

# August 2018 BluesLetter



Volume 2018

Charlotte Blues Society

issue 08

*August 5 2018*

*Blues Sunday*

*Charlotte Blues Society*

*Presents*

*National Blues Artist:*

# James Armstrong



*Early Blues Jam*  
**7:15-8:30pm**

Doors: 7:00pm  
Jam: 7:15-8:30pm

James Armstrong: 8:45pm-10:15pm

The Rabbit Hole

1801 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte

## Keepin' The Blues Alive

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

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 August 2018 BluesLetter

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## ON THE COVER

James Armstrong is our guest artist for August 5th at the Rabbit Hole...PLUS we have a special early blues jam at 7:15.



## Summertime Blues

Note from CBS President

## Festival listing for August 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?

## Early Blues Jam August 5th

The Instigators are anchoring the Blues Jam and we are keeping it right and tight. Check out the info on songs to prepare for and time to sign up.

# Summertime Blues in the QC

Hello all Blues Fans! We want to welcome our new members~looking forward to seeing you at upcoming shows and events!

July wrapped up with 2 more signatures on our CBS raffle guitar. Susan Tedeschi Trucks signed the back of the headstock, and Marcus King found a space on the back. Still have some space for more autographs, and we are grateful to everyone that has signed it thus far. A complete list is on page 4.

Here are some events to mark on your calendar as August fires up the blues beginning Thursday August 2 at The Rabbit Hole with the amazing Chris O'Leary Band. Great horn section, a wailing harp and blues that jump start your heart, Chris brings it every time, and local gal Pam Taylor is slated to open. O'Leary is worth staying up late for.

We are excited to welcome back into Charlotte one of the artists that performed at our Blues Sunday events earlier this year: Heather Gillis will be outside in Uptown Charlotte for Music on the Square at Spirit Square on Friday August 3, then you can find her at Whitewater Center Saturday night August 4. Both shows are free...a great time to jam and dance in the street and on the lawn.

Then get ready to jam! Sunday August 5th our CBS Blues Sunday will be kicking off the night with an early blues jam, anchored by our CBS House Jam Band "the Instigators" followed by our guest artist, James Armstrong. All the details on page 8. In the event you missed the great story about James Armstrong, go online and check out the article from Michael Wolf Ingmire we had in our bluesletter last month. Also August 5th, Kenny Wayne Shepherd returns to town with Beth Hart at Belk Theatre.

One of the hot young blues guns Selwyn Birchwood returns to Charlotte on August 16. He will be at the Whitewater Center, which is quickly becoming my favorite hangout on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Friday August 17, Gov't Mule (yup, MULE is back) I know several people that have already scarfed up tickets for this show at Charlotte Metro Amphitheatre. On Sunday August 19, Jeff Beck, Ann Wilson & Paul Rodgers will bring this outstanding combo to PNC Amphitheatre.

And we aren't done yet! One of our favorite people, Ori Naftaly brings his band Southern Avenue to Whitewater Center for a show you don't want to miss on Thursday August 23. They just picked up the "Emerging Blues Artist Award" at the May BMAs in Memphis, and have been hopping the globe playing blues festivals around the world this summer. We are looking forward to seeing them back on our turf (oh, and Ori is newly engaged to lead singer Teirinii Jackson~we wish them both the best)

Another date to note: August 15th. It is the deadline for our Blues Challenge. Solo/Duo & Band competitors need to be signed up by that date. We currently have a few entries in. Deadline is solid. Entries are on our website.

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! We MUST!

Keep the Blues Alive Everyone! It is AMERICA'S MUSIC! ~Mary London Szpara President



Former CBS President Rick Ballew captured this picture in time for this newsletter

The Rabbit Hole shows its "BLUES" Side!  
Love the new look!

**\$10 PER TICKET**

# THE 2018 CBS FENDER AUTOGRAPHED GUITAR

**WINNER TO BE DRAWN DECEMBER 2, 2018**

**\$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  
Susan Tedeschi Trucks  
Bob Margolin  
Andy Powell  
Mark Abrahams  
Nick Moss  
Walter Trout  
Tinsley Ellis  
Marcus King  
Joseph Michael  
Mahfoud  
Tommy Z  
Duane Betts  
Devon Allman  
Rebecca Lovell  
Megan Lovell  
David Bromberg  
Mark Cosgrove  
Jake Haldenvang  
Nathan Pope  
Jack Nugent  
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](http://NorthCarolinaMusicHallofFame.org).



North Carolina

# THE ULTIMATE LIST OF BLUES August 2018 FESTIVALS

Mammoth Festival of Beers & Bluesapalooza, 23rd  
Aug-02-2018 - Aug-05-2018,  
Mammoth Lakes, California,  
USA

Mount Baker R&B Festival  
Aug-02-2018 - Aug-05-2018,  
Deming, Washington, USA

Magic City Blues  
Aug-03-2018 - Aug-04-2018,  
Billings, Montana, USA

Erie's Blues & Jazz Festival  
Aug-03-2018 - Aug-05-2018,  
Erie, Pennsylvania, USA

Sisters Rhythm & Brews  
Festival  
Aug-03-2018 - Aug-04-2018,  
Sisters, Oregon, USA

Blue Wing Blues Festival  
Aug-03-2018 - Aug-05-2018,  
Upper Lake 95485, California,  
USA

Jazz & Beyond  
Aug-03-2018 - Aug-19-2018,  
Carson City, Nevada, USA

Blues on the Chippewa  
Aug-03-2018 - Aug-05-2018,  
Durand, Wisconsin, USA

Stafford Springs Blues  
Festival  
Aug-04-2018, Stafford Springs  
, Connecticut, USA

Muddy River Free Blues  
Festival  
Aug-04-2018, Bismarck, North  
Dakota, USA

Blue Ribbon Blues Fest  
Aug-04-2018, Fairfield , Iowa,  
USA

Blues On The Water,The  
Toledo Blues Fest  
Aug-04-2018, Toledo, USA

6 String Showdown, A Blues  
Guitar Celebration  
Aug-04-2018, Arcadia,  
California, USA

Great Albums Concert Series  
Aug-05-2018, Nashville,  
Tennessee, USA

Blue Monday  
Aug-06-2018, Lewiston, New  
York, USA

TD Kitchener Blues Festival  
Aug-09-2018 - Aug-12-2018,  
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

Long Beach Jazz Festival, 31st  
Annual  
Aug-10-2018 - Aug-12-2018,  
Long Beach, California, USA

PEC FEST  
Aug-10-2018 - Aug-11-2018,  
Milford, Ontario, Canada

Heritage Music BluesFest  
Aug-10-2018 - Aug-12-2018,  
Wheeling, West Virginia, USA

Bayfront Blues Festival  
Aug-10-2018 - Aug-12-2018,  
Duluth, Minnesota, USA

Sunflower River Blues and<sup>A</sup>  
Gospel Festival  
Aug-10-2018 - Aug-12-2018,  
Clarksdale, Mississippi, USA

Waukesha Blues Fest  
Aug-10-2018 - Aug-11-2018,  
Delafield, Wisconsin, USA

Bloomington Boogies: The  
Bloomington Blues & Boogie  
Woogie Piano Festival  
Aug-11-2018 - Aug-13-2018,  
Bloomington, Indiana, USA

Joliet Blues Festival  
Aug-11-2018, Joliet, Illinois,  
USA

Gloucester Blues Festival  
Aug-11-2018, Gloucester,  
Maine, USA

Cincy Blues Fest  
Aug-11-2018, Cincinnati, Ohio,  
USA

Blue Monday  
Aug-13-2018, Lewiston, New  
York, USA

Ann Arbor Blues Festival  
Aug-17-2018 - Aug-18-2018,  
Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Madison Ribberfest  
Aug-17-2018 - Aug-18-2018,  
Madison, Indiana, USA

Big Bull Falls Blues Fest  
Aug-17-2018 - Aug-18-2018,  
Wausau, Wisconsin, USA

Chenango Blues Festival  
Aug-17-2018 - Aug-18-2018,  
Norwich, New York, USA

Blues, Brews & BBQ  
Aug-17-2018 - Aug-19-2018,  
McHenry, Illinois, USA

Baja Blues Fest, 7th Annual  
Aug-17-2018 - Aug-19-2018,  
Rosarito Beach, Mexico

Fargo Blues Festival  
Aug-17-2018 - Aug-18-2018,  
Fargo, North Dakota, USA

Morristown Jazz & Blues  
Festival  
Aug-18-2018, Morristown,  
New Jersey, USA

Hot August Music Festival  
Aug-18-2018, Cockeysville,  
Maryland, USA

RI Blues Fest  
Aug-18-2018 - Aug-19-2018,  
Cranston, Rhode Island, USA

London Bluesfest  
Aug-22-2018 - Aug-26-2018,  
London, Ontario, Canada

Trois-Rivieres en Blues  
Aug-23-2018 - Aug-26-2018,  
Trois-Rivieres, Quebec,  
Canada

Hot August Blues Festival  
Aug-24-2018 - Aug-25-2018,  
Hardin, Kentucky, USA

Edmonton Blues Festival  
Aug-24-2018 - Aug-26-2018,  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Putnam County Wine & Food Fest  
Aug-25-2018 - Aug-26-2018,  
Patterson, New York, USA

North River Blues Festival  
Aug-25-2018 - Aug-26-2018,  
Marshfield, Massachusetts, USA

Playing with Fire Free Concert  
Series  
Aug-25-2018, Omaha, Nebraska,  
USA

Trinidaddio Blues & Cultural  
Festival  
Aug-25-2018, Trinidad, Colorado,  
USA

Blues Festival 5th Annual  
Aug-25-2018, Old Orchard Beach,  
Maine, USA

Crossroads Blues Festival at  
Lyran Park  
Aug-25-2018, Rockford, Illinois,  
USA

Nickel Plate Blues Fest  
Aug-31-2018 - Sep-01-2018,  
Fishers (Indianapolis), Indiana,  
USA

Dusk til Dawn Blues Festival  
Aug-31-2018 - Sep-02-2018,  
Rentiesville, Oklahoma, USA

Black Prairie Blues Festival  
Aug-31-2018, West Point,  
Mississippi, USA

Big Muddy Blues Festival, 23rd  
Annual  
Aug-31-2018 - Sep-02-2018,  
Saint Louis, Missouri, USA

Peoria Blues and Heritage Music  
Festival  
Aug-31-2018 - Sep-01-2018,  
Peoria, Illinois, USA

Bedford Blues & BBQ Festival,  
10th Annual  
Aug-31-2018 - Sep-02-2018,  
Bedford, Texas, USA

# CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY

## Blues Competition

ENTRY FORMS ONLINE

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

### Solo/Duo

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

### Band



**BLUES ARTISTS WANTED**

CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY

WHO WILL REPRESENT US IN MEMPHIS  
INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE  
JANUARY 22-26 2019

- ✓ **SOLO /DUO CHALLENGE**  
**SEPTEMBER 2 2018**
- ✓ **BAND CHALLENGE**  
**OCTOBER 7 2018**

ENTRY FORMS ONLINE

[HTTP://WWW.CHARLOTTEBLUESSOCIETY.ORG/  
EVENTS/IBCENTRYFORM.HTML](http://WWW.CHARLOTTEBLUESSOCIETY.ORG/EVENTS/IBCENTRYFORM.HTML)



The Blues  
Foundation

WINNERS RECEIVE

**Solo/Duo \$500**

**Band \$1000**

**Entry Deadline: August 15, 2018**

See entry forms for complete rules and requirements

7:00pm sign in Jam 7:15-8:30 JAMES ARMSTRONG 8:45

SUNDAY AUGUST 5TH

# Early Blues Jam

# 7:15pm to 8:30pm

## JAM HOUSE BAND: THE INSTIGATORS

### 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](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*, (B.B. King)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oica5jG7FpU>

## AUGUST 5, 2018 THE RABBIT HOLE 1801 COMMONWEALTH AVE. CHARLOTTE





# Carolina Downhome Blues Festival

Celebrating it's 22nd Year! The Carolina Downhome Blues Festival is an award-winning event recognized for featuring legendary blues artists from around the globe. Produced and presented by the Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County (FAC), the Carolina Downhome Blues Festival is celebrating its 22nd year in 2018. This year's event promises to be one of the most exciting ever, with a slate of new musicians coming to town, plus some popular favorites from past years. The Carolina Downhome Blues Festival continues to be a must-do weekend in Camden, drawing music fans from around the southeast as eclectic as the music itself.

There will be blues for all tastes, from Carolina Lowcountry blues to "Roadhouse" blues rock, to the best of acoustic blues and folk...and all points in between.

# 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.

**DONATE HERE**

All Donated  
funds go to  
**Loaves & Fishes**  
to buy fresh  
dairy and  
protein for at  
risk families



**BLUES FOR FOOD**

# August Birthdays

1- Robert Cray (1953)

2-Big Walter Price (1917)

3-Mercy Dee Walton (1915)

4-Louis Armstrong (1901)

6-Willie Brown (1900), Lem Johnson (1906), Willie Nix (1922), Jesse Wilkins, Jr. (1933)

7-Magic Slim (1937), Rahsaan Roland Kirk (1936)

8-Joe Tex (1933), Jimmy Witherspoon (1923)

9-Robert Shaw (1908)

10-Ronnie Spector (1945), Grego Anderson (1968)

11-Sam Collins (1887)

12-Percy Mayfield (1920), Roy Gaines (1934)

13-Jimmy McCracklin (1921), Son Seals (1942)

14-Larry Graham (1946)

15-Buster Brown (1911), Oscar Peterson (1925), Jackie Brenston (1930), Bobby Byrd (1934)

16-Eddie Kirkland (1928), Melvin "Lil' Son" Jackson (1915), Eric Bibb (1961)

17-Luther Allison (1939), Albert Washington (1935)

18-Jimmy Witherspoon (1923), Curtis Jones (1906)

19-Earl Gaines (1935) Ginger Baker (1939)

20-Issac Hayes (1942), Jack Teagarden (1905), Robert Plant (1948)

21-Count Basie (1904) Matt Schofield (1977)

22-John Lee Hooker (1920), Debbie Davies (1952), Henry "Son" Sims (1890)

24-Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup (1905), Wynonie Harris (1915) Mr. Sipp (1976), Oteil Burbridge (1964)

26-Jimmy Rushing (1902)

27-Lester Young (1909)

28-Jimmie Bell (1910)

29-Charlie Parker (1920), Dinah Washington (1924)

30-Luther "Snake Boy" Johnson (1934)

31-Todd Rhodes (1900), Joanna Connor (1962), Van Morrison (1945)

Allan Holdsworth: 08/06/1946

Holdsworth guitar player and composer from England. many major musicians like Zappa and Gary Moore, "proclaimed that Holdsworth was one of the most advanced guitarists of his time."

Nuno Mindelis: 8/7/1957

A Brazilian blues singer, songwriter, and guitarist The "Beast From Brazil" has recorded albums with alumni of Stevie Ray Vaughan's band Double Trouble. He has released nine studio albums

Mark Knopfler: 8/12/1949

Singer, songwriter, producer, film score composer, and guitarist

Eric Johnson: 8/17/1954

Sensational blues and fusion guitarist , He autographed our 2018 raffle guitar during his Charlotte "Ah Via Musicom" tour this year.

Dani Wilde: 8/25/1985

- British guitarist, songwriter, and vocalist

## **Streaming Blues Radio**

### **Best Blues Streams Around The World**

**American Blues Network – A 24 hour Blues streaming radio station out of Gulfport, Mississippi.**

**All Memphis Music is a streaming music link that plays Memphis Blues and soul music.**

**Blues Radio UK – These English Chaps got it goin on!**

**Blues Magazine (France) France’s Blues Magazine will tap you into the real Blues scene in France. Information and links to French Blues including a link to some 24/7 streaming Blues radio. “Choisissez une radio”.**

**Midnight Special Blues Radio – this Blues streaming radio station plays the music of up and coming Blues Rock artists. It was started as a non-commercial project with the goal of promoting the music of independent Blues and Blues Rock artists all around the world.**

**Nothing But The Blues – A radio show from the UK. Not a streaming station but offers a weekly podcast w/o commercials**

**Radio Top List – Blues – This is a free internet radio site that has claims more than 5000+ channels in all styles and subjects. You can choose stations by style.**

**Secret Museum Of The Air – World music from old 78s. Lots of old blues records on these recorded radio shows.**

**WGLT Blues 24/7 – THE best Blues radio stream we have found!**

**WWOZ – New Orleans Public radio. Blues at various times.**

**WROX Radio – Right from the birthplace of the Blues, Clarksdale, Mississippi!**

**Pandora Radio – the Music Genome Project – Create a radio “Station” of the music you love! Just drop the name of one of your favorite songs or artists into Pandora and let the Genome Project go. This site covers ALL styles of music.**

**A World Of Blues from GardenValley, Ca is a new Blues site offering you 24/7 Streaming Blues. They have both Live DJ shows and canned streams depending on the time of day.**

# CHICAGO PLAYS THE STONES

The bond between the Rolling Stones and Chicago blues has always been a special one. The Stones have included Chicago blues on their own albums, recorded music at Chess Records, toured with Buddy Guy and Junior Wells and performed with Muddy Waters and his band at The Checkerboard Lounge in Chicago itself.

On September 14th Raisin' Music Records will release Chicago Plays the Stones, a project that sees Buddy Guy, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards join numerous Chicago blues artists to celebrate the music of the Rolling Stones.

## Track Listing:

Let It Bleed - JOHN PRIMER  
Play With Fire - BILLY BOY ARNOLD  
Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo (Heartbreaker) - BUDDY GUY WITH MICK JAGGER  
(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction - RONNIE BAKER BROOKS  
Sympathy for the Devil - BILLY BRANCH  
Angie - JOHN PRIMER  
Gimme Shelter - LEANNE FAINE  
Beast of Burden - JIMMY BURNS WITH KEITH RICHARDS  
Miss You - MIKE AVERY  
I Go Wild - OMAR COLEMAN  
Out of Control - CARLOS JOHNSON  
Dead Flowers - JIMMY BURNS  
Featuring The Living History Band

# KEEPIN® THE BLUES ALIVE

## Charlotte Blues Society Recommends these shows!



**Heather Gillis**  
August 4



**Southern Avenue**  
August 23



**Jamie McLean Band**  
September 28



**Selwyn Birchwood**  
August 16



**riverjam**  
THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS  
MAY - SEPTEMBER

# GOV'T MULE



**SUMMER TOUR 2018**

8.17 - CMCU AMPHITHEATER - CHARLOTTE, NC



**Jeff Beck**  
**Ann Wilson**  
**Paul Rogers**  
Sunday August 19 2018

PNC Music Pavilion  
Charlotte NC





**KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD & BETH HART BAND**  
 August 5 Charlotte NC  
 SUMMER TOUR



Thursday September 27  
 Tommy Emmanuel with  
 Jack Pearson  
 7:00-11:00 pm  
 Neighborhood Theatre



**ERIC GALES**  
 WITH MARVELOUS FUNKSHUN  
**#BOOM!**  
**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14**  
 Neighborhood Theatre, Charlotte NC

Knight Theatre  
 September 15



**TOSCO MUSIC PARTY**

**ANA POPOVIC**  
 OCTOBER 14, 2018  
 7:30PM



NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE CHARLOTTE

Charlotte Blues Society Presents



# James Armstrong

Sunday August 5, 2018

Early  
Jam  
7:15-  
8:30



FREE with valid CBS  
Membership card

\$5 Non-members,  
guests, or members  
without card

Doors: 7pm  
Show: 8pm

The Rabbit Hole 1801 Commonwealth Ave Charlotte

# Sunday September 2nd

IT'S A BLUES BASH BRUNCH

*Special time*

NOON-3PM



INTERNATIONAL  
**BLUES**  
**CHALLENGE**

SOLO/DUO COMPETITION

Charlotte Blues Society Sundays

# Sunday October 7, 2018 Band Competition

*Who will represent us in 2019?*



INTERNATIONAL  
**BLUES**  
**CHALLENGE**



at The Rabbit Hole  
1801 Commonwealth Ave Charlotte

Charlotte Blues Society Proudly Presents

# Tas Cru



**CBS Blues Sunday Nov. 4**

The Rabbit Hole  
1801 Commonwealth Ave, CLT

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

8pm Show





A JACKALOPE RESTAURANT  
ESTD 1994  
*The*  
**PECULIAR  
RABBIT**  
1212 PECAN AVE  
CHARLOTTE NC  
\*



MOREHEAD  
**TAVERN**



Charlotte Uptown



**204  
NORTH**

KITCHEN & COCKTAILS  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



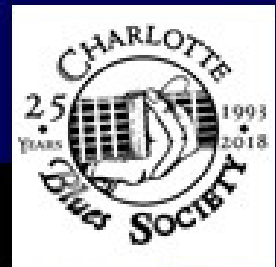
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Get your **FREE** copy when you see us  
**Charlotte Blues Society Blues Sunday**



Charlotte Blues Society Presents



# James Armstrong

Sunday August 5, 2018



**EARLY BLUES JAM**

7:15pm-8:30pm

Guest Artist:  
James Armstrong:  
8:45pm-10:15pm

**FREE** with valid CBS  
Membership card

\$5 Non-members,  
guests, or members  
without card

The Rabbit Hole 1801 Commonwealth Ave Charlotte

Thursday August 2  
Chris O'Leary Band  
7-11 pm

The Rabbit Hole  
1801 Commonwealth Ave, Charlotte NC



Friday August 3  
Heather Gillis Band,  
SOUNDS ON THE SQUARE  
at Spirit Square FREE 7-8:30pm  
345 N. College St Charlotte, NC



Saturday August 4  
Heather Gillis Band,  
RIVER JAM 7-11pm  
U.S. National Whitewater Center  
5000 Whitewater Center Parkway,  
Charlotte, NC

Sunday August 5 James Armstrong  
Charlotte Blues Society Blues Sunday  
\*FREE to CBS Members with Valid  
Membership  
7:00pm doors  
7:15pm : EARLY BLUES JAM  
8:45-10:30pm James Armstrong  
The Rabbit Hole  
1801 Commonwealth Ave, Charlotte NC



Sunday August 5  
Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band  
& Beth Hart Band  
7:00-11:00pm  
Belk Theater  
130 North Tryon St. Charlotte NC



Thursday August 16  
Selwyn Birchwood  
7:00-10:00pm  
U.S. National Whitewater Center  
5000 Whitewater Center Prky, Charlotte, NC



Friday August 17  
Gov't Mule  
8:00pm  
Charlotte Metro Amphitheatre  
AvidXchange Music Factory, Charlotte NC



Sunday August 19  
Jeff Beck, Ann Wilson & Paul Rodgers  
7:00-11:00pm  
PNC Music Pavilion  
707 Pavilion Blvd Charlotte, NC



Thursday August 23 Southern Avenue  
7:00-10:00pm  
U.S. National Whitewater Center  
5000 Whitewater Center Prky, Charlotte, NC





*~original version appeared in PolitiChicks 2016. This has been edited for length and updated content for this newsletter*

April 19, 2018 was the sixth anniversary of the passing of American musician Levon Helm. Levon was the singer, drummer, mandolin stringer and at times guitarist and harmonica player for the seminal group known merely and mightily as The Band.

*By the 1990's the surviving members of The Band had gone their separate ways, and Leon Helms and the Barn Burners established themselves in New Orleans. In the latter part of the decade, Levon was diagnosed with throat cancer.*

Because of Levon's battle with throat cancer he was not doing any singing. The vocal chores were handled by his daughter Amy Helm and by singer-harmonica player, Chris O'Leary. This was a serious Blues band and Chris' harmonica reminded me of the best playing of Blues legend James Cotton. I stayed for about five hours and marveled at some of the best music I have heard in New Orleans.

Now Chris O'Leary tours the country with his own group, the Chris O'Leary band. Recently I got to interview Chris about his beginnings, the Blues, his military service, his time with Levon, and the triumphs and trials of keeping a band on the road.

Chris was raised in upstate New York by a family that loved and respected all types of music. When he was 11 years old his Father turned him on to the Muddy Waters album, "Hard Again." The harmonica playing of James Cotton had a direct impact on Chris and inspired him to pick up the harmonica for himself.

During his high school years Chris played guitar and bass in various bands. When he graduated from high school Chris enlisted in the Marines because of his father's service example and because Chris loves America. He received Infantry training at Camp Lejeune. All in all, Chris served seven years in the Marine Corps and was part of Operation Desert Storm.

He saw direct combat action and was proud to serve in the Marines. He now despairs that veterans issues are being used as a "political football" and that this seems to happen every four years per the campaign cycle. The pandering about the needs of vets rightly angers Chris and he does not want to see his own son join the military when he comes of age.

After leaving the military, Chris attended Marist college in Poughkeepsie, NY. He started his own band and became friends with musicians such as guitarist Pete Kanaras. Around 1996, a demo that Chris and his band recorded found it's way to the stereo of Levon Helm. Levon started showing up at Chris' gigs and sat in with his band. Their renditions of classic Sonny Boy Williamson songs delighted Helm who said that Sonny Boy's songs were "his cup of meat." Ultimately this led to Chris being offered a job in Levon Helm's Barnburners.

When Levon Helm opened his club in New Orleans Chris followed him down there. The atmosphere of New Orleans broadened his musical point of view. Playing with Levon was a constant series of musical and professional lessons.

Levon's main lesson to Chris was to always "play the song, to not use the song as a vehicle for soloing. Help tell the story of the song, no matter what." The lessons of Levon Helm gave to Chris about this country and it's people have proved to be invaluable.

After about six years with Levon Helm's Barnburners Chris started experiencing some problems with his own voice. Chris stopped singing and concentrated mainly on raising his family. In 2007, Chris O'Leary started his own band again with a full force wind.

I saw the Chris O'Leary Band in Charlotte, NC. on February 24th 2016 and was astounded by their musicianship. Besides playing very deep Blues, they also touch on material by New Orleans Legend Professor Longhair, Southern Soul, and material directly influenced by his time with Levon Helm. The band included road guitarist Pete Kanaras (Of The Nighthawks fame), drummer Ray Hangen (who played with the late Sean Costello), sterling bassist Matt Raymond, Andy Stahl on Tenor Sax & vocals and Chris Difrancesco on baritone sax & vocals. A great and a dynamic band and one well worth seeing.

In speaking with Chris I mentioned how I really appreciated some of the "vet themes" in some of his songs particularly the title track of his new album, "Gonna Die Tryin, Letters from Home (originally written during his time with Levon Helm) and 19 Cents a Day."

Some of the lyrics from "19 Cents a Day" are written with an outlook that only a military veteran could be able to grasp. "A pat on the back/HR will show you the door/when they finish screwin' dad they'll send junior off to war/ 3 years in the guard he's on tour number 2 when it's someone else's son it's an easy thing to do/See we appreciate your service sir, but sir you've got to go....I'm sure they can help you down at the VA/where they fly Old Glory proudly/for 19 cents a day."

Also powerful is the track "Letters From Home." People forget how important letters were to an active duty service member