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## TASTE OF CHARLOTTE JUNE 9-11, UPTOWN

North Carolina's largest food festival is set to return to Tryon Street in uptown this spring, welcoming Food Lion as its title sponsor for the fifth year. The festival, which averages 150,000 attendees on Tryon Street, offers a mix of family entertainment, unique shopping, live music, kid's activities, a wide array of beer and wine along with more than 100 menu items for sampling from a collection of Charlotte's hottest restaurants.



There is no cost for admission to Food Lion Taste of Charlotte. Food samples and beverages can be purchased with festival coins, available on the Taste of Charlotte App and at Coin Booths along Tryon Street. Planning is underway for a return of crowd favorite interactive activities including live music and entertainment on the main stage, the popular Tavern at the Taste and Wine Cellar, a unique shopping experience in the MarketPlace, along with cooking demonstrations, street performances, a kid's area and much more!

"It is such an exciting opportunity for us to move the festival back to where it began, on the Streets in Uptown Charlotte. We look forward to bringing back many of the features that helped make the Food Lion Taste of Charlotte the standard for festivals in the Carolina's" -owner Matt DuBois

Another opportunity to give back. Volunteers needed to serve beverages June 9-11.

Contact [Flynnwolfe@gmail.com](mailto:Flynnwolfe@gmail.com) to sign up for your preferred shift.



## Swamp Boogie's finest, the Red Dirt Revelators had the joint jumping!

Singer-songwriter Willie Shane Johnston's searing voice and harmonica are like a runaway train on a course for a head on collision with the incendiary guitar of John Fenwick. As the voice and melody capture the listener's ear, the pounding rhythm section of bassist Clay Ford and drummer Jason Gardner brings you in deeper.

We had some new and repeat Jammers for a fun filled night of music. Several youth performed, Ben, Alex and Jack. So fun to hear this new talent. We are keeping it alive!

We plan to host many more events at Heist Brewery and Barrel Arts (Woodward Ave.) The availability of parking and food as well as the excellent sound man Andrew, friendly bartenders and flexibility seems just right for many of our shows. However we will be at Neighborhood Theatre in June.



May '23 Blues  
Sunday wih  
RDR





May '23 Blues  
Sunday wih  
RDR

## *Thanks for helping to Keep the Blues Alive!*

Check out these updates from the 22 Blues Challenge Contestants...

- Cat Adams has a new digital album, “(First) 1st Love”. It is on [YouTube](#) and available for purchase on Apple Music.
- [Melissa McKinney](#) has been busy with her band Mama and the Ruckus. You just ,issed them on stage at the 37<sup>th</sup> [Carolina Blues Festival](#) in Greensboro on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- [Red Dress Amy](#) just recorded a live album at the Evening Muse on April 22. We will share the link once it is published.
- We caught up with John Hartness of [BluesDeluxe](#) at the Anniversary show. He sat in on a few songs with Mac and the band. He is busy booking solo, duo and full band gigs all around the region. You can reach him at [HartnessJohn@yahoo.com](mailto:HartnessJohn@yahoo.com)

*We expect to announce the 2023 contest registration this summer. Fundraising is a necessary part of this and all non-profits. With your help, we can send some additional local talent to Memphis in 2024.*

# You know it's going to be a party the minute the "King Bees" take the stage



Sunday June  
4th

Doors at 6:30  
Show at 7:00

Members \$8  
with code

\$15 Adv-  
\$20 DOS



511 E. 36th St. Charlotte  
28205



[Tickets at MaxxMusic.com](https://www.maxxmusic.com)



**The King Bees**, Rob "Hound Dog" Baskerville & Penny "Queen Bee" Zamagni call the mountains of North Carolina home, but travel the world with their Blues & American Roots music. This year marks the 35TH anniversary of the band.



The King Bees have performed on festival stages in European capitals & have taken their internationally-acclaimed show across numerous countries. Their love of American Roots music has carried them to shows in Mississippi juke joints as well as to several performances at Lincoln Center.

In the mid-1980's Baskerville & Zamagni began traveling the deep-South searching for & mentoring under Blues artists of historical, cultural, & musical significance. Many blues greats took them under their wing & nurtured & guided The King Bees toward the sound of authenticity. With Baskerville on guitar & keys & Zamagni on vocals, bass, & as song smith, The King Bees honed their art with many Blues masters. By 1990 they had been touring & recording with some of the most culturally important of Blues artists. In the early 1990's they were signed to a European label & began touring internationally.

The King Bees have toured & recorded with Carey Bell, Jerry McCain, Nappy Brown & many other lions & legends. They collaborated with Rock n' Roll Hall-of-Fame member Bo Diddley & were featured on The B.B. King Birthday Tour. They have shared the bill with Dr. John, Buddy Guy, James Brown, Leon Russell & a host of other legends.

Known for their professionalism, & exuberant, soulful performances, the King Bees take the stage & touch hearts & mightily move spirits.

<https://www.kingbees.info>

[NRBF 2010 - The King Bees - YouTube](#)



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

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Merchandise now available. Men's and Women's Tees, sizes from Small to 3 XL. Blue and White. Several styles to choose from including performance materials and women's slouchy style.

Check out our store on-line or at the Merch table at our shows.





# More Local Shows And Festivals



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



**2831 The Plaza, Charlotte**  
**Sponsored By**  
**VFW 1160 and Guitars for Vets**

VFW Post 1160 and Guitars 4 Vets host the Charlotte  
Blues Jam  
Last Sunday of the Month



## Old Town Public House Blues Jam

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 1-4 PM  
21314 Catawba Ave.  
Cornelius, NC 28031



## TOSCO MUSIC OPEN MIC

*The Evening Muse*  
*Wed. June 7*



Festival season has started!. Check out the latest.

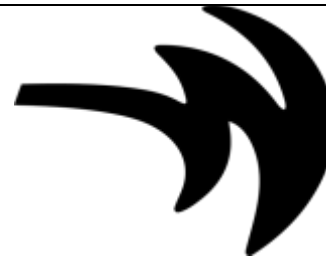


**EDDY 9V**

**RIVER JAM**

**USNWC.ORG**

**FRIDAY MAY 28**



**CHECK OUT THE SUMMER SERIES  
RIVER JAM AT [USNWC.ORG](http://USNWC.ORG)**

### ***Curtis Salgado***

*Middle C Jazz*

*Charlotte, NC*

*Wed May 31, 2023*



### **Trombone Shorty & Orleans Ave**

Skyla Credit Union Amphitheatre

Charlotte, NC

Friday 2 June 7-11pm



### **Taj Mahal & Los Lobos**

**June 5**

**Knight Theater**

**Charlotte, NC**





Matt Isbell and Taylor Orr  
 Ghost Town Blues Band  
 Thomas Street Tavern  
 June 17  
**CBS Membership Drive**



**The Bone Shakers**

Featuring Randy Jacobs & Jenny  
 Langer: Soulful, Blues Rock

Middle C Jazz

Charlotte, NC

Sunday June 18

SHOW AT 6PM !

**Sewlyn Birchwood**

Friday

June 28

USNWC

River Jam



**[Check this out!](#)**

**Check their website for the schedule**





Tosco Music

FabFest

Knight Theater  
July 21-22, 2023



*Got great ideas for future shows?*

*Lots of Open Jams are popping up all over the region.  
We would love to include them on our calendar and  
promotions.*

*Festivals are everywhere this time of year. Let's make  
sure and spread the word.*

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

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

*[https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.charlotteblues  
society.org](https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.charlottebluesociety.org)*

# Charlotte *Blues* Society

## 2023-2024 G&L Guitar Draw

Drawn June 15, 2024

The G&L ASAT® Classic Bluesboy™ is a factory-finished 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.



Donated by



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



***Blues Winners Announced in 2022 International Songwriting Competition (ISC)***

1<sup>st</sup> Place: John Németh (The Love Light Orchestra) “After All”



See Marty’s review of his new album [Live from the Fallout Shelter](#) below

<https://johnnemeth.com/>

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Matt Isbell and Taylor Orr  
(Ghost Town Blues Band) “Shine”

***These guys will be in Charlotte at the Thomas Street Tavern on Sat June 17.***

<https://www.ghosttownbluesband.com/>



3<sup>rd</sup> Place: John Primer “Hard Times”

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN PRIMER FOR HIS  
INDUCTION INTO  
THE BLUES HALL OF FAME!**

[John Primer Blues](#)





## ***Blues Winners Announced in 2022 International Songwriting Competition (ISC)***

May 9, 2023 --- The International Songwriting Competition (ISC) is pleased to announce the winners in the Blues category. Widely recognized as one of the most respected and influential songwriting competitions in the world, ISC received more than 15,000 entries this year from 150 countries. Winners were selected by ISC's panel of judges from a pool of talented Blues songwriters, and ISC is pleased to recognize them for their outstanding accomplishment.

Taking home First Place in the Blues category is John Nemeth of The Love Light Orchestra (Memphis, TN) for the song "After All." Second Place is awarded to Matt Isbell and Taylor Orr of Ghost Town Blues Band (Memphis, TN) for the song "Shine," and Third Place goes to John Primer (Camden, MO) for the song "Hard Times."

There have been many great Blues songwriters and performers throughout history, and these ISC-winning artists are examples of the best of today's Blues songwriters. They all honor the traditions of the genre but put a contemporary spin on it, making it accessible to modern audiences. Previous ISC Blues winners have included Tommy Castro, Fantastic Negrito, Tom Hambridge, Thornetta Davis, Jack deKeyzer, Zac Harmon, and many more.

A Blues Honorable Mentions:

- ◆ A.W. Cardinal, Jasmine Ohlhauser (Blue Moon Marquee) - "Hound Dog On A Chain" - Cowichan Valley, BC, Canada
- ◆ Anthony 'Big A' Sherrod - "Tried And Tried Ft. The Cornlickers" - Clarksdale, MS, USA
- ◆ Carrie Richburg-Wilson, Larry Wilson (The Junior Wilson) - "I Been Blue Before" - Sandston, VA, USA
- ◆ Crystal Shawanda, Gary Strobel - "Rumpshaker" - Wikwemikong, ON, Canada
- ◆ Drew Foust - "What's Real" - Burlington, NC, USA
- ◆ LaBronn Conner Jr. - "Ain't One Thing" - Cleveland, OH, USA
- ◆ Marlon Van Maastricht (Zero Expectations & Arqam) - "Last Confessions" - Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- ◆ Peter Veteska (Peter Veteska & Blues Train) - "Low Down Dirty Blues" - New York, NY, USA
- ◆ Robert Scott Gentilo (Bobby Gentilo) - "Troublin'" - Baltimore, MD, USA
- ◆ Trudy Lynn - "Golden Girl Blues" - Houston, TX, USA

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"ISC remains committed to recognizing and promoting the best of Blues music," said ISC Founder and Director, Candace Avery. "It is exciting to see the high quality of the winners' songwriting and know that their music will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on the Blues genre."

ISC winners hail from all over the world (53% of this year's overall winners come from outside the USA) and range from talented amateurs to seasoned songwriting veterans. The 24 categories include all genres of contemporary music, from blues to rock to pop to jazz to EDM and more.

For a complete list of all ISC 2022 winners and to hear the winning songs, go to:

<https://www.songwritingcompetition.com/winners>

ISC is sponsored by: AGD Entertainment; Arturia; Audeze; BSquared Management; Eventric; Gibson; Lewitt Audio; Lurseen Mastering; Play MPE, PreSonus, Protégé; SongU; Ultimate Ears Pro; and Wondershare Filmora

Entries are now open for the 2023 competition. For more information and to enter, go to

<https://www.songwritingcompetition.com>

# Congratulations to the 44<sup>th</sup> Blues Music Award Winners!!!!



## **B.B. King Entertainer of the Year**

Tommy Castro

## **Album of the Year**

The Blues Don't Lie, Buddy Guy

## **Band of the Year**

Tedeschi Trucks Band

## **Best Emerging Artist Album**

Who is He?, Dylan Triplett

## **Song of the Year**

"The Blues Don't Lie" written by  
Tom Hambridge

## **Acoustic Blues Album**

Mississippi Son, Charlie Musselwhite

## **Blues Rock Album**

I Got Love, Albert Castiglia

## **Contemporary Blues Album**

The Blues Don't Lie, Buddy Guy

## **Soul Blues Album**

In Too Deep, Sugaray Rayford

## **Traditional Blues Album**

May Be the Last Time, John Németh

## **Acoustic Blues Artist**

Doug MacLeod

## **Blues Rock Artist**

Albert Castiglia

## **Contemporary Blues Female Artist**

Ruthie Foster

## **Contemporary Blues Male Artist**

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram

## **Soul Blues Female Artist**

Thornetta Davis

## **Soul Blues Male Artist**

Curtis Salgado

## **Traditional Blues Female Artist**

(Koko Taylor Award)

Sue Foley

## **Traditional Blues Male Artist**

John Primer

## **Instrumentalist – Bass**

Danielle Nicole

## **Instrumentalist – Drums**

Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith

**Instrumentalist – Guitar**

Laura Chavez

**Instrumentalist – Harmonica**

John Németh

(see his album review below)

**Instrumentalist – Horn**

Deanna Bogart

**Instrumentalist – Piano****(Pinetop Perkins Piano Player Award)**

Anthony Geraci

**Instrumentalist – Vocals**

Shemekia Copeland

The Blues Music Awards represented just one of the many highlights of the Blues Foundation's exciting Blues Music Week, kicking off on May 10th with its **Blues Hall of Fame induction ceremony**. **Performers inducted** were:

Carey Bell

Junior Kimbrough

Esther Phillips

John Primer

Snooky Pryor

Fenton Robinson

Josh White

**Individuals - Business, Production, Media, Academic** inductee was David Evans. This years **Classic of Blues Literature** was: *The Original Blues: The Emergence of the Blues in African American Vaudeville 1899-1926*, by Lynn Abbott & Doug Seroff (University Press of Mississippi, 2017)

**The Classic of Blues Recording - Album** was Little Walter: *The Complete Chess Masters (1950-1967)* (Hip-O Select, 2009.) **Classics of Blues Recording - Single or Album Track** were: "Black Nights" -- Lowell Fulson (Kent, 1965), "I'm Tore Down" -- Freddy King, Federal, 1961), "Mojo Hand" -- Lightnin' Hopkins (Fire, 1960), "My Black Mama" -- Son House (Paramount, 1930), and "The Red Rooster" (Little Red Rooster) -- Howlin' Wolf (Chess, 1961)

**Kimberly Horton, Interim President & CEO of the Blues Foundation**, declared "Congratulations to all the winners and nominees! This was definitely a night to remember as we celebrated the biggest night of the blues. We will continue to celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of blues music. I thank all of you for sharing this awesome night with us, looking forward to seeing you again in 2024 at the 45th annual Blues Music Awards. Don't forget to save the date for the International Blues Challenge, January 16-20, 2024. If you aren't yet a member of The Blues Foundation, please visit [blues.org](https://blues.org) and join today!"



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

**CHARLOTTE  
BLUES  
SOCIETY**

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



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

## New fundraiser

Get your 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.

## Piedmont Blues Celebrates Sanford's Musical Heritage

The new mural was dedicated May 13, 2023



Sanford's connection to the Piedmont Blues musical tradition is on display in downtown, thanks to the City of Sanford Appearance Commission's mural depicting local blues guitarist Floyd Council and regional blues musician Pink Anderson.

The main focus of the mural is Floyd Council, who lived on Oakdale Street from the 1940s until his death and is buried in an unmarked grave in Moncure. During those years, Council was known to entertain guests and host young guitarists who would try - and fail - to out play him.

Blues musician Pink Anderson is the secondary focus of the mural. Anderson and Council were both featured on a Blind Boy Fuller album called *Country Blues: 1935-1940*. The sleeve of that album caught the eye of Syd Barrett, the front man for London rock band The Tea Set. Barrett changed the band's name to Pink Floyd, and the rest is history.

The Piedmont Blues mural has been championed by local musician Chad Spivey and British transplant Ray Williams, who has been in the music business for nearly 60 years. Williams discovered Elton John, introduced him to lyric writer Bernie Taupin, and managed Elton for his first five albums.

"While chatting about music with Chad, we noted that Sanford and England are connected by Piedmont Blues music and Pink Floyd," Williams shares. From that conversation, the two decided to spearhead fundraising to bring a mural honoring Floyd Council to fruition.

## Piedmont Blues Celebrates Sanford's Musical Heritage (cont.)

"The Piedmont Blues mural celebrates the cultural contribution of African Americans to the Piedmont blues tradition, especially the contributions of Floyd Council and Pink Anderson," Williams says. "Music transcends geography and time. We hope people feel that sense of timelessness and wonder when they see the mural - and that we can capture Sanford's special place in musical history."

Piedmont Blues is the first large exterior permanent mural in North Carolina for Pittsboro-based muralist Britt Flood, who has completed several smaller scale public art projects in the state and several large murals out of state. The mural is located in the public parking lot across from the Temple Theatre on 119 Carthage Street, Sanford, NC.

"It is an honor to have the opportunity to create an eternal ode to these two uniquely talented musicians," Flood says. Her design uses cool tones to express a "wistful creative spirit" and references the pine trees of our region, Council's days as a busker, the connection to Pink Floyd, and the tradition of "talented homegrown musicians practicing on their front porch and singing the blues," she shares.

"I'd like to think Floyd and Pink are somewhere out there sitting on a front porch together, fingerpicking and shrugging the night away amongst the stars," Flood muses.

This is Sanford's 14th mural since the public art program began in 2015, but the first one honoring Sanford's musical heritage, notes City Planner Liz Whitmore, who serves as the public art liaison for the Appearance Commission.

"We are thrilled to showcase Sanford's past, present, and future as a musical destination by honoring Floyd Council, who has family that still lives here, as an adopted son of our city," Whitmore says.

The mural was funded by private donations made to Friends of Sanford, the City of Sanford's 501(c)3. The project is managed by the City of Sanford.



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## WILLIAM BELL - ONE DAY CLOSER TO HOME

WILBE RECORDS WIL2023-2

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

A force to be reckoned with since charting on Stax with "You Don't Miss Your Water" in 1961, Memphis native/Grammy winner William Bell remains one of the sweetest voices and best songwriters in the world. And he's at the absolute top of his game with this set, a smooth-as-silk, joyful mix of tunes dealing with both sides of love and much more. Co-produced by keyboard player Reginald "Wizard" Jones and recorded in Atlanta, where William's lived since the early '70s, the 11 originals and single cover here are a fresh and welcome serving of old-school soul and blues that'll have you grooving steadily throughout. Don't miss "I Still Go to Parties," "I Will Remember Tonight," "In a Moment of Weakness," "I've Got Feet," "Let's Make Loving Great Again," "One Day Closer to Home," "When I Stop Loving You" and "Georgia Peach."



## FENTON ROBINSON - SOMEBODY LOAN ME A DIME/LONNIE MACK - STRIKE LIKE LIGHTNING

ALLIGATOR RECORDS

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

Here's a treat for vinyl lovers. Both Lonnie Mack and recently inducted Blues Hall of Famer Fenton Robinson were giants in the early days of Alligator Records, and the guitar greats get to live again on LP with the vinyl-only reissue of these two must-have discs, which have been out-of-print for 30 years.

*Strike Like Lightning* marked Lonnie's return to the studio in 1985 after several years on the sidelines. Produced by Stevie Ray Vaughan, who trades licks with Mack on half the tracks, choice cuts include "Double Whammy," "Hound Dog Man," "Satisfy Susie," "If You Have to Know" and the title number.

Known as the "mellow blues genius," Fenton's *Somebody Loan Me a Dime* was one of the best albums produced in Chicago during the '70s and features several of his choicest cuts, including "The Getaway," "Checking on My Woman," "You Don't Know What Love Is," "Somebody Loan Me a Dime" and more.



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## DOUG MACLEOD - RAW BLUES 1

REFERENCE RECORDINGS/SLEDGEHAMMER BLUES

[www.doug-macleod.com](http://www.doug-macleod.com)

One of the most beloved storytellers, tunesmiths and acoustic pickers the blues world has ever known, Doug MacLeod has been thrilling audiences since the '60s with a style that's warm, intimate and – frequently -- thought-provoking, too. And he outdoes himself on this intimate, all-original set.

The six-time BMA winner and 24-time nominee who rose to fame as a bandmate of the legendary George "Harmonica" Smith. A native New Yorker who's now based in Memphis, his solo performances are not to be missed, and this one sounds as though he's playing just for you in your living room.

Thirty-one tasty minutes that'll leave you smiling, don't miss "I'm Gone," "What's Been Heard Maybe Ain't Been Said," "Plaquemine," "Children Like You," "Unmarked Road," "Hey Bartender" and "Walking with Mr. Smith."



## SKYLAR ROGERS - AMONG THE INSANITY

BLUE HEART RECORDS BHR 036

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



Skylar Rogers burst on the soul-blues scene in 2019 with *Firebreather*, an autobiographical effort based on her youth, growing up in one of the toughest neighborhoods in Chicago. She continues closes the book on that chapter in her life and continues her ascendancy with this excellent, all-original follow-up.

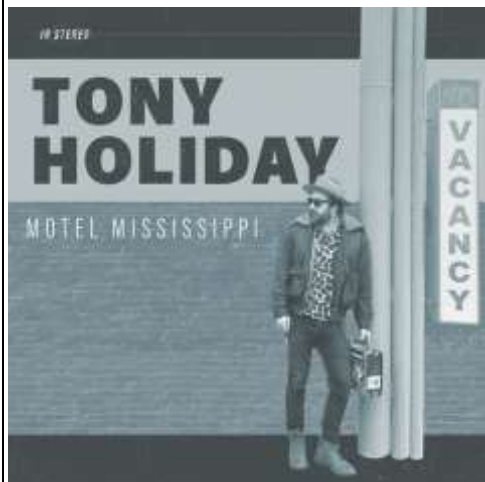
Possessing a wall-rattling alto, Skylar's far more subdued, but just as powerful in this set, which was produced on the West Coast and co-written by Terry Wilson. She's backed by an A-list lineup that includes Teresa James, Snuffy Walden, Darrell Leonard and several others. Poignant and emotional, you'll enjoy "Love in the Left Lane," "Among the Insanity," "One Last Kiss," "Ride That Lightning," "When It's Broken," "Both Sides of the Tale," "Femininity," "The Water" and "Apology Not Accepted."

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## TONY HOLIDAY - MOTEL MISSISSIPPI

FORTY BELOW RECORDS

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



Salt Lake City-born, Memphis-based harp player Tony Holiday has made a name for himself by sharing the stage with major stars on his *Porch Sessions* CDs in recent years, but he takes center stage on his latest effort -- six originals and two covers that deliver a contemporary Hill Country, Memphis soul and Delta feel.

Like all of his previous work, this disc truly is a collaborative effort, this time with co-producers Dave Gross and AJ Fullerton. The star-studded lineup includes Victor Wainwright on keys, a rhythm section composed of bassist Terrence "Sweet T" Grayson and drummer Lee Williams and other top talent.

Never overpowering but always deep in the groove, you'll rock steady to "Rob and Steal," "Get By," "Trouble," "She's So Cold," "Nobody But You" and "Yazoo River."

## GAIL CEASAR - GUITAR WOMAN BLUES

Music Maker Foundation LC VOL56

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



Piedmont-style guitarist Gail Ceasar thought she'd lost everything – including her career – after a fire consumed her home and all her belongings in rural Virginia last year. But she and the blues world alike can rejoice because the non-profit Music Maker Foundation came to her rescue and provided the instruments and equipment she needed to reach a new, national audience through this debut CD.

A lilting soprano who possesses fingerpicking skills so sweet and proficient that they would have made forebears Blind Blake, Blind Boy Fuller and Buddy Moss smile, Gail puts a traditional touch on classics that bridge the Piedmont, country, gospel and mainstream blues on this one.

Give a listen to "Going Down the Road Feeling Bad," "Guitar Woman Blues," and interesting takes on "You Don't Have to Go," "Blues Stay Away from Me," "Here My Mother Play," "Ramblin' on My Mind," "I'm Not the One" and "The Refuge of My Soul."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## NELSON BLANCHARD - *SAME*

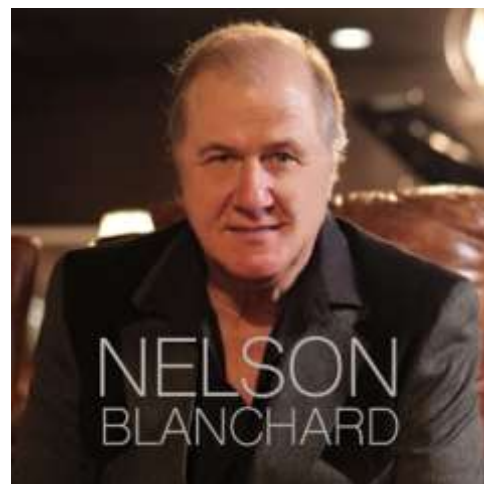
WHITE CAR RECORDS

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

Nelson Blanchard has been one of the most important folks in Gulf Coast music scene since performing at age ten. But the Grammy-nominated keyboard player, guitarist and honeyed tenor steps out of the shadows and into the spotlight for the first time in a 60-year career with this stunning CD, delivering a mix of everything the region has to offer.

A member of the band Louisiana's LeRoux since the late '90s, Nelson's a producer, studio owner and songwriter who's worked with everyone from Kenny Neal to Kenny Rogers and American Idol finalists. His debut here came about by accident after submitting voiceover work to producers Dan Tyler and David Hyde. One listen and you'll understand why they recognized his talent.

A little country, a little pop, but all blue, check out "The Girl Doesn't Love You," "Treat Your Lady Right," "My Heart's in Louisiana" – with John Schneider, "Big I-10," "Free Bird in the Wind," "Please," "Far Cry" and "I'm Leaving It Up to You."



## BACKTRACK BLUES BAND - *A DAY BY THE BAY*

GULF COAST RECORDS

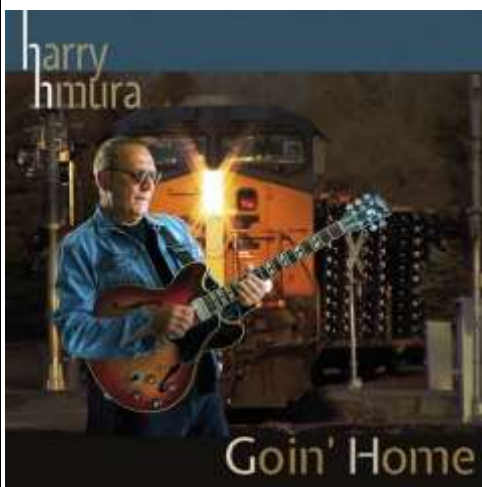
[www.backtrackbluesband.com](http://www.backtrackbluesband.com)

The eight-piece Backtrack Blues Band have been fan favorites on the West Coast of Florida for 40-plus years, and they show why with this rock-steady CD, a set of straight-ahead, traditional blues recorded in front of an energetic crowd at the Tampa Bay Blues Festival last year. Harp player Sonny Charles and lead guitarist Kid Royal share vocals and penned eight of the nine tracks, which feature Wayne Sharp on keys, Little Johnny Walter on rhythm and deep-in-the-pocket rhythm from drummer Joe Bencomo and bassist Stick Davis – all of whom are steeped in the Chicago tradition. It's their debut release on Mike Zito's Gulf Coast label.

Give a listen to "Best Friend's Grave," "Make My Home in Florida," "Help Me Just This Time," "Natural Born Lover," "Rich Man Blues," "Times Is Hard" and "You'll Come Back Someday."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



## HARRY HMURA - GOIN' HOME

APPALOOSA RECORDS

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

Native South Side Chicagoan Harry Hmura is a guitarist who's toured extensively with James Cotton and Sugar Blue in addition to laying down the original soundtrack to the video game, Halo. A blues-rocker of the first order with a style all his own, he delivers a potent mix of emotion-packed lyrics and tasty licks on his latest solo effort. He's only released a few discs across the past 20 years, but each one's worth a listen

Recorded in Chicago and Italy prior to the pandemic, Harry's in power-trio format here with longtime Blue bandmate Damiano Della Torre on keys and Pablo Leoni on percussion, and all of the original material is tied together with themes involving relationships and inner turmoil. Powerful but pyrotechnic-free, give a spin to "Boogie Run," "Cool Cool World," "Goin' Home," "Give Me Anything," "I Ain't Going Away," "Let's Get High," "Do Me Right" and "I Like to Roll."



## NATALI ROTHROCK - THE ROCK HOUSE SESSIONS (EXTENDED CUT)

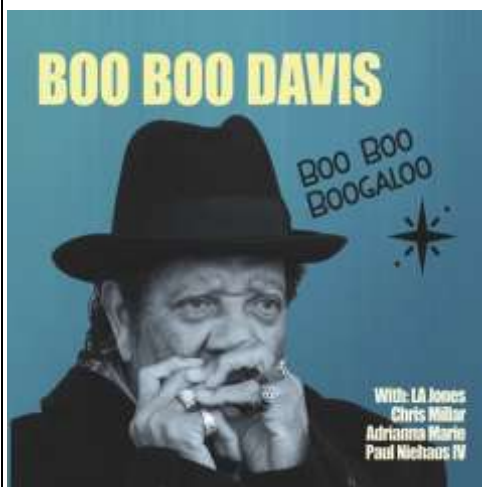
JOLANI MUSIC GROUP

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

A Florida native now based in Nashville, Natali Rothrock possesses a dynamic, melismatic voice, and she proves beyond a doubt that she's well along her way to becoming a rising star in the world of blues and roots from the attention-grabbing, opening notes of this debut full-length CD.

Produced by hitmaker Kevin McKendree at his Rock House studio, Natali's music comes from the azure crossroad of blues, soul and country. She and life partner/guitarist Joshua Lamkin penned all nine tracks with backing from Kevin on keys and other top Music City talent. Grab your dance partner and groove along with "Every Time I Close My Eyes," "Fool for You," "Just Before I Go," "Hold On," "Midnight," "Goodbye" and "Hey Little Bird."

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



## BOO BOO DAVIS - BOO BOO BOOGALOO

BLUE LOTUS RECORDINGS BL-21

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

A mainstay in the St. Louis since the mid-'60s, harmonica player Boo Boo Davis grew up picking cotton in Drew, Miss., and played in a family band growing up. And he fires on all cylinders on his latest release, an unwavering set of traditional post-War blues that's sprightly, upbeat and infused with contemporary appeal.

Delivered in four-piece format, Boo Boo delivers rich harp runs and possesses a voice to match. He's backed here by guitarist L.A. Jones, bassist Adrianna Marie and Paul Niehaus IV on keys – all of whom are top-flight recording artists in their own right – and anchored by Chris Millar on drums.

Choice cuts in the all-original set include "Little House by Myself," "At the Red Door," "She Made Me Evil," "Make Everything Alright," "Hell Round Here," "Boo Boo Boogaloo," "I Got the Crying Blues" and "Jungle Bump."

## DAVID DEACON - FOUR

SLAMMIN MEDIA

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

Based out of Ontario, Canada, and a vocalist whose well-worn baritone hints of Tom Waits and Leonard Cohen, singer/songwriter David Deacon weaves an interesting, original tapestry of emotion on his latest disc, a clever mix of original blues and roots co-produced by Grammy nominee/jazz pianist Eddie Bullen.

Not your average bluesman, Deacon's background includes a long stint as an auto racer, and he's also a Paris-trained artist and poet, too. He returns to the studio for the first time since the '90s with this one. Give it a listen and you'll have you wondering why it's taken so long.

If you like ballads laced with lyrical imagery, you'll enjoy "No Never Mind," "Arc of Life," "Rising Up Again," "California Has No Winter," "Poetry," "Simplify," "Jane," "Hard Time" and "Waving Free."





# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## BOB CORRITORE & FRIENDS - HIGH RISE BLUES

VIZZTONE/SWMAF RECORDS

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

Harp player Bob Corritore's archives at The Rhythm Room in Phoenix, Ariz., have produced several high-quality CDs in recent few years, but it'll be hard to top this collection of never-previously-released treasures, which include contributions from several of the biggest names in blues. Captured between 1992 and 2002, Bob riffs and runs on the reeds in support of Jimmy Rogers, Magic Slim, Luther Tucker, Koko Taylor, Chico Chism, Eddie Taylor Jr., Sam Lay, John Primer, Pinetop Perkins, Bo Diddley, John Brim, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, Eddy Clearwater, Bob Reidy, Manuel Arrington and Lil' Ed, and all of them shine like the jewels they are.

This one's so good, you'll want to put it on repeat. Top tracks include "Last Time," "Buddy Buddy Friends," "High Rise Blues," "Twenty-Nine Ways," "Honey Where You Going," "Grinder Man," "Hard Pill to Swallow," "She's Alright," "Sail a Ship" and "Caught in the Act."



## MATTIAS MALM - ELECTRIC AVENUE

SELF-PRODUCED CD

No website

An acoustic artist steeped in Hill Country blues, Mattias Malm may not have a website but the Swedish guitarist is a former European Blues Challenge winner and is a force to be reckoned with his latest CD, a full-band follow-up to his well-revived 2021 R.L. Burnside tribute, *Malm on Burnside*.

Sure, this is an album of covers, but Mattias' attack presents each tune in a new light thanks to clever arrangements that incorporate stylings from other genres while remaining faithful to the traditional Mississippi percussive, single-chord attack.

Available as a download, this is a treat. Lend an ear to "Goin' Down South," "Fireman Ring the Bell," "Someday Baby," Jimmy Reed's "You Don't Have to Go," Doc Watson's "Deep River Blues," "Pallet on the Floor," "Walking Blues" and John Lee Hooker's "When My First Wife Left Me."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## JOHN NÉMETH & THE BLUE DREAMERS - LIVE FROM THE FALLOUT SHELTER

NOLA BLUE RECORDS NB 021

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

Golden-throated John Németh recorded this excellent live set in suburban Boston at the end of a spring tour in 2022 to honor the 20th anniversary of his band, the Blue Dreamers. But if things had gone in another direction, it might very well have been his swan song instead of a celebration.

Just a few weeks after this show, docs amputated his lower jaw to remove an aggressive tumor and left him facing reconstructive surgery, a lo-o-ong recovery and the strong possibility that he'd never be able to perform again. Fortunately, he's now back at the top of his game, but this performance -- which kicks off on a somber note and picks up power throughout -- is a testament to a true professional facing major uncertainty.

Lift a glass to toast this miracle man and celebrate his return as you listen to "Sweep the Shack," "Work for Love," "Testify My Love," "Elbows on the Wheel," "Chain Breaker," "I Can See Your Love Light Shine," "Feelin' Freaky," "Get Offa Dat Butt," "Country Boy" and "Fountain of a Man."



A member of the CBS board since 2018, Marty Gunther is no stranger to the area or the Blues. A native Rhode Islander who attended App State, his first exposure to the music came through Muddy Waters at Newport in 1960. His complete baptism into the Blues came in 1966 when Howlin' Wolf was crawling across the Newport stage and singing "Moaning at Midnight." A longtime member of the Chicago blues community, where many international stars were close friends, he was taught by harmonica payer Sugar Blue, and co-founded the Nuclebusters, one of the hardest working bands in South Florida, where he resided previously. In addition to writing the "Red Hot 'n Blues Reviews" column and contributing occasional articles, Marty's an in-demand journalist across the Blues spectrum. Senior writer at Blues Blast Magazine, he's also a contributor to The Groove, the monthly newsletter of the Crossroads (Ill.) Blues Society, and his CBS reviews appear regularly in Chicago Blues Guide.

# Special thanks to our Blues Friends



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# Keepin' The Blues Alive

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

## CBS NEEDS YOU !

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

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

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

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

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 May 16-- Location TBD. Please send any agenda items at least one week in advance.

Tell your 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)