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The Board and I want to thank you!
Our volunteers are what make it all happen.

International Blues Challenge 2024



Three board members and their friends and family ventured to the frozen icy IBC in Memphis on Jan 16-20, 2024. What a fun experience! We got stories. Famous artists and their business partners were everywhere. Despite the weather, the shows went on. Many hotels and residents were without water (not fun). It was impossible to see everyone play but there was so much talent, you just had to pay attention. Beale Street was alive and slippery. Unfortunately, some folks couldn't make the trip, instruments were lost or damaged, but the show must go on. The Blues Foundation and all the volunteers did a stellar job. The Orpheum Theatre is very beautiful and the sound is amazing. The finals were held there on Saturday at Noon.

Our very own Melissa McKinney was the first Solo act to appear in the Finals of the 2024 IBC! Talent and Bravery! She has a remarkable voice. We are so proud of her and our other contestants, **Red Dress Amy**. This trio played their best sets ever at the Flying Saucer. The sound man was no other Matt Isbell from Ghost Town Blues Band. Kevin Hamilton, Dalton Rowland and Dalton Johnson had the biggest grins all weekend.

On Friday night after attending youth workshops and fighting their nerves, the **Southern Groove Machine** performed in front of audience and judges at the infamous Rum Boogie. To qualify for the Youth Showcase, all members must be under 21 at the time of performance. Some performers were as young as 14. They're Keeping the Blues Alive!

All contestants sent to Memphis from around the world are WINNERS! It will be fun to see them perform and grow in the future. Then we can say, "We saw them in Memphis in 2024!"

Braving the icy sidewalks, we found the Blues Bricks for Bill Buck and Robin Rogers at the Blues Museum on Main St.







And the winners were....

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL BLUES
CHALLENGE'S TOP SELECTIONS FOR 2024!**

BAND DIVISION

Winner: Piper and The Hard Times

2nd Place Band: The Stephen Hull Experience

3rd Place Band: Mandalyn & The Hunters

SOLO/DUO DIVISION

Winner: Joe Waters

2nd Place: Drum & Dye

BEST GUITAR AWARD

Winner: Stephen Hull

**MEMPHIS CIGAR BOX GUITAR AWARD (BEST
SOLO/DUO GUITARIST)**

Winner: Bill Dye

**LEE OSKAR HARMONICA AWARD (BEST HARMONICA
PLAYER)**

Winner: John Paul

BEST SELF-PRODUCED CD

Winner: Sister Lucille – *Tell the World*

And to our challengers – Well Done!

Congrats!

Red Dress Amy

Melissa McKinney – Finalist 39th IBC 2024

The Southern Groove Machine



Red Dress Amy

Dalton Johnson - drums/vocals
Dalton Rowland - bass
Kevin Hamilton - vocals/guitar

Their brand new album [Mirage](#) is out on Spotify and other platforms.

Melissa McKinney

Melissa McKinney - Vocals /Guitar

<https://melissamckinneymusic.com>



The Southern Groove Machine - Youth Act

Jack Slater - guitar/vocals
Evan Schmit - drums
Hannah Arnold - vocals
Jamie Goodwin - bass

Mark your calendar now for the 2025 40th IBC Jan 7-11, 2025, Memphis TN

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 Rock Hill, SC Streaming or Mobile App only

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

Member only code was emailed Jan 1. It will be resent Jan 26, before the next Blues Sunday, Feb 4



Blues Sunday: Hughes Taylor Band Feb 4, 2024



Heist Brewery and Barrel Arts

An old soul hailing from Macon Georgia USA, Hughes Taylor was immediately drawn to the blues when he first picked up the guitar. Two decades later, he's become an acclaimed guitarist and songwriter playing a fiery brand of blues-rock whose power trio lineage stretches back to Stevie Ray Vaughan, Cream and Jimi Hendrix.

His latest studio album, *Modern Nostalgia*, is a showcase not only of his signature style as a guitarist but of his overall evolution as a musician, songwriter, and producer. Written during the pandemic and recorded at the legendary Capricorn Sound Studios, it's a sweet mix of blues, blues-rock, and southern rock; a modern successor to the great music that put Capricorn on the map many years ago. *Modern Nostalgia* was released on CD in July 2021 and has been on the US Blues-Rock Top 50 Album Chart every week for the past 16 months. A limited-edition double vinyl edition was released in June, 2022.

From age 13, locked away in his bedroom, Hughes practiced for hours on end playing along with his favorite guitar heroes. By 14 he was writing his own material and recording demos in his parents' basement, while simultaneously developing his live act by playing anywhere anytime with anyone. He was performing professionally before he could legally drive, and by the time he started college, creating and performing music was his primary source of income.

He self-released his first full-length album of original songs, *Hear My Melody*, in the spring of 2016. *Restless* followed in early 2018, sandwiched between graduating with honors in marketing from University of North Georgia and marrying the love of his life. By the summer of 2019, The Hughes Taylor Band's sound began to coalesce, combining his spin on the blues-rock power trio format with the inescapable influence of his hometown heroes, the Allman Brothers. *Good Blues, Fast*, an album of classics lovingly arranged and interpreted by Taylor was his first release to gain acclaim beyond Georgia and paved the way for the next chapter in his music journey.

In January of 2020, Hughes and his band toured the United Kingdom supporting the Heather Findlay Band. Gaining immediate popularity and positive music press reviews, the trio returned stateside just as the pandemic halted all tours and local performances. Fortunately, the last few shows of the tour were recorded, affording enough good material for the *Live in the UK* album he released in early 2021.

[Tickets](#) on sale now at Eventbrite.

Member only code was emailed on January 1 & 26.






Pam Taylor Band



*Sunday March 3
Doors at 6:00
Show at 6:30
Open Jam after*



Tickets on Eventbrite
\$15-20
Member code to follow

BARREL ARTS LOCATION
1030 WOODWARD AVE
CHARLOTTE, NC 28206
(704) 595-3111

Pam Taylor Video <https://youtu.be/u7pdq7aWgOI>

March 3, 2024 Get ready to Boogie!



If you haven't seen Michael Ingmire's article on Robbie Robinson in PolitiChicks, here is the link <https://politichicks.com/2023/12/michael-ingmire-robby-robertson-a-six-nations-storyteller/> "The main focus, of this article, is to examine not only Robbie's history with the Band, but to also examine his solo recordings, his soundtrack work with Filmmaker, Martin Scorsese, his astute and insightful songwriting, his unique guitar playing style, and his acting efforts, among other topics." - Michael Ingmire

The Blues Foundation Announces The 45th Annual Blues Music Award Nominations!



Acoustic Album

Wild Ox Moan, Catfish Keith
Raw Blues 1, Doug MacLeod
Sticks & Strings, EG Kight
Ridin' the Blinds, Hudspeth & Taylor
Ghost Hymns, William Lee Ellis

Acoustic Artist

Catfish Keith
 Doug MacLeod
 Eric Bibb
 Keb' Mo'
 Kevin Burt

Album of the Year

TEARDROPS FROM MAGIC SLIM, John Primer
Live In London, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
SoulFunkn'BLUES, Blackburn Brothers

Soul Side of Sipp, Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman)
Get Your Back Into It!, Nick Moss Band
 Featuring Dennis Gruenling

B.B. King Entertainer

Beth Hart
 Bobby Rush
 Lil' Ed Williams
 Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman)
 Vanessa Collier

Band of the Year

Larkin Poe
 Nick Moss Band
 Selwyn Birchwood Band
 Southern Avenue
 Tedeschi Trucks Band

Best Emerging Artist Album

When the Levee Breaks: The Music of Memphis
Minnie, Candice Ivory
The Right Man, D.K. Harrell
Up Next, Mathias Lattin
Everybody's Buddy, Nic Clark
Tony Holiday, Tony Holiday

Blues Rock Album

POWER, Anna Popovic
Writing On The Wall, Coco Montoya
Blues Deluxe Vol. 2, Joe Bonamassa
Blood Brothers, Mike Zito/ Albert Castiglia
What Key Is Trouble In?, Nick Schnebelen

Blues Rock Artist

Anna Popovic
 Joe Bonamassa
 Kenny Wayne Shepard

Mike Zito
Warren Haynes

Contemporary Blues Album

Live In London, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
Ridin', Eric Bibb
Behind The Veil, Jason Ricci and the Bad Kind
Healing Time, Ruthie Foster
Exorcist, Selwyn Birchwood

Contemporary Blues Female Artist

Carolyn Wonderland
Danielle Nicole
Janiva Magness
Teresa James
Vanessa Collier

Contemporary Blues Male Artist

Chris Cain
Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
Marquise Knox
Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman)
Selwyn Birchwood

Instrumentalist - Bass

Bob Stroger
Larry Fulcher
Michael "Mudcat" Ward
Rodrigo Mantovani
Willie Weeks

Instrumentalist - Drums

Derrick D'Mar Martin
June Core
Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith
Tom Hambridge
Tony Braunagel

Instrumentalist - Guitar

Christoffer "Kid" Andersen
Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
Derek Trucks

Laura Chavez
Sue Foley

Instrumentalist - Harmonica

Billy Branch
Bob Corritore
Dennis Gruenling
Jason Ricci
Kim Wilson

Instrumentalist - Horn

Deanna Bogart
Jimmy Carpenter
Mark Kaz Kazanoff
Trombone Shorty
Vanessa Collier

Instrumentalist - Pinetop Perkins Piano Player

Ben Levin
Dave Keyes
Jim Pugh
Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne
Mitch Woods

Instrumentalist - Vocals

Billy Price
Diunna Greenleaf
John Nemeth
Ruthie Foster
Shemekia Copeland

Song of the Year

"Bobby's Blues" performed by the Blackburn Brothers,
written by Brooke Blackburn
"Horns Below Her Halo" performed by Selwyn Birchwood,
written by Selwyn Birchwood
"Midnight Heat" performed by Christone "Kingfish" Ingram,
written by Tom Hambridge & Richard Fleming

“The Bait In the Snare” performed by Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling, written by Nick Moss

“What Kind Of Fool” performed by Ruthie Foster, written by Ruthie Foster, Hadden Sayers & Scottie Miller

Soul Blues Album

Stuff I've Been Through, Alabama Mike
SoulFunkin' BLUES, Blackburn Brothers
All My Love For You, Bobby Rush
Walking Heart Attack, Johnny Rawls
Soul Side of Sipp, Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman)

Soul Blues Female Artist

Annika Chambers
 Kat Riggins
 Terri Odabi
 Thornetta Davis
 Trudy Lynn

Soul Blues Male Artist

Alabama Mike
 Billy Price
 John Nemeth
 Johnny Rawls
 William Bell

Traditional Blues Album

TEARDROPS FOR MAGIC SLIM: John Primer
Nothing But Time, Monster Mike Welch
Get Your Back Into It!, Nick Moss Band
 Featuring Dennis Gruenling
Savoy, Taj Mahal
Oscar's Motel, The Cash Box Kings

Koko Taylor Award (Traditional Blues Female Artist)

Diunna Greenleaf
 Rhiannon Giddens
 Shaun Murphy
 Sue Foley
 Teeny Tucker

Traditional Blues Male Artist

Billy Branch
 Cedric Burnside
 John Primer
 Jontavious Willis
 Nick Moss

HELP US GET THE LEGENDARY DOUBLE DOOR INN A COMMEMORATIVE MARKER FOR ITS 50th BIRTHDAY!!!

Sign the Petition at Change.org



[Petition · HELP ME GET THE LEGENDARY DOUBLE DOOR INN A COMMEMORATIVE MARKER FOR ITS 50th BIRTHDAY!!! · Change.org](#)



With Sadness in our hearts...

The funky white fiddle is silent.

We had some sad news about Dave Foraker, friend, member, musician who passed away last week in Rock Hill, SC. Our thoughts are with his family.



We do not have any arrangement details at press time.



Thanks for helping to Keep the Blues Alive!

If you love us, please share the news....

Please take a moment to leave us a (great, please) [review on Google](#)

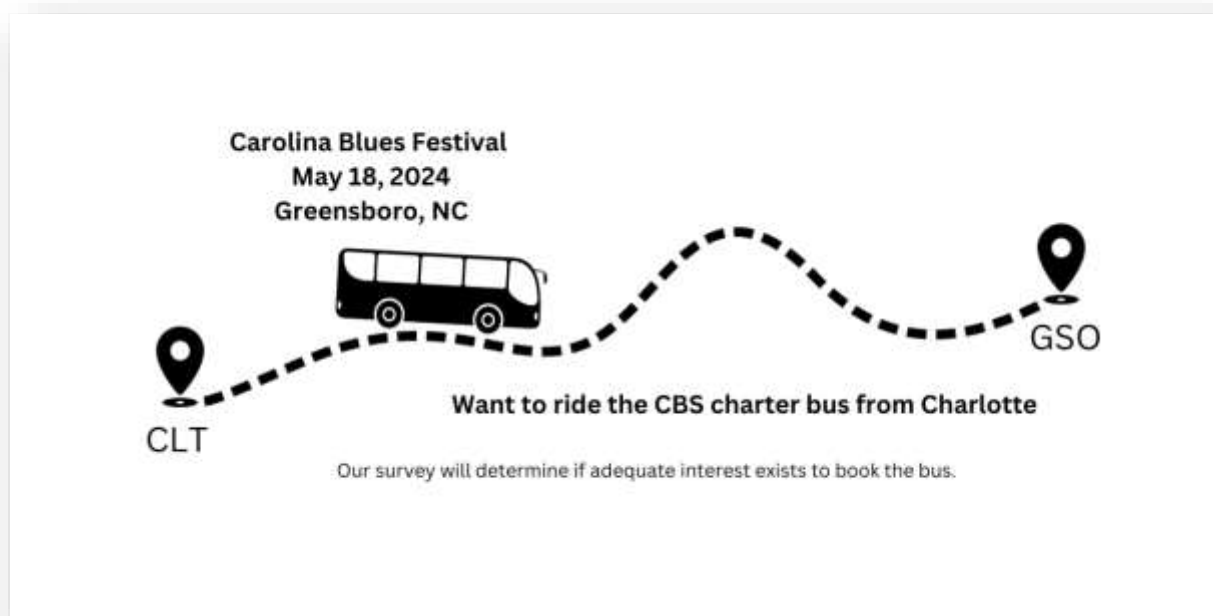
Get Involved!

Want to be on the board of directors? Help in other ways? Volunteers needed for the Executive Board, Blues in the Schools and Newsletter content.



Bus Charter is Booked!

Join us May 18, \$10 deposit/seat



Trip Date: May 18, 2024

Charlotte to Greensboro for 38th Carolina Blues Festival

Join us for a luxury charter bus trip to the Carolina Blues Festival on May 18. Bus has restroom, Wi-Fi, DVD player, outlets, & seatbelts. Trip is open to members and non-members alike. Secure your spot now with a \$10 deposit, full price is \$49/seat. We will have the full line up and discounted festival tickets link closer to the event date.

11AM to 11:30PM. Pickup and Drop off - University City Blvd Station (CATS)

Only 56 seats available, but we must have 40 to make the trip work. Ticket sales will cease when 56 are sold. CBS may cancellation by April 16 without penalty.

The bus will be \$49/pp, with a \$10/pp deposit due immediately, balance by May 1, 2024. You may [pay online](#), CC or by check. Deposits without Balance paid by May 2 may be forfeited and seats offered for sale.

Does not include the Event Ticket price.



Blues in the Schools (BITS) is getting underway. We will be sponsoring an artist to perform for Piedmont Middle School, Charlotte, NC in April 2024.

If you would like to contribute in any way, just let a board member know. We thank you!



Save the dates for the Blues Sunday events.

Watch for your member only discount by email.

First Sunday of the Month

Feb 4, March 3, April 7, May (TBD), June 2, July (no show)

Aug 4, Sept 8, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 8

Jams will return soon!

A few exceptions: May and Sept dates are still on the first Sunday.

We will be starting earlier to allow all to participate



Thomas "Mookie" Brill Needs a New Left Foot.

Our friend needs our help to recover from a life changing motorcycle accident.

There's benefit concert at the [Topsy Burro](#), 2111 Monroe Td, Charlotte, NC on Jan 27, 2024. The event details are on [Facebook](#). Music, raffles, friends, food.

Many of you know Mookie from his years of participation in the Charlotte music scene and his camaraderie at The Double Door Inn and various other Charlotte gathering places.

The Charlotte Blues Society is raising funds for the benefit of Tommy "Mookie" Brill. If you could find it in your heart to donate a few dollars to help him with the cost of his medical bills and the expense of his recovery it would be greatly appreciated.

<https://www.gofundme.com/mookie-needs-a-new-left-foot>

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

KOSTANTIN KOLESNICHENKO - GOOD THINGS: A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE SMITH

Self-produced CD

www.kolesnichenko-harmonica.com

A world-class chromatic harp player and graphic artist based out of Dnipro, Ukraine, Kostantin Kolesnichenko is dealing with more real-life blues than anyone in the world today, but he still found time to play tribute to the legendary George "Harmonica" Smith with this dazzling disc. And despite his isolation at ground zero of the conflict, he still gets a helping hand from major U.S. talents, too.

Fellow reed-blowers Dennis Gruenling of the Nick Moss Band and Big Harp George trade riffs with Kolesnichenko on three of the ten tracks, and gutbucket West Coast singer Alabama Mike chips in vocals on two cuts, all of which feature top-notch backing from Kostantin's rock-solid, home-grown five-piece band.

Lend an ear to "Hawaiian Eye," "Rocking," "Jumpin' with George," "Situation Blues," "Good Things," "Blues Stay Away," "Blue Switch" and "Last Chance." Also available through www.bluebeatmusic.com.



EMANUEL CASABLANCA - STRUNG OUT ON THRILLS

Vinyl Recording Group

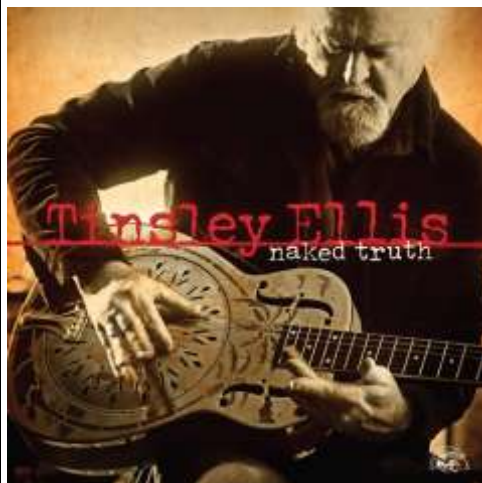
www.emanuelcasablanca.com

A master of minor-key music and the son of a music teacher/choir director mom, New York-based blues-rocker Emanuel Casablanca delivers a sensational follow-up to his debut 2022 release, *Blood on My Hands*, here. It's a beefy, intense, original and thoroughly modern effort that's unlike any of the other discs you'll spin this year. Emanuel's a filmmaker and guitarist who's worked with Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer Daxx Nielsen, Bernard Fowler of the Rolling Stones, Doug Wimbush of Living Colour, Albert Castiglia, Eric Gales and more. He's joined on this one by Joanna Connor, Kelli Baker, Laurence Henderson, Elliot Sharp and along with a backing band that rocks.

Crank up the not-for-tender-ears "Dogshit," "Strung Out on Thrills," "Visceral," "Conniver," "The Farm," "King," "Pistolero" "Lass," "Morning Wood" and "Pearl."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



TINSLEY ELLIS - *NAKED TRUTH*

Alligator Records ALCD 5017

www.tinsleyellis.com

Based out of Atlanta and one of the world's foremost electric blues-rockers since debuting as a front man in 1988, it's hard to believe that Tinsley Ellis will be cutting any new ground on the 21st album in his star-studded career, but that's exactly what he does with this one, going solo acoustic for the first time ever.

It's a stunning, not-to-be-missed and intimate effort that features Tinsley fingerpicking on his beloved 1969 Martin D-35 and 1937 National Steel guitars. Ellis recorded the effort live in studio and mixes originals with covers culled from the first generation of the blues and more.

A certain eye-opener for even Ellis' biggest fans, choice cuts include "Devil in the Room," "Windowpane," "Death Letter Blues," "Silver Mountain," "Don't Go No Further," "The Sailor's Grave on the Prairie," "Tallahassee Blues," "Alcovy Breakdown," "Horseshoes and Hand Grenades" and "Easter Song."

BEES DELUXE - *HALLUCINATE*

Slapping Cat Records SLAPCD023

www.beesdeluxe.com

Composed of several of the most-polished musicians from the Boston music scene, Bees Deluxe isn't your ordinary blues band. They fuse azure tunes with everything from acid rock, R&B and other stylings into a sound that's truly their own. And that's never been more evident than this cohesive set, which is seemingly laid-back in structure, but cooks consistently throughout.

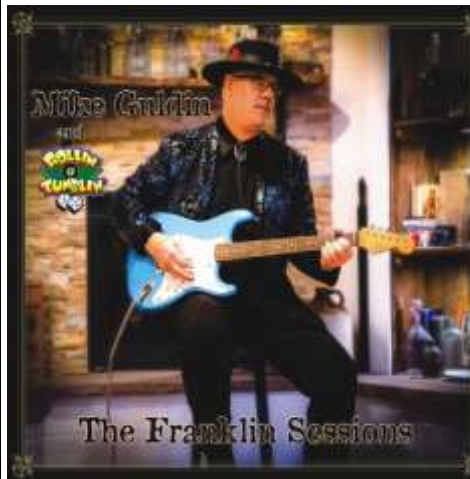
Produced by keyboard player Joe Egan and primarily composed by multi-instrumentalist Conrad Warre, the group features bassists Allen Dorr and James Gildea, keyboard and harp player Carol Band. Warre delivers vocals atop slick percussion provided by Poogie Bell, Paul Giovine and Adam Sandowski.

Take a trip as you give a spin to "Sharkskin Suit," "When Is Yesterday," "Another Close Shave," "Queen Midas," "How to Play 96 Tears," "Nitro," "Men & Women," "Gary Burton's Ex-Guitar Player Stole My Highschool Girlfriend and Now I Can't Stop Dreaming About Her" and "What's Wrong with Me?"



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

MIKE GULDIN AND ROLLIN' & TUMBLIN' - *THE FRANKLIN SESSIONS*



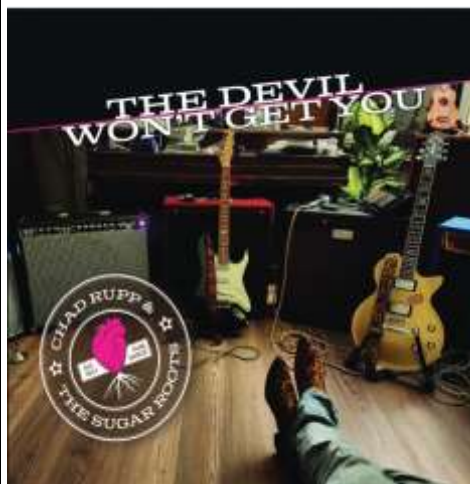
Blue Heart Records BHR 046

www.mikeguldin.com

A fixture in eastern Pennsylvania for decades, guitarist Mike Guldin and his band traveled to Tennessee with his skintight band and teamed with an award-winning roster of Nashville musicians for this one. And the end result is a deep-in-the-pocket mix of soulful blues that will have you rocking from the jump.

Produced by Grammy winner Kevin McKendree, who handles keys throughout, along with son Yates, who handles drums and six-string, the lineup includes guitarist James Pennebaker, bassist David Santos, the McCrary Sisters and some Keystone State talent, too, including harp player Mikey Junior and the Philadelphia Funk Authority horns. Give a listen to "The Franklin Shuffle," "The Right Thing," "Sometimes You Gotta Roll the Dice," "Prisoner of Love," "Smokin' Woman," "Two Hearts," "Sad and Lonely," "Gettin' Over You Is Workin' Over Me" and a tasty update of Sleepy John Estes' "Diving Duck Blues."

CHAD RUPP & THE SUGAR ROOTS - *THE DEVIL WON'T GET YOU*



Lightning in a Bottle Records

www.lightninginabottlerecords.com/thesugarroots

Composed of several top players from the Pacific Northwest, Portland, Ore.'s Chad Rupp & the Sugar Roots exploded out of the gate with a debut album, *Savage's Life*, last year, and they prove that effort was no fluke with this slick, deep-in-the-pocket mix of original contemporary blues.

Chad possesses a dynamic voice and handles guitar duties, too, with backing from BMA winner drummer Jimi Bott and keyboard players Louis Pain and Brady T. Gross. Special guests include Lloyd Jones on vocals, Peter Dammann on six-string and harp player Johnny Wheels, too.

Choice cuts abound. Don't miss "Even Money," "Blues Men in Black," "Don't Bite the Hand - Rule #3," "Leopard for Your Love," "I've Been Thinking," "Red Heads, Hair Dressers and Chicks Named Tiffany," "The Devil Won't Get You" and "Tighten It Up."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

AN DÍAZ AND YOKATTA BROTHERS - *ALANA*

Yokatta Blues YR2301

www.yokattabrothers.com

The unusual pairing of a vocalist from Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a three-piece ensemble from the north of France, An Díaz and the Yokatta Brothers have been together since the mid-2010s but release their first all-original CD with this highly entertaining effort. It begins by emulating an early blues sound and moves steadily through the decades to finish with contemporary appeal.

Dedicated to Díaz's beloved sister who took her own life in 2018, this is an upbeat set that proves music can help you overcome any of life's tragedies. It's a propulsive, interesting and hard-to-define mix that will draw you in from the jump.

Looking for something different? You'll enjoy "Spiral Up," "Laugh It Off," "Fall in Lust" and "Can't Stop Now," which echo the past, along with "Gone Away," "Make 'em Count," "Trop Forte," "No Risk" "Y.O.K.A.T.T.A."



DIEGO MONGUE BAND - *WHILE YOU WERE GONE*

Self-produced CD

www.diegomongueband.com

A third-year music major at Williams College in western Massachusetts and the son of Gina Coleman, leader of the band Misty Blues, multi-instrumentalist Diego Mongue is already a proven talent who's hit the top of the charts in blues, blues-rock and jazz fusion. And he keeps the heat on high with this debut release from his latest project.

A force of nature on percussion here, Mongue leads a six-piece ensemble that includes Chantell McCullough on vocals, Joel Nicholas and Liam Giszter on keys, Carmeron Bencivenga on guitar and Chase Bradshaw on bass. They power through a set of attention-grabbing, multi-dimensional pleasers.

Top tracks include "While You Were Gone," "Give Me Strength," "Rollin' and Tumblin'," "Sleepless Night Blues," "Find My Way Again" and "Blues All Day."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

JOANNE BROH BAND FEATURING GARRY MEZIERE - *HEAD FULL OF TROUBLE*



Double Y Records
www.joannebroh.com

Joanne Broh has been thrilling audiences with her own brand of silky-smooth, jazz-and-R&B infused blues for years, and she outdoes herself with this hard-to-top live set, which was three years in the making and displays her sassy-yet-smooth alto while giving her talented band plenty of space in the spotlight through her powerful, but never-overbearing delivery.

Like the Sugar Roots, they're based out of Portland, Ore. Garry Meziere will catch your ear with several single-note guitar solos. Gus Russell and Pat McDougall - a polished frontman in his own right -- share keyboard duties, and a stellar horn section lend their support to Joanne, too.

Get your groove on with "Shakin' It," "Damn Fool Baby," "Head Full of Trouble," "Lock and Key," "I'm in a Mood," "Down the Line," "My Heart's Been Broke" and "Blues on a Holiday."

THE LIAM WARD BAND - *SHINE*

Green Bullet Records
www.liamwardmusic.com

Based out of Gloucestershire, England, and a former National Harmonica League player of the year, Liam Ward pays tribute to his late dad and gives a big boost to Britain's Stroke Association, too, with this delightful mix of original, contemporary blues.

A polished yet unconventional player with his own classical influenced style, Liam delivers an inspirational message and a little whimsy, too, covering a spectrum of sounds that range from Chicago to West Coast swing and a whole lot more. He's accompanied by a tight four-piece band that gives him plenty of room to work out.

Top tracks include "I Got Lucky," "Stone in My Shoe," "What's Your Alibi?," "Shine," "What I Need," "Everything's Gonna Be Fine," "Pack Your Sense of Humour," "Do What You Do" and "Give It All Up for You."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

BIG JOE KENNEDY - *AMALGAMATION*

Self-produced CD

www.bigjoekennedy.com

A melismatic vocalist, jazz trained keyboard player and author who cut his teeth in the Midwest alongside guitarist Michael Coleman and others, Big Joe Kennedy spent years in Las Vegas, but delivers a blue-to-the-root sound on this CD, which is infused with the spirit of his current home, New Orleans.

He's joined here by a smoking quartet of horn players - Zach Lange on trumpet, Stephen Walker on trombone, Marty Peters on sax and Jory Dexter Woodis on clarinet - as he puts a successful Big Easy spin on Chicago blues standards and powerful Gulf Coast covers. This one will have you grinning from the first note. Give a listen to "Messing with the Kid," "Working in a Coal Mine," "Call My Job," "Brickyard Blues," "Mahogany Hall Stomp," "Exactly Like You," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "The Very Thought of You" and "Dorothy."



BERT DEIVERT - *PONY BLUES*

Self-produced CD

www.deivert.com

Following a similar path as his early influences Yank Rachell and Carl Martin, Bert Deivert masterfully blends first-generation blues classics with a few of his own tunes, too, on his latest CD, showing why he's one of the foremost mandolin players in the world today. An expat American, Deivert has been based in Denmark for decades after a career in which he shared the stage with Charlie Musselwhite, Sam Carr, Wanda Jackson and other talents. A mix of solo and stripped-down arrangements, this one was recorded in Denmark, Venezuela and Thailand, and is not to be missed if your tastes favor pre-War sounds.

Hypnotizing from start to finish, you'll enjoy "Little Sadie," "I Stand Up," "Clarksdale Rag," "The Best Blues Bar in Town," "Downtown Blues," "I Am the Light of the World," "Charlie James," "Hesitation Blues," "World Is Gone Wrong" and "Run a Little Slower."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

THE NAME DROPPERS - *BLUE DIAMONDS*

Horizon Music Group

www.thenamedroppers.net



Composed of Grammy winners who previously formed the core of the Johnny Winter Band as well as the backing unit for Charlie Carp, the Emmy-winning documentarian/bluesman, The Name Droppers are a muscular ensemble with deep rock roots, but they're definitely blue to the core - something they display in every note of this disc, their third effort since Carp's passing in 2019.

Fronted by vocalist Rafe Klein, the lineup includes Winter's longtime rhythm section - bassist Scott Spray and hall-of-fame percussionist Bobby "T" Torello - and keyboard player Ron Rifkin. They're augmented by guitarists Al Ferrante and Jay Willie, Bill Holloman, a longtime bandmate of guitar wizard Danny Gatton, and keyboard player Mark Naftalin a founding member of the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. Eight tasty originals and two covers, dial in "Blue Diamonds," "Hollywood," "Just Come Home," "Back to Chicago," "Ukraine We Stand," "Are You Lonely" and a live take of "Blue Guitar."

MARK CAMERON - *NASTY BUSINESS*

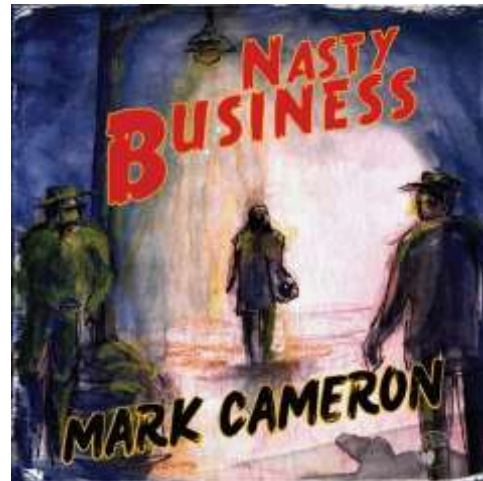
Blue Heart Records BHR 048

www.markcameronmusic.net

A guitarist/tunesmith who's been active in Minnesota since the '80s, Mark Cameron has consistently received international acclaim since switching to the blues in 2009. He joins forces with harp dynamo Rick Miller and Grammy-nominated vocalist Teresa James for this tasty disc, which delivers original samplings from across the blues spectrum.

Mark's a rich, emotive baritone who pens tunes that are infused with relatable, down-to-earth themes and plenty of humor, too. He's backed here by his regular five-piece band along with guest appearances from eight prominent members of the fertile Minneapolis music scene.

Gimmick-free and passionate throughout, dial in "Sorry," "Nasty Business," "What's for Supper," "That's a Fact," "Nick's Place," "Combination," "Life Is Good" and "Voodoo."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

KIRK NELSON & JAMBALAYA WEST - *SAVOR THE MOMENT*

Self-produced CD

www.kirknelsonmusic.com

Based out of Los Angeles but fusing elements of the Gulf Coast with West Coast blues and their founder's Midwestern roots, Kirk Nelson & Jambalaya West deliver an unique blend of sounds that hit the top of the charts with their 2022 CD, *Lagniappe*, and deliver a successful follow up with soulful pleaser.

A six-piece unit that features vocalist Kirk on the 88s, the band's composed of a veteran group of sidemen and features horns throughout. The ensemble composed ten of the jazzy, bluesy cuts on this one and toss in a couple of well-reconceived covers. Give a listen to "Bounce Around," "Only 12 Bars in a Day," "Stay in Your Lane," "Back on Up the River," "Swingin' So Low," "Tamale Man," "Turn Yourself In," "Radical" and "I'm Beginning to See the Light."



Former board member Marty Gunther has moved from Charlotte, but he remains dedicated to the CBS family. A musical nomad who grew up in Rhode Island and attended App State, his baptism to the blues came while listening to Muddy Waters at the 1960 Newport Folk Festival. A longtime member of the Chicago Blues community, he was taught harmonica by Sugar Blue before founding the Nuclebusters, a fixture in South Florida since the late '80s. An in-demand journalist with broad knowledge across the music spectrum, his "Red Hot 'n Blues" column also appears monthly in Chicago Blues Guide and he serves as senior writer at Blues Blast magazine and a contributor to the newsletter of Crossroads Blues Society (II.), too.

Local Jams, Shows and Festivals



Have shows to contribute?
Send a PM or email to
CLTbluessociety@gmail.com

[m](#)
Be sure to join our
Charlotte Blues Society
[Group page on Facebook.](#)



Local Jams, Shows and Festivals



[VFW Post 1160](#) and [Guitars 4 Vets](#)
host the Charlotte Blues Jam
3rd Sunday 5-8PM
Please check the dates before you go.



TOSCO MUSIC OPEN MIC

First Tuesdays
at the
Evening Muse



MusicEverywhereCLT has a great calendar
and an open mic listing.

<http://musiceverywhereclt.com/calendar/>



February CBS Board meeting

Tuesday February 13, 2024

Time: 6:00 Social, 6:45 Business

Location: Dilworth Neighborhood Grille

Mookie Benefit Concert Jan 27 Topsy Burro

Johnny Burgin; Thomas St Tavern; Feb 2

Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

**Blues Sunday: Hughes Taylor Band; Feb. 4;
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts**

Eddie 9V; Feb 7; Neighborhood Theatre

The Chris O'Leary Band; Feb 8; Middle C Jazz

Red Dress Amy; Old Towne Public House; Feb 10

Robert Cray; Booth Playhouse; Feb 12

Eric Gales; Cain Center for the Arts; Feb 15

Tinsley Ellis and Marcia Ball; Feb 18; Booth Playhouse

Selywn Birchwood; Middle C Jazz; Feb 21

**Blues Sunday: Pam Taylor with Jam
March 3, HBBA**

Southern Groove Machine; Mar 16; Thomas St Tavern

Kingfish Ingram; Visualite Theatre April 4

Tab Benoit; Neighborhood Theatre; April 5

Blues Sunday: 31th Anniversary; April 7, HBBA

Joanne Shaw Taylor; Cain Center for the Arts; April 11

Coco Montoya; Neighborhood Theatre; April 16

**JJ Grey & MOFRO with Cedric Burnside;
The Amp Ballantyne; April 18**

Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

**Red Dress Amy; Evening Muse; May 4
with Southern Groove Machine**

Johnny Burgin; Thomas St. Tavern; May 4

**Inaugural Lovin' Life Music Festival;
Uptown CLT; May 3-5**

Carolina Blues Festival; Greensboro; May 18

The Nighthawks; NT; To be determined or refunded

Whitewater River jam series begins in May.

**Camp North End Friday shows begins April
(occasionally blues always entertaining)**

Got any ideas for future shows?

Please let us know at CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com

Or post to the [Facebook Group](#).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.charlottebluessociety.org>



FUNDRAISING RAFFLE www.charlottebluessociety.com

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Charlotte *Blues* Society

2023-2024 G&L Guitar Raffle

Drawing April 2024

The G&L ASAT® Classic Bluesboy™ is a factory-modded version of Leo's final word on the traditional single-cutaway bolt-on axe. For players looking for the unmistakable warmth of a classic humbucker in the neck position, the Bluesboy delivers with a well-balanced pairing of a G&L Alnico humbucker and a single-coil G&L Magnetic Field Design™ bridge pickup designed by Leo Fender.

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www.CharlotteBlues Society.org

RAFFLE GUITAR SIGNATURES include: Mac Arnold, Blood Brothers (Mike Zito and Albert Castiglia), Johnny Burgin, All of the Band of Heathens, Pam Taylor, North Mississippi Allstars, Daniel Nicole, Jamie McLean, Jason Scavone, Tommy Castro, Curtis Salgado, The BoneShakers, Jackson Stokes, Ghost Town Blues Band, Rob "Hound Dog" Baskerville, Chris O'Leary, Duane Betts, Selwyn Birchwood, Vanessa Collier, GA-20, Lil' Ed, Shana Blake, Popa Chubby, Walter Trout, Jackson Taylor Lee

Tickets on sale at our shows, events, and online \$10/each. Drawing in April, 2024 at our Anniversary show. Need not be present to win.



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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!

All are welcome to our monthly Board meetings. These are typically the 3rd Tuesday of the month at a local Charlotte establishment. The Feb meeting has been moved to the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is Tuesday Feb 13 - Location Dilworth Neighborhood Grille. Please send any agenda items at least one week in advance.

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

Thank you!

The CBS Board

