

# Chris Beard – Full Artist Bio

Chris Beard is a modern blues guitarist and singer whose sound is deeply rooted in the traditions of the genre yet uniquely his own. Born in 1957, Beard grew up surrounded by the blues—literally. He is the son of renowned guitarist **Joe Beard**, who came of age on **Beale Street** during the 1950s. Because of his father’s close friendships with legends like **Matt “Guitar” Murphy** and **Buddy Guy**, young Chris spent his childhood learning directly from the masters.

“When your father grew up on Beale Street and music is in your DNA,” Chris says, “then blues is who you are and what you do.”

These early experiences shaped Beard’s musical identity. “Blues is my roots,” he continues. “As Joe Beard’s son, I grew up around some of the best blues men.” Buddy Guy’s encouragement—“*keep on doing what you’re doing*”—and Matt Murphy’s advice—“*the guitar has to become an extension of you*”—became guiding principles in Beard’s life and playing.

After years honing his craft in Rochester, NY clubs, Beard was offered the chance to record. His 1998 debut **Barwalkin’** on JSP Records quickly earned him a **W.C. Handy Award nomination for Best New Blues Artist**, marking him as a rising force in contemporary blues. His 2001 follow-up, **Born to Play the Blues**, which he produced himself, received widespread acclaim and earned him the title “**Prince of the Blues.**”

In 2005, Beard released **Live Wire** on Northern Blues, a dynamic blend of live and studio tracks that captured his electrifying performance style. His next album, **Who Am I and What I Do**, offered a personal look at his life growing up in a house full of blues and spoke to his dedication to keeping the tradition alive.

Five years later, Beard founded his own label, **Destin Records**, and released **Eye of the Witch**, an album known for its compelling songwriting, emotional depth, and candid reflections on the complexities of modern manhood.

Beard released his sixth album in 2020, continuing his evolution as an artist and storyteller. His most recent project, **Pass It On Down**, arrived on **September 15, 2023**, further showcasing his signature blend of fiery guitar work, heartfelt vocals, and authentic blues spirit.

With a lifetime shaped by the greats and a career defined by passion and purpose, Chris Beard stands today as one of the most genuine voices in modern blues—an artist devoted not only to honoring the blues tradition, but also to passing it on to the next generation.