

# Charlotte Blues Society



*Monthly E-Bluesletter*

## SAVING OUR VENUES

# FROM A GRIM FUTURE

Charlotte City Council OKs Grant pg 3

**In this Bluesletter:**

**Marty Gunther's "Red Hot & Blues Reviews"**

**Remembering Betty Karres & Wanda Hubicki**

**Helping CBS Survive**

**Harmonica Convention SPAH coming in August**

**Blues Blast Winners 2020**

**BMA 2021 Submissions**

OCTOBER 2020

# Musings *from the President*



October is here with the smell of burning leaves and bonfires and yes, the sound of live music. Not indoors at some of our favorite venues, but outdoors. You may find it in the backyards of friends, at house concerts and private events. The gatherings are smaller, Our social distancing doesn't allow us to dance with beautiful abandon. The need to see and hear the music live in real time has overwhelmed most music fans. We grieve the loss of the live settings, not to mention the social aspect of those gatherings. I don't know about you, but I really miss seeing our Sandra Madara dance! I miss seeing Mr Roy ("mighty fine"), who showed up at every even. You always knew how good the band was based entirely on how long Mr. Roy would stay to listen and whether Sandra ever stopped dancing. I haven't seen those wonderful members of our group since March, and can't wait until those days return. Those are just two of the very special people in our group. Can't wait until we reopen and move ahead.. I look forward to getting back to the venues that have become victim to the plague that has hit this world.



But Venue managers, owners and promoters in Charlotte will not give up the fight to survive. This month's newsletter is a little later due to the work those people have been involved with to Save Our Stages. On Monday, October 5th, once again members of this concerned group went before the Charlotte City Council to plead their case. On the agenda: a vote to Save Our Stages (SOS). The vote to provide grant funds of approximately \$500,000 from the city to provide six months of rent abatement for our music venues through available funds from the CARES act was vital to the lifeblood of e holds in our cover story "Saving our stages from a Grim Future" on Page 4.

This has been a sad time for our music family in Charlotte.

In August, our friend and one of the most celebrated venue owners in Charlotte, Nick Karres, owner of famous Double Door Inn, lost his lovely wife Betty. In late September, The Charlotte Folk Society lost one of their key devoted members Wanda. Our sincere regrets go to family, friends and associates of these amazing women.

**With a little help from our friends...**

*and finally a few words from board member Marty Gunther*

Just like every individual in the world today, Charlotte Blues Society is feeling the effects of COVID-19. None of us realized on March 1 when Michael Ingmire and The Instigators hosted our jam and meeting that society as we know it would soon to coming to a halt.

Every one of us has experienced a sense of loss. The isolation we've all been confined to has robbed us of our basic freedom, taken our jobs, the lives of our loved ones and more. The shutdown has affected all of us, and it's been crippling to CBS, too. We've lost what were planned as our biggest shows of the year – Our Anniversary Gala with Vanessa Collier in April, Jontavious Willis in May and our Blues Christmas Extraganza in December – and now our longtime venue, The Rabbit Hole, too.

The bottom line is that CBS – a non-profit organization in which all board members and volunteers contribute their time and effort – has lost the revenue stream that keeps us afloat. Not only have we lost all of the revenue we normally collect at our monthly shows through ticket and merchandise sales, we've also lost our biggest money maker of the year: Our participation as a beer vendor at Taste of Charlotte, which has been cancelled, too. And – just like every one of us – CBS continues to incur bills that have to be paid – included, but not limited to keeping our website up and running, maintaining our post box, publishing our monthly newsletter and much more. As a member of Charlotte Blues Society, it's important that you remember that our primary goal is to promote and advance the music that we love. And your membership dues are vital for our survival – and for our ability to pay for and promote the multiple shows you attend for FREE each year.

Is your membership up-to-date? If not, please renew it as soon as you can.

Sure, the shutdown has hit us all in the pocket. But remember, dues are only \$20 a year for an individual or \$35 for a family of four. It's a small outlay for you, but that's to our survival – and to the continuing existence of the blues itself. The money you pay today will draw interest in the joy you'll experience at the shows we'll be presenting down the road.

As Dick Gilland, the senior member of our board, says: "C'mon, folks! It's only 20 friggin' dollars!"

And if your dues are currently paid and you're capable of doing so, please considering hitting the "DONATE NOW" button on the CBS website. It's located beneath the headline "Help Our Cause" on the home page.

You'll be glad you did – and we'll be happy, too!

# SAVING OUR VENUES FROM A GRIM FUTURE

In the "good old days" we would go to our computer or smart phone click on a website, or check our emails regarding live events at **The Evening Muse, The Neighborhood Theatre, The Fillmore, The Visulite**, and others for concerts. We had a plethora of choices. Now we see "postponed" or "cancelled" listed everywhere, or just plain empty calendars. Our two big events this year: our April Anniversary show with **Vanessa Collier** has been postponed until April 2021 (for now) The **Jontavious Willis** May 2020 date postponed until sometime in 2021. No other events are scheduled for CBS this year at this time. It is all "wait and see"

State mandates have regulations specific to music venues. Indoor music venues are not able to open. Their allowed capacity, based on size for large venues like Neighborhood Theatre is 25. Seriously. 25. By the time staff and band are accounted for, you may have 3 paying guests. Oh, and they can't serve alcohol.

The grim news is: There is no real estimate when venues will open. After speaking with **MaxxMusic** owner and promoter **Gregg McCraw**, all estimates are merely guesses, but perhaps late spring or well into summer is a possibility. We are hopeful it will be sooner, but no one really knows.

Why? Because larger venues ability to survive will be based entirely on when *major acts* decide they will get back on the road. It is the national acts that generate viable revenue and allow these rooms to continue operating. **The Rolling Stones** tour is on hold, **Kenny Wayne Sheppard** dates through the end of the year are postponed, with the first on the books in this area for 2021 in May, with dates rescheduled for Rocky Mt VA, Durham, NC & Charleston SC rescheduled-for now. **Beth Hart** has optimistically rescheduled her dates in late spring/early summer.

But what about the near future? How can venues survive?

Venues that are streaming local bands are helping the bands, but isn't a drop in the bucket to fill the needs of these major spaces.

"But..." you say. **"Middle C Jazz** and some breweries and the like have music" You are correct. Some do, since they are also a restaurant, and different rules apply when serving food (and we're not just talking about hot dogs folks) But they still must abide by the guidelines set up for restaurants by the State. Some have more seats, since they have indoor and outdoor seating, where the rules differ.

Here is the good news: COVID has created a bond between local promoters and venue owners. They came together for a common cause: survival. They presented their needs to the Council over the last several months to plead their case. The stakes were high. will venues live or die? On Monday October 5th, some relief has finally arrived for the promoters and venues in Charlotte. Charlotte City Council met and voted on allocating funds from the **CARES Act** to specifically assist the venues. At the time this newsletter was being written the funds were granted, and for now, promoters and venues can breathe a little easier. WCCB TV has reported this : <https://www.wccbcharlotte.com/2020/10/05/charlotte-city-council-releases-more-in-cares-act-stimulus-funds/> . However, since minutes for this meeting were not available at this time, we can not independently confirm any dollar figures. You can go the the City of Charlotte site, locate minutes for October 5, 2020 to get complete details, as will we when they are posted.

Celebrate: This is a terrific first step! but it does not stop there. More funding is available at the State and National level. One way anyone who reads this can help: <https://www.nivassoc.org/take-action> This will let your congressperson know you want them to support funding. if you can afford to, please consider supporting NIVA and their member venues directly. Donate to NIVA Emergency Relief Fund (administered by The Giving Back Fund; a separate 501(c)3 non-profit that will collect the money and oversee the application process for venues to receive grants from the NIVA Emergency Relief Fund).Support NIVA's mission to preserve and nurture the ecosystem of independent live music venues and promoters throughout the United States by buying NIVA merch. The proceeds and donations will contribute to NIVA's general operating budget as a 501(c)6.You can also support your favorite venues directly..The music community is grateful for your support. Together, we will #SaveOurStages Make your voice heard in Congress -take action <https://www.nivassoc.org/take-action>. Even though negotiations have been halted, it is still important to let them know what you think.

If you were wondering what type of impact the shut down of our stages makes, Gregg McCraw of Maxx Music estimates the state wide impact on live music venues to be a \$30 Million loss this year - and that's just for "independent" small, locally owned venues. That doesn't take into account the Live Nation venues and amphitheatres nor PACs like Blumenthal. Thirty MILLION dollars. Let that sink in. McCraw stated "Charlotte venues have come together like never before." Venue owners and promoters have united to illuminate the dire consequences if local venues are not protected. Funding granted by the Council through the Cares Act is a bandage. It will not replace the millions of dollars lost locally, but it is a good start.

welcome



We are all aware of the effect COVID has had on the venues, promoters, agents and artists: Devastating.

But what about the people that keep those artists touring, selling merch - the Fans.

The harm to their psyche has been very real. Live music fans are having difficulty detoxing from the inability to attend a live show. It was more than the music, it was social connection. During this pandemic, that social contact has been limited, if not completely severed. Fans rely on stepping outside of their life for a little reprieve. The experience and joy of music in a live setting was soul filling. For non-musicians and music fans desire -no require-that connection. The lack of in-person experience was replaced by online streaming.

Live streaming brought to the surface the inadequacy of the most used formats, specifically Facebook, Instagram Live and YouTube. These platforms have major flaws. If you have not installed the Facebook app on your phone or tablet(due to its massive sucking of memory) you can not view anything live. Period. It's frustrating. And let's not mention the horrible sound quality.

And then a new platform arrived in town. **Mandolin**

**MaxxMusic**, Charlotte's premiere promoter of live events, brought a new format that may actually be a huge improvement for those that wish to see a show live.

No, you may not be in **Neighborhood Theatre** during the event, however the new platform "Mandolin" has provided a better concert stream experience.

The successful live stream of an **Eric Gales & Joe Bonamassa** show recently was the first. Although ticket sales were not as robust as a live in person event, for the first outing, it had a good response. Fans from around the world could purchase their ticket and log in to this Pay-Per-View event.

It's not an unfamiliar concept to most of us. Boxing, football and other sporting events have taken this road for years. But no one really tackled the live music forum. No other platform has worked to perfect the audio quality needed to provide a great live concert experience. Unlike Facebook, Instagram or YouTube live streams, Mandolin offers a *quality live audio & video stream*.

From their "About us" on Mandolin's website:

*"When COVID-19 first struck, the live music industry was turned upside down overnight. Venues, artists and live music fans were all uprooted. Resilient artists found new ways to play and engage with fans on platforms like Instagram Live, but that technology was not built to serve the specialized needs of the music industry. As live music fans ourselves, we quickly saw the opportunity to revolutionize live-streaming for the music industry. In a matter of weeks, we had built a product and were already producing our first show and bringing live music back to the stage."*

If you head to **MaxxMusic.com**, you will see they have embraced this technology and their event calendar has become filled with shows "powered by Mandolin". It makes a music lover's heart happy.

For those that say "I only want to see it in person", the response "how many live events do you watch on TV now or in the past without thinking twice? Football, soccer, basketball, baseball, golf, etc? Attending a concert "pay-per-view" with excellent production quality is a great option. Watching your favorite artist performing live locally or from around the globe by yourself or with friends on your home indoor or outdoor big screen(after all, time to make REAL use of that 55 inch TV you bought during the pandemic), is the new way to bring music fans together.

There may come a day in the near future where we can safely attend shows in person, but for the many older music fans, Mandolin is definitely a positive option.

# Respect & Love

TO A SPECIAL WOMAN & HER FAMILY

from your CBS family



## Betty Sito Karres

February 13, 1952 - August 20, 2020.

Blues fans knew Betty as the beloved wife of Double Door Inn owner Nick Karres.

Nick & their children knew her as a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother who always put her family first.

Charlotte Blues Society Board & Members extend our sincere condolences to this wonderful woman who was admired and respected by all that met her.

Memorials may be made to  
Holy Angels, PO Box 710, Belmont, NC  
28012  
or  
Novant Health Hospice and Palliative Care,  
200 Hawthorne Ln, Charlotte, NC 28204

The Charlotte  
Folk Society &  
their Board of  
Directors  
Remember  
Wanda Hubicki



Wanda Hubicki was beloved for her tireless ability to connect folk arts lovers to each other and to the artists we champion. In particular, her love of all forms of folk music and the musicians who keep the traditions alive formed a web of relationships so strong and so deep that we came to revere her as the very heart and soul of the Charlotte Folk Society. Wanda's service to the Society spanned more than 30 years beginning in the late 1980's. Her extraordinary passion for the organization has shown through her extensive volunteer service as a board member and, of course, as the long-time editor of the Newsletter. Wanda's deep love of people, stories, history and music was evident to all of us who were privileged enough to experience those long and fascinating phone conversations that never failed to illuminate the importance of connection as the central tradition of folkways. Godspeed Wanda as you embark on your Long Journey Home.

October 23 1948 - September 29,  
2020

*Charlotte Blues Society shares your sadness*

# IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

## NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE AUCTION

Just days before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down music venues across the country, staff members at Charlotte, North Carolina's Neighborhood Theatre were planning to rebuild its stage.

As North Carolina has slowly looked toward reopening businesses across the state, the Theatre's staff decided they should get on with their plans. However, throwing away the old stage felt wasteful, wrong and disrespectful to the history of so many musicians who had graced it. With so many artists connecting with people and creating lifelong memories, there had to be a better use of the plywood.

A few quick social media texts with @clt.graffiti and Tough Ass Crew later, and Charlotte's artist network has come out in droves to help support the Neighborhood Theatre which is in fear of shutting its doors for good - before it gets to reopen.

Dozens of Charlotte-area artists, including Osiris, Chris Hood, Arko, Btwokat, Mellisa Wineman and many more, have breathed new life into the old wood for more than 40 works of art are being auctioned off through later this month. There are some pretty spectacular pieces donated by local artists to help raise enough money for the Neighborhood Theatre to survive long enough to get everyone back together with live music.

It's a great way for patrons to bring home a part of the Theatre, as well as unique art from Charlotte artists.

The 32-foot-by-24-foot stage, which was last rebuilt approximately 20 years ago, was broken down into a variety of sizes for artists to paint. This virtual art auction is being held on the Neighborhood Theatre Instagram page - @ntheatre.

### Payments

will be accepted through Venmo @SavetheNeighborhoodtheatre

For more information, contact

MaxxMusic founder/promoter Gregg McCraw (704-942-7995)

or Neighborhood Theatre production manager/auction co-organizer John Brady (828-242-9956).



Blues Artists: Do not neglect to submit your album or minimum 6-song EP for consideration via the Blues Foundation's online service for the 2021 Blues Music Awards.

This year, they have added the opportunity to submit a single for "Song of the Year" consideration even if you do not have a full album or EP released. To be eligible for submission, your single must be a first-ever recording professionally released to the public between November 1, 2019 and October 31, 2020 and may not be part of a larger EP or full album release. To submit a single for "Song of the Year," you must contact Joe Whitmer at [joe@blues.org](mailto:joe@blues.org). Singles may not be directly uploaded to the online submission platform without a special code.

#### **Submission fees and deadlines:**

October 1- October 15, 2020 \$225 per album or EP submission submission / \$125 per song submission

**The submission process officially closes on October 15, 2020.** You must upload your music and artwork and complete payment for your submission transaction no later than OCTOBER 15TH to be considered for a Blues Music Award nomination.

All music must be uploaded as a WAV file with album artwork uploaded as a JPEG or PDF file. If you need assistance with uploading your music, album artwork, and/or liner notes, please contact Joe Whitmer at [joe@blues.org](mailto:joe@blues.org)

.As you release future recordings, we encourage you to send at least one copy of your CD to: The Blues Foundation, 421 South Main, Memphis, TN 38103-4464. The earlier you do this the better. It informs The Blues Foundation staff that your CD has been released and allows us to log it for future BMA related communications.



# CAN'T STOP THE BLUES

**Coming up this week, only on Can't Stop the Blues:**

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

THURSDAY Oct 8,

10/8:9:00 pm eastern: PROFESSOR LOUIE & THE CROWMATIX- THE QUARANTINE SESSION

10:00 pm eastern: BREEZY RODIO- BLUES BROKEN SESSION

FRIDAY Oct 9,

10/9:9:00 pm eastern: JAMMIN' WITH THE MIKE CLARK BAND

10:00 pm eastern: LISA LEUSCHNER ANDERSEN- "LIL' BABY'S TIME TO SHINE!"

SATURDAY Oct 10,

10/10:9:00 pm eastern: CAROLYN WONDERLAND & FRIENDS- BENEFIT FOR HOME.AUSTIN

10:00 pm eastern: MISS LAVELLE WHITE AND THE L MEN- "DANCE PARTY AT ANTONE'S"

SUNDAY Oct 11,

10/11:9:00 pm eastern: MARCEL SMITH, LIVE FROM GREASELAND

10:00 pm eastern: RUSTY ZINN

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 info to [booking@can'tstoptheblues.com](mailto:booking@can'tstoptheblues.com) for consideration.

At this point, their goal 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.

# CAN'T STOP THE BLUES

**Coming up this week, only on Can't Stop the Blues:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cantstoptheblues/>**

**THURSDAY Oct 8,**

**10/8:9:00 pm eastern: PROFESSOR LOUIE & THE CROWMATIX- THE QUARANTINE SESSION  
10:00 pm eastern: BREEZY RODIO- BLUES BROKEN SESSION**

**FRIDAY Oct 9,**

**10/9:9:00 pm eastern: JAMMIN' WITH THE MIKE CLARK BAND  
10:00 pm eastern: LISA LEUSCHNER ANDERSEN- "LIL' BABY'S TIME TO SHINE!"**

**SATURDAY Oct 10,**

**10/10:9:00 pm eastern: CAROLYN WONDERLAND & FRIENDS- BENEFIT FOR HOME.AUSTIN  
10:00 pm eastern: MISS LAVELLE WHITE AND THE L MEN- "DANCE PARTY AT ANTONE'S"**

**SUNDAY Oct 11,**

**10/11:9:00 pm eastern: MARCEL SMITH, LIVE FROM GREASELAND  
10:00 pm eastern: RUSTY ZINN**

# LOCAL ARTISTS TAKE NOTE

**Any members interested in performing on Can't Stop The Blues, 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 info to [booking@cantstoptheblues.com](mailto:booking@cantstoptheblues.com) for consideration. At this point, their goal 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.**

---

## 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

---

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!

[www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org) and on our FB Group Page,

KEEPIN' THE BLUES ALIVE!

**Support Musicians**



STUCK AT HOME AND  
NEED A LIVE MUSIC FIX?

Find  
your  
favorite  
artists  
online ~  
they may be  
streaming a  
live  
performance

IF YOU LOVE  
THEM, SUPPORT  
THEM!

Keep the  
Music Alive!

**SUPPORT  
THE MUSIC  
YOU LOVE**

FIND LIVE MUSIC EVENTS  
ON FACEBOOK, ARTIST  
WEBSITES, INSTAGRAM.  
BUY THEIR MERCH, THEIR  
MUSIC, DONATE TO THEIR  
PERFORMANCE AND HELP  
KEEP THEM WORKING.

TOGETHER WE SHALL ALL  
THRIVE AND SURVIVE



## 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!



ISC is running a special promotion called **INSPIRE YOUR SONGS**. They'll be giving away a great prize package to three winners and every song entered will also be included in the 2020 competition



The International Songwriting Competition (ISC) is running a special promotion from Oct 5-12 called **INSPIRE YOUR SONGS**. Three overall winners will be selected and awarded an amazing prize package that includes a mobile recording device, premier vocal production software, and some of the best headphones you'll ever own. All songs entered will also be included in the overall 2020 International Songwriting Competition and will be eligible to share in over \$150,000 in cash and prizes. Judges include Coldplay, Dua Lipa, Bebe Rexha, and more. Enter your songs today at <https://songwritingcompetition.com/>





## Sugar Ray and the Bluetones featuring Little Charlie – Too Far from the Bar

(Seyvern Records CD 0077)

[www.sugararrayandthebluetones.com](http://www.sugararrayandthebluetones.com)

One of the best bands in the world for the past 35 years, Sugar Ray and the Bluetones team up with two of the most stylish guitarists ever – Little Charlie Baty and Duke Robillard – to deliver a disc of some of the tastiest blues you’ll hear this or any year. The 15 cuts here feature some of the final recordings of Baty -- the West Coast legend who left us suddenly last spring, the lush, polished vocals and harp of Sugar Ray Norcia and a lineup that includes perennial BMA nominee Anthony Geraci on keys as well as reigning bassist of the year Michael “Mudcat” Ward. Robillard produced the set and trades licks with Little Charlie on four numbers. Silky smooth throughout, it’s difficult to pinpoint highlights, but be sure to check out “Don’t Give No More Than You Can Take,” “Too Little Too Late,” “What I Put You Through,” “I Got a Right to Sing the Blues,” “The Night I Got Pulled Over” and “Reel Burner.” This group’s earned dozens of honors through the years, and there’ll be more on the horizon with this one!

## Libby Rae Watson & Burt Deivert – She Shimmy

(Hard Danger Records)

[www.libbyrae.com](http://www.libbyrae.com)

Mississippi native Libby Rae Watson and ex-pat American Burt Deivert have been delivering the real-deal acoustic blues for a combined 80-plus years, but team for the first time on this sensational set that blends modern originals seamlessly with familiar classics. Watson is a former student of Sam Chatmon, a ‘20s superstar who teamed with brother, Bo Carter, in the Mississippi Sheiks. This one’s produced in association with the Swedish Arts Council, where Deivert is based. They get assists from a quartet of harp players, including Charlie Musselwhite, as well as guitarist Eric Bibb and others, delivering an understated treasure. Standout cuts include the original “She Shimmy,” which describes a lady partying on a Saturday night in Clarksdale, Miss., the Carter standard “I Want You to Know,” the sexually charged Chatmon number, “Ashtray Taxi,” and originals “I Won’t Cry,” “Cuckoo Crowed” and “Big Joe,” which describes Watson meeting guitarist Big Joe Williams on a Magnolia State plantation.



## The Lucky Losers – Godless Land

(VizzTone Label Group)

[www.theluckylosers.com](http://www.theluckylosers.com)

Bay Area vocalists Cathy Lemons and Phil Berkowitz have been firing on all cylinders since teaming with producer Kid Andersen in 2018 for Blind Spot, which received multiple nominations in the Independent Music Awards before capturing top prize for soul-blues artists of the year in 2019. As good as that CD was, this one – their debut release on Boston’s VizzTone label – is even better. A rarity in the blues because they consistently sing in duets, they’re Lucky Losers are backed by an all-star lineup as they rip and run through a sprightly set of originals and covers that bridge the full, jazzy spectrum of roots. The roster includes Berkowitz on harp with contributions from Ben Rice, Ian Lamson, Danny Caron, Derrick “D-Mar” Martin and others. This thoroughly enjoyable set speaks about the struggles we all face in modern times. Among the winning cuts are “Half a Nothing,” “Mad Love Is Good Love,” “Be You,” “Catch a Tiger by the Tail,” “My Good Eye,” “What Makes You Act Like That,” “The Good Fight” and “The Ragged Heart.”





### Al Basile -

#### Last Hand

(Sweetspot Records 9927)

[www.albasile.com](http://www.albasile.com)

One of the most sophisticated bluesman on the scene today, Rhode Island-based cornet player, vocalist and poet Al Basile's latest disc is a spectacular, all-original project built atop a unifying theme. It's a jazzy/bluesy story from the man's prospective of a May-December romance that - in his opinion - ends far too soon. A founding member of Roomful of Blues, Basile's a stellar tunesmith and vocalist whose works have been covered by Ruth Brown, Johnny Rawls, and others. He's backed here by Duke Robillard's regular band: keyboard player Bruce Bears, bassist Brad Hallen and percussionist Mark Teixeira. Like Me & the Originator, Al's 2018 release that weaved poetry and a musical storyline, Last Hand comes up aces on all counts. It's the total package for anyone who loves blues served with a heaping helping of class.

### Various Artists -

#### Tom Walbank Presents Hootmatic Blues

(Self-produced CD)

<https://tomwalbank.bandcamp.com/releases>

A British émigré based in Arizona, harmonica player Tom Walbank began this project innocently enough: by wanting to connect with two other harp players to produce a song in the styles of country blues legend Sonny Terry and Elder Roma Wilson, a Detroit-based street-corner musician who recorded trios with his sons. The effort was so successful that this extensive digital CD was the result. The lineup started with Joe Filisko -- America's foremost proponent of country blues -- on board along with his British counterpart, Gareth Tucker. The roster also includes world-class talents Bob Corritore, Paul Oscher, Phil Wiggins, Aki Kumar and Andrew Alli and others. A skilled harp player himself, Walbank appears on about half of the 22 cuts, 21 of which are instrumentals and dazzling solos. The highlights here are too numerous to mention. But if you're a fan of traditional country harmonica, this one will definitely please you. Even better, it's an inexpensive download that delivers big bang for your buck.



### CD Woodbury -

#### World's Gone Crazy

(Self-produced CD)

[www.cdwoodbury.com](http://www.cdwoodbury.com)

CD Woodbury bounces back from a career interrupted by health issues to deliver a welcome follow-up to his debut album, which had him at the cusp of stardom a few years ago. A two-time International Blues Challenge semi-finalist, he alternates slide and single-note electric guitar throughout, varying his stylings from Hill Country to soul blues, funk and more. Based in Seattle, where he flew under the radar as a sideman for decades with Mark DuFresne, Randy Oxford and others, Woodbury's previous release, Monday Night!, peaked at the No. 8 spot in international independent blues radio charts. A contemporary artist, he has a straight-ahead delivery and possesses a strong singing voice mixing originals and well-chosen covers. "Follow the River Home" opens the action with a Hill Country feel before the horns kick in for "Walk Around Music," a soul-blues pleaser. Other highlights include "Emerald City Blues," "Memphis Heat," "South of South Hill" and "Can't Eat That Stuff No More."







## Wily Bo Walker & Danny Flam – Ain't No Man a Good Man

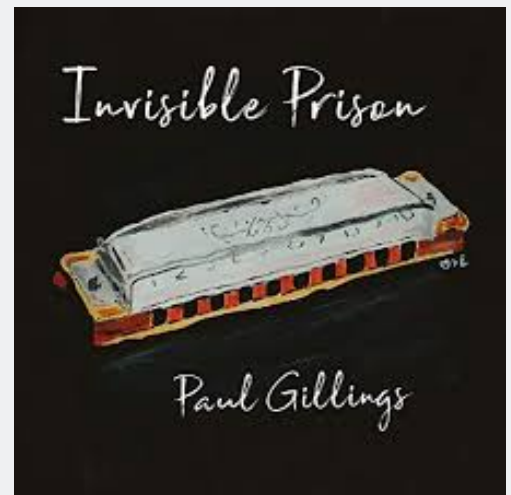
(Canyon Records)  
www.wilybo.com

Scottish multi-instrumentalist/vocalist Wily Bo Walker teams once again with Danny Flam, the Grammy-winning leader of the New York Brass, for a long-awaited follow-up to their powerful 2015 release, *Moon Over Indigo*, and this one's a winner, too. Backed by both Flam's ensemble as well as Walker's acoustic and electric bands, this collection of contemporary blues is flushed out with the help of Chicago Gospel Choir members The Brown Sisters and The Cenovia Cummins String Quartet. It's a good thing that Wily's a powerful singer because the wall of sound this group creates rolls over you like a tsunami from the jump. A tight mix of blues, blues-rock and more, some of the best cuts here include the opening title cut, "Fool for You," "Did I Forget," "Velvet Windows (Treme Trippin')," "Ain't Hungry No More," "Time to Forget About You" and "Build My Gallows...(Ain't No Return)."

## Paul Gillings – Invisible Prison

(Self-produced CD)  
www.paulgillingsharmonica.com

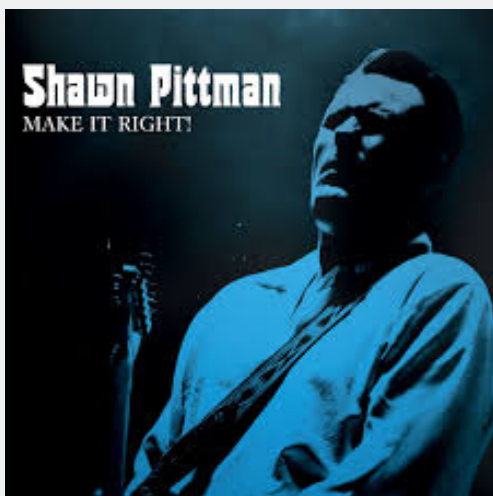
Based out of Suffolk on the east coast of England and a junior World Harmonica Champion in 1993, Paul Gillings steps out of the shadows as a top session musician to play everything but percussion here as he delivers a flashy, all-original set of modern blues. A dynamic singer whose attack on the reeds is somewhat reminiscent of Sugar Blue, albeit with far fewer pyrotechnics, Gillings has been featured on Jools Holland's UK TV show as well as the Mickey Mouse Club and Good Morning America in the U.S. He's all blues here, comfortable in several other formats, too, including gypsy folk as a current member of the group Zingaro Blue. A pair of boogies – "Start Over Again" and "I Ain't Never Played an English Song with an English Guy" – open the action. Some of the other pleasers include the instrumental, "KWS," "Help You" – which is based on Blue's "Miss You," the melodic "I'm Never Gonna Change" and "Waiting Blues."



## Shawn Pittman – Make It Right

(Continental Blue Heaven CD 2036)  
www.shawnpittman.com

Now based in Broken Arrow, Okla., after a couple of decades in Texas, Shawn Pittman is a stylish guitarist and vocalist who mixes Delta, contemporary blues and more in this outstanding set, which was recorded in Denmark last year in the midst of a European tour. The 13th release in a career that's included touring with Susan Tedeschi and work with many of the brightest lights in Austin and Dallas, Pittman's in a power-blues format here, backed by a top-notch Danish rhythm section as he slices and dices his way through an inventive set that comes across with a dirty sound only achieved by using vintage equipment. If you love deep-in-the-pocket guitar runs, you'll adore this one. Some of the bright spots include the Jimmy Reed-inspired "Done Tole You So," Eddie Taylor's "There Will Be a Day," the slow blues "How Long," which hints of Otis Rush and Magic Sam, and the self-penned neo-soul pleaser, "I'm Done."





## Mark May –

### Deep Dark Demon

(Gulf Coast Records)

[www.markmay.com](http://www.markmay.com)

Texas-based blues-rocker Mark May delivers a tasteful, mixed bag of azure treasures in a follow-up to *Blues Heaven*, which peaked at No. 6 on the Billboard album charts. The guitar slinger's in top form, mixing of fiery grunge, soulful ballads, blues shuffles and Latin-tinged pleasers that will surprise you at each turn. The former vocalist/guitarist for both Dicky Betts and Great Southern, Mark penned all 11 cuts, and demonstrates why he's one of the favorite performers on the Lone Star State bar circuit. The lineup includes Shawn Allen (Keeshea Pratt Band) and a guest appearance from label owner Mike Zito, who contributes lead guitar for one cut. "Harvey's Dirty Side" provides a balls-to-the-wall attack to open before the shuffle "BBQ and Blues" lays down a steady groove. You'll also enjoy "Rolling Me Down," "My Last Ride," "For Your Love," "Something Good" and "Invisible Man."

## Crooked Eye Tommy –

### Hot Coffee and Pain

(Blue Heart Records BHR/003)

[www.crookedeyetommy.com](http://www.crookedeyetommy.com)

Fronted by brothers Tommy and Paddy Marsh, Crooked Eye Tommy is a rock-solid band from Southern California that features twin guitar leads in a style similar to the Allman Brothers or Stevie Ray and Jimmie Vaughan without straying far from the blues root. They've been honored with six trophies in the Ventura County (Calif.) Music Awards, and swing from the hip here. This five-piece unit has made it to the International Blues Challenge semi-finals on two occasions, and Tommy and Paddy were finalists in the solo/duo category earlier. Their sophomore release, this one includes six blues and roots-rock originals and three covers, and features a guest appearance by vocalist/keyboard player Teresa James. The band lays down a heavy groove from the opening notes of Son House's "Death House Letter" and power forward throughout. Must listens include "Sitting in the Driveway," "Hot Coffee & Pain," "Baby Where You Been?" – featuring James, "The Time It Takes to Live" and a take on Sonny Landreth's "Congo Square."



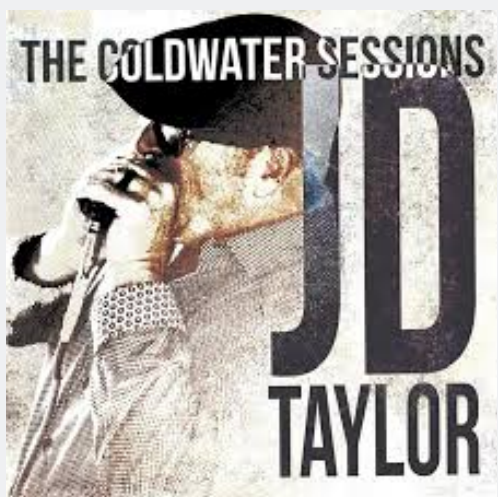
## JD Taylor –

### The Coldwater Sessions

(VizzTone Label Group VT-JDT-01)

[www.jdtaylorblues.com](http://www.jdtaylorblues.com)

Harp player/vocalist JD Taylor has served as the front man for Little Boys Blue -- one of the most beloved bands in Memphis -- for the past 25 years, but steps into the spotlight here to deliver a soulful, star-studded set that should launch his name into the top stratosphere of the industry. JD's delivery might remind some listeners of Junior Wells on some cuts, but he's no copycat. He's a soulful, melismatic singer and songwriter whose material is contemporary but comes across with old-school appeal. Bluff City legend the Rev. Charles Hodges chips in on organ, and members of Southern Avenue contribute riffs, too. All of the cuts here are worth multiple listens. Some of the standouts include "Got Me Where You Want Me," "Nothing Left to Say," "At First Glance," "If It Ain't Good," "Honey Honey Baby," "Anastasia" and "The Coldwater Swing." This CD's going on my short list for potential end-of-the-year honors.





## JW-Jones -

### Sonic Departures

Solid Blues Records)

[www.jw-jones.com](http://www.jw-jones.com)

Few people were riding as high as JW-Jones was in January. The Canadian had just won the Albert King Award as best guitarist at the IBCs, his group -- Horojo Trio -- had captured top honors in the band category and he was looking forward to a year of touring. But the world stopped spinning, and this sensational CD is the result. Jones is backed here by his regular power blues trio that's augmented by keyboard player Jesse Whiteley and a 13-piece horn section as they deliver a mix of jump and some of the best big-band blues sounds you'll hear this year. Be sure to tune in to "Blue Jean Jacket," "Ain't Gonna Beg," a great new arrangement of "Drowning on Dry Land," the funkastic "Snatch It Back," "It's Obdacious" and "When It All Comes Down." This one will definitely chase away the COVID-19 blues.

## New Moon Jelly Roll Freedom Riders -

### Vol. 1

(Stony Plain Records SPCD 1416)

[www.stonyplainrecords.com](http://www.stonyplainrecords.com)

There are plenty of supergroups these days, but none more super than this one. Composed of Charlie Musselwhite, Alvin Youngblood Hart, ex-Squirrel Nut Zippers front man Jimbo Mathus, late Hill Country legend Jim Dickinson and sons Luther and Cody, they deliver a warm and fuzzy set of traditional blues. This one's a formerly hidden treasure conceived in a tour bus while Musselwhite was on the road with Mavis Staples backed by the Dickinsons' North Mississippi Allstars. It's being released for the first time after being recorded in 2007 during a multi-day jam at Dickinsons' Zebra Ranch in Coldwater, Miss. -- an event that proved to be so much fun, it gave birth to an annual blues festival. Charlie kicks off the action with "Blues, Why You Worry Me?" before Alvin covers Charley Patton's "Pony Blues." Other pleasers include "Come on Down to My House" featuring Jim, "Strange Land," "Shake It and Break It" featuring Jimbo, a Delta take on Jimi Hendrix's "Stone Free" and "Stop and Listen Blues." If this album strikes your fancy, look for the sequel -- Vol.2 -- sometime next spring.



## Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters -

### Rise Up

(Stony Plain Records SPCD 1418)

[www.ronnieearl.com](http://www.ronnieearl.com)

Ronnie Earl and his Broadcasters deliver a classy, deeply spiritual masterpiece with their latest recording, a 15-cut, 79-minute serving of music - the majority of which was recorded in what he terms "living room sessions" at home augmented with a bonus cut captured live at Daryl's House Club in Pawling, N.Y., late last year. The idea for this project began prior to COVID-19 as the four-time BMA guitarist of the year was recovering from surgery to alleviate a serious case of sciatica. A mix of the tasty instrumentals he's known for as well as vocals delivered by Barbara Blue, this warm, intimate, profoundly moving set is introspective one moment and toe-tapping the next. The highlights abound here beginning with a quiet, solo acoustic instrumental take on the spiritual, "I Shall Not Be Moved," followed by the electric, full-band "Higher Love" featuring Barbara, before yielding for the bittersweet instrumental "Blues for George Floyd." Other tasty numbers include a tribute to the late Lucky Peterson, covers from Eddie Taylor, Magic Sam and much, much more. Highly recommended.



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.

---

SEPTEMBER 2020

WINNERS  
**BLUES BLAST**

13TH ANNUAL BLUES BLAST MUSIC AWARDS

Contemporary Blues Album : Christone "Kingfish" Ingram - Kingfish

Traditional Blues Album : The Nick Moss Band Featuring Dennis Gruenling - Lucky Guy

Soul Blues Album : Bobby Rush - Sitting on Top of the Blues

Rock Blues Album : Coco Montoya - Coming In Hot

Acoustic Blues Album : Bob Margolin - This Guitar & Tonight

Live Blues Album : Albert Castiglia - Wild and Free

Historical Or Vintage Recording : Johnny Shines - The Blues Came Falling Down - Live 1973

New Artist Debut Album : Sister Lucile - Alive

Blues Band : B.B. King Blues Band

Male Blues Artist : Christone "Kingfish" Ingram

Female Blues Artist : Beth Hart

Sean Costello Rising Star Award : The Mary Jo Curry Band

**Charlotte Blues Society Congratulates all the winners!**

---

[www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org)

The SPAH Convention is coming to Charlotte in 2021



Charlotte Blues Society is hosting!



SPAH 2021  
Charlotte Sheraton, Charlotte, NC  
August 10-14, 2021

## What is SPAH?

SPAH is a worldwide harmonica organization based in the United States.

SPAH –the Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica –is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit registered in the State of Michigan.

The SPAH 2020 Convention in St. Louis has unfortunately been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. However, please keep August 11-15 on your calendar open for “SPAH Week!” The SPAH board is now planning a “SPAH Week” of online seminars, performances, and some “general sessions” where we can all join together for a few moments. Stay tuned to [www.SPAH.org](http://www.SPAH.org) and the SPAH Facebook site for details.

SPAH advances its mission of preservation and advancement since 1963 in many ways.

### SPAH:

- Produces an annual convention, attended each year by about 500 enthusiasts, to gather, jam, give concerts, share knowledge casually and in seminars, and to spend time with vendors, teachers, experts, manufacturers and friends from across the globe.
- Publishes a quarterly magazine, Harmonica Happenings, for its members, with famous player interviews, historical articles, recording reviews, with advertising by makers and sellers of harmonicas and related products.
- Awards youth scholarships to cover registration and hotel accommodation at each annual SPAH convention. Scholarships aid in the musical development of young harmonica players, aged 21 or under. Scholarship funds are raised both through donations and through raffles & fundraising at the convention.
- Conducts youth outreach with free learning events for local children at the convention.
- Honors excellence with annual awards in musicianship and service to the harmonica community (similar to the Oscars or Grammys for the harmonica world).
- Helps local harmonica clubs get started, keep going, and help one another
- Fosters worldwide communication and exchanges with harmonica players and organizations in many nations.

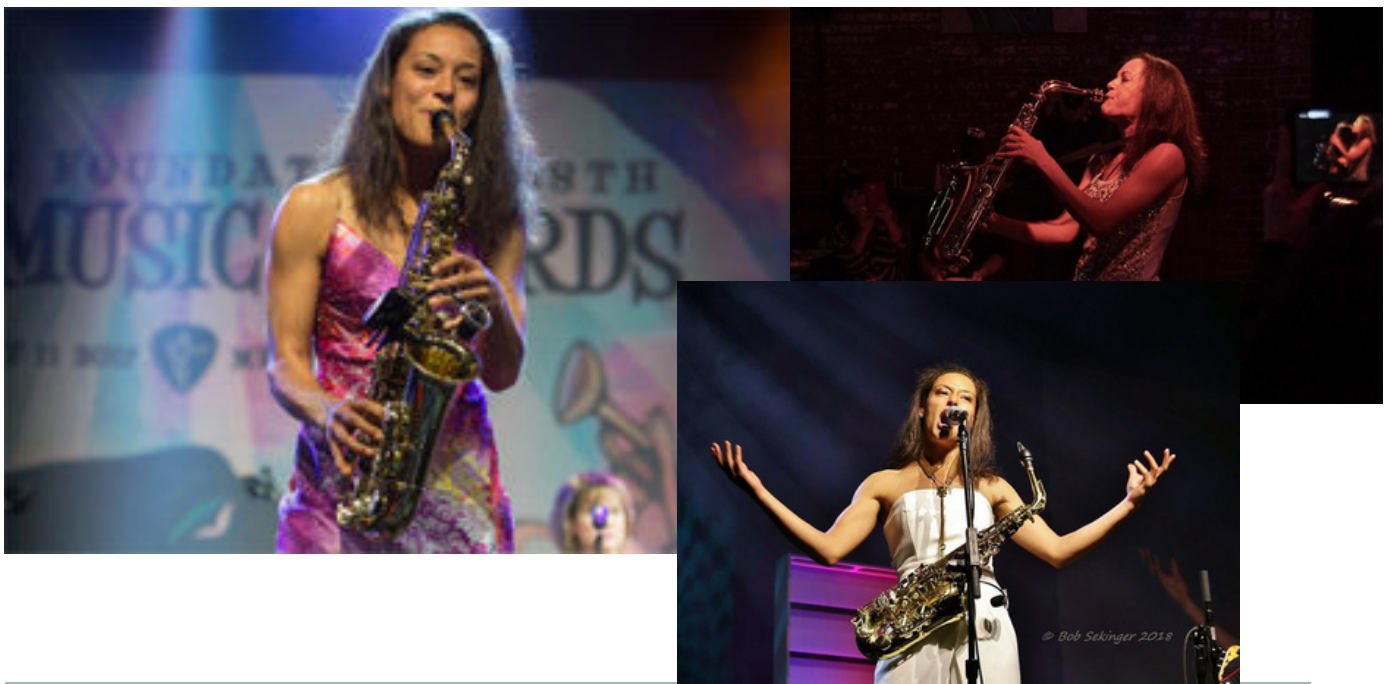
---

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.

REMEMBER:

**THE VIRUS DOESN'T MOVE.**

**PEOPLE MOVE IT.**

**WE STOP MOVING ~**

**THE VIRUS STOPS MOVING.**

**THE VIRUS DIES.**

**IT'S THAT SIMPLE**

**# WEAR YOUR MASK**

**# STAY HOME**

**# SAFE DISTANCE**

**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!**