
FEBRUARY 2021

Charlotte Blues Society

Monthly E-Bluesletter



BLUES AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

In this Bluesletter:

The Blues Foundation
announces
the nominees for 2021

Marty Gunther "Red
Hot & Blues Reviews"





Blues Music Award Nominees are here! If you've been reading the Red Hot & Blues Reviews this past year from our own Marty Gunther, you will have read reviews involving every one of the nominees in one way shape or form.

If you are a member of The Blues Foundation, you are eligible to vote. If you are not a member, you can join the Blues Foundation now to help decide the winners. Nominees info begin on page 6.

It's February and normally we would be in Memphis celebrating music from around the world at the International Blues Challenge.

Much has changed since last years' event, with Covid 19 taking the stage-literally. Actually, taking *stages*-plural-since many stages around the world have shut their doors due to government mandates and public gatherings. Some iconic stages are now forever silent.

But many continue to fight to survive. An NC Club is suing Governor Roy Cooper over his executive orders that they allege discriminate against private clubs. On Dec. 21, Pacific Legal Foundation filed a lawsuit against Cooper on behalf of Crystal and Kenneth Waldron and their business of 18 years, Club 519. The complaint seeks relief from Cooper's "arbitrary treatment of bars as unconstitutional under the state and federal Constitutions."The suit is seeking an injunction that would allow for private bars to open under the same rules and safety precautions as other bars across the state are currently operating under. Under the governor's orders, other bars such as those located in restaurants or hotels, and venues like bottle shops, breweries, distilleries, and wineries, can operate at 50 percent capacity both indoors and outdoors.

Live music is the fuel to the engine that feeds our souls. I personally wish Club 519 the best in their lawsuit. Cooper's 10pm curfew, forcing businesses to close early, has been the cause for more revenue loss throughout the state. No easy answers, but people are getting restless and the signs are everywhere that live events are needed.

House concerts may well resume with the onset of warmer weather, Middle C Jazz has never shut their doors, and have adapted to the smaller audiences with great shows streaming live for a small fee.

The world of live music is evolving, and like many of us, we are doing our best in a challenging situation. Hope reigns eternal for all of us. Although our much anticipated SPAH Conference scheduled for August here in Charlotte has been postponed until 2025, your CBS Board is staying positive as we prepare to celebrate our 28th Anniversary in April - so stay tuned.

We ask that you continue to support us with your membership, or donation. You can do that on our website right now! www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org

Thanks in advance.

Check out our Merch in our store...simply go to "Shop" on our website! T-shirts, Hats, koozies, Sweatshirts (it's still cold outside, so please feel free to check out our stock of long sleeve shirts and hoodies!) Look cool, stay warm as you help us "Keep the Blues Alive!"

~Mary London Szpara President



Keep Your
Beer Cold

WITH A CBS
KOOZIE

\$2



Keep Your
Head Warm

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

or

*send your check to
Charlotte Blues Society*

PO Box 32752

Charlotte NC 28232-2752



*Charlotte Blues Society is a 501(c)3 organization
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Keep
the
Blues
Alive

WITH YOUR
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DONATION



He's back, and every Sunday night from 8-10pm,
Rick Ballew brings you two hours of great blues
and blues rock on WYTX

The "Keeping the Blues Alive" Award winning
show is back...don't miss it!

Rick has some great things in the works for his
show - stay tuned for more information and
updates.

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

UPDATE TO SAVE OUR STAGES ACT

The National Independent Venue Association (NIVA), a group of over 3000 independent music venues in the U.S., was instrumental in the passing of the Save Our Stages Act in the U.S. Congress. The Act will provide \$10 billion in non-repayable grants to live venues. The Save Our Stages Act is now called Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program by the Small Business Administration (SBA), who will be administering the program. NIVA has assembled the Implementation Task Force for a 50 state outreach whose aim is to help ensure this emergency relief is implemented as Congress intended: accurately, equitably, and as expediently as possible to protect the smallest and hardest hit businesses. Live blues performance venue operators and promoters are invited to become a member of NIVA as a first-step to eligibility for funding from the SBA Grant Program. At this time, NIVA is accepting members without charging any membership fee.





The 42nd BMAs will be presented as a virtual event on Sunday, June 6, 2021 starting at 4 p.m. CT. The world is invited to watch the celebration, which will be streamed on our Blues Foundation Facebook and YouTube channel.

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

B.B. King Entertainer of the Year

Shemekia Copeland

Rick Estrin

John Németh

Sugaray Rayford

Lil' Ed Williams

Album of the Year

100 Years of Blues, Elvin Bishop and Charlie Musselwhite

Rawer Than Raw, Bobby Rush

Rise Up, Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters

**Too Far From the Bar, Sugar Ray & The Bluetones featuring
Little Charlie**

Uncivil War, Shemekia Copeland

Band of the Year

Anthony Geraci & The Boston Blues Allstars

John Németh & The Blue Dreamers

Rick Estrin & The Nightcats

Southern Avenue

Sugar Ray & The Bluetones

Song of the Year

"All My Dues Are Paid", written by Kathy Murray, Rick Estrin, Frank Bey, Kid Andersen

(performed by Frank Bey)

"All Out of Tears", written by Walter Trout, Marie Trout, and Teeny Tucker

(performed by Walter Trout)

"Blues Comin' On", written by Dion DiMucci and Mike Aquilina

(performed by Dion Feat. Joe Bonamassa)

"Is It Over", written by Don Bryant and Scott Bomar

(performed by Don Bryant)

"Uncivil War", written by John Hahn and Will Kimbrough

(performed by Shemekia Copeland)

Best Emerging Artist Album

Hard Workin' Man, Andrew Alli

Harlem, King Solomon Hicks

Here I Come, Jose Ramirez

High Risk Low Reward, Ryan Perry

Peace In Pieces, Betty Fox Band

Acoustic Blues Album

Dustin Arbuckle & Matt Woods, Dustin Arbuckle & Matt Woods

Prove It On Me, Rory Block

Rawer Than Raw, Bobby Rush

Three Pints of Gin, Richard Ray Farrell

Traveling Man - Live, Watermelon Slim

Blues Rock Album

Ain't Done Yet, Savoy Brown

Ice Cream In Hell, Tinsley Ellis

Mike Zito and Friends - Rock 'n' Roll: A Tribute to Chuck Berry, Mike Zito

Mississippi Suitcase, Peter Parcek

Ordinary Madness, Walter Trout

Contemporary Blues Album

Cry Out, Kat Riggins

My Blues Pathway, Kirk Fletcher

Self-Made Man, Larkin Poe

Stronger Than Strong, John Németh

Uncivil War, Shemekia Copeland

Soul Blues Album

**All My Dues Are Paid, Frank Bey
Found! One Soul Singer, Sonny Green
That's What I Heard, Robert Cray Band
Where Have All The Soul Men Gone, Johnny Rawls
You Make Me Feel, Don Bryant**

Traditional Blues Album

**100 Years of Blues, Elvin Bishop and Charlie Musselwhite
Blueswoman, Nora Jean Wallace
Every Day of Your Life, Jimmy Johnson
Rise Up, Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters
Too Far From the Bar, Sugar Ray & The Bluetones featuring Little Charlie**

Acoustic Blues Artist

**Dom Flemons
Catfish Keith
Harrison Kennedy
Doug MacLeod
Keb' Mo'**

Blues Rock Artist

**Tinsley Ellis
Reverend Peyton
Ana Popovic
Kenny Wayne Shepherd
Mike Zito**

Contemporary Blues Female Artist

**Shemekia Copeland
Samantha Fish
Sue Foley
Ruthie Foster
Shaun Murphy**

Contemporary Blues Male Artist

**Selwyn Birchwood
Chris Cain
Rick Estrin
Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
J.P. Soars**

Soul Blues Female Artist

Annika Chambers
Thornetta Davis
Bettye LaVette
Dorothy Moore
Terrie Odabi

Instrumentalist Guitar

Christoffer "Kid" Andersen
Chris Cain
Laura Chavez
Kirk Fletcher
Christone "Kingfish" Ingram

Soul Blues Male Artist

William Bell
Don Bryant
John Németh
Johnny Rawls
Curtis Salgado

Instrumentalist Harmonica

Billy Branch
Rick Estrin
Dennis Gruenling
Jason Ricci
Kim Wilson

Traditional Blues Female Artist

(Koko Taylor Award)

Rory Block
Rhiannon Giddens
Diunna Greenleaf
Trudy Lynn
Teeny Tucker

Instrumentalist Horn

Mindi Abair
Jimmy Carpenter
Doug James
Mark "Kaz" Kazanoff
Nancy Wright

Traditional Blues Male Artist

Billy Branch
Sugar Ray Norcia
John Primer
Jontavious Willis
Kim Wilson

(Pinetop Perkins Piano Player Award)

Mike Finnigan
Anthony Geraci
Johnny Iguana
Bruce Katz
Jim Pugh

Instrumentalist Bass

Willie J. Campbell
Larry Fulcher
Danielle Nicole
Patrick Rynn
Michael "Mudcat" Ward

Instrumentalist Vocals

Thornetta Davis
Ruthie Foster
John Németh
Sugar Ray Norcia
Sugaray Rayford

Instrumentalist Drums

Tony Braunagel
June Core
Derrick "D'Mar" Martin
Bernard Purdie
Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith

GET READY TO VOTE!

Blues Foundation members are invited to vote for the Blues Music Awards. The ballot will be open to current Blues Foundation members only until 11:59pm CT Friday, March 12, 2021. To cast your vote, log in to your Member Portal and once logged in, the link to the BMA Ballot will be available at the top of the page.



To become a Blues Foundation member, visit www.blues.org and click on the Join button to learn about the different membership levels and how to easily and securely join online. Upon membership confirmation, new and renewing members will be sent instructions on how to access the 2021 Blues Music Awards Ballot.

If you do not remember your membership login or need assistance logging in, please contact Keisha at keisha@blues.org or 901-527-2583, ext. 10.



Originally scheduled to sail out of Port Everglades on the Holland America ms Nieuw Statendam, The Legenday Rhythm & Blues Cruise has been rescheduled

LRBC #36 will be leaving the dock Jan. 29~Feb. 5, 2022 on the 2021 Holland America new build MS Rotterdam and can't wait to be back at sea together with Their Bluesin' family!

To continue to stay connected, they've teamed up with LRBC #36 Musicians to present:

"Dry Docked & Landlocked" - a virtual cruise!
Join in Sunday, Jan. 31 through Feb. 6
at 5:00pm CST Daily via
LRBC Facebook Live and LRBC Youtube.

BE A PART OF THE BLUES CELEBRATION EVERY WEEK ON

CAN'T STOP THE BLUES

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cantstoptheblues/>

Any members interested in performing on **CSTB**, please check out their page or group- look at a few previous shows in the video archives to get a feel for what it takes to put a show together, then send your information for consideration to:

booking@can'tstoptheblues.com

LOCAL ARTISTS TAKE NOTE

The goal of **CSTB** is to provide a platform to help full-time touring blues artists, however they would be happy to work with us and other blues societies looking to feature our top local talent in a multi-artist show too.



Bob Margolin – Star of Stage and Screens

(VizzTone Label Group VT-SRR005)
www.bobmargolin.com

Bob Margolin hit the heights last year with *My Guitar and Me*, capturing the Blues Music Award for his first-ever acoustic album in a career spanning 50 years. And he follows it up in style with this intimate, intensely personal disc, which conveys both the depths of despair and hope for the future that we all yearn for in the age of coronavirus. A man who rose to prominence with Muddy Waters at the height of the master's career in the '70s, Margolin did it all on this EP – everything from writing the songs to recording and mastering while accompanying himself on 1930s Gibson and National steel guitars here. His sweet guitar licks play counterpoint to dark words in "Star of Stage and Screens," which deals with contrasts his love for performing with his newfound reality. Other thought-provokers include "Love and Thanks," the optimistic "After Party," the minor-key ballad "For My Teachers" and "Let It Go."

Cathy Grier and Her Troublemakers – I'm All Burn

(CG Music Works)
www.cathygrier.com

A former New York street musician who's now based out of Sturgeon Bay, Wis., Cathy Grier is a stellar singer-songwriter who shines like a diamond on this self-produced CD, an effort that's enhanced by backing from several of the top musicians living north of the Cheddar curtain that separates Wisconsin from Illinois. The lineup includes guitarists Billy Flynn and Greg Koch, harp players Howard Levy, Pat Macdonald and Steve Cohen and Jimmy Voegeli on keys – all Troublemakers in their own right – who are funky without ever overpowering the star in this soulful set of mostly original, contemporary blues. This album has a polished, laid-back feel from the jump. Some of the top cuts in this 15-cut, 71-minute set include "I'm All Burn," "Down on My Knees," the ballad "Easy Come Easy Go," "Key to My Survival," "Good Thing," "What Fools Do" and "Question of Desire."



Steve Strongman – Tired of Talkin'

Stony Plain Records
www.stevestrongman.com

Juno and Maple Blues Award winner Steve Strongman has a long history of success North of the Border, but should make waves in America, too, with this album, which was self-produced in 2019 and released solely in Canada, but is now available internationally through his new partnership with Stony Plain Records. A pleasant tenor who doubles on guitar and harmonica, Strongman's backed by drummer Dave King, who anchored recording sessions in Hamilton, Ont., and Nashville, and feature both Pat Sansone and Jesse O'Brien on keys in separate, star-studded alignments. Eleven rock-solid originals and a closing cover, this is a powerful, understated set that allows everyone involved space to shine. Among the standout cuts are "Tired of Talkin'," "Paid My Dues," "Still Crazy 'Bout You," the stop-time pleaser "Can't Have It All," "Livin' the Dream," "Hard Place and a Rock" and "Bring You Down."



Dave Riley & Bob Corritore – Travelin' the Dirt Road
(VizzTone/SWMAF Records SWMAF15)

www.bobcorritore.com

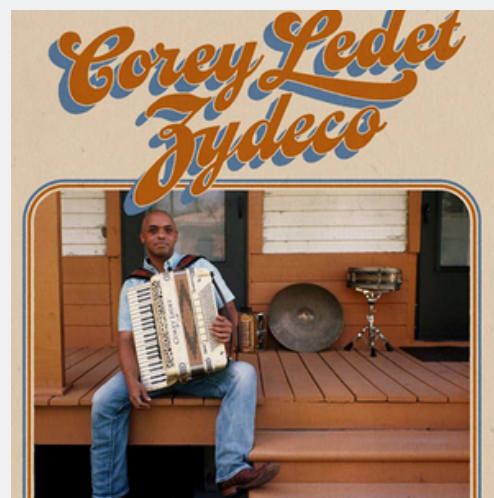
Producer/harp player Bob Corritore and Dave Riley celebrate a partnership that's endured for 15 years with this CD, an expanded re-release of a long out-of-print, deep-in-the pocket album they recorded for Blue Witch Records that's enhanced with the addition of previously unreleased numbers. A warm baritone, Riley is a Mississippi native who worked previously with Frank Frost and John "So Blue" Weston, and who was serving as vocalist/guitarist for Sam Carr's Delta Jukes when he and Bob met. Dave's the star here as Corritore delivers a textbook performance in how harp players on how to back a singer in an old-school blues setting. Riley reprises Weston's "I'm Not Your Junkman" to open the action. Other pleasers include "Safe at Last" as well as Dave's originals "Overalls," "Let's Have Some Fun Tonight," "Voodoo Woman, Voodoo Man," "Country Tough" and "Friends."

Corey Ledet – Corey Ledet Zydeco

(Nouveau Electric Records)

www.coreyledet.com

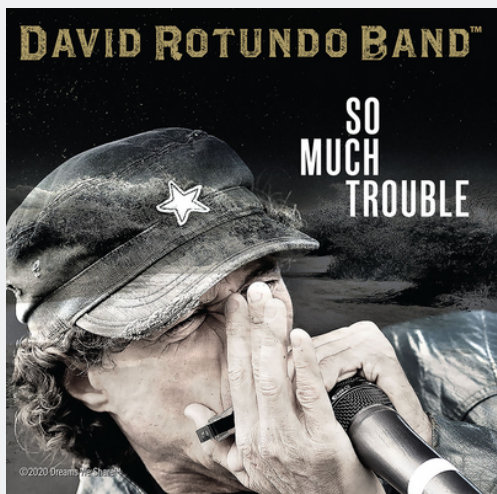
Former Grammy nominee accordionist/vocalist Corey Ledet is sure to heat up your cold winter nights and have you dancing across the floor with this short, sweet and red-hot set of the Creole and zydeco sounds his family's known for. A Houston native who calls Parks, La., home, this album is Corey's 14th in a career that began in the mid-2000s. It's dedicated to his grandfather, uchanan "Tbu" Ledet, who created the double-clutch drumming style that's become an institution through his early work with Clifton Chenier and Rockin' Dopsie, and a multitude of family members have followed in his footsteps. Corey fires out of the gate to give thanks for the gifts of his forefathers with "This Is All I Want," a percussive promise that he'll "never be an average Joe." You'll also enjoy the tribute "Buchanan Ledet Special," "Pel Mo (Call Me)," "On a Roll," "Nina's Hot Step," "Mon Make (I Miss)" and "Arret Ton Train (Stop Your Noise)."



David Rotundo Band – So Much Trouble (Dreams We Share)

www.davidrotundo.com

This CD is a dream come true for Toronto-based harmonica player David Rotundo. He got to meet and play with Lee Oskar, one of his idols, at a festival Rotundo promoted in Mexico in 2019, and the War/Lowriders legend was so impressed that not only did he give him an endorsement for his brand of harps, he joined forces with him to record this album for his own label. A two-time winner Maple Blues Awards honoree with a rough-hewn tenor voice, A 20-year veteran of the blues scene, Rotundo has been began his career fronting The Blue Canadians, and frequently shares the stage with top U.S. talent. He's backed here by Oskar and several top 20 musicians from Canada and the American Pacific Northwest. This stellar set of 11 contemporary originals and one traditional cover is an unassuming treasure throughout. Don't miss "She's Dynamite," "I Must Be Crazy," "Hard Times Coming," "Drinking Overtime," "That Thing Called Love," "Foolish Love" and "Long Road."





Jeff Fetterman Band – Southern Son

(Self-produced CD)

www.jefffetterman.com

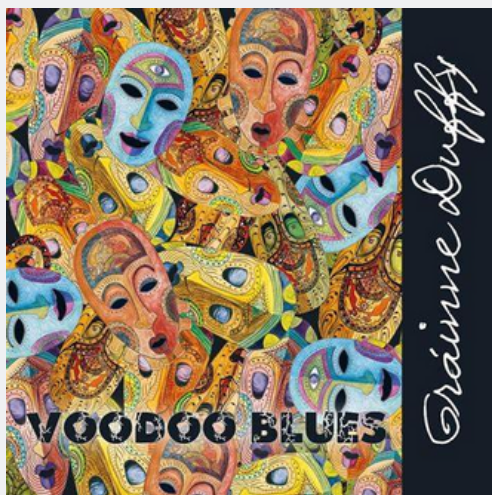
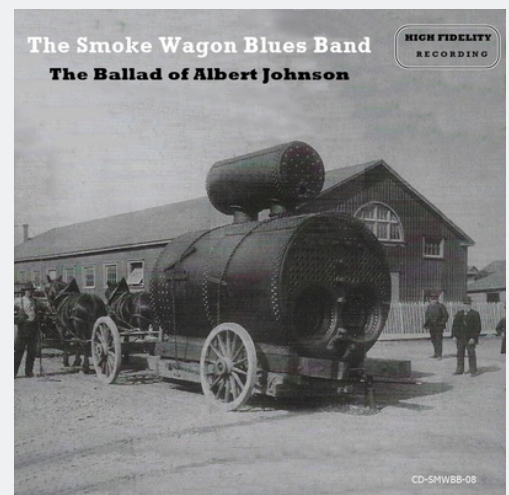
Based out of Bradford, Pa., guitarist Jeff Fetterman has a huge regional following, but deserves more attention than he already receives, playing in a style that's strongly influenced by Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Chris Duarte and B.B. King. A former ASCAP scholarship winner for previous studio work, he recorded this collection of 11 originals and one cover at Kid Andersen's Greaseland Studios in California, and – as you might expect – it's a winner on all counts. Fetterman delivers modern blues with over-the-top feel with a guitar and vocal attack that's consistently behind the beat throughout. Give a good listen to "I Don't Want To," "Memphis Sky," "Living with the Blues," "Feels Like Rain," "Blues for Charlie," a tasty take on Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower," "Voodoo Funk" and "Southside Blues."

The Smoke Wagon Blues Band – The Ballad of Albert Johnson

(Self-produced CD)

www.smokewagonbluesband.com

A seven-piece ensemble based in Toronto, Smoke Wagon Blues Band delivers 12 originals and one cover here, displaying mastery of a wide variety of skills, ranging from New Orleans R&B and swamp to Memphis soul and more, and showing why they've been fan favorites since forming in the '90s. Fronted by Corey Lueck on vocals and harp, this group is funky to the core with a lineup that includes keyboard player Brandon Bruce, two guitars and sax, too. Their most recent previous release, Cigar Store, captured honors in the Independent Blues Awards for R&B song, new blues and modern roots album of the year. There's a lot to like on this one. Give a listen to "Memphis Soul," a tremendous cover of the Dave Bartholomew/Fats Domino penned "The Fat Man," "Sacrifice," "Mescaline," "A Song for Cheryl" and "Streaming Comrades Harp Boogie," just to name a few.

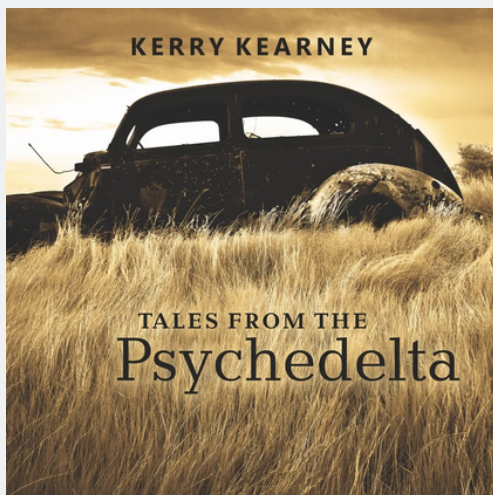


Gráinne Duffy – Voodoo Blues

(Blue Star Records)

www.graineduffy.com

At first listen to this all-original album, you'd figure that vocalist Gráinne Duffy was a product of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but you'd be way off-base. A melismatic powerhouse, she grew up in County Monaghan, Ireland, and has enjoyed gigs at the prestigious Glastonbury Festival and top venues across Europe. A melodic guitarist who blends blues and soul with her Irish Celtic roots and teams with co-writer Paul Sherry, Duffy delivers an emotion-packed set of contemporary sounds and delivers a message of hope that looks beyond the difficulties we all face today. The blues-rocker "Voodoo Blues" reeks of the swamp to open and sets the stage for the relentlessly intense tunes that follow. The highlights include "Mercy," "Blue Skies," "Don't You Cry for Me," "Roll It," "No Matter What I Do," "Tick-Tock" and "Hard Rain." When this one's done, you'll be begging for more.



Kerry Kearney – Tales from the Psychedelta

(Highlander Records)
www.kerrykearneyofficial.com

A New York Blues Hall of Fame slide guitarist who's been playing his own brand of music for four decades, Kerry Kearney dips into his vaults for this collection of tunes that mixes in-your-face blues-rockers with a big helping of well-crafted, original Delta pleasers. Kearney has toured with Dicky Betts and the Allman Brothers in addition to fronting his own band, a power-trio unit that's occasionally enhanced with keyboards and harp here. His delivery is built atop powerful rhythms with a light, sweet slide touch on the strings. "Five Time Man" blazes out of the gate before Kearney shifts primarily into Mississippi mode. Be sure to give a listen to "Fatherless Boy," "Mississippi River Stomp," "Thank You, Jesus" – featuring vocals from the late Sam "Bluzman" Taylor, "Voodoo Down the River," "Lawdy Mama" and the ballad medley "Schaefer Time/Duck House," which brings the action to a close.

Fiona Boyes – Blues in My Heart: 20th Anniversary Edition

(Blue Empress/Reference Recordings)
www.fionaboyes.com

Australia's most decorated blues artist ever, finger-picking guitarist Fiona Boyes has earned eight Blues Music Award nominations since launching her solo career, and shows why she's a fan favorite around the world with this reissue of the often overlooked album that started her on her path to stardom.

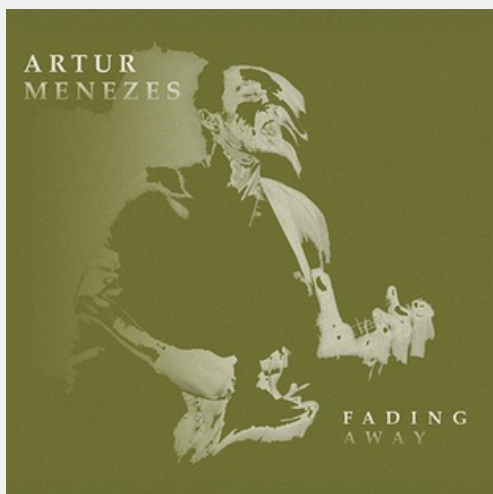
Fiona plays in a hard-to-define style that blends Delta and swamp to Chicago blues and more in the grooves of this self-produced disc, which has been digitally remastered from analog, and the sound quality is so crisp on the updated version, you'll swear she's playing in your living room. An accomplished graphic artist and writer, too, Fiona provides an intimate look at each of the 16 cuts in the accompanying 24-page booklet she designed herself. Some of the top cuts include "Blues in My Heart," "She Could Play That Thing," "Have Faith," "Honey You Can Take My Man," "Two-Legged Dog" and "Hotel Room."



Artur Menezes – Fading Away

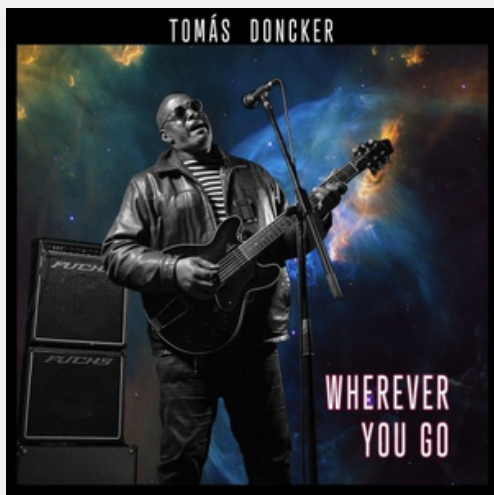
(VizzTone Label Group VT-AMM-01)
www.arturmenezes.com

Brazilian-born, California-based Artur Menezes combines the rhythms of his homeland with heavy blues and rock influences here, showing why he won both the Albert King Award as top guitarist at the International Blues Challenge and grand prize in a competition run by instrument manufacturer Ernie Ball in the past three years, earning an invitation to perform at Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival in the process. The founder of a society that introduces blues to new audiences through free concerts in his homeland, Artur has performed with Joe Satriani and opened for Buddy Guy during a Brazilian tour. He sings in perfectly unaccented English in a set produced and recorded by guitar master Josh Smith that features a guest appearance by Joe Bonamassa. Menezes' fifth album, this one consists of complex, multi-layered arrangements. Some of the standout numbers include "Fading Away," the ballad "Devil's Own," "Come On," "Northeast," "Free at Last" and "Green Card Blues," a nine-minute pleaser that recounts his journey to get to the U.S.



RED HOT & BLUES REVIEWS

By Marty Gunther



Tomás Doncker – Wherever You Go

(True Groove Records)

www.tomasdoncker.net

New Yorker Tomás Doncker cut his teeth in the No Wave music scene in the '80s as lead guitarist with James Chance & the Contortions before launching a career as a producer, songwriter and vocalist who's worked with Madonna, Bonnie Raitt, Shemekia Copeland and international artists across the music spectrum. Recognized as the founder of global soul movement and a powerful baritone, Doncker's backed here by his Blue Ruin Band who recorded their tracks across eight time zones at the height of the epidemic, delivering sounds that range from first-generation Delta, Chicago to Hill Country with a dash of gospel thrown in for good measure. "I'm Gonna Run to the City of Refuse" -- a modern reworking of a tune penned by Blind Willie Johnson -- opens, and the pleasers are abundant. Be sure to tune in to "Wherever You Go," "Have Mercy Baby Please," a reinvention of Skip James' "Hard Time Killing Floor," "Drown in Blue" and "Door to the Dome."

John McLean, Charles Barkatz & Friends – Shadow Man

(TreeTops Records)

www.leakyshoes.com

Here's one of the most surprising albums you'll hear this year. American jazz flute and bagpipe virtuoso John McLean teams with French guitarist Charles Barkatz and all-star Austin backing to make his debut as a blues artist here, and the results are a spectacular blend of interesting grooves that will have you yearning for more. Both front men are veterans of the Paris music scene, where John fronts the Fairweather Quintet and Charles plays regularly in multiple formats, influenced heavily by Wes Montgomery and Kenny Burrell. Sounding a lot like John Mayall and setting his instruments aside, McLean trades vocals with Barkatz throughout in a set produced by Mark "Kaz" Kazanoff. If you like jazzy, uptempo, modern blues with an easy, breezy feel, you'll love "Leaky Shoes Blues," "The Brooklyn Blues Café," "Shadow Man," "She Cry Blues," "Sister of Mine," "Bathtub Blues," "Silve Lake" and "New Life."



Mick Kolassa – If You Can't Be Good, Be Good at It! (Endless Blues

Records MMK022020)

www.mimsmick.com

Fresh off his all-acoustic Blind Lemon Sessions, which was recorded in Germany and released last summer, Mick Kolassa teams with blues-rock firebrand Jeff Jensen and several top Memphis-based musicians for this interesting mix that encompasses everything from the sound of the city to gospel.

A pleasant vocalist and clever tunesmith, Mick's donating all of the proceeds from this disc to Generation Blues and the HART Fund, two charities run by the Blues Foundation, where he's a former member of the board of directors. It was recorded at the legendary Ardent Studios in Memphis and Farmhouse Studios in Moscow, Tenn. Contribute to the tip bucket to help out young artists and professionals in dire need of assistance as you tune in to the R&B pleaser "I Can't Help Myself," the percussive "If You Can't Be Good," the sweet ballad, "A Good Day for the Blues," the horn-fueled "We Gotta," "Sweet Tea" and "She Kept Her Head Up," a song Mick penned for his daughter during her battle against breast cancer.



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.

Loaves & Fishes You are making a difference with every donation!

As we continue our fight against hunger, especially for at risk kids, now more than ever your help is needed. Schools have been closed or have limited attendance due to the COVID-19 virus, and schoolchildren that relied on those meals may now go hungry.

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.

Now we simply ask that you 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

*In Search of a
New Home*



OH NO! NOT AGAIN!

sorry... it's true...

THE RABBIT HOLE HAS BEEN SOLD!

Soon we will need a new place to get our blues groove on.

Your suggestions are welcome! New board member Ken Deery is actively researching possible sites for our new home. With lock downs of bars and clubs still in place, it will be a while before we have any details. If you can help in our search, please contact Ken!

www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org and on our FB Group Page, or via email CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com or info@CharlotteBluesSociety.org



RECORDING ACADEMY™
GRAMMY
AWARDS™

Congratulations to the nominees of the recently announced
63rd GRAMMY Awards®,
especially those selected for the two blues categories:

BEST TRADITIONAL BLUES ALBUM

All My Dues Are Paid, Frank Bey
You Make Me Feel, Don Bryant
That's What I Heard, Robert Cray Band
Cypress Grove, Jimmy "Duck" Holmes
Rawer Than Raw, Bobby Rush

BEST CONTEMPORARY BLUES ALBUM

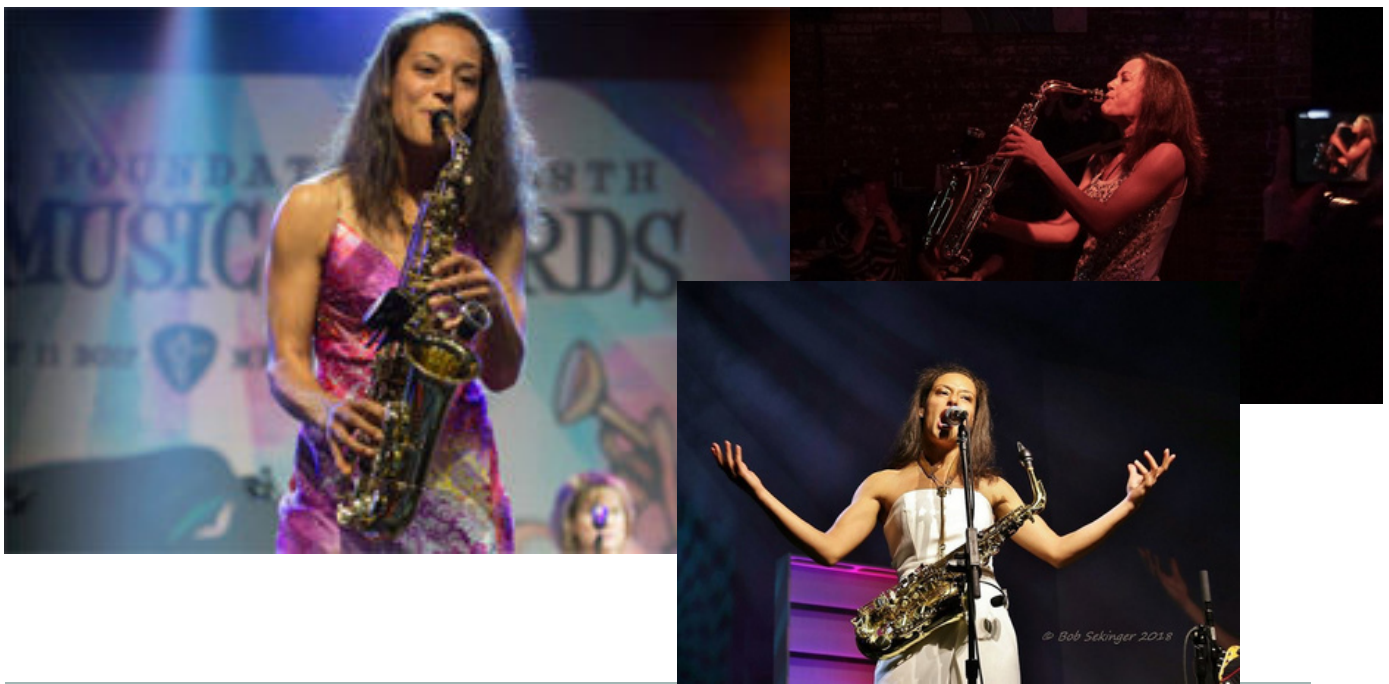
Have You Lost Your Mind Yet? Fantastic Negrito
Live at the Paramount, Ruthie Foster Big Band
The Juice G., Love
Blackbirds, Bettye LaVette
Up and Rolling, North Mississippi Allstars

The 63rd GRAMMY Awards® on Sunday, January 31, 2021 live on CBS.

WORLD CLASS BLUES PRESENTED BY CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY

Charlotte Blues Society Blues Sunday Special Events

HOLD ON TO YOUR TICKETS FOR VANESSA COLLIER. THIS IS A POSTPONED DATE, AND YOUR TICKETS WILL BE HONORED FOR THE RESCHEDULED DATE. WE HAVE HER TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR SUNDAY APRIL 4 OR 11 2021



STAY POSITIVE....

WE SHALL ALL CELEBRATE OUR 28TH
ANNIVERSARY TOGETHER.

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.

We are fortunate to have an experienced blues man and great "Jam Master" in Michael Wolf Ingmire. Help him make it a great jam by following our guidelines. No matter what degree of experience you have, Michael will help make your first, and every jam, one that is fun and make you want to come back for more!