatre** survived with its doors closed for more than a year. Now that we have reopened, the staff of the NoDa music venue is doing everything it can to keep the doors open.

**With COVID-19 infection rates once again on the rise, the time has come for a difficult decision.**

**Effective, Aug. 20, 2021, the Neighborhood Theatre will require proof of a full course of COVID-19 vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 (48) hours of the show date for entry into any event. The final vaccination dose must occur at least 14 days prior to the event.**

**"This is what needs to be done to safely keep our doors open - for our employees, our patrons and the performers," Gregg McCraw, owner of MaxxMusic and booking agent (talent buyer) for the Neighborhood Theatre, said. "We can't handle another shutdown if our staff gets sick."**

**Proof of vaccination can be a physical card or the photo of a complete vaccination that matches the patron's ID. Proof of a negative test can be a printed or digital test result that matches the patron's ID. All patrons are to wear a mask, as per City of Charlotte indoor requirements, when they are not drinking while inside the venue.**

**"A lot of music venues are going this route, especially now that Lollapalooza showed how effective it can be," McCraw said. "We hope everyone who would like to attend a show at the Neighborhood Theatre will do what they can to minimize the risks for staff, artists and fellow music lovers. The Charlotte music community has always been outstanding when it comes to helping out one of their own. This is something we can all do together."**

**Streaming tickets will now be available to many of the Neighborhood Theatre performances. Patrons who have already purchased a ticket but would like a refund can contact the Neighborhood Theatre**

**Gregg McCraw  
MaxxMusic, Inc**

**Charlotte Blues Society members have been very vocal about wanting to return to live music. Our polls also reflect our desire to be safe. Our diverse demographic represent every age group and differing opinions. Although some may prefer not to attend under these requests, we ask you to consider your options and join us. In America, every business has the right to create their own rules, and we ask you to respect the desire of our new "home" and our members to keep us all safe and "Keep the Blues Alive!"**

# CBS NEEDS



WE NEED A WEBMASTER AND EDITOR FOR OUR MONTHLY BLUESLETTER. BOTH HAVE BEEN HANDLED BY OUTGOING PRESIDENT POSITION WILL BE VACATED AFTER MARCH 1, 2022

# VOLUNTEER FOR EVENTS

**Welcome our latest  
Board Members  
installed on  
Dec. 5, 2021  
Linda Graham  
Bonnie Spalding  
Floyd Carroll  
Dexter Cline**

Linda is our new Secretary,  
Bonnie will be handling  
Membership & Merch duties  
and acting VP

Floyd will be helping us on  
Social Media, Blues in the  
Schools and special projects.

Dexter is assuming  
Treasurer duties.

## **President**

Mary London Szpara is acting  
President only, having resigned  
earlier in 2021. She will no longer  
be with CBS after February 2022.  
Be active! Be a part of our CBS



Keep Your  
Beer Cold

PICK UP  
YOUR  
FREE  
KOOZIE  
AT OUR  
NEXT  
EVENT!

Keep Your  
Head Cooler

WITH A CBS  
CAP

\$20



CLICK ON THE IMAGES TO PURCHASE

*Please consider a tax-deductible donation to*  
**Charlotte Blues Society**

*Your end of year donation is good for you ~  
and your business may have matching funds.*

*Your end of year donation helps us continue our mission of*

***"Keeping the Blues Alive!"***

*Donate online [www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org)*

*or*

*send your check to  
Charlotte Blues Society*

*PO Box 32752*

*Charlotte NC 28232-2752*



*Charlotte Blues Society is a 501(c)3 organization  
and will provide you with a receipt for tax records*

Keep  
the  
Blues  
Alive

---

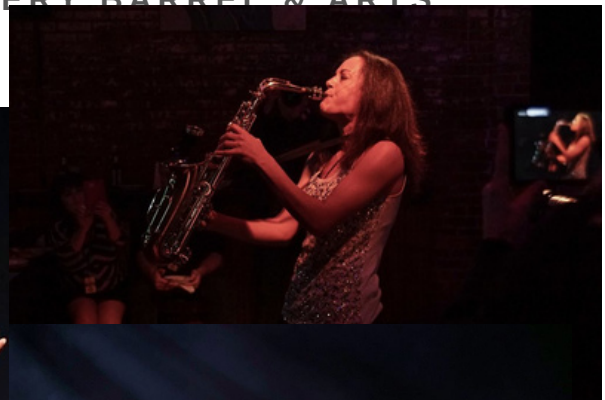
WORLD CLASS BLUES PRESENTED BY CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY

# Charlotte Blues Society

## ~~Blues Sunday Special Events~~

HOLD ON TO YOUR TICKETS FOR VANESSA COLLIER. FINALLY! CELEBRATING OUR 29TH ANNIVERSARY, THE MULTI INSTRUMENTALIST, SINGER, SONGWRITER AND WINNER OF MULTIPLE BLUES AWARDS, THE INCREDIBLE VANESSA COLLIER!

YOUR TICKETS WILL BE HONORED FOR THE RESCHEDULED DATE APRIL 3, 2022 AT HEIST BREWERY BARREL & ARTS 1030 WOODWARD, AVE CHARLOTTE.



---

THE VENUE IS SECURED, THE DATE IS SET, AND ADVANCE TIX ON SALE FEB. 15 FOR CBS MEMBERS ONLY. ADVANCE TIX SALES TO THE PUBLIC WILL BE HELD FEB 22-APRIL 1. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR FOR FULL PRICE. OUR 29TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WILL BE EPIC

---

GUIDELINES & COURTESIES  
CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY OPEN BLUES JAMS

# Blues Jam Guidelines

YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN A TRADITION THAT IS OVER 26 YEARS IN THE MAKING. THE CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY HAS CONSISTENTLY PROMOTED A BLUES JAM AS PART OF ITS BLUES SUNDAY. THE CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY'S BLUES SUNDAY OCCURS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. THE BLUES JAMS DO NOT HAPPEN AT EVERY BLUES SUNDAY. ALWAYS REFER TO CHARLOTTEBLUESOCIETY.ORG FOR DETAILS AND SCHEDULES. WE HOPE YOUR EXPERIENCE WILL BE INSPIRING AND THAT YOUR OWN MUSICAL ABILITIES WILL BE INFORMED BY THESE JAMS.

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES TO CONSIDER WHEN SIGNING ON AS A PARTICIPATING JAMMER:

\*A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION, SIGN UP EARLY. ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET PLEASE LIST YOUR INSTRUMENT AND/OR ABILITY THAT YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE JAM. WHILE THE BLUES HAS A LOT OF VARIATIONS, PLEASE BE ADVISED THIS IS A BLUES JAM. PLEASE KEEP IT REAL LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

\*BE RESPECTFUL OF ANY EQUIPMENT THAT YOU USE, BACKLINE AND PA, TREAT IT AS YOUR OWN OR POSSIBLY BETTER THAN YOUR OWN. IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL AMP, PEDAL OR SET-UP THAT YOU NEED TO USE, REMEMBER GUIDELINE #1; COME EARLY

"BRING YOUR OWN GEAR INCLUDING AMP. DO NOT RELY ON THERE BEING ENOUGH AMPS ON STAGE. IF YOU HAPPEN TO BLOW UP AN AMP DURING A RIGHTEOUS JAM, THEN MAKE SURE IT IS YOUR OWN"

\*KEEP TRACK OF YOUR PLACE ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET. IT IS NOT UP TO THE JAM MASTER TO TRACK YOU DOWN WHEN YOUR TIME TO SHINE ARRIVES.

\*PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOU NEED TO BE TUNED AND READY BEFORE YOU GET ON STAGE. ADDITIONALLY, IF YOU ARE A GUITARIST THAT TUNES DOWN A HALF STEP, PLEASE NOTE THE HOUSE BAND WILL BE TUNED TO STANDARD 440. TWO CHOICES REMAIN, EITHER TUNE TO 440 OR MAKE ALLOWANCES IN YOUR CHOICE OF A CHORD VOICING.

\*IF YOU ONLY HEAR YOURSELF ON STAGE, PERHAPS YOU ARE TOO LOUD. LIKewise, IF YOU HEAR EVERYONE ELSE, BUT NOT YOURSELF; TURN UP.

\*BE RESPECTFUL OF YOUR FELLOW MUSICIANS, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR ABILITY MAY BE. EVERYONE USUALLY STARTS AT THE SAME PLACE.

\*IN REGARDS TO SOLOING, AGAIN PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHER MUSICIANS IN THE JAM. FOR EXAMPLE, RHYTHM GUITAR IS NOT JUST SOMETHING TO WASTE YOUR TIME ON WHILE YOU WAIT FOR YOUR NEXT SOLO. ONE OF THE LESSONS OF A BLUES JAM IS TO LEARN HOW TO BE AS APT AN ACCOMPANIST AS YOU HOPE TO BE AS A SOLOIST. THE JAM MASTER WILL BE GENEROUS WITH SOLOS, BUT BE MINDFUL OF OTHER MUSICIANS THAT MAY BE WAITING TO JAM.

\*LASTLY, HAVE FUN. ALSO RESPECT THE TRADITIONS AS WELL AS THE INNOVATIONS OF THE BLUES. LIKewise, RESPECT THE CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY AND THE RABBIT HOLE FOR PROVIDING THE SPACE AND EQUIPMENT FOR YOU TO JAM.

---

# before you go...think... **Loaves & Fishes**

As we continue our fight against hunger, especially for at risk kids, now more than ever your help is needed. COVID-19 virus, has affected schoolchildren throughout the Charlotte area that relied on school meals. Summer is no vacation when you are hungry and the need continues.

Thank you for your donations in the past, and know we understand that not everyone is in a position to give. If you are, please do so. Thank you.

Normally we ask you to bring multiple cans of food to our next event. We ask that you do that on Sept 5th for our Blues Jam.

You can also make a donation to Loaves & Fishes during this difficult time. Any amount, small or large is greatly appreciated. Your generosity makes all the difference.

Loaves & Fishes has recently added two mobile units for "food pharmacies". The mobile food pharmacies will travel to communities identified as "food deserts," where access to nutritious, fresh food is limited by the barriers of availability, cost and transportation.

They also have drivers to bring food to the families, since it is unsafe to have them come to the pantry. Please help if you can.

Thank you

