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*Happy Holidays to all our members and supporters. We appreciate you.  
Thanks for helping to Keep the Blues Alive!*

**Blues Jam Guidelines** are posted to the [www.charlottebluessociety.org](http://www.charlottebluessociety.org) downloads page.

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

**The next jam will follow the Johnny Burgin Holiday Bash on Dec 4.  
There is no Jam in January!**

## BLUES SUNDAYS AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE.

Dec 4, 2022

Christmas Bash with Johnny Burgin followed by a Blues Jam

Raffles, Silent Auction, Prizes

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

Doors at 6:30, Show at 7

Tickets available in advance from [Maxxmusic.com](http://Maxxmusic.com)

Member discount code was emailed in Oct. 2022.

\$5 Members (card required)

\$12 General Public (Advance)

\$15 Day of Show

Thanks to all our sponsors and donators!



Put a Cherry on top of your Christmas & Holiday Celebration as the Charlotte Blues Society welcomes Johnny Burgin followed by a Christmas Blues Jam !!



Sunday December 4,  
7:00

\$5 Members, \$12  
Non, \$15 DOS

Silent Auction &  
Door prizes



511 E. 36 th St. Charlotte NC 28205



At-Large Board of Directors election.

Lots of Auction items:

- ◆ Jewelry
- ◆ Autographed play bills and CDs
- ◆ Neighborhood Theatre Tickets
- ◆ Gift Baskets
- ◆ Student Art
- ◆ Society Swag
- ◆ Music Art

*Get your shopping done while sipping a cold one and dancing to some Live Blues!*



# U.S. NATIONAL WHITEWATER CENTER

*Thanks go out to these sponsors for their generous donations to the Silent Auction and Raffles*

Please bring non-perishable items for Loaves & Fishes. **Priority Needs:** Canned Fruit, Canned Meats, Canned Pastas. **No glass please.**





**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.

## *And the 2022-23 Challenge Winners are...*

### Solo

#### **Aaron "Woody" Wood**

From Asheville, NC is straight up Cosmic Appalachian Soul.



### Band

#### **Blues deLuxe band**

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



Read on to learn more about the winners, contestants and event. Going to the IBC in Memphis? Be sure to find and support your 2023 contestants!



January 8, 2023 brings the winners back for a full show.

Let's send them off to Memphis in Style.

Mark your calendars NOW.

Donations will be accepted as we strive to increase our sponsorships to these Carolina musicians.

Watch for pre-sales and promos later this year.



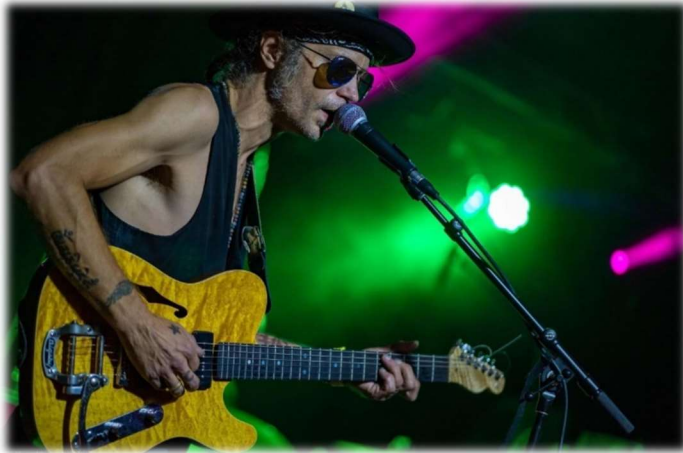
# WINNING ACTS

## Best Solo/Duo Artist

And our judges said...

This man can sing! Very unique voice with lots of feeling. Skillful fingerpicking and amazing slide. He mesmerized the crowd with great balance and selections.

**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](http://www.aaronwoodywood.com)

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## *Best Band*

Our panel of 3 judges praised the great bass line and harp rhythm. Vocals are great together. This is a pro outfit with good audience interaction, transitions and story-telling. Slide guitar had good variety. Nice tone from the sunburst strat.

**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](http://www.bluesdeluxesouthcarolina.com)



### John Hartness: Guitars and Vocals Blythewood, South Carolina

Introduced to music at a young age, John embraced blues and roots music. With early inspirations from Robert Johnson, Big Bill Broonzy and John Lee Hooker, he blended his finger style guitar playing with the likes of Doc Watson and Chet Atkins into a unique acoustic style all his own. Later on, John also embraced the 'Electric' blues and studied the works of the masters, Muddy Waters, Albert King, Jimi



Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan. John attributes his resurgence into music from the inspiration and encouragement of Mac Arnold and all the members of Plate Full O` Blues.

### DJ May: Harmonica and Vocals Ontario, Canada



David `DJ` grew up in northern Canada and is new to the Columbia music scene. He is a self taught harp player and draws inspiration from many of the greats Sonny Boy, Little Walter, George Smith, Jason Ricci as well as some little known personal influences like Charlie Moore, Dave Thompson and the incomparable Nate Myers. He lives by the belief that if there is blues your heart, there is heart in your blues.

### Rick Ramsey: Bass Guitar Irmo, South Carolina



Ricky Ramsey has been a musician for over 40 years, a bass guitar player for at least 35 years. Prior to playing bass guitar he played the drums until attending a Larry Graham concert where he fell in love with the bass guitar. As an experienced musician, he has played with several local groups. Over the past 30 years he`s been playing for his church.

### James Bubba Casey: Percussion Columbia, South Carolina



James was born in Columbia South Carolina and grew up listening to Doo Whop, Blues, R&B, Rock & Roll and Jazz music. His first musical aspiration was to play the saxophone because most songs back in the day had soulful saxophone solos in them. Unfortunately, when he got to Jr. High School and signed up to take band, all of the school`s saxophones had been rented out. With his father unwilling to fork out money for a sax and the only instrument available for rent was a drum. James was a drummer and has been drumming ever since. His first gig with a band came in high school when his former Jr. High band teacher called on him to fill in for his drummer who had gotten sick. Having never played with a live band before, he really enjoyed that experience and the rest is history.

James has played with some popular groups in the midlands spanning the seventies and eighties such as Julius Cobb, Gerald Isreal & the Soul Ambassadors, Cornelius Crawford and the Persians. James learned very early on, that the biggest contribution a drummer can make is to keep the groove in the pocket.



## 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

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

New Merchandise now available. Polos, 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
- WSNC 90.5      Winston-Salem, NC   Sunday 1 to 5AM.

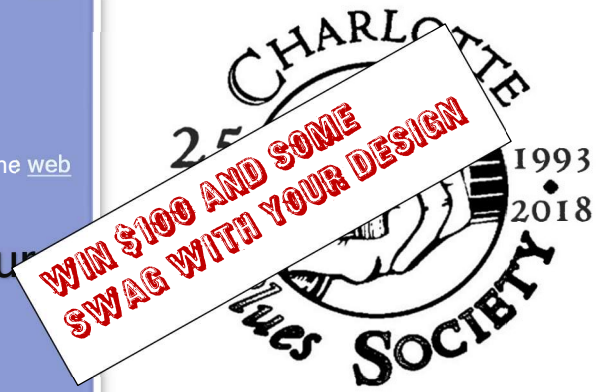
Who did we miss? Send us your personal favorite to [cltbluessociety@gmail.com](mailto:cltbluessociety@gmail.com)

# Logo Contest 30<sup>th</sup> 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.



## MORE LOCAL SHOWS AND FESTIVALS



Have shows to contribute?  
Send a PM or email to  
[CLTbluessociety@gmail.com](mailto:CLTbluessociety@gmail.com)  
Be sure to join our Charlotte  
Blues Society  
[Group page on Facebook.](#)

**TOSCO MUSIC OPEN  
MIC**  
*The Evening Muse*  
Wed. Dec 7



The 6<sup>th</sup> 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**





## Tosco Music Holiday Party Knight Theatre Monday Dec 19 – 7:30 to 11:30PM

Come celebrate the season with an evening of great music! Since 2016, Tosco Music has gathered for a festive concert each December for our Tosco Music Holiday Party.

As with all Tosco Music Parties, the evening will feature an eclectic mix of more than a dozen performers and plenty of singalongs. Enjoy your favorite holiday classics and traditional Christmas carols delivered in a variety of musical genres.

Join us for this special Tosco Music holiday tradition at Knight Theater!

You can view highlights from past TMPs over on their YouTube channel.

**Blues Sunday**  
**Woody Wood**  
**&**  
**Blues deLuxe band**  
**Jan. 8, 2023**  
**Neighborhood Theatre**

**GA-20**  
**Evening**  
**Muse**  
**Jan. 17,**  
**2023**

*Kenny Wayne*  
*Sheperd*  
*Knight Theater*  
*Charlotte, NC*  
*Sat. Jan 28*

**KEB' MO'**  
**KNIGHT THEATER**  
 tix at [www.tix.CarolinaTix.org](http://www.tix.CarolinaTix.org)  
 Feb. 11, 2023

**International Blues Challenge**  
**Memphis TN**  
**Jan 24-28, 2023**  
**Tickets on sale at**  
**[www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org)**



Joe Bonamassa  
 Ovens Auditorium  
 Charlotte, NC  
 Friday March 3, 2023  
<https://www.boplex.com/events/joe-bonamassa>

**BUDDY GUY**  
**WITH SPECIAL GUEST**  
**KINGFISH**  
**OVENS AUDITORIUM**  
**CHARLOTTE, NC**  
**MARCH 22, 2023**

## ***FUN ON THE TOWN.***

Joanne Shaw Taylor at the Knight Theatre Nov 16



**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
- ◆ Davy Knowles
- ◆ Southern Avenue's Ori Naftaly
- ◆ Robert Finley
- ◆ Joanne Shaw Taylor
- ◆ 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

## BEN LEVIN - TAKE YOUR TIME

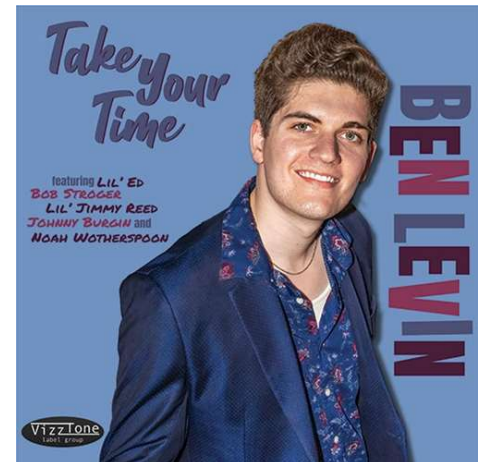
VIZZTONE LABEL GROUP VT-BL005

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

A 2022 BMA nominee for keyboard player of the year at just 23 years old, Cincinnati-based Ben Levin is already a proven talent on the national blues stage, and he calls out the big guns for this disc, which carries the world of traditional blues piano forward for the future generation.

Ben joins forces with Chicago stalwarts Lil' Ed Williams, Bob Stroger and Johnny Burgin, Gulf Coast legend Lil' Jimmy Reed, former IBC Gibson Guitar Award winner Noah Wooterspoon and several other talents from the Queen City for a rollicking set that includes five originals and seven covers. As shocking as it might seem, it's the fifth release in his growing catalog.

If the 88s are your thing, you'll love "Take Your Time," "Jazz Man Blues," "Why Do Things Happen to Me," "I've Been Drinking Muddy Water," "Out of Your Own Way," "Longer Hours, Shorter Pay," "Lump of Coal," "Love You Baby" and "Mr. Stroger's Strut."



## THE MIGHTY SOUL DRIVERS - I'LL CARRY YOU HOME

HOG HEAVEN RECORDS 007

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

The Mighty Soul Drivers, a veteran seven-piece horn band, have been heating up cold nights in southern New England and putting their own stamp on unhurried, Memphis-style blues for the past decade, and the heat's on high for this rock-solid follow-up to their 2021 debut release, *Qualified!*

Fronted by vocalist Bob Orsi, a New England Music Hall of Famer who formerly partnered with G.E. Smith and Christine Ohlman in the Scratch Band, the roster includes Larry Willey and guests Paul Gabriel and Michael St. George on guitar, Steve Donovan on keys, John Smayda on sax and Neil Tint on trumpet.

Deep in the pocket and silky smooth throughout, groove along with the Temptations' "I Can't Get Next to You," which opens, along with the originals "I'll Carry You Home," "Party by the Tower," "A Little Bit of That," "Cold Cold Night," "Parking Lot Blues," "Piece of My Pride" and "Dressed to Kill."



## YATES MCKENDREE - BUCHANAN LANE

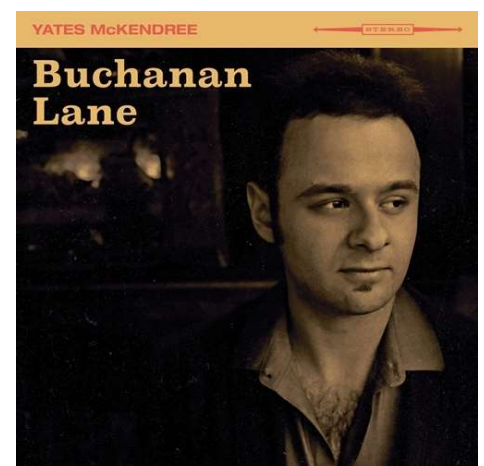
QUALIFIED RECORDS

[www.qualifiedrecords.com/yates](http://www.qualifiedrecords.com/yates)

Once in a very rare while, a debut album simply knocks you off your feet. That's the case with this highly entertaining effort from Nashville-based Yates McKendree, an old-soul-in-a-young-body multi-instrumentalist with a golden voice who's only 21 but is already a Grammy winner for his work as a guitarist and engineer.

The son of producer/guitarist/keyboard player Kevin McKendree, Yates has been performing since age 11 and shines on guitars and keys throughout. He's previously recorded with Teresa James, John Hiatt and Seth James in addition to playing a key role on Delbert McClinton's award-winning *Tall Dark & Handsome* CD.

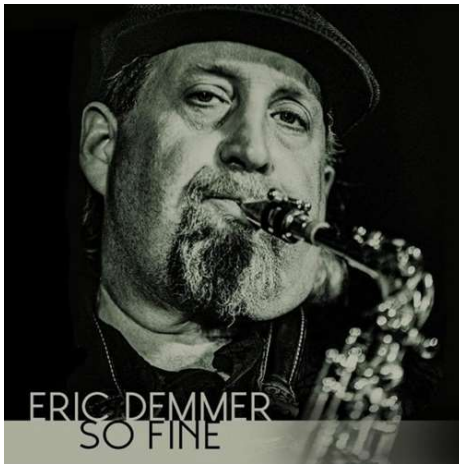
He swings from the hip on keys with the original, "Out Crowd" to open before switching to six-string for most of the remaining set. A surefire bet to win awards next season, don't miss "Ruby Lee," "Wise," "Brand New Neighborhood," "Papa Ain't Salty," "Qualified," "It Hurts to Love Someone" and "Voodoo."





# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



## ERIC DEMMER - *SO FINE*

GULF COAST RECORDS STR20-D

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

One of the busiest horn players in the Lone Star State, Eric Demmer tours regularly with Mike Zito and records with both the B.B. King Blues Band and Tito Jackson when not fronting his own band. He simply smokes on this high-energy mix, which delivers some of the funkier sounds you'll hear this year.

Co-produced with Zito -- who makes a guest appearance - the all-star lineup includes guitar slingers Jonn Del Toro Richardson, The Funky Rick Marcel and Mark May, the Grooveline Horns, a killer rhythm section and guest vocals from Melanie Covington and Eric's daughter, Melanie, too.

The fiery "Don't Talk to Me" opens. Other pleasers include "She's So Fine," "What Was I Thinking," "I'm Alright," "Start It All Again," "Get Out of Town," "Just Can't Wait," "Any Day Get Away" and "Have You Ever Loved a Woman."



## JEREMIAH JOHNSON - *HI-FI DRIVE BY*

RUF RECORDS RUF 1299

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

St. Louis-based blues-rocker Jeremiah Johnson has been consistently charting albums in the Top Ten of national charts for the past decade. A sweet tenor and master tunesmith with a clean, stinging attack on guitar, he's booked passage for even more success with this CD, which just might be his best effort yet.

Delivering all class, plenty of sass, seemingly effortless, big-band grooves and a heaping helping of soul, Jeremiah joins forces with producers Paul Niehaus IV and Tom Maloney, and perennial award-winning keyboard player Victor Wainwright and harp player Brandon Santini contribute their talents, too.

Johnson fires on all cylinders with "68 Coupe DeVille," "Ball and Chain" and "Young and Blind." Other choice cuts include "Hot Diggity Dog," "The Squeeze," "Hot Blooded Love," "Quicksand" and "The Band."



## MISS EMILY - *DEFINED BY LOVE*

SELF-PRODUCED CD

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

Based out of Kingston, Ont., and a 2022 JUNO Award blues album of the year nominee for her *Live at the Isabel* CD, Miss Emily hits nothing but high notes and delivers solace and strength for anyone suffering for heartbreak with this sensational, self-produced studio follow-up.

Possessing one of the sweetest voices ever, Miss Emily previously captured female vocalist, rising star and video-of-the-year honors in the 2020 Maple Blues Awards. She delivers 11 azure originals laced with soul and a dash of jazz along with a single cover.

An album that's all meat and no potatoes, tune in to "Defined By Love," "Silver Lining," "Glory," "Respect Your Mother," "One Song Left," "Just," "Friends, Lovers, Foes," "Three Words," "End of the World" and "The Keeper."

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

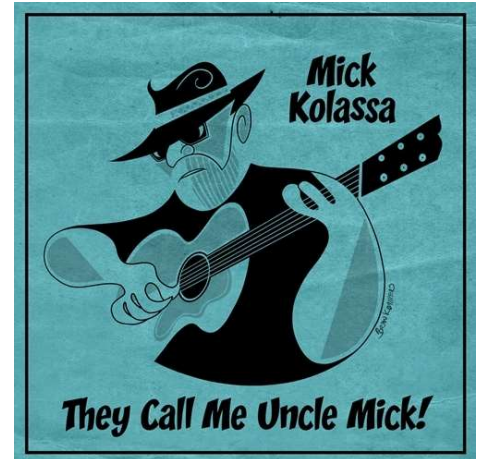
by Marty Gunther

## MICK KOLASSA - THEY CALL ME UNCLE MICK!

ENDLESS BLUES RECORDS MK08 2022

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

Memphis-based Mick Kolassa returns to his acoustic "free-range blues" after pouring on the heat with the electrified *I'm Just Getting Started* last summer and gets helping hands from Bobby Rush, Watermelon Slim and Doug MacLeod for this set, which mixes six clever originals with five covers culled from other fields. Co-produced by blues-rock guitarist Jeff Jensen, and featuring a Bluff City lineup that includes pianist Rick Steff and harp player Eric Hughes, and all of the net proceeds of this CD will be donated to the HART Fund and Generation Blues, two charities operated by the Blues Foundation, where Mick's a former board member. A treat for the ears throughout, give a spin to "My Pencil Won't Write No More," "Wasted Youth," an interesting take on John Prine's "Daddy's Little Pumpkin," "Used to Be," "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry," "My Woman She's So Mean," "Why?," "Bless His Heart" and "The Cheese Song."



## JOHN FUSCO - BORDERLANDS

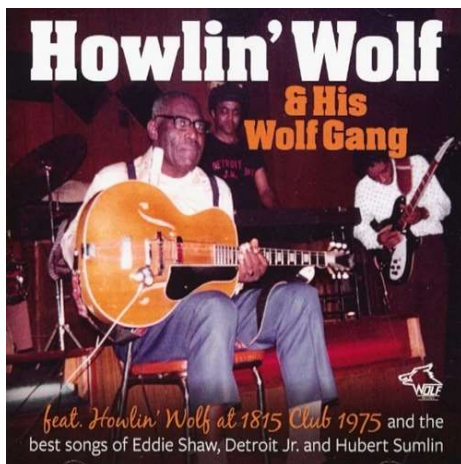
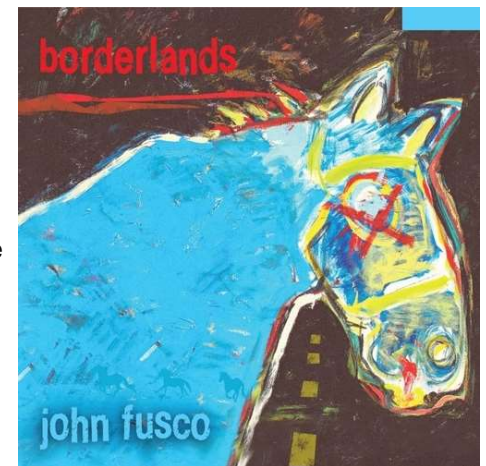
ROCKET 88 RECORDS R88R-JF-001

[www.john-fusco.com](http://www.john-fusco.com)

The filmmaker who gave you *Crossroads*, *Young Guns* and *Hidalgo*, Connecticut native John Fusco paints vivid images as a musician, too. And he delivers a saddlebag full of what he terms the "Wild West soul of America" here. It's a gritty mix of blues and roots infused with gospel overtones that describes the inner battle of folks trapped between past mistakes and an uncertain future.

A keyboard player with distinctive, well-worn pipes, Fusco teams here with producer/arranger George Walker Petit, who infused the mix with everything from coyote howls, mariachi horns and more. The lineup includes Matt Backer on slide guitar, Russ Lawton (Trey Anastasio Band) on percussion and Acadian fiddler/mandolinist Patrick Ross.

A highly interesting set with a linear theme, give a listen to "Coyote Man," "Dance of the Seven Veils," "Bad Luck Rides Shotgun," "Cowboy Picture," "Cyanide Whisky," "Knighthood by the Queen," "Run, Rez Dog, Run" and "Ain't No Grave."



## VARIOUS ARTISTS - HOWLIN' WOLF & HIS WOLF GANG

WOLF RECORDS CD 120.203

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

Not only was Howlin' Wolf one of the true superstars of the blues but he was also a bandleader with a keen eye for talent - as this band-new compilation shows.

Recorded live in Chicago and Austria between 1975 and 1996, it features Wolf in one of his final performances along with sets from guitarist Hubert Sumlin, sax player Eddie Shaw and keyboard player Detroit Jr., too.

While the Wolf sides catch him in weak and rapidly failing health, the other cuts are not-to-be-missed glimpses at sidemen on their own paths to stardom. They're backed by a who's who of talent that includes John Primer, Johnny B. Moore, Vance Kelly, Billy Branch, Willie Kent and more.

An 80-minute pleaser, give a listen to Shaw's "Highway 61 Bound," "Fannie Mae Jones" and "Got to Go Now," Detroit's "Call My Job," "Race Track" and "You've Been Laid" and Sumlin's "You Can't Change Me," "No Place to Go" and "I've Been Gone."

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



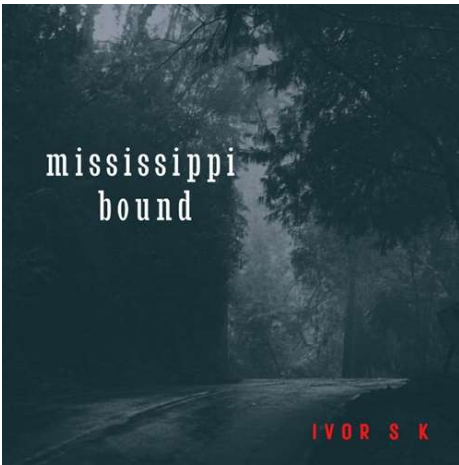
## BYWATER CALL - *REMAIN*

GYPSY SOUL RECORDS GSR016CD

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

Fronted by Meghan Parnell and guitarist Dave Barnes, Bywater Call, a seven-piece horn band based in Toronto, hit the top of the charts in Canada with their self-titled debut album in 2020 and fire on all cylinders with this intense follow-up. Delivering a mix of blues-infused soul, Southern rock and roots, they'll be representing the Grand River Blues Society at the 2023 IBCs after having appeared at major festivals on both sides of the Atlantic this year. They penned all 11 tracks on this emotion-packed set.

A powerhouse voice for the ages, Parnell shines throughout. If you're a fan of blues with a rock edge, you'll love "Falls Away," "Lover Down Slow," "Remain," "Left Behind," "Ties That Bind," "Go Alone," "Locked" and "Bring It Back."



## IVOR S K - MISSISSIPPI BOUND

SELF-PRODUCED CD

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

Born Australia, but based in New Orleans, where he enjoyed a three-year residency at the venerable Chickie Wah Wah nightclub on Bourbon Street, Ivor Simpson Kennedy has released two highly acclaimed Delta blues CDs but ventures into other aspects of the music on this one, showing off his skill as a picker and electric slide guitar player, too.

Ivor possesses an interesting, slightly worn voice with a delivery as light and refreshing as his attack on the strings. He penned all 15 cuts and handles all of the instrumentation here, mixing good humor, Big Easy grease, ska and more into an interesting rues.

A 52-minute treat, dig in to "Mississippi Bound," "I Don't Roll," "Get Up," "Talkin' Shit Again," "Kiss on My Blues," "Sex Drugs & Cigarettes," "Taste Your Lips," "Down the Road," "Slow Down," "No Friend of Mine" and "Dead Pig."

## MAURICE TANI - *ALL IN!*

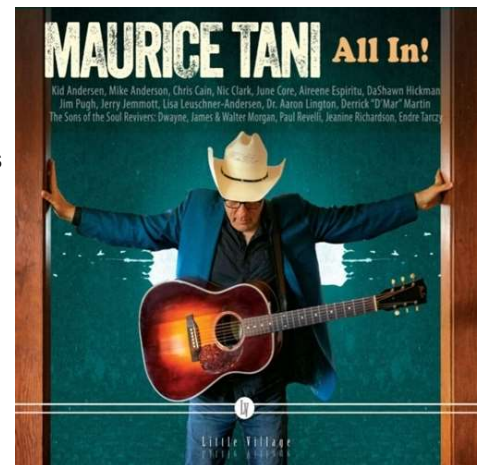
LITTLE VILLAGE FOUNDATION LVF 1052

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

A San Francisco native who started out as the guitarist for former Flamin' Groovies front man Roy Loney, Maurice Tani is a fixture on the alt country scene, where he's known for songs with linear storylines and well-developed characters. But he steps into a different world with this disc, teaming with superstar talent from the Little Village stable to deliver a sensational collection of blues- and soulful roots.

Once glance on the roster - which includes Kid Andersen, Chris Cain and DeShawn Hickman on guitars, Jim Pugh on keys and a rhythm section that includes bassist Jerry Jermott and drummers June Core and Derrick "D'Mar" Martin - and you know you're in for a treat. And Tani's pleasant mid-range vocals grab you and won't let you go.

Beginning with "Another Part of Me," every tune here deserves a listen. Dial in "Soap & Water," "Monsters in the Dark," "Halo Above Her," "The Truth," "The Loan," "I Forgot to Be Your Lover" and "How Deep Is the Water in Your Well."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## THE BONESHAKERS - ONE FOOT IN THE GROOVE

TAKE IT TO THE BRIDGE RECORDS

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

Formed in the early '90s by two members of Was (Not Was) during a hiatus from touring, The Boneshakers have changed singers on multiple occasions but have been delivering deep grooves for themselves and others ever since. And they hold nothing back on their latest CD, joining forces with vocalist Jenny Langer of Moonshine Society to deliver a smoking set of funkified blues and rock.

Founder Randy Jacobs continues to shine on guitar in a lineup that currently includes folks who've played with Keb' Mo', Bonnie Raitt, Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Coco Montoya, and Coco makes a guest appearance on six-string along with Bernard Fowler, who tours with the Rolling Stones.

You'll dig the originals "Mr. Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," "Big Leg Man" and "Powerful Notions" as well as clever reinventions of "Let's Spend the Night Together," "Ain't Got the Fever No More," "One Foot in the Groove," "Ice Cream & Cigarettes" and "More, More, More."



## ALEX LOPEZ - NASTY CRIME

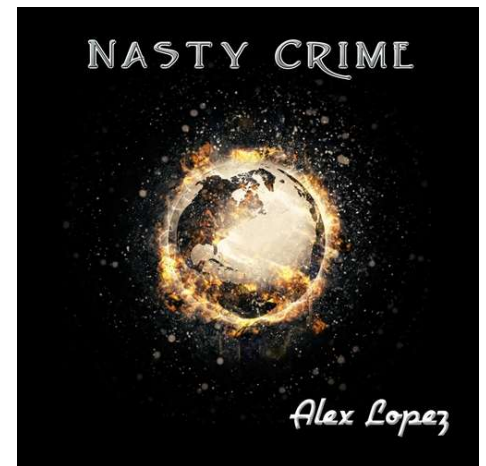
MAREMIL MUSIC

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

A Cleveland native who's been based in Florida for more than a decade, Alex Lopez made his debut as a blues-rocker in 2013 but cuts new ground on his latest CD, a powerful, passionate, all-original effort that blends blues, soul, a smidgen of jazz and a little swing, too.

Once a promising keyboard player, he switched to guitar after becoming enamored of Jimi Hendrix and Jimi's predecessors in the English invasion. Formerly the front man in Reminisicion - rockers with a huge following in the Tampa Bay region, Alex's most recent all blues-rock effort, *Rising Up*, debuted in the Top 10 on Billboard charts when it debuted in 2021.

Lopez blazes out of the gate with "World on Fire" before serving up ten other change-of-pace pleasers, including "Just Wait," "See the Light," "The First Time," "Nasty Crime," "Holy Woman," "No Way," "Hooked" and "That's Alright." "Succubus."



## SERABEE - HUMMINGBIRD TEA

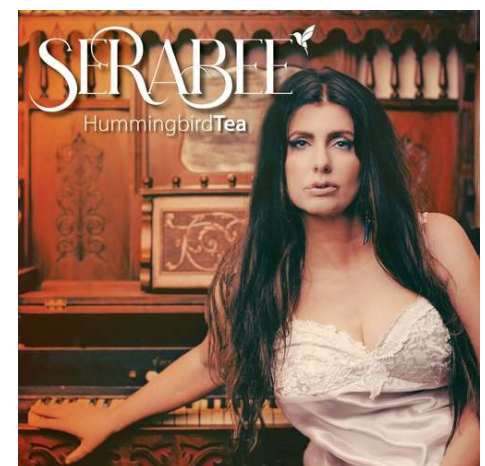
RABADASH RECORDS

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

The daughter of a Pentecostal minister from Kiln, Miss., who grew up singing gospel, Serabee possesses a rich, dynamic voice and provides a surprise at every turn on this dazzler, which walks the razor's edge blue-eyed soul and country and is sure to be among the most emotive albums you'll hear this year.

Born Sarah Buras and an accomplished keyboard player and songwriter, her "Crazy Chick" charted high around the globe for Welsh songbird Charlotte Church, hitting No. 1 in the U.K., and all 14 of the numbers she penned here are all attention-grabbers worthy of airplay, too.

Some of the choice cuts include "Bayou Baby," "Drunk Woman's Words," "Find Another Boyfriend," "I Need Saving Too," "Anything Like the Boy," "Hush Little Baby," "Love to Love a Woman," "Fair Weathered Man," "Has Anybody Told You" and "Moonchild."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

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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# Keepin' The Blues Alive

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY (CBS) is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the American Blues tradition through the presentation of concerts, forums, educational programs and support of local musicians in Charlotte and surrounding areas,

## CBS NEEDS YOU !

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR A COMMITTEE, BOARD POSITION, OR EVENT, OR SIMPLY MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION. JUST A FEW HOURS PER YEAR WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Your memberships fund our shows. We are a 501(c)3 organization and count on members to contribute.

Like us on [Facebook](#). Be sure to post blues related articles on the [CBS group page](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#).

Know of an upcoming show? Share the details with us so we can spread the word!

Tell you friends and family, neighbors and co-workers. With your help, we can continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you!

The CBS Board



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

newsletter edited by Bonnie Spalding