

JANUARY 2021

Charlotte Blues Society

Monthly E-Bluesletter



RICK BALLEW



SMOKIN' BLUZZ

In this Bluesletter:

He's BACKKKK!
2020 ends with a new
beginning for Rick Ballew
and Smokin' Bluz!

Marty Gunther "Red Hot & Blues
Reviews"

Michael Ingmire: "Dion-Blues with
Friends"



As we round the corner into 2021, Charlotte Blues Society members remember the days of live music, talented performances from artists from around the world gracing our stages, and the terrific local and regional talent we have all enjoyed.

2020 came to a grinding halt in March with the shutdowns, stay at home orders and the pandemic that caused all of us to take stock in ourselves, and our communities. The ability to go to live shows became a thing of the past, and live streaming of shows became the norm.

Talented musicians who had national and international tours slated were forced to cancel. GoFundMe and pay-per-view shows became a reality for artists struggling to survive as in person events were eliminated. Patreon became a stronger force for good for those who wanted to support their favorite artists-especially the newest talent. Established artists had an advantage, but new artists became increasingly more familiar with social media to stay on top and in the public eye, hoping to scratch a living out of the available dollars in an economy that was in crisis.

Venues were forced to close. Some of those iconic doors may now be forever shut, and only time will determine whether the strong will survive. SOS, Save Our Stages launched a huge campaign that is still far from over.

We soon realized just how much we took for granted in an open society, and we learned to live in our bubbles. For some of us, our bubbles were incredibly small, but ZOOM, FaceTime and other other ways of communicating helped to at least dampen the loss of personal contact.

What 2021 will bring by way of live entertainment remains to be seen. I am getting notices daily about artists planning to tour in 2021, with optimistic outlooks for festival season. I love that.

For us, we are already booked for a delayed Anniversary event, and sometime in April we hope to have Vanessa Collier in the house to help us celebrate 28 years strong. Where that performance will take place is unknown, as our blues home at The Rabbit Hole has been sold. We are still in search of a new location. Ken Deery is lead on that search for the board.

Music lovers are a strong lot, we love it fiercely and it gets us through our darkest days. I thoroughly believe that the world will right itself, and we shall all be "dancin in the street" in 2021...maybe not this month, but it will happen. Plus the huge SPAH Convention in August 2021 where the world will come to party!

In the meantime, our friend and former CBS President Rick Ballew has returned to the airwaves with his "Smokin' Bluz" show. Full details on page 4.

For now: Celebrate the New Year safely! Stay positive and let's make 2021 memorable!

~Mary London Szpara President



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KOOZIE

\$2



Keep Your
Head Warm

WITH A CBS
CAP

\$20

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DONATION

The logo for 'Smokin' Bluz' is presented on a black guitar pick. The word 'SMOKIN'' is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below it, the word 'BLUZ' is written in a stylized, blue, blocky font with a digital glitch effect, where the letters are slightly offset and have a jagged, pixelated appearance.

SMOKIN'
BLUZ

with
Rick Ballew

It's Back!

Rick Ballew brings his Keepin' The Blues Alive! Award winning show back on the air courtesy of Public Radio in South Carolina starting Christmas Night December 25, 2020 on 98.5 WYTX FM.

PD Jack Anthony contacted Rick and the much loved and missed show Rick launched years ago in Charlotte has returned. It will air on Jack's network throughout the world, including Australia.

It will air Sunday nights 8-10 beginning January 2021

Go to the App Store and download **WYTX.FM** to hear the show.

Want to know how it all started, well continue reading and Rick will tell you the whole story....

Smokin' Bluz started at a meeting with my friend and program director Jeff Kent at WRFX FM in Charlotte. He talked about needing a show on Sunday night to lead in to the Rock Talk program. The idea was a show that wasn't necessarily the Classic Rock format but was connected to the format.

I had planned a vacation the following week to the Redneck Riviera and spent a couple of days in New Orleans. I was thinking about Jeff's challenge and walked into Tower Records. I was drawn to the Blues section and picked up the double CD of Alligator Records 25th Anniversary collection. The collection included artists Stevie Ray Vaughn and Elvin Bishop, both Classic Rock artists. The next day I went back to Tower and added to my collection of Blues.

I continued listening and started to develop a little format that was a Rock Blues format that included Classic Rock artist playing the Blues. I called Jeff and told him I had something that was Blues based but didn't take away from the daily format. We decided to get together for a bucket of beers at the Sandwich Construction Company and we would come up with a name for the show. We invited our friend Mr. Bill, the afternoon on air personality at the Classic Rock station with Jeff, 99.7 WRFX The FOX.

We started running through potential names and Mr. Bill said "Smokin' Blues" and that was it. I changed the spelling to Bluz to make it hip.

The first airing was Christmas night and the show earned a permanent spot on Sunday night. Over the course of time Smokin' Bluz won the Keeping the Blues Alive award for Best Commercial Radio Blues Program from the International Blues Foundation in Memphis TN. We started having musicians play "live" in the studio. Robin Rogers was a monthly regular and very popular.

In 2012 the show was dropped because of changes going on at the station but we had a fifteen year run. Then around Thanksgiving 2020 I got a call from good friend and program director Jack Anthony and he wanted to bring Smokin' Bluz back. The show is back on Sunday night at 98.5 WYTX FM from 8-10. Smokin' Bluz is available online at WYTXFM and in your App Store for free. Smokin' Bluz owes a lot of our success to The Charlotte Blues Society and their continued support.

2020 RIP

Music World losses

- Marty Grebb** The Buckingham 74 January 1, 2020
Tommy Hancock 90 January 1, 2020
Lorraine Chandler 73 January 2, 2020
Bo Winberg The Spotnicks 80 January 3, 2020
Martin Griffin Ark, Sonic Assassins, Hawklords, Hawkwind 69 January 6, 2020
Neil Peart Rush 67 January 7, 2020
Bobby Comstock 78 January 9, 2020
Tom Alexander The Alexander Brothers 85 January 9, 2020
Marc Morgan 57 January 10, 2020
Alana Filippi 59 January 11, 2020
Steve Martin Caro The Left Banke 71 January 14, 2020
Chris Darrow Kaleidoscope, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band 75 January 15, 2020
David Olney 71 January 18, 2020
Joe Payne Divine Heresy, Nile 35 January 24, 2020
Reed Mullin Corrosion Of Conformity Teenage Time Killers 53 January 27, 2020
Bob Nave The Lemon Pipers 75 January 28, 2020
Andy Gill Gang of Four 64 February 1, 2020
Josh Pappé Dirty Rotten Imbeciles.Gang Green 53 February 1, 2020
Ivan Král Patti Smith Group 71 February 2, 2020
Steve Weber The Holy Modal Rounders 76 February 7, 2020
Lyle Mays Pat Metheny Group 66 February 10, 2020
Joseph Shabalala Ladysmith, Black Mambazo 79 February 11, 2020
Paul English 87 February 12, 2020
Jacob Thiele The Faint 40 February 13, 2020
Henry Gray 95 February 17, 2020
Pop Smoke 20 February 19, 2020
Elyse Weinberg 74 February 20, 2020
David Roback Mazzy Star 61 February 25, 2020
Mike Somerville Head East 67 February 28, 2020
Simon Posthuma The Fool 81 February 28, 2020
Barbara Martin The Supremes 76 March 4, 2020
Charlie Baty Little Charlie & the Nightcats 66 March 6, 2020
Eric Taylor 70 March 9, 2020
Keith Olsen Record producer and sound engineerThe Music Machine 74 March 9, 2020
Phil Phillips 94 March 14, 2020
Jason Rainey Sacred Reich 53 March 16, 2020
Kenny Rogers Kenny Rogers and The First Edition 81 March 20, 2020
Jerry Slick The Great Society 80 March 20, 2020
Julie Felix 81 March 22, 2020
Manu Dibango 86 March 24, 2020
Bill Rieflin King Crimson, R.E.M. 59 March 24, 2020
Neil Landon The Ivy League, Fat Mattress 78 March 26, 2020
Bob Andy 75 March 27, 2020
Joe Diffie 61 March 27, 2020
Lou "L.A." Kouvaris Riot 66 March 28, 2020
Alan Merrill Arrows 69 March 29, 2020
Bill Withers 81 March 30, 2020
Cristina Singer with ZE Records 64 March 31, 2020



ADAM SCHLESINGER FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE, IVY 52 APRIL 1, 2020
VAUGHAN MASON, VAUGHAN MASON & CREW 69 APRIL 3, 2020
PATRICK GIBSON, THE GIBSON BROTHERS 64 APRIL 4, 2020
JOHN PRINE 73 APRIL 7, 2020
HUTCH DAVIE , SONGWRITER AND ARRANGER 89 APRIL 7, 2020
STEVE FARMER, THE AMBOY DUKES 71 APRIL 7, 2020
CARL DOBKINS JR. 79 APRIL 8, 2020
KENNY YOUNG SONGWRITER AND MEMBER OF FOX 79 APRIL 14, 2020
CHRISTOPHE 74 APRIL 16, 2020
BARNEY ALES MUSIC INDUSTRY EXECUTIVE FROM MOTOWN RECORDS 85 APRIL 17, 2020
MATTHEW SELIGMAN , THE SOFT BOYS, THOMPSON TWINS 64 APRIL 17, 2020
TERRY DORAN, BEATLES ASSOCIATE, MANAGER OF GRAPEFRUIT 80 APRIL 19, 2020
IAN WHITCOMB 78 APRIL 19, 2020
RONAN O'RAHILLY FOUNDER OF RADIO CAROLINE 79 APRIL 20, 2020
DEREK JONES, FALLING IN REVERSE 35 APRIL 21, 2020
FLORIAN SCHNEIDER, KRAFTWERK 73 APRIL 21, 2020
HAMILTON BOHANNON 78 APRIL 24, 2020
YOUNG JESSIE 83 APRIL 27, 2020
SCOTT TAYLOR, THEN JERICO 58 APRIL 27, 2020
BOBBY LEWIS 95 APRIL 28, 2020
TAVO LIMONGI RESORTE 52 MAY 1, 2020
ERWIN PRASETYA , DEWA 19, 48 MAY 2, 2020
DAVE GREENFIELD THE STRANGLERS 71 MAY 3, 2020
BOB LANDER, THE SPOTNICKS 78 MAY 3, 2020
MILLIE SMALL 72 MAY 5, 2020
SWEET PEA ATKINSON , WAS (NOT WAS) 74 MAY 5, 2020
BRIAN HOWE, TED NUGENT, BAD COMPANY 66 MAY 6, 2020
LITTLE RICHARD 87 MAY 9, 2020
BETTY WRIGHT 66 MAY 10, 2020
MOON MARTIN 69 MAY 11, 2020
DEREK LAWRENCE, PRODUCER OF DEEP PURPLE AND WISHBONE ASH 78 MAY 13, 2020
JORGE SANTANA , MALO 68 MAY 14, 2020
PHIL MAY, PRETTY THINGS 75 MAY 15, 2020
MORY KANTÉ 70 MAY 22, 2020
AL REX , BILL HALEY & HIS COMETS 91 MAY 25, 2020
JOEY IMAGE, MISFITS 63 JUNE 1, 2020
CHRIS TROUSDALE, DREAM STREET 34 JUNE 2, 2020
STEVE PRIEST, THE SWEET 72 JUNE 4, 2020
RUPERT HINE, RECORD PRODUCER FROM THINKMAN, QUANTUM JUMP 72 JUNE 4, 2020
FRANK BEY 74 JUNE 7, 2020
BONNIE POINTER, THE POINTER SISTERS 69 JUNE 8, 2020
PAUL CHAPMAN, UFO, LONE STAR 66 JUNE 9, 2020
RICKY VALANCE 84 JUNE 12, 2020
KEITH TIPPETT, CENTIPEDE, MUJICIAN 72 JUNE 14, 2020



YOHAN, TST 28 JUNE 16, 2020
VERA LYNN 103 JUNE 18, 2020
HUX BROWN, TOOTS AND THE MAYTALS 75 JUNE 18, 2020
HUEY 31 JUNE 25, 2020
TAMI LYNN 78 JUNE 26, 2020
PETE CARR, MUSCLE SHOALS RHYTHM SECTION 70 JUNE 27, 2020
TOM FINN THE LEFT BANKE 71 JUNE 27, 2020
BENNY MARDONES 73 JUNE 29, 2020
MAX CROOK 83 JULY 1, 2020 [105]
MARVIN BROWN, THE SOFTONES 66 JULY 3, 2020
CHARLIE DANIELS 83 JULY 6, 2020
JUDY DYBLE, FAIRPORT CONVENTION, TRADER HORNE 71 JULY 12, 2020
EMITT RHODES 70 JULY 19, 2020
TIM SMITH, CARDIACS, THE SEA NYMPHS 59 JULY 21, 2020
SEAN O'MAHONY, FOUNDER OF THE BEATLES BOOK
AND RECORD COLLECTOR 88 JULY 21, 2020
PETER GREEN, JOHN MAYALL & THE BLUESBREAKERS, FLEETWOOD MAC 73 JULY 25, 2020
SHMOULIK AVIGAL, PICTURE, THE RODS 65 JULY 30, 2020
STEVE HOLLAND, MOLLY HATCHET 66 AUGUST 2, 2020
TONY COSTANZA, MACHINE HEAD 52 AUGUST 4, 2020
JAN SAVAGE, THE SEEDS 77 AUGUST 5, 2020
WAYNE FONTANA 74 AUGUST 6, 2020
MARK WIRTZ, A TEENAGE OPERA 76 AUGUST 7, 2020
SALOME BEY 86 AUGUST 8, 2020
MARTIN BIRCH, RECORD PRODUCER 71 AUGUST 9, 2020
TRINI LOPEZ 83 AUGUST 11, 2020
PETE WAY, UFO, WAYSTED, FASTWAY 69 AUGUST 14, 2020
FRANKIE BANALI, QUIET RIOT, W.A.S.P. 68 AUGUST 20, 2020
JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE 38 AUGUST 20, 2020
JACK SHERMAN, RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS 64 AUGUST 18, 2020
WALTER LURE, THE HEARTBREAKERS 71 AUGUST 22, 2020
RILEY GALE, POWER TRIP 34 AUGUST 24, 2020
GERRY MCGHEE, BRIGHTON ROCK 58 AUGUST 25, 2020
IAN MITCHELL, BAY CITY ROLLERS 62 SEPTEMBER 1, 2020
BRUCE WILLIAMSON, THE TEMPTATIONS 49 SEPTEMBER 6, 2020
SIMEON COXE, SILVER APPLES 82 SEPTEMBER 4, 2020
RONALD BELL KOOL & THE GANG 68 SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
TOOTS HIBBERT, TOOTS & THE MAYTALS 77 SEPTEMBER 11, 2020
EDNA WRIGHT, HONEY CONE 76 SEPTEMBER 12, 2020
PAMELA HUTCHINSON, THE EMOTIONS 61 SEPTEMBER 18, 2020
LEE KERSLAKE, URIAH HEPP, OZZY OSBOURNE, LIVING LOUD, TOE FAT 73 SEPTEMBER 19, 2020
TOMMY DEVITO, THE FOUR SEASONS 92 SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
ROY HEAD 79 SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
JULIETTE GRÉCO 93 SEPTEMBER 24, 2020
MAX MERRITT, THE METEORS 79 SEPTEMBER 24, 2020
MARK STONE, VAN HALEN 79 SEPTEMBER 26, 2020
JACKIE DENNIS 77 SEPTEMBER 28, 2020
MAC DAVIS 78 SEPTEMBER 29, 2020
HELEN REDDY 78 SEPTEMBER 29, 2020



EDDIE VAN HALEN, VAN HALEN 65 OCTOBER 6, 2020
JOHNNY NASH 80 OCTOBER 6, 2020
BRIAN LOCKING, THE SHADOWS 82 OCTOBER 08, 2020
DAVE MUNDEN, THE TREMELOES 76 OCTOBER 15, 2020
GORDON HASKELL, THE FLEUR DE LYS, KING CRIMSON 74 OCTOBER 16, 2020
SPENCER DAVIS, SPENCER DAVIS GROUP 81 OCTOBER 19, 2020
TONY LEWIS, THE OUTFIELD 62 OCTOBER 19, 2020
JERRY JEFF WALKER 78 OCTOBER 23, 2020
TOM WOLGERS, LUSTANS LAKEJER, MOCKBA MUSIC 61 NOVEMBER 3, 2020
KEN HENSLEY, URIAH HEEP, TOE FAT, THE GODS, BLACKFOOT 75 NOVEMBER 4, 2020
LEN BARRY, THE DOVELLS 78 NOVEMBER 5, 2020
BONES HILLMAN, MIDNIGHT OIL 62 NOVEMBER 7, 2020
JIM TUCKER, THE TURTLES 74 NOVEMBER 12, 2020
DONNIE GRANT, GUYS 'N' DOLLS 71 NOVEMBER 18, 2020
TONY HOOPER, STRAWBS 81 NOVEMBER 18, 2020
ERIC PACHECO, BABYLON A.D. 53 DECEMBER 6, 2020
JASON SLATER, QUEENSRYCHE, THIRD EYE BLIND 49 DECEMBER 9, 2020
CHARLEY PRIDE 86 DECEMBER 12, 2020
SAM JAYNE, LOVE AS LAUGHTER, LYNC 46 DECEMBER 15, 2020
CLAY ANTHONY, JUNKYARD 61 DECEMBER 19, 2020
DIETER HORNS, LUCIFER'S FRIEND 74 DECEMBER 19, 2020
PELLE ALSING, ROXETTE 60 DECEMBER 20, 2020
CHAD STUART, CHAD & JEREMY 79 DECEMBER 20, 2020
LESLIE WEST, MOUNTAIN 75 DECEMBER 22, 2020



BE A PART OF THE BLUES CELEBRATION EVERY WEEK ON

CAN'T STOP THE BLUES

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cantstoptheblues/>

Any members interested in performing on **CSTB**, please check out their page or group- look at a few previous shows in the video archives to get a feel for what it takes to put a show together, then send your information for consideration to:

booking@can'tstoptheblues.com

LOCAL ARTISTS TAKE NOTE

The goal of **CSTB** is to provide a platform to help full-time touring blues artists, however they would be happy to work with us and other blues societies looking to feature our top local talent in a multi-artist show too.



SPAH's coming – and a great time's ahead!

~ Marty Gunther

Big things are ahead for Charlotte Blues Society. For the first time since its founding in 1963, the Society for the Preservation and Advancement of Harmonica (SPAH) will be holding its annual convention east of the Mississippi, and it's coming to the Queen City next summer, and CBS is serving as its host – quite an honor when you consider that we're the first organization other than a local harmonica club ever to receive the designation.

Mark your calendar: Scheduled for Aug. 11-15, 2021, the convention draws more than 500 harmonica players of all styles and skill levels each year as well as representatives from all of the top manufacturers for a four-day event, and it's one of the friendliest, most laid-back gatherings you'll ever attend.

Several blues superstars appear annually. In recent years, Charlie Musselwhite, Dennis Gruenling, Carlos del Junco, Jason Ricci, Will Scarlett Joe Filisko and others have participated. And also in attendance are the cream of the crop of players from all fields, including folks who play in symphony and classical orchestras, carry on tradition of the small groups like the Harmonicats or play country, rock or folk.

Surprises abound everywhere. Here's a taste – a video that capture's Tom Stryker's Harmonica Big Band, a unit composed of several of the most important chromatic players in the world, doing what they do best, performing a piece by Joe Mullendore, the man who composed the Star Trek theme: [video link](#)

In the months ahead, we'll be looking for volunteers to serve as ambassadors for the convention, each of whom will work short shifts. Responsibilities will vary from providing transportation before and after the event to serving as aides for workshops, as door attendants for shows and more. It's an event you won't want to miss. As a bonus: all volunteers will be welcome to attend the full slate of events each day they serve.

CBS is also inviting our fellow Blues Societies in NC, and music societies, to join us in this first ever event on the East Coast!





Duke Robillard & Friends – Blues Bash!

(Stony Plain Records SPCD 1423)

www.dukerobillard.com

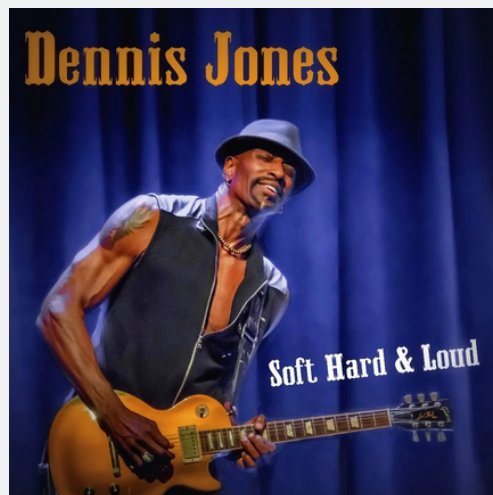
Guitar virtuoso Duke Robillard and cohorts deliver steady grooves and over-the-top class in this impeccable album, a mix of new tunes and timeless classics freshened with a modern touch. It completely free of lyrical and instrumental hooks, but will have you dancing like they did in the '50s. Recorded at Lakewest Studio in Rhode Island just prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, Duke's backed by his skintight regular unit augmented by two horn sections, one of which is a reunion of first-generation members of Roomful of Blues. Robillard shares vocals with New England favorites Michelle "Evil Gal" Willson and Chris Cote, and Bay Area harp master Mark Hummel sits in, too. From the opening cuts of "Do You Mean It," Blues Bash! rocks. Dial in the originals "No Time," "Give Me All the Love You Got!" and the extended instrumental "Just Chillin'" as well as a few obscure, but deserving covers and material culled from the songbooks of Dave Bartholomew, Al King and Roy Milton.

Dennis Jones – Soft Hard & Loud

(Blue Rock Records)

www.dennisjonescentral.com

Los Angeles-based guitarist Dennis Jones has been touring the world since winning the International Blues Challenge in 2004. Despite playing in a power-trio format, he consistently delivers contemporary blues, blues-rock, funk and more in a far broader spectrum that most bands that size – something that's done so seemingly effortlessly here that it's easy to overlook his talent. A former drummer influenced by Jimmy Page, Billy F. Gibbons and Jimi Hendrix, Jones is a fret master who uses intense, driving rhythms rather than flash and slash to drive his message home backed by a muscular rhythm section – bassist/keyboard player Cornelius Mims and percussionist Raymond Johnson. An all-original set infused with echoes from the past, give a good listen to the funky "Revolves Around You," the sleek "I Love the Blues," the driving "Front Door Man," the reggae flavored "I Hate Hate," the blazing "Gonna Be Alright," the love song "I'm Not" and "Burn the Plantation Down."



Henry Gray & Bob Corritore – Henry Gray & Bob

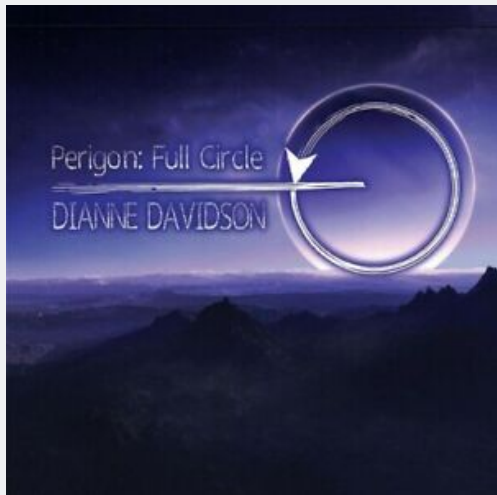
Corritore Sessions Vol. 2: Cold Chills

(VizzTone/SWMAF Records SWMAF17)

www.bobcorritore.com

Here's a treasure for lovers of old-school Chicago blues: a pairing of Henry Gray, one of the most important piano players ever, and Bob Corritore, the Windy City-trained harp player who's owned The Rhythm Room in Phoenix, Ariz., for decades. It's a loving tribute, too, because Henry left last February at age 95. A two-fisted talent with a strong voice, Gray grew up in Kenner, La., but helped create the Chicago sound as an early member of Howlin' Wolf's band and establishing the Gulf Coast blues, too, working with Slim Harpo, Whispering Smith and others. Corritore, meanwhile, is an Arizona Blues Hall of Famer who's enjoyed a stellar recording career, primarily preferring to leave the limelight to others. They're backed by about two dozen world-class talents from the Windy City and West Coast – including Robert Lockwood Jr., Bob Margolin, Johnny Burgin, Kirk Fletcher, Tail Dragger, Bob Stroger and Chico Chism – and breathe new life into 15 standards with class and gusto.





Dianne Davidson – Perigon: Full Circle

(Perigon Music HWCD006)

www.diannedavidson.com

A Tennessee native who's been a recording artist since the early '70s, Dianne Davidson is a stylish, rich alto who delivers a set of tunes packed with emotion on this one. She's backed by collection of top Nashville sessions players as well as Ruthie Foster and the Maasai Tribal Choir. Comfortable in folk, blues, rock and reggae, Dianne received a diverse musical education that took her from Beale Street to Greenwich Village and the West Coast. A popular backing vocalist, she worked with Linda Ronstadt, Barry Manilow and B.B. King, among others. Davidson penned ten of the 12 cuts, all of which are lushly produced, deeply introspective and blues-infused with occasional pop overtones. Among the top takes are "Just Out of Reach," "Subtle Touch" – a duet with Foster, the cover tune "Over Africa" – backed by the Maasais, "True Believer," "The Island," "Precious Boys" and "Missing You Tonight."

Kevin Burt – Stone Crazy

(Gulf Coast Records GCRX 9027)

www.kevinburtmusic.com

After toiling in the shadows in Iowa for better than 25 years, Kevin Burt exploded onto the blues scene in 2018, winning three awards – including top honors – at the IBCs, dazzling judges with his skill on guitar and harp as well as a vocal range that rivals Aaron Neville or Bill Withers. One listen to this and you'll instantly understand why. Kevin penned ten of the 11 cuts, which were recorded in full-band setting by Mike Zito at Marz Studios in Nederland, Texas. They're a soulful collection of modern blues with a traditional feel that are chockful of personal insights about love and relationships that ring true no matter your background. Do yourself a favor and give this toe-tapper a spin. The highlights come fast and furious, including "I Ain't Got No Problem with It," "Purdy Little Thing," "Stone Crazy," "You Get What You See," "Something Special About You," "Should Have Never Left Me Alone" and the Withers cover, "Better Off Dead."



Miss Emily – Live at the Isabel

(Self-produced CD)

www.themissemily.com

A honey-toned powerhouse who imbues everything she sings with emotion, Miss Emily is the reigning Maple Blues Award winner as female vocalist of the year, she she blows the doors off of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts in her adopted hometown – Kingston, Ont. – here. It's a 58-minute set of blues, soul, jazz and gospel that was compiled from multiple performances across a three-year period with backing from her regular touring band and guest appearances from Gord Sinclair and Rob Baker of The Tragically Hip as well as other top talent. This disc shines like a diamond with no dead spots. The highlights include "Sometimes It's Better to Lose," "Who Is He," a jazzy take on "The Letter," "Blue Is Still Blue," "The Sell-Out," "Beautiful You" and "Hold Back the River." Highly recommended.





Johnny Rawls – Where Have All the Soul Men Gone

(Third Street Cigar Records)

www.johnnyrawlsblues.com

Soul-blues giant Johnny Rawls has always had a deep love and respect for his elders – as evidenced by his most recent previous release, the bittersweet pleaser *I Miss Otis Clay*. And – thank goodness – as a current standard bearer for the music, the torch burns brightly in Johnny's arms and voice today. A two time Blues Music Award winner for soul-blues album of the year, Rawls primarily recorded this one in Denmark aided by some of the top studio players in Europe just prior to the coronavirus outbreak with additional work performed at Bigfoot Studios in Waterville, Ohio, this past June. An all-original set that's as comfortable as a well-worn pair of slippers, the action opens with "Where Have All the Soulmen Gone," a tribute to Johnny's forebears and friends. Other must-listens include the love songs "Bottom to the Top" and "Can't Leave It Alone" as well as "Keep on Doing My Thing," the ironic "Money," "Time" and the gospel pleaser, "Calling on Jesus."

Shonn Hinton Band – Reloaded

(Quick Fingerz Music)

www.shonnshotgun.com

Best known as the longtime guitarist for Mary J. Blige, John Legend, Jill Scott and Patti LaBelle, Milwaukee-based Shonn Hinton and his five-piece band, Shotgun, deliver a contemporary mix of blues, rock, soul and funk here that'll keep you moving and grooving throughout. All four of Hinton's bandmates grew up in the church and have deep gospel roots. After releasing their debut album, *Long Live Shotgun*, five years ago, they were working different projects until COVID-19 brought them together again. For blues lovers, it's a blessing because this follow-up is as slick as ice and hot as hell. Guaranteed to appeal to fans across the broad spectrum of both blues and contemporary soul, you'll enjoy "I Don't Play," "Still in Love with You," "Inferno Love," "I Need You," "Above All," "Reloaded," "Turn It Up," "We Will Survive," "Your Way Back Home" and "Death of Me." A surprising treasure!

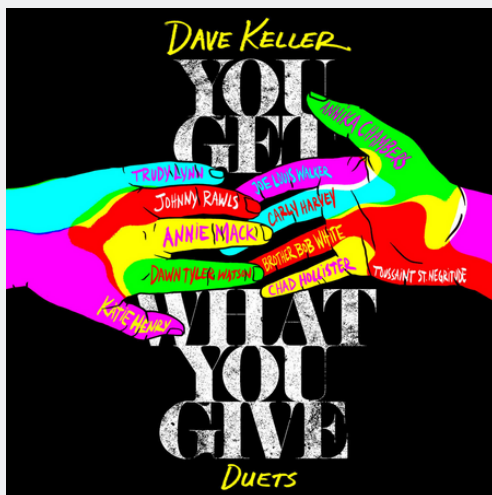


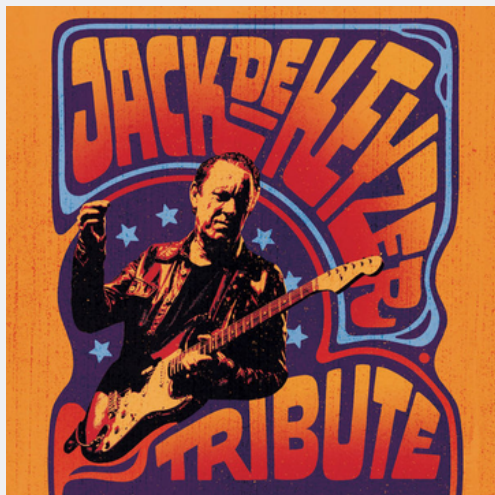
Dave Keller – You Get What You Give

(Tastee Tone TT-3045)

www.davekeller.bandcamp.com

Possessing one of the best soul-blues voices in the business and a deep social conscience, too, Vermont-based Dave Keller spent most of the shutdown by teaming in duet with 13 other vocalists to produce this album, all of the money from which is targeted for non-profits supporting racial justice. A multiple BMA nominee, Keller penned all but two of the songs here and donated them to the cause – as did all of the mix of superstar and deserving, but unknown talent who contributed to this project. The roster includes Annika Chambers-DesLauriers, Trudy Lynn, Rawls, Canadian songbird Dawn Tyler Watson, Joe Louis Walker and several others. Some of the highlights include "One More Tear," "God Is Love/Love Is Everything," "Land of the Lonely," "Scratchin' at Your Door," "You Get What You Give," "Your Kind of Fool," "The Kiss I Want" and a stellar cover of "Precious Lord, Take My Hand."





Jack de Keyzer – Tribute

(Blue Star Records)

www.jackdekeyzer.com

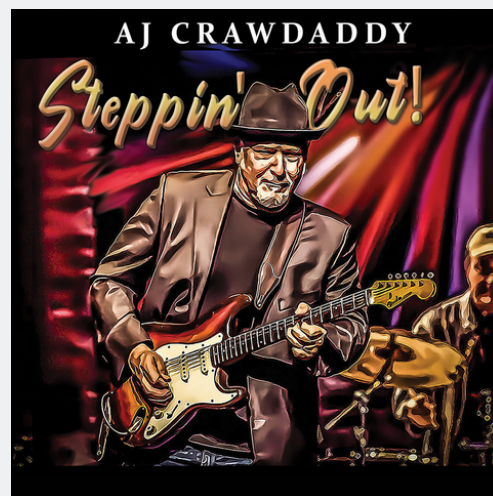
Born in Britain, but the top blues guitarist in Canada for decades, Jack de Keyzer delivers a tip of the hat to the progenitors of blues-rock with this release. But don't be fooled. He's no copycat. He penned all 13 of the soulful cuts, which feature fiery and perfectly modulated fretwork throughout. The 12th album for de Keyzer, a two-time Juno Award winner – Canada's equivalent to the Grammys – and a winner of the International Songwriting Competition in addition to a career as a side career as session musician who's worked with Etta James, John Hammond, Bo Diddley and others. With elements of reggae, funk, Latin and Memphis R&B, this is much more than a blues-rock album. Some of the must-listens here include "Are You Ready," "Let's Do It," "That's How We Make Love," "Coming Up," "Supernatural," "Shake What Your Mama Gave You" and "Forever."

AJ Crowdaddy – Steppin' Out

(The Cave Records)

www.ajcrowdaddy.com

West Coast guitar slinger Angelo J. Rossi, aka AJ Crowdaddy, was a member of the chart-topping rock band, Pablo Cruise, and worked with Graham Nash before walking away from the stage in the '80s. This is his third release since re-emerging in 2015, and one listen will have you wondering why he ever walked away. It's a razor-sharp collection of modern blues. Produced by Kid Andersen at Greaseland Studios, AJ handles vocals on four of the 11 cuts, leaving the others to keyboard player Baxter Robertson, harp player Jimmy Dewrance as well as Marcel Smith (Mighty Clouds of Joy) and John Blues Boyd. The musical lineup includes Kid, harp great Quique Gomez and more Bay Area talent, too. You'll enjoy "Big Hurt" featuring Smith, "Steppin' Out," a tasty take on "My Back Scratcher," "Don't Think About It," "Need Another Favor," "Ten Long Years," "Mean Man" and "Rain of Tears." There's an awful lot to like here!

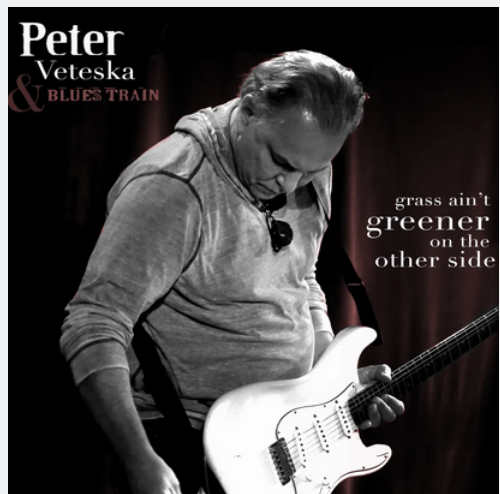


Peter Veteska & Blues Train – Grass Ain't Greener on the Other Side

Self-produced CD)

www.peterveteskabluesrain.com

Peter Veteska has been heating up the night in the New York tri-state area for the past decade as Peter V and Blues Train, but rebrands himself and fronts a new lineup as he moves closer to the blues root here after previously in big-city R&B and jazz, too. The fourth release for the New York Blues Hall of Famer, he's joined here by keyboard player Jeff Levine (Joe Cocker, Clarence Clemons), harp player Mikey Junior and two regional favorites, guitarist Roger Girke and vocalist Jen Barnes for a set that ranges from Chicago to contemporary blues, blues-rock and a little jam band music, too. The Windy City comes through loud and clear on the opener, "Am I Wrong Pretty Baby." Other pleasers include a stellar duet with Barnes on "Baby, You've Got What It Takes," the stinging "Running Like a Dog," the rocker "Thinking and Drinking," "Heartbreaker," and Willie Cobbs' "You Don't Love Me."



RED HOT & BLUES REVIEWS

By Marty Gunther



Lloyd Jones – Tennessee Run

(VizzTone Label Group VT-LL-010)

www.lloydjonesmusic.com

One of the most soulful guitarists ever to come out of the Pacific Northwest, Lloyd Jones teams with Nashville talent for this tour de force, an all-original set that delivers a pleasant, intense mix of swamp-infused blues and New Orleans funk. This one was recorded by Grammy nominee/keyboard player Kevin McKendree at The Road House in Franklin, Tenn., with a horn section that includes Jim Hoke (tenor sax), Quentin Ware (trumpet) and Roy Agee (trombone) as well as several of Music City's most prominent session players. Delbert McClinton and Teresa James also make guest appearances. The feel of the Big Easy flows throughout. Top cuts include the blue-eyed soul number "You Got Me Good," "I Wish I Could Remember Loving You" featuring James, the funky "Where's My Phone," the swinging "Turn Me Loose," "That's All I Want," "Chicken Bones," "Every Time We Meet" and "Dilly Dally."

Erin Harpe – Meet Me in the Middle

(VizzTone Label Group/Juicy Juju Records)

www.erinharpe.com

The 2019 blues artist of the year in New England and five-time BMA nominee, Erin Harpe is a sensational fingerpicking guitarist with a sweet voice who delivers a breezy, interesting set of country blues and roots – four originals and refreshingly updated first-generation blues covers – here backed solely by bassist husband Jim Countryman. Based in Boston, where she also fronts the four-piece Delta Swingers and has a background that includes neo-Afro pop, Erin's an in-demand educator who switches between acoustic slide, six- and 12-string guitars, kazoo and foot percussion while Jim holds down the bottom on bass ukulele and adds backing vocals. You'll be rocking along with "All Night Long," "Hard Luck Woman," "Meet Me in the Middle," a great take on "Rollin' and Tumblin'," "Pick Poor Robin Clean," "What's the Matter with the Well" and "One Fine Day."



Bobby Parker – Soul of the Blues

(Rhythm and Blues Records RANDB060)

www.rhythmandbluesrecords.co.uk

Based out of Washington, D.C., for most of his career, guitarist and songwriter Bobby Parker was one of the most charismatic vocalists of his generation and a major influence to Jimmy Page, Eric Clapton and Carlos Santana. But left us at age 76 in 2013 having missed out on the attention he genuinely deserved. This 150-minute, two-CD set is his first-ever compilation, focusing on his early work with Otis Williams & the Charms, Paul "Hucklebuck" Williams and Bo Diddley and his solo career through the '60s, when he recorded his best-known song, "Watch Your Step," a tune that charted on both sides of the Atlantic. Give this a listen and you'll be wondering why Parker only produced two CDs in his lifetime despite laying down riffs that the Beatles used to open "I Feel Fine" and Led Zeppelin borrowed for "Moby Dick." The highlights here are six previously unreleased songs from a radio broadcast that will have you yearning for more.



A member of the CBS board since 2018, Marty 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 player 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.

Loaves & Fishes You are making a difference with every donation!

As we continue our fight against hunger, especially for at risk kids, now more than ever your help is needed. Schools have been closed or have limited attendance due to the COVID-19 virus, and schoolchildren that relied on those meals may now go hungry. Hunger does not take a holiday. During the holidays, it is especially difficult. Thank you for your donations in the past, and know we understand that not everyone is in a position to give. If you are, please do so. Thank you.

Normally we ask you to bring multiple cans of food to our next event.

Now we simply ask that you make a donation to Loaves & Fishes during this difficult time. Any amount, small or large is greatly appreciated. Your generosity makes all the difference.

Loaves & Fishes has recently added two mobile units for "food pharmacies". The mobile food pharmacies will travel to communities identified as "food deserts," where access to nutritious, fresh food is limited by the barriers of availability, cost and transportation.

They also have drivers to bring food to the families, since it is unsafe to have them come to the pantry. Please help if you can.

Thank you

*In Search of a
New Home*



OH NO! NOT AGAIN!

sorry... it's true...

THE RABBIT HOLE HAS BEEN SOLD!

Soon we will need a new place to get our blues groove on.

Your suggestions are welcome! New board member Ken Deery is actively researching possible sites for our new home. With lock downs of bars and clubs still in place, it will be a while before we have any details. If you can help in our search, please contact Ken!

www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org and on our FB Group Page, or via email CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com or info@CharlotteBluesSociety.org



This event brings together Blues performers, industry representatives, and fans from all over the world to celebrate the best in Blues recordings and performances from the previous year.

The BMAs are generally recognized as the highest honor given to blues musicians and are awarded by vote of Blues Foundation members.

SAVE THE DATE:

42nd Blues Music Awards
May 6, 2021
Memphis, TN

Submissions are closed. The entries are in. Soon we shall be receiving the names of the artists nominated for the 2021 BMAs.

If you are a member of Blues Foundation, you will be eligible to vote. If not, secure your membership [here](#)

While visiting the site, please take the opportunity to donate to the Covid 19 Blues Musician Relief Fund, if you are able. If you are a blues musician in need of help, you can also contact the Foundation and apply.



Congratulations to the nominees of the recently announced 63rd GRAMMY Awards®, especially those selected for the two blues categories:

BEST TRADITIONAL BLUES ALBUM

All My Dues Are Paid, Frank Bey

You Make Me Feel, Don Bryant

That's What I Heard, Robert Cray Band

Cypress Grove, Jimmy "Duck" Holmes

Rawer Than Raw, Bobby Rush

BEST CONTEMPORARY BLUES ALBUM

Have You Lost Your Mind Yet? Fantastic Negrito

Live at the Paramount, Ruthie Foster Big Band

The Juice G. , Love

Blackbirds, Bettye LaVette

Up and Rolling, North Mississippi Allstars

The 63rd GRAMMY Awards® on Sunday, January 31, 2021 live on CBS.

Dion: Blues with Friends by Michael Ingmire

reprinted with permission from [PolitiChicks](#). He was born Dion Dimucci, on July 18, 1939, in the Bronx, New York.

Edited for content. Full article link [here](#)



By the time he was a teenager, he was singing Doo-Wop harmonies with friends on New York City street corners. Something about the human voice against a brick wall that snaps the notes into a crisp focus. A lot of great vocals created on those corners. By the end of 1962, Dion became the first Rock and Roll artist signed to Columbia records. Legendary Columbia Producer, John Hammond Sr, became a mentor and exposed him to some of the great Delta Bluesmen, like Robert Johnson, further deepening his appreciation of the Blues form. His first hit with Columbia was a version of The Drifters classic, "Ruby Baby." During his period with Columbia, Dion had a tendency to include classic Blues songs, by artists such as Muddy Waters, Sleepy John Estes, Willie Dixon and more. Dion has stated, on more than one occasion, that *The Wanderer* was his first attempt at writing a solid Blues tune.

Regrettably, Dion's tenure with Columbia was marred by his struggles with heroin addiction. Yet, his passion for the Blues continued and was stunningly featured in some of his Columbia releases produced by famed **Bob Dylan** Producer, **Tom Wilson**. In April 1968, Dion had a powerful religious conversion. This helped lead him to finally getting clean from the drug habit that had chained him since his teenage days. He detailed that change in a powerful 1970, original song, "Your Own Backyard." During this period, after leaving Columbia, Dion approached Laurie records for a new contract. They agreed, but asked that he record a song by songwriter Dick Holler titled, "Abraham, Martin and John." This tribute to **Lincoln, John Kennedy and Martin Luther King** resuscitated Dion's career, going to number four in America and number one in Canada. From 1969 on, Dion's music has become more contemplative and mature. He has recorded for a variety of labels, including Warner Brothers, and has worked with producers such as **Phil Spector**, who produced a classic, unjustly overlooked album for Dion titled, "Born to Be With You," in 1975. This album is regarded as a classic by artists as diverse as **Pete Townsend** and **Jarvis Cocker**.

In 1989, he was inducted, as a solo artist, to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Recent years have lead Dion to embrace the Blues with a more defined fervor. Albums such "Bronx in Blue, Son of Skip James and Tank Full of Blues," have firmly articulated his passion for the Blues.

On June 5, 2020, Dion released his most fully realized Blues album, "Blues With Friends." on the KTBA label run by Blues-Rocker, **Joe Bonamassa**. This all star album includes collaborations with luminaries such **Bonamassa, Jeff Beck, Van Morrison, John Hammond Jr, Rory Block, Paul Simon, Bruce Springsteen, Billy Gibbons, Joe Louis Walker, Brian Setzer, Steven Van Zandt, Samantha Fish, Sonny Landreth** among other great figures in Blues and Roots music. Most Blues All Star records feature songs by traditional artists such as Muddy Water or Howlin' Wolf. What makes this album different is that all the songs were written by Dion or in collaboration with other writers,

Blues With Friends debuted at Number one on the *Billboard Blues charts* and *Billboard* considers it to be the best Blues album of 2020.

The lyrics have a passionate honesty, the guest performances are stunning and at 81, Dion has never sung better. Dion's performance with **Van Morrison** and **Joe Louis Walker** on "I Got Nothing," is stunning. I Got Nothing could be the theme song for 2020 and reflects our shared troubles in this nation. My favorite song is "What If I Told You," framed by the great guitar work of **Samantha Fish**. Yet, not all of the songs fall into the traditional Blues bag. The song, with the legendary **Jeff Beck** on guitar, "Can't Start Over Again," is a truly heartbreaking ballad. Also of note, outside the Blues frame, is the "Song For Sam Cooke (Here in America)," which features **Paul Simon** on harmony vocals. This is a truly heart tugging reminiscence of Dion's friendship with R&B legend, **Sam Cooke**.

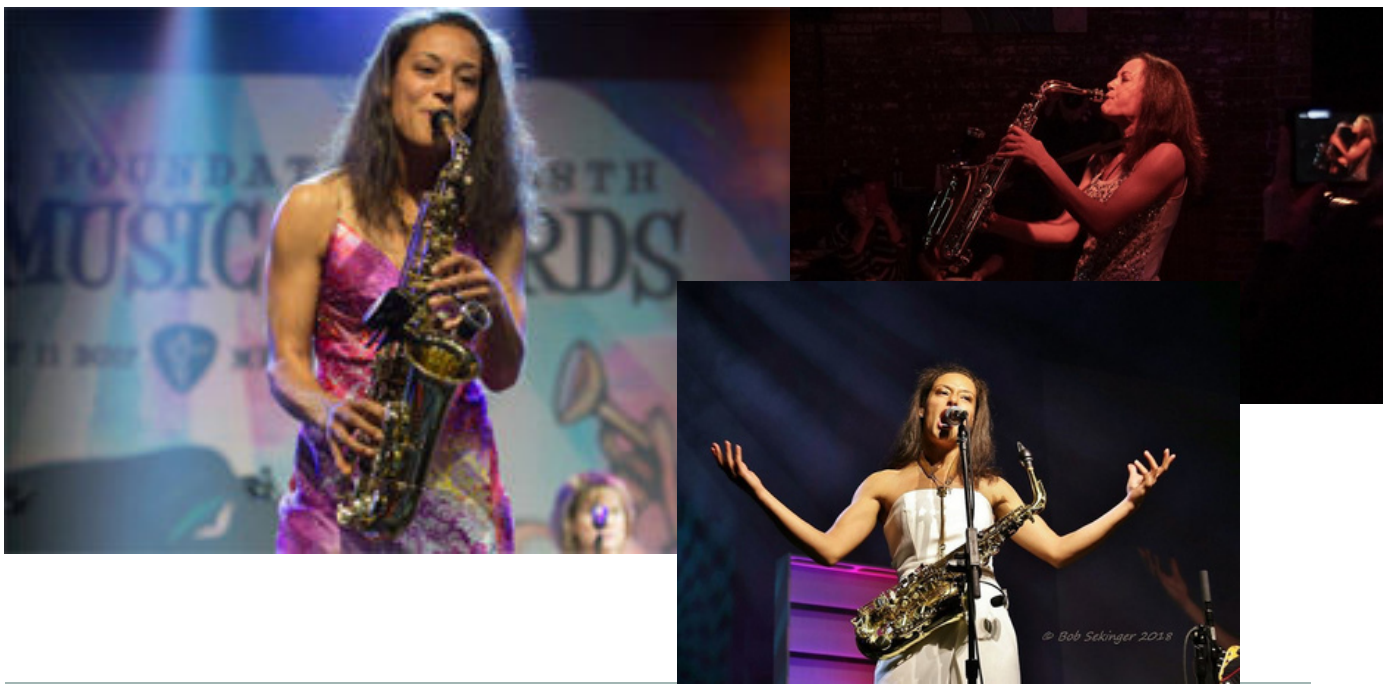
There is no filler on this album. Every song is well performed and well written. This album has not left my playlist since it's June release. Additionally, Bob Dylan wrote some very astute liner notes for this album. If you are a Dion fan, a Blues fan or are just looking for that special gift, "Blues With Friends," is for you.

MICHAEL INGMIRE, IS A MUSICIAN, WRITER, COMMENTATOR, ACTIVIST AND AUTHOR BASED IN NORTH CAROLINA. AS A MUSICIAN HE HAS SHARED STAGES WITH ARTISTS LIKE JOHN LEE HOOKER, ALBERT KING, BO DIDDLEY, DR. MAC ARNOLD, WILSON PICKETT, ALLEN GINSBERG, KENNY NEAL, BOB MARGOLIN, AMONG MANY. MICHAEL'S WORK IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING OR PURCHASE AT REVERBNATION.COM UNDER MICHAEL WOLF INGMIRE. SINCE THE DEATH OF HIS NEPHEW, SEAN SMITH, IN THE SEPTEMBER 2012 BENGHAZI ATTACKS, MICHAEL'S WRITING HAS TAKEN ON A STRONG POLITICAL EDGE. HE HAS PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN ABOUT BENGHAZI EXTENSIVELY FOR THE DAILY CALLER AND FOXNEWS.COM. STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2015, MICHAEL HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT CONTRIBUTOR TO POLITICHICKS, WRITING ABOUT, POLITICAL, MUSICAL, AND SOCIAL TOPICS. HIS ARTICLE, "BENGHAZI: A TALE OF TWO REPORTS," CLOSES OUT THE CHAPTER ON ISLAM IN THE COLLECTION, "POLITICHICKS: A CLARION CALL TO POLITICAL ACTIVISM."

WORLD CLASS BLUES PRESENTED BY CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY

Charlotte Blues Society Blues Sunday Special Events

HOLD ON TO YOUR TICKETS FOR VANESSA COLLIER. THIS IS A POSTPONED DATE, AND YOUR TICKETS WILL BE HONORED FOR THE RESCHEDULED DATE. WE HAVE HER TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR SUNDAY APRIL 4 OR 11 2021



STAY POSITIVE....

WE SHALL ALL CELEBRATE OUR 28TH
ANNIVERSARY TOGETHER.

GUIDELINES & COURTESIES
CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY OPEN BLUES JAMS

Blues Jam Guidelines

YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN A TRADITION THAT IS OVER 26 YEARS IN THE MAKING. THE CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY HAS CONSISTENTLY PROMOTED A BLUES JAM AS PART OF ITS BLUES SUNDAY. THE CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY'S BLUES SUNDAY OCCURS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. THE BLUES JAMS DO NOT HAPPEN AT EVERY BLUES SUNDAY. ALWAYS REFER TO CHARLOTTEBLUESOCIETY.ORG FOR DETAILS AND SCHEDULES. WE HOPE YOUR EXPERIENCE WILL BE INSPIRING AND THAT YOUR OWN MUSICAL ABILITIES WILL BE INFORMED BY THESE JAMS.

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES TO CONSIDER WHEN SIGNING ON AS A PARTICIPATING JAMMER:

*A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION, SIGN UP EARLY. ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET PLEASE LIST YOUR INSTRUMENT AND/OR ABILITY THAT YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE JAM. WHILE THE BLUES HAS A LOT OF VARIATIONS, PLEASE BE ADVISED THIS IS A BLUES JAM. PLEASE KEEP IT REAL LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

*BE RESPECTFUL OF ANY EQUIPMENT THAT YOU USE, BACKLINE AND PA, TREAT IT AS YOUR OWN OR POSSIBLY BETTER THAN YOUR OWN. IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL AMP, PEDAL OR SET-UP THAT YOU NEED TO USE, REMEMBER GUIDELINE #1; COME EARLY

"BRING YOUR OWN GEAR INCLUDING AMP. DO NOT RELY ON THERE BEING ENOUGH AMPS ON STAGE. IF YOU HAPPEN TO BLOW UP AN AMP DURING A RIGHTEOUS JAM, THEN MAKE SURE IT IS YOUR OWN"

*KEEP TRACK OF YOUR PLACE ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET. IT IS NOT UP TO THE JAM MASTER TO TRACK YOU DOWN WHEN YOUR TIME TO SHINE ARRIVES.

*PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOU NEED TO BE TUNED AND READY BEFORE YOU GET ON STAGE. ADDITIONALLY, IF YOU ARE A GUITARIST THAT TUNES DOWN A HALF STEP, PLEASE NOTE THE HOUSE BAND WILL BE TUNED TO STANDARD 440. TWO CHOICES REMAIN, EITHER TUNE TO 440 OR MAKE ALLOWANCES IN YOUR CHOICE OF A CHORD VOICING.

*IF YOU ONLY HEAR YOURSELF ON STAGE, PERHAPS YOU ARE TOO LOUD. LIKewise, IF YOU HEAR EVERYONE ELSE, BUT NOT YOURSELF; TURN UP.

*BE RESPECTFUL OF YOUR FELLOW MUSICIANS, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR ABILITY MAY BE. EVERYONE USUALLY STARTS AT THE SAME PLACE.

*IN REGARDS TO SOLOING, AGAIN PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHER MUSICIANS IN THE JAM. FOR EXAMPLE, RHYTHM GUITAR IS NOT JUST SOMETHING TO WASTE YOUR TIME ON WHILE YOU WAIT FOR YOUR NEXT SOLO. ONE OF THE LESSONS OF A BLUES JAM IS TO LEARN HOW TO BE AS APT AN ACCOMPANIST AS YOU HOPE TO BE AS A SOLOIST. THE JAM MASTER WILL BE GENEROUS WITH SOLOS, BUT BE MINDFUL OF OTHER MUSICIANS THAT MAY BE WAITING TO JAM.

*LASTLY, HAVE FUN. ALSO RESPECT THE TRADITIONS AS WELL AS THE INNOVATIONS OF THE BLUES. LIKewise, RESPECT THE CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY AND THE RABBIT HOLE FOR PROVIDING THE SPACE AND EQUIPMENT FOR YOU TO JAM.

We are fortunate to have an experienced blues man and great "Jam Master" in Michael Wolf Ingmire. Help him make it a great jam by following our guidelines. No matter what degree of experience you have, Michael will help make your first, and every jam, one that is fun and make you want to come back for more!