

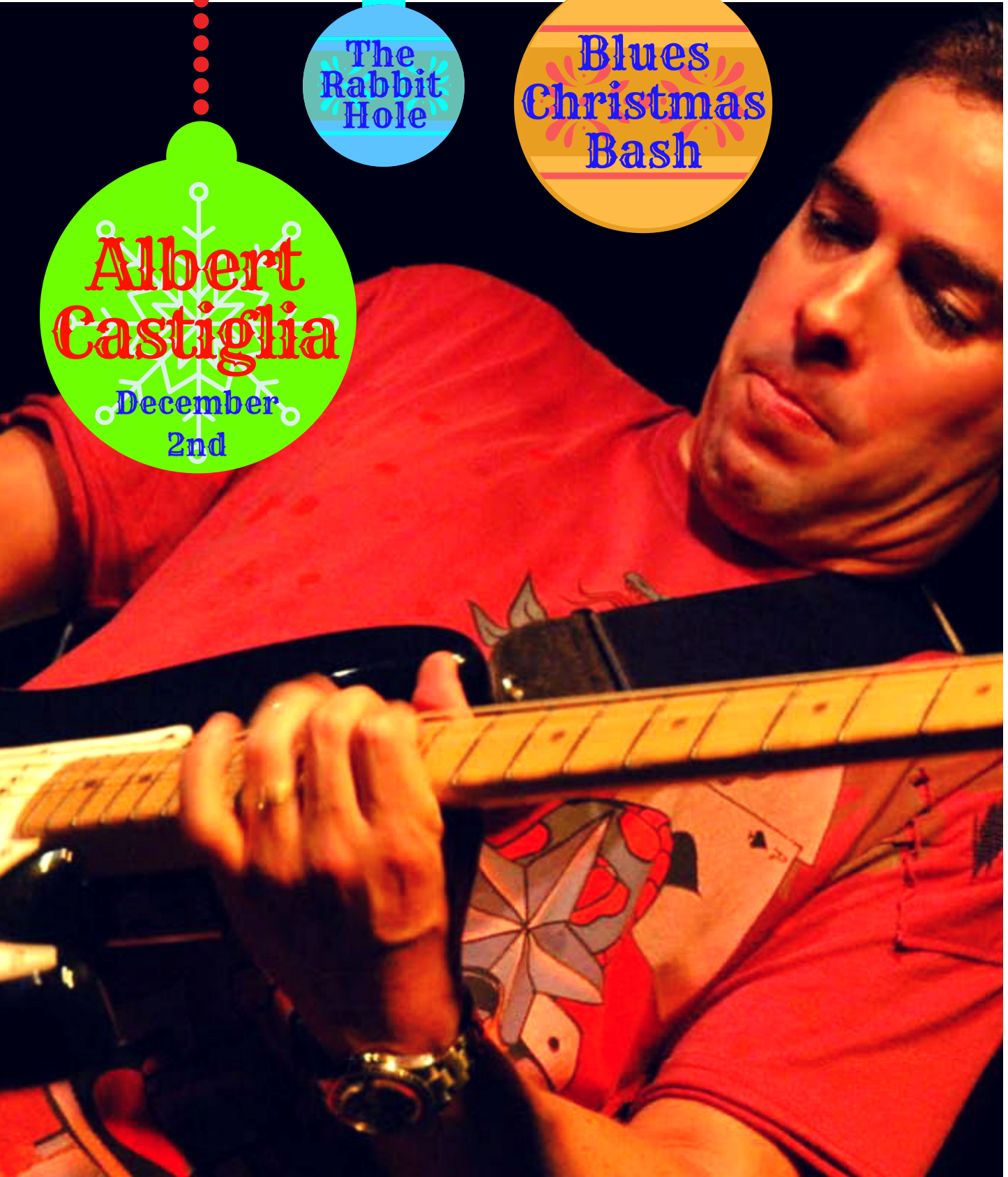
# cbs

CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY  
A 501(c)3 ORGANIZATION  
[www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org)

The  
Rabbit  
Hole

Blues  
Christmas  
Bash

Albert  
Castiglia  
December  
2nd



December 2018

cbs

Issue 12

# Charlotte Blues Society December 2018 BluesLetter

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## ON THE COVER

Blues Christmas Bash Artist  
Albert Castiglia Sunday Dec.2

## ABOUT US

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 THE SURROUNDING AREAS. CBS IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION GOVERNED BY A BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OPERATED BY AN ALL-VOLUNTEER STAFF. CBS IS AN AFFILIATED MEMBER OF THE BLUES FOUNDATION, THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF 165 AFFILIATED BLUES SOCIETIES AND HAS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS AROUND THE GLOBE.



## Celebrating a Blues Christmas

Note from CBS President

### Albert Castiglia rockin the blues

Marty Gunther interviews Intrepid Artist, Ruf Records recording artist performing for our Blues Christmas Bash December 2nd at The Rabbit Hole.

### Eric Gales

Eric returns to Charlotte after postponing a show earlier this year due to hurricane Florence

A discussion with Eric and a look at "Middle of the Road".

### Coco Montoya

have blues will travel



# Christmas Blues

*It's that time of year again: the holidays are just around the corner and we will soon be flipping the page on 2018 and moving into a brand new year.*

*But before that happens, we have one more big event to throw ~ our annual Blues Christmas Bash on Sunday December 2 at the Rabbit Hole with Intrepid Artist and Ruf Records recording artist Albert Castiglia!*

*This will be one big party: red hot blues and lots of goodies for our peeps...Our raffles will include CD's we've gathered the past 12 months from artists that have performed in Charlotte and surrounding areas. ( Most of the CD's are signed ) Plus we will have plenty of other CD's to package with them, a nice bit of swag, Gift certificates from great restaurants and of course we will be drawing the winner of the 2018 CBS Raffle guitar. (And yes, we will be selling raffle tickets for the guitar up until the drawing).*

*Now this guitar is one special collector's item. The signatures on it are listed on page 5. (Over 40!) CBS Member and member of our board of directors Rick Kite donated this sweet little Fender Squier. It's black with a pearl white pick guard, and comes with a practice amp and guitar bag...and it is LOADED with signatures of artists that have performed for us, and throughout the area this past year.*

*Sunday December 2, the final signature of the year will be added: Albert Castiglia. He will also be drawing our winner, and since we've had people from around the world buying tickets for this one, we will be drawing the winner live on Facebook. The ticket sales will help us continue to bring more artists to our events, and help us spread the word that the blues are alive and well in Charlotte.*

*Albert will also be signing our **2019 guitar**, donated by board member **Ray Otstott!** It's a cherry red Fender Squier Strat and we have a lot of blues artists in town this month to help us begin to load it with autographs. It's beautiful, and you can see it, and even buy tickets for this one at events and shows until next December.*

*The first week of December alone is a big one in Charlotte, with **Albert Castiglia, Samantha Fish, Eric Gales** and Coco **Montoya** all performing by the 8th!. Make sure you go out to support live music, especially the blues.*

*As we all know: This is the Season of giving. Don't forget to **bring non-perishable food items** for our **LOAVES & FISHES** food drive! We are getting closer to the end of the year and our goal is to have provided one ton of food for the at risk families and children in our area. Every little bit counts, so feel free to be generous. Thank you in advance.*

*Coming January 6th is our big send off for our **IBC** solo (**Jake Haldenvang**) & band winners (**Chris Clifton Band**). Once again a group of members will be headed to Memphis in January to the IBC. February **Lipbone Redding** will be playing our gig on Feb. 10 (moved back a week due to Super Bowl) and then be doing a "Blues in the Schools" program.*

*Charlotte Blues Society has grown by leaps and bounds. We THANK YOU for being a part of a group that loves the blues. In 2019 we will be doing more membership drives to involve you, where you can win a little "somethin' somethin'" just for bringing in new people and members...stay tuned.*

*Bless you and yours, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa. Celebrate with family, celebrate with love. Travel safely, and see you at the shows!*

*~Mary London Szpara President*

# Calling All Songwriters

<https://musiccitysongstar.com/>

**Deadline  
December  
15**



**Foxhedge Music proudly presents the Music City SongStar awards, a songwriting competition open to songwriters worldwide.**

The Fall 2018 songwriting contest begins September 1 and runs through December 15, 2018. Music City SongStar is open to all genres of music. The top four (4) finalists will have an opportunity to perform their original song at Leiper's Fork Distillery\*. The winning songwriter will be awarded \$5,000 in cash. Additional prizes will be awarded to 25 semi-finalists.

\* Location subject to change.



The home of Charlotte Blues Society

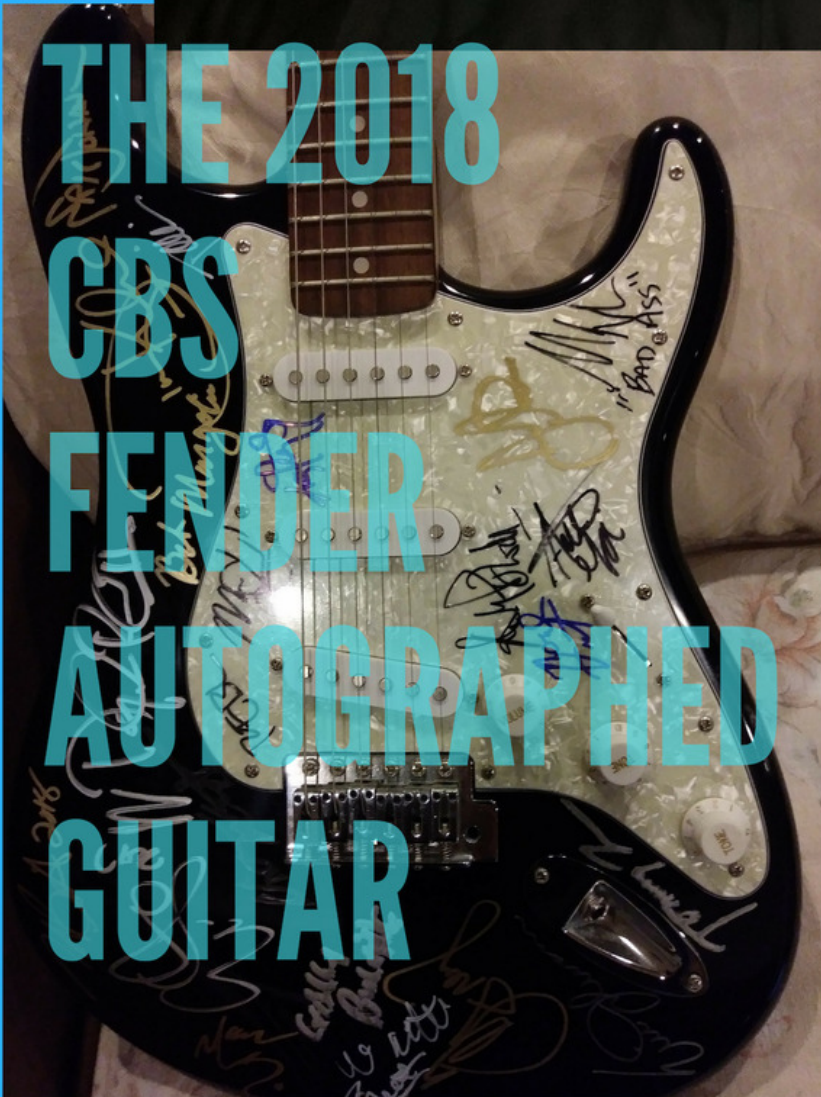
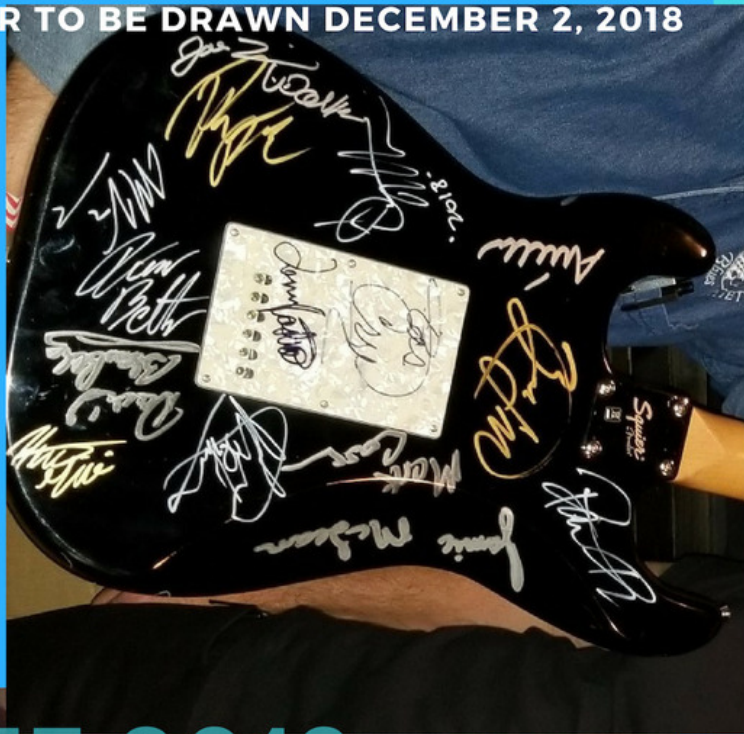
*join us at  
The  
Rabbit  
Hole*

1801 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte  
Next door to Jackalope Jacks and The Peculiar Rabbit



**\$10 PER TICKET**

**WINNER TO BE DRAWN DECEMBER 2, 2018**



**WE WILL CONTINUE GATHERING  
SIGNATURES UNTIL DECEMBER 2**

## *Signatures*

Eric Gales  
JJ Grey  
Heather Gillis  
Doyle Bramhall II  
Garry Burnside  
Davy Knowles  
Jorma Kaukonen  
Marc Broussard  
Tab Benoit  
Eric Johnson  
Jamie McLean  
Kenny Wayne Shepherd  
Noah Hunt  
Arielle  
Susan Tedeschi Trucks  
Bob Margolin  
Andy Powell  
Mark Abrahams  
Nick Moss  
Walter Trout  
Tinsley Ellis  
Ana Popovic  
Selwyn Birchwood  
Marcus King  
Joseph Michael Mahfoud  
Tommy Z  
Duane Betts  
Devon Allman  
Rebecca Lovell  
Megan Lovell  
David Bromberg  
Albert Cummings  
Leo Kottke  
Tommy Castro  
Michael Ingmire  
Jake Haldenvang  
Nathan Pope  
Zach Nugent  
Joe Louis Walker  
Mark Cosgrove  
Pam Taylor



# And the winner is...

## Nearly 300 tickets sold

With over 40 signatures from the most famous blues players who have performed in Charlotte over the past year, to up and coming blues artists, we have captured signatures all year long and the wait is nearly over.

The drawing will be held at the Charlotte Blues Society annual Blues Christmas Bash, held Sunday December 2 at The Rabbit Hole in Charlotte.

Tickets have been sold at Blues events around town and on line. Many thanks to Maxx Music for providing us an opportunity to set up a table at many events at McGlohon Theatre and Neighborhood Theatre.

Many thanks to our new "Home" The Rabbit Hole, for their continued support of live music and the Blues.

Drawing will be done by our guest artist: Albert Castiglia during the evening. Winner need not be present to win, and if the winner is outside of the Carolinas, we will ship it at our cost. Thank you Rick Kite for donating this beauty.

Oh, and we aren't stopping now! We already have another guitar for our 2019 Raffle.

Donated by CBS Board member Ray Otstott, its a gorgeous Red Fender(R)Squier Strat. Look for it at upcoming blues shows around the area now through 2019.

Tickets will also be \$10 each

*Signatures*

Eric Gales  
JJ Grey

Heather Gillis  
Doye Bramhall II  
Darryl Serrano

Carly Ann Jones  
Jorma Kaukonen

Maxx Music

Eric Johnson  
Jamie McLean

Kenny Wayne Shepherd  
Noah Hunt

Chris Ford  
Chris Fordhi Trucks

Bob Margolin  
Andy Powell

Mark Abrahams  
Nick Moss

Walter Trout  
Albert Castiglia

Albert Castiglia  
Salvatore Buschrod

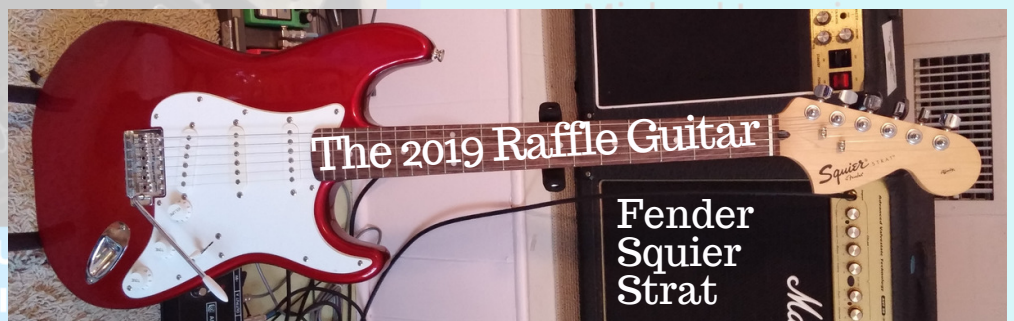
Marcus King  
Joseph Michael Mahfoud

Tommy Z  
Devon Allman

Deborah Lovell  
Megan Lovell

David Bromberg  
Albert Cummings

Leo Kottke  
Tommy Castro



WE WILL CONTINUE  
SIGNATURES UNTIL



# blues

[ /bl̄ooz/ ]

<https://charlottebluessociety.org/blues-timeline>

Meet our 2019 Blues acts heading to the IBC in Memphis January 22-26  
Chris Clifton Band & Jake Haldenvang perform our January 6th 2019 gig  
Join us at The Rabbit Hole for the IBC Send Off Bash



**Chris Clifton Band**  
Band Competition



**Jake Haldenvang**  
Solo/Duo Competition



2018 has been an interesting year for guitarist **Albert Castiglia** to say the least, and he promises to pull out all of the stops on **Dec. 2, at The Rabbit Hole** when he helps celebrate the **Charlotte Blues Society's annual Blues Christmas Bash extravaganza.**

Known for his powerful, in-your-face performances, which mix blues, rock, soul and more, Castiglia – pronounced, as he says, “Ka-STEEL-ya, dammit!” – has been touring the world virtually non-stop since releasing his latest album, *Up All Night*, on Germany's Ruf label, last holiday season. Known for his visceral guitar style and potent vocals, he developed what he terms as a “heavy” style for his latest CD, which was produced by his friend and Ruf label mate, **Mike Zito. Sonny Landreth** and **Jumpin' Johnny Sansone** make guest appearances. But the real stars are the guys who drive the beat. Albert's new touring band -- drummer **Brian Menendez** and bassist **Jimmy Pritchard** – make their first appearances on disc to support him.

The trio fit together like hand and glove, and the reviews have all been positive with one critic stating it “rocks from start to finish” and another saying that it's aptly titled because “nobody sleeps when this man is in town.”

A native New Yorker born to Cuban and Italian parents and raised in Miami, Albert's used to dealing with life's highs and lows, but nothing like he's had to deal with this year. Now 49, he was still in college when joined the Miami Blues Machine at age 19, and worked as a social services investigator for the state of Florida for four years after leaving school. His star began rising in the blues heavens in 1996 when he was in the audience at the Musicians Exchange, a long-running showroom and rehearsal space in Fort Lauderdale, and **Junior Wells** invited him onstage to sit in. Wells liked what he heard so much that he invited Albert to join his road band as its lead guitarist a short while later. The gig ended when Wells succumbed to cancer, but not before Castiglia had moved to Chicago and become an integral part of the local blues scene. Albert worked alongside a who's who of Windy City veterans after Wells' death, including **Pinetop Perkins, Lurrie Bell, John Primer, Ronnie Baker Brooks, Billy Boy Arnold** and **Eddy “The Chief” Clearwater** before returning to the Sunshine State, forming his own band and releasing ten CDs since the mid-2000s. He's also toured extensively with the late **Sandra Hall**, Atlanta's Empress Of The Blues, and worked with New England powerhouse **Ronnie Earl.**

The past 12 months have been a roller coaster of emotion for Castiglia. First, he lost his beloved boxer, then his grandmother. Almost immediately, however, his life brightened immensely in a manner he never would have imaged: He was contacted by a daughter he never knew he had. “The day of my grandmother's funeral was the day I found out I was a dad,” he says. “So I like to think that she (his granny) left me something before she left the earth.”

His daughter, Rayne, 29, lives about an hour to the north, and she and Albert have developed an instant rapport. They've been spending quality family time and building a father-daughter relationship ever since, getting together whenever Albert's schedule permits. “The whole year has made me philosophical about life and made me change the way I look at things,” Castiglia admits. “With every loss, eventually something happens to balance things out. There's a lot to live for. You've gotta keep living if you want to find the joy. I lost my dog while I was out on the road, and when I got home, the place we get our dogs from told us that there was a couple of 10-month-old boxers they wanted us to look at. We connected with one of them, and she's with us today.”

“It's the blues! The blues is life, and the life is the blues.” Too often, the blues is stereotyped, he insists. “I find it quite uplifting. Too often, you go on Facebook and someone's sayin' ‘I miss the traditional stuff; there's too much rock in it.’ But anybody who's affiliated with this genre of music...we're all carrying on the responsibility of keeping it alive. It doesn't matter which way you're doing it – whether it's through your writing or doing it traditionally or doing it in a more contemporary fashion. We're all doing this music a service by keeping it alive in our own way.”

Albert's truly looking forward to returning to Charlotte. His most recent appearance here was at the Double Door about ten years ago. “I'm looking forward to seeing some friends and meeting some new ones, too.”

Put on your dancing shoes and welcome the holiday season in style with Albert **Sunday December 2, 2018 at The Rabbit Hole, 1801 Commonwealth Ave., Charlotte, doors 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 for CBS members with proper ID and \$10 for non-members.**

~Marty Gunther

Marty Gunther has lived a blessed life where the blues is concerned. A native Rhode Islander now based in Charlotte and App State alum, his first experiences with live music came at the feet of first-generation blues legends at the Newport Folk Festivals in the 1960s. A professional journalist and harmonica player whose work appears in *Blues Blast Magazine* and other outlets, he was a longtime member of the Chicago blues community before founding the Nuclebusters, a band that's been entertaining South Florida since 1987.





THE ULTIMATE LIST OF

# BLUES FESTIVALS

January  
February  
2019

MLK Jr. Blues Festival  
Jan-17-2019 - Jan-20-2019,  
Chester, South Carolina, USA

Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues Fest,  
9th Annual  
Jan-19-2019,  
Zephyrhills, Florida, USA

International Blues Challenge 2019  
January 22-26, 2019  
Memphis TN USA  
Artist from around the world compete  
in the 35th annual IBC.  
Tickets and info available at  
[www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org)

Johnny Winter's Winterfest in Jamaica  
Jan-24-2019 - Jan-31-2019,  
Trelawny, Jamaica

Florida Jazz and Blues Jam 2019  
Jan-26-2019,  
Boca Raton, Florida, USA

February Blues XXII, The  
Jan-31-2019 - Feb-03-2019,  
Barrie - Simcoe County - York Region,  
Ontario, Canada

Mornington Peninsula Blues Festival  
Feb-09-2019,  
Melbourne, Australia

Fargo Winter Blues Festival  
Feb-09-2019, Fargo,  
North Dakota, USA

Costa Rica Blues Festival  
Feb-15-2019 - Feb-17-2019,  
Guanacaste, Costa Rica

Boquete Jazz and Blues Festival  
Feb-21-2019 - Feb-24-2019,  
Boquete, Panama

Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival  
Feb-23-2019 - Feb-24-2019,  
Clearwater, USA

Calgary Midwinter Bluesfest  
Feb-25-2019 - Mar-02-2019,  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Keeping The Blues Alive At Sea V  
Feb-25-2019 - Mar-01-2019, Tampa, Florida,  
USA

A

*Legendary*  
Rhythm & Blues  
Cruise

**LRBC #32 - Bands Announced!**

**LRBC #32 Eastern Caribbean**  
February 3~10, 2019  
Holland America ms Nieuw Statendam  
Pinnacle Class - Launching Dec. 2018!  
Ft. Lauderdale to St. Maarten, St. Thomas  
& Bahamas Private Island (Half Moon Cay Beach Party)

THE BLUES FOUNDATION PRESENTS

INTERNATIONAL **BLUES** CHALLENGE #35

JAN 22-26 2019 • BEALE STREET

# Thank You: Keep The Cans Coming!



**Don't forget to Donate!!**

## LOAVES & FISHES

helps to fill the need  
for at risk families and kids  
They can't do it without you.

Charlotte Blues Society

and you continue our

"Blues For Food" drive

through 2018.





# December Birthdays

- 1- BILLY PAUL (1934), LOU RAWLS (1935), BETTE MIDLER (1945), JOHN DENSMORE(1944), ERIC BLOOM (1944)
- 2-SIDNEY YOUNGBLOOD (1960)
- 3-JOHN MICHAEL (OZZY) OSBOURNE (1948)
- 4-LARRY DAVIS (1936) BOB MOSLEY (1942), GARY ROSSINGTON (1951)
- 5-ALEC "RICE" MILLER, SONNY BOY WILLIAMSON II (1899), REV. JAMES CLEVELAND (1931), "LITTLE RICHARD" PENNIMAN (1935), JJ CALE (1938), JACK RUSSELL (1960),
- 6-MIKE GARDENER (1969)
- 7-BLIND JOHN DAVIS (1913), TOM WAITS (1949)
- 8-SAMMY DAVIS, JR. (1925), JIMMY SMITH (1925), JERRY BUTLER (1939), JIM MORRISON (1943), GREGG ALLMAN (1947)
- 9-JUNIOR WELLS (1932)
- 10-GUITAR SLIM (1926), MEG WHITE (1974)
- 11-BIG MAMA THORTON (1926)
- 12-JOE WILLIAMS (1918), LONESOME SUNDOWN (1928), DICKEY BETTS (1943)
- 13-LUCKY PETERSON (1964) LURRIE BELL (1968)
- 14-WAYNE BENNETT (1933), ROD PIAZA (1947), JEFF BAXTER (1948),
- 15-TAMPA RED (1903), BILLY BUTLER (1925), ANDREW ODOM (1936), CARMINE APPICE (1946) DOUG PHELPS (1940)
- 16-BILLY GIBBONS (1950)
- 17-SY OLIVER (1910), JAMES BOOKER (1939), PAUL BUTTERFIELD (1942), ART NEVILLE (1937), PEG LEG SAM (1911), PAUL RODGERS (1949)
- 18-PEE WEE CRAYTON (1914), EDDIE "CLEANHEAD" VINSON (1917), LONNIE BROOKS (1933), KEITH RICHARDS (1943) , SAM ANDREW (1941)
- 19-"PROFESSOR LONGHAIR" , HENRY BYRD (1918) , ALVIN LEE (1944), MAURICE WHITE (1941)
- 20-COUSIN JOE PLEASANT (1907), JOHN HARDEE (1918), PAUL HARE (1930), CHRIS ROBINSON (1966),
- 21-PEETIE WHEATSTRAW (1901), CARLA THOMAS (1942), HARMONICA SLIM (1934)
- 22-LIL GREEN (1919)
- 23-LITTLE ESTHER PHILLIPS (1935), JORMA KAUKONEN (1940), DUSTER BENNETT (1946)
- 24-LEE DORSEY (1924), DOYLE BRAMHALL II (1960)
- 25-CAB CALLOWAY (1907), JOE LOUIS WALKER (1949)
- 27-MATT "GUITAR" MURPHY (1929), TRACY NELSON (1947)
- 28-ROEBUCK "POPS" STAPLES (1915), JOHNNY OTIS (1921), CHARLES NEVILLE (1938)
- 30-BO DIDDLEY (1928)
- 31-ODETTA (1930)



*Charlotte Blues Society Presents*

# **A Very Blues Christmas**

*Sunday December 2 , 2018 featuring*

# **Albert Castiglia**



**\$5 CBS Members \$10 Non-Members**

**Doors 7PM  
SHOW 8-10PM**

**The Rabbit Hole 1801 Commonwealth Ave, Charlotte NC**

**\$5 Members** with proper ID

**\$10 NonMembers**





# SAMANTHA FISH



TUESDAY DECEMBER 4

Neighborhood Theatre  
511 N. 36th St. Charlotte, NC

complete  
blues  
calendar  
on-line

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

A concert poster for Eric Gales. The background is a photograph of him playing a purple electric guitar on stage under red and blue lights. The text is overlaid on the image.

**ERIC GALES**  
**DEC. 6**  
re-scheduled

**#BOOM!**

**Neighborhood Theatre**

complete  
blues  
calendar  
on-line

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



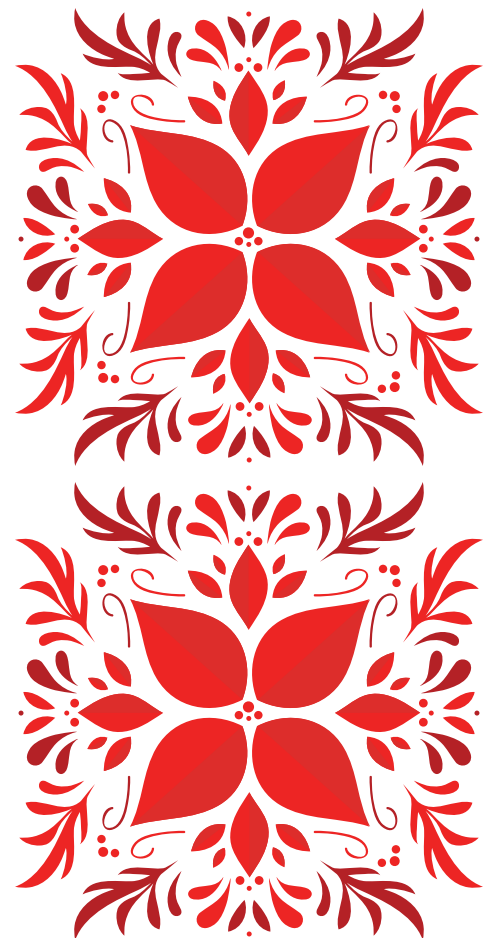
# COCO MONTOYA

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9

8PM SHOW  
NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE  
511 N 36TH ST CHARLOTTE

# Larkin Poe

**Friday December 21**  
**Booth Playhouse, Charlotte, NC**





# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



Charlotte Uptown



Please support  
our partners  
and sponsors



A Gale is Defined as "a very strong wind" "a noisy outburst"

You can define Eric Gales as a force of nature all his own, a tsunami in the world of guitarists. The storms he encountered and conquered in his personal life have added a dimension to his writing. He is as unpredictable musically as the wind he rides, but every time he walks on stage is a moment to remember. Music erupts from his soul red hot, much like the lava from Mount Agung. Once it starts, hold on!

If you don't recognize his name, I recommend you hit the 'Tube and surf the tunnel to check out his videos and live performances, then buy every CD he has ever recorded. You will thank me, send me flowers, throw gold coins when I pass you in gratitude. Eric Gales has recorded 18 albums with his name emblazoned on the front and has contributed to well over that on tribute projects. Oh, and he is one of the most well-respected guitarists in the industry. And truly one of the nicest.

Joe Bonamassa calls him "one of the best, if not the best guitar player in the world". Carlos Santana says Gales is "absolutely incredible". Mark Tremonti says Eric "could be the best player on Earth" and Dave Navarro states what I think "How Eric Gales Band isn't the hugest name in rock history is a mystery".

Eric Gales' album, released in 2017 Middle of the Road is a slight detour from what you may have come to expect from him. That strong rhythmic "thump" is more than just bass, it is melody, mood and all Eric.

This album is personal. I asked Eric about the change of pace on Middle of the Road, when I spoke with him in November 2017. "Its different styles and things I like...reflects what I've been through in life, how my life has transformed. I'm very pleased with where I am in my heart."

Track for track, Middle of the Road is a walk in Eric's shoes. It begins with "Good Time" and funky fun tune that can almost be called "rollicking". I had it playing in the background when a friend called and said "Who IS that!" (I love turning people on to great music and musicians...you have a new fan Eric) Next up is "Change in Me (The Rebirth)". "I got tired of doin' bad, now I'm doin good" reflects his approach to life. If you want some great funky guitar work, "Carry Yourself" is your song. Then there's "Boogie Man" the Freddy King classic with a some help from the incredible Gary Clark Jr ("great song,worked up some cool stuff"). "Been So Long" talks about having been through difficult times, and the positive reggae vibe is pretty special. It's followed by "Help Yourself". I love this song and young Christone "Kingfish" Ingram plays on the track. ("proud of him, he's really blossoming as a player"). The raw moments expressed in "I've Been Deceived" are real. His lyrics are much like his advice to young players, "keep your eyes open. Pay attention. Don't let yourself be sidetracked". Eric pulls no punches here. Then we are treated to "Repetition" where Eric is joined by his brother Eugene, who rips it wide open. "Help Me Let Go" is quite beautiful, and very much a prayer for salvation. He picks up the mood with the funky "I Don't Know" and then gives us something to stomp to with a slappin' bass line and swampy feel...oh yeah, its it's an instrumental perfectly coined "Swamp". This is a fantastic album to throw into your CD player when you hit the road. The tracking is perfect.

Although Eric is not left-handed, his brother Eugene is, and he taught Eric to play left-handed, which is to play the right hand guitar upside down, with the E string on the bottom. Eric said it always "felt right". It still amazes me when I see him. The references to Hendrix are understandable, but Eric Gales is distinctly his own man.

My radio daze allowed me to interview Eric and Eugene the first time in 1993. They were signed to Elektra Records, touring to support "Picture of a Thousand Faces". He was a fresh faced kid, still in his teens and this was already his second album with the label since he was 16. I remember how remarkable a talent he was then, displaying a maturity, talent and confidence on stage that belied his age.

He's matured more than a little since that time, and I freely admit I am a fan. He puts 100% into a show and I've seen many of his performances over the last 24 years, including several at the Double Door Inn. He has never held back on stage: he rules it.

His tour schedule is already rapidly filling up for 2019. In early 2018 Eric put together a special show January 20th in Memphis with his brother Eugene. The Gales Brothers were together again and just as Eric said "it's going to be ridiculous!"

As we were finishing up our call, I wanted to ask him a simple question: If you could jam with anyone, living, or dead, who would it be. He didn't miss a beat "Stevie Ray Vaughan & Jaco Pastorius it would be ridiculous".

Eric Gales. You Gotta love this guy! See you at his next show!

check him out **Thursday December 6th 2018 at Neighborhood Theatre**. Treat yourself to one hell of a blues player...no...just make that one extreme guitar player....don't worry, you're gonna love it!

-Mary London Szpara



# COCO MONTOYA

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9

If you love your blues served on guitar with high energy and searing tone, be sure to catch Coco Montoya when he appears at Neighborhood Theater on Dec. 9.

One of the most beloved musicians on the blues circuit today, he was born in Santa Monica, Calif., in 1951 and grew up listening to jazz, salsa, doo-wop and rock-'n'-roll. Influenced by the Beatles, he started out as a drummer, acquiring his first kit at age 11 and his first six-string two years later. The defining moment in his life came in 1969, when he witnessed Albert King tearing it up on guitar as opening act for Creedence Clearwater Revival and Iron Butterfly.

Like King, Jimi Hendrix, Dick Dale, Otis Rush and Ritchie Blackmore before him, Coco's one of a rare group of musicians play guitar both left-handed and upside down, using a normally strung right-handed instrument and performing lefty with the low strings on top.

8PM SHOW

NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE

511 N 36TH ST CHARLOTTE

Montoya polished his skills under tutelage from Albert Collins. He served a five-year apprenticeship under The Master of the Telecaster beginning in 1978, serving first as his drummer before eventually moving to a spot at Collins' side as his rhythm player. He moved on to John Mayall And The Bluesbreakers in 1983, a partnership that endured until Coco launched his solo career in 1993.

A warm, personable bear of a man, Montoya has released nine CDs since 1995 on Alligator, Blind Pig and Ruf, three of the top blues labels in the world, delivering songs filled with powerful messages with a soulful voice, driving home his message with stinging guitar lines. He's truly an act you won't want to miss.

~ Marty Gunther



*Keepin' The Blues Alive*



Join us...the party has just begun

