

MARCH 2020

Charlotte Blues Society

Monthly E-Bluesletter

Charlotte Blues Society Blues Sunday Jam
MARCH 1, 2020 with THE INSTIGATORS
Michael, Rob, Stephen & John

WANNA JAM?
Doors 6pm
Band 7pm
Jam begins: 8:15pm

Drums provided
Bring your amps and gear.

The Rabbit Hole 1801 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte

The Jam Returns with The Instigators Doors 6pm Band 7pm Jam 8pm

JAM
GUIDELINES
INSIDE
COME
EARLY
TO SIGN UP



Blues Sunday March 1, 2020 at The Rabbit Hole 1801 Commonwealth Avenue, Charlotte, NC



SAVE THE DATES

April 5 ~ Vanessa Collier
May 3 ~ Jontavious Willis



MARCH 2020

Musings *from the President*

Spring, 14 weeks of live blues in Uptown, New peeps for you to meet, Taste of Charlotte, IBC 2021 info, and more

Hello Blues Fans! Spring has arrived and so have some great shows in the Charlotte area. Kicking off Blues Sunday on March 1st: The instigators are back with head Jam Master Michael Wolf Ingmire to lead the night. Our Open Blues Jam have been gathering popularity and we look forward to seeing you at The Rabbit Hole. Remember our new times: doors: 6pm, music starts at 7pm. The Jam this week will begin at 8pm

At our Blues Sunday you will also meet our candidate for CBS Vice President. Kelly Foster is a gifted singer and one fantastic ball of positive energy. I've known her a few years and convinced her to "think about it" and you will be able to vote on it. She has been on our board of directors and it didn't take long to recognize her talent in the group. She prodded us into going paperless and you shall see us begin to transition in that direction right away. I personally have had SUCH fun deciphering names and email addresses on the handwritten sign up sheets...gee, many of you could be doctors. Seriously, we are going to make things easier for our membership signups, newsletter signups, and merchandise areas. We are heading to the world of IT. Please be patient with us as we work out the kinks. Kelly and I have been meeting weekly to get this off the ground. If you've not met Kelly, you will, and you will love her. She will make a great President in two years.

Speaking of officers, we are looking for a volunteer to be our Secretary. Your duties: attend a one hour monthly meeting with board of directors, take notes, and provide minutes of our meetings. Our former Secretary Casey Couch relocated last year. We miss her and would love her to come back, but that is not in the cards...thus our need to fill that position. If you, or someone you know is interested in the position, are great with details and organized, cool. Contact me or one of the board members.

Ready for more good news? Charlotte Center City Partners and Resident Culture have teamed up again this year to bring us a blues series. We are busy locking in artists now for these FOURTEEN WEEK live blues shows to be held at Victoria Yards in Uptown. Already confirmed: The Chris O'Leary Band, Robbin Kapsalis & Vintage #18, Eddie Turner & Trouble, The King Bees, Bill Miller Band, The Instigators and more. Resident Culture will have brew on hand and you will find food trucks and the Ferris Wheel on site. Look for a list of dates further in the newsletter.

Flynn Wolfe is our Chairperson and coordinator for our Taste of Charlotte Beer/wine/beverage event June 5-7 this year. He is looking for volunteers to help us man our booth. Come join us. Live music, great food and cool people to hang out with!

The IBC dates have been announced for 2021! January 19-23 in Memphis TN. We will be holding our Charlotte Challenge October 4th. Details and entry info coming soon!

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items to our next event. Loaves and Fishes has reported an influx of new people and kids. Thank you Blues For Food Friends!
ONE CAN? WE CAN!

Our resident wordsmith and reviewer Marty Gunther shares memories of Henry Gray, and has a dozen releases for you to consider.

Here's to an amazing spring where the Blues are Bloomin'!

Do not forget to get your tickets for Vanessa Collier April 5! Members only pre-sale for Jontavious Willis March 15-17. Must be a member, and we require your email to send you the code for discount early ticket pricing!

~Mary London Szpara *President*

Loaves & Fishes

You are making a difference with every donation!

As we continue our fight against hunger, especially for at risk kids, please remember with upcoming holidays and spring break, the schools will be out of session, and the one place a child will get a real meal from will be closed. Hunger does not take a holiday. Please bring multiple cans of food to our next event. Your generosity makes all the difference.

Also, individually wrapped napkins / forks / spoons are useful. Cans with pop tops are helpful, or think of adding a can opener to the list of things you wish to bring.

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.

Thank you

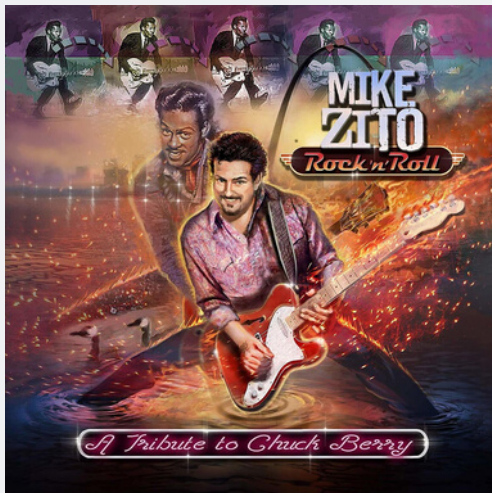


©Cristina Syrakova

I find in my poetry and prose the rhythms
and imagery of the best -
I mean, when I'm at my best - of the good
Southern black preachers.
The lyricism of the spirituals and the
directness of gospel songs and the mystery
of blues are in my music or in my poetry
and prose, or I missed everything.

Maya Angelou

I'm not a blues singer, I'm a diva.
Nina Simone



MIKE ZITO AND FRIENDS – ROCK'N'ROLL: A TRIBUTE TO CHUCK BERRY

(RUF RECORDS RUF 1269)

WWW.MIKEZITO.COM

Mike Zito delved deep into his personal struggles from addiction to musical success with his most recent prior CD, but goes in a completely different direction here: Sharing the stage with 21 other guitar giants to pay tribute to rock-'n'-roll pioneer Chuck Berry, who, like Mike, spent decades living in St. Louis.

Guitar geeks will love this collection, which combines straight-ahead covers with clever new arrangements in a lineup that includes Joe Bonamassa, Anders Osborne, Eric Gales, Walter Trout, Joanna Connor, Sonny Landreth, Tinsley Ellis, Kirk Fletcher, Josh Smith, Tommy Castro, Jimmy Vivino, Albert Castiglia and others too numerous to mention.

The high points here include "Wee Wee Hours," a slow burner that features Bonamassa at his bluesiest best, "Memphis," a sweet shuffle with Osborne, "Havana Moon" with Landreth and "Brown Eyed Handsome Man," a six-string bonanza featuring Fletcher and Smith.

Frank Bey – All My Dues Are Paid

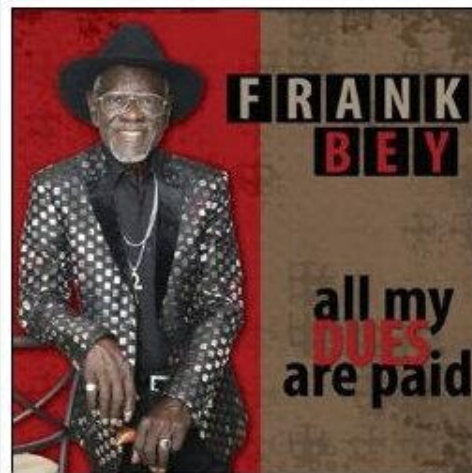
(NOLA BLUE RECORDS NB010)

WWW.FRANKBEYMUSIC.COM

Philadelphia-based Frank Bey gets better with each passing year, as evidenced by his multiple 2019 Blues Music Awards nominations for soul-blues artist and album of the year for Back in Business. This funky-from-the-jump follow-up should be equally rewarding.

This disc was recorded at Greaseland Studios by Kid Andersen and -- unlike Bey's previous release, which was thoroughly old-school -- features music more suited for the future than the past, aided by an all-star cast that includes Jim Pugh (keys), Nancy Wright (sax), Rick Estrin & The Nightcats in their entirety and legendary bassist Jerry Jermott, among others.

The tunes themselves are all covers, but don't let that dissuade you. Among the highlights are Estrin's original "Calling All Fools" and "All My Dues Are Paid," Percy Mayfield's "Never No More," Arthur Alexander's "If It's Really Got to Be This Way," Mighty Mike Schermer's "One Thing Every Day" and the most soulful version of John Lennon's "Imagine" ever!



Seth James – Good Life

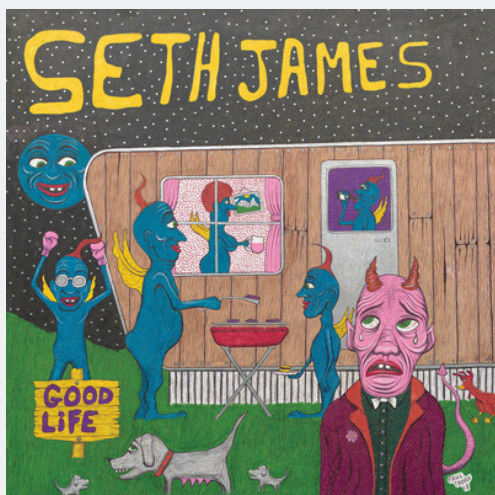
(CHERRY BOMB RECORDS CRD-1420)

WWW.SETHJAMES.COM

Texas-born singer/songwriter Seth James hits the high note as he delivers an upbeat, contemporary collection of blues and funky Southern rock on this one, which was recorded and produced by Grammy winner Kevin McKendree (Ray Charles, Etta James) at Rock House Studio in Nashville.

The positive thoughts come hot and heavy from the start – and for good reason. As James notes: "I always found it easy to be dark and brooding, but using happiness is a trick."

The uptempo opener, "Brother," sets the stage for what's to come as it sings praise for fidelity. Other don't-miss pleasers include "That's How You Do It," "Ain't What You Eat But How You Chew It," "The Time I Love You the Most" and "I Am the Storm."





SHOJI NAITO – WESTMONT TO CHICAGO: TRIBUTE TO EDDY CLEARWATER

(OGDEN RECORDS ORCD 382)

WWW.SHOJINAITO.COM

When Eddy “The Chief” Clearwater left us at age 83 in 2018, the city of Chicago and the world in general lost one of its brightest lights, a favorite both on-stage for his brand of music that fused ‘50s rock-‘n’-roll with old-school Windy City blues and off-stage because of his broad smile and outgoing demeanor that lit up the surroundings no matter where he appeared.

This love letter to him was assembled by guitarist/harp player Shoji Naito, who worked alongside him for the final 14 years of his life. All of the musicians here either worked with or were mentored by Eddy, and this collection contains four cuts featuring Clearwater delivering some of his final recordings.

Among the highlights are Clearwater’s arrangement of the Freddie King classic “Sen Say Shun,” B.B. King’s “I Need You So Bad” with The Chief in charge, an unhurried take on the Don Robey soul-blues classic “Stranded,” “A Minor Cha-Cha” and the instrumental, “Eddy’s Midnight Dream.”

THE BETTY FOX BAND – PEACE IN PIECES

(SELF-PRODUCED CD)

WWW.BETTYFOX.NET

Melismatic songbird Betty Fox – a five-time winner of the Tampa-area Best of the Bay Awards -- has built a strong following in the Sunshine State since releasing her debut album, *Too Far Gone*, in 2012. And the rich, sultry alto is primed to burst into the national spotlight with this CD, which was laid down at the fabled FAME Recording Studios in Muscle Shoals, Ala.

A collection of 13 thoroughly contemporary, original soul-blues tunes and one spiritual cover, this skin-tight production features Betty backed by her regular band and augmented by keyboard legends Spooner Oldham (a Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame inductee) and Clayton Ivey and the FAME horn section -- sax player Brad Guin and trumpeter Ken Watters.

This one’s silky smooth throughout. Be sure to tune into the uplifting opener, “Green Light,” “Winter’s Cold” – a slow blues pleaser that sings about the end of a romance, the emotional “Shattered Dreams and Broken Toes,” the smoldering “Running Back to You” and “Sweet Goodnight,” a tribute to Betty’s father, who lost a valiant battle against Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

PEACE IN PIECES
BETTY FOX BAND



Bobby Messano – Lemonade

(FISHHEAD RECORDS FHD2-800)

WWW.BOBBYMESSANO.COM

Veteran road warrior guitarist Bobby Messano teams with longtime John Fogarty keyboard player Bob Malone and a band of top-flight sessions players for this contemporary blues-rock album, which – like the title – delivers a bittersweet view of trying to maintain balance in a world in constant flux.

This is Messano’s ninth CD in an award-winning career that’s included work in pop, soul, rock and R&B and sessions work with Gloria Gaynor, Stevie Winwood and Rodney Atkins. A collection of nine originals and one cover, it one comes across with the feel of a live set.

“The Bad Guys” opens the action with a folk/rock feel straight out of the ‘60s and Bobby wondering who’s truly right. The blues kick in with “Heal Me,” a plea for salvation, before the unhurried title cut, “Lemonade,” finds him making do with his current situation. Other pleasers include the funky “Junk Jam” and “It’s Just the Money That’s Missing,” the somber ballad “A Thursday in June” and the Big Easy-flavored “Black & White.”



Val Starr & the Blues Rocket – Lighter Side of the Blues

(SANDWICH FACTORY RECORDS)

www.valstarr.com

Want a break from blues laced with heavy politics and dark themes? Check out this new release from vocalist/songwriter Val Starr, an old-school entertainer who's backed here by a lineup from talent-rich Sacramento, Calif., as she delivers a mix of rock-steady shuffles, bluesy ballads, rock and soul.

A Southern California native who's been in the music industry since the early '70s, Val formerly worked behind the scenes for several labels then became an independent promoter before founding several global streaming networks. On stage, she performed in cover bands before shifting to the blues about a decade ago.

"Say Goodbye to the Blues (Like You Mean It)" swings to open with a horn-band feel, while other tunes are straight Chicago-style harp numbers. Be sure to tune into "Sactown Heat," "Can't Get Sad Tonight," the ballad "Mister Bassman" and "The Blues Doesn't Pick and Choose."

Bai Kamara Jr. & The Voodoo Sniffers – Salone

(MOOSICUS/MIG MUSIC)

www.baikamara.com

Here's something completely different! The origins of the blues come through loud and clear on this CD, and it's no wonder because guitarist/vocalist/songsmith Bai Kamara Jr. was born in West Africa, where it all began. The son of an ambassador from Sierra Leone, he grew up in the U.K. and established himself in the soul/R&B field, but returns to his blues root for the first time here.

Kamara's vocal delivery is reminiscent of Keb' Mo', deep in the pocket throughout, but his music is deeply imbued with African polyrhythms. This CD – the title is the name of his homeland in the Krio language – deals with memories of his youth and more.

"Can't Wait Here Too Long" finds Bai at the crossroads in his life, knowing he has to move on, circular figures on the guitars building tension. The theme continues in "Lady Boss," a complaint about working in a shop for a demanding a feminist. Other don't-miss numbers include "Black Widow Spider," the sprightly "Morning School Run Blues," which finds Bai running late once again, while the polyrhythmic "Cold Cold Love," "I Ain't Lying (Can't Give You What I Ain't Got)" and "Some Kind of Loving Tonight."



Thorbjørn Risager & The Black Tornado – Come on In

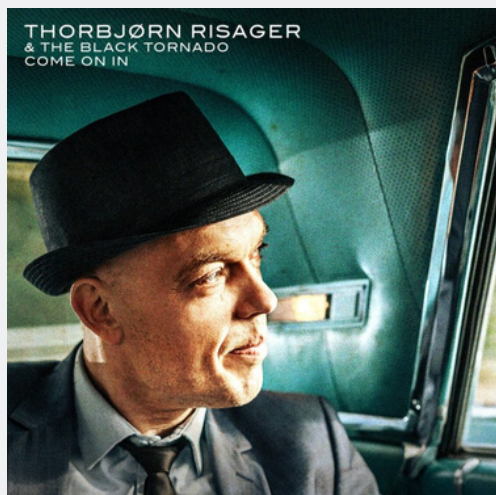
(RUF RECORDS RUF1271)

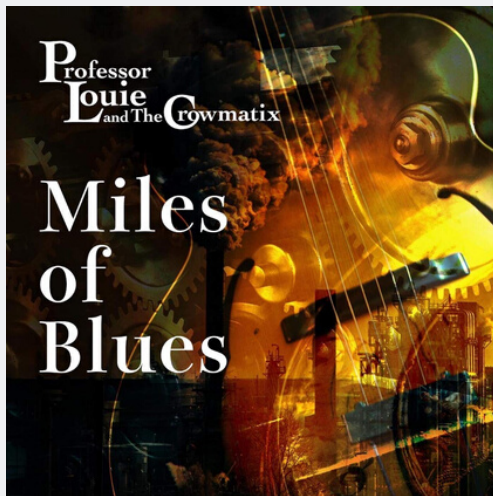
www.risager.info

Danish-based vocalist/guitarist Thorbjørn Risager has been flying under the radar in the U.S. for the better part of the past 20 years, but he's going to create a major footprint for himself here with this powerhouse disc of modern blues that will get you dancing and thinking, too.

Possessing a distinct, soulful voice and stinging attack on the six-string, Risager penned all of the material here. The songs range from quiet acoustic ballads to full-force electric blues, all of which come with a strong groove as they deal with everything from ageing to coming to terms with the turmoil experienced across the planet today.

The title-tune opener, "Come on In," sets the tone. It's an intense, driving blues that draws you in quickly and builds tension atop a rock-steady beat. The feel continues in "Last Train" before the band adopts an island feel for "Nobody but the Moon." There's no dead space here. Other favorites include the melancholy "Two Lovers," "Never Give In," which hints of the Hill Country, and "Love So Fine," an R&B pleaser. Look for this one to pick up some trophies in awards season. It rocks!





Professor Louie & the Crowmatix – Miles of Blues

(WOODSTOCK RECORDS WR61)

www.professorlouie.com

Based out of Woodstock, N.Y., Professor Louie & the Crowmatix started out as the studio musicians for The Band. Directed by keyboard player Aaron “Professor Louie” Hurwitz, they’re a five-piece unit who play about 150 dates a year and deliver a tasty mix of blues, roots, rock and gospel.

Their thoroughly contemporary approach features vocals from Louie and a female vocalist who goes by the name Miss Marie with John Palatina on guitar. This is their 15th release in their 20-year run. Original Blues Brother Tom “Bones” Malone adds spice fronting a horn section on a few cuts.

Key songs here include the funky call-and-response “Funky Steampunk Blues,” the piano-fueled “Passion in My Life,” “Rain 40 Days,” which comes across with a second-line feel, and a tribute cover of The Band’s “Orange Juice Blues.”

Jimmy Pritchard – Meet Me in Memphis

(SELF-PRODUCED CD)

www.jimmypritchard.com

Veteran bass player Jimmy Pritchard spent the past three years holding down the bottom for blues-rock heavyweight Albert Castiglia, but steps out of the shadows as a front man for the first time in a decade to deliver this rock-solid collection of pyrotechnic-free, straight-ahead blues.

Available direct from the artist’s website (address above), Pritchard’s worked previously with UFO rocker Vinnie Moore, lap steel legend Sonny Rhodes, Big Jack Johnson and others. A former IBC semi-finalist, this is his third CD as a bandleader and he delivers it with a helping hand from J.P. Soars, the Paul DesLauriers Band, former Allman Brothers keyboard player Johnny Neel and a trio of top-notch harp players.

This surprising album delivers everything from straight-head blues to Delta, New Orleans and a little old-time rock, too. Among the highlights are “Beds Too Big,” which finds Jimmy crying all night long after his lady’s left home, the title cut, “Meet Me in Memphis,” which recounts great nights on Beale Street, “Daddy’s Comin’ Home,” a pleasant acoustic ballad with Delta feel, and “Jive in My House,” a countrified, ‘50s-style rocker that sings out against folks talking trash when they drop by.



Empire Strikes Brass – Brassterpiece Theatre

(SELF-PRODUCED CD)

www.sethjames.com

Based out of Asheville, N.C., the nine-piece Empire Strikes Brass can take even the deepest chill off of a cold winter night with tunes that range from Dr. John-inspired funk to horn-fueled soul and rock – something they prove beyond a shadow of a doubt on this long-awaited follow-up to their self-produced 2017 release, Theme for a Celebration.

Formed in 2012 by saxophonist Paul Juel, the band features vocals from Grammy winner and sax player Debrissa McKinney (formerly of Secret Agent 23 Skidoo), keyboard player/guitarist/producer Lenny Pettinelli and guitarist Kelly Hannah. They produce an unrivaled wall of sound, aided by a group of multi-instrumentalists who provide trombone, tuba and much, much more.

This album rips and runs from the opener, “Pile ‘em Up,” to the closer, “Brassterpiece.” Give a good listen to these pleasers: “Sneak the Freak,” “Poundin’ the Pavement,” “T.T.A.B.O.O.” and “Baby Mine.” These guys rock!



MARCH THROUGH JUNE 2020

The Blues come to Town

Wednesday is the night to gather, celebrate and get your Blues on

Beginning March 25, Charlotte Center City Partners and Resident Culture are sponsoring a blues series every Wednesday from 6-10 pm. Save the dates and come out and join us!

VICTORIA YARDS WEDNESDAY BLUES

Confirmed artists at time of publication are shown. Check our website for updates

March 25	The Instigators	6-10 pm
April 1	Bill Miller Band	6-10 pm
April 8	The King Bees	6-10 pm
April 15	TBA	6-10 pm
April 22	The Chris O'Leary Band	6-10 pm
April 29	Eddie Turner & Trouble	6-10 pm
May 6	TBA	6-10 pm
May 13	TBA	6-10 pm
May 20	TBA	6-10 pm
May 27	TBA	6-10 pm
June 3	TBA	6-10 pm
June 10	TBA	6-10 pm
June 17	Robbin Kapsalis & Vintage # 18	6-10 pm
June 24	TBA	6-10 pm

schedule subject to change

MARCH 2020

Henry Gray – In Meconium

When Baton Rouge-based keyboard player Henry Gray passed at age 95 on Feb. 17, the world lost one of its last links to the golden age of blues along the Gulf Coast, Chicago and the world in general.

A diminutive, soft-spoken, humorous legend who performed professionally for more than 80 years, Gray was one of the most beloved figures ever to glide across the 88s no matter where his talents took him.

A native of Kenner, La., who spent his youth in Alsen in East Baton Rouge Parish, he was a childhood friend of Little Walter and learned how to play piano thanks to a lady neighbor – something that infuriated his ultra-religious father until he realized that Henry could make money playing music.

An Army veteran in the Pacific Theater during World War II, he quickly became a professional musician after cutting one of his own feet when his dad put him to work in the fields chopping corn. He relocated to Chicago in 1946 and quickly fell under the spell of the legendary Big Maceo Merriweather, one of the fathers of the Windy City style of piano. When Maceo suffered a stroke partially paralyzing him on one side, Gray sat alongside him on the bench and literally became his left hand on the keys.

Henry spent the next 22 years in Chicago, spending 12 of them as the keyboard player in Howlin' Wolf's band. He was also the first-call piano player for Chess Records, working alongside Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson, Jimmy Rogers, Jimmy Reed, Morris Pejoe, Elmore James, Billy Boy Arnold and dozens of others.

He left Chicago and returned to Baton Rouge in 1968 after a disagreement with Wolf. Some folks alleged Wolf – a strict bandleader – fired him for excessive drinking – a claim Gray disputed, saying it was an argument over a woman. He worked in the family fish market and as a roofer, but quickly realized that, in Louisiana, he was as big a name as Wolf as a musician.

Gray made his recording debut as a front man in 1977 with the release of *They Call Me Little Henry* on the Bluebeat imprint, followed by *Lucky Man* on Blind Pig in 1988. The title for the latter was a nickname bestowed on him by friends – and he came by it honestly in a life fraught with personal tragedy.

In 1951, a Chicago Transit Authority bus T-boned and demolished his car, but he survived with minor scrapes and bruises. And he was frequently a target.

In 1951, he was in Baton Rouge when a tornado destroyed his home. It was inundated by flood waters in 1994 and then again in 2016, an event in which he lost his car, all of his clothes and his electric keyboard – an event that was even more troubling because looters also stole a safe containing all of his valuables.

Through it all, however, Henry kept working. His recording career includes stops at Chess, APO, Telarc, Hightone, Wolf and Lucky Cat, and he was a featured performer alongside Dr. John in an episode of the Martin Scorsese-produced 2003 PBS series, *The Blues*, directed by Clint Eastwood.

Gray spent his final years under the care of bluesman Kenny Neal, who rushed to his aid following the most recent weather event. And he toured regularly and recorded with Bob Corritore, the Chicago-born harmonica player who's owned The Rhythm Room in Phoenix, Ariz., for the past 25 years.

It was this writer's honor to have been able to present Henry with a lifetime achievement award from Blues Blast Magazine a few years ago and spend a couple of days in his presence prior to the event. His spirit remained youthful despite his 90-plus years on earth as he spent an evening recounting his experiences to an eager audience, and the photo that we took that night makes me appear older even though he was my senior by more than two decades.

Rest well, Henry, and thank you for a life well done!



~Marty Gunther Contributing Editor

WORLD CLASS BLUES PRESENTED BY CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY

Charlotte Blues Society Blues Sunday Special Events

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT EVENTBRITE NOW FOR VANESSA COLLIER
MEMBERS ONLY PRE-SALE MARCH 15-17 FOR JONTAVIOUS WILLIS

May 3, 2020 Charlotte Blues Society
Presents a Very Special Evening with
2020 Grammy Nominee Best Traditional Blues Album
Jontavious Willis

advance Membership tickets sales TBA
The Rabbit Hole
1801 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte, NC

**Special Membership only reserved tickets
sale TBA**

**On sale to the public: March 22
\$20 reserved seating.**

All tickets will be sold through Eventbrite

Vanessa Collier
tickets available at Eventbrite
COLLIER

Charlotte Blues Society
BLUES SUNDAY APRIL 5
The Rabbit Hole 1801 Commonwealth 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."
~ Buddy Guy*

Advance Tickets \$15
Day of Show: \$20

Doors 6PM
Show: 7-9:30pm

Keeping The Blues Alive for 27 Years!
www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org

TO PURCHASE MEMBERS ONLY ADVANCE TICKETS:

- You must be a current member.
- Your email must be in our data base by March 10.
- You will receive a time sensitive code via email for member only pricing.

MARCH 2020

Upcoming Shows at a glance



THE INSTIGATORS
March 1 The Rabbit Hole

**BLUES
SUNDAY
OPEN
BLUES
JAM**



Marc Broussard
& the Jamie McLean Band
March 7 McGlohon at Spirit Square



Jarred Dickenson
March 7
The Evening Muse



MARCH 12
AT TIN ROOF
Rob Leines

MARCH 2020

Upcoming Shows at a glance

A poster for a performance by the Blues Beatles. It features four men in suits and ties, some with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. The text "BLUES BEATLES" is prominently displayed in the center, with "BLUES" in white and "BEATLES" in red. Below the title, the date "March 13" and the venue "Fullwood Theater Matthews" are listed.

**BLUES
BEATLES**
March 13
Fullwood Theater Matthews

A poster for The Legendary Shack Shakers. It shows a group of five men in a dimly lit room, possibly a bar or club. One man in the foreground is playing a blue banjo. The text "The Legendary Shack Shakers" is written in white at the top. The date "March 24" and the venue "Snug Harbor" are listed at the bottom right.

**The
Legendary
Shack
Shakers**
March 24
Snug Harbor

A poster for Eric Johnson. It features a photograph of Eric Johnson smiling and playing a white electric guitar. The name "ERIC JOHNSON" is written in large, white, block letters at the top. At the bottom, the venue "MCGLOHON THEATER AT SPIRIT SQUARE" and the date "SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2020" are listed.

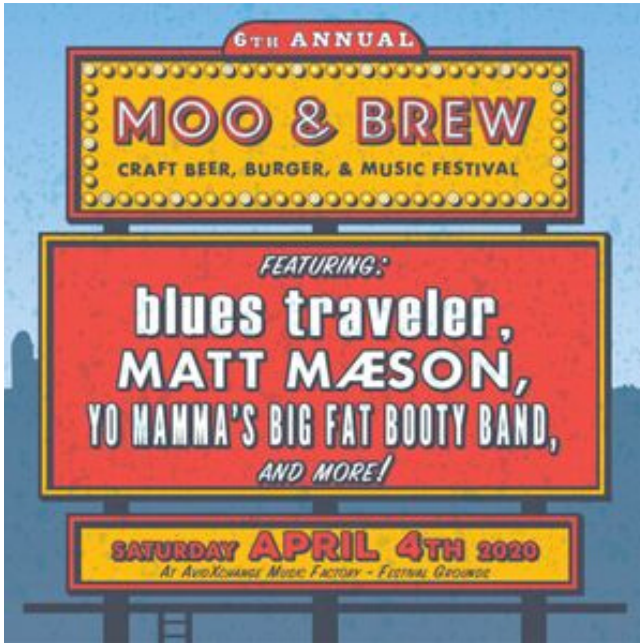
ERIC JOHNSON
MCGLOHON THEATER AT SPIRIT SQUARE
SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2020

A poster for Ronnie Baker Brooks. It shows a man in a white shirt and a brown vest playing a black electric guitar. He is standing in front of a grey brick wall. The name "Ronnie Baker Brooks" is written in yellow, stylized font on the right side. The date "April 3" and the venue "Neighborhood Theatre" are listed at the bottom left.

**Ronnie
Baker
Brooks**
April 3
Neighborhood Theatre

MARCH 2020

Upcoming Shows at a glance



6TH ANNUAL
MOO & BREW
CRAFT BEER, BURGER, & MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEATURING:
**blues traveler,
MATT MÆSON,
YO MAMMA'S BIG FAT BOOTY BAND,
AND MORE!**

SATURDAY APRIL 4TH 2020
At AxisExchange Music Factory - Festival Grounds



**CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY
PRESENTS**

**VANESSA
COLLIER**

CBS 27th Anniversary Bash
Special Pre-Sale for Members TBA

**BLUES
SUNDAY APRIL 5**
The Rabbit Hole 1801 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte NC



May 3, 2020 Charlotte Blues Society
Presents a Very Special Evening with
2020 Grammy Nominee Best Traditional Blues Album

**Jontavious
Willis**

Advance Membership tickets sales TBA
The Rabbit Hole
1801 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte, NC



BETH HART

April 29, 2020
KNIGHT THEATER

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!