

eBLUESLETTER

Charlotte Blues Society

October 2022

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- ◆ Upcoming Local and Regional Shows and Festivals
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- ◆ Taste of Charlotte returns to Uptown - A BIG fundraiser for CBS. Volunteers needed to serve beverages Sept 30, Oct 1 and Oct 2.
- ◆ Red Hot'n Blues Reviews by Marty Gunther
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And the Contestants are...

Solo/Duo

Catisha "Cat" Adams

Dallas NC based singer/songwriter.



Bands

Red Dress Amy

This trio is from Charlotte, Kevin Hamilton, Dalton Johnson and Dalton Rowland



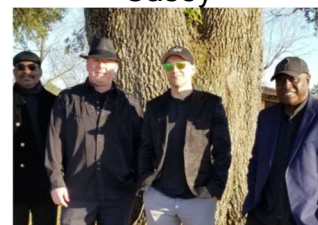
Aaron "Woody" Wood

From Asheville, NC is straight up Cosmic Appalachian Soul.



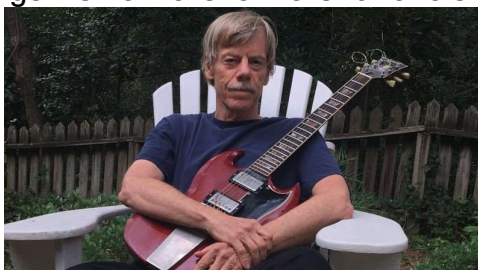
Blues Deluxe Band

Columbia SC based 4 piece blues band. John Hartness, DJ May, Rickey Ramsey and James Casey



Jay Taylor

From Columbia, SC
Brings his hot licks to the Charlotte stage



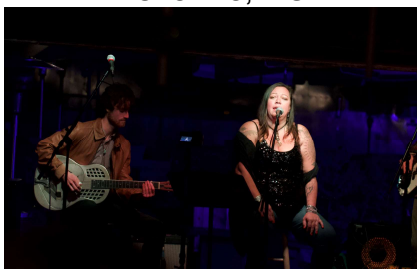
Ross Osteen Band

Hailing from Asheville, NC. Ross leads Patrick Gaynor, Chris Lombardi and Andy Bishop.



Melissa McKinney w Patrick French

Singer/songwriter and music teacher living in Asheville, NC



**Each Act will perform for 20 minutes
featuring original and cover songs.**

This is a judged contest.

Your presence and enthusiasm is needed.

**Come on out and Clap, shout, dance,
stomp your feet!**

Music starts at 6PM sharp.

Contestant's Biographies

BAND ACTS

Blues Deluxe is a Columbia South Carolina based 4 piece blues band offering a rich mix of creative original songs, hidden blues gems and interesting takes on blues classics. You will be entertained as Blues Deluxe has a mission to keep your foot tapping and to ensure you do not hear the same songs you heard from the last bar you visited. Although you may not hear Mojo Working, trust us...it will work on you!

www.bluesdeluxesouthcarolina.com

The Ross Osteen Band was formed in 2014. They have traveled a circuit from Florida to New York and from Georgia to Chicago. They fondly tout a particular memorable performance in Chicago with Buddy Guy's song "Hold Back". They released their self-titled album in 2015 followed by a second album release titled "Glenhead Station". Their latest released album in 2019 is titled "Cumberground" and proudly being heard worldwide. They continue to grow their local base in Western North Carolina.

www.rossosteen.com

Born in Charlotte and raised on Blues and Rock 'n Roll, **Red Dress Amy** brings a ton of energy to any stage they set foot on. The trio combines blues influences with their 2021 debut album "Otherwise Peaceful" and they credit blues and rock performers Kenny Wayne Shephard, Doyle Bramhall II, Philip Sayce, The Black Keys and Cream as key influencers.

Red Dress Amy has captured and expanded rock blues genre their Charlotte audiences have come to enjoy and love.

www.reddressamy.com

SOLO/DUO ACTS

Jay Taylor

The first nasty blues lick I remember was from "New York City Blues" by the Yardbirds, a British rock band. The song opens with a four-measure guitar lick by Jeff Beck, tick with overdrive, string bends and the blues scale. What is this stuff? I thought. I want to be a part of it. Interviews with Jagger, Richards and Clapton got me oriented. The brits didn't invent the stuff, I discovered. They reworked the stylings of the blues greats. Later, in 1980, I got to review a Muddy Waters show for a newspaper, and I got a five-minute interview with him. I asked, "Are you jealous of the Stones and other bands that borrowed and profited so much from the blues pioneers?" He chuckled, paused and said, "I reckon I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the Rolling Stones." And I suppose I wouldn't be in this blues challenge either.

Catisha “Cat” Adams started singing when she came out the womb. My Mom and Dad loved music. They bought me my first record player when I was five. My family always tells me I’m loud too. My sisters and I and our friends used to sing and dance around the house in Hollis, Queens, NYC. We had a floor to ceiling, wall to wall mirror in our dining room. You’d have thought we were on Broadway. My parents had lots of records and we sang along with all of them-from Alvin and the Chipmunks to Chuck Berry.

I’ve written two stage shows that have been performed live. I sang with the Northwestern Community Ensemble in college, in Vegas with the All City Choir, at the Caribbean Day Festival, and as a backup and soloist for Lion Pride at the University of Las Vegas Nevada. I emceed African Liberation Day in Harlem and a talent show at the West Las Vegas Arts Center. I sang at a Jazz Club in West Las Vegas, at Mandalay Bay’s House of Blues and at Fred Scott’s in Phoenix, Arizona.

I stopped to have a family but I still sang to my babies. I sing in church here in North Carolina, but got kicked off the choir. I teach keys and voice to children.

I’ve recorded five songs. Rapper Hip Hop Maniac and I sold 1000 copies of the first recording I did. We collaborated on “Stay Black and Die”. We sold the single directly to the people. We got radio play at KCEP, a club in Iowa and a station in Minneapolis. I wrote the lyrics and melodies and recorded three other songs; “I Work,” “You Turned Me Out” and “Truth in Life” with producer Al Mac on his album Fish Killaz. This year, I opened my own indie label. I recorded “I’ll Protect Your Heart” from my upcoming album First Love.

Melissa McKinney is a singer/songwriter living in Asheville, NC. Over 20 years ago, Melissa was a professional musician in the Charlotte area before the birth of her daughter. She moved home to WV to raise her daughter as a single mom. She opened a music school and devoted her life to raising her daughter and a generation of young musicians. Recently, she made the decision to return to her music and is in the process of recording music again after a 20 year hiatus.

www.theonevoiceproject.com

Aaron “Woody” Wood is quite the renaissance man, embodying the energy and mystique of American music. Carved from the foothills of the Piedmont, rolled and tumbled through the Delta mud and washed in The Mississippi, Aaron “Woody” Wood is straight up Cosmic Appalachian Soul. With a background as diverse as his music, he consistently delivers the soul, power and energy that have renowned him as a musician’s musician.

“Woody” Wood continues to carry his art farther by giving attention and respect to the artists that have influenced and shaped his music, allowing him to keep that Spirit burning forward. Focusing on songwriting and new styles of guitar playing, “Woody” Wood’s inventive approach to musical style and the raw emotion he delivers in his songwriting creates a cohesive sound that is hard to find but heavily sought out by music lovers everywhere.

www.aaronwoodywood.com



THE BLUES FOUNDATION

IBC will be held January 24-28, 2023 on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee!

The **International Blues Challenge** represents the worldwide search for blues bands and solo/duo blues performers ready for the international stage, yet just needing that extra big break. The world's largest gathering of blues musicians will take place on Beale Street, with over 20 clubs hosting the challengers and fans. In addition to featuring these final rounds of the prestigious blues music competition, the IBC event week will offer seminars, showcases, master classes, film screenings, networking events, book signings, and receptions for blues societies, fans, and professionals.

Tickets on Sale Oct 1 at Blues.org

Taste of Charlotte

Sept 30 - Oct 2

Truist Field

(Knights Baseball Stadium)

324 South Mint St.

Charlotte, 28202



#TasteOfCharlotte

FOOD, FUN, MUSIC for the whole family!

Fri 11am-11pm

Sat 11am-11pm

Sun 11am - 4:30pm

www.tasteofcharlotte.com

Volunteers needed to staff the beverage booth. We use this to fund our shows.

Food coins will be shared with Volunteers.

Multiple 4 hour shifts available.

Contact Flynn Wolfe at flynnwolfe@gmail.com

***JUST
BLUES
IT!***

Memberships fuel the music. Please renew or join NOW. Makes a great gift!

New Merchandise coming soon. Polo, Tees, Ballcaps and more. Check out our store on-line or at the Merch table at our shows.

So many ways to listen to the Blues... Do you know about these regional radio shows?

- WNCW 88.7 Spindale, NC
- WNRN Virginia Fresh Roots & New Blues Saturday 6 to 8PM
- WSGE 91.7 Dallas NC Monday- Thursday 7 to 10 PM
- WYTX 98.5 Rock Hill SC Sunday 8 to 10 PM

Who did we miss? Send us your personal favorite to cltbluessociety@gmail.com

Blues Jam Guidelines are posted to the www.charlottebluessociety.org downloads page.

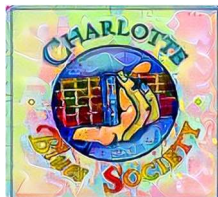
Sign-up is required at the show. While there is no pre-registration, Sign-up when you arrive!

Oct 2, 2022

Blues Challenge returns. Open to Bands and Solo/Duo acts.

Applications open June 15, 2022 and closes Sept. 1, 2022 at 5PM EDT

*IBC rules apply.



Nov 6, 2022 Spicy Jane Lane at Neighborhood Theatre.



Dec 4, 2022

Christmas Bash with Johnny Burgin

Raffles, Silent Auction, Prizes

Check him out on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

Nov 6, 2022 Spicy Jane Lane is a Blues-based band from the greater Charlotte area, featuring Steve Fowler on Drums/vocals, Jim Powers on Bass/vocals, Michael Ingmire on Guitar/vocals and (founder) Terry Whittenburg on Guitar/vocals. Their repertoire ranges from the traditional Blues of Muddy Waters and Robert Johnson to the more contemporary Blues of Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Whatever may be on the menu, Spicy Jane Lane puts her own seasoning to the palate! Come get your Blues on with Spicy Jane Lane!

facebook.com/SpicyJaneLane



Johnny Burgin grew up in the South and went to University of Chicago with the intention of becoming a writer. When a fellow DJ at the college radio station took him out to a West Side ghetto club to hear the blues singer [Tail Dragger](#), it was a conversion moment. The blues came to life for Johnny and he fell headfirst into the vibrant Chicago blues scene. Choosing the blues clubs over the library, Johnny eagerly absorbed the lessons from the blues masters who practiced their craft nightly. By persistence and practice, Johnny gained a spot in Tail Dragger's band, and started gigging and recording with traditional blues veterans like [Sam Lay](#), [Billy Boy Arnold](#), and [Pinetop Perkins](#). By the late 90s, Johnny was working regularly in Chicagoland blues clubs under his own name. Johnny started a Monday night residency at The Smoke Daddy in Wicker Park,

featuring vocalist Jimmy Burns. The band featured other future blues notables who were also at beginning of their careers, such as [Kenny Smith](#) on drums and [Martin Lang](#) on harp, and they created quite a buzz. They packed the club

every Monday with a younger, hip crowd, as well as blues veterans stopping by to sit in such as [Dave Meyers](#), [Jesse Fortune](#), [Barkin' Bill](#), etc. Their success led to a record deal with Delmark and the first of several European tours.

The shangri-la of being “King of Division Street” eventually ran its course. In the early aughts, Johnny dropped off the scene entirely to raise a daughter. When the music eventually called Johnny back, his comeback was noted by *The Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Blues Guide*, and the Dutch blues magazine *BLOCK*. As noted blues producer Dick Shurman wrote, “Johnny’s skills, passion and commitment were undiminished.” His move to the Bay Area in 2016 led to a creative burst and his most notable recordings. In a few short years, Johnny cranked out the Cali/Chicago blues mashups [Greetings from Greaseland](#), [Neoprene Fedora](#), the Howlin’ Wolf tribute [Howlin’ at Greaseland](#) (nominated for a BMA for Best Traditional Blues Recording) and [Johnny Burgin Live](#), which featured Charlie Musselwhite and was nominated for a Blues Blast Best Live Recording Award for 2019. Throughout, Johnny managed to play 250 dates a year since 2014 in Europe, Japan and coast to coast in the States, right up until the pandemic. By 2022, he’d ramped back up to the same demanding schedule.

Johnny’s produced ten CDs as a leader to his credit and dozens more as a sideman, from veterans like [Johnny Sansone](#), [Paul DeLay](#), [Bob Corritore](#) to up and comers like [Aki Kumar](#) and [Ben Levin](#). Johnny’s developed from a young guitar slinger and local blues hero to a matured bluesman, fully fledged singer and the confident and engaging bandleader. In recent years, he has been a resident instructor at the [Pinetop Perkins Foundation](#) and the [Chicago Blues Network](#) and has developed a loyal following on Youtube for his weekly looks at the blues guitar greats. Johnny’s recordings have evolved from being very Chicago-centric, to a fusion of West Coast and Chicago styles, and finally, to a more inclusive, international approach. His latest CD, [No Border Blues Japan](#), is the first American compilation of the underground Japanese blues scene. The success of this collaboration led Johnny and his partner, producer Stephanie Tice, to create and host the podcast [No Border Blues](#), which focuses on the international blues scene.

Logo Contest 30th Anniversary of CBS

Submit as many entries as you would like using the submission form on the [web page](#). Students and Artists encouraged!

Get Creative and see your art on our
30th Anniversary Merch & Swag!

Contest begins April 1, 2022 and ends February 1, 2023.



Charlotte International Arts Festival Sept 16 to Oct 2, 2022

WHAT IS IT? An annual celebration which magnifies the Queen City’s artistic soul for creation and innovation. The inspiring multi-week festival features curated artistic and immersive experiences from around the world and locally that celebrate diversity and culture.

C.I.A.F. expands the artistic identity of Charlotte and surrounding areas by transforming Uptown and Ballantyne into centers of imagination that celebrate a spirit of playfulness by bringing together artists from around the globe and around the corner through both visual and performing arts.

Fun for everyone, from families to individuals, we invite you to participate in imaginative arts’ experiences throughout our city over the course of 17 days. We invite you to stay awhile, play, and welcome curiosity, as we begin to see our city through new eyes. With over 200 attractions, many for free, this festival has something for everyone.

OUR MISSION To awaken your senses by offering a tapestry of artistic endeavors through internationally acclaimed and home-grown artists, musicians, and thought leaders.

WHERE IS IT?

The Charlotte International Arts Festival spans from Center City to South Charlotte and features spectacular live performances, immersive art installations, conversations with thought leaders, and an abundance of inspired creations.

MORE LOCAL SHOWS AND FESTIVALS



GA20
 Wednesday Oct 12
 The Fillmore Charlotte
www.ga20band.com
See their new CD review by our own Marty Gunther below



**Southern Avenue
 Camp North End
 Charlotte, NC
 Friday Oct 21
 6 to 9PM
 Free**



Davy Knowles
 Friday Oct 21
 Neighborhood Theatre



Maxxmusic.com

Marcus King
 Tuesday Oct 25
 The Fillmore Charlotte
www.marcuskingband.com



Joanne Shaw Taylor
 November 16
 Knight Theater
 Charlotte, NC
www.JoanneShawTaylor.com

The 6th Annual
 Allman Family
 Revival
 Tuesday, Dec 6
 Ovens Auditorium
 Charlotte, NC



**TAB BENOIT WITH
 THE DIRTY DOZEN
 BRASS BAND
 NEIGHBORHOOD
 THEATRE
 CHARLOTTE, NC
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9**



15TH BLUES BLAST MUSIC AWARD WINNERS

Contemporary Blues Album

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram – 662

Traditional Blues Album

Sue Foley – Pinky's Blues

Soul Blues Album

Sugaray Rayford – In Too Deep

Rock Blues Album

Eric Gales – Crown

Acoustic Blues Album

Catfish Keith – Land of the Sky

Live Blues Album

The James Harman Band – Sparks Flying Live In 1992

Historical Or Vintage Recording

Bob Corritore & Friends – Down Home Blues Revue

New Artist Debut Album

Memphissippi Sounds – Welcome To The Land

Blues Band

Tommy Castro & The Painkillers

Male Blues Artist

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram

Female Blues Artist

Beth Hart

Sean Costello Rising Star Award

Memphissippi Sounds

Producer

Mike Zito

Electric Guitar

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram

Acoustic Guitar

Catfish Keith

Slide Guitar

Derek Trucks

Bass Guitar

Danielle Nicole

Keyboards

Victor Wainwright

Drums

Cedric Burnside

Harmonica

Jason Ricci

Horn

Vanessa Collier

Vocals

Beth Hart



Albert Castiglia at USNWC July 7, 2022

RAFFLE GUITAR
Fender Starcaster Strat
with Black Metallic finish



Signatures include:

- ◆ Eddie Turner
- ◆ Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
- ◆ Vanessa Collier
- ◆ Laura Chavez
- ◆ Samantha Fish
- ◆ Jamie McLean
- ◆ Albert Cummings
- ◆ Tinsley Ellis
- ◆ Luke Winslow-King
- ◆ Roberto Luti
- ◆ Diane Durrett
- ◆ Albert Castiglia
- ◆ Damon Fowler
- ◆ Tommy Castro
- ◆ Danielle Nicole
- ◆ plenty more to come...

Tickets on sale NOW until April 2023
 \$10 each

Purchase online at our website or at a show.

We get such great support from all the Blues Artists that come through Charlotte.

THANKS!

Guitar donated by our past President, Mary London Szpara.

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

JOHN PRIMER - *HARD TIMES*

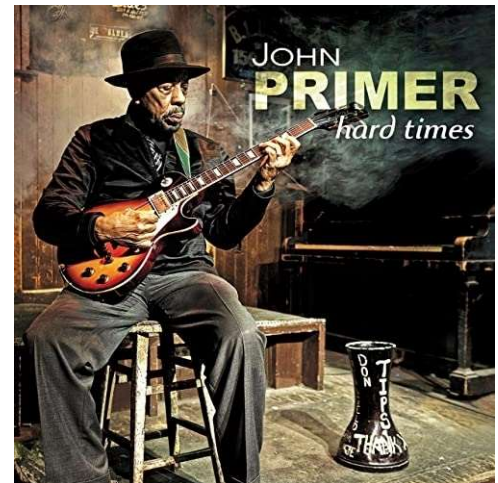
BLUES HOUSE PRODUCTIONS BHP JB2022

www.johnprimerblues.com

A fixture in Chicago since the '70s, when he first made a name as Junior Wells' band leader at Theresa's Lounge after emigrating from Camden, Miss., and one of the most beloved musicians ever to set foot on a Windy City stage, John Primer serves up a treat with his latest album, putting a new spin on 13 of the tastiest tunes culled from his 40-plus albums.

A mix of straight-ahead and soul-blues, John's joined by his regular harp player Steve Bell, Carey's son, and gets helping hands from keyboard player Johnny Iguana and Muddy Waters bandmate Rick Kreher on second guitar. John's 17-year-old daughter Aliya makes her recording debut on one tune.

Traditionalists will find a whole lot to love here, including "You Got What I Want," "Don't Wait too Long," "Blues-Blues-Blues," "Chicago," "Tough Times," "My Sugar Mama," "You Mean So Much to Me," "Hot Meal" and "Whiskey."



HARRISON KENNEDY - *THANKS FOR TOMORROW*

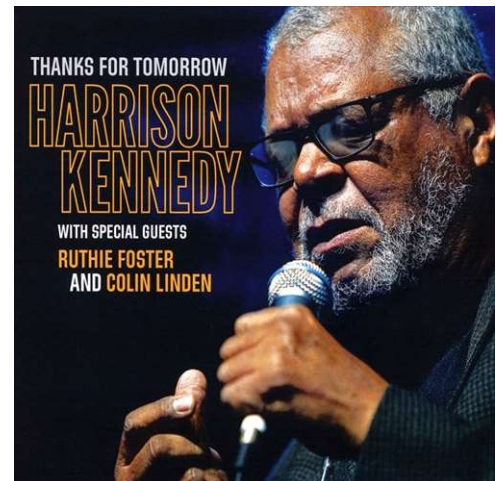
ELECTRO-FI RECORDS 3462

www.harrisonkennedy.ca

A founding member of The legendary Motown group Chairmen of the Board and a seven-time Blues Music Awards nominee, 80-year-old Harrison Kennedy switches things up on his latest CD, joining forces with Ruthie Foster, Colin Linden and several top musicians from his native Canada to deliver a rousing set of contemporary originals.

Co-produced with Jesse O'Brien, Levon Helm's longtime keyboard player, this disc delivers a smorgasbord of stylings, ranging from straight-ahead blues, soul and barrelhouse rock and adds a dash of country, too - all of which is guaranteed to put a smile on your mug.

"All I Need Is You," a duet with Ruthie, opens the action. Don't miss "Easiest Thing to Do," "Thanks for Tomorrow," "Checkin' You Out," "Crazy Love," "Memphis Trippin'," the upbeat "Cranky Woman" and the uptempo rocker "Just Wanna Play."



SETH WALKER - *I HOPE I KNOW*

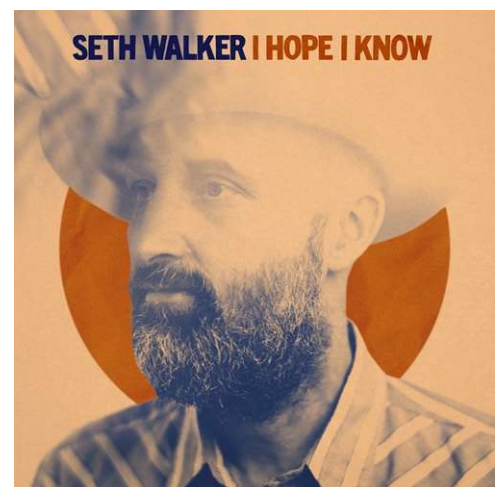
ROYAL POTATO FAMILY

www.sethwalker.com

Asheville, N.C.-based singer/songwriter Seth Walker takes listeners on a roller coaster of emotion on his 11th CD, an intimate effort that deals with the uncertainties of life, recovery from the end of a longtime love affair and a career upended because of COVID-19. It serves up salve for the soul for anyone who's suffered similar fates.

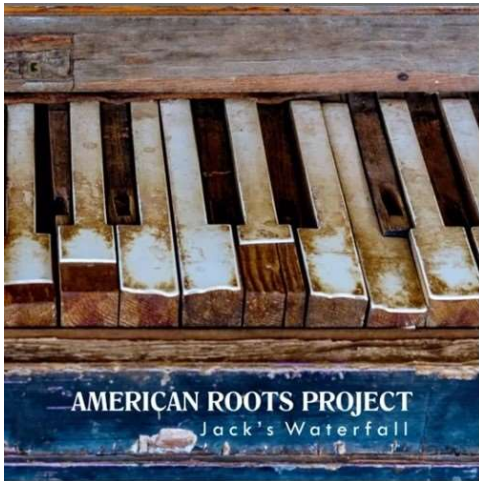
A veteran of both the Austin and Nashville music scenes, Seth's 2019 release, *Are You Home?*, debuted in the No. 2 spot on *Billboard's* blues chart. He penned seven of the ten tunes here, three each with Grammy winner Gary Nicholson and Wood Brothers front man Oliver Wood.

Looking for a little healing? This one will help. Tune in to "The Future Ain't What It Used to Be," "Why Do I Cry Anymore," "Hope I Know," "Satisfy My Mind," "River," "Peace in the Valley" and covers of Bobby Charles' "Tennessee Blues" and Van Morrison's "Warm Love."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



JACK'S WATERFALL - AMERICAN ROOTS PROJECT

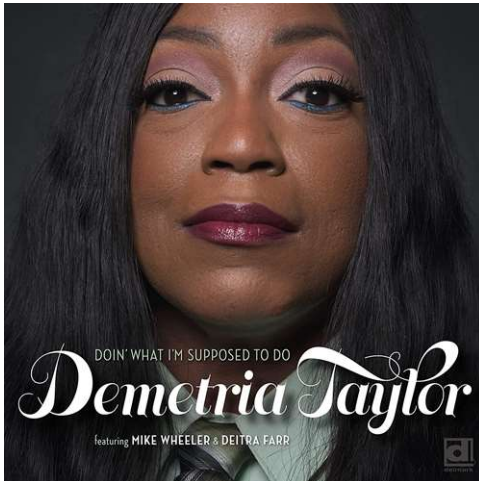
SELF-PRODUCED CD

www.jackswaterfall.com

Fronted by piano player/vocalist Jack Licitra, a 30-year veteran of the New York blues scene, Jack's Waterfall swings from the hip on its debut CD, mixing a highly danceable blend of funk, ragtime and straight-ahead blues that deliver a big tip of the hat to the sounds of New Orleans.

Influenced heavily by Henry Butler, Allen Toussaint and Pinetop Perkins, Licitra founded regional favorites Water Street Blues Band in Oneonta in the '90s. His three-piece unit includes Grammy-nominated producer Mark Carpentieri - head honcho at M.C. Records - on drums and Trifon Dmitrov on bass with a guest appearance on harp from Water Street co-founder Steve Demanchick.

The feel of the Big Easy infuses flows strongly throughout, beginning with "Louise," a tip of the hat to Toussaint. Other pleasers include "Them Blues," "My Baby's Gone a Long Time," "Soul Rider," "Jack's Rag," "West Texas Ghost Story," "I've Been Listening" and "Like an Eagle."



DEMETRIA TAYLOR - DOIN' WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO

DELMARK RECORDS 875

www.delmark.com

The Jus' Blues Foundation's reigning Koko Taylor Award - female vocalist of the year - winner and the daughter of Chicago blues giant Eddie Taylor, Demetria Taylor was a full-grown woman when made she made her recording with the well-received *Bad Girl* a decade ago and finally serves up a long-awaited follow-up with this one.

It features an all-star cast of Windy City talent, including three members of the Mike Wheeler Band - keyboard player Brian James, bassist Larry "L-Dub" Williams and Mike on guitar and sit-ins from guitarists Carlos Showers and Billy Flynn, percussionist Melvin "Pookie Styx" Carlisle and vocalist Deitra Farr, too.

An old-school/contemporary mix that includes eight originals, give a listen to Eddie's "83 Highway," "Baby Be Good," "Bad Girl Day," "Doin' What I'm Supposed to Do," "Done," "I'm Gonna Tell It," "Nursing My Kitty Cat," "Stay Gone" and "Young Gun Taylor."



KEB' MO' - GOOD TO BE...

CONCORD MUSIC GROUP/ROUNDER RECORDS

www.kebmo.com

Delivering some of the smoothest, most upbeat music in the blues today, Keb' Mo' outdoes himself on his latest CD, teaming with some surprising guests and spreading light, love, joy and encouragement to folks living in a world wracked by disease, political strife and more.

Now based in Nashville, Keb' joins forces with Vince Gill and Darius Rucker, Old Crow Medicine Show, Kristin Chenoweth, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram and dozens of others to deliver his usual blend of blues-infused Americana. This set is destined to receive the sixth Grammy in his storied career.

Deep in the pocket and relaxed throughout, every track here's a winner. You'll dig "Good to Be (Home Again)" - which celebrates the repurchase of his childhood home in Compton, Calif., "So Easy," "Sunny and Warm" "Good Strong Woman," "The Medicine Man," "Marvelous to Me," "Dressed Up in Blue," "Louder," "So Good to Me" and "Quiet Moments."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

JOHN NÉMETH - MAY BE THE LAST TIME

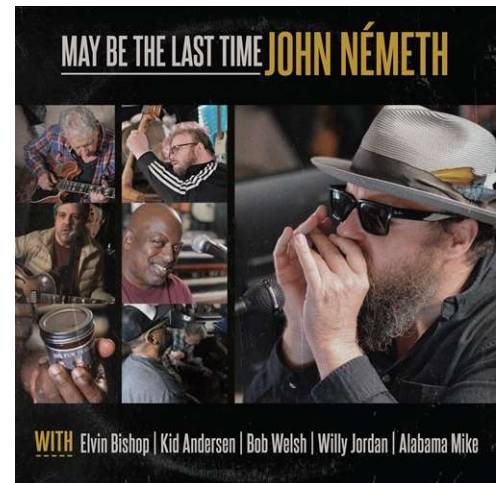
NOLA BLUE RECORDS NBR 020

www.johnnemeth.com

A seemingly indestructible force in the blues with one of the most golden voices ever, both John Németh's career and life appeared in jeopardy earlier this year when he was facing risky surgery to remove a benign tumor that forced removal of most of his lower jaw. He's bouncing back strong now, but like the title infers, it could literally have been recorded during his final trip to the studio.

Truly a labor of love, this set was organized almost immediately after the announcement by Kid Andersen, a former bandmate, to provide financial support for John and his family through his ordeal. And Németh's former boss, Elvin Bishop, quickly joined the effort along with Bob Welch and Willy Jordan, his partners in The Big Three Trio.

Németh's never sounded better in this 11-tune set. The action opens with the somber gospel number, "The Last Time," but things heat - and brighten -- up thereafter with "Rock Bottom," "Sooner or Later," "Stealin' Watermelons," "I Found a Love," "Come on In This House," "Elbows on the Wheel" and "I'll Be Glad." Don't miss this one!



STEVE DAWSON & THE TELESCOPE 3 - PHANTOM THRESHOLD

BLACK HEN MUSIC BHCD0097

www.stevedawson.ca

An award-winning guitarist and producer in his native Canada, Vancouver-born, Nashville-based Steve Dawson delivered a tour-de-force tribute to blues and roots with his last album, *Gone, Long Gone*, and continues on the same path here, offering up a hauntingly beautiful all-original, all-instrumental set on which he plays pedal steel instead of six-string.

The second of three releases he's masterminded during the pandemic, he's joined by keyboard player Chris Gestrin, drummer Jay Bellerose, bassist Jeremy Holmes and violinist Fats Kaplin - all of whom contributed to the project remotely from Los Angeles, British Columbia and Music City.

This one's ideal to spin while you're relaxing at the end of a long day. Tune in to "Cozy Corner," "Burnt End," "Twig Bucket," "Phantom Threshold," "You Still Believe in Me," "Lily's Resistor," "That's How It Goes in the Relax Lounge" and "Whirlwind."



THE DIG 3 - THE DIG 3

SELF-PRODUCED CD

www.facebook.com/thedig3trio

The union of three of the most revered musicians in the Midwest, The Dig 3 are making their debut as a trio with this set and should establish themselves in the forefront of the industry with this 53-minute set of deep-in-the-pocket, straight-ahead blues. One look at the lineup and you'll know why.

Best known for his work as the leader of Central Illinois-based Kilborn Alley Blues Band, Andrew Duncanson handles guitar and the mic with Ronnie Shellist, one of the foremost harp players in the world today, and one-man band Gerry Hundt (Nick Moss, Corey Dennison) on guitar, bass, harp, mandolin and percussion. Add Moss bassist Rodrigo Mantovani to the mix and the set soars. An all-original release, each of the exceptionally tight tunes here walk the tightrope between urgency and ease with style and grace. There are too many standout cuts to list. Don't miss this one!

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

BLUE MOON MARQUEE



SCREAM, HOLLER & HOWL

BLUE MOON MARQUEE - SCREAM, HOLLER & HOWL

SELF-PRODUCED CD

www.bluemoonmarquee.com

Composed of guitarist A.W. Cardinal and upright bassist/percussionist Jasmine Collette, British Columbia-based Blue Moon Marquee team with fret master Duke Robillard on their latest CD and cut new ground with a hard-to-peg mix that includes elements of vintage blues and jump, gypsy jazz, swing, Native American elements and more.

Since forming in 2012 and working as a duo, trio or quartet, A.W.'s gravelly baritone has served as an interesting counterpoint to Jasmine's honeyed alto. Duke co-produced this set, which also features contributions from several award-winning talents from the fertile Vancouver music scene.

A set of 11 "different" originals and two covers, you'll dig "Scream, Holler & Howl," "Thunderbird," "Hound Dog on a Chain," "Lowlands," "Country Man," "Medicine Man," "Red Dust Rising" and "Another Night to Cry."

EMANUEL CASABLANCA - BLOOD ON MY HANDS

KINGS COUNTY BLUES KCB-0001

www.emanuelcasablanca.com



The former lead guitarist/vocalist with the soul/funk/rock band VICE and a touring musician who's backed major players from across the music spectrum, Brooklyn-born multi-instrumentalist Emanuel Casablanca called out the big guns for his debut CD, an autobiographical 16-tune roller coaster of blues-drenched emotion laid down atop deep beats.

He's joined here by guitarists Eric Gales, Albert Castiglia, Paul Howells and metal/hard rock god Paul Gilbert along with sax player Jimmy Carpenter, vocalist Kat Riggins and harp player Felix Slim.

The experimental "Afraid of Blood" opens in a jarringly discordant manner but things quickly settle into a groove. It's an album full of tunes with sanguine titles, but fear not! Enjoy the pulse-pounding "In Blood," "Blood on My Hands," "Like a Pulse," "Bloodshot Eyes," "Nashville," a cover of Robert Nighthawk's "Anna Lee," "Testify," "Blood Money" and "Shaky Tables."

GA-20 - CRACKDOWN

COLEMINE RECORDS

www.ga20band.com

Since forming in Boston in 2018, GA-20 put a unique spin on traditional blues with their chart-topping *Try It You'll Like It...GA-20 Does Hound Dog Taylor*, reworking tunes from the '70s giant's catalog and infusing it with their own contemporary feel. They continue their ascendancy here with an all-original release with plenty of similar appeal.

Led by guitarist Matthew Stubbs, who's been touring behind Charlie Musselwhite since 2007, the trio features Pat Faherty on vocals and second guitar with Tim Carman on drums. They record old-school with everyone in the same room and using vintage equipment to produce music deeply influenced by '50s blues, rock and R&B.

Their no-frills attack shines throughout everything in this set. Give a listen to "Fairweather Friend," "Dry Run," "Easy on the Eyes," "Crackdown," "By My Lonesome," "I Let Someone In," "Double Gettin'" and "Gone for Good."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

HOWELLDEVINE - STRANGE TIME BLUES

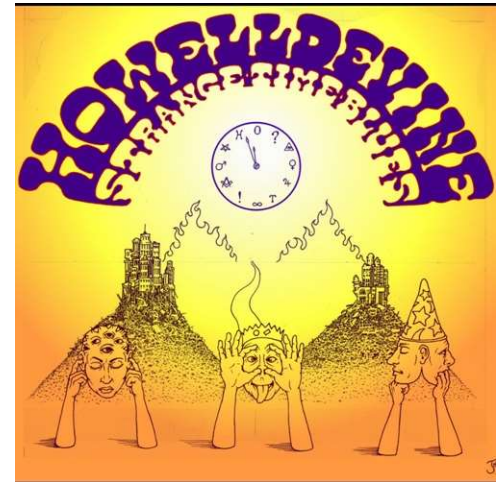
DYNAPHONIC RECORDS

www.howelldevine.com

An acoustic trio with contemporary appeal, HowellDevine have been delivering their own version of traditional Piedmont, Hill Country and Chicago blues since 2011, and serve up a treat with their fifth CD, laying down strong grooves that relate to the troubles we face in modern times.

Fronted by vocalist Josh Howell on National steel and Epiphone guitars and anchored by Pete Devine on drums, washboard and jug and Joe Kyle Jr. on upright bass, they successfully weave together four originals with six familiar covers that still stand the test of time.

Mississippi Fred McDowell's "East St. Louis" sets the tone to open. Other pleasers include "Smoke," "Hey! Oh Really?," R.L. Burnside's "Long Haired Doney," "Nila," "Strange Time Meltdown" and Robert Wilkins' "That's No Way to Get Along."



CRYSTAL SHAWANDA - MIDNIGHT BLUES

TRUE NORTH RECORDS TND794

www.crystalschawanda.co

Possessing a distinctive, raspy voice often compared with Janis Joplin's, Nashville-based Crystal Shawanda has a style all her own, was a rising star in country before making a switch eight years ago. With four well-received azure CDs already to her credit, she should explode to the top echelon of the blues world with this disc.

An Indigenous Canadian-American from Wiikwemkoong First Nation in Northern Ontario, Crystal delivers six stellar originals and four freshly minted covers in a set produced by hubby Dewayne Strobel. It features appearances from harp players Steve Marriner and the late Harpdog Brown as well as R&B great Sean Jones. An awards-worthy treat for anyone whose interests run toward female vocalists, you'll enjoy "Midnight Blues," "What Kind of Man," "How Bad Do You Want It," "Why Do I Love You," "I Want My Soul Back," "That's Just the Woman in Me," "Hold Me" and "Walk with the Moon."



BREEZY RODIO - UNDERGROUND BLUES

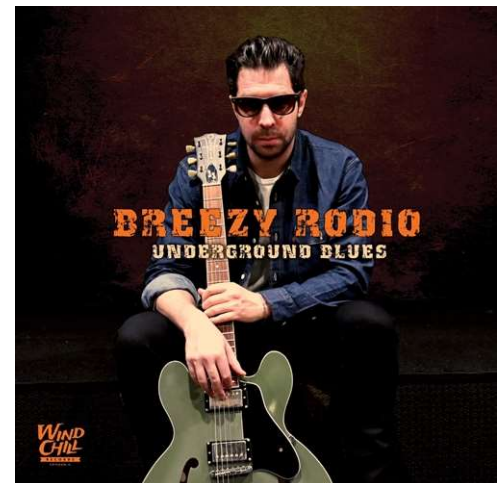
WINDCHILL/BLOOS RECORDS BLO-15

www.breezyrodio.com

A distinctively different guitarist who picks with his thumb instead of a plectrum, Breezy Rodio made a name for himself behind Chicagoan Linsey "The Hoochie Man" Alexander for a decade, during which he launched a solo career. He delivers crisp, clean runs on this set, which was recorded and co-produced in Texas by Anson Funderburgh who guest stars, too.

A native Italian, Breezy's previous effort - 2019's "Sometimes the Blues Got Me" on Delmark -- was one of Living Blues magazine's Top 50 albums of the year. And this all-original effort delivers music that's thoroughly contemporary but is rooted strongly in the golden era of Windy City blues.

Chockful of tasty, biting single-note solos with plenty of soul, don't miss "Half Way in the Devil's Gate," "C.H.I.C.A.G.O.," "Playing with My Game Too," "That Damn Cocaine," "Lightning Strike," "The Asymptomatics," "Gerry Told Me," "Hello Friendo," "Sugar Daddy" and "Bluesoned."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

BOB CORRITORE & FRIENDS - *YOU SHOCKED ME*

VIZZTONE LABEL GROUP/SWMAF RECORDS VT-SWMAF-21

www.bobcorritore.com

Arizona-based harp player/club owner/producer Bob Corritore has released four stellar compilation CDs lately but outdoes himself with this 16-track effort that was recorded between 2018 and 2022 and features from John Primer, Alabama Mike, Diunna Greenleaf, Johnny Rawls, Jimi "Primetime" Smith, Sugaray Rayford, Oscar Wilson, Bob Stroger, Francine Reed, Willie Buck and Bill "Howl-n-Madd" Perry on vocals.

Corritore's runs on the reeds serve as the tie that binds across multiple blues stylings with additional backing from guitarists Bob Margolin, Kid Ramos, Johnny Main and L.A. Jones, keyboard players Fred Kaplan, Ben Levin and Anthony Geraci and several more major talents.

The high points abound beginning with Primer's "Hiding Place." You'll also love Squeeze Me Baby, "You Shocked Me," "The World's in a Bad Situation," "Blinded," "Josephine," "Train Fare," "Don't Need Your Permission," "Back to the Crossroads" "Happy Day Friends" and "Blues for Hippies."



A member of the CBS board since 2018, Marty Gunther 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 payer 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.

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www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org