July 2018 BluesLetter

Volume 2018 Charlotte Blues Society issue 07







www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org

Keepin' The Blues Alive

The CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY (CBS)

is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the American Blues tradition through the presentation of concerts, forums, educational programs and support of local musicians in Charlotte and the surrounding areas.

CBS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors and operated by an all-volunteer staff. CBS is an affiliated member of The Blues Foundation, the umbrella organization for a worldwide network of 165 affiliated Blues societies and has individual memberships around the globe.

Charlotte Blues Society July 2018 BluesLetter

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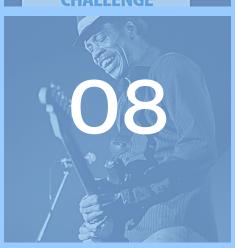






ON THE COVER

July is VACATION TIME for many, and we are taking our usual break to spend time with family & friends over the Fourth and throughout the month.



No Blues Sunday in July,

Note from CBS President

Festival listing for July 2018

If you have a need to get more blues in your life, check out the festival listing on Page 5

Blues Artists Wanted

The IBC dates are set for 2019 in Memphis. Who will represent us this year? Will it be you?

James Armstrong

Michael Wolf Ingmire speaks with James Armstrong and delivers a fascinating look at a real bluesman and survivor.

He will be performing August 5th 2018 at the CBS Blues Sunday at The Rabbit Hole





Summertime Blues in the QC

June 3 heated up at The Rabbit Hole with a great night of blues. High praise for Chris Clifton Band who opened for PTB and later played as her band. A short Pam Taylor solo set was followed by full band including the addition of "Magic" Mike Taylor on sax, toes were tapping, feet were dancing and drinks flowing through to a great jam with some outstanding blues from old friends joining Pam and Mike. If you are a Pam Taylor Fran (Friend/Fan), you will be happy to note she has already locked in another date at The Rabbit Hole later this year! Great night and good time was had by all. Ah, but we didn't just have a good time, we did a good thing. Actually, we did a great thing.

We did a great job collecting food and funds for Loaves & Fishes! We received a call from two of their representatives 3 days after our Blues Sunday event. They were in tears: YOUR generosity helped to feed so many families that are at risk and in need right now. Last month we threatened to bug you if you forgot food, and you graciously donated extra funds which helped to purchase fresh dairy food for those who came into the food pantry. YOU stepped up. If you forgot food, YOU donated funds. YOU were generous.

YOU made the difference.YOU gave from your heart.YOU are the reason good things happen.

Quick reminder: every month through the end of the year we continue to collect food for Loaves and Fishes. It is CRITICAL during these summer months that we step it up. School is out and the children who rely on a meal at school will need our help. Blues For Food!

Who Can? We Can! 1 Can? I Can!

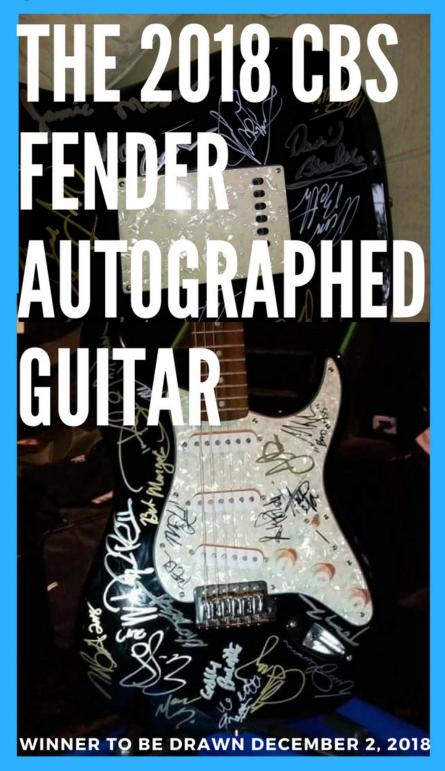
HUGE "Thank You" owed to all who volunteered for our Taste of Charlotte beer/wine/ tent! Especially to *Betsy Norton-Stowe* and *Dick Gilland* who were super troopers throughout the 3 day event.

Quick note: If you saw Vanessa Collier at the Whitewater Center in June you saw the future of Blues! She is talent not-to-be-denied. They have some great shows coming up in their River Jam series. Heather Gillis, Southern Avenue, Selwyn Birchwood and Jamie McLean Band will be jamming this summer. GO!!!

As we head into July, we remind you that we do not have a Blues Sunday this month, but there is plenty of fabulous music for you to embrace throughout the area: The Whitewater Center has some outstanding talent lined up. We've already been treated to the amazing Vanessa Collier there and look forward to everything on that stage. Neighborhood Theatre had Paul Thorn, Marcia Ball and more in June, and Romare Beardon Park has the Blues Beatles June 30 to kick off the July 4th weekend

Whatever you do this holiday, stay safe, have fun and we'll see you
August 5th at The Rabbit Hole for James Armstrong. We will have and EARLY JAM that evening. Going to
see what your response is. We may start all our Blues Sundays that way. Keep reading for more info.
By the way: Check out the great article on James Armstrong from Michael Wolf Ingmire in this issue.

\$10 PER TICKET



\$10 PER TICKET

WE WILL CONTINUE GATHERING SIGNATURES UNTIL DECEMBER 2

Signatures

Eric Gales JJ Grey **Heather Gillis** Doyle Bramhall II **Garry Burnside Davy Knowles** Jorma Kaukonen **Marc Broussard Tab Benoit Eric Johnson** Jamie McLean Arielle **Nathan Pope Bob Margolin Andy Powell** Mark Abrahams **Nick Moss Walter Trout Tinsley Ellis Jack Nugent** Josesph Michael Mahfoud Tommy Z **Duane Betts Devon Allman** Rebecca Lovell Megan Lovell **David Bromberg** Mark Cosgrove Jake Haldenvang Pam Taylor

October 18th 2018

2018 INDUCTION CEREMONY

7:15pm Historic GEM Theatre Downtown Kannapolis

2018 Inductees:

John Tesh - Pianist, composer, singer studied music, radio, communications at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. He has six music Emmys, two Grammy nominations, three gold records, has had seven Public Television specials and 8 million records sold.

Chris Daughtry - 2006 American Idol contestant from Roanoke . "It's Not Over", nominated for "Best Rock Song and Best Rock Performance" by a Duo or Group with Vocal at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards.

Dolphus Ramseur - Record Executive and founder of Ramseur Records, an independent record label based in North Carolina. Responsible for successful artists The Avett Brothers and Steep Canyon Rangers. Born and raised in Concord, NC.

Luther Barnes - Stellar Award winning and Grammy nominated gospel singer, songwriter and producer. Born in Rocky Mount, NC

Calvin Richardson -R&B/Soul singer-songwriter and producer from Monroe, NC. Calvin has received multiple Grammy nominations.

The Hoppers - GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame members from Madison, NC. They have won over 50 awards and have eight number one songs along with multiple top 5 songs.

Blind Boy Fuller - Piedmont Blues guitarist famed for his fingerpicking style of the 1930's. Fuller was born in Wadesboro, NC.

MUSIC HALL OF FAME

Tickets are now on sale VIP and General Reserved tickets: NorthCarolinaMusicHallofFame.org.

Spirit of Kansas Blues Festival Jul-04-2018, Topeka, Kansas, USA

Briggs Farm Blues Festival Jul-05-2018 - Jul-08-2018, Nescopeck, Pennsylvania,

Smokin' Blues Fest 8 Jul-06-2018 - Jul-07-2018. Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada

Tall City Blues Fest Jul-06-2018 - Jul-07-2018, Midland, Texas, USA

7.oofest Jul-06-2018 - Jul-07-2018, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Mississippi Valley Blues Festival Jul-06-2018 - Jul-07-2018, Davenport, Iowa, USA

Vallemaggia Magic Blues Jul-06-2018 - Aug-03-2018, Vallemaggia, Switzerland

Thunder Bay Blues Festival Jul-06-2018 - Jul-08-2018, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

Hayward/ Russell City Blues Festival Jul-07-2018 - Jul-08-2018. Hayward, California, USA

Grassroots Blues Festival Jul-07-2018 - Jul-08-2018, Duck Hill, Mississippi, USA

Blue Monday Jul-09-2018, Lewiston, New York. USA

Alabama Blues Week Jul-09-2018 - Jul-15-2018, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA

Greenwood Blues Cruise, 18th Annual Jul-12-2018 - Jul-15-2018, Greenwood, South Carolina.

LiUNA! Bluesfest Windsor Jul-12-2018 - Jul-15-2018. Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Bluesfest Windsor Jul-12-2018 - Jul-15-2018, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Santa Maria Blues Jul-12-2018 - Jul-14-2018, Santa Maria - Azores, Portugal

THE ULTIMATE LIST OF

BLUES July 2018 FESTIVALS

Blues Peer Jul-13-2018 - Jul-15-2018, Peer, Belgium

New Glarus Blues, Brews & Food Truck Festival Jul-14-2018. New Glarus. Wisconsin, USA

Playing with Fire Free Concert Annual Series Jul-14-2018. Omaha. Nebraska, USA

North Atlantic Blues Festival Jul-14-2018 - Jul-15-2018, Rockland, Maine, USA

Jul-14-2018 - Jul-15-2018. Mission, British Columbia, Canada

Buffalo Niagara Blues Festival, 5TH Annual Jul-14-2018, Buffalo, New York, USA

Newburyport BluesCruise Jul-14-2018, Newburyport, Massachusetts, USA

Blue Monday Jul-16-2018, Lewiston, New York, USA

Porretta Soul Festival Jul-19-2018 - Jul-22-2018, Porretta Terme, Italy

Lowertown Blues & Funk Fest Jul-20-2018 - Jul-21-2018. St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival Jul-20-2018 - Jul-22-2018. Winthrop, Washington, USA

Cathedral Park Jazz Festival Blue Monday Jul-20-2018 - Jul-22-2018, Portland, Oregon, USA

Hotrods BBQ BluesFestival Jul-20-2018, Neosho, Missouri, USA

Roadhouse Bluesfest, 5th Jul-21-2018, Magnolia, Delaware, USA

Blues & Swing Week Jul-22-2018 - Jul-27-2018, Elkins, West Virginia, USA

Molinara Crossroads Iron Mountain Music Festival Jul-22-2018, Molinara, Italy Blue Monday Jul-23-2018, Lewiston, New York. USA

> Prairie Dog Blues Festival Jul-27-2018 - Jul-28-2018. Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin. **USA**

> Canal Winchester's Blues and Ribfest Jul-27-2018 - Jul-28-2018. Canal Winchester, Ohio, USA

Highbridge Hills Disc golf and Bluegrass Festival Jul-27-2018 - Jul-29-2018, Highbride, Wisconsin, USA

Blues, Brews & Brats Jul-28-2018. Waterville. Ohio. USA

Calgary International Blues Festival Jul-30-2018 - Aug-05-2018, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Jul-30-2018, Lewiston, New York, USA

Jus' Blues Music Awards Week 2018 Jul-31-2018 - Aug-04-2018, Tunica, Mississippi, USA

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PRAIRIE DOG





CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY

Blues Competition

ENTRY FORMS ONLINE

www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org

Solo/Duo

Winners to represent Charlotte Blues Society at International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN January 2019

Band



WINNERS RECEIVE

Solo/Duo \$500 Band \$1000 Entry Deadline: August 15, 2018

See entry forms for complete rules and requirements

HE CAN STILL SEE THE LIGHT ~BY MICHAEL WOLF INGMIRE

In a year filled with many changes for this writer, there remains one constant: The Blues. No matter how daunting or joyful that this world can be; the Blues always provides the most profound soundtrack for the variables of this life.

Therefore, I was truly excited to find out that the Charlotte Blues Society was bringing in one of my favorite contemporary Bluesmen in for the August 5th Blues Sunday at The Rabbit Hole namely, James Armstrong. I first heard James Armstrong in January 2000 when I purchased his 1998 CD, "Dark Night."

I was coming out of a rather noir period in the aftermath of my brother's 1996 suicide. Armstrong's Dark Night CD became the soundtrack of my own healing. The refrain in the title track became a litany for me in those early days of 2000:

"It's a dark night, it's a dark night, but I can still see the light....."

Blues, at it's best, is a music of truth and healing. James Armstrong embodies those principles in his story, his warm singing voice and succinct guitar playing. On June 28th, I had the privilege of doing a phone interview with James Armstrong for the Charlotte Blues Society's BluesLetter.

Rather than do a standard Q&A interview I decided to have a conversation about James' background, his early career and the redemptive power of the Blues and love.

First of all, I had to thank James for the "Dark Night" album and told him the story previously referenced above. James expressed his thanks and in the course of the interview I discovered James to be a warm, humble and considerate human being.

James Armstrong was born in Los Angeles on April 22, 1957. James was raised by his Father, also named James Armstrong, who was a skilled Jazz guitarist. Being a single parent James Armstrong Sr. had to seek work outside of music and demonstrated unconditional love to his son. By the time he was five James was playing drums aptly and he would play duets with his Father. He soon gravitated towards playing the saxophone and took lessons, learning basic theory. His saxophone teacher would have him play in the corner to get his "sound." On his Father's record player were artists such as Lionel Hampton and Nat King Cole, who James' father knew quite well.

While still quite young James one day picked up one of his Father's guitars and played a musical passage. It made sense. He played another passage that made further sense. The path was set. Soon James had his own, sort of off brand guitar. Eventually, that progressed to a 1964 Fender Stratocaster. His Father gave his son music theory every day after school.

Because of Father's connections to the musical community, James met guitarists such as Kenny Burrell and Irving Ashby, who played guitar with Nat King Cole. I encourage my younger readers to consider listening to Burrell and Ashby. A musical education is forever.

James developed a strong passion for deep Blues and for the great Jimi Hendrix and became a very skilled guitarist and singer. By the time he was 17, James was on the road with an Elvis Presley interpreter. In his early 20's he was the youngest member of Bluesman Smokey Wilson's band.

In the 1980's James was one of the founding members of the Blues-Rock band, Mama Roo. Mama Roo got a record deal with Crescendo records and their album was produced by Stevie Wonder Producer, Robert Margouleff. Eventually, Mama Roo and it's members went their separate ways. In the 1990's, James Armstrong was heard by HighTone Records Owner/Producer, Bruce Bromberg. Bromberg had produced other artists such as Robert Cray & Joe Louis Walker. Bromberg was impressed by James' guitar work and vocals, but advised him to lose the "Jimi Hendrix" influence.

Their partnership lead to the first James Armstrong release on HighTone, "Sleeping with a Stranger, in October 1995. In April 1997, as James was preparing to tour, he and his son, James, were victims of a home invasion. His left arm and hand were stabbed to the point that it was thought he would not play again. Through the support of friends and the Blues World, James started to heal. James slowly recovered his dexterity, in part, by playing slide guitar.

James released his second HighTone album, "Dark Night," in 1998. Two of his friends, Doug Macleod and Joe Louis Walker, assisted on guitars. One of the album tracks, "Bank of Love," was featured in the soundtracks for the films, "Hear No Evil" and "The Florentine."

James Armstrong is a truly deep and real life-spiritual Bluesman. He has continued to recover, tour and record. In 2001, James received two W.C Handy Award nominations. One was for Contemporary Blues Guitarist and one for the song, "Pennies and Picks," from the 2000 album, "Got it Goin' On." Another song from that album, "2 Sides," was featured in the soundtrack for the film, "Speechless."

James had a break from recording from 2000 to 2011, coming out with stunning, "Blues at the Border."

That was released on the Johnny Rawls label, Catfood Records. That release was followed by 2014's "Guitar Angels." In 2016, James formed his own Guitar Angels records label and released the self-produced work, "Mary-Jo Curry."

Aided by his partner and supporter, Alice Goodrich, James Armstrong now lives in Illinois. His most recent release was 2017's Catfood records release, "Blues Been Good To Me." James told me that he would like to do an album of all traditional Blues. I urge my readers to check out James at his website, jarmblues.com and on YouTube. You will hear and see at these sites, and at his August 5th performance at Charlotte's The Rabbit Hole, one of America's most dynamic and deepest Bluesmen.

A true survivor who can still see the light

3:45PM AUGUST 5, 2018 THE RABBIT HOLE 1801 COMMONWEALTH AVE. CHARLOTTE DOORS: 7PM JAM: 7:15-8:30PM

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Early 7:15pm Blues 6:30pm

Jam Rules:

You must sign up. Check out info on our Facebook Group or Facebook Page.

We have provided you with 5 songs, the key they will be performed in, and the artists. Additionally, we are providing you with a link to YouTube performances to reference. This is encourage even the newest members to participate.

Indicate no more than TWO song choices from the list provided, the instrument you will play, or vocals. Depending on the response, you may be able to perform both. We will do our best to make sure everyone has an opportunity to jam.

You MUST provide your own instruments/ amps and drum kit(backline) provided, but you must provide your own guitars, harps, sticks, flutes, sax, cello, violin, etc

House Band will fill in as needed.

- 1. Born in Chicago, Key A, (Paul Butterfield)

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCjFRNWN3o4
- 2. Honey Hush, Key C, (Albert Collins) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoSkIT6YBRI
- 3. Drowning on Dry Land, Key G,(Albert King)
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfpsMQN_z60
- 4. Tore Down, Key C, (Freddie King)

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMDPpzt60gY
- 5. The Thrill Is Gone, Key Bm, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oica5jG7FpU (B.B. King)

AUGUST 5, 2018 THE RABBIT HOLE

1801 COMMONWEALTH AVE. CHARLOTTE

Thank You: Keep The Cans Coming!



Summer is a very difficult time for families at-risk. School is out That is a problem. You see, schools provide up to 2 meals a day to children. That food is no longer there. LOAVES & FISHES helps to fill that need. They can't do it without you. In an effort to help, Charlotte Blues Society will step it up. We have asked you to bring non-perishable food items to every monthly event.

When School is out, Children go hungry.

Please look for us at all Blues shows in the area.

Look for the Donation Can.

DONATE \$\$
EVERY donation will be given directly to

Loaves & Fishes to purchase Fresh Dairy and Protein.



July Birthdays

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1- Thomas A. Dorsey (1899), Willie Dixon (1915), James Cotton (1935), Syl Johnson (1939),
                         Dan Ackroyd AKA Elwood Blues (1952)
                                    3-John Hurt (1893)
                   4-Champion Jack Dupree (1910), Alan Wilson (1943)
                                   5-Smiley Lewis (1913)
                                  7-Pinetop Perkins (1913)
     8-Louis Jordan (1908), Johnnie Johnson (1924) Johanny "Jaimoe" Johanson (1944)
                  9-Mitch Mitchell 1947, John Gillis AKA Jack White 1975
10-Casey Bill Weldon (1909), Barrelhouse Chuck (1958), Blind Boy Fuller (1907), Charlie Baty
                    (1953), Bela Fleck (1958), Ronnie James Dio (1942)
                              11-Blind Lemon Jefferson (1897)
                            14-Claude & Clifford Trenier (1919)
  15-Washboard Sam (1910), Willie Cobbs (1940), Millie Jackson (1944), Anthony "Tone"
                                     Catalano (1981)
                                 16-Denise LaSalle (1939)
                                17-Peppermint Harris (1925)
        18-Screamin Jay Hawkins (1929), Martha Reeves (1941), Lonnie Mack (1941)
                                 19-Buster Benton (1932)
                                20-Carlos Santana (1947)
                                   21-Floyd Jones (1917)
                     22-Chuck Jackson (1937), George Clinton (1940)
                            23-Saul Hudson AKA Slash (1965)
        28-Mike Bloomfield (1943), Junior Kimbrough (1930), Ikey Robinson (1904)
                                29-Charlie Christian (1916)
                         30-Buddy Guy (1936), Otis Taylor (1948)
                                   31-Roy Milton (1907)
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Forty years after the death of Elvis Presley, two-time Sundance Grand Jury winner Eugene Jarecki's new film takes the King's 1963 Rolls-Royce on a musical road trip across America. From Memphis to New York, Las Vegas, and beyond, the journey traces the rise and fall of Elvis as a metaphor for the country he left behind. In this groundbreaking film, Jarecki paints a visionary portrait of the state of the American Dream and a penetrating look at how the hell we got here.

A diverse cast of Americans, both famous and non, join the journey, including Alec Baldwin, Rosanne Cash, Chuck D, Emmylou Harris, Ethan Hawke, Mike Myers, among many others.

Check out this clip:https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=167&v=oea-eeK9CXA



All musicians are invited to submit their Blues recordings for consideration. Blues music released between November 1, 2017 and October 31, 2018 is eligible for consideration for a 2019 Blues Music Award.



VISIT LIVINGBLUES.COM TO VOTE NOW!!!



You may formally submit your release once the submission process opens in early July with the Blues Foundation online service. Watch for future emails announcing that submissions are open, as well as links on our website at blues.org.

This year, The Blues Foundation will be moving to a digital platform for recording submissions. Your complete album music must be uploaded as mp3 files that are 320 Kbps (kilobytes per second) with album artwork uploaded as either JPEG or PDF files. They will no longer accept hard copy CDs for the purposes of BMA submission review. If you need assistance with uploading your music, Joe Whitmer at joe@blues.org will be available to help you and walk you through the process. They do not want this change to hinder your ability to share your music with the nominators. There is still a fee for submission and their related fee structure and deadlines are as follows:

By July 31, 2018 - \$135 per submission

August 1, 2018 - August 31, 2018 - \$155 per submission

September 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018 - \$180 per submission

October 1- October 24, 2018 - \$225 per submission

The submission process officially closes on October 24, 2018. You must upload your music and artwork and complete payment for your submission transaction no later than OCTOBER 24TH to be considered for a Blues Music Award.

WWW.CHARLOTTEBLUESSOCIETY.ORG

KEEPIN® THE BLUES ALIVE

























HE Clies Surfay Llv. 4

The Rabbit Hole

Free-Members with Valid Membership card \$5 non-members(memberships available)

1801 Commonwealth Ave, CLT

8pm Show























Charlotte Uptown



204 NORTH KITCHEN & COCKTAILS CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2018

