



Keeping Classic R&B Alive

Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society

Affiliate Member of the National Blues Foundation

www.bluespreservationsociety.org | 12 Kipling Street, Providence, RI 02907 | 401.461.0012

RHYTHM & BLUES NEWS of NOTE

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Whiting

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President Cleveland Kurtz

From the President's Desk

New Year's Resolution

I guess by now you have already made your New Year's resolution or resolutions; and maybe you have already broken a couple, too. Don't fret; I have just the resolution for you. How would you like to get involved; meet and hang out with cool people, listen to great music, and contribute to the community at the same time? If your answer is yes, and I think it is; the Rhode Island Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society has a slot for you. For this New Year, why not resolve to spend some of your time and energy helping us. We do good things, and assure that your time and energy will be well spent.

The Rhode Island Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society is an all-volunteer community-based group. We fit comfortably in the Rhode Island arts and cultural scene and have been involved for more than a decade. Your support will be of great value to us, and we can use it in all phases of our operation. For example, we can use your help with grant writing or producing the Newsletter that you are reading right now. Some of you have a gift for making posters, fliers, writing clever blurbs, and everything else that goes with advertising and promotions. You may have expertise in finance or computers. We have a place for both you and your talent in our organization.

I know there are some writers among you, and there are some history lovers, too. We have all the ingredients for a wonderful illustrated music history project waiting for someone like you to help us put it all together. Our catalogued videos are available on social media and in our archives housed in the Rhode Island Historical Society archives.

Some of you would love producing musical events, and if you give us a hand, maybe we will produce more. Our Instruments for Children Program is going full blast, and if you love working with and for young people, I bet we can find a place for you.

We would love it if your New Year's Resolution was to spend some of your time and energy with us. It will bring you much satisfaction. We know this because our efforts bring that same satisfaction to us, and we would like to share it with you.

Happy New Year

Wishing our friends, supporters, music lovers

R&B movers and shakers

A very happy, healthy, peaceful 2018

We look forward to seeing you this year.

Donations Greatly Appreciated

Vice President / Music Director – Max Whiting



January marks a new year for all of us and for RIRBPS we've had many successes. Our Instruments Program handed out over 80 instruments to area schools, we expanded the number of schools we are assisting and had two extremely successful events: The 3rd **Annual Meet & Greet** and the 8th **Annual**

Heritage Month Festival in August. **Bluz You Can Use** performed high-energy, R&B and smooth soul for an evening of music, dance and song at our annual August Festival. **The Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts & The Wheeler School** showcased our Meet & Greet; a resounding success with a full house at the Temple on a cold rainy Sunday afternoon. If you missed these events, we look forward to seeing you in 2018.

Wheeler STUDENTS Meet & Greet



♪♪♪ OF INTEREST

Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts was featured at our 3rd **Annual Meet & Greet** this past October. This was a multi-faceted evening of music and song. The **Meet & Greet** offered our members and guests an opportunity to see youth performers who have been the recipients of the **Instruments for Children** programming along with guest performers from **The Wheeler School** of Providence. Our

event also acknowledged the contribution to our organization made by two **Boy Scouts** who raised funds and collected musical instruments as part of their **Eagle Scout** accomplishments. The annual **Meet & Greet** offers an opportunity for our members, guests, community supporters, parents and young musicians to meet our members and mingle around the music we love.

The Wheeler School Jazz Band under the leadership of Nick Toscano, Band Instructor opened the evening with smooth tunes from their repertoire along with solos from student performers. 20+

students arrived to support their fellow classmates along with family and friends. Band

Leader, Nick Toscano lead a classy group of students with soft, smooth tunes.

The **Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts** students then took the stage with a show of force; rockin' music, song, musical expression and energy from the student performers and the audience. Avi David, Band Leader/Performer brought a polished group of student performers.

TAPA Stars 2017



TAPA Performers 2017



The Wheeler School



The Wheeler School Performers



Eagle Scouts Recognized



L-R. Max Whiting, VP, RIRBPS, Eagle Scouts Greycin Bobola & Neil Britton & Tom Colantonio, Director, Instruments Program, RIRBPS.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of two local **Boy Scouts** who took on the challenge of collecting instruments and donations for the Instruments for Children Program. **Greycin Bobola, and Neil Britton**, contacted RIRBPS in 2016 to offer support to music students who would not be able to purchase their own instruments. Greycin, a Scout in Troop 1, Diamond Hill, Cumberland and Student Band member at

Neil & Greycin -Eagle Scouts



Bishop Hendricken HS, collected instruments and donations for other deserving student while working toward his Eagle Scout ranking. He also organized a car wash to support RIRBPS. Fellow Eagle Scout Neil Britton collected instruments “as a way to spread my love of music to others so they can have the opportunity

and share the same passion.” A member of Troop 55 in Riverside, RI, while a Senior at E. Providence HS, Neil collected about 40 instruments and monetary donations to help RIRBPS. He found RIRBPS through online searching, stumbled upon the website looking for a non-profit organization to work with for his Eagle Project. Neil, now a student at Rhode Island College is studying Music Education. “My primary Instrument is Trumpet, but I also play Guitar, Piano, and Percussion. My aspirations are to become a music teacher to continue spreading the love and joy of music to students” he told RIRBPS.

Leland Baker-R&B Artist



The RIRBPS R&B Preservation Hall Band closed out the evening with a performance and jam as they welcomed students and teachers from the participating groups. The R&B Preservation Hall Band featured Band Leader Max Whiting on Bass, Paul Williams, Guitar/Vocals, Randall Ashe, Drums and Paul Duquette, Keys.

They were joined on stage by Nick Toscano, Band Leader & Drummer from The Wheeler School, Leland Baker, Saxe, Robert Greene, Guitar and other local musicians.

R&B Preservation Hall Band



Secretary/Treasurer - Sylvia Whiting

At the suggestion of the Board of Directors this edition of the **News of Note Newsletter** includes a **Member Survey** (page 7). We are

seeking input on how to involve our supporters and friends more directly in programming, focus, direction and support. The President’s Message identifies a number of areas where you may be more involved. The **Survey** offers you the opportunity to express your ideas. We ask that you take a few minutes, fill out the survey and return it to us. Thank you for your ideas and suggestions. As we start a new year we are pleased to inform you that we continue to be on solid footing with support of local organizations, donors and contributors; however since the start of the new school year, we have needs for instrument repair, travel, and events that drained our kitty. Many of you have not yet renewed your membership. All donations are tax deductible. For information, volunteer opportunities, musician listings, programming and donations please visit us at www.bluespreservationsociety.org.

MEMBER SURVEY
Please share your ideas
And Interests
What do you want for RIRBPS?

OUR PROGRAMS *Director, Instruments for Children Program, Tom Colantonio*

2017 brought instruments into the hands of children at Frank Spaziano Avenue Elementary School, Vartan Gregorian Elementary School, West Broadway Elementary School and Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts in Providence, Woonsocket Middle School, Community String Project, Bristol and Northern Lincoln Elementary School in Manville with over 80 instruments donated this year! A special 'thanks' goes to Rob, Teri & Bart at **Roberts Music**, Art at **Musicians Corner**, Joel Greene and Anthony of **Village Drum** who year after year check out and refurbish the donated instruments into playable condition. We hope you'll support these local businesses for all your instrument and repair needs.

Musical Instruments Needed
Violins, Violas, Trumpets, Flutes,
Trombones, Clarinets, Saxophones,
Call Tom @ 401.793.1281

As our programs grow and word spreads we hear from a host of school systems that are re-activating, growing and expanding their performing arts programming. It is gratifying to see the efforts of the teachers from the above schools go above and beyond to promote music education. Through the efforts of others who hear about RIRBPS we have been able to collect instruments from

volunteers, the Boy Scouts, Theatre by the Sea, individuals and groups. This is gratifying to see that our programming is appreciated and acknowledged. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Looking forward to 2018 being just as successful in our efforts!

Tom Colantonio, Program Director has been instrumental in expanding this program, identifying new sources for instrument donations and developing leads for programs and students to benefit from this resource. 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.

MUSICIANS CORNER

Tish Adams Jazz Trio

Meanwhile, on the radio... Join Tish for her "**VOCALISTS & LOCALISTS**" show, Thursday mornings, 8-10 AM, 90.3 FM, WRIU Kingston...a COMMERCIAL-FREE broadcast service from the University of Rhode Island, staffed by VOLUNTEERS!!!

Ashe's Wednesday Smooth Jazz

Every Wednesday, 7:00 -10:00 PM, The Temple, 883 Eddy Street, Providence, RI. No Cover. Smooth jazz sounds of the **Leland Baker Band**, Hosted by Randall Ashe. Light refreshments, intimate ambience, friends, enjoyable music.

Becky Bass

EVERY SUNDAY, 8-11PM, Newport Blues Café, 286 Thames Street, Newport, RI, No Cover, Caribbean Soul Trio featuring Becky Bass, Vocals & Steel Pan, Jhony Keys, Keys & Bass, Matt Williams, Drums, (401) 841- 5510

Tom Colantonio

Watch for new Venue: The "**Blues Jam; Blues and More**" is looking for a new venue during the winter months! Stay tuned for dates and times. Host, Andy Rizzotti and the South Street Blues Band. Best "musician friendly" jam!

Max Whiting

Jazz @ Haley House Café, 1st Thursday, 12 Dade Street, Roxbury, MA featuring Fulani Haynes Jazz Collaborative, 7PM, great food, music, ambience.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Thomas & Laura Gallagher of Riverside, RI
Karen Golembeski & Tom Hryzan of Warwick, RI
Victoria Serra & Kassondra of Warwick, RI
Margaret & Rachael Serra of Johnston, RI
Paul Soloman of Taunton, MA
Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts of Providence, RI
Paul Williams of Providence, RI

Find Us on the Web
www.bluespreservationsociety.org

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

133 Club, Sunday, April 23rd, 29 Warren Ave., East Providence 401.438.1330 - Mac Odom Band.
Motown R&B - NO COVER

Cady's Tavern, 2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI, 401.568.4102. Blues Jam, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.
<http://www.cadystavern.com/#!ricks-roadhouse-blues>, no cover.

Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard 162 W. Main Rd, Little Compton, RI,
6:00PM, \$10 cash per car load and \$10 voucher for estate wine
selections, 401.635.8486, www.sakonnetwine.com.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?
Skills Needed
Technical /Accounting/Finance

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

Knickerbocker Café 35 Railroad Avenue, Westerly, RI. 401.315.5070. ***Events featured every night.*** Open Mike every
Thursday, 8-11PM, classic blues, R&B, Rock, Oldies, Pop. <http://www.theknickerbockercafe.com>. No cover.

Landing Restaurant and Bar, Dockside, Bowen's Wharf, Newport 401.847.4514 Live music outdoors every afternoon
and evening, dancing inside Season opens end of April.

Murphy's Law 2 George Street, Pawtucket, RI. 401.724.5522. Blues jam Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock. No Cover.
<http://murphyslawri.com/events>.

Sardella's Italian Restaurant, 30 Memorial Blvd., Newport 401.849.6312 Wed. nights live Jazz
4/26 Dick Lupino, Mary Andrews, Pat Cordeiro, and Jeff Fountain

Tarragon Bar 311 Westminster St., Providence RI, Blues and jazz Sunday nights at 7:30 PM. No cover.

The Parlour, 1119 N. Main Street, Providence, RI. Wednesday nights at 10PM. Eric Bloom & the Funky Autocrats.
<http://theparlourri.com/events/eric-bloom-the-funky-autocrats> or www.facebook.com/FunkyAutocrats.

The Pub on Park 661 Park Ave., Cranston RI - Vintage R&B Ensemble, Wednesday nights, 8:00-10:00 PM

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

Villa Restaurant 272 Cowesett Avenue, W Warwick RI - Vintage R&B Ensemble. Every Sunday 5-8 PM.

**Rhode Island Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society
2018 Member Survey**

1) What was your primary reason for joining the Rhode Island Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society?

2) Do you understand the *Mission Statement* of RIRBPS? Yes No

3) What Programs of RIRBPS are you familiar with?

<input type="checkbox"/> Instruments Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Oral History Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Hall Band
<input type="checkbox"/> R&B Education	<input type="checkbox"/> International Blues Challenge	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Performer Support
<input type="checkbox"/> Last Chord	<input type="checkbox"/> Members Discounts/Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter

3) Where do you see the greatest need for improvement in RIRBPS?

4a) Would you like to become more involved in RIRBPS? Yes No

4b) If yes, in what areas of RIRBPS would like to become more involved?

<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Programming
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Finances	<input type="checkbox"/> R&B Band	<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Support
<input type="checkbox"/> Website/Facebook	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other areas of support _____			

5) Have you attended a RIRBPS function this year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
In the Past two years?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you ever attended a RIRBPS function?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

If not, please explain why you were not able to attend our functions.

6) What event/function would you like to see the RIRBPS hold/sponsor?

7) Is our Membership Dues structure adequate? Yes No

8) Non-Members: Would you consider joining RIRBPS? Yes No
If not, why?

Thank you for completing the RIRBPS 2018 Survey. We seek to improve and expand our programming and support for R&B in Rhode Island. Your feedback is invaluable to this effort.

Return to: RIRBPS 112 Kipling Street, Providence, RI 02907 Email to: rirbps@gmail.com / 401.461.0012