



Feb - March 2026

Blues Newsletter

CharlotteBluesSociety.org



The concert season is HEATING UP!

In this Issue:

- Save the Date for our 33rd Anniversary Show. Headliner announced on Feb 4.
- New Long Sleeve Tees available now. Sizes: S-3XL. Hats too
- Blues Sundays: Feb 1, March 1, April 5 at Heist Barrel Arts.
- RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS - Two sets

FEB

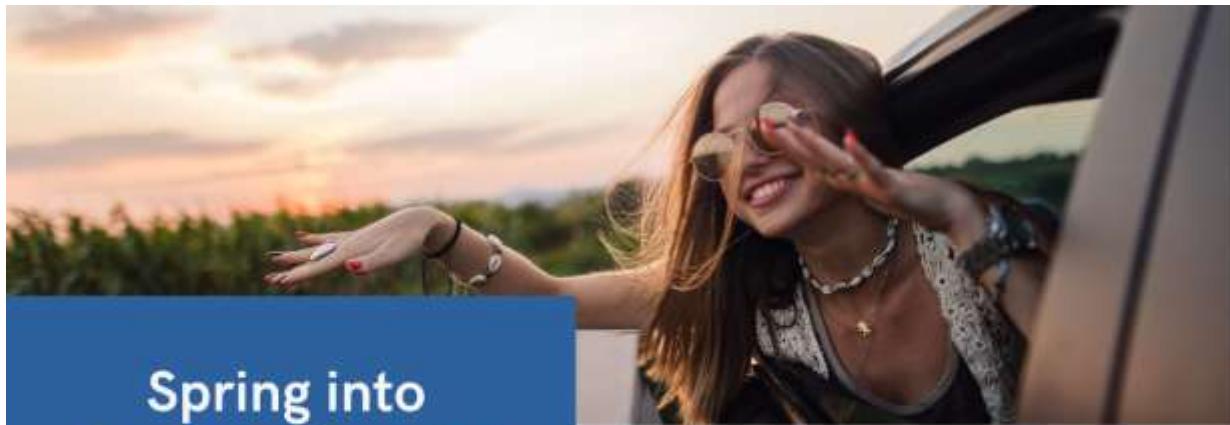
- Tinsley Ellis - *Labor of Love*
- Manu Lanvin - *Man on a Mission*
- Dave Keller - *La Brea*
- Kyle Rowland - *No Holding Back*
- Paul Filipowicz - *Breakwater*
- Frenchie Moe - *Hi Class*
- Leonard "Lowdown" Brown - *Lowdown Street Party*
- Mike Dangeroux - *15 Shades of Blue*
- Ross Neilson - *Within Tension*
- GA-20 - *Orphans*
- Stew Cutler & Friends - *Undercover (Mostly)*
- Reckless and Blue - *Seven Deadly Gins*
- Tony O Blues - *Free Life*
- Greg Nagy - *Just a Little More Time*
- Sugar Ray & the Bluetones - *Blues from Sibculo*

JAN

- Kim Wilson - *Slow Burn*
- Dave Keyes - *Two Trains*

- Lonnie Mack - *Live from Louisville 1972*
- James “JB” Barnes - *My Mississippi Roots*
- Miss Emily - *The Medicine*
- Keith Scott Blues - *Back to State Street*
- Earnest Guitar Roy - *This Is Earnest Guitar Roy*
- Mississippi MacDonald - *Slim Pickin'*
- JJ Grey & Mofro - *Orange Blossoms*
- Ryan Hartt - *Be About It!*
- Eddie Kold Band feat. Larry “Doc” Watkins - *Blues in My Heart*
- Dave Limina - *Old Piano Blues*
- Pink Anderson - *Carolina Blues Man Volume 1*
- Corey Ledet Zydeco & Black Magic - *Live in Alaska*
- The Fabulous Thunderbirds - *The Jimmie Vaughan Years: Complete Studio Recordings*

- Our newest fundraising guitar the BLUESCASTER - she is a beaut
- The Rooster Series - Save the 3rd Fridays for a Blues Concert
- The Local Concerts and Open jams- see the full list
- Guitar Raffle update Fender Squire Strat



**Spring into
Daylight Savings
with Blues Music
Sunday March 8**

Enjoy **longer days** and great
tunes this season.
Check out all our Blues CD
Reviews from Marty Gunther



Hats \$25 each.



On sale now.



Navy Long Sleeve
Bella Canvas Cotton
T-Shirts. Sizes: Small
to 3XL available
NOW.
Logo on back.



Thank you to Tom Pacheco for his wonderful
photos of our group. Please follow him on
Facebook.





Thank you to our Sponsor Intrepid Artists International for their generous contribution. If you are interested in sponsoring or just donating, please email CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com for more information.

In-Kind donations for printing, marketing, merchandise & music are always welcome.



Calling for Volunteers

We are seeking help with Event planning and Grant writing. Do you think you can help? Please reach out.

You can make the difference. Got an hour/month? Good with computers? We need you.



Open Blues Jam Sunday Feb. 1, 2026 at 6PM.

Jammers free, GA is \$10, Members \$5. Full backline provided. All ages. Sign up at door only

Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts- Skyline Room

1030 Woodward Ave. Charlotte, NC 28206

Drawing will be Thursday April 2 at the Anniversary Show

Hand crafted by Randy Honeycutt. The Bluescaster raffle tickets are on sale now, \$10



For memberships and raffle tix, please go our [website](#).

Please let us know at CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com

Or post to the [Facebook Group](#).
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.charlottebluressociety.org>

So many ways to listen to the Blues... Do you know about these regional radio shows?

- WNCW 101.3 Charlotte, 97.3 Greenville SC, 88.7, Spindale NC, 92.9 Boone, 90.9 Wilkesboro
- WNRN Virginia Fresh Roots & New Blues Saturday 6 - 8PM
- WSGE 91.7 Dallas NC Monday- Thursday 7 - 10PM
- WYTX Rock Hill, SC Streaming or Mobile App only
- WNCU 90.7 Durham, NC Saturday 7-9PM & 9-11Pm

Who did we miss? Send us your personal favorite to cltbluressociety@gmail.com



2025-2026 Guitar Fender Squire Stratocaster



This beauty is filling up! On our raffle guitar for 2025-2026, most recent: Tab Benoit.

Tickets
available at all
shows, \$10
each. and
Online now.
Drawing April
2, 2026.



Consider one of these annual Sponsorship levels



Blue Diamond \$500

Sapphire \$275

Friends of CBS \$100

Please help us keep the Blues Alive.



Save the dates for the Blues Sunday events.

First Sunday of the Month

All events at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Feb 1, Mar 1, April 5

Open Blues Jam from 6-10.



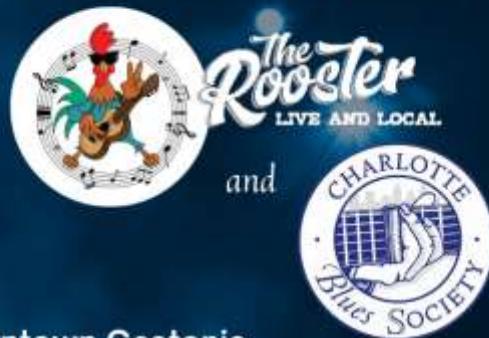
**THE ROOSTER
AND CHARLOTTE
BLUES SOCIETY
PRESENT**

3RD FRIDAYS

IN
2026

Doors open at 7pm, show at 8pm

Brought to you by:



**We will have Blues Concerts every 3rd
Friday at the Rooster.**

Feb. 20, 2026: DejaBlues with special guest Rick Tobey.

**THE ROOSTER
AND CHARLOTTE
BLUES SOCIETY
PRESENT**

DEJABLUES

20TH
FEBRUARY
2026

Doors open at 7pm, show at 8pm
FreshTix: \$17 advance, \$20 at door
Reserve seating \$25
ALL AGES

334 W. Main Ave downtown Gastonia NC
www.theroostergastonia.com



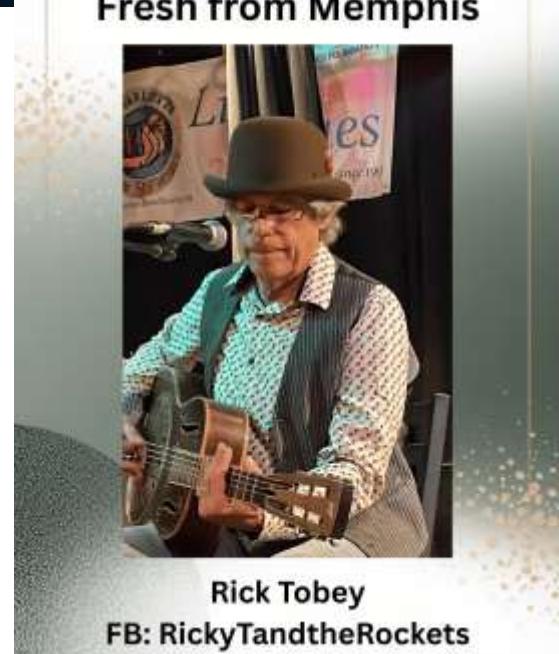
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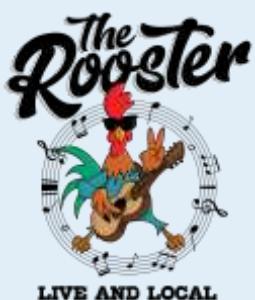
and



Fresh from Memphis



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BLUES FRIENDS



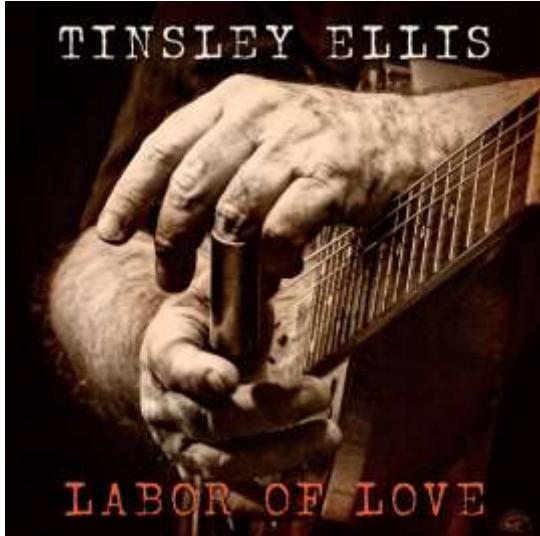
RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

TINSLEY ELLIS - LABOR OF LOVE

Alligator Records 5031

www.tinsleyellis.com



One of the most polished performers in the blues world, Tinsley Ellis has been blazing on the stage for decades, delivering some of the most intense blues-rock imaginable. But he's also an accomplished fingerpicking guitarist, too. And he'll dazzle you with this all-original, joyous celebration of acoustic blues. It packs a punch and six-string mastery throughout.

A follow-up to his BMA-nominated *Naked Truth*, this one's full of traditional themes covering good times and bad with Tinsley reinvigorates sounds originally delivered by Skip James, Son House, John Lee Hooker and others who turned him into the musician he is today.

Don't miss "Hoodoo Woman," "Long Time," "To a Hammer," "The Trouble with Love," "Sunnyland," "Sweet Ice Tea," "I'd Rather Be Saved," "Too Broke," "Low Land of Sorrow," "Fountain of Love" and "Lay My Burden Down."

MANU LANVIN - MAN ON A MISSION

Gel Production

www.manulanvin.com

One of the most important names in the world of French blues, Manu Lanvin has piled up awards as a vocalist across Europe for decades. And he should break big into the American market with this 13-song pleaser, an international effort recorded in Paris, Nashville, Montreal, Great Britain and Florida.

A high-voltage showman, guitarist/vocalist who represented his homeland in the IBCs in the 2010s, Manu's the son of Gérard Lanvin, one of the country's most famous actors. And there's definitely a cinematic quality in Manu's music. Taj Mahal, Popa Chubby and other stars guested on his previous disc.

High quality and different, take a chance on "Just Need Me," "I Can't Get Enough of You," "Change My Ways," "I Got the Blues," "What's the Matter with U?," "Saving Angel," "Could It Be Love?," "Make It Right," "Man on a Mission" and "Une Nuit."



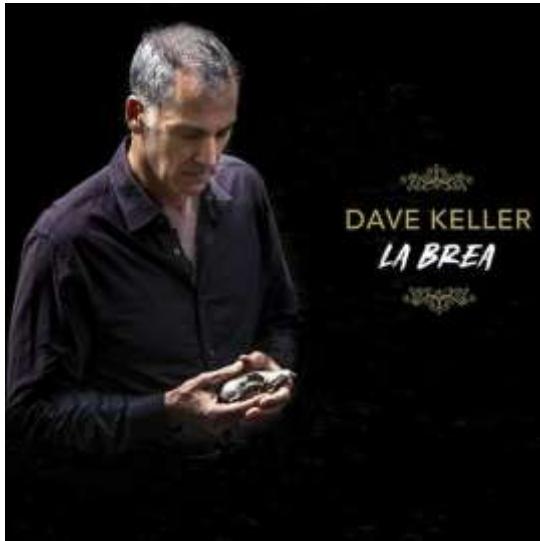
RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

DAVE KELLER - *LA BREA*

Tastee Tone Records TT-3047

www.davekeller.com



Based out of Vermont and a multiple BMA nominee, Dave Keller possesses a honeyed voice and strong guitar chops, making him an understated superstar in the soul-blues world. And he pours out his heart on his latest CD, delivering an unhurried wellspring of emotion akin to the fabled tar pits in Los Angeles, which bare fossils to the world and serve as this album's title, too.

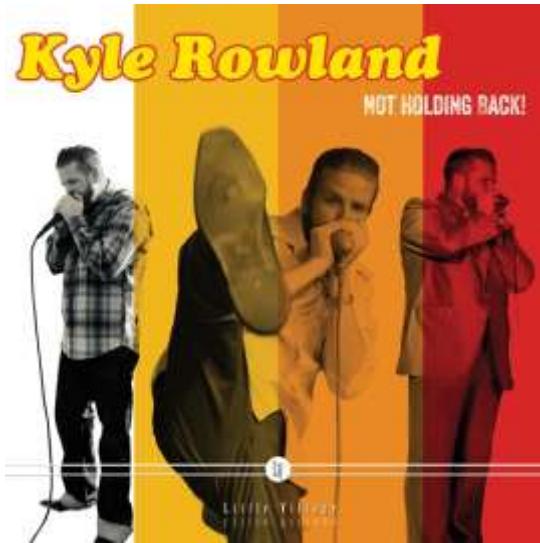
A collection of deeply moving ballads, this is a major change-of-pace for Dave, who frequently works in partnership with Johnny Rawls when not touring himself. He's joined here by guitarist Kevin Barry, bassist Jesse Williams, percussionist Marco Giovino and organist Tom West.

Take a deep dive into "I Could Fall," "Different Than I Planned," "Your Touch," "Singing in the Shower," "Shiny Things," "When You Land," "With You," "Onions," "If You Don't Mind Me Asking," "The Promise" and "I'm Telling You Now."

KYLE ROWLAND - NO HOLDING BACK

Little Village Foundation

www.kylerowlandblues.com



A musician whose career began at age ten and the youngest ever inductee into the Sacramento (Calif.) Blues Hall of Fame, Kyle Rowland makes his recording debut in the best way possible. A mix of blues, Southern soul and a little country, too, it'll show beyond a doubt that he deserves far more attention than already has come his way.

Produced by Rick Estrin and Kid Andersen, Kyle's backed here by world-class talent, including guitarists Johnny Burgin, Anson Funderburgh and Bob Welsh, who contributes keys along with Jim Pugh, bassists Randy Bermudes and Ronnie James Weber and percussionists Paul Revelli and June Core.

Top cuts include "Convict No. 1," "Wishing You the Best," "I'll Take You Back," "We're Still Friends," "You Go the Never of a Brass Monkey," "Gamblin' Blues," "E.G.O.," "Coffee Man," "Stockton Boulevard," "Must've Been a Dream" and "The Country Pen."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

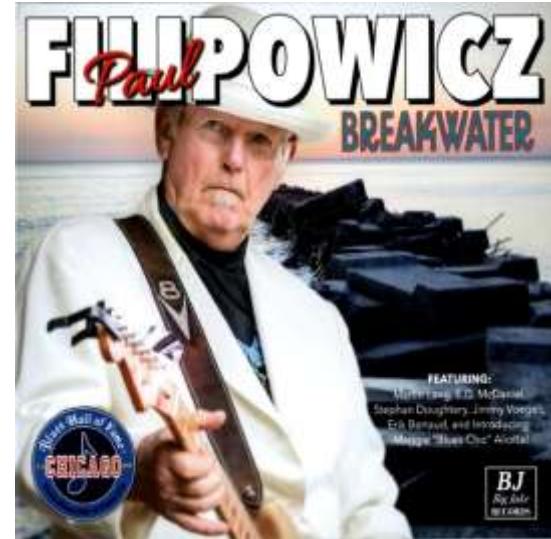
PAUL FILIPOWICZ - *BREAKWATER*

Big Jake Records BJ2025

www.paulfilipowicz.com

A warrior who's spent the better part of six decades delivering West Side Chicago blues the way it's supposed to be, guitarist Paul Filipowicz cut his teeth learning at the feet of Otis Rush, Freddie King and Magic Sam. And his heroes live again through every note he plays on this powerful CD, which delivers the essence of a smoke- and booze-filled night along Madison Street in the 1970s. Blues royalty abounds in the lineup, including keyboard player Jimmy Voegeli, bassist E.G. McDaniel, harp player Martin Lang and drummer Stephen Dougherty. Adding to the mix are sax player Erik Beraud and Maggie "Blues Chic" Aliotta, who sings vocals on one cut.

Groove along to "Tuff Girl," "I'm Leaving You," "Breakwater," "Sonny Boy," "This Time I'm Gone for Good," "Lefty Philips," "Conversation with JR," "That's the Truth," "That's Why I'm Crying" and "Rollcage."



FRENCHIE MOE - *HI CLASS*

Lightning in a Bottle Records

<https://frenchiemoe.bandcamp.com/album/hi-class>

Born in France, where she was mentored by British blues superstar Victor Brox throughout her youth, guitarist Frenchie Moe isn't that old, but she's spent better than half her life on the blues highway in the U.S. Based in New Orleans, the soprano powerhouse lays down the funk in style on her latest album.

Delivering a deep funk from the jump, the roster includes Big Easy heavyweights Bruce Elsensohn, Scott Perro and Mikey B3 on keys, sax player Walter Smith, bassists Stephen Menold and Andy Villafera and drummer Keith Hawkins.

Recorded live with few overdubs, put on your dancing shoes and tune in to "I Been Teasin You," "Trailer Park Love," "Happiness," "Hi Class," "The Hunter," "Topped & Diced," "Something Inside Me" and "I Want to Ta Ta You Babe."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

LEONARD "LOWDOWN" BROWN - *LOWDOWN STREET PARTY*

Music Maker Foundation MMCD224

www.musicmaker.org



Born into a musical family in Gary, Ind., Leonard "Lowdown" Brown produces a far slicker sound than many of his Music Maker partners. The new-school blues he delivers on this disc would be perfect for a barbecue with family and friends on the corner of a big-city block.

A highly autobiographical set, Lowdown takes listeners from the gritty Midwest to Houston's gritty Fifth Ward, where he toil for years for an electric company. He handles guitar throughout with bassist John Kveen and drummer Keith Russell laying down the beat and The Crimestoppers adding harmony.

Tap your feet to "Street Party," "I'm Gonna Take Care of You," "I Need Help," "Don't Wanna Get Up Blues," "Gotta Leave This Town," "News with Blues," "Houston Bound" and "Big Blue Show."

MIKE DANGEROUX - 15 SHADES OF BLUE

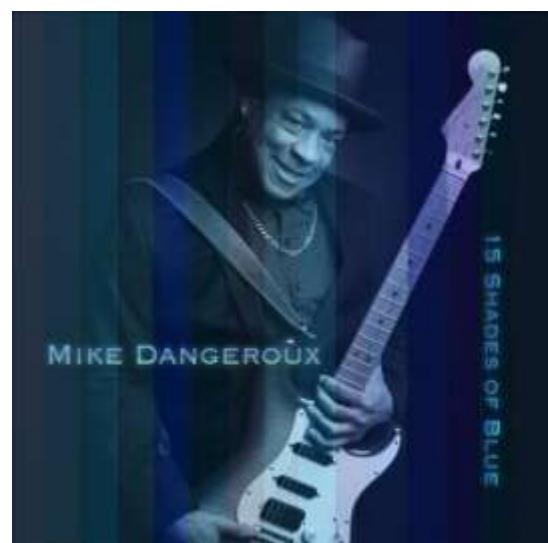
Self-produced CD

www.mikedangeroux.com

A veteran Chicagoan who's worked alongside Koko Taylor, J.W. Williams, Nellie Tiger Travis and other legends, Mike Dangeroux has tantalized listeners with a couple of EPs in recent years. But he hits on all cylinders with this full-blown 15-tune effort, which explores love, loss and redemption.

If your tastes run toward smoky, original ballads, you'll be captivated by this self-produced and self-engineered effort. Mike handles guitar, bass and vocals aided by Damon Casper Walker on drums and Eddie Mason on percussion.

Give a listen to "Deep in My Soul," "Palm of My Hand," "Walking Out That Door," "Heart of Stone," "Never Be Lonely," "Day and Night Lover," "No More Bad News," "She Can't Stop Rocking," "Where Are My Friends Tonight," "Midnight Sky" and "(Hope You) Feel the Same."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

ROSS NEILSEN - WITHIN TENSION

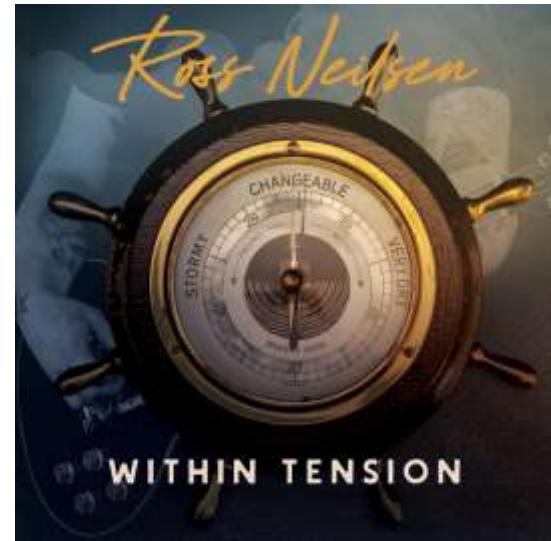
Self-produced CD

www.rossneilsen.com

An award-winning blues-rocker who's recorded with Anders Osborne and Corey Dickinson, Saskatchewan-based guitarist Ross Neilsen made it to the semi-finals at the 2025 IBCs. He celebrated his appearance by laying down this interesting, original CD at Sam Phillips Studio in Memphis, putting a different, gritty spin on Northern blues.

He's surrounded by a crew of first-call Memphis talents, including Rick Steff (keys), John C. Stubblefield (bass), Jay Sheffield III (drums) and a horn section composed of Marc Franklin (sax) and Art Edmaiston (sax).

Take a break from the one-four-five blues and give a listen to "Rock Ranger," "Best for You," "Road to Memphis," "Salt and Sea," "Devil's Picasso," "Troubled Mind," "Something Heavy," "Good Enough" and "Bold & Beaten."



GA-20 - ORPHANS

Colemine Records

www.ga20band.com

Based out of Boston and united through their love for blues, rock and R&B from the '50s, GA-20 are a retro group in every way, playing vintage instruments and recording the old-fashioned way...straight off-the-floor together. Their music's fresh but echoes the raucous past.

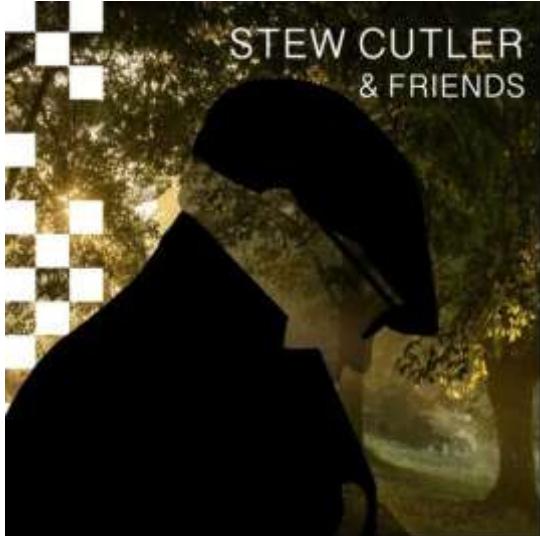
Composed of guitarist Matthew Stubbs – a longtime member of the Charlie Musselwhite band, vocalist/guitarist Cody Nilsen and drummer Josh Kiggans, they've repeatedly topped Billboard charts in the past, and they'll be doing it again with this one.

With a sound that could have emanated on the Windy City's Madison Street or Teresa's Lounge back in the day, you'll dig "Cryin' and Pleadin'," "I Love You, I Need You," "I Don't Mind," "Stranger Blues," "Hold On, I'm Coming," "My Baby Sweeter," "Just One More Time" and "Chicken Pickin'."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



STEW CUTLER & FRIENDS - *UNDERCOVER (MOSTLY)*

Self-produced CD

www.stewcutler.com

A guitarist extraordinaire, New Yorker Stew Cutler's been delivering the sweetest music imaginable at the cusp of blues and jazz since turning pro as a kid to back the legendary Z.Z. Hill. His career that's included Percy Sledge, Fontella Bass, Wilson Pickett, David Sanborn and other greats. And he simply dazzles on this mostly instrumental disc.

Stew reinvents and reimages tunes from across the music spectrum here with helping hands from vocalist Bobby Harden, keyboard players Tom Wilson and Etienne Lytle and a rhythm section composed of drummer Bill McLeellan and bassist Chulo Gatewood.

If you like your blues with a touch of class, tune in to "Close to You," "Fe Fi Fo Fum," "Summer Breeze," "At the End of the Day," "The Way You Make Me Feel," "Buried Alive in the Blues," "Betcha By Golly," "Long Time Joe" and "Country Girl."

RECKLESS AND BLUE - SEVEN DEADLY GINS

Self-produced CD

www.recklessandblue.net

A veteran five-piece ensemble who came together in 2017 and represented Colorado in the recent IBCs, Reckless and Blue deal with love, loss and more on their latest CD. The 10 tunes here pack an emotional punch in varied blues stylings...cocktails that will appeal to you no matter what your taste.

The group's led by guitarist George Williams, who shares vocals throughout with Shaunda Fry. They're backed by Allen Andersen on keys, Steve Gaskin on drums and Tom Dillard on bass. And they're augmented by backup singers and horns, too.

Cozy up to the bar and take a swig of "Come Back," "Seven Deadly Gins," "Trifflin' Blues," "Burnin' Daylight," "Don't Expect Me," "Shimmy Shakin' Blues," "If the Blues Was Whiskey" and "Stormy Night in Denver."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

TONY O BLUES - *FREE LIFE*

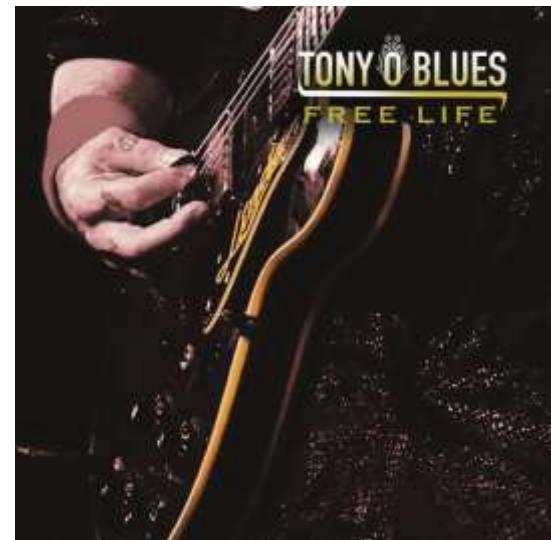
Self-produced CD

www.tonyoblues.com

A silky-smooth guitarist and harp player who recorded for Victoria Spivey in the '70s, was a member of Legendary Blues Band and toured with Pinetop Perkins and Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, New Yorker Tony O Melio is blue to the bone. And he delivers an masterclass of picking in this beefy, 14-song set.

Dedicated to James Cotton, Tony mixes four originals in a welcome serving of Chicago blues, doowop and country, all of which get an azure update. He's backed by several of the Big Apple vets, including bassist/guitarist Bob Stander, keyboard player Mitch Marcus and drummer Mike Severino.

Classic '50s and '60s sounds at their best, you'll love "Hard Day Blues," "Free Life," "You Don't Know Me," "Lonesome in My Bedroom," "Blues in D Natural," "Miserable Woman," "Off the Wall," "Tony O Guitar Boogie" and "I'm Queens Bound."



GREG NAGY - *JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME*

Self-produced CD

www.gregnagy.com

Don't be fooled by the simple cover of this one...it smokes! Guitarist Greg Nagy's a former BMA nominee for best new artist who's toured and/or recorded with Larry McCray, E.G. Kight, Bobby Murray and Ronnie Earl. But he's a dynamic performer in his own right.

He delivers refreshing, honest tunes across the blues, soul and gospel spectrum her aided by a deep roster that includes Murray and John Ford on second guitars, Jim Alfredson and Clif Metcalf on keys and five horn players, too.

You'll be blown away by "Just a Little More Time," "It Hurts to Love Someone," "Breaking Me (But Making Me a Better Man)," "Between the Darkness and the Light," "Love Letter," "My Buddy," "Big City," "Rainy Night in Georgia" and "I'm in the Mood."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

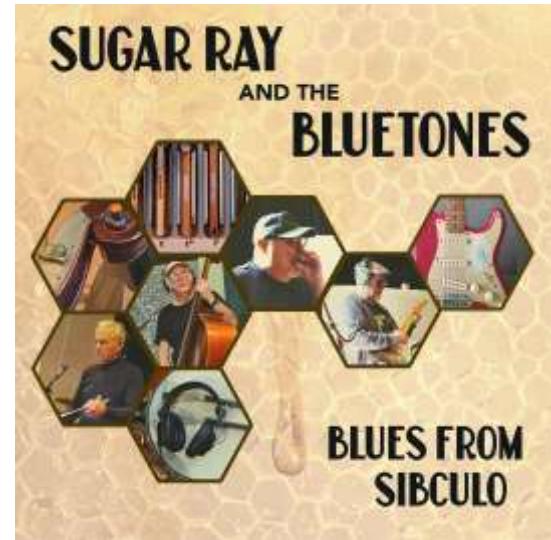
SUGAR RAY & THE BLUETONES - *BLUES FROM SIBCULO*

Natural Records

www.naturalrecords.nl

Rhode Island-based Sugar Ray & the Bluetones have been serving up award-winning albums since the 1970s, but they've outdone themselves with this disc. Like the classic records emanating from Chess Studios, it was recorded live off the floor in a small village in the Netherlands and delivers a masterpiece for modern ears.

The Bluetones – honeyed vocalist and harp player Sugar Ray Norcia, drummer Neil Gouvins and bassist Michael "Mudcat" Ward – joined forces with West Coast guitar legend Rusty Zinn and laid this one down with no overdubs or engineering tricks. A must-have for your collection, tune in to "No More Chances," "High and Lonesome," "Mean Old World," "Blind Date," "Bloodstains on the Wall," "Dream Girl," "Rusty Nail," "I'm Holding On," "You Got Me Wrong" and "Wait and Watch."



Former board member Marty Gunther has moved from Charlotte, but he remains dedicated to the CBS family. A musical nomad who grew up in Rhode Island and attended App State, his baptism to the blues came while listening to Muddy Waters at the 1960 Newport Folk Festival. A longtime member of the Chicago Blues community, he was taught harmonica by Sugar Blue before founding the Nucklebusters, a fixture in South Florida since the late '80s. An in-demand journalist with broad knowledge across the music spectrum, his "Red Hot 'n Blues" column also appears monthly in Chicago Blues Guide and he serves as senior writer at Blues Blast magazine and a contributor to the newsletter of Crossroads Blues Society (ll.), too.



Look out for and listen [to WSGE 91.7fm](http://WSGE91.7fm.com) HWY 321 Blues program Monday – Thursday 7 to 10 PM, to hear about their featured Blues artist who has a recent release. Marty's reviews will be featured on the website. Nobody plays more blues than WSGE! Your Independent Music Source

Thanks for helping to Keep the Blues Alive!

LOCAL JAMS, SHOWS AND FESTIVALS

Feb CBS Board meeting – note the date change

Tuesday Feb 24, 2026

Time: 6:00 Social, 6:30 Business

Location: Caswell Station 366 N Caswell Rd, Charlotte

Watch for the Email reminder and Agenda. Google meets option available

Have shows to contribute? Send a PM or email to

CLTbluressociety@gmail.com

Be sure to join our Charlotte Blues Society
[Group page on Facebook](#).

**THE ROOSTER
 AND CHARLOTTE
 BLUES SOCIETY
 PRESENT
 3RD FRIDAYS**

IN
 2026

Doors open at 7pm, show at 8pm

334 W. Main Ave Downtown Gastonia
www.theroostergastonia.com

Brought to you by:



The Rooster
 LIVE AND LOCAL.

and



MusicEverywhereCLT has a great calendar and an open mic listing.

<http://musiceverywhereclt.com/calendar/>



**MUSIC
 EVERY
 WHERE
 CHARLOTTE**
powered by


LOCAL JAMS, SHOWS AND FESTIVALS



VFW Post 1160 and Guitars 4 Vets
host the Charlotte Blues Jam
3rd Sunday 5-8PM
Please check the dates before you go.



TOSCO MUSIC OPEN MIC

First Tuesdays
at the
Evening Muse



Love Notes: 2/7
Music Party: 4/11

Deja Blues, Smokey Joes, 1/31

Blues Sunday: Open Jam
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts, Feb 1, Rockaholics/Jam

Keb' Mo, 2/19, Knight Theater

Deja Blues with Rick Tobey, The Rooster, Feb 20

Corey Luetjen & Traveling Blues Band
Thomas St. Tavern 2/20

LOCAL JAMS, SHOWS AND FESTIVALS

Blues Sunday: Open Jam

Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts, March 1, Deja Blues/Jam

Albert Castiglia, Middle C Jazz, 3/4

Robert Jon & the Wreck with Sam Marrow, 3/5, NT

Eric Gales, Cain Ctr, 3/7

Bywater Call, Middle C Jazz, 3/11

Seth Walker, Cain Ctr., 3/12

Joe Bonamassa, Greenville, SC 3/14

Contagious Blues Band, The Rooster, 3/20

Selwyn Birchwood, Middle C Jazz, 3/25

WSGE Event at the Rooster, 3/28

CBS 33rd Anniversary show, 4/2/26 Thursday

Walter Trout, The Reeves Theater, Elkin, NC 4/3

Joanne Shaw Taylor, 4/4 Cain Ctr

LOCAL JAMS, SHOWS AND FESTIVALS

Blues Sunday: Open Jam
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts April 5,

Jackie Venson, The Evening Muse, 4/17

Vanessa Collier, The Old Jail, Statesville, 4/23



Have you seen “Sinners”, the Oscar nominated movie? It is up for 16 nominations!

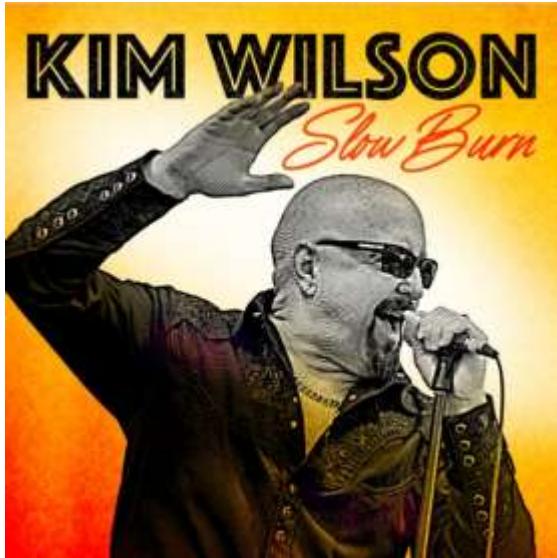
From Wikipedia.org

Sinners is a 2025 American [horror film](#)^[a] produced, written, and directed by [Ryan Coogler](#).^[10] Distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures. Set in 1932 in the [Mississippi Delta](#), the film stars [Michael B. Jordan](#) in [dual roles](#) as criminal twin brothers who return to their hometown in the [Jim Crow](#) South, where they are confronted by a supernatural evil. It co-stars [Hailee Steinfeld](#), [Miles Caton](#) (in his film debut), [Jack O'Connell](#), [Wunmi Mosaku](#), [Jayme Lawson](#), [Omar Miller](#), and [Delroy Lindo](#).

Music for the 2025 [period supernatural horror](#) film *Sinners* is found on two albums both produced by [Sony Music](#). The first, *Sinners (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)*, features known songs from various genres performed by [blues](#) musicians along with the cast members. The second album, *Sinners (Original Motion Picture Score)*, contains the original score composed by [Ludwig Göransson](#), Coogler's frequent collaborator. Both albums were released under the [Sony Masterworks](#) and [Sony Classical Records](#) labels on April 18, 2025, the same day the film was released.

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



KIM WILSON - *SLOW BURN*

MC Records MC0096

www.mc-records.com

Harp player Kim Wilson has a deep respect for his forebears and his former musical partners, too. He pays tribute to three of them -- pianist Barrelhouse Chuck, bassist Larry Taylor and drummer Richard Innes -- with this disc of previously unreleased material captured in 2014 and 2020. It's a welcome follow-up to his Grammy-nominated *The Bigtone Sessions*.

In addition to those extraordinary talents, the roster runs deep with additional backing from guitarists Billy Flynn, Nathan James, Bob Welsh and Jon Atkinson along with drummers Marty Dodson and Malachi Johnson, bassist Troy Sandow and horn player Johnny Viau.

If you love deep, traditional blues, you'll love "I'm Trying," "Leaving You on My Mind," "Sweet Little Angel," "Boogie in E," "Howlin' for My Darlin'," "The Time Has Come," "Lowdown Women," "Gotta Have a Horse" and "So Many Roads."

"The Man You're With," "Carolina" and "A Dream Walking."

DAVE KEYES - *TWO TRAINS*

MoMojo Records MMJ393

www.davekeyes.com



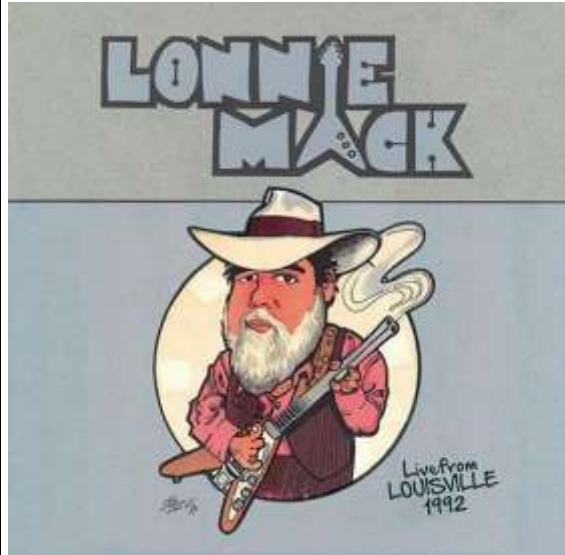
A four-time BMA nominee for keyboard player of the year, Dave Keyes teams with several of the biggest names in blues and roots for his latest disc. It's a wide-ranging effort that traverses love, loss, joy and pain, and most of the tunes are co-written with Mark Sameth, the Nashville-based tunesmith who's penned hits for Bettye LaVette, Loretta Lynn and others.

Joining the action are Bernard Perdie -- the most recorded drummer of all time, harp player Rob Paparozzi (Blues Brothers), guitarists Chris Bergson, John Putnam and Woody Mann, vocalist Alexis P. Suter and percussionist Frank Pagano. The set was mixed by Grammy winner Dae Bennett.

Contemporary New York blues at its best, you'll love "Blues Ain't Looking for You," "Boogie Till the Cows Come Home," "Two Trains," "I'm Alright," "A Long Way from Right Right Now," "What Just Happened," "Trust in Love and Fate," "Worried in Mind Blues" and "Rest in Peace."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



LONNIE MACK - LIVE FROM LOUISVILLE 1972

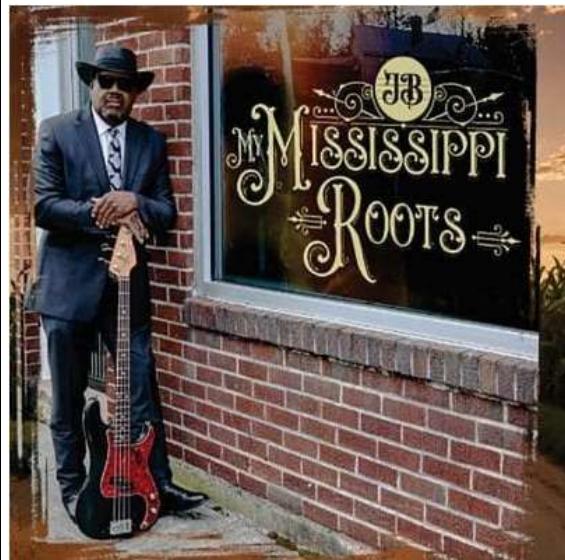
The Last Music Co. LMCD262

www.lastmusic.co.uk

Here's an oldie but a goodie for you: Lonnie Mack was one of the most influential guitarists in America during the '60s and beyond, fusing blues, soul and rock into a musical stew that was way ahead of his time. Possessing a gospel-tinged voice and tone beyond compare, he's at his all-time best on this live performance.

A long-lost treasure that was unearthed by Lonnie's daughter Holly after his death, the Indiana native's joined by Denzel "Dumpy" Rice on keys, Jeff McAllister on drums and Bucky Lindsey on bass for an hour-long show. This must-have set is the first release under Lonnie's name since 1990.

Don't miss "Camp Washington Chili/If You Have to Know," "Satisfy Suzy," "Got to Stop Hurting Me," "Memphis/Wham," "Oreo Cookie Blues," "Tough on Me, Tough on You" and "Cincinnati Jail."



JAMES "JB" BARNES - MY MISSISSIPPI ROOTS

Self-produced CD

www.jbkeepingthebluesalive.com

A bassist who possesses a honeyed tenor voice, James "JB" Barnes is a New Jersey Blues Hall of Famer, but his soul's rooted in the Delta, where his family originates, too. It delivers a tip of the hat to them and the Magnolia State, too, with this sophomore outing, which is infused with plenty of big city grit and is a winner on all counts.

Produced by Anthony Krizan, who handles guitar, JB's joined by Jarred "ARKTNT" Barnes on keys, and Carmine Diorio on percussion in a set that includes eight originals and covers penned by Carey Bell, Mick Jagger and more.

Give a spin to "Get Up and Go Blues," "Gotta Make a Change," "Brown Eyed Blues Man," "When Did Crime Become Legal," "My Mississippi Roots," "The JB Shuffle," "Brush with the Blues" and "Stand Up and Give Peace & Love a Chance."

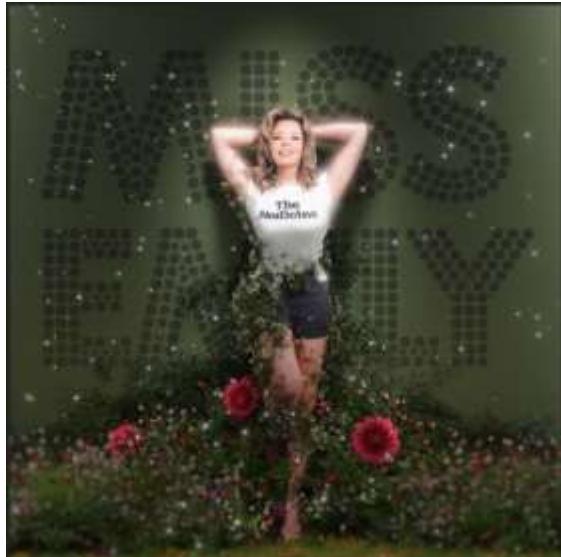
RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

MISS EMILY - THE MEDICINE

Gypsy Soul Records

www.themissemily.com



A voice for the ages who honed her craft on the blue highway between Montreal and Toronto for decades before winning all of the top Canadian music awards, Miss Emily returns to the studio at the top of her game with this release, which was produced by Grammy winner Colin Linden.

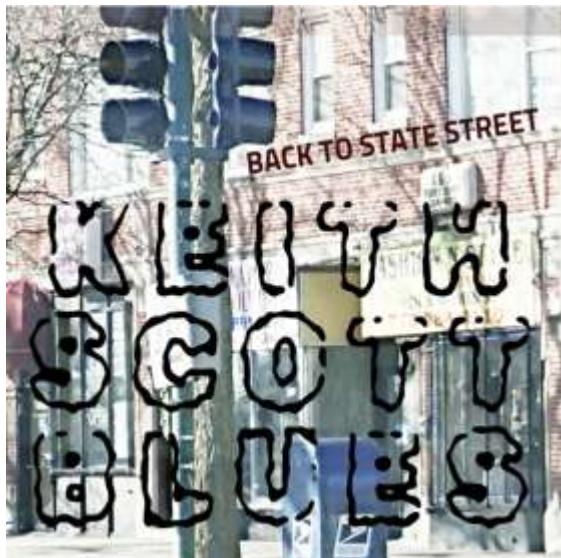
She's backed by an all-star group of sessions players, including keyboard player Michael Hicks Keb' Mo'), and drummer George Recili (Bob Dylan). And she'll take you on an emotional roller ride here, delivering a powerful theme of survival in the midst of a whirlwind of chaos living in the modern world.

Give a listen to "My Freedom," "Stand Together, Band Together," "The Medicine," "Maybe," "You Make Me Believe," "Running Again," "Solid Ground," "Smith's Bay Drowning" and "Remember This Song."

KEITH SCOTT BLUES - BACK TO STATE STREET

Back to State Street Records

www.keithscottblues.com



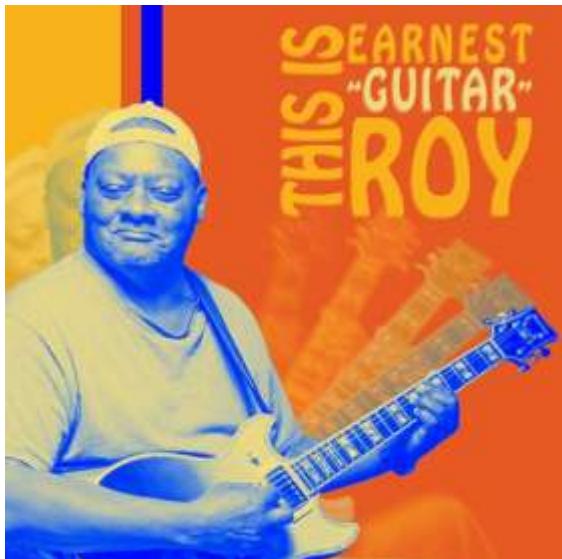
Guitarist Keith Scott has spent most of the past 50 years toiling in the best clubs across the city of Chicago. A student and longtime bandmate of superstar guitarist Jimmy Dawkins, he delivers modern blues with a definite old-school lilt. And he does it in style here.

The veteran lineup includes six-string master/drummer Marvin Jackson (Albert Collins), keyboardist Carl Snyder (Junior Wells, Son Seals), Steepwater percussionist Joe Winters, The Las Vegas band bassist Adam Arling along with guitarist/producer Tony McQuaid and Avalon Days guitarist RB Green.

Toe-tapping from the jump, get down to "Back to State Street," "Addiction," "Ovanda Woman," "Big Dog," "Scruffle," "Funky (I Need It)," "Vagabond Blues," "Sometimes" and "Hot Toddy."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



EARNEST GUITAR ROY - THIS IS EARNEST GUITAR ROY

Music Maker Foundation MMCD223

www.musicmaker.org

A retired trucker from Clarksdale, Miss., and the son of a bluesman, Ernest Guitar Roy is someone you'll love if your tastes run to Delta funk. He delivers a master class of it in this set, which is the first-ever recording in Music Maker's new studios in Fountain, N.C.

Earnest's only got a few 45s and one previous album to his credit, but he's got a true blue background, having toured with Albert King in the '80s after being discovered on Beale Street by first-generation superstar Big Joe Williams. He's backed here by Jimbo Mathus and the Creatures of the Southern Wild.

Put on your dancing shoes and groove along to "Big Ol' Smile," "Body Shop," "Dirty Hustlin'," "Earnestly," "God Knows I Tried," "Hard Headed Woman," "Going Out Swinging," "Sneaky on the Weekend" and "I Wanna Talk to You."



MISSISSIPPI MACDONALD - *SLIM PICKIN'*

APM Records

www.mississippimacdonald.com

One of the most soulful, vocalists in the UK, Oliver "Mississippi" MacDonald was born in London but his roots definitely reach deep into the soil of Memphis, too. An award-winning artist who's primarily fronted electric bands in the past, he goes acoustic in the best way possible on this ten-track set.

Oli's guitar picking is just as tasty as his gospel-tinged voice. His sole accompaniment is longtime bandmate Phil Dearing, who produced and handled keys and guitar, too. MacDonald penned four originals, which fit seamlessly with reworked classics from Blind Willie McTell, St. Louis Jimmy Oden, Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Keb' Mo'.

Groove along to "Trouble Doing the Right Thing," "Slim Pickin'," "My Bad Attitude," "I'm Sorry," "Got to Get to Walkin,'" "Goin' Down Slow," "Strange Things Happening Every Day," "Sad Songs" and "You Can Love Yourself."

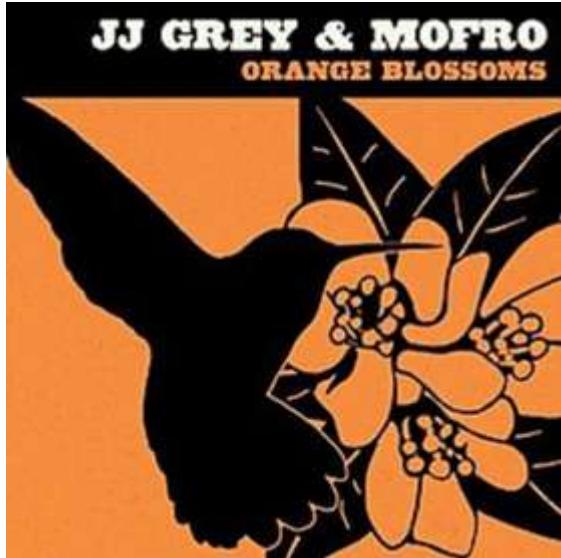
RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

JJ GREY & MOFRO - ORANGE BLOSSOMS

Alligator Records

www.jjgrey.com



JJ Grey & Mofro have been a fixture on the blues/roots scene for almost 25 years, delivering a soulful mix that embraces the dynamic rhythms of the swamp. They cemented their place in the music world with this pleaser, which gets a welcome second chance at life with this a deluxe, two-LP set, which is rereleased on sunburst-splash vinyl.

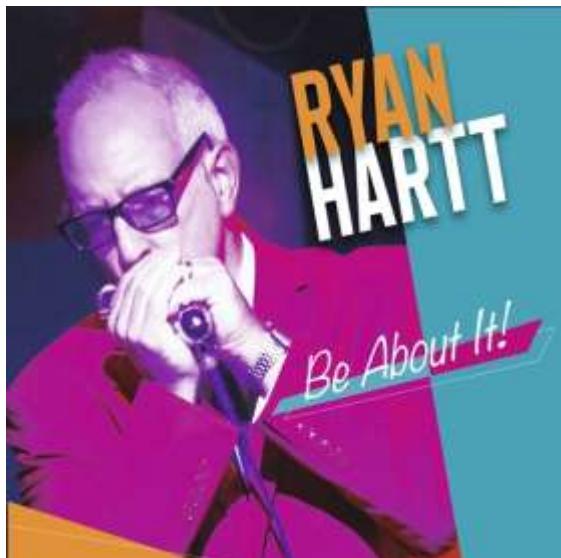
JJ penned all 11 of the originals in this 12-tune set, all of which are based on the observations and life experiences he picked up growing up in North Florida. His gritty voice and guitar soar over a musical stew that swings with gospel overtones, Southern soul and much, much more.

Definitely worth another listen, you'll enjoy "Orange Blossoms," "The Devil You Know," "Everything Good Is Bad," "She Don't Know," "WYLF," "On Fire," "Higher You Climb," "Dew Drops," "Ybor City" and "I Believe (in Everything)."

RYAN HARTT - BE ABOUT IT!

Far-Tone Records FT-5E3

www.ryanhartt.com



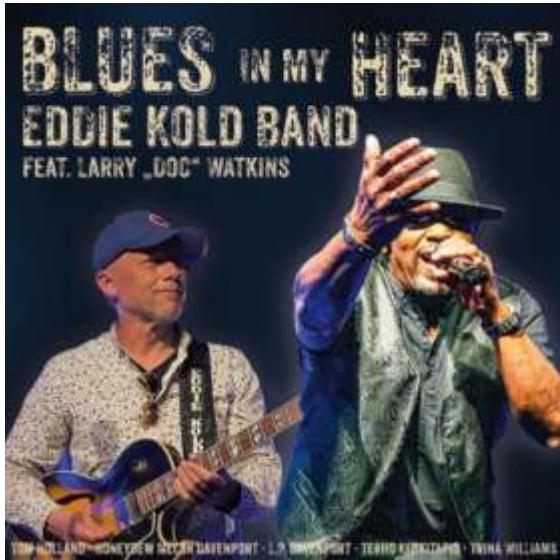
Based out of Connecticut, from which he's been delivering the best of West Coast jump and Chicago blues for decades, harp player Ryan Hartt swings from the hip from the jump and sets the stage on fire with this stunner of a solo album.

His first disc without his regular touring band, the Blue Hearts, Ryan spent extensive time in the studio in Los Angeles, working with Junior Watson and Rod Piazza. He teamed with guitarists Nick Adams, Jad Tariq and Tom Ferraro, keyboard player Brooks Milgate, bassists Jeffrey Berg and Mike Law and drummer Nick Toscano here.

Tunes that pack a bite, you'll enjoy "Breakin' Even," "Queen of Everything," "Old Habits Die Hard," "Nothing as Sweet as You," "Hawaiian War Chant," "That's Right, You're Wrong," "Lonely Hour," "I Can't Stop Loving You" and "You Belong to Me."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



EDDIE KOLD BAND FEAT. LARRY "DOC" WATKINS - *BLUES IN MY HEART*

L&R Records

www.eddiekold.com

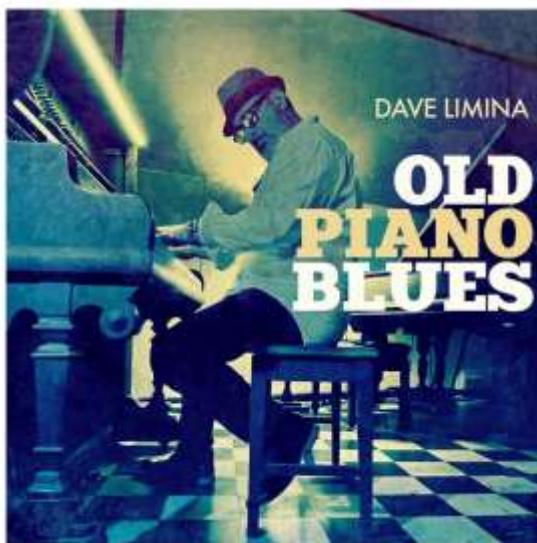
A fixture of the German blues scene but someone who's also been a part of the Chicago community since the '80s, too, Eddie Kold is a hypnotic guitarist who spent time working with the Buddy Scott, Vance Kelly, LV Banks and Zora Young bands. And he hits on all cylinders on this disc, which teams him with stylishly relaxed vocalist Larry "Doc" Watkins, an expat from West Virginia. It's truly an international effort with the Windy City's Melon Davenport sitting in on vocals on two cuts and six-string master Tom Holland sitting in on two more. Backing comes from Germans Klaus Brunschede (bass) and Christian Dewübb Wübben (drums).

Never over-the-top and always in-control, you'll love "Around Three or Four," "Backpain," "Burnin' Outta Control," "Girls," "Good Times Bad Times," "Last Two Dollars," "Lipstick on Your Bra," "My Whole World Shook," "Student" and "Threeway Combination."

DAVE LIMINA - OLD PIANO BLUES

Stupid Books Records

www.davelimina.com



The longtime keyboard player in Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters as well as the chairman of the piano department at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Dave Limina has been recording in support of others since the '90s, but this special, sensational work is his first ever disc as a frontman.

Despite the title, this CD is thoroughly modern blues conceived in partnership with longtime collaborator/drummer Lorne Entress, who produced. The music they deliver might have an old-time feel, but it's ear candy for a modern world. Kevin Barry and Ronnie handle guitars with Marshall Wood on bass. And harp player Darrell Nulisch is just one of several special guests. Give it a listen and you'll be wondering why it's taken him so long to step into the spotlight from the shadows!

Tune in to "I'm Lost Without You," "No Use Crying," "Just Gotta Play These Blues Blues," "Nobody But You," "An Old Piano Plays the Blues," "Splanky," "Ready to Die," "Mourning Sunrise," "Out of Sight" and "Broadcaster Blues for Ronnie Earl."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

PINK ANDERSON - CAROLINA BLUES MAN VOLUME 1

Craft Recordings CR00843

www.craftrecordings.com



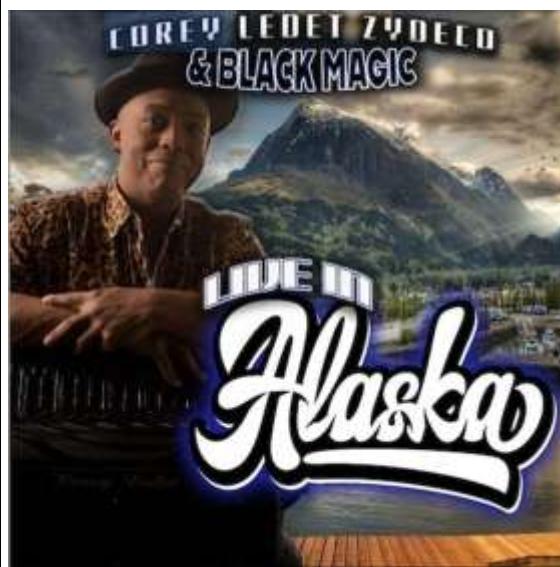
A revered post-War Piedmont-style guitarist after whom Pink Floyd took part of their name, Pink Anderson always considered himself to a medicine-show performer, never a bluesman. But his distinctive stylings played a major role in the rise of the introduction of the blues to a broader, white audience in the '60s. Produced by Sam Charters and originally released on Prestige Bluesville, this is Pink's first full LP, and it gets deserving new life on 180-gram vinyl. Pink's mix of humorous hokum, folk songs and popular tunes laid the groundwork for future stars who've walked the azure highway. If you're a fan of old-school, this one deserves a spot in your collection.

Turn back the clock for a while and give a listen to "My Baby Left Me This Morning," "Baby Please Don't Go," "Mama Where Did You Stay Last Night," "Big House Blues," "Meet Me in the Bottom," "Weeping Willow Blues," "I Had My Fun" and "Everyday in the Week."

COREY LEDET ZYDECO & BLACK MAGIC - *LIVE IN ALASKA*

Self-produced CD

www.coreyledet.com



When you send zydeco master Corey Ledet and his red-hot crew from Louisiana to the frigid north of Alaska, the resulting music is capable of melting all the snow off Denali. And that's what you'll get on this disc, which celebrates the Cajun heritage and captures the accordion wizard across three nights at the Anchorage Folk Festival during the winter of 2025.

This could be the best live set you'll hear this year. The Grammy nominee's joined by Cecil Green (keys), James Adams and Gregg Potier (washboard), Lucien Hayes (guitar) and Je'an-Paul Jolivette (drums), and you'll be jumping out of your seat from the first note. Let the good times roll with "This Is All I Want," "Boudin Man," "I Just Wanna Be Your Loving Man," "Alaska Funk," "Creole Cruising," "Push Me Away," "Kofé T'Fé Ca," "M'Apé Gonn a Dauphine" and "J'ai Parti Dans la Campagne."

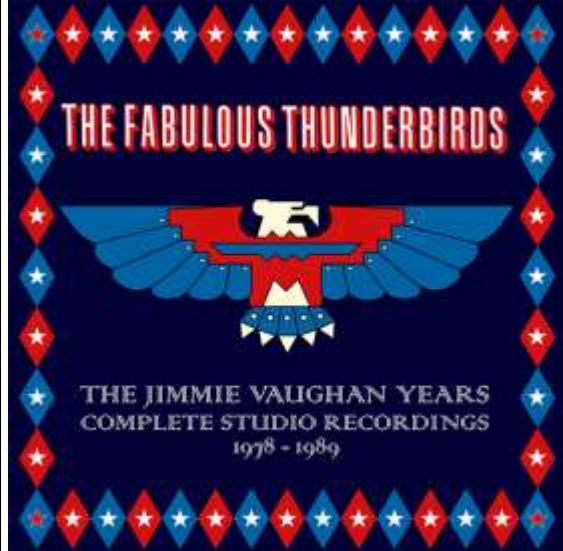
RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

 by Marty Gunther

THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS - THE JIMMIE VAUGHAN YEARS: COMPLETE STUDIO RECORDINGS

Last Music Company

www.lastmusic.co.uk



Since their founding in Austin in the mid-'70s, The Fabulous Thunderbirds have remained one of the hardest working and premiere blues bands in the world. And any fan will love to own this four-CD or eight-LP set, both of which are packaged within a richly illustrated hard-cover book.

It's composed of all the albums they released between 1979 and '89 with founder Kim Wilson sharing center stage with guitarist extraordinaire Jimmie Vaughan. The ever-evolving lineup of the band has always been beyond compare. And in the era of this discs, it included Keith Ferguson, Preston Hubbard, Fran Christina, Doyle Bramhall II and Allman Brother Chuck Leavell, too.

The 90 tracks kick off with 15 songs they cut before signing to a label and includes all of the discs they recorded on Takoma, Chrysalis and Epic. Pricy but worth it, it's a must-have collection for any T-Bird fan.

Keepin' The Blues Alive

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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 surrounding areas.

CBS NEEDS YOU !

Please consider volunteering for a committee, board position, or event, Or simply make a Tax-deductible donation. Just a few hours per year will make a difference.

Your memberships fund our shows. We are a 501(c)3 organization and count on members to contribute.

Like us on [Facebook](#). Be sure to post blues related articles on the [CBS group page](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#).

Know of an upcoming show? Share the details with us so we can spread the word!

All are welcome to our monthly Board meetings. These are typically the 3rd Tuesday of the month at a local Charlotte establishment. Next meeting is Tuesday Feb 24, 2026 - Location Caswell Station. Please send any agenda items at least one week in advance.

Tell you friends and family, neighbors and co-workers. With your help, we can continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you!

Bonnie Spalding and The CBS Board



www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org