

eBLUESLETTER

Charlotte Blues Society

November 2022

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And the Winners are...

Solo

Aaron "Woody" Wood

From Asheville, NC is straight up Cosmic Appalachian Soul.



Band

Blues deLuxe band

Columbia, SC based 4 piece blues band.
John Hartness, DJ May, Rickey Ramsey
and James Casey



Read on to learn more about the winners, contestants and event.
Going to the IBC in Memphis? Be sure to find and support your 2023
contestants!



January 8, 2023 brings the winners back for a full show.

Let's send them off to Memphis in Style.

Mark your calendars NOW.

Donations will be accepted as we strive to increase our sponsorships to
these Carolina musicians.

Watch for pre-sales and promos later this year.

Congrats to all our amazing contestants!

Jay Taylor

From Columbia, SC

Brings his hot licks to the Charlotte stage



Judges praised his swift guitar work and good vocal tone. Nice slide work.

Ross Osteen Band

Hailing from Asheville, NC. Ross leads Patrick Gaynor, Chris Lombardi and Andy Bishop.



www.rossosteen.com

Our judges enjoyed the band's stage presence and interplay. Outstanding guitarist - great slide. Solid backbeat while the originals keep your attention.

Catisha "Cat" Adams

Dallas NC based singer/songwriter.



Cat's great voice received good audience response. The judges loved her original.

Red Dress Amy

This trio is from Charlotte, Kevin Hamilton, Dalton Johnson and Dalton Rowland



www.reddressamy.com

The judges enjoyed the Blues Rock sound from RDA. All the members had 'chops'. *Voodoo Child* cover was outstanding.

Melissa McKinney with Patrick French

Singer/songwriter with a huge voice
Asheville, NC



What a voice! This duo has fun on stage. Very dynamic. Watch out for this outstanding vocalist.



**THE BLUES
FOUNDATION**



*Michael Simonetti was our
MC for the evening.*

Thank you, Simo

And special thanks to our judges, Jack Anthony, Ty Crockett and Matt Kulka.



Melissa, Woody and Cat take a moment to celebrate with Jeri Thompson



Linda Graham and Lynn Oliver peddle some of our new Merch.

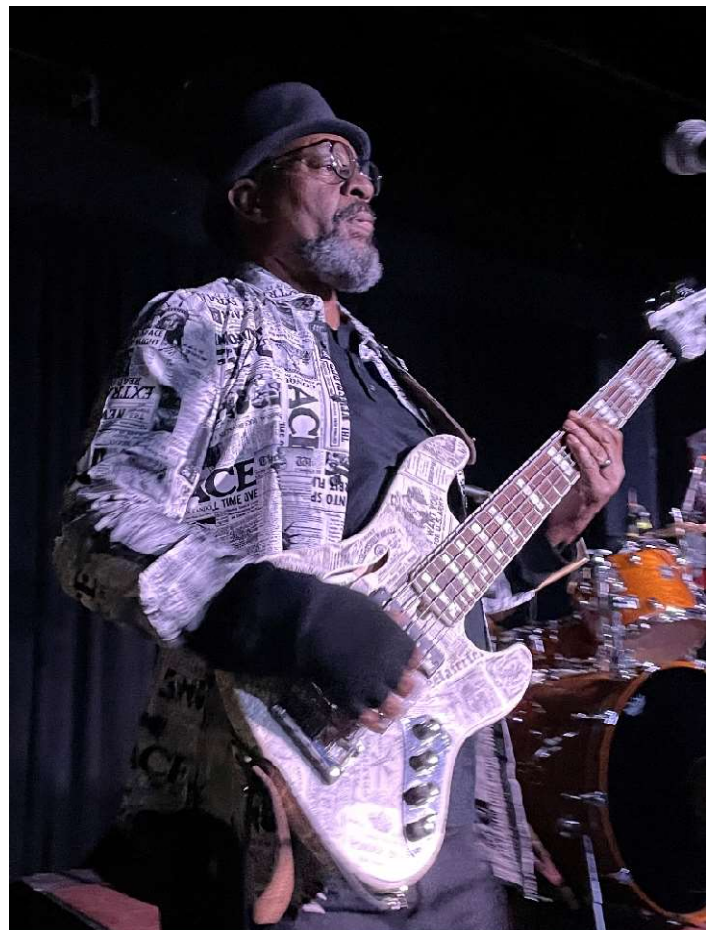
WINNING ACTS

Best Band

Our panel of 3 judges praised the great bass line and harp rhythm. Vocals are great together. This is a pro outfit with good audience interaction, transitions and story-telling. Slide guitar had good variety. Nice tone from the sunburst strat.

Blues Deluxe is a Columbia South Carolina based 4-piece blues band offering a rich mix of creative original songs, hidden blues gems and interesting takes on blues classics. You will be entertained as Blues Deluxe has a mission to keep your foot tapping and to ensure you do not hear the same songs you heard from the last bar you visited. Although you may not hear Mojo Working, trust us...it will work on you!

www.bluesdeluxesouthcarolina.com





John Hartness: Guitars and Vocals Blythewood, South Carolina



Introduced to music at a young age, John embraced blues and roots music. With early inspirations from Robert Johnson, Big Bill Broonzy and John Lee Hooker, he blended his finger style guitar playing with the likes of Doc Watson and Chet Atkins into a unique acoustic style all his own. Later on, John also embraced the 'Electric' blues and studied the works of the masters, Muddy Waters, Albert King, Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan. John attributes his resurgence into music from the inspiration and encouragement of Mac Arnold and all the members of Plate Full O' Blues.

DJ May: Harmonica and Vocals Ontario, Canada



David 'DJ' grew up in northern Canada and is new to the Columbia music scene. He is a self taught harp player and draws inspiration from many of the greats Sonny Boy, Little Walter, George Smith, Jason Ricci as well as some little known personal influences like Charlie Moore, Dave Thompson and the incomparable Nate Myers. He lives by the belief that if there is blues your heart, there is heart in your blues.

Rick Ramsey: Bass Guitar Irmo, South Carolina



Ricky Ramsey has been a musician for over 40 years, a bass guitar player for at least 35 years. Prior to playing bass guitar he played the drums until attending a Larry Graham concert where he fell in love with the bass guitar. As an experienced musician, he has played with several local groups. Over the past 30 years he's been playing for his church.

James Bubba Casey: Percussion Columbia, South Carolina



James was born in Columbia South Carolina and grew up listening to Doo Whop, Blues, R&B, Rock & Roll and Jazz music. His first musical aspiration was to play the saxophone because most songs back in the day had soulful saxophone solos in them. Unfortunately, when he got to Jr. High School and signed up to take band, all of the school's saxophones had been rented out. With his father unwilling to fork out money for a sax and the only instrument available for rent was a drum. James was a drummer and has been drumming ever since. His first gig with a band came in high school when his former Jr. High band teacher called on him to fill in for his drummer who had gotten sick. Having never played with a live band before, he really enjoyed that experience and the rest is history.

James has played with some popular groups in the midlands spanning the seventies and eighties such as Julius Cobb, Gerald Isreal & the Soul Ambassadors, Cornelius Crawford and the Persians. James learned very early on, that the biggest contribution a drummer can make is to keep the groove in

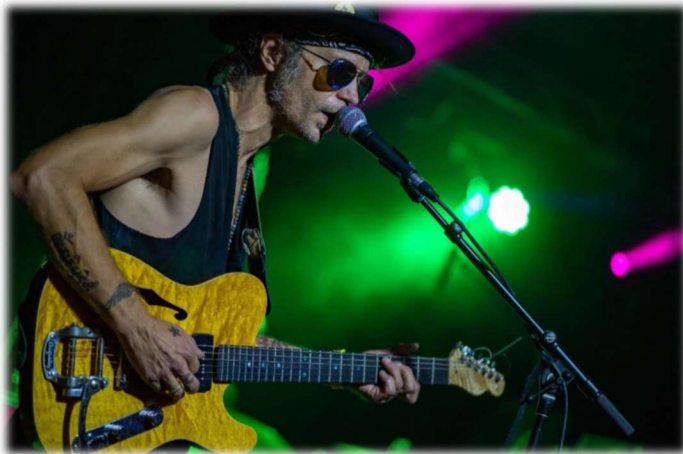
the pocket.

Best Solo/Duo Artist

And our judges said...

This man can sing! Very unique voice with lots of feeling. Skillful fingerpicking and amazing slide. He mesmerized the crowd with great balance and selections.

Aaron “Woody” Wood is quite the renaissance man, embodying the energy and mystique of American music. Carved from the foothills of the Piedmont, rolled and tumbled through the Delta mud and washed in The Mississippi, Aaron “Woody” Wood is straight up Cosmic Appalachian Soul. With a background as diverse as his music, he consistently delivers the soul, power and energy that have renowned him as a musician’s musician.



“Woody” Wood continues to carry his art farther by giving attention and respect to the artists that have influenced and shaped his music, allowing him to keep that Spirit burning forward. Focusing on songwriting and new styles of guitar playing, “Woody” Wood’s inventive approach to musical style and the raw emotion he delivers in his songwriting creates a cohesive sound that is hard to find but heavily sought ought by music lovers everywhere.

www.aaronwoodywood.com

Our other contestants did an outstanding job and entertained a enthusiastic crowd. Thanks to all that came out and supported these Carolina Acts. This is what we are all about!

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE!

The Ross Osteen Band was formed in 2014. They have traveled a circuit from Florida to New York and from Georgia to Chicago. They fondly tout a particular memorable performance in Chicago with Buddy Guy's song "Hold Back". They released their self-titled album in 2015 followed by a second album release titled "Glenhead Station". Their latest released album in 2019 is titled "Cumberground" and proudly being heard worldwide. They continue to grow their local base in Western North Carolina.



www.rossosteen.com

Born in Charlotte and raised on Blues and Rock 'n Roll, **Red Dress Amy** brings a ton of energy to any stage they set foot on. The trio combines blues influences with their 2021 debut album "Otherwise Peaceful" and they credit blues and rock performers Kenny Wayne Shephard, Doyle Bramhall II, Philip Sayce, The Black Keys and Cream as key influencers.



Red Dress Amy has captured and expanded rock blues genre their Charlotte audiences have come to enjoy and love.

www.reddressamy.com

SOLO/DUO ACTS**Jay Taylor**

The first nasty blues lick I remember was from “New York City Blues” by the Yardbirds, a British rock band. The song opens with a four-measure guitar lick by Jeff Beck, tick with overdrive, string bends and the blues scale. What is this stuff? I thought. I want to be a part of it. Interviews with Jagger, Richards and Clapton got me oriented. The brits didn’t invent the stuff, I discovered. They reworked the stylings of the blues greats. Later, in 1980, I got to review a Muddy Waters show for a newspaper, and I got a five-minute interview with him. I asked, “Are you jealous of the Stones and other bands that borrowed and profited so much from the blues pioneers?” He chuckled, paused and said, “I reckon I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for the Rolling Stones.” And I suppose I wouldn’t be in this blues challenge either.

Catisha “Cat” Adams with Dave Killian on guitar started singing when she came out the womb. My Mom and Dad loved music. They bought me my first record player when I was five. My family always tells me I’m loud too. My sisters and I and our friends used to sing and dance around the house in Hollis, Queens, NYC. We had a floor to ceiling, wall to wall mirror in our dining room. You’d have thought we were on Broadway. My parents had lots of records and we sang along with all of them—from Alvin and the Chipmunks to Chuck Berry.

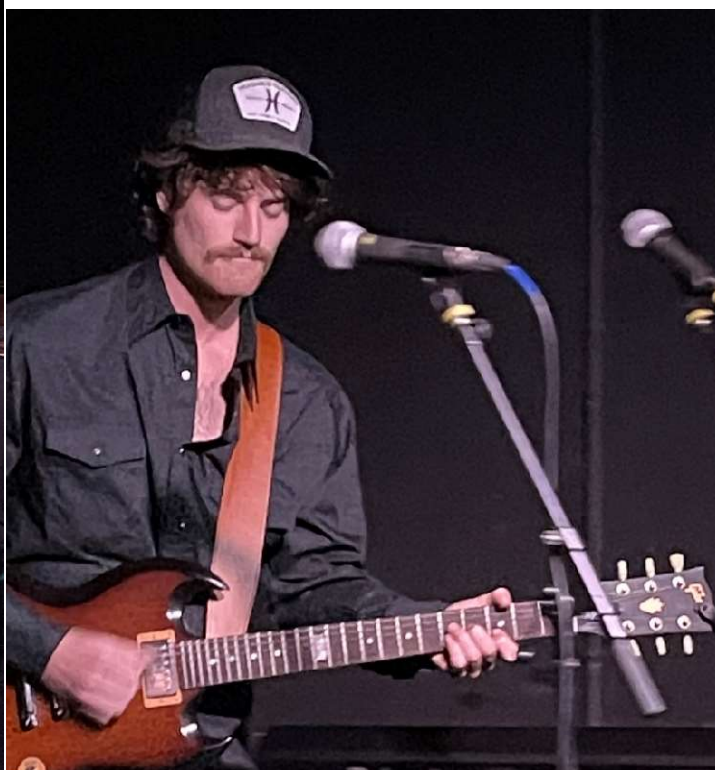


I’ve written two stage shows that have been performed live. I sang with the Northwestern Community Ensemble in college, in Vegas with the All City Choir, at the Caribbean Day Festival, and as a backup and soloist for Lion Pride at the University of Las Vegas Nevada. I emceed African Liberation Day in Harlem and a talent show at the West Las Vegas Arts Center. I sang at a Jazz Club in West Las Vegas, at Mandalay Bay’s House of Blues and at Fred Scott’s in Phoenix, Arizona.

I stopped to have a family but I still sang to my babies. I sing in church here in North Carolina, but got kicked off the choir. I teach keys and voice to children.

I’ve recorded five songs. Rapper Hip Hop Maniac and I sold 1000 copies of the first recording I did. We collaborated on “Stay Black and Die”. We sold the single directly to the people. We got radio play at KCEP, a club in Iowa and a station in Minneapolis. I wrote the lyrics and melodies and recorded three other songs; “I Work,” “You Turned Me Out” and “Truth in Life” with producer Al Mac on his album Fish Killaz. This year, I opened my own indie label. I recorded “I’ll Protect Your Heart” from my upcoming album First Love.

Melissa McKinney and Patrick French



Melissa is a singer/songwriter living in Asheville, NC. Over 20 years ago, Melissa was a professional musician in the Charlotte area before the birth of her daughter. She moved home to WV to raise her daughter as a single mom. She opened a music school and devoted her life to raising her daughter and a generation of you musicians. Recently, she made the decision to return to her music and is in the process of recording music again after a 20 year hiatus.

www.theonevoiceproject.com



IBC will be held January 24-28, 2023 on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee!

The **International Blues Challenge** represents the worldwide search for blues bands and solo/duo blues performers ready for the international stage, yet just needing that extra big break. The world's largest gathering of blues musicians will take place on Beale Street, with over 20 clubs hosting the challengers and fans. In addition to featuring these final rounds of the prestigious blues music competition, the IBC event week will offer seminars, showcases, master classes, film screenings, networking events, book signings, and receptions for blues societies, fans, and professionals.

Tickets on Sale Oct 1 at Blues.org

Memberships fuel the music. Please renew or join NOW. Makes a great gift!

New Merchandise now available. Polos, Tees, Ballcaps and more. Check out our store on-line or at the Merch table at our shows.

So many ways to listen to the Blues... Do you know about these regional radio shows?

- WNCW 88.7 Spindale, NC
- WNRN Virginia Fresh Roots & New Blues Saturday 6 to 8PM
- WSGE 91.7 Dallas NC Monday- Thursday 7 to 10 PM
- WYTX 98.5 Rock Hill SC Sunday 8 to 10 PM
- WSNC 90.5 Winston-Salem, NC Sunday 1 to 5AM.

Who did we miss? Send us your personal favorite to cltbluessociety@gmail.com

Blues Jam Guidelines are posted to the www.charlottebluessociety.org downloads page.

Sign-up is required at the show. While there is no pre-registration, Sign-up when you arrive!

**The next jam will follow the Johnny Burgin Holiday Bash on Dec 4.
There is no Jam in November!**

BLUES SUNDAYS AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE.



Nov 6, 2022 Spicy Jane Lane at Neighborhood Theatre.

Doors at 6:30, Show at 7

Tickets available in advance from Maxxmusic.com

Member discount code was emailed on Oct. 2022.



Dec 4, 2022

Christmas Bash with Johnny Burgin followed by a Blues Jam

Raffles, Silent Auction, Prizes

Check him out on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/)

Nov 6, 2022 Spicy Jane Lane is a Blues-based band from the greater Charlotte area, featuring Steve Fowler on Drums/vocals, Jim Powers on Bass/vocals, Michael Ingmire on Guitar/vocals and (founder) Terry Whittenburg on Guitar/vocals. Their repertoire ranges from the traditional Blues of Muddy Waters and Robert Johnson to the more contemporary Blues of Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Whatever may be on the menu, Spicy Jane Lane puts her own seasoning to the palate! Come get your Blues on with Spicy Jane Lane!
facebook.com/SpicyJaneLane



Johnny Burgin grew up in the South and went to University of Chicago with the intention of becoming a writer. When a fellow DJ at the college radio station took him out to a West Side ghetto club to hear the blues singer [Tail Dragger](#), it was a conversion moment. The blues came to life for Johnny and he fell headfirst into the vibrant Chicago blues scene. Choosing the blues clubs over the library, Johnny eagerly absorbed the lessons from the blues masters who practiced their craft nightly. By persistence and practice, Johnny gained a spot in Tail Dragger's band, and started gigging and recording with traditional blues veterans like [Sam Lay](#), [Billy Boy Arnold](#), and [Pinetop Perkins](#). By the late 90s, Johnny was working regularly in Chicagoland blues clubs under his own name. Johnny started a Monday night residency at The Smoke Daddy in Wicker Park,

featuring vocalist Jimmy Burns. The band featured other future blues notables who were also at beginning of their careers, such as [Kenny Smith](#) on drums and [Martin Lang](#) on harp, and they created quite a buzz. They packed the club every Monday with a younger, hip crowd, as well as blues veterans stopping by to sit in such as [Dave Meyers](#), [Jesse Fortune](#), [Barkin' Bill](#), etc. Their success led to a record deal with Delmark and the first of several European tours.

The shangri-la of being "King of Division Street" eventually ran its course. In the early aughts, Johnny dropped off the scene entirely to raise a daughter. When the music eventually called Johnny back, his comeback was noted by *The Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Blues Guide*, and the Dutch blues magazine *BLOCK*. As noted blues producer Dick Shurman wrote, "Johnny's skills, passion and commitment were undiminished." His move to the Bay Area in 2016 led to a creative burst and his most notable recordings. In a few short years, Johnny cranked out the Cali/Chicago blues

mashups [Greetings from Greaseland](#), [Neoprene Fedora](#), the Howlin' Wolf tribute [Howlin' at Greaseland](#) (nominated for a BMA for Best Traditional Blues Recording) and [Johnny Burgin Live](#), which featured Charlie Musselwhite and was nominated for a Blues Blast Best Live Recording Award for 2019. Throughout, Johnny managed to play 250 dates a year since 2014 in Europe, Japan and coast to coast in the States, right up until the pandemic. By 2022, he'd ramped back up to the same demanding schedule.

Johnny's produced ten CDs as a leader to his credit and dozens more as a sideman, from veterans like [Johnny Sansone](#), [Paul DeLay](#), [Bob Corritore](#) to up and comers like [Aki Kumar](#) and [Ben Levin](#). Johnny's developed from a young guitar slinger and local blues hero to a matured bluesman, fully fledged singer and the confident and engaging bandleader. In recent years, he has been a resident instructor at the [Pinetop Perkins Foundation](#) and the [Chicago Blues Network](#) and has developed a loyal following on Youtube for his weekly looks at the blues guitar greats. Johnny's recordings have evolved from being very Chicago-centric, to a fusion of West Coast and Chicago styles, and finally, to a more inclusive, international approach. His latest CD, [No Border Blues Japan](#), is the first American compilation of the underground Japanese blues scene. The success of this collaboration led Johnny and his partner, producer Stephanie Tice, to create and host the podcast [No Border Blues](#), which focuses on the international blues scene.

Logo Contest 30th Anniversary of CBS

Submit as many entries as you would like using the submission form on the [web page](#). Students and Artists encouraged!

Get Creative and see your art on our
30th Anniversary Merch & Swag!

Contest begins April 1, 2022 and ends February 1, 2023.



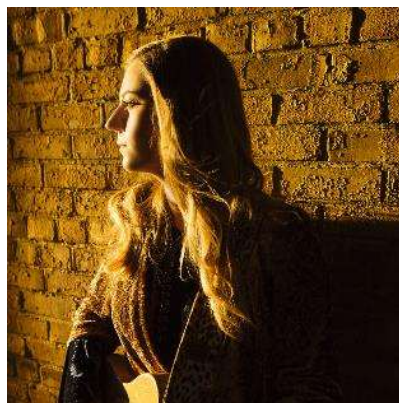
MORE LOCAL SHOWS AND FESTIVALS



Joanne Shaw Taylor

November 16
Knight Theater
Charlotte, NC

www.JoanneShawTaylor.com



**TOSCO MUSIC OPEN
MIC**

The Evening Muse
Wed. Nov 2



<p>The 6th Annual Allman Family Revival Tuesday, Dec 6 Ovens Auditorium Charlotte, NC</p>		<p>TAB BENOIT WITH THE DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE CHARLOTTE, NC FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9</p> 
<p>Blues Sunday Woody Wood & Blues deluxe Jan. 8, 2023 Neighborhood Theatre</p>	<p><i>Kenny Wayne Sheperd Knight Theater Charlotte, NC Sat. Jan 28</i></p>	<p>BUDDY GUY WITH SPECIAL GUEST KINGFISH OVENS AUDITORIUM CHARLOTTE, NC MARCH 22, 2023</p>
<p>International Blues Challenge Memphis TN Jan 24-28, 2023 Tickets on sale Oct 1, 2022 at blues.org</p>		

Fun on the town. Camp North End Southern Avenue



Ori Naftaly signs the 2022-23 guitar after a great show with Bonnie Spalding and Gregg Saur.

Robert Finley with Gregg Saur



Davy Knowles with Ken Deery



RAFFLE GUITAR
Fender Starcaster Strat
with Black Metallic finish



Signatures include:

- ◆ Eddie Turner
- ◆ Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
- ◆ Vanessa Collier
- ◆ Laura Chavez
- ◆ Samantha Fish
- ◆ Jamie McLean
- ◆ Albert Cummings
- ◆ Tinsley Ellis
- ◆ Luke Winslow-King
- ◆ Roberto Luti
- ◆ Diane Durrett
- ◆ Albert Castiglia
- ◆ Damon Fowler
- ◆ Tommy Castro
- ◆ Danielle Nicole
- ◆ Davy Knowles
- ◆ Southern Avenue's Ori Naftaly
- ◆ Robert Finley
- ◆ plenty more to come...

Tickets on sale NOW until April 2023
 \$10 each

Purchase online at our website or at a show.

We get such great support from all the Blues Artists that come through Charlotte.

THANKS!

Guitar donated by our past President, Mary London Szpara.

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

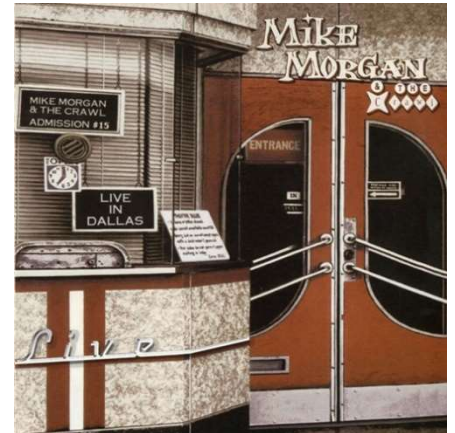
MIKE MORGAN AND THE CRAWL - THE LIGHTS WENT OUT IN DALLAS

M.C. Records 0091

www.mikemorganandthecrawl.com

One of the most beloved touring bands in the U.S. in the '90s, Mike Morgan and the Crawl are back on the road after a 15-year break, and they return to the spotlight with this powerful set, a heaping helping of soul-drenched Texas. Darrell Nulisch, Gary Primich and Lee McBee are long gone from the lineup, but the current roster is just as strong, anchored by Drew Allain on bass and Kevin Schermerhorn on drums with guest appearances from B3 great Mike Flanigan, axe masters Anson Funderburgh and Shawn Pittman, a pair of accordion players and horns, too.

The Jerry "Boogie" McCain classic, "Ding Dong Daddy," gets things off to a rockin' start. Other must listens include "Please Accept My Love," "Funkafaction," "The Lights Went Out in Dallas," "Workin' for the Man," "Out in the Jungle," "Lazy Lester" and "Our Last Goodbye."



JEFF DALE & THE SOUTH WOODLAWNERS - BLOOD RED MOON

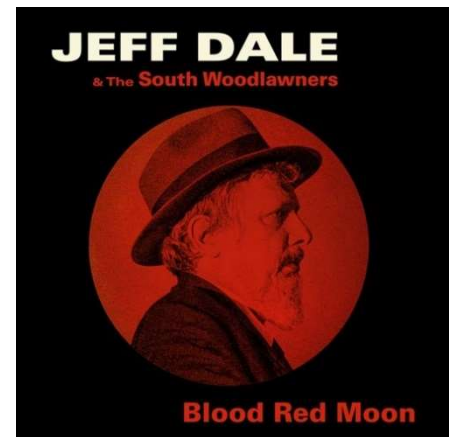
Pro Sho Bidness PSB 1551

www.jeffdaleblues.com

Guitarist Jeff Dale hit the heights last year with a never-heard-before live set with West Coast legend Lowell Fulson, and he turns up the heat with this disc, reuniting with members of his long-running Chicago band, the South Woodlawners, for a clever, humorous, mix of blues loaded with R&B overtones and West African beats.

Recorded in Southern California, this set was mixed by Jeff Glixman, who produced all of Kansas' hits, and features a cutting-edge lineup that includes three members of the roots-rock band Hunter & the Dirty Jacks, the principal cellist from the Los Angeles Opera and horns, too.

The straight-ahead shuffle "You Made Your Own Bed" opens the action. Other pleasers include the cautionary "Cicero," "At the Wolf's Door," "Blood Red Moon," "Autumn Blues," "She Wouldn't Leave Chicago," "That Ain't Love," "Trouble Know Where I Live" and "Things'll Get Worse."



THE HUNGRY WILLIAMS - LET'S GO!

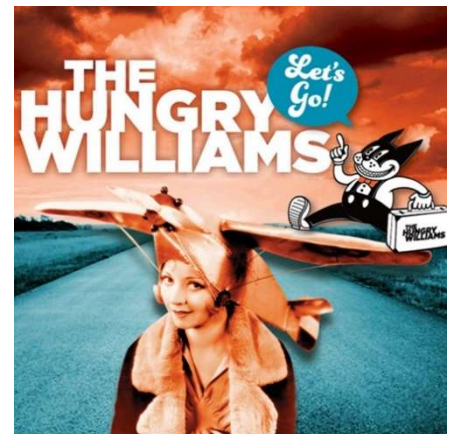
Rochelle Records RR2022

www.hungrywilliams.com

Fronted by vocalist Kelli Gonzalez and led by drummer John Carr, The Hungry Williams quintet are based out of Milwaukee, Wis., but deliver a taste of the Big Easy on their latest CD, breathing new life into five numbers from 1950s Bourbon Street, all of which fit perfectly with five tunes of their own design.

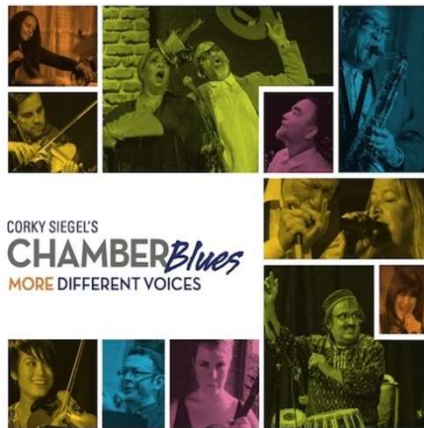
With Jack Stewart on keys and Joe Vent on guitar and vocals, several members of this group have worked together since the '90s. They add more fire through a guest appearance from California Honeydrops trumpet player Lech Wierzynski, too.

Put on your dancing shoes. You're gonna need 'em for "Mardi Gras Day," "Movin' On," "You'd Better Find Yourself Another Fool," "Boss Man," "Big Mouth Betty," "Oooh-Wow" and "669 (Across the Street from the Beast)."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



CORKY SIEGEL'S CHAMBER BLUES - *MORE DIFFERENT VOICES*

Dawnsery Records 4302

www.corkymusic.com

Corky Siegel has carved out a unique niche since the late '60s as a founding member of the Siegel-Schwall Band and an innovator who's fused blues with classical music and more. His 2017 release, *Different Voices*, elevated the Chicago sound to heights never heard before. And he keeps the trajectory going with this remarkable effort in partnership with Toronzo Cannon, Tracy Nelson and artists from India, Spain, Taiwan, Ukraine and more.

Some of the stylish music you'll hear this or any year, jazz diva Lynne Jordan, sax superstar Ernie Watts, a string quartet and a host of others combine to produce a set that's highly interesting but not as high-brow as you might think, and azure sounds run deep.

Give a listen to "No One's Got Them Like I Do," an off-the-wall take on Toronzo's "Insurance," "There Goes My Man," "Little Blossoms Falling Down," "Joyful Jambalaya," "Oasis," "Hine Ma Tov Blues" and "Penguins in the Opera House."



SWEET UNDERTOW - *SKELETONE MACHINE*

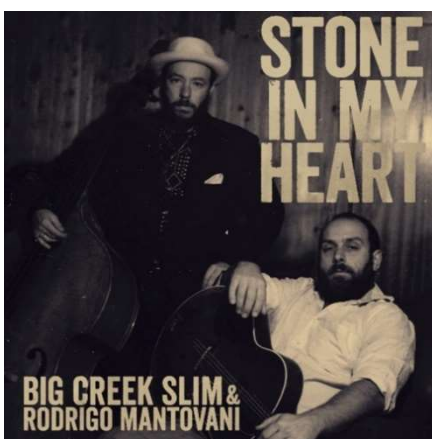
Mother West Records

www.sweetundertow.com

Fronted by native Chicagoan and former punk-rock globetrotter Eddie Undertow, San Francisco-based Sweet Undertow channels lust, anger, loneliness and more on their latest CD, mixing rock-steady, driving beats with blues-infused Americana to produce one of the most unique albums you'll hear this year.

A full-band alignment that incorporates harmonica, pedal steel, organ and violin and took shape by the Bay after Eddie wandered across the seamier underbelly of Europe and Southeast Asia, this group delivers a surprise at every turn, blending strong, electric riffs that play with acoustic accents that'll keep you intrigued throughout.

Definitely not your grandfather's blues but definitely worth a listen, turn in to "Kingdom Come with Me," "Rain Catch Flame," "Skeletone Machine," "Soft Soft Sea," "Ride Out in the Night," "Love You More," "Stained Glass Eyes (Bye Bye Baby)" and "Still Looking for You."



BIG CREEK SLIM & RODRIGO MANTOVANI - *STRANGE TIME BLUES*

Straight Shooter Records

www.bigcreekslim.dk

Bass player Rodrigo Mantovani is best known in the U.S. through his high-energy work in the Nick Moss Band, but he teams with guitarist/vocalist Big Creek Slim for this all-original set of bare-bones, Delta-style acoustic blues, which comes across with the feel of the '20s or '30s despite being brand new.

This truly is an international meeting of the minds. Before emigrating from his native Brazil, Rodrigo was one of the most celebrated instrumentalists in South America while Slim - aka Marc Rune - is one of the top traditional bluesmen in Europe and calls Denmark home.

The mighty Mississippi runs deep through "Don't You Whip Me with That Thing," "Just Can't Be Free," "Honey Badger," "I Found a New Way of Lovin'," "Chucky Chucky," "Milk Man Blues," "Mixed Up All the Time," "I Get Rowdy," "Just One More Dirty Job" and "Stone in My Heart."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

THE REVEREND SHAWN AMOS - HOLLYWOOD BLUES: SONGS AND STORIES FROM THE FAMILY TREE (1997-2022)

Family Records

www.shawnamos.com

One of the most unique performers in the world today, The Reverend Shawn Amos mixes blues, Americana and more into music that's both insightful and deep, and he cuts new ground on his latest CD, which celebrates the joys and pain of growing up in the '70s as the only son of cookie magnate Wally "Famous" Amos and nightclub singer Shirlee Ellis, who struggled with mental illness most of her life.

Released in concert with his semi-autobiographical novel, *Cookies & Cream*, this 18-track opus includes material captured in multiple settings across Amos' 25-year career. It includes appearances from the Blind Boys of Alabama, country artists Julie Miller and Mark Olson as well as alt-rocker Matthew Sweet.

There are plenty of bright spots here despite the subject matter, and Shawn's a master at weaving his story in a way that's always warm, intimate and never overbearing. Like the Siegel disc above, it'll be one of the most interesting albums you'll hear this year.



THE TEXAS HORNS - EVERYBODY LET'S ROLL

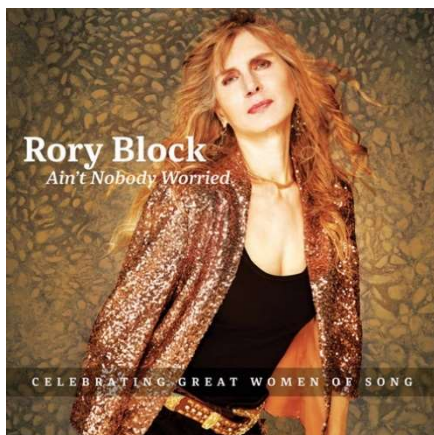
Blue Heart Records BHR031

www.thetexashorns.com

Here's a treat! The Texas Horns have served for decades as house musicians at dozens of festivals and appeared as sidemen on Grammy-nominated albums. But this album, which celebrates their 25th anniversary, is only the third CD they've released in their storied career.

Composed of vocalist Mark "Kaz" Kazanoff on sax and harmonica, John Mills on sax and Al Gomez on trumpet, they're joined by Carolyn Wonderland, Jimmie Vaughan, Marcia Ball, Anson Funderburgh, Mike Zito and a host of others as they deliver a 54-minute, 13-tune set that includes ten originals.

A delight for anyone who loves blues and R&B, dial in "Everybody Let's Roll," "Why It Always Gotta Be This Way," "I Ain't Mad with You," "Die with My Blues On," "Too Far Gone," "Prisoner in Paradise," "The Big Lie" and "Ready for Blues Tonight."



RORY BLOCK - AIN'T NOBODY WORRIED

Stony Plain Records SPCD1468

www.roryblock.com

Schooled by Mississippi John Hurt, Reverend Gary Davis, Son House and other giants in the 1960s, acoustic guitarist Rory Block has always paid it forward for all the blessings she's received, and she outdoes herself here, delivering a set that breathes new life into chart-toppers made famous by several of her favorite female vocalists.

The third entry in her *Power Women of the Blues* series, Rory -- a seven-time BMA winner - dips into the catalogs of Mavis Staples, Gladys Knight, Mary Wells, Tracy Chapman, Koko Taylor, Bonnie Raitt, Etta James, Carole King, Elizabeth Cotten and Martha and the Vandellas along with one of her own originals that contributed to her acclaim.

"I'll Take You There" soars to open, giving way to "Midnight Train to Georgia," "My Guy" and "Fast Car." Other pleasers include "Cried Like a Baby," "I'd Rather Go Blind," "Lovin' Whiskey," "Dancin' in the Streets" and "You've Got a Friend" - all of which feature joy in every groove.

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



ORPHAN JON AND THE ABANDONED - *OVER THE PAIN*

Vintage LaNell Records

www.orphanjon.com

A hard-rocking, cutting-edge blues-rock band from Bakersfield, Calif., Orphan Jon and the Abandoned have built a major following since forming in the desert in 2015 because of the heat they produce on stage, and the temperature's set for boil their latest release.

Fronted by the powerful tenor voice of Jon English -- who draws his band name from his abusive, unstructured childhood, the core trio gets a helping hand from producer/guitarist Alastair Greene (Sugaray Rayford, Alan Parsons Project), drummer Michael Leasure (Walter Trout) and keyboard player Mike Malone (Mark Ford Band).

Ten emotion-packed originals and two covers, give a listen to "Tight Dress," "Over the Pain," "Got No Name," "Broken Angel," "Livin' My Life," "Somewhere Salvation," "Everyone Knows," "Memories of Me and You" and "There's No Need."

JOHN LEE HOOKER - *THE HEALER*

Craft Recordings

www.craftrecordings.com

Here's a welcome blast from the past! Still at the top of his game at age 73, John Lee Hooker dominated the BMAs in the '80s, winning seven artist-of-the-year trophies as well as contemporary album and a Grammy nomination for this disc, too. Long out-of-print, however, fans can enjoy it once again thanks to the good folks at Craft Recordings who've remastered and rereleased it in CD and LP formats.

Produced by Roy Rogers with an assist from Grammy-winner Jim Gaines, who engineered, this star-studded effort features contributions from Bonnie Raitt, George Thorogood, Charlie Musselwhite, the full bands of Robert Cray and Carlos Santana and Los Lobos, too.

A mix of old school and Latin grooves and as fresh as the day it was first minted, groove again to "The Healer," "I'm in the Mood," "Baby Lee," "Cuttin' Out," "Think Twice Before You Go," "Sally Mae," "Rockin' Chair," "My Dream" and "No Substitute."



JOSH HOYER & SOUL COLOSSAL - *GREEN LIGHT*

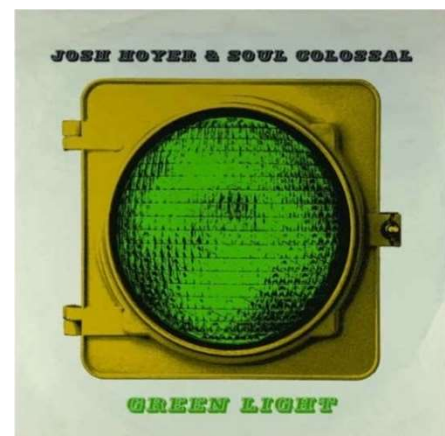
Self-produced CD

www.joshhoyer.com

Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal are based out Lincoln, Neb., but have been spreading peace, love and understanding around the world for the past decade, and they outdo themselves on their latest CD, a deeply nuanced romp that serves up solace for anyone experiencing difficulties living in modern times.

A native Cornhusker who spent years in New Orleans, Hoyer is a passionate performer who doubles on vocals and keys. Mentored by Magic Slim and Little Jimmy Valentine of The Heart Murmurs, he swings in lockstep with a six-piece unit that includes Benjamin Kushner on guitar and a full horn section.

"Evolution" kicks off a not-to-be-missed set. Lift your spirits and dance along to "Loneliness," "Harmony," "Mirrors," "Mr. One Up," "Green Light," "Beautiful People," "Crazy Love" and "Shou Shou Do."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

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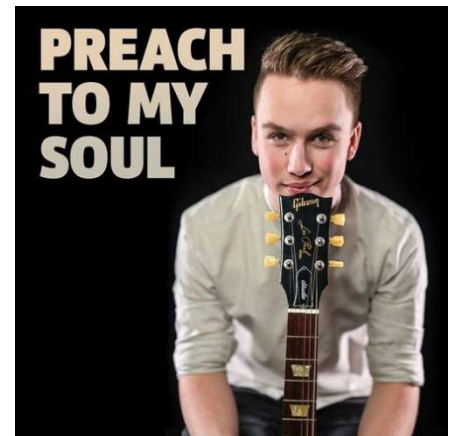
SPENCER MACKENZIE - *PREACH TO MY SOUL*

Gypsy Soul Records

www.spencermackenzie.ca

A proven commodity at age 22, Canadian bluesman Spencer Mackenzie is already a Maple Blues Award winner who's received top honors in international songwriting competitions. His rich vocals and crisp attack on guitar should be garner even more attention with this commanding mix of original blues-infused soul and blues-rock.

This is the third studio album from Spencer, a recent honors graduate of Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ont. It was produced, engineered and mixed by Ross Hayes-Citrullo with backing from several of several top artists from the Toronto blues scene, including guitarist Steve Strongman guests on one track. The choice cuts include "Baptized by Cold Water," "Preach to My Soul," "Don't Wanna Be Your Dog," "Test Drive," "Can't Do Right," "Paranoia Blues," "Two Doves" and "Battle from Within."



EARLY TIMES & THE HIGH ROLLERS - *ELECTRIC CITY*

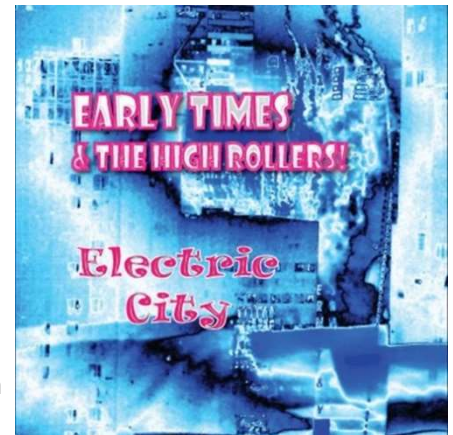
Dealer's Choice Records

www.earlytimes.co

SiriusXM deejay Early Times delivered a contemporary blues tour de force with *The Corner* in 2021 and follows up with this explosive, all-original CD, which delivers tough rhythms, gritty, clever lyrics and duets with Blues Hall of Famer Bobby Rush and Detroit blues-rock powerhouse Eliza Neals.

A native Californian based in New York, Early toured on guitar for years with E.C. Scott before entering broadcasting. Produced by Jay Messina (Miles Davis, KISS), his backing band features artists who've worked with Levon Helm, David Letterman, Cyndi Lauper, Rod Stewart and other stalwarts.

Buckle up and dial in "Aloha, Leilani," "Good Soul Music" featuring Bobby, "Orphan Train," "Heartbreak Insurance," "Tippin' Through the Tulips" "Bonnie & Clyde" featuring Eliza, "Dark Chocolate" and the jazzy, stop-time instrumental, "Succubus."



JIMMY CARPENTER - *THE LOUISIANA RECORD*

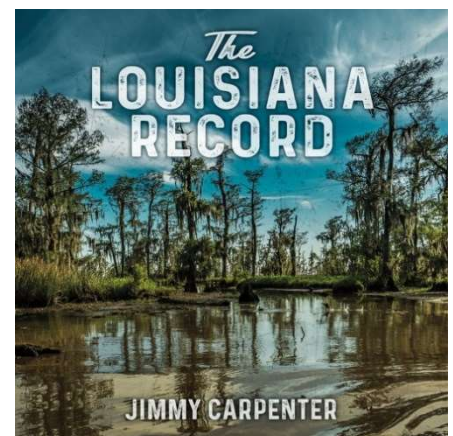
Gulf Coast Records

www.jimmycarpenter.net

A fixture in the Las Vegas as the musical director of the Big Blues Bender as well as a two-time BMA sax player of the year, Jimmy Carpenter delivers a big time of the hat to the Big Easy on his latest disc, culling tunes from the catalogs of Allen Toussaint, Fats Domino and others, delivering a set sure to have you groovin' from the jump.

Jimmy's a North Carolina native who got his start in the beloved regional favorite, The Alka-Phonics, in the '90s before diving head-first into the music of the Gulf Coast and living in the Big Easy for more than a decade in the 2000s. His fourth solo effort, this one was produced by Mike Zito, who also handles six-string.

Feast your ears and move your feet to "I Hear You Knockin'," "I Got Loaded," "Barefootin'," "All These Things," "Cry to Me," "Those Lonely Lonely Nights," "Pouring Water on a Drowning Man," "Bringing It on Home to Me" and "Rockin' at Cosimo's."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

A member of the CBS board since 2018, Marty Gunther 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 payer 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.

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www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org