



Keeping Classic R&B Alive

## Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society

*Affiliate Member of the National Blues Foundation*

[www.bluespreservationsociety.org](http://www.bluespreservationsociety.org) | 12 Kipling Street, Providence, RI 02907 | 401.461.0012

### ***RHYTHM & BLUES NEWS of NOTE***

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Whiting

April – June 2024

Volume 19 No. 2

#### **From the Editor**

This issue of ***R&B News of Note*** is dedicated R&B Last Chord Musicians Arthur Hazard & Dell Padgett. ***We look forward to seeing you and supporting our events and the Rhode Island Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society. Thank you.***

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President: Cleveland Kurtz  
Vice President: Max Whiting  
Sec/Treasurer: Sylvia Whiting

#### **Instruments Program Director**

Tom Colantonio

#### **Board Members**

Tom Colantonio  
Guia Sanchez  
Clarice Smith  
Paul Williams  
Dhana Whiteing

#### **Honorary Board Members**

Dell Padgett  
Richard & Donna Pena  
Lynn & Elizabeth Pegg  
Sylvia Ann Soares

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **R&B Heritage Month Festival**

Saturday, August 24, 8PM

CV Club, East Providence, RI

#### ***From the President's Desk***

In this issue of '***News of Note***' we're honoring two of our lost heroes of the R&B Music era; Dell Padgett & Arthur Hazard. Dell Padgett has left us, and he did it his way. He left us at a ripe old age and with a life that was well lived. I know this because I have known him most of his well-lived life. My memory is a little fuzzy, but I think we met in church. My mother and his mother were both significant people in the local church community. Therefore, we both had to be good boys, and we both

knew it. Both of our mothers were well-loved, admired, and well-respected. They were icons of dignity and selflessness. Anyway, that's a long way of saying that we were raised right, and we made sure not to get on the nerves of either Sister Padgett or Sister Kurtz.



President Cleveland Kurtz

Dell credits my brother Anderson and I for getting him started in photography during the late 60s. We produced Rhode Island's first black Arts Festivals during that time. Dell said I approached him with the idea of using his photography to help us. I gave him a stipend and a star was born. I don't remember that, but I'm sure glad I did. Dell served the community with his camera and darkroom for decades, and any part I played in that, I'm truly honored.

Dell also served on the Board of the Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society. He likes to remind me that he's the one that suggested we share our program with the public libraries. He loved that the program is a real success. He served us until his health said otherwise, and we are among the first to miss him.

Dell brought his credentials with him to our board. As a member of the 1950s doo-wop group, the Castaleers, he was inducted into the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame in 2014.

Yep, he's one of the people who started it all, and he shared it all with us. We are truly grateful.

### **Vice President / Music Director – Max Whiting**



As Max recuperates from a major car accident, we at RIRBPS wish him a speedy recovery. He'll return to this column as soon as able.

He looks forward to returning to 'A Day in the Life' series and attending the R&B Festival in August. Also, don't forget that we have gained members and respect around the city and look forward to continuing this momentum throughout 2024.

### **Secretary/Treasurer - Sylvia Whiting**

Your contribution as a member helps us continue to offer the programming, information, scholarship and instruments that we strive to provide. **It's Dues Renewal Time:** Only \$15 for individuals/Musicians, \$5 for students and \$25 for couples. Through your support we continued to grow our Instruments for Children Program with many instruments donated this past year, expanded our music series and celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> year.

All donations are tax deductible. For information, volunteer opportunities, musician listings, programming and donations please visit us at [www.bluespreservationsociety.org](http://www.bluespreservationsociety.org).

### ***Director, Instruments for Children Program, Tom Colantonio***

Most schools with active music programs have a good inventory for student participation during the current school year. We are ready to help if needed as summer approaches. There continues to be a need for **flutes and clarinets**, both great entry level band instruments. We will be looking to access any school needs within the next few weeks and continue to accept instrument donations. Instruments in need of repair will be handled by local partners and our web presence leads donors to our program.

Anyone with a musical instrument to donate or information on a school or program in need of our assistance, please contact Tom at 401.793.1281 or Cleveland at 401.461.0012. We will arrange to pick up the instruments, if necessary.

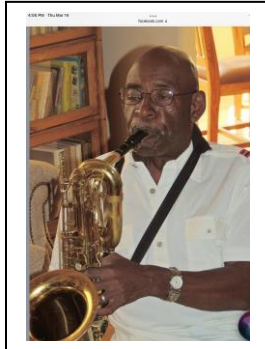
### ***Instruments Program Tom Colantonio***



***Tom Colantonio***

## 🎵🎵🎵 **LAST CHORD TRIBUTE**

### **TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR HAZARD 1942 - 2024**



Our friend and fellow R&B musician Arthur Hazard lost his battle after a long illness. Art began his musical career at the age of 12 and was a long-time member of Little Randy and the Stompers. He began in Junior High School and continued throughout the Rhode Island R&B era travelling throughout the northeast and Canada with fellow classmate, Randy Ashe. The sax duo (Art on alto and Randy on Tenor) was like brothers on the road.

After Art moved to New Mexico, an amazing musician for over 65 years,

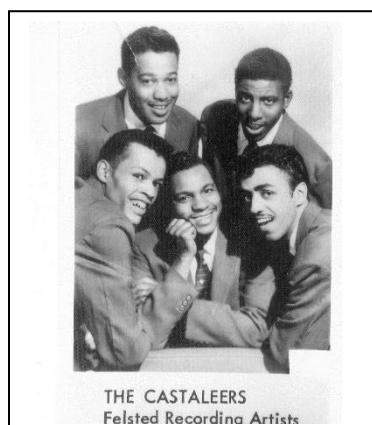
he played the baritone saxophone until he went on hospice at home last year. Arthur loved playing his horn "Aggie" and could be seen at the Range Cafe in Bernalillo playing in their house band "The DeRangers" every Thursday night. He played his big baritone sax with some of his closest friends and bandmates for the last 10 years. He will be dearly missed by all who know him.



A tribute to Arthur Ashe was held at St. Martin DePorres Center on June 11 where he worked for many years. The RIRBPS Preservation Hall Band played a Tribute in honor of Arthur.

***Original portrait of Arthur painted by Fine Artist, Munir D. Mohammed, MA of Munir Studio.***

### **TRIBUTE TO DELL PADGETT 1936 - 2024**



With heavy hearts we mourn the recent passing of our honorary Board member, friend and entertainer, Dell Padgett. Dell recently lost his battle with major medical challenges. A cherished member of the Providence community, Dell will be remembered for his many talents. An accomplished artist and an original member of the 1950s Doo Wop Group, the ***Castaleers***, his death has left a deep void in the hearts of those who knew him.

By 1950 Rhythm & Blues was embedded in the Rhode Island black community and the seeds for the development of local talent were sowed. Street corner music became common place. Dell began his musical career in 1952, when the late Richard Jones (lead singer), late Ronald Henries, Herman Bergerson, Bennie Barrows and Del Padgett formed a vocal group called "The Parakeets". These 5 talented friends, with their sights set on the big time, toured around the state until 1955 when the group re-emerged as "The Castaleers".

The new group consisted of lead singer Richard Jones, the late Ronald Henries, Herman Bergerson, Del Padgett and the late George Smith. The group continued to tour the state with their 1<sup>st</sup> big break coming in 1958. The Castaleers went to Allegro Studios, a subsidiary of London Records, in Boston, Massachusetts where they made their first 45 RPM recording.

In 1958 Richard Jones left the Castaleers and was replaced by the late Joe Hill. Joe Hill penned and recorded "My Baby's Alright" and "I Cried". "I Cried" became the group's biggest hit. George Smith penned the recording, "Bull Fighting Baby". Richard Jones, who had a girlfriend that married someone else when he went into the military, penned and recorded "Lonely Boy". Altogether, the Castaleers recorded "About 10 records". Their last recording, "I Cried" was recorded in 1959.

In 1960, Del Padgett, a former gospel singer, left the group and the Castaleers subsequently broke up for good. He became an accomplished photographer.

**Note:** A special thanks to Del Padgett for providing details of his historical musical career and opening the window to the 'heart and soul' of the Castaleers.

## 🎵🎵🎵 **21<sup>st</sup> R&B HERITAGE MONTH FESTIVAL**

**Steppin' Out New Image** will be the feature band at the **21<sup>st</sup> R&B Heritage Month Festival** on Saturday, August 24 at the CV Club in East Providence. August marks R&B Heritage Month in Rhode Island. Each year we honor this month with a Festival. Our event honors the history of RIRBPS, key players who created and moved our organization forward, how R&B has impacted life in RI and musical highlights. More details to follow.



## **RIRBPS Apparel**

T Shirts are now available at our events or by contacting us at [rirbps@gmail.com](mailto:rirbps@gmail.com). Just \$20. Hope to see you in your R&B Tee at our next event.







Prof Ed Coates

**GOOD NEWS: THE RHODE ISLAND HB #7113 THAT DESIGNATES RHYTHM & BLUES AS THE OFFICIAL STATE MUSIC IS NOW ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE.**

In January 2024 legislation was filed in the RI Legislature to designate R&B as the 'official music' of Rhode Island. Our founder, Ed 'Prof' Coates has been lobbying the legislature for some time and these efforts are now in the forefront as reported in previous editions of ***R&B News of Note***. The legislation was passed by the House of Representatives during this legislative session and is now in the Senate for consideration.

The Bill **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STATE EMBLEMS (Designates as the state music, the genre of rhythm and blues which contains elements of pop, soul, funk, hip-hop, and electronic music.) was filed in the **2024 session under H 7113**. The primary sponsor is Representative David A. Bennett RN.

"According to the most recent gossip on 6/12/2024, HB#7113 introduced by the honorable David A. Bennett and honorable co-sponsors McNamara, Hull, Edwards, Slater, Diaz, Corvese, Potter, Carson, Henriens and Baginski on 1/10/2024 to designate Rhythm & Blues as the official State music, **has passed the House and is now on the floor of the Senate** where it is being considered on the merits of its respected value as a worthy cultural symbol like the culturally symbolic Italian deep fried squid; especially after a well-received and highly informative presentation in the House by RI Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society by President Cleveland Kurtz who is now ready and available to do the same for members of the Senate committed to DEI and perhaps those on the fence" states Coates.

When RIRBPS receives further information about the next committee assignment and timeline, we will again ask for your support to: **Testify (hopefully in person), sign a petition (copy included in this edition) or Submit a Letter of Support**. The effort to persuade the legislature to designate **Rhythm & Blues as RI's official state music** was picked up by Providence PBS Station, Channel 36 reporters and will be highlighted on **Providence PBS station channel 36, last year (July 9 and Re-Broadcast on July 12, 2023)**. The Program was broadcast as part of the Rhode Island PBS weekly series.



## A DAY in the LIFE

'A Day in the Life' series will continue in 2024 after a very successful summer season last year. The R&B Preservation Hall Band, led by Music Director, Max Whiting performed at four Providence Libraries in the 2023 summer/fall season. The series mixes music with dialogue to introduce RIRBPS to new audiences while highlighting the music of R&B to the life of an R&B musician in Rhode Island.

Paul Williams, Board member and Bandleader will lead the summer series in Max's absence.

Performers, Randy Ashe on Saxe, Paul Williams, Guitar and smooth vocals, Miles Wolcott, Drums and Max Whiting, Bass played for lively audiences at these events.

Highlights of '*A Day in the Life*' summer of 2023.

### A Day in the Life Schedule

July 18, 6PM

**Rochambeau Library - 708 Hope Street, Providence**

August 8, 5-7PM

**Wanskunck Library – 233 Veazie Street, Providence**

September 18, 6PM

**Mt. Pleasant Library - 315 Academy Avenue, Providence**

### Rochambeau Library 2023



### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

*[www.bluesperservationsociety.org](http://www.bluesperservationsociety.org)*

## New Members

**We are pleased to announce the following members joined / renewed RIRBPS membership:**

Mark Rollins, Providence, RI

St. Martin DePorres Center, Providence

Deborah Moore, Cranston, RI

### ***Musical Instruments Needed***

***Especially: Trumpets, Flutes,  
Trombones, Clarinets, Saxophones***

Call Tom @ 401.793.1281

## **WHERE IT'S AT –** *Where music lovers may go to satisfy a healthy R&B craving !!!*

### **Local Venues**

**Blue Room**, 2197 Broad Street, Cranston, RI. Live music venue. [www.theblueroom.com](http://www.theblueroom.com). 401.365.8785.

**TT's 133 Club**, Sunday, 29 Warren Ave., East Providence 401.438.1330 – Blues/Jazz Music Series, call for details, dates, times. Mac Odom Band. Motown R&B - NO COVER



**ASKEW**, 150 Chestnut St., Providence, 774-526-9736. Music evenings, Wednesday Jam. Call for details.

**Cady's Tavern**, 2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI, 401.568.4102. Blues Jam, Sunday afternoon at 3-7PM. No cover.

<http://www.cadystavern.com/#!/ricks-roadhouse-blues>.

**Fifth Element**, 111 Broadway, Newport 401.619.2552 - Jazz in bar. Sat., Sun., Mon.

**Knickerbocker Café** 35 Railroad Avenue, Westerly, RI. 401.315.5070.

**Featured Events.** Classic Blues, R&B, Rock, Oldies, Pop.

<http://www.theknickerbockercave.com>. No cover.

**Murphy's Law** 2 George Street, Pawtucket, RI. 401.724.5522. Blues Jams. No Cover. <http://murphyslawri.com/events>.



**Sardella's Italian Restaurant**, 30 Memorial Blvd., Newport 401.849.6312 Wednesday, 7-10 PM Live Jazz.

**Tarragon Bar**, 311 Westminster St., Providence RI. Blues and jazz Sundays, 7:30 PM. No cover.

**Parlour Bar**, 1119 N. Main Street, Providence, RI. Live Rock & Roots Music. 401.383.5858.

**The Pub on Park**, 661 Park Ave., Cranston RI. Vintage R&B Ensemble, call for featured bands. 401.781.8888

**The Revolution**, 2190 Broad Street, Cranston, RI. 401.780.8700. "Excellent Food + Good Music = Fun", Check their schedule for Blues greats.

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## *RIRBPS Membership / Sponsor Application*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Membership Types / Dues**

Student	\$ 5/year
Individual/Musician	\$15/year
Couple	\$25/year
Non Profit	\$50/year
Venue/Club	\$75/year
Corporation	\$100/year

### **Payable to RIRBPS & mail to:**

Sylvia Whiting, Treasurer  
24 Jennifer Lane, Stoughton, MA 02072  
857.222.1785 / sylmax99@yahoo.com

**Payable on-line @ [www.bluespreservationsociety.org](http://www.bluespreservationsociety.org).**

**Membership renewal year runs from June 1 to May 31.**

**Advertising Prices for Newsletter &/or Website:** Business Card \$25 (2x3.5)    ¼ Page \$50 (4.5 x 5.5)    Half Page \$75 (5x8)  
Full Page \$150 (8x11). All Ads require camera ready jpeg file.

**Sponsor Flyers:** Members only, 1<sup>st</sup> time free – You Print – We Attach (inserted if mailed).

Instrument played: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Membership</b>		\$ _____
<b>Voluntary Donation</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>		\$ _____

### **Volunteer Information (optional):**

In addition to supporting RIRBPS with my Membership, I would like to volunteer in the following way:

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Your support is valuable to us in many areas. Here are some ways you may help:

- Promotion and advertising
- Bookkeeping and banking
- Social media coordination (website, twitter, etc.)
- Producing and staging shows
- Coordinating and compiling our history projects

Our needs have grown along with our organization and we could really use your help. We are easy to work with; we have a lot of fun; and we serve our community. Now, you can't beat that. Please contact us at your earliest convenience.



## PETITION

**TO:** Rhode Island State Elected Officials  
**FROM:** RI Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society and R&B Music Community  
**DATE:** June 2024

The undersigned residents of the state of Rhode Island ask for your support of legislation filed related to State Emblems by adding thereto the following section: 42-4-24 State Music. ***The music genre of Rhythm & Blues is hereby designated as the state music. For purposes of this section, Rhythm & Blues is defined as music which contains elements of pop, soul, funk, hip-hop and electronic music.***

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Completed Petitions may be mailed to: RIRBPS, 12 Kipling Street, Providence, RI 02907. Thank you.