



# Blues Newsletter

April 2024

OUR  
31st  
year

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

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# Ally Venable Band performs for our 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Show!



Featuring our Youth Showcase with The Southern Groove Machine.

**April 7, 2024**

**Doors at 5:30; Youth Showcase at 6:30 PM; Headliner at 8PM**

**\$30 in advance before the \$10 member discount code. Don't wait as this show is sure to sell out. \$35 at Door**

**Heist Brewery and Barrel Arts on Woodward, Charlotte, NC**



Texas blues/rock guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter Ally Venable has made her fiery presence known around the world since the release of her debut album *No Glass Shoes* in 2016. Now, with her fifth solo effort *Real Gone!* dropped on Ruf Records in March 2023, Venable feels she is coming of age and maturing as a songwriter and performer.

The new record, produced by Grammy winner Tom Hambridge, features guest appearances by Joe Bonamassa and living legend Buddy Guy. Songs like her duet with Guy “Texas Louisiana” and the title track “Real Gone!” crackle and smoke with the electric presence of a star charting her own course. Ally’s sound is fully contemporary, rooted in the bedrock of American music, and built on the kind of talent that only presents itself every few generations.

Her guitar work is wiry and ferocious and her vocals sparkle and strut. She’s one of today’s top blues artists by any measure and her career is only picking up speed.

This year, Ally will be opening for Buddy Guy on his farewell tour, rocking Europe again on the Blues Caravan Tour, and doing her own headline shows domestically and abroad. She’s had a rapid rise to fame but gives off the vibe of someone who loves her life and is ok with it all. “I started playing guitar when I was 12 years old,” she said. “I’m 23 now, and I’ve been able to tour, see the world, and make people happy with my music. Nothing can get better than that!”

## LET’S REVISIT OUR APRIL 2023 REVIEW OF HER CD – *REAL GONE*

BY MARTY GUNTHER

### Ally Venable – *Real Gone*

Ruf Records

At age 23, Texas-born guitarist Ally Venable has made a name for herself with half a dozen hard-edged CDs in the past decade, but she ventures into new territory here, teaming with Grammy winning producer Tom Hambridge and delivering far more contemporary blues than in any of her earlier works.

Both Buddy Guy and Joe Bonamassa make guest appearances in this set, which was recorded in Nashville with top Music City backing. If you’re already a fan, however fret



not because Ally’s window-rattling, church-trained voice and powerful fretwork are present in all 12 original cuts.

The up tempo rocker “Real Gone” sets the tone. But things settle down quickly with “Going Home.” Other pleasers include “Texas Louisiana” featuring Buddy, “Blues Is My Best Friend,” “Any Fool Should Know,” “Gone So Long,” “Don’t Lose Me,” “Hold My Ground” and “Two Wrongs.”



**Blues in the Schools (BITS)** is scheduled for Wed., April 24, 2024. We will be sponsoring Big Ron Hunter and Donald Caesar to perform for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Piedmont Middle School, Charlotte, NC on April 24, 2024.



## Bus Charter is Cancelled.

The Piedmont Blues Preservation Society’s decision to change the format of the May 18, 2024 event to Blues Market, we are cancelling the bus trip. We can try again in the future. Go to their [website](#) for information about the revised event.

# 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



*Mark your calendar now for the  
2025 40<sup>th</sup> IBC  
Jan 7-11, 2025, Memphis TN*



With Sadness in our hearts....

The funky white fiddle is silent.

We had some sad new about Dave Foraker, friend, member, musician who passed away Jan 22, 2024 in Rock Hill, SC. Our thoughts are with his family. A tribute jam is planned for Sunday May 26 at Zee's Tavern,

Charlotte, NC. Contact Donny Fletcher if you want to participate.

Here is the [link to his obit.](#)



*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.

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](mailto:cltbluessociety@gmail.com)





Save the dates for the Blues Sunday events.

Watch for your member only discount by email.

First Sunday of the Month

April 7, May 5, June 2, July (no show)

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

An exception: Sept date will be the second Sunday.

We will be starting earlier to allow all to participate.



## Aspiring musicians & singers in the Charlotte area!

Did you know... Since 2010, Tosco Music has awarded numerous music scholarships to: The Swannanoa Gathering, Arts+ Music Camp, as well as through the Jacob Titus Youth Music Scholarship Fund and the Rotary Club of Charlotte.

In 2024, Tosco Music will award \$12,000 in music scholarships throughout the year.

Apply now for a [Tosco Music Scholarship!](#)

## Next round of applications due April 30, 2024

Applicants must reside within the following 10 counties as outlined on their website: Mecklenburg, York, Union, Gaston, Cabarrus, Iredell, Rowan, Lancaster, Lincoln, Chester.

## John Coltrane International Jazz and Blues Festival (JCIJBF)

August 31-Sept. 1, 2024 High Point, NC

NC Student Essay Contest  
from Friends of John  
Coltrane.

Win an Instrument.

Check out the [Essay  
Contest](#)



The **Student Instrument Contest** is an important part of the yearly festival as it is a way [the Friends of John Coltrane, Inc.](#) connects Coltrane's master musician and composer legacy to the community of young people seeking to continue a music education. Coltrane practiced hours every day and every chance he could when on the road. We are motivated by this essential facet of his legacy to help music students own an instrument on which they can practice.

Students are asked to submit a video or a written essay explaining their music aspirations, affinities and needs. Winners receive a free, brand-new instrument of their choosing. Winners are introduced by festival hosts, on stage, with their prizes made possible by Bill Banks, Joe Williams, and KHS America, Inc., an instrument manufacturer along with local sponsors. Each year, one of the festival performers joins the students on stage to encourage them in their studies and give advice for developing a career in music. It is an exciting time for the students and their families. Mom, dad and siblings get to see their young musician presented to the community of international artists, professional musicians, local community leaders as well as the **JCIJBF** audience in attendance.

Only students enrolled in a North Carolina middle or high school are eligible to participate.

**The contest will be open from March 1-July 20, 2024**



Save the Dates: Nov. 7-9, 2024 Charlotte NC  
 Intrepid Artists International 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 “Rock n’ Roll, Soul & Blues Revival... The Trilogy”

[Tickets on sale now](#) for the “Rock n’ Roll, Soul & Blues Revival... The Trilogy” to be held at **Middle C Jazz Club** Thursday Night (Limited Tickets), **Amos’ Southend** Friday Night and **The Neighborhood Theatre** Saturday Night.



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

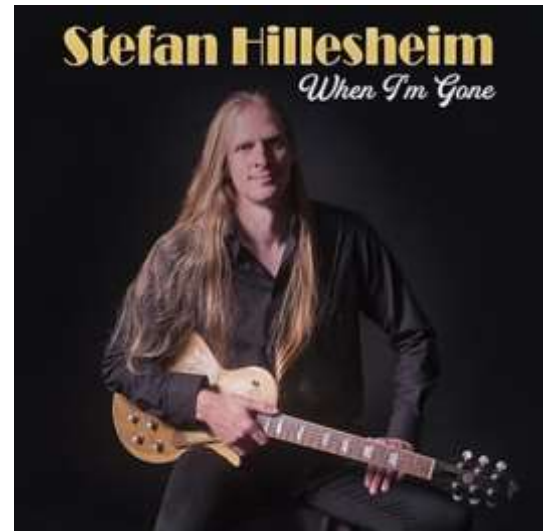
## STEFAN HILLESHEIM - *WHEN I'M GONE*

SELF-PRODUCED CD

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

A product of Koblen, Germany, who's been based out of Chicago for the past two years, guitarist Stefan Hillesheim simply explodes onto the blues scene with this debut CD. It's so packed with stellar licks, original ideas and powerful vocals – a potent combination that should launch him into the stratosphere soon. Hillesheim previously spent time in Southern California, where he worked in gospel, Motown, funk and Latin bands, but he's got a straight-ahead, deep-in-the-pocket style proficient in the Chicago sound. He's backed by bassist Darryl Wright and drummer Dionte Skinner, both Windy City veterans. And keyboard giant Sumito Ariyo Ariyoshi guests, too.

Thirteen rock-solid tracks, you'll dig "Done Somebody Wrong," "When I'm Gone," "My Poor Heart," "The Love I Had for You," "Better Man," "Always Get to Here from You," "To Be Loved by You," "On Down the Highway," "Sick of Your Love" along with four well-reworked covers.



## THE COAL MEN - *EVERETT*

VASKALEEDEZ RECORDS

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

One of the top trios in Nashville with five previous CDs to their credit, The Coal Men haven't released a full-length album in eight years, but they return in style with his this stunning and satisfying mix of blues and roots – a spirited combination that will have you yearning for more.

Led by guitarist/vocalist Dave Coleman and featuring Dave Ray and Paul Slivka on drums and bass, they're joined by Jan Gunderman (Sheryl Crow), pianist who tickles the keys on a 1950s Everett upright piano that formerly resided in Nashville's Downtown Presbyterian Church.

A healthy mix that incorporates elements of country and rock, too, give a listen to "Black Cat," "Radio Bell," "Rather Be Right," "Love This Town," "Come Back Joe," "Johnny Sins," "Silver Tails," "Accidental Memory" and "Hammer Like Bill."





# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## BLIND RACCOON and NOLA BLUE COLLECTION VOLUME 6



## VARIOUS ARTISTS - BLIND RACCOON AND NOLA BLUE COLLECTION VOL. 6

BLUE HEART RECORDS

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

One of the busiest and most successful partnerships in blues in recent years, Betsie Brown's Blind Raccoon marketing organization and Sallie Bengston's Blue Heart label have consistently filled the charts with stellar releases with a roster that includes veterans, rising stars and regional acts, too. And this 15-track compilation of recent efforts is a must-listen for any blues fan.

The sounds here crisscross the blues spectrum. And the roster includes 15-time BMA nominee keyboard player Anthony Geraci, Grammy nominee Teresa James, the Texas Horns, Big Harp George and the ageless Benny Turner, Freddie King's bass playing brother.

Other don't-miss contributions come from Mississippi MacDonald, Kip London, Douglas Avery, Dave Keyes, Trevor B. Power, Terry Wilson-Slessor, Steve Howell & the Mighty Men, Kenny Parker, Blind Lemon Pledge and Reverend Freakchild, all of whom deserve your ear.

## SAVERINO MACCNE - *SOUTHERN LIGHT*

VELVET UTOPIA RECORDS

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

A former conservatory student who was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Saverino Maccne has been playing professionally since age 14, playing his own powerfully intense, original brand of blues. A world traveler since age 20, he's now based out of the Lapland region of Norway, and he delivers music with a bite on this interesting CD.

Primarily a guitarist but also doubling on keys, trumpet and bass, Saverino recorded this set in Norway, Argentina and the Netherlands. He delivers his lyrics in unaccented English with backing from an international ensemble that adds Latin spice to their blues-rock attack.

For something truly different, tune in to "No One Does That Magic Like You," "Ain't Got Nothing But My Sorrow," "Mysterious Love," "She Was a Wonder," "Endless Nights Blues," "Soul Breaker (Don't Keep Lying to Your Heart)" and "Black Clouds."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



## JEFF ROGERS - *DREAM JOB*

DIESEL MANAGEMENT PRODUCTIONS

[www.jeffrogers.ca](http://www.jeffrogers.ca)

Ottawa-based keyboard player Jeff Rogers is so busy as an in-demand session player/sideman that he doesn't produce albums very often, but when he does he does so in style. This CD – his first solo effort in more than a decade – was recorded in Muscle Shoals, Ala., and delivers all of the high-quality blues-tinged soul that established the community as a music mecca. A 2020 IBC winner as a member of HOROJO Trio, Jeff's rich tenor is chockful of emotion. Grammy winner Colin Linden and Juno Award winner Kellylee Evans make guest appearances in a lineup that includes guitarist Kelvin Holly (Bobby Blue Bland), keyboard player Clayton Ivey (Staple Singers), drummer Justin Holder (Keb' Mo') and bassist Shonna Tucker (Booker T. Jones). Songs that will strike a positive chord include "Her Kind of Trouble," "Lock & Key," "Dream Job," "Mind of Your Own," "Saving This Bottle of Wine," "Dead of Night," "So Worth the Wait" and "Deep Cold Water."

## ONE DIME BAND - *SIDE HUSTLE*

TONEBLANKET RECORDS

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



Co-founders John Brauchier and Paul Gallucci chose an appropriate name for this four-piece unit, which melds blues, R&B and soul into an interesting package. Partners in an acoustic duo that's been piling up awards since they were in high school, they finally make their recording debut this ensemble after working together out of Boston for years. Native New Yorkers, Brauchier – who doubles on guitar and banjo – and Gallucci – a vocalist and harp player who doubles on six-string – were semi-finals of this year's IBCs in the solo/duo category. They're joined here by keyboard player Alizon Lissance, bassist Paul Kochanski, drummer Romeo Dubois and several guests, including fiddle player Ilana Katz Katz. Thirteen tracks of original and *different* blues, give a listen to "Side Hustle," "Blackfoot Sun," "Mockingbird Way," "Ain't No Faker," "Brooklyn Town," "Soul to Keep," "Babylon Clouds," "Cemetery Waltz," "Rib Grease" and "Gator in My Pond."

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## SETH JAMES - *LESSONS*

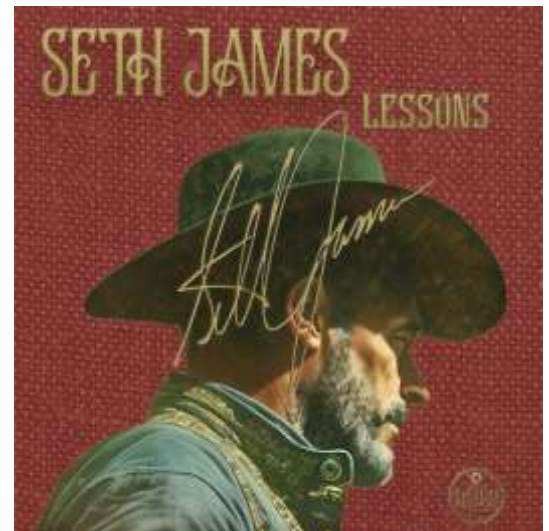
QUALIFIED RECORDS

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

A master performer in his own right, Texas-based Seth James takes a deep dive into the music of Delbert McClinton, another Lone Star State legend, on this tasty CD. It's a warm, pleasant, but hard-to-define mix of blues, funk and roots that'll keep a smile on your face throughout.

Produced by Kevin McKendree, who also contributes keys and guitar, this one features an all-star Nashville lineup propelled by Delbert's regular rhythm section – bassist Steve Mackey and drummer Lynn Williams – along with guitarist Jeff McNelley and a full horn section, too.

Don't miss "Honky Tonkin' (I Guess I Done Me Some)," "Real Good Itch," "Who's Foolin' Who," "Morgan City Fool," "Victim of Life's Circumstances," "Lesson in the Pain of Love," "B Movie Boxcar Blues" and "Take It Easy."



## MAMA & THE RUCKUS WITH MELISSA MCKINNEY - *SAME*

SELF-PRODUCED CD

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

Based out of Asheville, N.C., and fronted by powerhouse vocalist Melissa McKinney, Mama & the Ruckus fire on all cylinders with this debut effort, an all-original, contemporary blues-and-roots effort designed to provide hope, healing, inspiration and a heaping helping of love through their music.

Wall-rattling and possessing excellent range, Melissa reached the finals in this year's IBCs in the solo/duo category. She fronts a five-piece unit that includes guitarists Patrick French and Owen Myers, harp player Rob French and keyboard player Matt Board. They get helping hands from horns and DaShawn Hickman on pedal steel, too.

A band on the rise, give a listen to "Wrong Road," "Thank God," "I Don't Want To," "Cross the Border," "Shine On" and "Broke Down."





# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## PAUL BLACK - *BEAUTIFUL SIN*

SELF-PRODUCED CD

[www.paulblack.ca](http://www.paulblack.ca)



An award-winning tunesmith who hadn't issued an album in more than a decade, Paul Black was on the verge of releasing this disc in 2021 when COVID brought the world to a halt. But one listen to the rousing, percussive rhythms, smoky vocals and stellar fretwork on this effort will show that it was worth the wait.

Paul was raised in country and gospel, but was a rocker before witnessing Stevie Ray Vaughan baptized him in the blues. He took first place in a VH1 Save the Music Foundation songwriting event and took top honors in a Canadian TV talent competition, too. He's been reviewed positively in Rolling Stone, and definitely deserves your ear.

Give a listen to "Howl and Moan," "Beautiful Sin," "Living Like You're Never Gonna Die," "Let It Rain," "Never Go Home," "How Long," "Losing Your Love" and "Go On Home."

## THE MIKE CLARK BAND - *0 TO 60*

SELF-PRODUCED CD

[www.facebook.com/people/Mike-Clark-Band/100063819781065/](https://www.facebook.com/people/Mike-Clark-Band/100063819781065/)

Based out of Calgary, Alberta, but best known to American audiences through his work with Tommy Castro & the Painkillers, sax player/vocalist/longtime club owner Mike Clark is one of the best musicians in the Canadian prairie provinces. He simply cooks from the jump here, delivering a silky smooth, all-original set of contemporary blues.

Mike possesses a warm tenor, delivers fluid, gritty lines on the horn and surrounds himself with other top talents, including regular Painkillers keyboard player Mike Emerson, guitarists Steve Pineo and Brett Spaulding besides a full horn section and backup singers, too.

Choice cuts include "Turn Away," "Never Gonna Not," "Wagel Butt Rock," "Who Are You," "Blue Day," "Heather's Shiny Dress" and "0 to 60."





# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## JOHN CLIFTON - *TOO MUCH TO PAY*

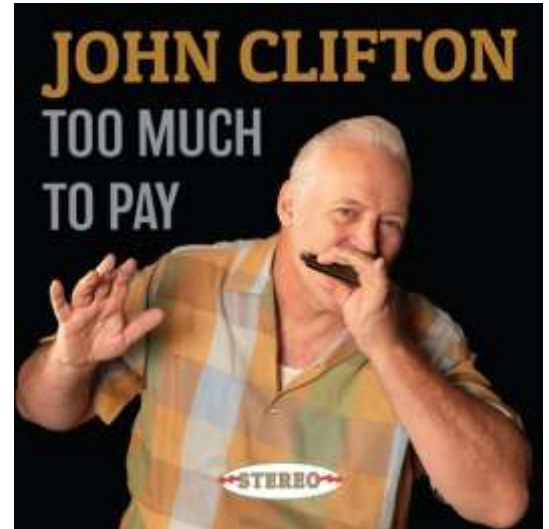
FLOWER RECORDS FCD 077

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

Honey-voiced tenor/harp player John Clifton has been performing out of Central California since the late '80s, and he spares no expense on for this CD, which was recorded in Warsaw, Poland, with backing from The Boogie Boys, the band who regularly back him on European tours. It's a winner on all counts that shifts effortlessly between Chicago and West Coast stylings throughout.

It's a welcome return to the stage for Clifton, who suffered major heart problems prior to the pandemic and who's only been working as a soloist for seven years. The fourth album in his catalog, it's an all-original, hard-rocking effort that'll keep you boogieing throughout.

Put on your dancing shoes for "Too Much to Pay," "It Wouldn't Stop Raining," "Long Gone Mama," "Every Waking Hour," "Broke Down Fool," "One Fine Chick," "Swear to God I Do" and "Bad Trip."



## SEAN RILEY & THE WATER - *STONE COLD HANDS*

PUGNACIOUS RECORDS

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

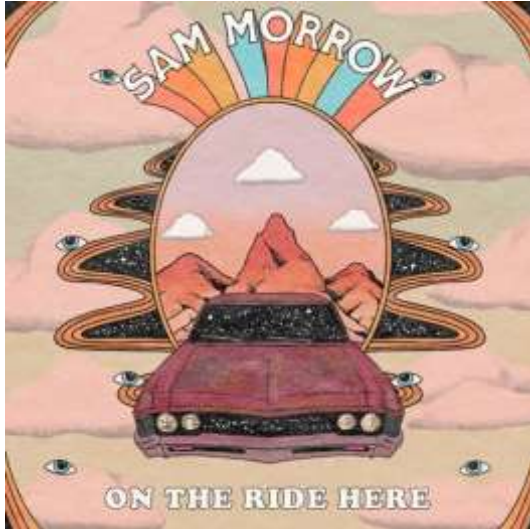
A fixture along the Gulf Coast, singer/songwriter Sean Riley has made a name for himself performing a brand of music that infuses the sound of original regional folk stylings with the rhythms of New Orleans. And he strikes gold here with a rotating roster of Big Easy and bayou giants to help him along the way. Sean's a guitarist/dobro player with a light, rhythmic touch. He's backed by zydeco giant Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes on accordion and harmonica, fiddler Waylon Thibodeaux, keyboard player Phil Breen, drummer Mike Barras and bassist Dean Zucchero. And vocalist Tiffany Pollack adds her pipes to the mix, too.

A different shade of blue, you'll enjoy "Dance Me One More Time," "Go Easy on Me," "Stone Cold Hands," "Truck Route Blues," "A Losing Hand," "Rosie's Rag," "Jump the Line" "Shine a Little Stronger."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



## SAM MORROW - ON THE RIDE HERE

COPACO RECORDS COPA001

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

A bluesy roots rocker who's toured with the North Mississippi Allstars and played the Grand Ole Opry, too, Sam Morrow is a hard-to-define singer-songwriter who delivers music with a swagger and heavy groove. And he's at the absolute top of his game on this powerful CD.

Produced by Grammy nominee Eric Corne, the Houston native teams with several of the top session players on the West Coast, including guitarists Eli Wulfmeier and Eamon Ryland, bassists Ted Russell Kamp and Adam Arcos, keyboard player Sasha Smith and drummers Matt Tecu and Butch Norton in a set that will grab you from the jump.

Give a listen to "By Your Side," "Medicine Man," "Searching for Paradise," "More," "Thunderbird Motel," "On My Way," "High Class Woman," "Hired Gun" and "St. Peter."

## MAVIS STAPLES - HAVE A LITTLE FAITH

ALLIGATOR RECORDS

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

Here's a treat for vinyl lovers. An icon whose career spans gospel, soul and the Civil Rights movement, Mavis Staples gained new commercial appeal with the release of this album in 2004, and Alligator Records is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a limited-edition, two-LP set this month as its contribution to Record Store Day.

Recorded in the Windy City and bridging the secular and spiritual worlds, the album marked the starting point of Mavis' solo career after working in the family band for decades. The material here includes the very first song the Staples Singers learned from dad Pops along with other emotion-drenched classics that have withstood the passage of time.

Choice cuts include "Step into the Light," "Pops Recipe," "Have a Little Faith," "God Is Not Sleeping," "Ain't No Better Than You," "I Wanna Thank You," "I Still Believe in You," "There's a Devil on the Loose," "In Times Like These" and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## SHAWN KELLERMAN - KELL'S KITCHEN

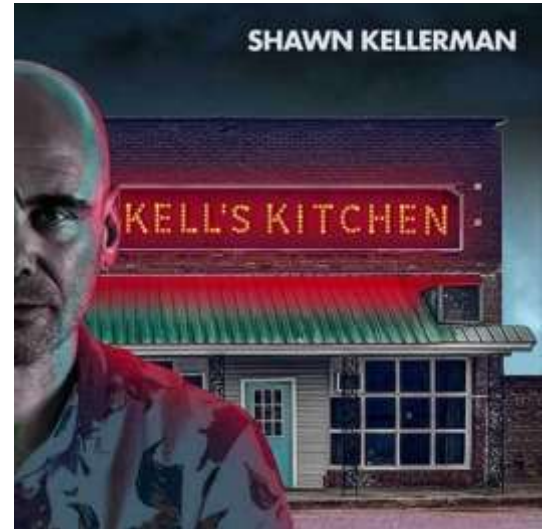
SONGSURFER RECORDS

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

Mentored in Kitchener, Ont., by Mississippi-born bluesman Mel Brown and a man who spent eight years on the road as Lucky Peterson's guitarist, Shawn Kellerman is a superstar North of the Border. And he shines with this disc, which follows the formula that made Brown famous, incorporating everything from gospel-inspired, bluesy rhythms and funk.

Shawn calls out the big guns and keeps the heat on high for this totally fresh, contemporary set. His tight three-piece unit's augmented by appearances from Bobby Rush, Jason Ricci, Andrew "Blaze" Thomas, Lucky and several others, too.

Give a listen to "SBK," "Drivin'," "We Are Blues Men," "Together," "Hard Man to Please," "Bad Mamma Jamma," "Mac & Cheese," "You're Gonna Learn from This One," "Jig Jiggity," "Runnin' Back to Saskatoon," "In a World of Blues" and "Living Off the Love You Give."



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 (Il.), too.

# Local Jams, 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.](#)



VFW Post 1160 and Guitars 4 Vets  
 host the Charlotte Blues Jam  
**3<sup>rd</sup> 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/>





## Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

### April CBS Board meeting

**Tuesday April 16, 2024**

**Time: 4:00 Social, 4:30 Business**

**Adjourn with time to head to Neighborhood Theatre to see Coco Montoya**

**Location: [Caswell Station](#) 366 N Caswell Rd, Charlotte**

Watch for the Email reminder and Agenda

**Bob Margolin The Evening Muse March 30, 2024**

**Kingfish Ingram; Visualite Theatre; April 4**

**Tab Benoit; Neighborhood Theatre; April 5**

**Blues Sunday: 31th Anniversary; April 7, HBBA**

**Ally Venable Band**

**with Southern Groove Machine Youth showcase to open**

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

**Mac Arnold's 18th Annual Cornbread & Collard Greens Blues Festival, April 13 - 110 Depot St, Fountain Inn, SC**

**Coco Montoya; Neighborhood Theatre; April 16**

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

**Tuck Fest; Whitewater Center; April 19-21**

## Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

**Tosco Music Party, Knight Theater, April 20**

**Vera Guitar Grand Opening April 19-20**

**Merlefest Wilkesboro, NC, April 25-28;  
Larkin-Poe at Merlefest April 26**

**BrightFire Music and Arts Festival,  
GreenLife Family Farms, Concord April 26-28**

**Kelli Baker and Mama & the Ruckus with Melissa  
McKinney, Evening Muse; April 27**

**Red Dress Amy; Evening Muse; May 4**

**Live Album recording  
with Southern Groove Machine**

**Johnny Burgin; Mac's Speed Shop May 2 and  
Thomas St. Tavern; May 4, 9:30PM**

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

**Blues Sunday: The Nighthawks; Neighborhood Theatre;  
May 5 Cinco de Mayo**

**Blues Music Awards; May 9; Memphis**

**Mr Sipp; Hickory, NC; May 11**

**NC Blues Week; May 11-19; everywhere**

**Albert Cummings; Middle C Jazz; May 15**

## Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

**Dave Foraker's Tribute May 26 at Zee's Tavern**

**Blues Sunday: June 2 Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts**

**Whitewater River Jam series begins in May**

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

**Taste of Charlotte; Uptown, June 7-9**

**Jamie McLean, June 8, US Nat Whitewater Center**

**Buddy Guy; July 12, Boone, NC**

**An Appalachian Summer Festival**

**SLASH'S S.E.R P.E.N.T. Festival, Cary, NC Aug 7,  
Koka Booth Amphitheatre**

**The 13th Annual John Coltrane International Jazz And  
Blues Festival August 31-Sept 1, 2024 High Point, NC**

**New River Blues Festival; Sun. Sept 1 Grassey Creek, NC**

**Intrepid Artist 30th Anniversary event; Nov 7-9, 2024**

*Got any ideas for future shows?*

*Please let us know at [CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com)*

*Or post to the [Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.charlottebluessociety.org).*

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

# BB KING Poster Raffle tickets

Get your raffle tickets while they last! Only 100 to be sold.

This is an authentic, vintage play bill from April 1, 1995;

Signed by BB King.

Framed and ready to hang on your Music memorabilia wall.

**FUNDRAISING RAFFLE** [www.charlottebluessociety.com](http://www.charlottebluessociety.com)

CHARLOTTE  
BLUES  
SOCIETY

*Saturday APRIL 1st, 1995 7 & 10pm*

**Vintage  
B.B. King  
Playbill**  
from  
April 1, 1995  
State Theatre  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Autographed  
and Framed

*The King  
of the Blues*

**B.B. King**  
with special guest  
Bobby "Blue" Bland

Ony 100 tickets  
to be sold.  
\$20 each  
Available online  
and at our  
events.  
Need not be  
present to win.



## New Guitar starts in April 2024

Don't miss it!! Your last opportunity to purchase raffle tickets is April 7 at Ally Venable.

# 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.

The Tribute® Series ASAT Classic Bluesboy is dripping with mojo. In Candy Apple Red over Poplar body, tortoise pickguard, vintage tint satin finish neck, Rosewood fingerboard.



[www.CharlotteBlues Society.org](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.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, Eddie 9V, Eric Gales, Tinsley Ellis, Marsha Ball

Tickets on sale at our shows, events, and online \$10/each. Drawing on April 7, 2024 at our Anniversary show. Need not be present to win.





## Store Grand Opening!

Join us for the *official* Grand Opening of Vera Guitars!

### WHAT

Bring your friends and family to our official Grand Opening. Some of your favorite brand reps will be on site along with our team Jeff, Josh, Dan and Darryl - come out and meet everyone!

### WHEN

Friday, April 19 - Sunday, April 21 during regular store hours

### DETAILS

*Friday:* Martin will be onsite all day with a demo from 2-4pm.

*Saturday:* Taylor will be onsite all day with a demo from 2-4pm.

We'll also have our friends from the Charlotte Blues Society and local musicians onsite rocking out.

What can you expect?

We have the latest Inception models from Martin - now in store! If you can't make it, check out our online store.

**The store is giving away a GS Mini!** You must be onsite on Saturday from 2pm-4pm to enter and win.

VERA Guitars

10420 John Price Road Suite F

Charlotte NC 28273

704-343-5670 [info@veraguitars.com](mailto:info@veraguitars.com)



# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BLUES FRIENDS



[FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES  
CHARLOTTE UPTOWN](#)



[U.S. National Whitewater Center](#)







## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at a local Charlotte establishment. Next meeting is Tuesday April 16 - Location Caswell Station. 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



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