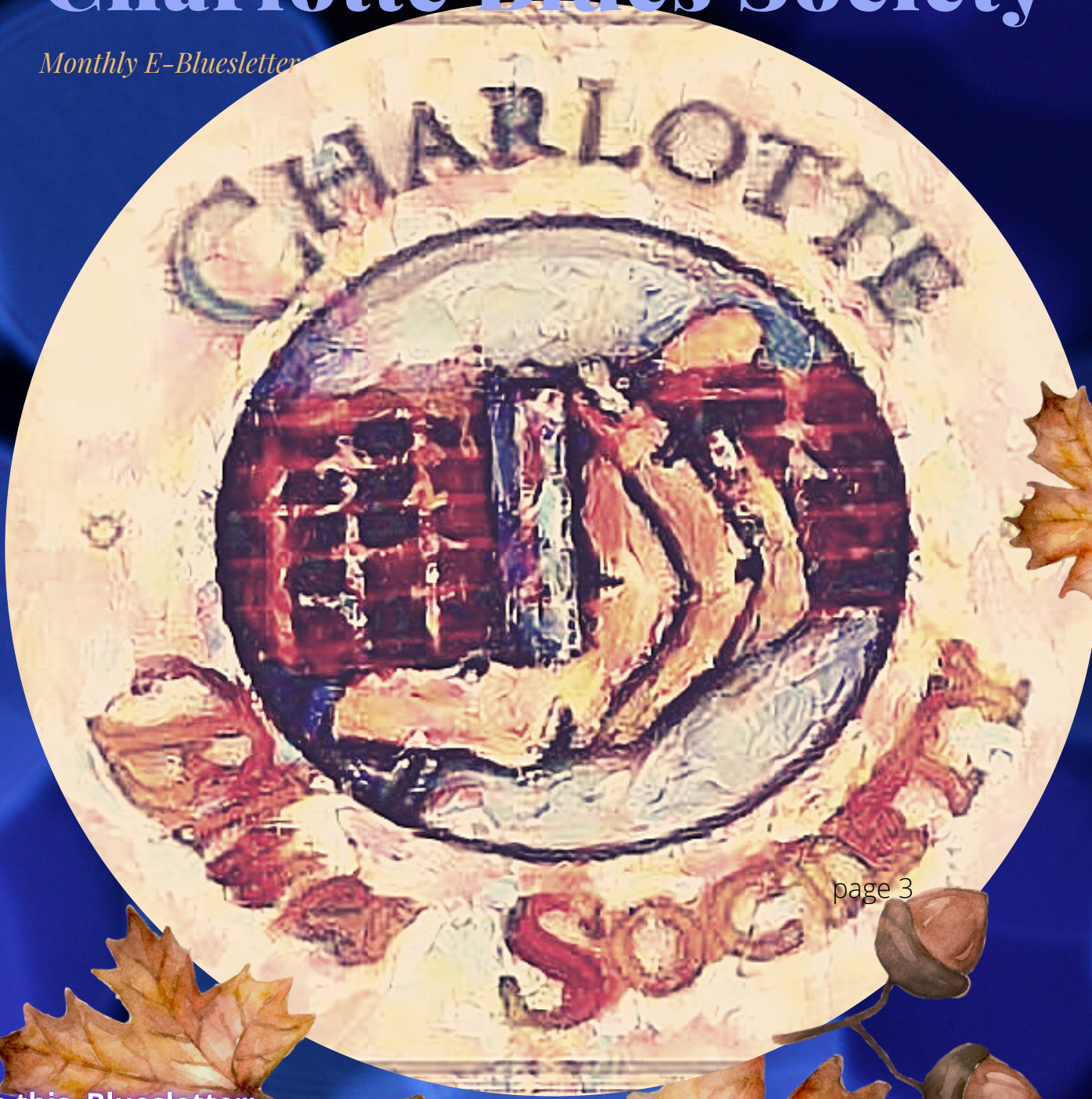

NOVEMBER 2020

Charlotte Blues Society

Monthly E-Bluesletter



page 3

In this Bluesletter:

Marty Gunther's "Red Hot & Blues Reviews"



Wow! This year is nearly over. Most of us are requesting a reset...or at least a way to block 2020 craziness from extending into 2021. Eyes, fingers, toes, and all body parts are crossed until this thing is O-V-E-R. yikes! Normally we would have already booked and begun ticket sales for our CBS Blues Christmas Extravaganza in December. We err on the side of caution instead, holding back for better, safer days for our members. Our vibes are positive, with a rescheduling of Vanessa Collier for April 2021 when we will celebrate 28 years as a Society dedicated to the blues in Charlotte.

Things are looking optimistic elsewhere for 2021: MaxxMusic is continuing their live streaming through the end of the year including Taj Mahal at Neighborhood Theatre on November 17th. It will originate from UC. But there is more info with this bluesletter. With the Mandolin platform, the sound and video quality is superb. And although a visit to their website shows a lot of white empty spaces, shows are appearing on the calendar for 2021. Stay positive!

Well wishes to our friend **Eric Gales** hit with Covid 19 along with his wife **LaDonna**. Although they now test negative, it raises awareness to the many affected by the pandemic. By the way: **Happy Birthday October 29th to Eric!** On your 17th I met Eric and his brother Eugene when I interviewed them on radio.. Later that night, he played the Double Door! Eric is a hero to many. Stay strong! Hugs to you and your fab woman!

Here is great news: In early October, funds from the CARES Act were allocated to local venues and independent promoters by Charlotte City Council. It will offer them a chance to breathe a little deeper, and keep our stages alive. Neighborhood Theatre had a massive auction/fundraiser in October. Final numbers are not in, but the art sale was impressive, and the artists contributing their talent toward this effort was considerable and noteworthy. I fell in love with more than one piece, but they were out of my budget range, however I was ecstatic to watch the bids escalate in every round. Community support is amazing. Congrats to the artists and the bidders. You proved that people working together make things happen.

Please renew your membership, or become a member. Some of you receive this bluesletter because you requested it online. It takes time, effort and effort to pull it together, and to keep our website up and running. I re-posted the article written by our board member Marty Gunther. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and rely on the financial commitment of our members to keep us strong. Only \$20 a year for single, \$35 for family of 2, \$50 for family of 3-4. a band with 4 members: \$40. It is tax deductible. Oh, and if you are an Amazona shopper, you can show your support to CBS with Amazon SMILE. Simply designate us as the recipient, and it won't cost you a penny, but we will benefit when you purchase from them (and I bet a LOT of you have been online shopping since the pandemic hit-just sayin') Passive contributions like this make all the difference!

With a little help from our friends...

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 be 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/wine/beverage 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.

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 consider 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!



SATURDAY, DEC 12 * 8PM * FREE! * YOUTUBE * FB LIVE



Mark your Calendar!

click on the images to connect and learn more



Purchasing tickets via this link will help raise funds to save Neighborhood Theatre*

Neighborhood Theatre and MaxxMusic are proud to partner with the legendary @tajmahalblues (Taj Mahal) to bring you access to his first ever LIVESTREAM performance on November 17 at 6pm PT/9pm ET! A portion of each ticket sold benefits Neighborhood Theatre/MaxxMusic.

\$20 per screen (Tickets grant you 48-hour access to the stream in case you can't join Taj live. All ticket sales end when the livestream performance begins.)

\$150 Meet & Greet ticket (limited capacity) - Livestream ticket + live online Meet & Greet with Taj Mahal. Meet & Greet begins one hour prior to livestream performance. Each ticket holder will receive a private 60-90 second video chat with Taj Mahal moderated by a Mandolin representative plus picture.

MUSICIANS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF ERIC GALES,

In early October, Eric Gales and his wife & bandmate LaDonna Gales both tested positive for Covid 19. Immediately, members of the blues community - including Joe Bonamassa and Walter Trout - began to raise awareness for a GoFundMe page that was set up. It has since been disabled, but fans and friends were generous in their donations.

The page was created by Larry Walker, a friend of the Gale family who said that the money would go towards covering the musicians' medical and living expenses.

"The Gales are a very proud family and would never ask for help but I have watched these two give back to their community so many times," Walker said. "Helping the homeless or just someone in need that was without hope. They are so deserving of the same compassion! Let's please show them the same love that they've shown so many!"

In support of the GoFundMe campaign, Joe Bonamassa took to social media in early October to urge fans to donate what they can to help the Gales family.

"My friends Eric Gales and his wife LaDonna are struggling with COVID-19. Anything we can do for them to offset their medical expenses would be a big help," Bonamassa wrote.

Blues musician and singer-songwriter Walter Trout also supported the campaign.

"Eric Gales is one of the greatest musicians and finest human beings on the planet," Trout said in a Facebook post. "He is now in the hospital suffering with COVID-19 and he needs our help. His amazing wife, LaDonna Gales, is also suffering with the virus. Let's help them."

Responding to the immense show of support from fans and peers, Eric Gales showed his appreciation in a post made to Facebook.

"I'd like to thank y'all from the bottom of our hearts. Me and LaDonna are hanging in there," Gales wrote. "All of you guys prayers and donations are bringing us much needed relief and joy that prayer still works."

UPDATE: As of October 29 (Eric's Birthday) he and LaDonna "are both negative and getting better". Eric told us. CBS wishes him a "happy birthday" and continued good health for both Eric & LaDonna. Although the fund page is now down, the reality of financial struggles for musicians is huge in this Covid-19 world. No tours, no money.

The Blues Foundation has set up a Covid 19 Blues Musician Emergency Relief Fund. You can donate [here](#)

Your support of the COVID-19 Blues Musician Emergency Relief Fund will help provide direct support to blues musicians whose livelihoods have been impacted by the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Resources will help protect blues musicians from loss of housing, utilities, and health insurance.

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](https://www.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.

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.




2021 BLUES MUSIC AWARDS

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.

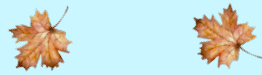


CBS welcomes the new President and CEO of the Blues Foundation



Patty Wilson Aden

President and CEO
(901) 527-2583 ext. 12
patty@blues.org



Our sincere thanks and appreciation to

former President

Barbara Newman

for her outstanding contributions as she helped build and strengthen the Foundation and its mission of keeping the blues alive through its various programs and resources.

Happy retirement Barbara!

Well earned!



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.

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.

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



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.

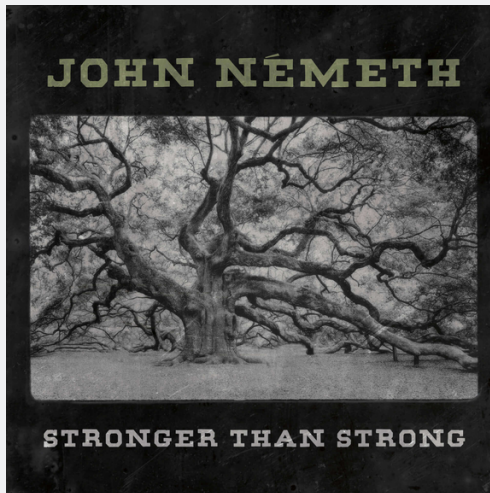
Several blues superstars appear annually. In recent years, Charlie Musselwhite, Dennis Gruenling, Carlos del Junco, Jason Ricci, Will Scarlett Joe Filisko and others have participated. And also in attendance are the cream of the crop of players from all fields, including folks who play in symphony and 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!





John Németh – Stronger Than Strong

(Nola Blue Records NB 013)

www.johnnemeth.com

One of the most beautiful voices anywhere and a skilled harp player, too, John Németh reunites with Bo-Keys front man/producer Scott Bomar for this album, recapturing the magic they created with their 2014 Billboard chart-topper, *Memphis Grease*, and delivering another old-school soul-blues pleaser. Németh and his regular band – 19-year-old whiz kid Jon Hay on guitar, bassist Matthew Wilson and drummer Danny Banks – to deliver tunes infused with a retro sound and intimate, small-combo/live feel. The disc opens with two tunes that come across with Hill Country feel. But fear not. It's chockful of the powerful, blues-drenched R&B that fans love. Be sure to give a good listen to "Come and Take It," "Sometimes," the rocker "Throw Me in the Water," the Chicago blues "Chain Breaker," the plaintive ballad "Bars," "Deprivin' a Love," a stellar cover of Jesse Belvin's 1959 hit "Guess Who," the easy/greasy "Workin' for Love," "She's My Punisher" and "Sweep the Shack."

Shemekia Copeland – Uncivil War

(Alligator Records)

www.shemekiapeland.com

Blues queen Shemekia Copeland has become a mature, outspoken critic of problems in the world in recent years. Her 2018 release, *America's Child*, won multiple Blues Music Awards as it delivered unvarnished views of the world she lives in, and she holds nothing back on this follow-up, another intense, personal plea for peace and understanding in troubled times. Like her previous effort, *Uncivil War* was recorded in Nashville under the supervision of producer Will Kimbrough who also contributes guitar in a lineup that includes heavyweights Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, Jason Isbell and '60s rocker Duane Eddy, among others. From the opening chords of the plaintive "Clotilda's on Fire" – the description of the burning of a real-life slave ship in Mobile Bay in 1859, Shemekia intersperses themes of struggle and hope as she pleads for a better day. Other top cuts include "Walk Until We Ride," "Uncivil War," "Money Makes You Ugly," "Apple Pie and a .45," "Give God the Blues," "No Heart at All" and the upbeat "Love Song."



Ron Thompson –

From the Patio: Live at Poor House Bistro Vol. 1

(Little Village Foundation LVF 1036)

www.littlevillagefoundation.org

When guitarist Ron Thompson succumbed to complications of diabetes earlier this year, the blues world lost one of its most enduring and understated instrumentalists. That loss becomes clear to the outside world with this disc, which captures him at his passionate, intense and soulful best. A native of Oakland, Calif., Thompson's career included work with Little Joe Blue, John Lee Hooker, Etta James, Big Mama Thornton, Percy Mayfield and Lowell Fulson. He released about a dozen albums in his life. This set was recorded in 2014 at the Poor House in San Jose, Calif., where he was in year eight of a 14-year residency, and includes contributions from Jim Pugh, Kid Andersen and West Coast harp giant Gary Smith. If you're unfamiliar with Thompson's work, this one will be a real eye-opener. Be sure to give a good listen to the originals "Mardis Gras Boogie," "The River Is Rising" and "When You Walk That Walk" as well as tasty covers of "Tin Pan Alley," "I Done Got Over It," "Sinner's Prayer" and Bobby Womack's "That's How I Feel."





Ben Levin – Carryout or Delivery

(VizzTone Label Group VT-BL-003)
www.benlevinpiano.com

Still a college student and only age 21, Cincinnati-based Ben Levin has already proven himself to be a world-class talent in the world of traditional, Chicago-style blues piano, and this CD -- the third release in his burgeoning catalog -- proves once again that his potential going forward is unlimited. A 2020 BMA nominee in the best emerging artist category, Levin works shares frequently with both Bob Corritore and Bob Margolin, and his Queen City band includes his father Aron on guitar and drummer Phillip Paul, the hit-making studio drummer for King Records in the '50s and '60s. This one was recorded at the height of COVID-19, and features Ben in multiple alignments. If you're a fan of traditional blues, you'll love this set. The highlights include "You Know," "Paper Cut," "Carryout or Delivery" -- which involves more than food, "Nola Night," "Have You Lost Your Mind," "My Back Scratcher," an updated take of "Hadacol Bounce" and "Time Brings About a Change."

J.T. Lauritsen & The Buckshot Hunters – Blue Eyed Soul Vol. 2

(Hunter Records)
www.jtlauritsen.com

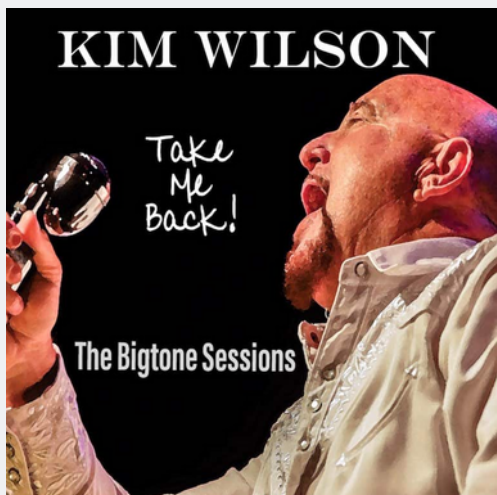
The fiords of Norway bubble like the Mississippi Delta with the sounds of the blues, and there's no better proponent today than Lillestrom native J.T. Lauritsen, who fronts one of the tightest bands in Europe. He and his Buckshot Hunters heat up the cold nights with this one, a follow-up to their 2018 release, which received exceptional reviews around the globe. A melismatic tenor who might remind you of Németh on some tunes, Lauritsen is a keyboard, accordion, guitar and harp player who's been fronting this current band since the mid-'90s. Like the title suggests, they play bluesy R&B, New Orleans funk and Chicago blues, too. Mixing originals that fit hand-and-glove with a few covers, some of the top cuts in this highly danceable set include "Blues Never That Feel Bad," "Don't Want to Lose You Now," "You're Gonna Make Me Cry," "Friday Night Ride," "I'll Carry the Key," "Southbound" and "Woman in My Life."



Kim Wilson – Take Me Back! The Bigtone Sessions

(M.C. Records MC-0087)
www.mc-records.com

Harmonica master Kim Wilson returns to M.C. Records and turns back the clock here -- recording just like it was done in the past -- in mono and live to analog tape. A mix of clever originals and familiar covers, this 16-tune set probably will catch the same attention as Kim's previous M.C. recordings in the early 2000s -- Smokin' Joint and Lookin' for Trouble -- both of which were Grammy nominees. Captured at Big Jon Atkinson's Big Tone Studios, this disc features some of the final recordings of keyboard great Barrelhouse Chuck, who's in a lineup that features top musicians from Chicago and the West Coast, including guitarists Billy Flynn, Atkinson and Danny Michel, among others. Turn back the clock 60 years or so and dial in to "You've Been Goofing," the Jimmy Nolen original that opens, as well as the self-penned "Wingin' It," "Fine Little Woman," "Play Me," "Strollin'," the Jimmy Rogers classic "Money, Marbles & Chalk," and the originals "Rumblin'" and "I'm Sorry."





Peter Parcek – Mississippi Suitcase

(Lightnin Records 003)

www.peterparcekband.com

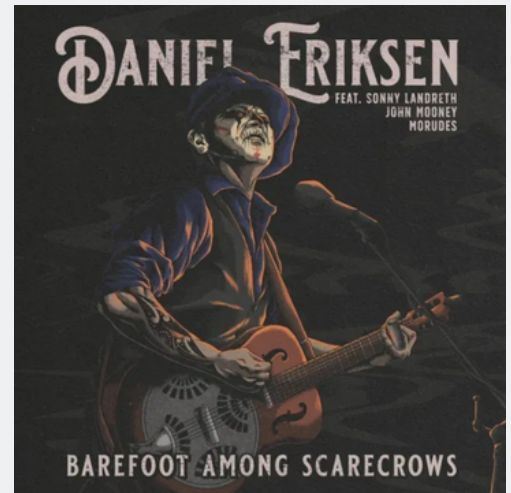
Boston-based guitar virtuoso Peter Parcek bounces back from a wrist injury that almost sidelined him permanently with this powerful CD that celebrates the joy of living while baring the full, bluesy depth of the pain and struggle we all endure in troubled times. A Connecticut native who served as Pinetop Perkins' musical director, he's an intense instrumentalist who delivers modern sounds that hint of the Delta and more -- aided by helping hands from Luther Dickinson of the North Mississippi Allstars, Muscle Shoals legend Spooner Oldham and Willie Nelson harp player Mickey Raphael. A collection of three originals and eight covers, the disc opens with the self-penned heavy rocker "The World Is Upside Down" followed by a 21st Century update of Sleepy John Estes' "Everybody Oughta Make a Change." Other standout cuts include Peter Green's "The Supernatural," Sonny Boy Williamson's "Until My Love Come Down," Frankie Lee Sims' "She Likes to Boogie Real Low," Lou Reed's "Waiting for the Man" and the original, "A Head Full of Ghosts."

Daniel Eriksen – Barefoot Among Scarecrows

(Self-produced CD)

www.daniel-eriksen.com

A countryman of J.T. Lauritsen, guitarist Daniel Eriksen lives a stone's throw from the Arctic Circle in the far north of Norway, but he's one of the foremost proponents of Delta blues in the world today. He enlisted a pair of Gulf Coast legends -- Sonny Landreth and John Mooney -- for this nine-tune set, an interesting roux of acoustic and electric stylings. A 2018 International Blues Challenge semi-finalist who works on both sides of the Atlantic, Daniel's adept at both fingerpicking and slide guitar, and his rough-hewn vocals in unaccented English sound as if he originated from Mississippi Hill Country, not the fjords where polar bears roam. Fans of country blues will love this set, which alters between full-band arrangements with horns and organ to stripped-down acoustic pleasers. Among the highlights are the opening title cut, "Dry Hive Blues," "Baby You're a Star" featuring Mooney, "Sweet Radiation," "Fire the Clay" with Landreth, "Spread Too Wide" and "Utopia Noir."



Elvin Bishop & Charlie Musselwhite –

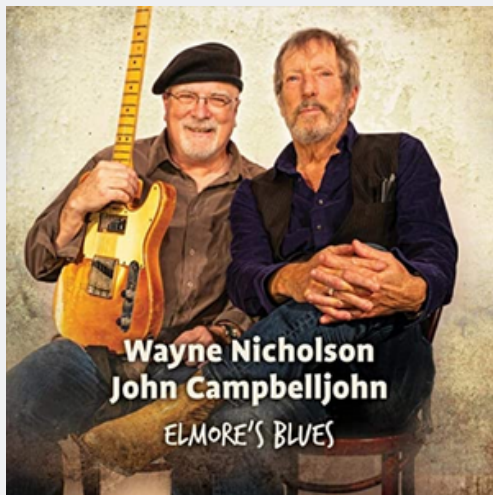
100 Years of the Blues

(Alligator Records)

www.alligator.com

Two of the most important figures in the world of blues since the early '60s, Elvin Bishop and Charlie Musselwhite rarely crossed paths in their early years in Chicago, but join forces here for a full CD that's literally been 100 years in the making, and the result is a laid-back treasure for the ages. Recorded at Kid Andersen's award-winning Greaseland Studios in California, it's a stripped-down set of nine originals and covers culled from Roosevelt Sykes, Leroy Carr and Sonny Boy Williamson. The two legends share vocals and guitar backed only by longtime Elvin sidekick Bob Welsh on keyboards and six-string and Andersen on upright bass for a few cuts. Bishop kicks off the action with "Birds of a Feather," a straightforward description of friends gathering for a good time – like Charlie says: "I ain't lyin'!" – before the duo revert to their youth with a take on Sykes' "West Helena Blues" and make a strong political statement in "What the Hell?" Don't miss "Good Times," "If I Should Have Bad Luck," "Southside Slide," "Blues for Yesterday" and the closing title cut.





Wayne Nicholson & John Campbelljohn - Elmore's Blues

(Grindstone Records)

www.eastendersmusic.band

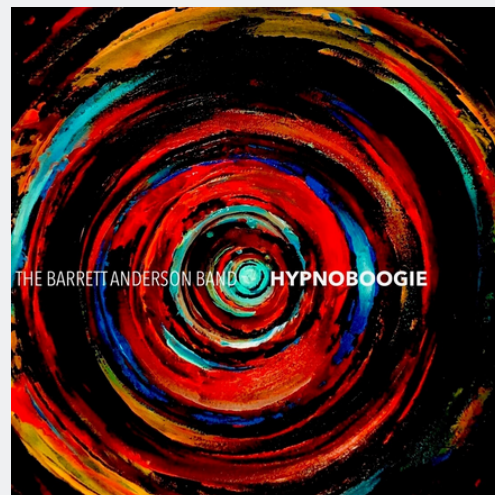
Compared favorably with Paul Rodgers and a blues-rock treasure in Canada, vocalist Wayne Nicholson teams with guitarist/songwriter John Campbelljohn for this loving tribute to American slide master Elmore James, breathing life into 12 of the Chicago legend's tunes and adding two originals for good measure. U.S. audiences might be familiar with Nicholson through tours with Gregg Allman, James Cotton, J. Geils and others. He and Campbelljohn - an exceptionally gifted Nova Scotia-based slide player -- have about a century of stage time between them, and several of their albums have accrued Maple Blues Awards and other honors along the way. Primarily a collection of comfortable shuffles backed by a full band, some of the highlights include "I May Be Wrong," "I Believe," the original "If I Was Blue," the Latin-flavored "No Love in My Heart," "Happy Home," "Shake Your Moneymaker," "It Hurts Me Too" and the self-penned "Dancin' with the Blues."

The Barrett Anderson Band - HypnoBoogie

(Whitaker Blues Records)

www.barrettandersonband.com

The Boston-based Barrett Anderson Band deliver an interesting, hard-driving mix of blues and roots in this set, which was captured live last February at the aptly named Fallout Shelter in Norwood, Mass., just a few weeks before the world of entertainment stopped spinning. A polished four-piece unit fronted by Anderson - a former child protégé who was a member of both Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters and the Monster Mike Welch Band-- and Charlie Mallet, who double on guitars and vocals, they draw from a wide range of influences, including J. Geils and first-generation country blues, too. You'll be bopping with this one from the hypnotic opening cuts of a powerful reworking of Bo Diddley's "Mona." Other pleasers include the original "Good Man," Magic Sam's instrumental, "Driving Good," as well as the self-penned "Not Your Baby," "Emma Lee," "Blind Faith," "Broken Down" and "Gone."



Super Chikan & Terry Harmonica Bean -

From Hill Country Blues to Mississippi Delta Blues

(Wolf Records CD 120.040)

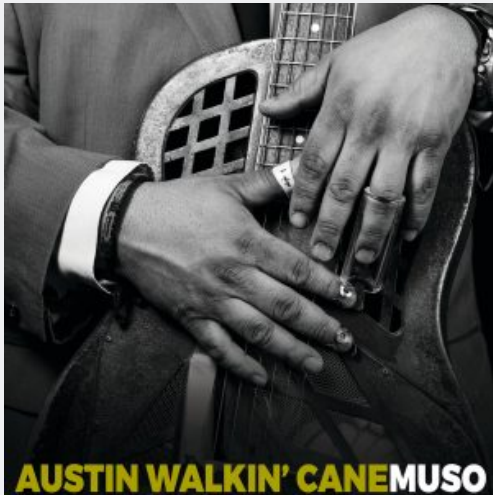
www.wolfrec.com

James "Super Chikan" Johnson and Terry "Harmonica" Bean --two of the most beloved bluesmen in North Mississippi today - share the spotlight on this CD, individually delivering an hour-long, 15-cut set that breathes new life into the music that made the region famous. Best known for fronting The Fighting Cocks, Clarksdale-based Super Chikan is a former truck driver who's been recording since the '90s. He's also a renowned luthier whose handmade guitars are highly prized works of art. Bean, meanwhile, is a former factory worker from Pontotoc who doubles on guitar and harp. He's been a juke joint and festival favorite since emerging in the early 2000s. Super Chikan opens with a trio of originals -- "Tin Top Shak," "Down in the Mississippi Delta," a tribute to both Muddy Waters and Elmore James, and the boogie "Wavy Thoughts" - before yielding to a double shot of Bean: the ballad "Leaving Blues" and rapid-fire "Boogie with Me." Other pleasers include Chik's "Sippi Seekan Saw" and "Hug Me, Don't Bug Me" and Terry's "Mississippi Walking Blues" and "2018 - Doin' My Own Thing."



RED HOT & BLUES REVIEWS

By Marty Gunther



Austin Walkin' Cane – Muso

(Lazy Eye Records)

www.walkincane.com

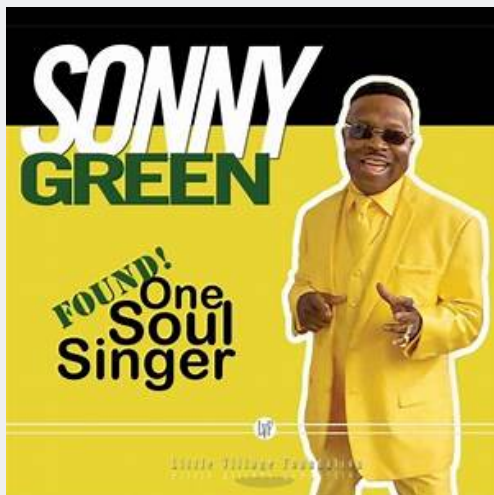
Based out of Cleveland, Ohio, Austin Walkin' Cane is a slide guitar player with a deeply resonant baritone voice. He penned 11 of the 12 tunes here, a pleasant mix of classic and Delta blues that comes across with a relaxed, timeless feel. A recording artist since the '90s Austin traveled the world as a soloist, but he's backed by a full band for this set, a mix of acoustic and electric material that's free of over-the-top pyrotechnics. It's a long-awaited follow-up to his most previous recent release, which was a 2015 BMA finalist for best new artist debut of the year. There's a lot to like here, including the swampy acoustic "Tell Me Why," which opens, as well as the medium-paced shuffle "Some Bad Habits," the electrified love song "Delilah," the image-filled "Last Day of Summer" and the sugar-sweet ballad "Nothing Left of the Night."

Kirk Fletcher – My Blues Pathway

(Cleopatra Records CLO 1900)

www.kirkfletcherband.com

Kirk Fletcher has been setting the world ablaze with his sensational fretwork since emerging from his native California about a decade ago, sharing the stage with Kim Wilson, Charlie Musselwhite and Joe Bonamassa. But this all-blues effort is unquestionably his best work yet. A major talent in both the blues and blues-rock worlds, Kirk never strays from the root on this one, delivering a tidal wave of stellar single-note guitar runs and singing old-school, too. He's backed by an all-star West Coast band and is aided by guest appearances from Memphis Charlie on harp and the uber-talented Josh Smith on six-string, too. Fletcher sets the tone with the driving original "Ain't No Cure for the Downhearted" to open. Other pleasers include the self-penned "No Place to Go," "Love Is More Than a Word" and "Heart So Heavy" and covers of A.C. Reed's "I'd Rather Fight Than Switch," Chris Cain's "Place in This World" and Juke Boy Bonner's "Life Gave Me a Dirty Deal."



Sonny Green – Found! One Soul Singer

(Little Village Foundation LVF 1037)

www.littlevillagefoundation.org

Billed as "the greatest soul singer you've never heard of," 80-year-old Louisiana native Sonny Green dazzles here on his first album ever in a career that began with Big Jay McNeely in the early '50s with the original recording of one of the biggest blues songs of all time, the classic "There Is Something on Your Mind." Green possesses a powerful, gritty voice and style all his own. He's a former featured singer in the Tyrone Davis Revue, and recorded about a dozen 45s for United Artists and others in the early '70s, but he's been working in obscurity ever since – something that you'll find hard to believe once you give this a listen. Borrowing from the repertoires of Bobby "Blue" Bland, Little Milton, Ted Taylor and Willie Nelson as well as originals penned by Rick Estrin and Kid Andersen, Sonny shines throughout. If you're a fan of classic soul blues, this one will hit you in your sweet spot. Run, don't walk to acquire it – it's that good!

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

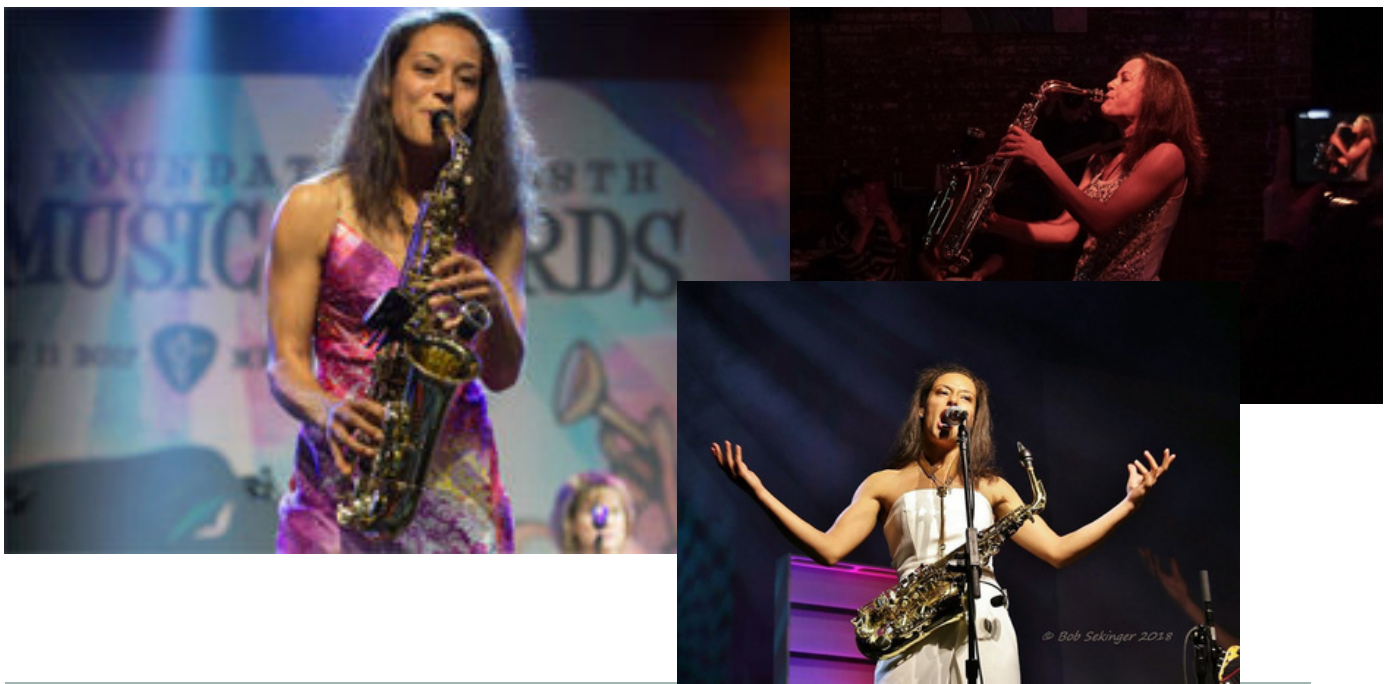
Charlotte Blues Society Congratulates all the winners!

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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!