

# Welcome to 2018, the year of our 25th Anniversary!

2017 was a great year for Charlotte Blues Society. We found a new place to call home after the loss of our historic Double Door Inn. That change led us to a move into the Plaza Midwood section of Charlotte where music and art thrive. CharlotteFive.com said it best: "You may know Plaza Midwood as the quirky cousin to NoDa, or as Elizabeth's eccentric neighbor. A vibrant and diverse neighborhood just northeast of Charlotte's center city, Plaza Midwood was originally established in the 1920s as a "streetcar suburb" designed around a trolley line that ran to and from Uptown. Formally declared a Charlotte neighborhood in 1973, Plaza Midwood's borders are strictly defined by Hawthorne Lane on the west, Central Avenue on the south, and The Plaza and Parkwood Avenue on the north. In Plaza Midwood, massive trees shade residential streets lined with craftsman-style bungalows and cottages. Then there's the heartbeat of the neighborhood, right between Central Avenue and Commonwealth: an amalgam of eclectic storefronts, bars, and restaurants, each with a unique vibe all its own."

That is the neighborhood where Charlotte Blues Society found its new home, and the doors of The Rabbit Hole 1801 Commonwealth Avenue were opened to us and welcomed us in.

2017 began with the final show at The Double Door, and ended with a fantastic December event showcasing 15 year old Nathan Pope. In between we saw blues artists from Australia, England and around the US performing for our events, including Geoff Achison, Bex Marshall, Tullie Brae, & Benny Turner.

Local blues favorites The Instigators, & Bill Miller Band filled in some dates, and the IBC competition for solo/duo and bands took place in the new space. joined with The Rabbit Hole in welcoming Sue Foley to a 5 week Tuesday night residency in April, culminating in an outstanding show with Sue and Bob Margolin. We saw Coco Montoya fill the room with blues fans, Selwyn Birchwood perform his butt off to new fans and much more.

We saw our membership grow, our newsletter subscribers increase and we maintained the high standards set by those that started it all in 1993.

We interviewed blues artists and helped promote their shows throughout Charlotte, Eric Gales, Davy Knowles, Tommy Castro, and more.

We had 16 artists personally autograph the Fender Squier guitar we raffled off and gave away in December, and we have a new guitar for 2018 to raffle off with JJ Grey's and Eric Gales' signatures already captured with more major artists to come.

We have a new year ahead of us with some exciting artists already lined up for our monthly events. Blues artists Heather Gillis, Joseph Michael Mahfoud, Geoff Achison, James Armstrong, and we continue to provide this to our members with valid membership cards for FREE and only \$5 for non-members or members without cards.

We have two talented acts to represent us in Memphis this month at the IBC, and a new board to welcome in the new year. We have committed to fighting hunger, "1 Can? I CAN!" has become our battle cry as we collect non-perishable items all year at every monthly event for Loaves & Fishes. So Welcome 2018! Welcome to our 25th year! Welcome all blues fans and new-to-the-blues fans. The party has begun

NEWSLETTER  
January 2018



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News

Happy New Year! ~ Mary London Szpara President

© Alain Broeckx '16



2017 was the year we had not one, but two opportunities for blues artists to compete to represent Charlotte Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis in 2018

We added a twist to the competition, where the acts were to choose from a list of blues songs, pick one and make it their own. IBC judging criteria weighs heavily on originality and blues content. We wanted to make sure those that competed represented the blues in an original and authentic way.

Solo/Duo competition was held during the day at The Rabbit Hole on Labor Day weekend with Root2 Music coming out as the winner.

The duo features acoustic guitar, violin and vocals of David Frank and Nancy Reid. They impressed the judges with their authentic blues sound, originals and stories. Their CD was also up for consideration for "Self Released CD" along with 4 others. We are proud to have David & Nancy represent us in Memphis.



In October, the first Sunday Blues Bash was also a band battle. Bands traveled from Columbia South Carolina to the Charlotte area to compete in what proved to be the closest competition ever. Moses Jones edged out the others by a mere point and will be representing Charlotte Blues Society in this prestigious International Blues Competition. They are promising a solid blues set that will make us all stand up and cheer in Memphis. Their intent is to bring us home another win, and we are enthusiastically behind them to achieve that end!

The traditional IBC send off party will be held MONDAY January 8th this year. The Rabbit Hole is filming an episode of "Inked" on our normal Sunday night, so make sure you have the date on your calendar.



MONDAY JANUARY 8, 2018 The Rabbit Hole. Both Root2 Music & Moses Jones will be performing their sets prepared for competition. FREE show to members with valid membership ID, only \$5 for non-members and those without cards. Doors 7pm. Music 8-9:30 followed by BLUES JAM. Bring your instruments if you want to join in!

1 Can ?  
I Can !



Now Thru 2018 CBS is collecting food for Loaves & Fishes. Please bring non-perishables to All Our Events. Hunger does not take a Holiday.

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



2018 is not just our 25th anniversary, it is also the year our board discussed the needs of the hungry in our community. The reality that children in our area rely on 2 meals a day provided by the school system was a huge awakening. When school is on break due to holidays, teacher work days or summer vacation, children are in fear, not knowing where their next meal is coming from.

**To us, that was just unacceptable.**

Charlotte Blues Society has teamed up with Loaves and Fishes to collect non-perishable food items for our community. Our motto is simple: " 1 Can? I Can! "

In our first collection on December 3rd, 2017, we received 98 pounds of food. That's a great start. But it is just the beginning. Each month, we challenge our members to give, and to surpass the donations of the previous month.

In 2017, Loaves and Fishes fed over 77,000 in our community.

Think about that. Each one of us "Can" make a difference. Let's do this together. It is simple: just pick up an extra can of food when you shop. Just 1 can. Every time you go to the store. put a bag in your trunk, or back seat and put that extra can in there. Then drop off your donation at The Rabbit Hole at our next meeting. We'll be collecting at every single monthly event. We will take your contributions and they will be weighed and distributed the Wednesday after our meeting. Your gift of food is not a hand out. It is a kind gesture to a child who is not responsible for their plight. It is a gift of caring. It is a gift of love It is a gift of humanity. What we do for others does matter. As a music community, we heal with music, we feed the soul. Let's also feed the bodies. One non-profit helping another.

**1 Can? I CAN ! Blues for Food**

# The 2017 CBS Guitar Raffle



And the Winner is:  
**Nick Polyzos!**



## Guitar Raffle 2018 has begun!



Donated by Rick Kite, our 2018 Fender Squier is black with white pearl pick guard. It comes complete with a guitar bag and practice amp.

Signature gathering has already begun.

First to sign; Eric Gales. Followed by JJ Grey



Last year, we collected signatures from 16 well known and famous names in Blues Music.

This year we will continue to capture names throughout the year until our Christmas Bash in December, when the winner of all sold tickets will be drawn.

# Tickets: \$10 each

Raffle tickets will be available for sale at all Charlotte Blues Society events at The Rabbit Hole and at many other blues events around town.

You will also be able to purchase tickets on our website

All proceeds to benefit Charlotte Blues Society

# CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY MUST SEE SHOWS

## Monday January 8th 8pm The Rabbit Hole

January 2018

**The IBC Send-off ~~Sunday~~ Monday Blues Bash**



**Root2 Music**  
Solo/Duo

Featuring artists representing CBS at IBC 2018  
Doors open 7pm - Music 8pm - Jam 9:30pm

**Moses Jones**  
Band

Free Appetizers While they last

Free to Members with valid ID \$5 non-members

**Monday January 8th!**

## Sunday February 11 8pm The Rabbit Hole

**CBS SUNDAY BLUES BASH**

doors 7pm Show 8pm  
FREE Show for Members w/Valid card  
\$5 non members

**FEBRUARY 11, 2018**



**Heather Gillis**

Intrepid Artists  
WWW.CHARLOTTEBLUESOCIETY.ORG

special guest:  
**Funky Geezer**

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

**1 Can? I CAN!**  
DONATE TO  
**LOAVES & FISHES**  
THROUGHOUT 2018

## Sunday April 1 8pm The Rabbit Hole

# CBS 25th Anniversary



***Joseph Michael Mahfoud***

# Blues Shows in Charlotte : MUST SEE



© Alan Broecks 16

**TAJ MAHAL** **January 26, 2018**  
**McClintock Theatre at Spirit Square**



**February 9 2018**  
**DAVY KNOWLES**

Neighborhood Theatre, Charlotte, NC  
 © Natasha Cornblatt

Sunday February 11  
 Charlotte Blues Society Present:



*The Heather Gillis Band*



Doors **7PM**  
 Show **8PM**

**FREE** CBS Members w/valid Membership **\$5** Non-members

The Rabbit Hole 1801 Commonwealth Ave, Charlotte



**Doyle Bramhall II**



**Friday February 16**  
 Neighborhood Theatre Charlotte, NC

Ah Via Musicom Cliffs Of Dover Desert Rose

**eric johnson**  
 with original band members  
 Tommy Taylor & Kyle Brock



*Ah Via Musicom Tour*  
 Performing in its entirety  
 Plus Special Guest: Arielle

Wed. February 28 McClintock Theater Charlotte, NC

Song For George Nothing Can Keep Me From You

East Wes High Landrons Steve's Boogie  
 Forty Mile Town

**TAB BENOTT's Whiskey Bayou Records Revue**  
 featuring Jeff McCarty & Eric Johanson

**March 3, 2018**



at Neighborhood Theatre Charlotte NC





## New Year New Board of Directors



### The time has come to approve our new Board of Directors

We asked for nominations and volunteers throughout the past quarter and are pleased to announce the following:

### Officers

President: Mary London Szpara		Vice President: Brandon Adams
Secretary: Casey Couch		Treasurer: Bill Scullin

### Board of Directors Members at Large:

Betsy Norton-Stowe		Rick Kite
Nick Polyzos		Flynn Wolfe
Randi Salvatore		Dick Gilland
Cameron Farquhar		Ray Otstott

Each brings their own skill set to the board and we are pleased to have such an enthusiastic and professional group. You know many of these people from their involvement with CBS throughout the years. Some are new names and faces who will add new creative ideas and opportunities for our Society as we continue to build our organization and bring the vital projects back to our community including Blues in The Schools, and Blues Workshops.

You do not have to be on the Board to volunteer.

These members will be approaching you and asking for your help at various functions and events. We are looking forward to having the most active Blues Society on the East Coast.

Thank you to all who have been a part of our Board over the years.  
We are better because of what you brought to the table every month.

Thank you to our new Web Designer: Troy Baker

He is working with our President to create a site that is easier to navigate.

In addition, Troy will streamline our newsletters/Blues Blasts  
new members & subscribers data bases processes to make them easier  
to maintain..



# We Need YOUR Stories, YOUR Photos YOUR Memories



As Charlotte Blues Society turns 25, we want YOU to contribute to our archives of the CBS Story.

Photos of shows, people, events, artists, music, all the things that are part of the adventures and music that CBS built may be found in your old photo albums, ticket stubs and pieces of memorabilia.

We need YOU to share it with us as we compile our history and make it accessible to all.



What brought YOU to CBS? Who is YOUR favorite artist? What was the very best blues show you ever saw?

Share with us. We want to know.

Send your stories, photos, etc to [CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com)

OR

Charlotte Blues Society

PO Box 32752

Charlotte, NC 28232

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