CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY
A 501(c)3 ORGANIZATION
www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org



Charlotte Blues Society January 2019 BluesLetter

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ON THE COVER

The International Blues Challenge in Memphis January 2019

ABOUT US

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.



07





International Blues Challenge 2019

Note from CBS President

Jake HaldenVang & Chris Clifton Band

Two fantastic acts to represent us at the IBC January 22-26 in Memphis!

Red Hot & Blues Reviews

Marty Gunther's reviews of some great music to check out now

2018: A Year of Loss

Michael Ingmire pays tribute in the recap of legends lost in 2018.

International Blues Challenge Memphis, TN January 22-26 2019

Happy New Year! We are hitting the ground RUNNING! My first full year at the helm but could not do it without a fabulous board and great volunteers. You are the best~Thank You All.

Lots of excitement as we get ready to hear our talent before they head out to the IBC in a couple of weeks. The International Blues Challenge represents the worldwide search for those Blues Bands and Solo/Duo Blues Acts ready to perform on the international stage, yet just needing that extra big break. Each Affiliate of The Blues Foundation has the right to send a band and a solo/duo act to represent its organization at the IBC

The IBC is judged by blues professionals from across the world who have years of experience in listening to, producing, and creating blues music. The Blues Foundation has established a set of criteria by which all acts are evaluated throughout the five days of the IBC. We used that criteria here when Charlotte Blues Society held regional preliminary IBC competition for solo/duo in September and band in October. Our solo (Jake Haldenvang) & band winners (Chris Clifton Band). are representing us in the 35th International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN along historic Beale Street. On January 6th, they will both be performing at our January Blues Sunday Bash with with an open jam to follow. Come out and support. Tip jar will be on hand to help them defray extra costs.

If you are planning on heading to Memphis to support our acts, event info is as follows:

Tuesday Night January 22: International Showcases Wednesday - Friday January 23-25: Beale Street Competition Venues Youth Showcases held Friday January 25 on Beale Street In addition there are daytime seminars and workshops you can check out. IBC Orpheum Finals on Saturday, January 26, 2019

Meet up with members heading to Memphis at our **January 6th** event. Great chance to set up a caravan or car pool or check out info on hotels and lodging. We already have a good contingency heading there from Charlotte and Western NC to support our acts!

We were requested to send you a huge "Thank You" from **Loaves and Fishes** for all your contributions in 2018. Former CBS President **Rick Ballew** reported **1812 pounds of food** were collected by CBS the past year. In addition, our members donated over \$200. Our goal in 2019 is 2000 pounds: ONE TON. That means 200 pounds a month. We will continue to collect food throughout 2019 every month to support at risk kids and families in our area. More info about Loaves & Fishes on **page 10**. We can do it: one can at a time! Blues for Food: 1 Can? I Can!

February **Lipbone Redding** will be playing our gig on Feb. 10 (moved back a week due to Super Bowl) and then be doing a "Blues in the Schools" program. An NC Native, he became a subway performer in NYC and has traveled the world treating audiences to his unique talent. Don't miss it!

Charlotte Blues Society has grown by leaps and bounds. We THANK YOU for being a part of a group that loves the blues. In 2019 we will be doing more membership drives to involve you, where you can win a little "somethin' somethin' " just for bringing in new people and members...information on page 4

I also wish to welcome our regular contributors **Marty Gunther** & **Michael Ingmire** to our newsletter. Their vast working knowledge & love of the genre are a great addition. Both have street cred, press cred and know their stuff. Their articles this month are must reads.

CBS Supports our Military and honors Vet Tix.

Quoting Eric Gales, 2019 is going to be "outrageous!"

~Mary London Szpara President

Help CBS Grow!



PAGE 4

VOLUME 2019 ISSUE 1



With over 40 signatures from the most famous blues players who have performed in Charlotte over the past year to up and coming blues artists, we captured signatures all year long. On December 2 Albert Castiglia drew the name of our winner at our Charlotte Blues Society annual Blues Christmas Bash, at The Rabbit Hole in Charlotte. Rather anti-climatic, as the winner had "left the building" less than 10 minutes before the drawing. However, a phone call immediately following and an Uber ride later brought a VERY happy Adam Kimball back to the Rabbit Hole where we caught a picture of him with Albert and Rick Kite who donated the guitar.

And yes: we already have another guitar for our 2019 Raffle.

Donated by CBS Board member Ray Otstott, its a gorgeous Candy Apple Red Fender(R)Squier Strat. Samantha Fish, Eric Gales, and Albert Castiglia have already signed it....more to come. Look for it at upcoming blues shows around the area now through 2019.

Get your tickets @ \$10 each at events and online. Only 400 tickets will

be available.









blues [/blooz/] https://charlottebluessociety.org/blues-timeline

Meet our 2019 Blues acts heading to the IBC in Memphis January 22-26 Chris Clifton Band & Jake Haldenvang perform our January 6th 2019 gig Join us at The Rabbit Hole for the IBC Send Off Bash



chris clifton band band competition

Chris Clifton Band

Chris Clifton (guitar/vocals) Mark Perrou(bass/vocals) L.a Freeman (drums) Peter Hansen (keys

Fans of Stevie Ray Vaughan will instantly feel a connection to the sound and feel that Chris Clifton brings to his music and his approach to the blues. His guitar work and vocals bring an instant connection. Born and raised in Fort Worth Texas it's no surprise that the Texas Blues invaded his soul. Chris began playing guitar at the age of 12. He has a Scholar's dedication and an Artist's Soul and has become known as one of the great Guitar Stylist's. With a long list of venues worldwide he continues to share his talent playing mostly Blues and Jazz.

He is currently playing with long time friends and dedicated musician's...Peter Hansen on Keyboards, Mark Perrou on Bass, and L.a. Freeman on drums.

You know when Chris Clifton Band is in the house: the audience out on the dance floor moving to that distinctly cool groove that only the blues seem to be able to stir the boogie soul.

The Chris Clifton Band stood out in a field of talented blues competitors in the band competition held in early October at The Rabbit Hole

Charlotte Blues Society is proud to have the Chris Clifton Band represent us in the band competition in Memphis January 22-26 in Memphis. We know they will turn heads and ears with their strong musicianship and stage presence.

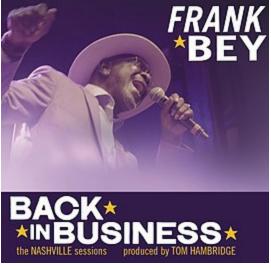
jake haldenvang

Jake HaldenVang, is deeply steeped in the blues; with his powerful vocal prowess, soulful melodies and dynamic guitar phrasings being a passionate blend of rock n' roll seamlessly combined with a flare of soul, indie pop and modern rhythm & blues.. Jake is an accomplished acoustic musician, who also performs as a solo acoustic artist and is a multi-instrumentalist, playing guitar, bass guitar and drums. Upon receiving his 1st music nomination at age 16, Jake was awarded 2011 "Artist of the Year" by Charlotte's Queen City Music Awards. Shortly following his attendance at 2011 Winter NAMM Show by artist invitation through Fender Guitars, he was then proudly inducted into famed rock photographer, Robert M Knight's "Brotherhood of the Guitar". Jake saw his 2nd & 3rd nominations in 2013 & 2015, again taking home Queen City's "Artist of the Year" followed by the culmination of "Halden Vang" being awarded Queen City's, 2016 "Band of the Year". Intrinsically embracing music as his career path from the moment he picked up his 1st guitar, Jake began performing at age 12. Being strongly recognized as a prodigy guitarist, by age 13, he was chosen to represent Charlotte NC at the International Blues Challenge. At age 15, he self-produced his first studio CD, "Tell the Truth". Followed up by his 2nd self-produced studio project in 2013, recording HV's "How About Now" EP, featuring six of his original songs, mastered by Gene Paul, son of the legendary guitarist Les Paul. Jake's latest song tracks were laid down in Los Angeles, Ca at Martic Productions with Sahaj Ticotin of RA at the engineering helm of Halden Vang's next upcoming studio release produced by both Sahaj Ticotin and Bob Marlette; one of music's most prolific and versatile producers. Poised with a compass dedicated to bringing his music to the masses with show stopping performances, unique musicianship and an authentic signature sound that makes a long-lasting deep connection with music fans

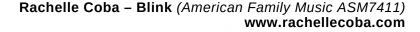
Frank Bey – Back In Business (Nola Blue NB 006) www.frankbeymusic.com

A true soul-blues survivor, **Frank Bey** started singing in a gospel quartet at age four, drove **Otis Redding** to gigs and occasionally served as his opening act as a teen. A powerful baritone, he teams with Grammy-winning producer/songwriter **Tom Hambridge** here for a stylish, old-school that's both biographical in nature and highly entertaining.

Bey underwent a kidney transplant 15 years ago and is waiting another. But his spirit and pipes remain as strong as ever. The all-star lineup includes guitarist **Jeff McNelly** (Delbert McClinton Band), bassist **Tommy MacDonald** (Buddy Guy) and keyboard player **Marty Sammon** (Eddie C. Campbell, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown and Carlos Santana).



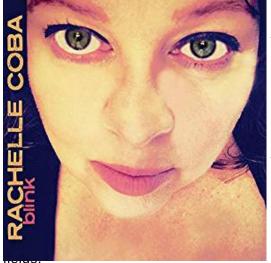
Highlights include "Gun Toting Preacher," which describes an ex-trucker who delivers the gospel with a shotgun at his side, "Cookie Jar," a double-entendre soul-blues pleaser with plenty of overt sexual references, and "Ain't No Reason," which begins as a sweet ballad, but quickly reveals itself a bittersweet statement of a world so corrupted by divisiveness that affects even the most intimate relationship.



A classically trained guitarist who splits her time between Kansas and South Florida, **Rachelle Coba** worked with Matt "Guitar"

Chikan and Albert Castiglia before going on her own and earning a Blues Blast Music Awards nomination for best new debut CD in 2014. Produced by keyboard player **John Ginty** (Popa Chubby and Sean Chambers), this album is her much-awaited follow-up.

An understated powerhouse, she's a gifted songwriter who possesses a voice that can blow the roof off of any room in which she appears. She penned all of the tunes here, which mix blues, roots and soul into a tidy package. Songs guaranteed to capture your attention include "High And Dry," a driving blues complaint about being caught offguard by a lying, cheating lover, "River Of Blood," a bare-boned Hill Country blues about slavery and the ghosts that still inhabit the and "Blink," a jazzy ballad that suggests that dreams – and come true.

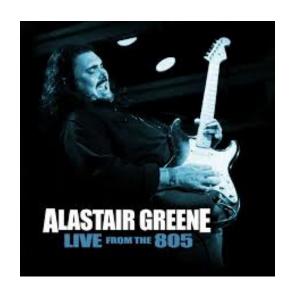


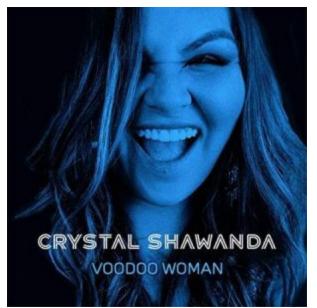
wishes -do

Alastair Greene – Live From The 805 (Rip Cat RIC 1805) www.agsongs.com

This two-CD, 101-minute release blazes from the jump. Captured before an enthusiastic live audience in Santa Monica, Calif., Alastair's hometown, it displays the firebrand guitarist at his best in a stripped-down power-trio format that might remind you of Gov't Mule, Cream or ZZ Top on steroids. If you've purchased any of his albums in the past, much of the material here might sound familiar because several songs have been culled from previous releases. But don't let that sway you. This is a highly entertaining effort that's totally shred-free and guaranteed to leave you exhausted after a listen.

Highlights include the opener "The Sweetest Honey," an account of what happens if you engage in romance with a police officer's wife, "Trouble At Your Door," a speedy blues shuffle that puts Alastair's picking skills on display, a rock-steady cover of Albert King's "Love So Strong" and "Last Train Around The Sun," an unhurried, stop-time rocker.





Crystal Shawanda – VooDoo Woman (New Sun FNCD5979) www.crystalshawanda.co

It won't take long listening to the opening cut of this one to realize that **Crystal Shawanda** has a voice for the ages, ranking right up there with just about anyone. A young Canadian who's a full-blooded member of the Ojibwe nation, began her career in Nashville, where she recorded an album that reached the Top 20 in country charts and became the highest selling release by a Native American ever on Sony's BDS imprint, but reverted to her first love, blues, shortly thereafter.

Still based in Music City, she's released three blues CDs, but this little treasure is the first to be distributed south of the Canadian border. Shawanda possesses rich, smoky alto pipes. She's backed here by a full band, which includes **Dana Robbins** on sax, and delivers three originals and seven familiar covers that she totally makes her own.

There are no dead spots on this one, but be sure not to miss her slow-blues interpretation of Big Mama Thornton's "Ball And Chain," a classic take on Dorothy Moore's "Misty Blue" and her original, "Cry Out For More."

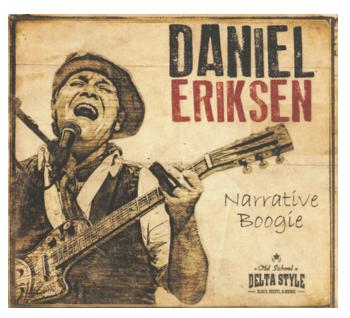
Don't miss this one. Folks often mistakenly compare singers to Janis Joplin. Crystal is the real deal. Wow!

Daniel Eriksen – Narrative Boogie (Pzydeco Records PZYREC0117)

www.daniel-eriksen.com

The runner-up in the 2018 International Blues Challenge solo-duo competition, Daniel Eriksen is a dyed-in-the-wool old-school blues singer/guitarist who hails from the remote upper east coast of Norway but genuinely sounds as if he grew up in the Mississippi Delta, where it was recorded. The roster includes contributions from harp player Cadillac John Nolden and guitarist Bill Abel as well as a female vocalist and percussionist from Eriksen's homeland.

Eriksen studied at the feet of Roy Rogers and John Mooney, and learned his lessons well, and he delivers his lyrics in perfectly unaccented English. The disc blends several originals with covers penned by several first-generation superstars Son House and Mississippi Fred McDowell, latter-day favorite T-Model Ford and country legend Roy Acuff. This is a beautifully cohesive package that's strongly recommended for anyone with a love for acoustic country blues.



MARTY GUNTHER HAS LIVED A BLESSED LIFE WHERE THE BLUES IS CONCERNED. A NATIVE RHODE ISLANDER NOW BASED IN CHARLOTTE AND APP STATE ALUM, HIS FIRST EXPERIENCES WITH LIVE MUSIC CAME AT THE FEET OF FIRST-GENERATION BLUES LEGENDS AT THE NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVALS IN THE 1960S. A PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST AND HARMONICA PLAYER WHOSE WORK APPEARS IN BLUES BLAST MAGAZINE AND OTHER OUTLETS, HE WAS A LONGTIME MEMBER OF THE CHICAGO BLUES COMMUNITY BEFORE FOUNDING THE NUCKLEBUSTERS, A BAND THAT'S BEEN ENTERTAINING SOUTH FLORIDA SINCE 1987. MARTY IS ALSO A MEMBER OF CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY AND ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CBS.

THE ULTIMATE LIST OF

MLK Jr. Blues Festival Jan-17-2019 - Jan-20-2019. Chester, South Carolina, USA BLUES FESTIVALS

January February 2019

Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues Fest, 9th Annual Jan-19-2019. Zephyrhills, Florida, USA

International Blues Challenge 2019 January 22-26, 2019 Memphis TN USA Artist from around the world compete in the 35th annual IBC. Tickets and info available at www.blues.org

Johnny Winter's Winterfest in Jamaica Jan-24-2019 - Jan-31-2019, Trelawny, Jamaica

Florida Jazz and Blues Jam 2019 Jan-26-2019. Boca Raton, Florida, USA

February Blues XXII, The Jan-31-2019 - Feb-03-2019, Barrie - Simcoe County - York Region, Ontario, Canada

Mornington Peninsula Blues Festival Feb-09-2019, Melbourne, Australia

Fargo Winter Blues Festival Feb-09-2019, Fargo, North Dakota, USA

Costa Rica Blues Festival Feb-15-2019 - Feb-17-2019, Guanacaste, Costa Rica

Boquete Jazz and Blues Festival Feb-21-2019 - Feb-24-2019, Boquete, Panama

Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival Feb-23-2019 - Feb-24-2019, Clearwater, USA

Calgary Midwinter Bluesfest Feb-25-2019 - Mar-02-2019, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Keeping The Blues Alive At Sea V Feb-25-2019 - Mar-01-2019, Tampa, Florida, **USA**





You donated 1812 pounds of food in 2018! 1 Can? I Can! Keep The Cans Coming!



LOAVES & FISHES

provides nutritionally balanced groceries to individuals and families in Charlotte-Mecklenburg who are in a short-term crisis.

Don't forget to Donate!!



Canned soup, vegetables, tomatoes, fruit (no fruit juices please), pasta sauce, chicken, tuna, meats. Packaged rice, mac and cheese, pasta, cereal. Misc. items: Toilet tissue Special request: canned items that do not require a can opener.



In a short-term crisis, a week's worth of groceries from Loaves & Fishes can mean the difference between paying the rent or feeding their family.

Charlotte Blues Society and you continue our "Blues For Food" drive through 2019.

PLEASE:

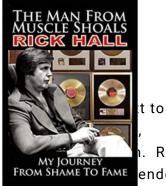
bring non-perishable food items to our Blues Sunday Bash Every month!

January Birthdays

- 1-Frank Stokes (1888), Johnny Young (1918)
- 2-ARTHUR PRYSOCK (1929), LITTLE SMOKEY SMOTHERS (1939)
- 4-SLIM GAILLARD (1916), ARTHUR CONLEY (1946)
- **5-JOHNNY ADAMS (1932)**
- 6-WILBERT HARRISON (1929), SHIRLEY BROWN (1947), KIM WILSON (1951)
- 8-SHIRLEY BASSEY (1937), ELVIS PRESLEY (1935), TAMPA RED (1904)
- 9-ISHMON BRACEY (1901), BIG AL DOWNING (1940), KATIE WEBSTER (1939)
- 10-EDDY CLEARWATER (1935), SAM CHATMON (1897), BUDDY JOHNSON (1915)
- 11-CLARENCE "PINETOP" SMITH (1904), SLIM HARPO (1924)
- 12-MISSISSIPPI FRED McDowell (1904), Jay McShann (1909), George Duke (1946), Long John Baldry (1941)
- 14-ALLEN TOUSSAINT (1938)
- 15-EARL HOOKER (1930)
- 16-BARBARA LYNN (1942), LESTER DAVENPORT (1932), ROBERT WILKINS (1896)
- **18-DAVID RUFFIN (1941)**
- 19-HENRY GRAY (1925)
- 20-HUDDIE "LEADBELLY" LEDBETTER (1889), LUTHER TUCKER (1936), JOHN CAMPBELL (1952)
- 21-Snooks Eaglin (1936), Richie Havens (1941)
- 22-HAMMIE NIXON (1908), SAM COOKE (1935), BILLY "THE KID" EMERSON (1938)
- 24-AARON NEVILLE (1941), JOHNNY B. MOORE (1950)
- **25-SLEEPY JOHN ESTES (1899), ETTA JAMES (1939)**
- 26-HUEY "PIANO" SMITH (1934), EARTHA KITT (1928)
- 27-Andrew "Smokey" Hogg (1914), Elmore James (1918), Bobby "Blue" Bland (1930), Hot Lips Page (1908)
- 28-CASH McCALL (1941)
- **29-EDDIE TAYLOR (1923)**
- 30-RUTH BROWN (1928)
- 31-ROOSEVELT SYKES (1906), CHUCK WILLIS (1928), PAUL DELAY (1952), CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE (1944)

"Well he'll come to your house and he won't stay long
You'll look in your bed and your mother will be gone
Death always in a hurry in this land" -Reverend Gary Davis, Death Don't Have No Mercy

For myself, and many of my friends, 2018 has been a year of brutal loss. In the Blues and Roots music world, the losses in this year are the places where legacies end and the history continues.



On January 2nd, we lost Musician, Producer and Songwriter Rick
Rick Hall was the Owner of Fame Studios in Muscle Shoals,
He was also the centerpiece subject of the 2013
"Muscle Shoals." He produced artists ranging
Gregg Allman. On January 6th, my written
"Sorrow into Transcendence," was printed
k Hall's life was truly an example of sorrow

n. Rick endence

January 8th saw the passing of Malaco recording artist, Denise LaSalle. Ms. LaSalle was typecast as a "single entendre" Blues Singer. However, she was



On a Eddithe late

On January 29th we lost Blues Singer-Saxophonist, Eddie Shaw. Eddie was the alumni bandleader of the Howlin' Wolf Band, from the mid-1960's until Wolf's death in 1976. I knew Eddie from the late 1970's on and sat in with Eddie Shaw and the Wolf Gang in Atlanta once many years ago. A truly great and kind man

On April 10th we lost Staples Singer matriarch, Yvonne Staples. She was the rock of The Staples Singers for many years.



Shaw July 20th

On April 12th, I lost a colleague from my Tidewater Virginia days, Deborah Coleman. Deborah was a stunning guitarist and a friendly rival. People don't know, as I didn't either until after her passing, about the broad expanse of Deborah's heart in her care of folks in need. Deborah's death also hit close to home because of the close of our ages. I wrote about Deborah and Eddie extensively, among other loved ones, in the

Politichick's article, "Surviving Loss With

July 20th

Humanity Intact."

WWW.CHARLOTTEBLUESSOCIETY.ORG



As the year progressed,
I asked myself
is there wisdom in tears
or tears in wisdom?
In April it was too
difficult,
and far too early,
to come to a definitive
conclusion.
~ Michael Ingmire

May 1st, saw the death of seminal James Brown drummer, John "Jabo" Starks. Jabo now teaches the angels in heaven exactly where the "one" should fall in hymns of praise.







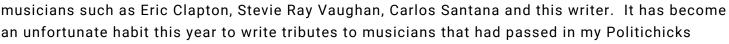
June was a litany of cruel loss. With the deaths of flamboyant Chicago Bluesman Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater on June 1st, Fleetwood Mac Guitarist Danny Kirwan on June 8th, Elvis Presley Drummer D. J Fontana on June 13th, and Blues Brother Matt "Guitar" Murphy on June 15th.



We were reminded of the soundtrack of our existence with the passing of the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin on August 16th. The same day of the month that we lost Robert Johnson and Elvis Presley many years ago.



September 29th was especially hard for me with the passing of Otis Rush. Otis was an influence on



articles; Otis Rush warranted two articles.



October 24th marked the passing of Hoodoo Man songwriter Tony Joe White



November 20th we lost West Side Chicago Bluesman Eddie C. Campbell.

In conclusion, most everyone in this list died after a long illness. Most were advanced in years. Ultimately, wisdom does come to us after a loss. A hard boiled and hard earned wisdom has come to me from the losses of 2018.

As fans and players of the Blues, the best tribute we can give to the recently departed is to embrace the traditions and innovations that they applied to their art. It is a broad dedication that can be applied to everyday life. Life is too precious to be faked.

Michael Ingmire, is a musician and writer of over 50 years experience. Michael has opened for or shared stages with artists such as Dr. Mac Arnold, Bob Margolin, Willie "Big Eye" Smith, Kenny Neal, Allen Ginsberg, Wilson Pickett, Bo Diddley, Johnny Copeland, Dr. John, Albert King and John Lee Hooker, among many. Currently, Michael sings and plays guitar with two Charlotte based acts, The Instigators and The Crossroad Prophets. As a writer, Michael has written for The Daily Caller and foxnews.com. Michael is currently a Contributor to Politichicks.com writing about Politics, Music and Social issues.



Memphis Send Off Bash

Jake HaldenVang Solo/Duo

Charlotte

Chris Clifton Band Band

Blues Sunday Bash anuary The Rabbit Hole

lues Jam 9

Doors: 7P

INTERNATIONAL BIUDS CHALLENGE ASS

\$5 non-member

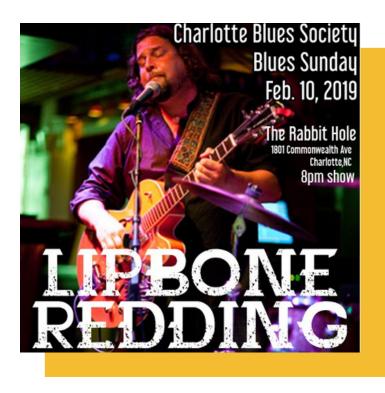
complete blues calendar on-line

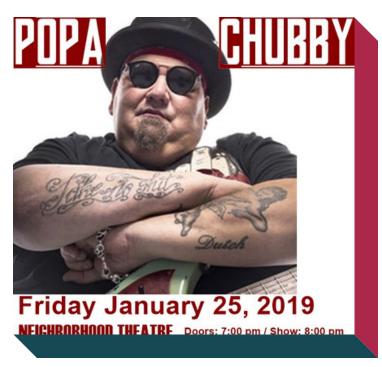


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Charlotte Blues
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Veteran Tickets Foundation (Vet Tix)

Dedicated to giving back to those who gave; providing free event tickets to veterans, active military & their families.

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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2018

Keepin' The Blues Alive 25



Join us...the party has just begun

