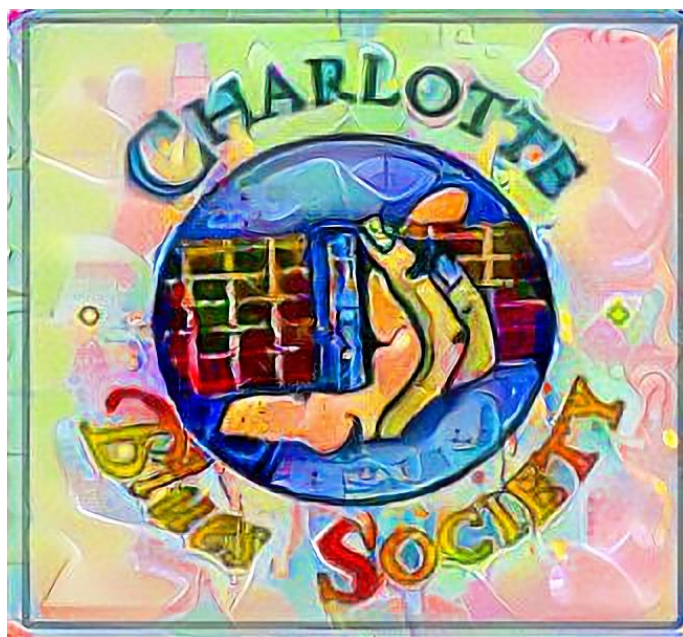


**BLUES  
LETTER**

**MAY**

**2017**

**SHARE  
THE  
GOOD  
BLUES  
NEWS  
WITH  
OTHERS**



**SUNDAY MAY 7**  
Charlotte Blues Society  
presents  
**GEOFF ACHISON**  
**BLUES FROM DOWN UNDER IN THE QC**

**The Rabbit Hole**  
1801 Commonwealth Ave Charlotte NC

Winner of  
**FIVE 2017 Australian  
Blues Music Awards**

Album of the Year  
*Another Mile, Another  
Minute*

Song of the Year  
*"I'm Gonna Ride"*

Artist of the Year  
Geoff Achison - "High  
Wire"

Duo/Group of the  
Year  
Geoff Achison & the  
Souldiggers

Producer of the Year  
Ben Harwood, Rob  
Harwood, Geoff  
Achison

Doors: 7:00pm  
Music: 8:00pm

FREE to CBS Members  
\$5 Non-Members

www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org

Spring had a great start for the **Charlotte Blues Society** in our new home at **The RABBIT HOLE**. Our 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was a **BLAST!** Thanks to the Instigators! **HUGE** welcome to our newest members, which we have been signing up at our **Sunday Blues Bash**, the **Sue Foley** shows, **Coco Montoya**, and other blues events. **WELCOME** (and welcome back) to CBS: Bruce Kovacs, Scott Heath, Jessica Adams, David Badger, Phil Fenno, Matt Federico, Tom Hudak, Tim Hovis, Regena McNeill, Bill Gechtman, Ben Zipman, The Torrence Family, Rich & Mary Ann Kausch, Phyllis & Reed Shaddock, Robin Cody, Stephen Foley, Shay & Michael Edelen

Our next Bash features the talent of Geoff Achison. We are fortunate to have him back in the area. Those who have seen him in past years at **The Double Door** are already talking about that upcoming show on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the **RABBIT HOLE**.

**FREE** to members, only **\$5** to non-members. Bring a friend in to join!

Don't forget: membership has privileges: bring your valid CBS Membership card to **The Peculiar Rabbit** when You stop in for brunch or dinner on any Blues Bash Sunday: it is worth 10% off your food! **The Peculiar Rabbit** next door to the **The Rabbit Hole**



**THE RABBIT HOLE**

1801 Commonwealth Ave, Charlotte, NC

Where the Blues Live On!

**THE RABBIT HOLE** in Charlotte 1801 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte crowds have been growing for each event! Pleased to see more people every week for **Sue Foley**, who continues her residency through April on the 18th and the 25. If you've missed her, do not hesitate to catch at least one show. Her talent speaks for itself and she has been joined by some great players including David Childers on the 11<sup>th</sup>. More guests will sit in on the 18<sup>th</sup> and you can look for **Bob Margolin** in the house with her on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Remember, all CBS Members with valid card get in for only \$7 for **Sue Foley**. Don't miss her. . The Rabbit Hole will have drink specials all night long..

## **FROM OUR PRESIDENT RICK BALLEW:**

### **Hey Blues Family!**

Thank You so much for the Prayers, Mojo and Spiritual caring, it's the major source of recovery and healing.

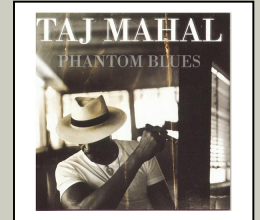
The Charlotte Blues Society is on a roll and we're not slowing down in May. May 7, our monthly gathering at **The Rabbit Hole**, is going to be an unforgettable night. **Down Under Blues** from Geoff Atchison. An incredible guitarist and vocalist that you would usually pay \$25 to see but because you're a member of **The Charlotte Blues Society** you're in **FREE**. We've got another party coming to the **Whitewater Center** with **Selwyn Birchwood**, another great guitarist who plays his guitar on his lap. We've gotten more autographs on our guitar including **Coco Montoya**. By May 7 we will have **Sue Foley**, **Bob Margolin** and **Jonny Lang**. To keep up on a daily basis just visit the webpage, [charlottebluessociety.com](http://charlottebluessociety.com).

Thanks for your continued support of **The Charlotte Blues Society**. See you soon

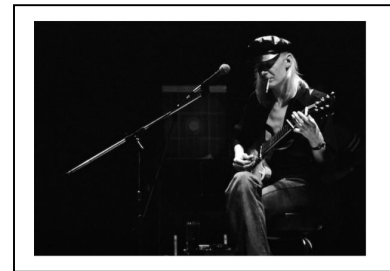
**Rick**

## MAY Blues Birthdays!!

- 1-Big Maybelle Smith (1924), Little Walter Jacobs (1930), Ada Brown (1890)
- 2-Connie Mack Booker (1929)
- 3-Freddie Roulette (1939), James Brown (1928)
- 4-Dave Dickerson (1913), Tyrone Davis (1938)
- 5-Blind Willie Mctell (1901), Johnnie Taylor (1938), J.B. Lenoir (1929)
- 6-Eddie C. Campbell (1939)
- 7-Amos "Bumble Bee Slim" Easton (1905)
- 8-Robert Johnson (1911)
- 9-Henry Ford Thompson (1938)), Dave Prater (1937), A.C. Reed (1926)
- 10-Ted Bogan (1910), Larry Williams (1935), Greg Piccolo (1951)
- 11-Kansas Joe McCoy (1905), King Oliver (1885)
- 12-Barbara Dane (1927), Guy Davis (1952)
- 13-Mary Wells (1943), Stevie Wonder (1950)
- 14- Sidney Bechet (1897), Grady Gaines (1934)
- 15-Johnny Williams (1906), L.C. "Good Rockin" Robinson (1915), Larry Johnson (1938)
- 16-Cleveland Chenier (1921), Betty Carter (1930)
- 17-Tiny Powell (1922), Henry "Taj Mahal" Fredericks (1942)
- 18-Little Son Joe Lawlars (1900), Big Joe Turner (1911), Sara Martin (1884)
- 20-Jaybird Coleman (1920)
- 21-Fats Waller (1904), Little Willie Anderson (1920), Dave Specter (1963), Lee "Shot" Williams (1938), Billy Wright (1932)
- 22-Sun Ra (1914)
- 24-John Lee (1915)
- 25-Willie Thomas (1912), Miles Davis (1926)
- 26-Mamie Smith (1883)
- 27-Brother John Sellers (1924), Junior Parker (1932)
- 28-T-Bone Walker (1910), Gladys Knight (1944)
- 29-Ron Levy (1951)



It's never too early to start thinking about that perfect gift for the person who has everything!  
Photographer **Kirk West** is offering his newest book "*The Blues in Black and White*" through the crowd-sourcing website [Kickstarter.com](https://www.kickstarter.com).



"The Blues in Black and White" covers the best of the Blues photography that Mr. West shot while living in Chicago in the late 1970 – 1980s. Muddy Waters, B. B. King, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, Son Seals, Bobby Blue Bland, Johnny Winter, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Lonnie Brooks, Little Milton, Magic Slim, James Cotton, Albert King, Koko Taylor and many others. The book is a 200- page hard cover coffee table book with over 200 photographs. It will be available in the fall of 2017. In it Kirk has captured the essence of the blues whether it is the players, the fans, the music itself and the scene and the neighborhoods and the drama that is the blues. "Proud and dignified but unpretentious; there's an honesty to Kirk's work and the people he's capturing." - -- Derek Trucks

Kirk left his home in rural Iowa in 1968 and headed to Chicago to follow his passion for the Blues and the legendary players that made their home there. He immersed himself in the local blues scene and befriended many of the idols that drove him to make the journey to Chicago. Willy Dixon, Bobby Blue Bland, Howlin Wolf, and Junior Wells are just a few of the characters that were around at that time. Kirk got to listen to their music as well as photograph them, and their fans, in the clubs and juke joints on Chicago's Southside.

# FESTIVAL TIME



April 20-23: Juke Joint Festival,  
Clarksdale, Mississippi  
April 22: Blues with a Side of Bacon,  
Henderson, Nevada  
April 22: BBQ & Blues,  
Big island, VA  
April 22: Wiregrass Blues Festival,  
Dotham, Alabama  
April 28: New England Blues Summit,  
Hyannis, Massachusetts  
April 28-30: Key City Rhythm & Blues Festival,  
Abilene, TX  
April 29: 12th Annual Ventura County Blues  
Festival,  
Camarillo, CA  
April 30: V Festival Cervantino de Blues,  
Azul, Argentina  
May 20-21: Lost Hollow Music Festival  
Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens, Belmont NC  
May 20: 31st Annual Carolina Blues Festival,  
Greensboro, NC  
May 20: 9th Annual, Simply Texas Blues Festival,  
Angelo, TX  
June 2 & 3: Brevard Blues & BBQ Festival,  
Brevard, NC  
July 8th: 4th Annual Buffalo Niagra Blues Festival,  
Buffalo, NY



Are you a member of the  
Blues Foundation?  
Join Now  
[www.Blues.org](http://www.Blues.org)



**Sue Foley**

**April 18 The Rabbit Hole**

**Samantha Fish**

**April 18 Neighborhood Theatre**

**Jonny Lang**

**April 19 Neighborhood Theatre**

**Kara Grainger**

**April 21 Evening Muse**

**Sue Foley & Bob Margolin**

**April 25 The Rabbit Hole**

**Selwyn Birchwood**

**May 4 US Whitewater Center**

**The Trongone Band**

**May 6 Whitewater Center**

**Nikki Hill**

**May 18 US Whitewater Center**

**Polyrhythmics**

**May 19 The Rabbit Hole**

**Moreland & Arbuckle**

**May 20 Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens**

**Jarekus Singleton**

**May 20 Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens**

**Mac Arnold & Plate Full of Blues**

**May 21 Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens**

**Cha Wa**

**May 25 Whitewater Center**

**Roomfull Of Blues**

**June 3 Neighborhood Theatre**

**Colin Lake**

**July 8 US White Water Center**

**My Morning Jacket**

**&**

**Gary Clark Jr**

**July 8 Metro Credit Union Amphitheatre**



Featured artist: **Mark Williams**. Yes my friends, this month we're going rogue. We thought focusing on one of the people so instrumental in capturing the best a musician has to offer in the studio or in a live recording, is as artistic as it gets. **Mark Williams** has been a vital part of the music scene in Charlotte and beyond. If you recorded a project at Reflection Studios (before that landmark too became another condo) or worked with him in Nashville, elsewhere in Charlotte or in one of the many studios across the country, you would count yourself among the privileged. He has referred to himself as an "itinerant knob turner", whereas those who know him call him "one of the best". This talented Producer/Engineer and Mixer works on projects with the biggest names in the music industry. #1 songs on the Billboard chart, Grammy nominations, he is the real deal. Having worked on literally thousands of recordings throughout his career, his sage advice to musicians is a great read in this month's newsletter.

### **The First Step to Making Your Next Album ~ Mark Williams**

The first step to your next album is creating the concept of what you want it to be! That seems obvious but many artists begin a recording project without a good vision of what will be the final result.

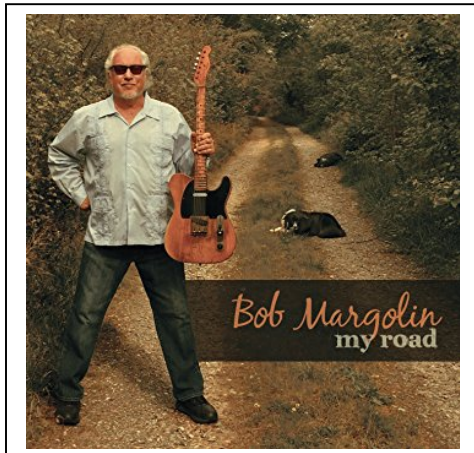
Of course if you have unlimited financial resources, you can book the studio time, hire the producer and all, and just flounder around until it evolves into an album of songs. In many years of recording, I have only been involved in a few projects like that and I can't say that they were the best records I worked on.

Most productions these days have to be cost efficient. For me, that means creating the detailed image in my mind of what the finished project will be before doing anything else. Once you know where you are planning to go, you can choose the best path to get there. While you are at it, choose a few recordings that have sonic elements you like. As you work on the project with producers and engineers, these examples will help them understand what you mean when you can say, "kind of like this."



*"Mixer Mark" at Chris Garges' Old House Studios*

Let's assume you plan a studio recording since live recording is worth it's own article. Is your finished album going to have the energy that comes from live interaction between the players? That suggests having most of the music recorded live in the studio – everybody playing together and feeding off of each other's energy. These can be my favorite projects. I find that often, when players are looking at each other and bouncing off each other's music, the final project can be really moving. Preparing for this kind of recording means really knowing the material and I recommend actually learning each other's parts to be certain that your own arrangement fits. Once everyone is ready to record, tracking live in the studio is the most cost efficient. I have typically tracked Blues albums that way in less than three days of recording.



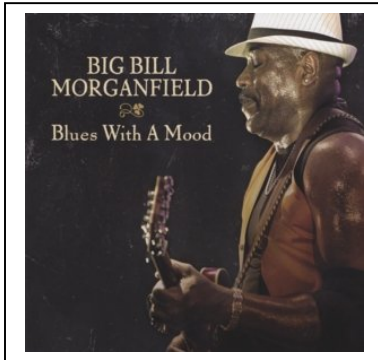
Of course, recording live in the studio is not a good time to find out that any of the players didn't learn their parts. If there are lots of repairs needed in a live studio recording, the overall time needed may be as much as recording it in pieces.

Assembling an album by recording the music in layers will take more time, but if your vision is for a very polished album, that may be the best way. Each layer can be recorded and problems fixed before adding other instruments. Basic tracks might best be played with drums, bass, and either guitar or keyboard chords playing at once. When those instrument tracks are cleaned up, layers of rhythm and lead parts can be added. When layering a project, I like to get the vocal recorded soon after the basic tracks so that everything we add supports and doesn't interfere with the vocal.

(Mark Williams, The First Step...cont)

As parts are added, I strongly suggest that you be decisive. I always get a sinking feeling when someone says they want to “play all the way through so you can take out the parts you don’t want.” Make a decision! Put it where it needs to be and leave out the rest. What can happen is that even though we know that some parts will be removed, we have to hear them while recording other parts. It is hard to have the perspective to know where to add the other stuff you do want while hearing the stuff you don’t think you want.

Just a quick note that “Fixing it in the Mix” is a myth. I use all the best tuning and editing software when necessary, but the best place to get it right is in the studio while you are recording.



Your songs are truly ready to mix when they contain performances that you like and don't contain parts you don't want. If your original vision has evolved a bit, think about whether the original reference recordings you chose at the beginning need to be changed to guide the mix process.

On a personal note, I am beginning an association with Eddie Z and his new studio setup at The Playroom in Charlotte. I am still a freelancer but this will be my first choice for mixing. <<http://theplayroomonline.com/recording/>>

185 PRODUCTIONS and BREVARD MUSIC CENTER PRESENT THE FOURTH ANNUAL

**Brevard Blues N' BBQ Festival**  
Good Music, Cold Beer, BBQ Cook Off

JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup>  
FRIDAY \$25  
SATURDAY \$35  
WEEKENDS \$45

**ROOMFUL OF BLUES**  
**TINSLEY ELLIS**  
**DELTA MOON**  
**MOJO BROTHERS BLUES BAND**  
**PEGGY RATUSZ & THE DADDY LONG LEGS**  
**DANGEROUS GENTLEMENS WITH ANSON FUNDERBURGH**  
J. RANDALL SAPP AND DADDY RABBIT  
LEE GRIFFIN BAND UNPAID BILL AND THE BAD CZECHS

JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> AT THE WHITTINGTON-PFOML AUDITORIUM  
**BREVARD MUSIC CENTER** DOORS: 4PM FRI 1PM SAT

**TICKETS CALL 828-862-2105**  
OR VISIT [BREVARDMUSIC.ORG](http://BREVARDMUSIC.ORG)  
[WWW.BREVARDBLUESFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.BREVARDBLUESFESTIVAL.COM)

**FREE to Members! \$5 non-members**

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

**Our May Sunday Bash will be amazing!**  
**GEOFF ACHISON**  
**At The RABBIT HOLE Sunday May 7**

## PLEASE Support our Sponsors



1801 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte



225 E. Woodlawn Rd, Charlotte



1212 Pecan Ave. Charlotte



# SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE. BUILD YOUR BUSINESS AND SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC

Invite your friends: Become a member of the Charlotte Blues Society today!

Commit yourself to Keepin' the Blues Alive!

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

Print out the info below and post it where you can see it!

SAVE THESE DATES!

**Keepin' The Blues Alive!**



March 5  
 April 2  
 May 7  
 June 4

August 6  
 September 3  
 October 1  
 November 5  
 December 3

**The Charlotte Blues Society**  
 at The Rabbit Hole  
 Door 7pm Band 8pm Jam 10pm  
**Live Blues!**  
 more info: [www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org)

**Come hang out at our new home:**  
**THE RABBIT HOLE**  
**1801 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE**  
**CHARLOTTE**

# TASTE of Charlotte

**3 Big days of Food, Music and Fun in Uptown Charlotte on Tryon Street from Stonewall to 5<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Charlotte Blues Society needs you! Once again we have a wine/beer booth. This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and requires the help of members.

**Friday June 9**

10:15am-3:00pm  
 300pm- 7:00pm  
 7:00pm- 11:15pm

**Saturday June 10**

8:15am- 12:00 Noon  
 Noon-4:00pm  
 4:00pm-7:30pm  
 7:30pm-11:30pm

**Sunday June 11**

10:15am- 2:00pm  
 2:00pm-6:15pm

*Flynn Wolfe is coordinating the scheduling of volunteers. We need volunteers every day. You can sign up at our upcoming events, or online at [www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org) on the Taste of Charlotte page*

And since Robert Johnson's Birthday is this month, we felt this story from Board member, and CBS secretary Rick Kite is most appropriate:

"A few years ago I took a trip by myself to see my niece when she lived in Texas. On the way back I decided to head to Memphis via the route heading north along to the Mississippi River from Jackson. The scenic route led me through the "Blues Trail" up to The Crossroads. Arriving at the famous intersection, I was in awe standing there with my camera in front of the criss-crossed guitars.

Taking several pictures up close and from afar, it was getting late and wanted to visit Beale St. for that famous catfish at Blues City Cafe. After checking into my hotel room, I took a few minutes and looked at the pics I had taken in Clarksdale. To my dismay, I noticed there were orbs that showed up in the picture that were not there when I took the photograph. I guess I wasn't there by myself after all... there were some old bluesman hanging out accompanying Robert Johnson there with me...pretty cool!!!"



The photo above ^ clearly shows the orbs. Rick didn't see at the time the photo was taken.  
You gotta love it!

**We rely on YOU to help us build our blues community like never before.**

Send us your favorite blues pics

Share your blues stories

[CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com)

**Contribute your time and your talent.**

**This is YOUR CBS**

**Better than ever in 2017!**



ask to join us on Facebook.

**Keepin' The Blues Alive!**

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

A 501(c) (3) non-profit organization