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- RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS - Two sets

May

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Pat Pepin - *What More Can I Do*

Stefan Hillesheim - *Live at the Chicago Blues Festival*

Emanuel Casablanca - *Hollywood Forever*

Mike Guldin - *While I Can*

Brother Ray Lemelin & the Matinee Kings - *Stirring the Pot*

Squirrel Nut Zippers - *Starring in Fat City (The Ballad of Lil' Tony)*

- RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS (cont.)

April

Eric Bibb - *One Mississippi*

Laura Chavez - *My Voice*

Duwayne Burnside - *Red Rooster*

Misty Blues - *Other Side of Blue*

Crystal Shawanda - *Sing Pretty Blues*

Brooks Milgate - *Roll with the Punches*

Joe Bonamassa & Friends - *B.B. King's Blues Summit 100*

Mitch Ryder - *Songs from the Road*

Mark Cameron - *Blues Factory*

Selwyn Birchwood - *Electric Swamp Funkin' Blues*

Pontchartrain Shakers - *Love, Peace & Chicken Grease*

Cheryl Lescom & the Tucson Choir Boys - *Last Call*

Jack's Waterfall - *Blue Light Club*

Trudy Lynn - *Turning the Same Ole Corners*

Clifton Chenier - *King of Louisiana Blues & Zydeco*



QUEEN CITY
SUMMER BLUES THROWDOWN

WHEN:
 Sunday August 2, 2026
 TIME: 5pm to 10pm

WHERE:
 Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts
 1030 Woodward Ave,
 Charlotte, NC

BEALE
 Beale Street or bust!

JUDGED COMPETITION
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
 FOR
SOLO/DUO, BAND, YOUTH, CD
REGISTRATION CLOSSES JULY 15
2026

Brought to you by
CHARLOTTE
Blues SOCIETY

The Blues Foundation

AFFILIATED BLUES SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL BLUES
CHALLENGE
JUDGED COMPETITION,
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
CLTBUESOCIETY@GMAIL.COM

Calling all Blues Acts! Are you ready to WIN and perform on Beale Street in Memphis?

Please read the registration package on our website.

August 2, 2026 will be the judged competition.

Registration open now through July 15, 2026.

Solo, Duo, Bands- we want all ya'll.

Have a new CD? Submit it for the Self Produced CD challenge.

Questions? Don't wait, reach out.

Open Blues Jam Sunday May 3, 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

SUNDAY-NIGHT

BLUES JAM

Jam leader
Rick Tobey

\$10 GA
Jammers
free

Sign ups
at door
only; full
backline

MAY 3, 2026
6:00-10:00 PM
BARREL ARTS LOCATION
1030 WOODWARD AVE
CHARLOTTE, NC 28206
(704) 595-3111

Charlotte
Blues Society

Heist Brewery
BARREL
ARTS



Hats \$25 each.



On sale now.



Navy Long Sleeve Bella Canvas Cotton T-Shirts. Sizes: Small to 3XL available NOW. \$30
Logo on back.



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

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.

Seeking sponsors for the Southern Resonance Roots Festival.





CBS WELCOMES A NEW BOARD MEMBER



We are pleased to announce that Kathryn (Kat) Gantt has joined our board. She will be our new Events and Brand manager.

Kat is a native Charlottean, with a long-standing background in music. In addition to her deep appreciation for the blues, she is currently in a start-up band and enjoys Karaoke between practices.

Her experience in Event and Project Management covers marketing, logistics, space planning, organizing and coordinating a staff of up to 30 people to turn visions into

experiences. Her background in finances, record-keeping and technology will certainly help us keep things running behind the scenes. Several other nonprofits in the film, education, and conservation industries have benefited from her broad range of experience and dedication.

Kat has an Associate's Degree in Advertising & Design, a Bachelor's Degree in Web Design & Multimedia and a Master's Degree in Branding and Media Design. She also has a certificate in Project Management and Business Analysis from the Project Management Institute.

We are excited that Kat has decided to join us and look forward to her efforts to keep the blues alive.

WELCOME ABOARD KAT!



Calling for Volunteers

We are seeking help with meeting organization, youth efforts 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.

Please let us know at CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com

Or post to the [Facebook Group](#).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.charlottebluessociety.org>

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

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 Beats & New Blues Saturday 6 - 8PM
- WSGE.org 91.7 WSGE has a great new App. Thursday 7 - 10PM
- WYTX Rock Hill, SC Streaming or Mobile App only
- WNCU 90.7 Durham, NC Saturday 7-9PM & 9-11Pm
- WMNF.org 88.5 Tampa Bay, Florida Monday 6-9PM

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

“I’m trying to get people to see that we are our brother’s keeper. Red, white, black, brown or yellow, rich or poor, we all have the blues.” ~ B.B King

2026-2027 Guitar Fender Squire Stratocaster



CHARLOTTE *Blues* SOCIETY

Signed Guitar Raffle '26-'27

Tickets \$10 ea

ARTIST ANTICIPATED TO SIGN THE AWESOME SPRING 2027 RAFFLE GUITAR:

- Selwyn Birchwood
- John Nemeth
- Albert Castiglia
- Robert Cray
- Jon Cleary
- The Boneshakers
- Tab Benoit
- Kenny Wayne Shepherd

Donated by




Charlotte Blues Society on the Web

SIGNATURES

- Joanne Shaw Taylor
- Melissa McKinney
- Walter Trout
- John Trout
- Jackie Venson
- GA-20
- Jontavious Willis
- All Night Boogie Band
- Vanessa Collier
- Laura Chavez

Drawing
Spring
2027

[Tickets available at all shows, \\$10 each.](#) and Online now.
Drawing April 2027.

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, except Sept 6

All events at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Open Blues Jam from 6-10.



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

**May 15, 2026: The Pszenny Project with
special guest - Alex J. Wolfe.**

**June 19 with Bill Miller Band
July 17 with Ross Osteen Band**

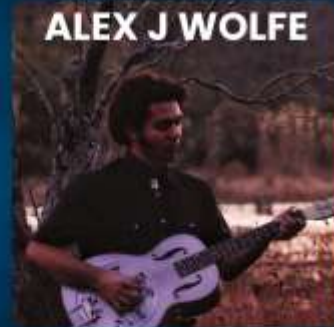
**THE ROOSTER
AND CHARLOTTE
BLUES SOCIETY
PRESENT
THE PSZENNY
PROJECT**

**15TH
MAY
2026**



FEATURING:

ALEX J WOLFE



**Doors open at 7pm, show at 8pm
Tickets \$17 advance, \$20 at door
ALL AGES**



Brought to you by:



The Rooster
LIVE AND LOCAL

and



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

We are pleased to announce the Second Annual Southern Resonance Roots Festival will be Sunday September 13, 2026

All day music, followed by a final full set by the headliner.

Stay tuned for the lineup.

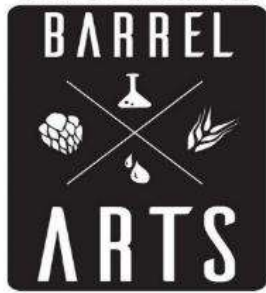


We will have vendors, music, food and beverage.
All ages, BYOC.

Sponsors, Volunteers and Vendors needed

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BLUES FRIENDS

HEIST BREWERY



[U.S. National Whitewater Center](#)



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

MAY



Freddie King – *Feeling Alright: The Complete 1975 Nancy Jazz Pulsation Concerts*

Elemental Music

www.elemental-music.com

The recent Record Store Day served up a major treat for blues fans: A compilation of live recordings of the legendary Freddie King at the height of his power and career. Captured at a series of concerts in the French countryside in 1975, the Texas Cannonball fires on all cylinders throughout this set, demonstrating why he was one of the greatest guitarists of his time.

Freddie possessed a style unlike his fellow Kings, B.B. and Albert. Born in Texas, and raised on the West Side Chicago, his life came to an end at age 42 just a year after these shows were recorded. But his brilliant, heavy-handed licks and extended solos will live forever, like his peers.

The 16 tracks in this release – which is available in both CD and three-LP formats -- deliver more than two hours of solid gold. You'll groove along to every note, but yearning for more when it's done.

Too young to have heard Freddie in his lifetime? This one will show you what you missed.

Corey Harris, Alvin Youngblood Hart & Guy Davis – *Fight On! True Blues Vol. 2*

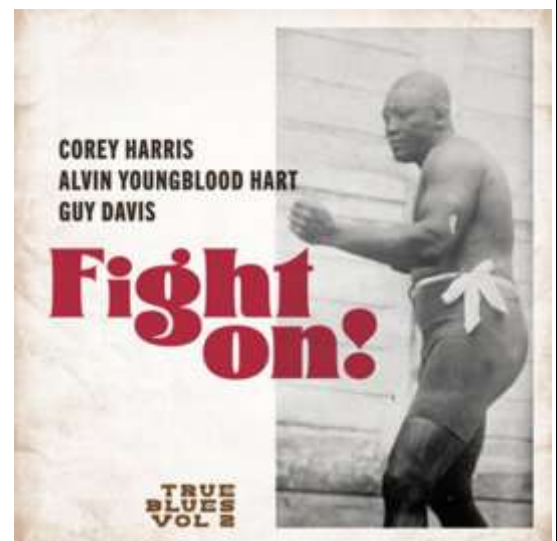
Yellow Dog Records YDR 2903

<http://www.yellowdogrecords.com/trueblues>

Three of the most foremost acoustic guitarists on the planet, Corey Harris, Alvin Youngblood Hart struck gold in 2013 with *True Blues*, delivering first-generation African-American blues in a manner that proved beyond a beyond a doubt it's just as vital today as when created. Thirteen years later, they reteam to carry their message forward.

Delivering a few originals that fit perfectly with reinvented covers, this mix of solo cuts was recorded in Virginia, Mississippi and New York. Just like heavyweight champion Jack Johnson, who graces the cover, every tune packs a punch while delivering a sound that emulates a performance in your living room.

A winner on all counts, give a listen to "We Are Almost Down to the Shore," "Screamin' and Hollerin' the Blues," "See Me When You Can," "What's That I Smell," "If Blues Was Money," "Deep Sea Diver," "I Belong to the Band," "Highway 61" and "Everything I Got Is Done in Pawn."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



Mike Finnigan – *Same*

Forty Below Records

www.fortybelowrecords.com

There's been a hole in the soul of the blues since keyboard Mike Finnigan passed five years ago. A longtime member of Taj Mahal's Phantom Blues Band and someone who worked with everyone from Jimi Hendrix and Crosby Stills Nash & Young to Buddy Guy, he was one of the most beloved figures in the industry. But he was one of the most honeyed, powerful vocalists as a soloist you've ever heard, too.

And he shines like the diamond he was in terrific set, which was produced by friend J.J. Blair, who added horns to the 11 tasty tracks, which include guest appearances from Joe Bonamassa, Smokey Robinson, Stills and others while showcasing Mike's genius in the best way possible.

Don't miss "20 Years of B.B. King," "My Credit Didn't Go Through," "Don't Answer the Door," "Fool for You," "The Way You Do the Things You Do," "It Ain't Fair," "She's Not Just Another Woman," "All That You Dream," "Let That Liar Alone" and "Sing Me Back Home."

Amani Burnham – *Roots & Wings*

Blind Pig Records

www.amaniburnham.com



Born in Ethiopia and raised by a music-loving family in Connecticut, 21-year-old guitarist Amani Burnham explodes onto the blues scene with this one. Inspired by his heroes -- Hendrix, Jeff Beck and Stevie Ray Vaughan, he blazes from the jump and delivers sweet moments, too, while exuberantly announcing himself as someone who'll be carrying the music deep into the century.

Since relaunching the Blind Pig imprint a couple of years ago, new owner Jeff Schroedl has given us rising stars Jovin Webb and Sonny Gullage, and Amari's soon to follow. Delivered in three-piece format, he's backed by drummer Ray Hangen and bassist Matt Raymond.

Blues-rock the way it used to be...raw and with deep grooves, tune in to "Fastlane," "I Wanna Know," "Roots and Wings," "The Last Thing I Remember," "You Can't Heal What You Hide," "Sideways Thru Time," "Lovers Till They Die," "Midnight Waterfall," "Some Sorta Love and "Bleeding Heart."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

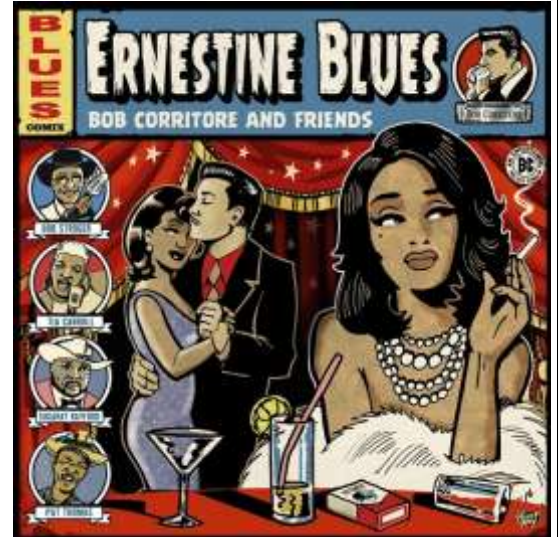
Bob Corritore & Friends – *Ernestine Blues*

VizzTone Label Group/SWMAF Records SWMAF 31

www.bobcorritore.com

One of the busiest producers in the blues world, Bob Corritore gives his friends plenty of space to shine while lending his support on harp on his latest CD, and, man, do they! It's a set of some of the deepest azure, most contemporary music you'll hear this year. All of the tunes here were recorded in the past few years with Teeny Tucker, Johnny Rawls, Sugaray Rayford, Oscar Wilson, Charles Wilson, Tia Carroll, Pat Thomas, Willie Buck, Bob Stoger, Jimi Primetime Smith and Tony Coleman handling vocals along with the sensational Carla Denise and backing from a rotating lineup of superstar talent.

Blue to the core, you'll love "How'd You Learn to Shake It," "Tell Me Darling," "Blind Man Cry," "Ernestine," "I Love the South," "Troubles on Your Mind," "Wild as You Can Get," "Pretty Girls Everywhere," "Sorry to Leave You Behind," "She Might Need Me" and "Shoes."



Rick Vito – *Slidemaster*

MoMojo Records MMJ 404

www.rickvito.com

Blues-rock guitarist Rick Vito has been dazzling audiences on stage and record since the early '70s with Delaney & Bonnie & Friends before membership in Fleetwood Mac, work with Bob Seger and a host of others. But he's just as vital as he was back then. Have any doubt? Give this stellar, all-instrumental album a listen.

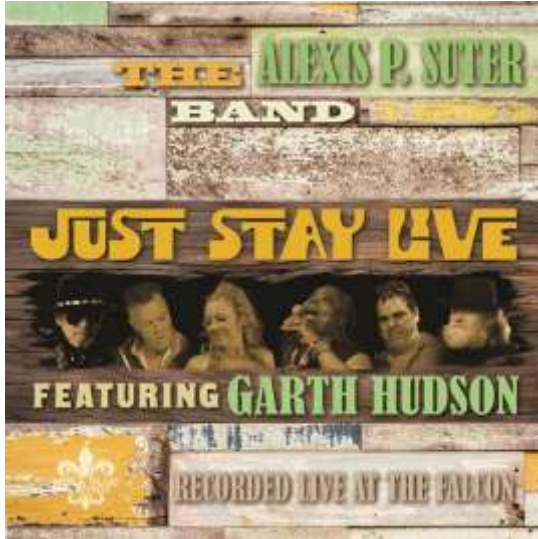
Never overpowering and always deep in the beat, Rick handles almost all of the instrumentation here – six-string, bass, percussion and keys – with Rick Reed, Lynn Williams and Charles Johnson alternating on drums, Mark Horwitz and Kevin McKendree sitting in on organ and Charlie Harrison on bass.

Immensely soothing and groovy, too, you'll dig "Vegas Jump," "Steal Away," "The Big Beat," "The Danger Zone," "Red Hot Baby," "Soul Shadows," "Slide the Blues," "A Change Is Gonna Come," "The Supernatural" and "The Lord's Prayer."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



Alexis P. Suter Band feat. Garth Hudson – *Just Stay Alive*

Nola Blue Records

www.alexispsuter.com

Here's a treat! New Yorker Alexis P. Suter used to be a regular at the late Levon Helm's Midnight Rambles in Woodstock, N.Y., when not appearing at other clubs in the Catskill Mountains. And it'll be a blessing for your ears to hear live performance, which finally sees the light of day 15 years after it was recorded at The Falcon in nearby Marlboro.

Possessing the deepest voice in the music world, Alexis shares the stage here with The Band's pianist Garth Hudson in a spirit-lifting set that displays her deep gospel roots while being as bluesy as it gets. Suter's full band shines along with guests, including Steely Dan guitarist Connor Kennedy and keyboard player Benny Harrison.

Music that's good for your soul, you'll enjoy "John the Revelator," "Garth's Piano Solo," "Right on Time," "It's Not My Cross to Bear," "Whistling in the Dark," "Knocking on Heaven's Door," "Hole That I'm In," "Only I," "Turn on Your Love Light" and "Isn't It a Pity."

Dana Fuchs – *Live in Denmark*

Ruf Records RUF 1335

www.danafuchs.com

An intense New York-born blues-rocker who delivers her lyrics with raspy grit and a distinctive bite, Dana Fuchs has depicted Janis Joplin on Broadway and has appeared in movies, too. But she's never bared her soul and roared like a lion better than in this performance, which was captured last fall in Kolding, Denmark. Simultaneously vulnerable and powerful, too, she's backed by guitarist Jon Diamond, drummer Piero Perello and bassist Kevin Mackall as she relentlessly powers through a set of eight originals and two covers.

Buckle up and tune in to "Double Down on Wrong," "Hard Road," "Blue Mist Road," "Superman," "Nothing You Own," "Home Is Where the Hatred Is," "Borrowed Time," "Battle Lines" and "Curtain Call."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

Ed Alstrom – *This Idea of Humanity*

Haywire Records

www.edalstrom.com

With a degree in classical organ performance, Ed Alstrom is a relative newcomer to the blues, making it to the semi-finals in this year's IBCs after his debut album, *Flee Though None Pursue*, hit the top spot on Roots Music Report's jazz-blues chart. If you're a fan of stylists like Mose Allison, you'll definitely enjoy this spirited follow-up.

Up tempo and full of energy, Ed handles piano, melodica, clavinet and more while singing with passion on this one. His top-notch backing unit gets a helping hand from former Conan O'Brien bandleader Jimmy Vivino on guitar and vocals.

Not your usual blues, you'll dig "Put You First," "All I'm Gonna Do," "Humans," "Nothing Good to Say," "Party Planner," "Understanding," "Blues Keep Coming Back," "Inquiring Minds," "The Way Back," "Got to Stop" and "Worry."



Pat Pepin – *What More Can I Do*

Self-produced CD

www.patpepin.com

A powerhouse saxophone player from Maine, Pat Pepin stands apart from the crowd by delivering original music that puts a Down East spin on homespun, mainstream blues. And she'll captivate you with this mix of soulful ballads and up tempo pleasers, several of which put a humorous spin on the ups and downs of life.

Pat's represented the Maine Blues Society in the IBCs three times, and this is her second disc that was in competition in the best self-produced CD category. She's backed here by her longtime band The Boneheads: guitarist Steve Jones, keyboard player Bob Colwell, bassist Scott Elliot and drummer Richard Hollis.

A disc with plenty of old-school appeal, you'll enjoy "Mother Nature Blues," "What More Can I Do," "Don't Tie Me Down," "Mean Woman," "Little Things," "Call Me Up," "Slow Down," "Mae West," "Ride with You," "Sugar Mama" and "Try Me."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



Stefan Hillesheim – *Live at the Chicago Blues Festival*

Stella Blue Music

www.shblues.com

One of the most exciting, fairly new artists on the Windy City scene, slide guitarist Stefan Hillesheim was born in Germany, but there's no doubt that he's blues to the core. And the pleasant tenor shines in this ten-tune set, which was captured in front of an audience packed around the Rosa's Lounge Stage at the 2025 Chicago Blues Festival.

Stefan's four-piece unit is one of the tightest in the city. It features another treasured transplant, Sumito "Ariyo" Ariyoshi, on keys with Dionte McMusick on drums and Darryl Wright on bass.

Eight powerful, contemporary originals and two covers that touch on love and loss, you'll adore "Always Glad to Hear From You," "My Poor Heart," "The Love I Had for You," "Big Legged Woman," "On Down the Highway," "You're Family," "When I'm Gone," "Better Man" and "Sick of Your Love."

Emanuel Casablanca – *Hollywood Forever*

Emanuel Casablanca Foundation

www.emanuelcasablanca.com

The self-proclaimed Bad Boy of Blues, Brooklyn-born Emanuel Casablanca is an artist who's established himself as one of the most interesting folks in the blues-rock field. And he outdoes himself with this bittersweet, mostly introspective and unhurried set. It'll have you grooving along and thinking, too.

Casablanca's shared stages and studio time with many of the top artists in blues, including Eric Gales, Albert Castiglia, Jimmy Carpenter and others. This over-the-top effort, 31-tune effort is chockful of excellent musicianship and gets a big boost up with the appearance of the dynamic Kelli Baker, who shares vocals on several cuts.

Tune in to "It's Getting Strange," "Woman of Gold," "Give Me Peace," "Did I Just Start a War," "Just to Feel Whole," "Touch Me," "The Woman I Love," "I Can See It in Your Eyes," "Secret," "Signs of Love," "A Little Bit of Faith Can Move a Rock," "Brooklyn Groove," "Con-Woman" and "Starlight."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

Mike Guldin – *While I Can*

Blue Sky Tunes

www.mikeguldin.com

Based out of Pennsylvania, guitarist Mike Guldin has been thrilling audiences with lyrics that tell a story and hit the heart for decades. And he takes an old-school approach as he takes his tunes forward with this set, which was primarily recorded live and off-the-floor by Grammy winner Kevin McKendree.

Captured in Nashville with backing from a group of A-list session musicians who dub themselves the Hot Licks, the lineup includes Kevin on keys, Songwriter Hall-of-Famer Gary Nicholson and James Pennebaker on guitar and Lynn Williams on percussion. Jackie Wilson and the McCrary Sisters provide additional vocals.

Blues you can use, give a listen to “Driving Rain,” “Heartbreak in Disguise,” “Always a Woman,” “Luck Runs Dry,” “Placencia Nights,” “Goin’ Back to Memphis,” “When the Bills Come Due,” “Roll Chattanooga Roll,” “Oh Lonesome Me,” “Deadwood” and “Down the Hatch.”



Brother Ray Lemelin & the Matinee Kings – *Stirring the Pot*

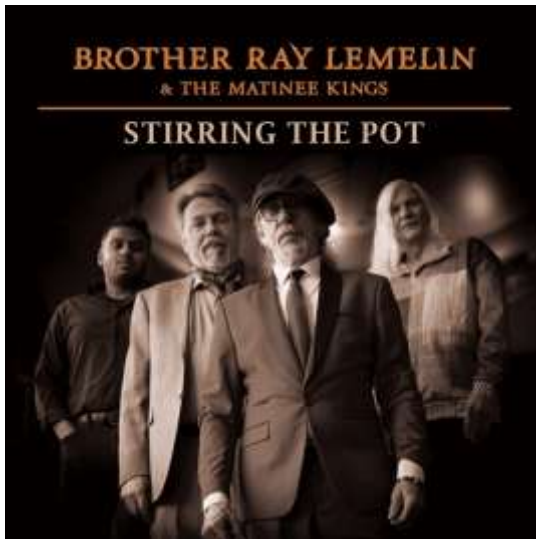
Self-produced CD

www.brotherraylemelin.com

A leading figure in the Canadian blues scene, guitarist/vocalist Brother Ray Lemelin has been swinging from the hip out of Calgary since the '80s. He'll have you swinging from the hip of this collection, a tasty mix of five originals and five timeless covers that fit together like hand and glove.

Brother Ray's Matinee Kings are a seven-piece, silky-smooth unit composed of accordion player Howard Scmenge Chapman, bassist Daniel Wilton and drummer/vocalist Kelly Kruse along with a horn section led by Pat Belliveau. Perennial Canadian award winner Steve Hill sits in on steel guitar, too.

Something old and something new, you'll dig “Frosty,” “Never Good Enough,” “Please Send Me (Someone to Love),” “Mackin’ Out,” “Une Vie,” “I’ll Take Care of You,” “Walk On” and “Etta Jean.”



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

Squirrel Nut Zippers – *Starring in Fat City (The Ballad of Lil' Tony)*

Music Maker Foundation

www.musicmaker.org

Jimbo Mathus has been working behind the scenes as a producer and bandleader for Music Maker Foundation for the past decade. But he recently reunited his Squirrel Nut Zippers after a lengthy break, and they tear it up from the jump with this delightful, hard-to-define mix of blues and roots.

A 12-piece ensemble, the Zippers deliver a 23-tune opus in three acts here. It's based on the life of Mathus' grandfather, Tony Malvezzi, a bootlegger-turned-music promoter who booked big bands into showrooms at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis and Old Absinthe House in New Orleans.

The group's currently fronted by Cella Blue, horn player Hank West and guitarist Jimbo aided a deep roster that includes violin, banjo and more. Like azure-infused hot jazz with a vaudeville aesthetic? This one's for you!



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 Nuclebusters, 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 (II.), too.



Look out for and listen [to WSGE 91.7fm](http://www.wsge.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

May CBS Board meeting – 3rd Tuesdays

Tuesday May 19, 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

CLTbluessociety@gmail.com

Be sure to join our Charlotte Blues Society

[Group page on Facebook.](#)

MusicEverywhereCLT has a great calendar and an open mic listing.

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



**MUSIC
EVERY
WHERE**
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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



An evening with John Nemeth, Middle C Jazz, April 29

Nikki Hill, Statesville, 5/2 4PM

Blues Sunday: Open Jam
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts May 3

Robert Cray, May 5, The Carolina Theatre

Vocal Ink's Guitar Workshop, May 9

LOCAL JAMS, SHOWS AND FESTIVALS

Jon Cleary and the Absolute Monster Gentlemen
Wednesday, May 13, Middle C Jazz (2 shows)

Blues at the Rooster: **The Pszenny Project** May 15

The Boneshakers featuring Randy Jacobs & Jenny Langer:
May 20, Middle C Jazz

Blues Sunday: Open Jam
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts June 7

Jamie McLean Band, Whitewater Center, June 18

Blues at the Rooster: **The Bill Miller Band** June 19

Mac Arnold's 84th Birthday Bash w/ Blues Underground
The Premier in Hickory June 26

Happy Independence Day 250 Years!!

Blues Sunday: Open Jam
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts July 5

Blues at the Rooster: The Ross Osteen Band July 17

Queen City Summer Blues Throwdown
Blues Challenge Aug 2
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Southern Resonance Roots Festival: Sept 13

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

APRIL



Eric Bibb – *One Mississippi*

Repute Records RRCD001

<https://www.ericbibb.com/>

Three-time Grammy nominee Eric Bibb casts a magic spell every time he steps in front of a mic, and the acoustic master is at his best with this 13-song release. It transports listeners into the not-to-distant past and the turbulent present, too, as it calls out for peace, justice and unity in a world shattered by mistrust, misunderstanding and war.

Eric's former high school classmate, Janis Ian, penned the opener of the otherwise all-original set. And he gets all-star backing from Robbie McIntosh (Paul McCartney), Paul Jones (The Blues Band) and a deep roster of other musicians and vocalists who combine to weave tension in every note.

Palpable tunes for troubled times, give a listen to "One Mississippi," "Muddy Waters," "This One Don't," "Didn't I Keep Running," "It's a Good Life," "No Clothes On," "New Window," "If You're Free," "Change," "Waiting on the Sun," "Show Your Love" and "We Got to Find a Way."

Laura Chavez – *My Voice*

Ruf Records RUF 1331

<https://saveit.cc-rufrecords/my-voice>

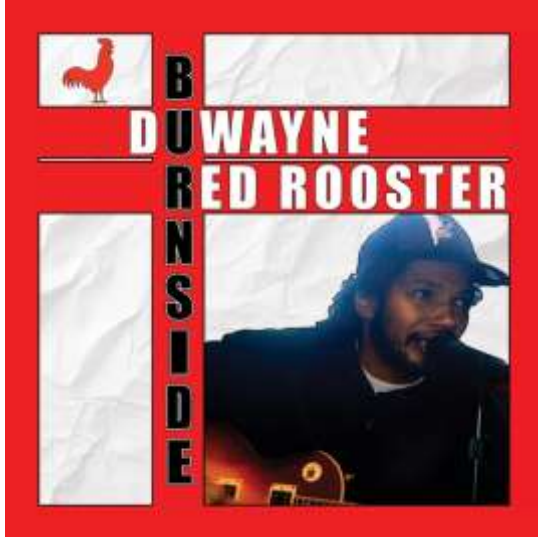


One of the most beloved voices in the blues, guitarist Laura Chavez doesn't sing, but she has plenty to say when she hits her strings. A longtime bandmate of Deborah Coleman, Candye Kane, The Mannish Boys, Vanessa Collier and other top artists, she finally takes center stage herself with this sensational, all-instrumental debut solo release.

The native Southern Californian recorded this one on both sides of the Atlantic aided by Léa Worms on keys with Tomek Germann on bass and Marty Dotson and Dennis Palatin on drums. True blue and honoring Laura's Mexican heritage, too, this one will be under major consideration when next season's awards come around.

Don't miss "Born on the Bayou," "Mind Your Step," "Shot-Zee," "Wanderer," "El Cascabel," "So Long Baby, Goodbye," "Mamba Negra," "Napa Street" and "La Llorona."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



Duwayne Burnside – *Red Rooster*

Lucky 13 Records

www.lucky13records.com

The son of Hill Country legend R.L. Burnside, Duwayne Burnside doesn't get in the studio often for himself – his most recent release was in the mid-2000s. But when he does, he does his daddy proud. That's especially true with this effort, a rhythm-infused disc that conveys the sound of a juke joint and updates it for modern ears.

A partnership between Duwayne, Cody and Luther Dickinson and Squirrel Nut Zippers founder Jimbo Mathus, the mix includes blues, rock and plenty of storytelling, all of which is delivered atop a hypnotic swamp beat. And R.L.'s grandson, Cody Burnside, contributes rap, which fits perfectly, too.

Hypnotic from the jump, you'll enjoy "Nightmare," "Circle in the Sky," "Somebody Done Stole My Girl," "Things Ain't Going My Way," "Talk Sweet to Me," "Tribute," "King," "Down and Out" and "Mississippi Here I Come."



Misty Blues – *Other Side of Blue*

Guitar One Records

www.mistyblues.com

A dynamic organization that fuses blues, funk and jazz, Misty Blues has been scorching stages around the world for more than 20 years. And the quintet, which is based out of the Berkshire Mountains in northwest Massachusetts, don't disappoint on their latest CD. It's a smoking hot, homogeneous effort.

Misty's fronted by Gina Coleman, a powerful alto who doubles on guitar with Seth Fleischmann. They're joined by Aaron Dean on sax and Ron Tatten and Diego Mongue on bass and drums.

Modern, big-city blues at its best, you won't go wrong listening to "I've Got Vices," "Maybe I Could," "Trust Ain't Given," "Easy Peasy," "Three Mississippi's," "You'll Never Feel My Blues," "Carry On This Way," "Saving Grace" and "I Ain't Buying."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



Crystal Shawanda – *Sing Pretty Blues*

New Sun Records

www.crystalshawandamusic.com

A member of the Wikwemikong First Nation and a force of nature, too, Crystal Shawanda possesses the voice of a lioness that cuts the air like honey-dripped glass. She'll take you on a roller-coaster ride of emotion with this set, which deals with love, loss, grief, hope, resilience and healing.

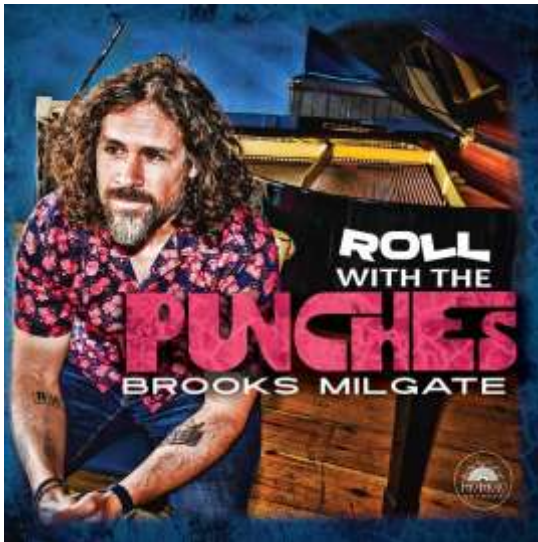
A music award winner in blues as well as country and Aboriginal music, too, she's backed here by guitarist/producer Dewayne Strobel, harp players Stephan Hanner and Steve Marriner and other top North of the Border talents.

Take a bite out of "Preachin' Blues," "Stop Funkin' Me Around," "Sing Pretty Blues," "Don't Let Me Be Lonely," "If That's What It Takes," "Waitin' for My Lover to Call," "Honey Bee," "Too Far to Turn Around" and "Dirty."

Brooks Milgate – *Roll with the Punches*

MoMojo Records

www.brooksmilgate.com



A Worcester, Mass., native now based out of New York, keyboard player/composer Brooks Milgate fell in love with the blues through his parents' love for the Allman Brothers and Southern rock. And he infuses multiple azure elements into this thoroughly contemporary set.

It's a must-listen collection of nine originals and two covers, all of which are backed by an uber-talented lineup that includes Monster Mike Welch and Chris Vitarello on guitar, Mark Earley on sax and Chris Anzalone on drums.

Sweet blues for modern times, tune in to "Cheap Airline," "Best That We Can Do," "I Should've Known," "Interstate Shuffle," "Worry," "Roll with the Punches," "Why'd I Wait So Long," "So Long" and "Blueish Gray."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



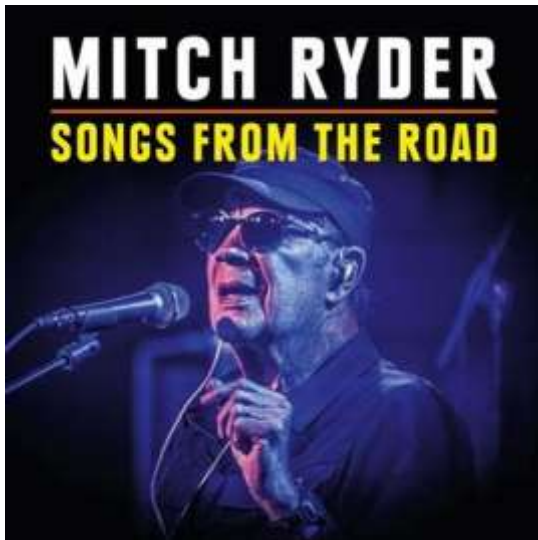
Joe Bonamassa & Friends – B.B. King’s Blues Summit 100

Keeping the Blues Alive Records KTBA 10125

www.jbonamassa.com

B.B. King remains the king of the blues world, and Joe Bonamassa celebrates his 100th birthday in the best way possible with this unbelievably star-studded tribute. Co-produced with his band leader Josh Smith, it’s a labor of love that came about when Joe realized there wasn’t any official event to mark the Beale Street Blues Boy’s centennial.

Joe spent nine months on the project, during which he assembled the biggest names in the industry to deliver 32 of B.B.’s most familiar hits, and the love for the King is palpable in every note. Christone “Kingfish” Ingram, Susan Tedeschi, Buddy Guy, Shemekia Copeland, Bobby Rush, Keb’ Mo’, Eric Gales, George Benson and Gary Clark Jr. are just a few of the artists on board. And don’t miss Warren Haynes, Chris Cain, Ivan Neville, Paul Rodgers, Joanne Shaw Taylor, Dion, Kim Wilson, D.K. Harrell, John Nemeth, Kirk Fletcher and others, too. It’s a masterpiece!



Mitch Ryder – Songs from the Road

Ruf Records RUF 1333

www.mitchryder.net

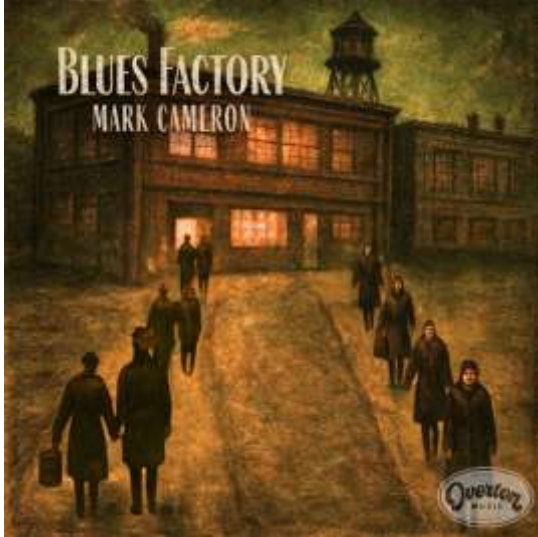
A giant in the rock world since the ’60s, fronting the Detroit Wheels, Mitch Ryder has always had a deep love for the blues, too. Have any doubts? Give this CD/DVD package a spin and listen/see for yourself. Captured live in Berlin in March 2025, it’s a 78-minute, never-over-the-top azure romp that will leave you smiling because it drives steadily true-blue throughout.

His voice is well-worn, but Mitch sings his heart out and delivers some noteworthy advice, too, accompanied by labelmate Laura Chavez and a top-notch German ensemble. Including Léa Worms on keys, it’s led by guitarist Sean Athens with Denis Palatin and Tomek Germann on percussion.

Ride along with “Lilli May,” “All the Fools It Sees,” “Do You Feel Alright,” “Oh What a Night,” “War,” “The Thrill of It All,” “Fly,” “It Wasn’t Me,” “Wrong Hands,” “Soul Kitchen” and “The Artist.”

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



Mark Cameron – *Blues Factory*

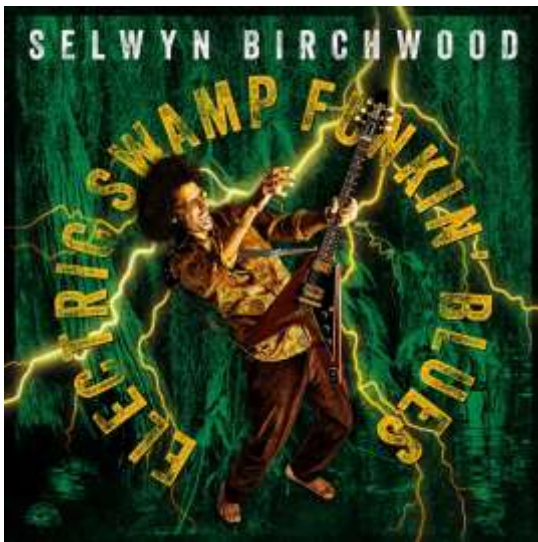
Overton Music OMX 1005

www.markcameronmusic.net

Based out of Minnesota, where he's been delivering catchy, original music since the '70s, guitarist/songwriter Mark Cameron always cooks up inventive material. And he outdoes himself on this spirited collection of ten originals that hit the mark with downhome appeal.

Always funky and never over-the-top, Mark's backed by wife Sheri, a triple threat on sax, flute and percussion, Bill Keyes on harp and Dan Schroeder on drums. They're joined by keyboard player Tommy Barbarella, horn players Shane Cox and Zach Miller and several other talents from the Upper Midwest.

You'll dig "The Wrong Thing," "Too Hot to Boogie," "Blues Factory," "Drink on the Job," "Can't Stand Still," "Change Your Ways," "Friends Like These," "Ain't No Way" and "Below the Bottom."



Selwyn Birchwood – *Electric Swamp Funkin' Blues*

Alligator Records 5029

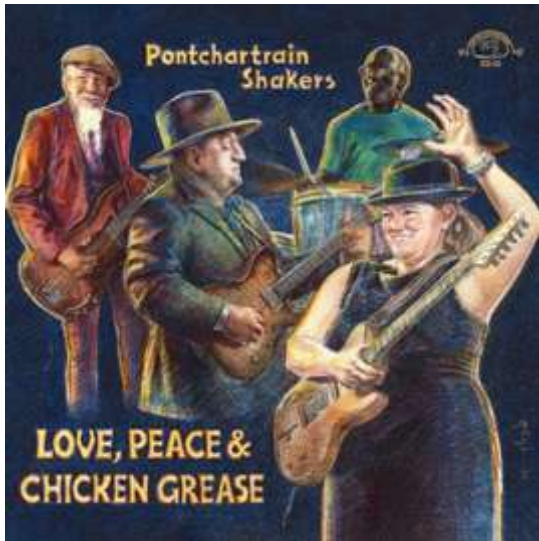
www.selwynbirchwood.com

Based out of Tampa, Fla., and a protégé of legendary guitarist Sonny Rhodes, Selwyn Birchwood simply smoked on his two previous albums, *Exorcist* and *Old School*. But he'll take you to church in and lift your spirits, too, with all-original, self-produced set. Never preachy but always soulful, it's a love letter to the world that delivers a warm embrace from start to finish here.

Recorded by Bob Frank at Baysound Studios in Sarasota, Selwyn's backed by longtime partner Regi Oliver on saxes, Donald "Huff" Wright on bass, Henley Connor III on drums with John Hetherington on keys. Eli Bishop adds violin, cello and viola with Briana Lutzi and Taylor Opie on backing vocals.

Don't miss "Labor of Love," "Damaged Goods," "The Struggle Is Real," "The Church of Electric Swamp Funkin' Blues," "All Hail the Algorithm," "Talking Heads," "Should've Never Gotten Out of Bed," "The Eagle Has Landed" and "Soulmate."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



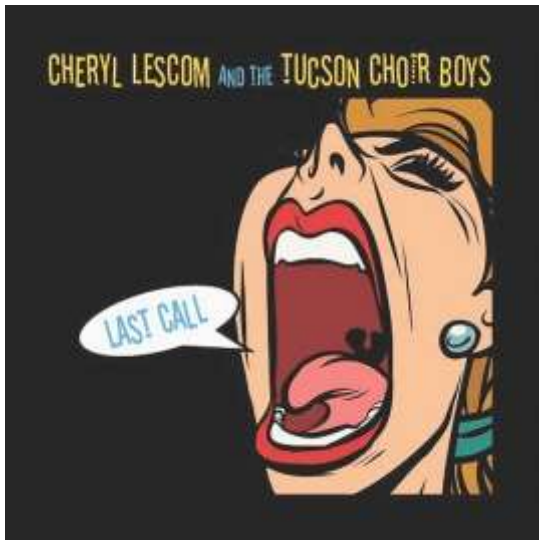
Pontchartrain Shakers – *Love, Peace & Chicken Grease*

Southland Records SCD-53

www.pontchartrainshakers.com

The progeny of guitarist Amadee “The Creole Man” Frederick and cornet player Jamie Wight, two key figures in the creation of New Orleans soul, ex-classmates Amadee “A5” Frederick and Jojjo Wight began performing as kids. And they carry their parents’ musical legacy forward as the Pontchartrain Shakers, consistently laying down a steady beat on Gulf Coast stages. A follow-up to last year’s eponymous debut release, this live-off-the-floor set features A5 and Jojjo on guitars and mics anchored by bassist Red DeVecca and drummer Earl Smith Jr. Both parents make guest appearances along with Heidi Wight and Michael Loupe on horns.

Music that’s sugar-sweet and a tribute to the past, too, sway along to “Sunshine,” “Don’t Ask Me How I’m Doing,” “Lucy May,” “You Amaze Me,” “Going to Kentucky,” “Christmas in New Orleans,” Freight Train,” “You Don’t Miss Your Water” and “Jumper on the Line.”



Cheryl Lescom & the Tucson Choir Boys – *Last Call*

Busted Flat Records

<https://cheryllescomandthetucsonchoirboys.bandcamp.com/>

A Maple Blues Award nominee and window-rattling vocalist, Cheryl Lescom began her career touring across Canada with Ronnie Hawkins and Long John Baldry in ’70s before launching her solo career. And her pipes are as powerful as ever throughout this set.

The seventh disc in her catalog, she’s backed by her longtime band/songwriting partners, the Tucson Choir Boys -- Ray Walsh and Dave the Cat on guitars, Les Graham on bass and Mike Menheere on drums. Kristine Walsh adds washboard. Give a listen to “Better Days,” “Best Friend,” “Evermore,” “Nothing but You,” “Mamas,” “Old Soul,” “Silver and Gold,” “We Ride at Dawn,” “Olivia” and “You Gotta Go.”

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



Jack's Waterfall – *Blue Light Club*

Self-produced CD

www.jackswaterfall.com

A singer/songwriter/keyboard player who's been captivating audiences in metropolitan New York for decades when not serving as an educator, too, Jack Licitra delivers hard-to-define music at the intersection of jazz and blues. And the themes and characters he describes on his latest CD will warm your heart and have you grooving, too.

Jack's a rich tenor who pours his heart out with every phrase he sings. If you love the old-school, small-combo format that filled café society showrooms in the '50s and '60s complete with horns and more, you'll adore this one.

Get hip to "Calling All Angels," "Trading Fours," "The Best Is Yet to Come," "Yeah You Right," "Peace in a Restless World," "Love Be True," "I Need Your Voice," "I Got to Go," "Blue Light Theme" and "Hard Times."



Trudy Lynn – *Turning the Same Ole Corners*

Jus' Blues Records

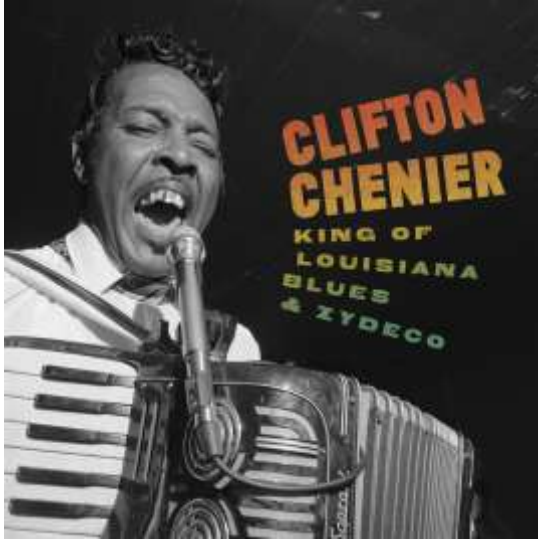
www.trudylynn.com

The undisputed First Lady of Houston Soul, Trudy Lynn's celebrating her upcoming 75th birthday in style with this disc. It's the well-deserved digital release of a set that first saw the light under a different name and in a different format decades ago, and it will definitely keep you up and dancing the night away.

Co-produced by Trudy and Charles Mitchell, the executive director of the Jus' Blues Music Foundation, this silky smooth set includes five of her originals and seven covers. Captured in Atlanta, she's backed by an ensemble that includes Lucky Peterson, who doubles on lead guitar and Hammond B-3 organ. Grab your honey and twirl awhile to "Can't Even Get the Blues No More," "Turning the Same Ole Corners," "Snatching It Back," "If My Pillow Could Talk," "No Deposit No Return," "Helping Hands," "Precious Moments," "Reneged on Me," "Memories of You" and "I Know Why."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



Clifton Chenier – *King of Louisiana Blues & Zydeco*

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

<https://folkways.si.edu/>

There's been no one more important in the music of the Gulf Coast than Clifton Chenier, who transformed a style of music common to dancehalls in South Louisiana called LaLa into the percussive, syncopated styling we know today as zydeco. And Smithsonian Folkways celebrates his 100th birthday with this tribute -- a four-CD/six-LP masterwork.

A compendium that traces his legacy from his early history with the Ecko, Specialty and Chess labels through his rise to superstardom with Arhoolie, this must-have boxed set is packaged with a 160-page book that includes posters, photos and other artifacts from Arhoolie founder Chris Strachwitz's collection along with deep-dive liner notes from superstar son C.J. Chenier and four other authorities.

Take a trip to the bayou and dive into this richly annotated, 67-song set. Shake a tail feather when you do!

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 May 19, 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