

APRIL 2020

# Charlotte Blues Society

Monthly E-Bluesletter

LIVE

FROM  
LIVING  
ROOMS,  
FRONT  
PORCHES  
STUCK  
INSIDE

WITH THE

QUARANTINE  
BLUES

THE NEW  
NORM  
OR

HOW COVID-19  
IS AFFECTING  
US ALL



**POSTPONED**

April 5 ~ Vanessa Collier  
May 3 ~ Jontavious Willis





---

APRIL 2020

# Musings *from the President*

"It was the best of times....it was the worst of times....."

As everyone is aware by now, it is business most unusual these days, and that affects Charlotte Blues Society as well as the businesses we support with live music. CBS has been taking the cues from City, State and Federal officials regarding our events and gatherings throughout the novel coronavirus / COVID-19 pandemic.

The **Stay at Home** order by the County has indeed affected upcoming events, and we hope every one of our members and fellow music lovers will take this advice to heart and follow it, in order that this virus be allowed to run its course with the least transmission and loss of life. We love each of you and want you to take care of your health, and stay safe: "Stay Home"

This is serious stuff friends. You know when The Stones start cancelling dates we are looking at something that is epic. The Blues Music Awards in Memphis are cancelled. Live concerts throughout the Carolinas and the world have come to a halt. This is not the flu. This is not a cold. This is a moment in time that we must take action, or perhaps, more clearly: non-action. Stay Home.

The most recent news is: it will be worse before it gets better, so hunker down and find something positive from this life altering moment in our history. Go online and learn to play guitar, take vocal lessons, learn to paint, or draw, or play piano. Plant a garden. Write a poem, write a song, write a book, write a letter and mail it (what a novel idea) call family and friends and connect on Facetime or Skype. Plan for the future. Be more wonderful than you already are. Be KIND.

This pandemic has, of course affected several of our own upcoming events, first and foremost: our 27th Anniversary Celebration featuring **Vanessa Collier** April 5th at The Rabbit Hole. *The event has been POSTPONED.* All tickets purchased in advance will be honored for the rescheduled date. At this time, we are looking at a September date, but will have a confirmation as soon as possible. In the meantime – **Hold on to your tickets!** They will still be honored. The May 3rd event with **Jontavious Willis** is *postponed* as well. We will reschedule that date as soon as possible.

This is a time that can bring out the very best in all of us. Case in point: "Music Everywhere" a Charlotte initiative that supports all Charlotte area musicians, bands and venues has launched **MusicAnywhere CLT**, a Virtual Concert Series for and by the Charlotte Music Community. The goal is to provide an outlet for musicians, provide an easy way for audiences to support the local music community and show diversity and strength in the Charlotte Music Scene Community. Check out their Facebook Event page for a list of Virtual Shows.

Some of your favorite blues artists are holding watch parties and virtual concerts, and are helping out their fellow musicians. One of those efforts is being led by **Mike Zito** and **Nick Moss**. The fundraiser is through GoFundMe.

*"Many of my musician friends are out of work during this pandemic. Not just a little out of work, completely out of work. Not everyone is comfortable asking for assistance or maybe tech savvy to do online shows or streaming. This is all VERY new to everyone. I started a "Quarantine Blues" recording project to help feed my family and truly help my band members who were coming home with nothing after a large cancelled tour. The band and I have committed 10 original songs available for free to the world and in return we were given much needed support from our fans and the Blues community. Now, we are extending this campaign to our large Blues community. We are asking artists that are in need of assistance to contribute a song for this project and in return we are going to try and raise \$1000 each for the artist and their band members. We feel this is a time of need, but we want to give back with what we do best - music."*

—Mike Zito & Nick Moss

Here is a link to "Paying the Blues Forward: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/4wk98-fund-for-friends>

Feel free to list the watch parties and live streaming events in our Facebook group or on our Facebook page. I've watch Nick Moss & Kate Moss, Second Avenue, and more over the past two days. They are asking for you to donate. Please do so if you are able.

Support local musicians. Their gigs are all cancelled for the foreseeable future. They also put themselves at the most risk by playing to live audiences many nights before we were aware of this seriously contagious disease.

CBS will continue to monitor safety guidelines closely. We're grateful for your support and understanding and look forward to gathering with you again as we are determined to "Keep the Blues Alive"  
Please go to our website, we are updating the information as quickly as we can.

Oh, and don't miss the timely article from Marty Gunther on "COVID-19-The Blues & YOU" within this newsletter.

Stay well, we will be together again soon. Stay positive. Laugh often, get out in the sunshine, and dance in your living room until you are exhausted. Go ahead, create a live dance party and let us all join in, be silly, and rejoice that the music is never silenced.

~Mary London Szpara *President*

---

# Loaves & Fishes

**You are making a difference with every donation!**

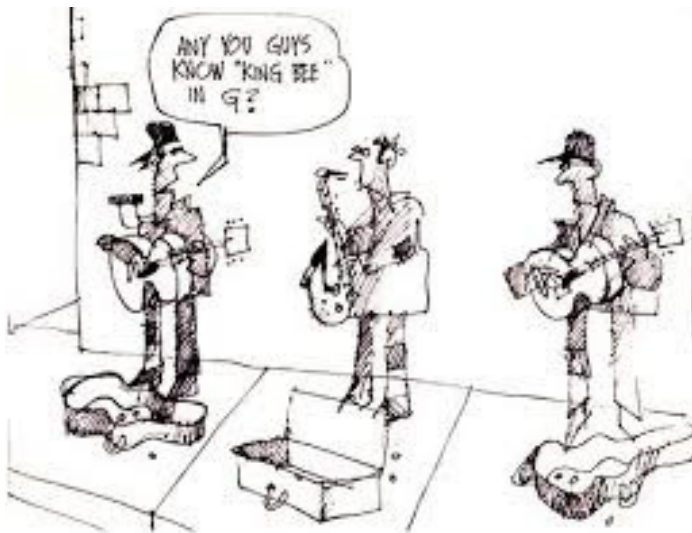
As we continue our fight against hunger, especially for at risk kids, now more than ever your help is needed. Schools have been closed due to the COVID-19 virus, and schoolchildren that relied on those meals may now go hungry. Hunger does not take a holiday.

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



---

**The blues are like the fugue in 18th century. It's probably the music that belongs most to our time.**

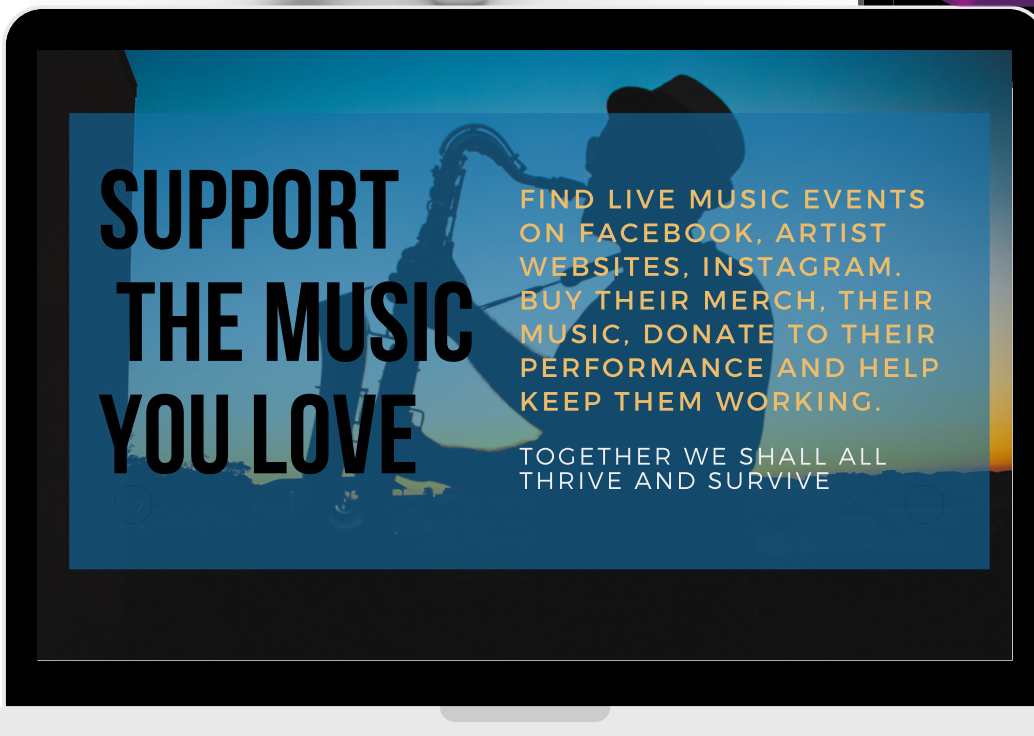
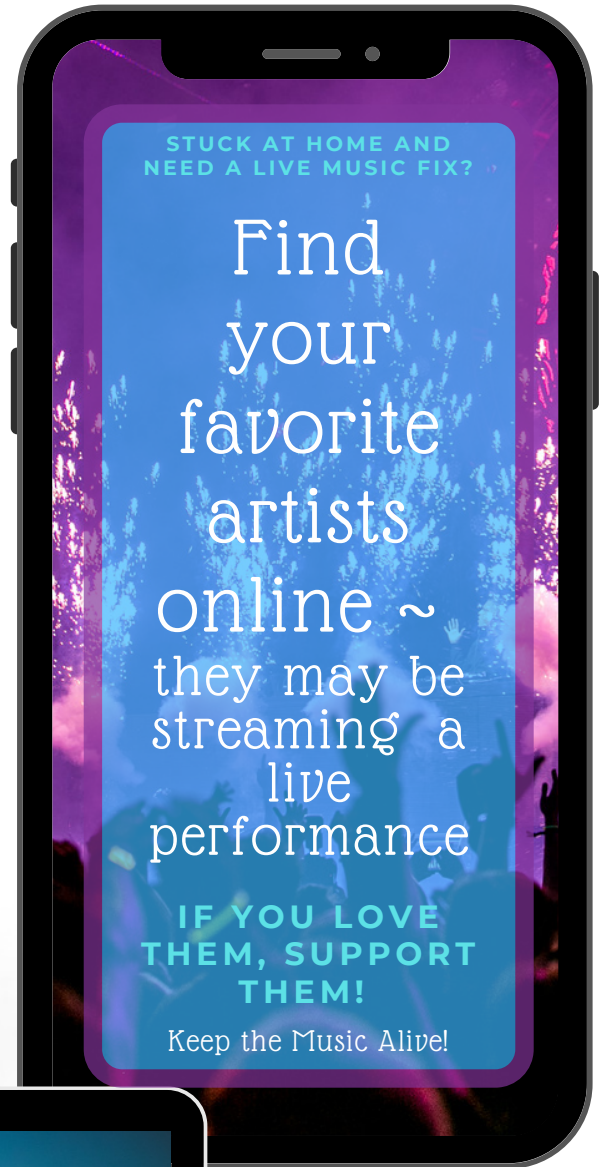
**– Michael Tippett**

---

**The blues are the roots and the other musics are the fruits. It's better keeping the roots alive, because it means better fruits from now on. The blues are the roots of all American music. As long as American music survives, so will the blues.**

**– Willie Dixon**

Shows in Charlotte have been postponed at least through May. Are you in need of a mass infusion of BLUES? Avoid Cabin Fever with a dose of live music. Simply go online and find a streaming event or watch party. Donate where you can!







**LISA MILLS – THE TRIANGLE**  
(MELODY PLACE MUSIC 538545932)  
WWW.LISAMILLS.COM

Mississippi-born, Alabama-based soul-blues belter Lisa Mills dips into the fertile musical triangle of Memphis, Muscle Shoals, Ala., and Greenwood, Miss., for the debut CD for Melody Place Music. The personal spin she puts on some of the most important music the region's produced couldn't have been a better product for the new label.

Produced by chief honcho Fred Mollin -- whose credits include chart-toppers for everyone from Billy Joel and Kris Kristofferson to Natalie Cole and Linda Ronstadt in addition to a career in TV and movies, it was recorded in all three locales aided by top-notch sidemen at each venue. Mills delivers a set of 14 tunes here culled from the catalogs of Little Richard, Etta James, Clarence Carter, Little Milton, O.V. Wright, Z.Z. Hill, Bobby "Blue" Bland and others. Spin this one and you'll be singing along with such classics as "Tell Mama," "I'd Rather Go Blind," "That's What Love Will Make You Do" "I Will Always Love You," "Members Only" and "Just Walking in the Rain." Sure, the material's familiar, but with Lisa's delivery, you won't mind a bit!

**TAS CRU – DRIVE ON**  
(SUBCAT RECORDS SC-001-20)  
WWW.TASCRO.COM

Based out of upstate New York, road warrior Tas Cru – the nickname roughly translates "raw potato" in French-Canadian slang -- fires on all cylinders with this all-original set of modern blues, an intimate collection that's chockful of tongue-in-cheek songs laced with views about personal relationships and life in a troubled world.

The beloved road dog cuts new ground here, aided by sax player Anthony Terry and multiple BMA nominee keyboard player Anthony Geraci as well as 2019 International Blues Challenge/Albert King Guitar Player award winner Gabe Stillman in the lineup. From the opening bars of "That Lovin' Thang," this CD's on overdrive. Be sure to dial in to "Money Talks," "Cry No More," the horn-fueled "Shookie Shake," "Memphis Blue" and "Devil in Your Heart."



**WHITNEY SHAY – STAND UP!**  
(RUF RECORDS RUF 1279)  
WWW.WHITNEYSHAY.COM



Reigning San Diego Music Awards artist of the year and 2019 Blues Music Award rising star nominee Whitney Shay serves up a smoking set of blues-drenched R&B on this album, her first outing for Germany's Ruf Records.

The disc was produced by sax player Mark "Kaz" Kazanoff and features his Texas Horns and guitarist Laura Chavez in a lineup that also includes Gulf Coast keyboard wizard Marcia Ball, blues-rocker Guy Forsyth and guitarist Derek "Big House" O'Brien.

A high-energy from the opening notes, highlights here run hot and deep from the opening title cut. You'll definitely want to cut a rug to "Someone You Never Got to Know" and "P.S. It's Not About You" before slow-dancing to "I Thought We Were Through." Other pleasers include "You Won't Put Out This Flame," "I Never Meant to Love Him" and "Change With the Times."



## THE JIMMYS – GOTTA HAVE IT

(BROWN COW PRODUCTIONS BCP 006)  
WWW.THEJIMMYS.NET

Fronted by keyboard player Jimmy Voegeli and guitarist Perry Weber, The Jimmys are one smoking horn band who've been taking the chill off cold Wisconsin nights and spreading joy around the world for the better part of the past two decades, but reach new heights on this album, which features Gulf Coast legend Marcia Ball in the lineup.

Produced by Tony Braunagel (Taj Mahal, Bonnie Raitt, Robert Cray, Phantom Blues Band), an 11-time nominee for Blues Music Awards percussionist of the year, this CD features an eight-piece unit that consistently shows that they're a hard-drinkers and ready to party.

Voegeli penned and Weber 11 of the 13 tracks, which charge out of the gate with "Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet," a warning that the singer's lady has a "mean streak a mile long." Among the standouts here are "Grim Reaper," which promises not to go down without a fight, "Write a Hit," a Voegeli-Ball duet delivered at the end of a breakup, the swamp blues "Started Up Again" and the rocking "Hotel Stebbins," which promises the band will be partying the night away in room 11 after their gig. This one's going on my short list for prospective best albums of the year.

## PHANTOM BLUES BAND – STILL COOKIN'

(VIZZTONE LABEL GROUP VTP-002)  
WWW.PHANTOMBLUESBAND.COM

Based out of Southern California, Phantom Blues Band has come a long way since Taj assembled its members to back him for his *Dancin' the Blues* album in 1993. Six of the top session players on the West Coast whose careers include work with everyone from Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan to Bonnie Raitt and Ruthie Foster, they continue splitting their time among several bands despite being a major draw wherever they play.

This is the fourth mainstream release since 2003 for the band, which includes several of the most familiar faces in the blues: keyboard player Mike Finnigan, guitarist Johnny Lee Schell, percussionist Braunagel, bassist Larry Fulcher and horn players Joe Sublett and Les Lovitt. Finnigan, Fulcher and Schell, who produced share vocals throughout.

Some of the most soulful music you'll hear this or any year, highlights include the Southern soul pleaser "Stop Runnin'," the percussive "Just in Case," the unhurried ballad, "Blues How They Linger," the reggae-flavored "Shine On," "Better But Not Good," which has a Big Easy feel, and the spicy instrumental, "Tequila Con Yerba."



## ANGEL FORREST – HELL BENT WITH GRACE

(AD LITTERAM RECORDS)  
WWW.ANGELFORREST.CA

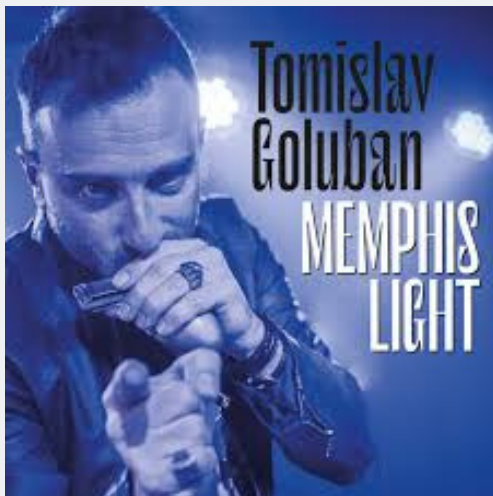
Based out of Montreal, where she's captured female vocalist of the year at Canada's prestigious Maple Blues Awards each of the past seven years, Angel Forrest delivers a hard-hitting tour de force with this one, delivering the entire set from the perspective of woman who's hit her prime in her 50s and is aging for all the world to see.

Forrest has been producing modern blues with a rock edge since 1996, when her Janis Joplin tribute show drew rave reviews. This disc is a follow-up to last year's *Electric Love*, a live set that charted well around the globe.

Ladies will commiserate with her for the opener, "Menie the Monster," which deals with the onset of menopause. Other highlights include the party tune, *Get It On*, "The Blame Game," which deals with mental health issues, "Looking Glass" and "Bane Lorraine."







## TOMISLAV GOLUBAN – MEMPHIS LIGHT

(SPONA RECORDS)  
WWW.GOLUBAN.COM

No stranger to American audiences, Croatian-based Tomislav “Little Pigeon” Goluban follows in the tradition of his heroes – Sonny Terry, Paul Butterfield, Gary Primich and Kim Wilson – to deliver some of the best traditional blues harp you’ll hear on either side of the Atlantic. Goluban was the first Croatian representative in the International Blues Challenge in 2009 and a fourth-place finisher at the 2005 World Harmonica Championships. This collection of nine originals and one cover demonstrate beyond a doubt that Goluban can play with anyone. Recorded in Memphis and featuring members of the Jeff Jensen Band, Reba Russell and others, this one’s tasty throughout. Sink your teeth into “Country Bag,” a rollicking instrumental that finds Tomislav trading licks with Jensen, “Disappear for Good,” a stripped-down ballad based on the fear of losing a loved one, “Memphis Gold” and “Party Time Blues,” a fun number that describes dealing with a hangover.

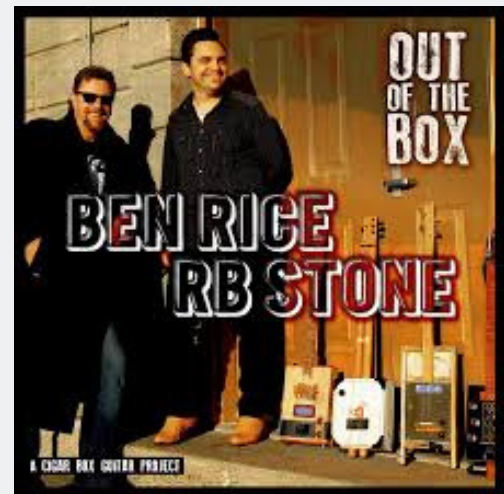
## BEN RICE & RB STONE – OUT OF THE BOX

(MIDDLE MOUNTAIN MUSIC 30120)  
WWW.BENRICEMUSIC.COM

Oregon-based wunderkind Ben Rice and Nashville-based blues and country veteran RB Stone team here to deliver an oddity: a full-tilt musical fiesta that stretches three-, four- and six-string cigar-box guitars to their limit in ways most folks have never heard them before.

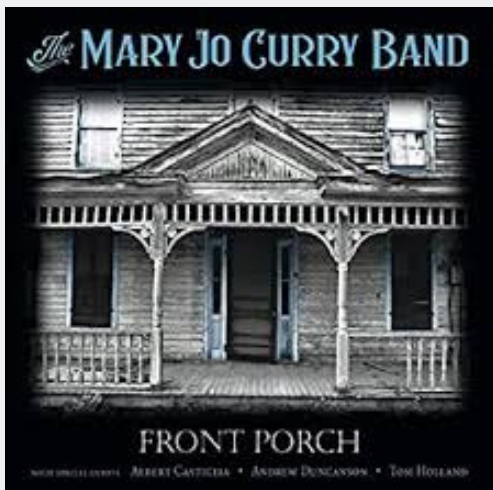
A three-time nominee at last year’s Blues Music Awards, Rice is one of the hottest young string benders on the scene today while Stone has released more than a dozen successful albums since the ‘90s. The duo trade vocals and songwriting credits throughout this all-original set, which was conceived to capture the unpredictable sounds the instruments produce and to promote the folks who built them.

Give a good listen to the Delta-flavored “Train of Time” and “Easy Rollin’ Down the Road,” a little Hill Country in “Meet Your Maker” and “Bad Blood on Mean Whiskey” and fiery roots rock in “Hey Politician,” “Jesus Needs a Gig,” and “Crushin’ on the Bartender.”



## THE MARY JO CURRY BAND – FRONT PORCH

(SELF-PRODUCED CD)  
WWW.MARYJOCURRY.COM



Classically trained vocalist Mary Jo Curry spent years on the road in musical theater companies before making her CD debut as a blues artist in 2016. That release finished the year as the fifth best album on Roots Music Report’s blues charts and spent three weeks in the No. 1 spot. This one should launch the powerful alto into the stratosphere.

Curry’s backed here by her regular four-piece band anchored by guitarist/hubby Michael Rapier. A collection of 10 originals and one cover, it features contributions from two of the top six-string talents in America today -- blues-rocker Albert Castiglia and 40-year Chicago veteran Tom Holland – as well as Andrew Duncanson, front man for the band Kilborn Alley and the singer drafted to fill the shoes of the late Mike Ledbetter to tour with Monster Mike Welch last year.

Modern blues with a traditional feel, some of the top cuts here include “Nothin’ Is Easy” – in which Mary Jo’s standing at the crossroads but unable to make a deal with the devil, the Chicago blues shuffle “All Your Lies,” the jazzy “The Man,” the torch song “House Is Lonely” and the sprightly instrumental “Bake & Shake.”



## ALBERT CUMMINGS – BELIEVE

(PROVOGUE/MASCOT LABEL GROUP PRD 76070 2)  
WWW.ALBERTCUMMINGS.COM

Guitar master Albert Cummings serves up his best CD yet with his Prologue Records debut, a blend of blues, Southern rock and country produced by Grammy winner Jim Gaines and captured at FAME Studios in Muscle Shoals.

Best known for delivering powerful blues-rock, he incorporates horns throughout, assisted by a female chorus and Clayton Ivey, the keyboard player whose work graces Aretha Franklin's "Never Loved a Man" and other hits. Six originals and five covers, the album opens with Albert stretching out vocally on a traditional take on the Isaac Hayes-David Porter classic, "Hold On." The horn-backed original rocker "Do What Mama Says" flows effortlessly to follow as it urges listeners to "Say somethin' nice or nothin' at all/The bigger they are the harder they fall." Other pleasers include the Cummings' the medium-fast shuffle, "Queen of Mean," which warns that "If you see her comin'/You'd better hide," a stellar cover of Van Morrison's ballad, "Crazy Love," "It's All Good," which sings praise for working hard and maintaining an upbeat attitude, and "Going My Way," which drives the message home.

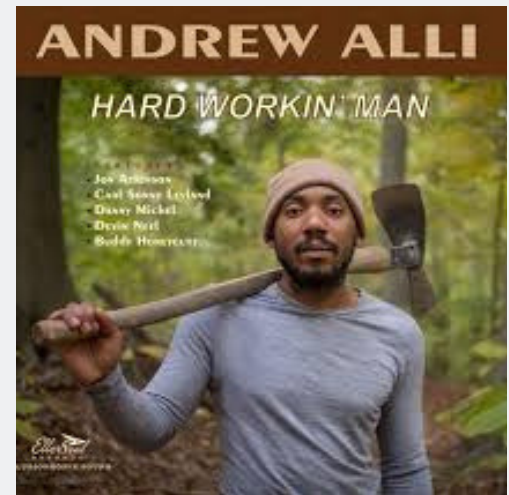
## ANDREW ALLI – HARD WORKIN' MAN

(ELLERSOUL RECORDS ER 20201)  
WWW.ANDREWALLIRVA.COM

Based out of Richmond, Va., and one of the hottest young harmonica players on the scene today, Andrew Alli hooked up with guitarist/producer Big Jon Atkinson to record this disc the old-fashioned way: direct to tape on vintage equipment from the '50s, and the end result is an album of dazzling, fresh music that could easily be confused as originating in another era.

Alli's backed here by Atkinson, who's been based in Bristol, Va., for the past few years after establishing himself as a star in his own right in California. They're joined by former Victor Wainwright percussionist Devin Neel and Carl Sonny Leyland, the British-born keyboard player often found in the company of James Harman, Kim Wilson and Rod Piazza when not fronting his own unit.

There's a warm sound in analog recording, and it comes through loud and clear on this set. The high points include "Hard Workin' Man," which opens, "Going Down South," the instrumental "Chrom-a-Thick," "Texas Woman," the instrumental "Walkin' Down" and "So Long." If you're hooked on the sound of traditional harp, this one's definitely up your alley.



## WATERMELON SLIM – TRAVELING MAN

(NORTHERNBLUES NBM0066)  
WWW.WATERMELONSLIM.COM



Watermelon Slim is definitely a man with restless feet -- as his well-documented, deeply complex life history clearly shows, and he bares his soul on this intimate, two-CD, 19-tune solo compilation that was captured live during a 2016 tour of Oklahoma, where he earned his nickname while working as a farmer. The four-time Blues Music Award winner and current double nominee provides a self-described "snapshot of the real me - straight, no chaser" in distinctly different sets on separate discs, touching frequently on his experiences as a wheel man and revealing his innermost thoughts about facing the reality that no one lives forever. Be sure to check out the over-the-road themed "Blue Freightliner," "Truck Driving Songs," "Scalemaster Blues," and "300 Miles," a memory of the singer losing his mother early and growing up to become a hard-driving, hard-drinking son-of-a-gun. Other pleasers include "Let It Be in Memphis," "Into the Sunset" and "Dark Genius," which recounts the assassination of John F. Kennedy and predicts that his own life might end the same way some day.



# THE BLUES FOUNDATION

---

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY THE 2020 BLUES MUSIC AWARDS AND BLUES HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY IN MEMPHIS, TN ARE CANCELED.

Watch for updates to come on virtual events to replace the live shows. The Blues Foundation has created the COVID-19 Blues Musician Emergency Relief Fund to assist blues musicians during these difficult times. Please considering making a donation.

[donate here](#)

---

APRIL 2020

# COVID-19 the Blues & YOU!

WCOVID19, the blues and YOU!

Coronavirus is having a major impact on everyone today, but blues musicians are feeling the brunt of it more than most folks.

One of the hardest hit has been **John Primer and the Real Deal Blues Band**, a five-piece unit based out of Chicago. Fronted by a guitarist whose long career has included lengthy time backing **Muddy Waters, Junior Wells and Magic Slim**, among others, they flew out of the Windy City for the Netherlands last month to begin what was supposed to be a lengthy, highly rewarding job. They flew out of O'Hare Airport a few days after John celebrated his 75th birthday, looking forward to crisscrossing the continent for a couple of weeks. But gigs started cancelling as soon as they touched down. Twenty-four hours after they arrived, Primer cancelled the entire trip because of the newly announced travel ban to and from Europe. The band lost \$25,000 in bookings for that tour alone in addition to another \$15,000 they had to shell out to get back to America.

They've recently launched a GoFundMe campaign to help make ends meet, and dozens of the most famous names in the blues are in equally dire straits.

Alabama-born harmonica player **James Harman** is recognized as one of the best in the business, and was just returning to action after a long layoff with a Florida tour when things screeched to a halt. Plans for two separate forays to Europe evaporated in an instant. The same holds true for dozens of others, some of whom found themselves marooned in foreign lands without a way out after other travel bans went into effect.

On a much lighter note, **Bobby Rush** – the forever young, 80-something elder statesman of the blues – spent a recent Saturday night at home, surrounded by his wife, children and grandkids. He told me that it was the first time in 50 years that he hadn't been on the road touring.

**Rick Booth** heads Charlotte-based **Intrepid Artists**, the largest booking and management company in roots music. His roster includes a who's who of blues and blues-rock musicians, including everyone from **Albert Castiglia, Popa Chubby and Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials to Eric Gales, Jimmy Thackery and John Németh as well as Kenny Neal, Mike Zito, Toronzo Cannon** and more. One of his acts, the Brazilian-based **Blues Beatles**, had flown to the U.S. as the crisis developed, forcing cancellation of their tour, all of the revenue it would have produced plus the enormous expense of paying to fly back home. At present, Booth says, "my artists have lost about \$1.5 million in work. All of their gigs for four months were wiped out into June, and more are dropping off every day."

Unlike most agencies, all of the Intrepid employees are salaried and not working on commissions, and Booth and his team are staying in constant contact with the folks they represent to help out where they can and to keep their spirits up through it all. One of the greatest concerns all blues artists are dealing with today, Booth notes, is a fear for the welfare of their musical families – the sidemen who support them through thick and thin and who are most likely not as prepared to deal with inactivity. If you have any doubt, that's something that three-time **Grammy** nominee and reigning tradition female blues artist of the year **Ruthie Foster** also brought up when this writer interviewed her for a magazine article in late March.

While artists in other branches of music have much broader fan bases and reap the rewards through airplay and album sales, the blues world in general is a much smaller audience, relegating all but the biggest names to hand-to-mouth existence. Whether you're an international superstar or a local act, you rely primarily on live gigs to keep food on your table and a roof over the head of your family.

Most of us are currently feeling the same burden. But there'll never be a better time if you ARE able to help artists in need. Here are a few suggestions:



---

APRIL 2020

## COVID-19 the Blues & YOU!

(continued)

- Take the money you would have spent on cover charges, dinner and drinks and spend it on the musicians you love. And don't go to the mass marketers or streaming services to buy their CDs or stream their music because the artists only see a small portion of the money when you do. Go directly to the band's website for your purchase, which will put the cash in the hands of the person who needs it most instead of a corporation. And don't forget to pick up a T-shirt or other merchandise when you do.
- Many of the artists are now performing mini-concerts on Facebook, YouTube and other digital sites and collecting money through virtual tip jars. Bring them into your home via your computer, iPad or on your big-screen TV for greatest enjoyment, and don't forget to toss a little \$\$ into the bucket. Zito, Castiglia and Nick Moss are prime movers in Can't Stop the Blues, which pre-schedules broadcasts with a dozen or more acts. Other artists are banding together to do the same. Still more are going solo at all times of the day. Tuning in to live music will help you beat the boredom we all currently face!
- And while you're at it: Don't forget to support your favorite venues – the restaurants and bars that host the bands that you love. If they're still serving food to go, hit them up for a break from home cooking.
- Finally, remember: Keep the faith and keep your distance from one another because it will bring all this hardship to a swifter end. No matter what your religion or political belief, we're all members of the human race and all in this together.

And don't forget to turn up your music. The one advantage we have is our love for the blues, which is guaranteed to lift our spirits no matter what we go through – it's worked for a century; it'll work for us today, too!

~Marty Gunther *Contributing Editor*



*The blues is the foundation for a lot of things.  
Things have branched off. It's cool how music  
grows, but the foundation is always there. It's not  
going anywhere. The blues is always going to be  
relevant.*

GARY CLARK, JR.

quote  
tab  
.com

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.

**May 3, 2020** Charlotte Blues Society Presents a Very Special Evening with  
2020 Grammy Nominee Best Traditional Blues Album  
**Jontavious Willis**  
*The Rabbit Hole*  
Advance Membership tickets sales TBA  
1801 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte, NC  
Special Membership only reserved tickets sale TBA  
On sale to the public: March 22  
\$20 reserved seating.  
All tickets will be sold through Eventbrite

**Vanessa Collier**  
tickets available at Eventbrite  
**APRIL 5**  
The Rabbit Hole 1801 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte NC  
"There's a young lady [Vanessa Collier] came onstage with me, I forget where I was, but she's playing an alto saxophone, and man, she was amazing."  
~ Buddy Guy  
Advance Tickets \$15  
Day of Show: \$20  
Doors 6PM  
Show: 7-9:30pm  
Keeping The Blues Alive for 27 Years!  
www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org

STAY POSITIVE.... NEW DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON, AND WE SHALL ALL CELEBRATE OUR 27TH ANNIVERSARY TOGETHER.



---

APRIL 2020

# Upcoming Shows at a glance

POSTPONED

POSTPONED

POSTPONED

POSTPONED

POSTPONED

**BE SAFE. STAY AT HOME.**

REMEMBER:

**THE VIRUS DOESN'T MOVE.**

**PEOPLE MOVE IT.**

**WE STOP MOVING ~**

**THE VIRUS STOPS MOVING.**

**THE VIRUS DIES.**

**IT'S THAT SIMPLE**

**# STAY HOME**

**IT COULD SAVE LIVES**



---

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!**