

# eBLUESLETTER

Charlotte Blues Society

July 2022

## In this issue

- ◆ A sad farewell to our dear friend Bill Buck, Founding Member of the Charlotte Blues Society.
- ◆ Local and Regional Shows and Festivals
- ◆ Blues Challenge - Oct 2 Bands and Solo/Duo. Winner represents Charlotte at the IBC in Memphis, Jan 2023.
- ◆ Anniversary LOGO Contest
- ◆ Raffle Guitar Update
- ◆ Taste of Charlotte returns to Uptown - A BIG fundraiser for CBS. Volunteers needed to serve beverages
- ◆ Red Hot'n Blues Reviews by Marty Gunther

We had a large time at the June 5 show by The Instigators with the Mighty Fine Blues Jam. Thanks to all who came out and cheered on our musicians. Several of our talented Jammers were young enough to reduce the average age of the party to under 40!

Be sure to tell your friends and family to join us August 7 for our next Mighty Fine Blues Jam with Ron Sheehan.



## REMEMBERING BILL BUCK (FEB. 28, 1960 - JUNE 17, 2022)

We are saddened to announce the death of Bill Buck, co-founder of the Charlotte Blues Society. He passed on Friday, June 17, 2022 at his Charlotte apartment.

Bill was a veteran, a father, a teacher, and a musician. In the early '90s, he was a member of the band, *Tone Deaf James & the Bedrockers*, traveling throughout the "chitlin circuit" including appearances at the King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena, Arkansas. In addition, they would be the back-up band for individual guest artists at CBS meetings. In more recent years, he played with *Nita B & Her Soiree* and as a duo with Nita performing jazz. Bill also taught bass and jazz guitar. He was frequently seen on the Double Door stage playing bass during CBS jams.

The Charlotte Blues Society is proud to sponsor a Memorial Jam in Bill's honor at the end of July.

Proceeds from the Memorial Jam will go to fund a "brick-for-the-blues" at the Blues Hall of Fame to honor Bill.



There will be opportunities for everyone to say, sing, play or pray. Help us celebration his life, **July 31, 2022**.

We hope you will watch for more information on Social Media and save the date. Separate email will follow as well.



Bill Buck playing the Blues Bass at the Double Door Inn, Charlotte, NC.

## UPCOMING BLUES SUNDAYS

JULY 3, 2022

NO SHOW

Enjoy a safe and happy Independence Day weekend.

Hope to see you at one of the many local shows. Keep reading!



AUGUST 7, 2022

MIGHTY FINE BLUES JAM WITH  
RON SHEEHAN

Neighborhood Theatre

511 36<sup>th</sup> St., Charlotte, NC

7PM doors, 7:30PM show



SEPT 4, 2022

MIGHTY FINE BLUES JAM

NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE

511 36<sup>th</sup> St., Charlotte, NC

7PM doors, 7:30PM show



Blues Jam Guidelines are posted to the [www.charlottebluessociety.org](http://www.charlottebluessociety.org) downloads page.

**Sign-up is required at the show. Sign-up EARLY!!! Like when you arrive, mon.**

Oct 2, 2022

Blues Challenge returns. Open to  
Bands and Solo/Duo acts.

Applications open June 15, 2022.

\*IBC [rules](#) apply.

Nov 6, 2022

Stay tuned. We are cooking up some  
blues!

Dec 4, 2022

Christmas Bash with Johnny Burgin

Raffles, Silent Auction, Prizes

Check him out on [YouTube](#)

The Road to Memphis Begins in Charlotte!  
Competition scheduled for Sunday October 2.

Enter as a Solo/Duo or Band.

**CONTESTS!**

Win the Charlotte Blues Challenge and you  
would represent the Charlotte Blues Society in  
Memphis January 2023 at the  
[International Blues Challenge](#).

Download the Entry Form Below.

Pay the \$50 registration fee on line.

**If you are interested in Helping with this Challenge in any capacity, Please contact a board member.**

***The Charlotte Blues Society is searching for  
Blues Bands & Solo/Duo Performers who are  
ready for the stage & their next big break at  
the Charlotte Blues Challenge***



**Sunday October 2**



**Register and rules at  
[Charlottebluessociety.org](http://Charlottebluessociety.org)  
Neighborhood Theater  
511 E. 36th St. Charlotte 28205**



## *International Songwriting Competition*

[International Songwriting Competition | The #1 Song Contest for Songwriters](#)

### **WHAT IS ISC?**

The **International Songwriting Competition (ISC)** is an annual song contest whose mission is to provide the opportunity for both aspiring and established songwriters to have their songs heard in a professional, international arena. ISC is designed to nurture the musical talent of songwriters on all levels and promote excellence in the art of songwriting. Amateur and professional songwriters and musicians from anywhere in the world are invited to participate. ISC has the most prestigious panel of judges of all the songwriting and music contests in the world, offering exposure and the opportunity to have your songs heard by the most influential decision-makers in the music industry.

### **WIN CASH, PRIZES, RECOGNITION, AND EXPOSURE!**

#### **DEADLINE TO ENTER ISC? ISC 2022**

Early Bird Deadline | June 29, 2022 | \$25 per entry

ISC will be running additional special promotions for its 2022 competition providing additional opportunities and the chance to enter until early 2023.

## Logo Contest 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CBS

Submit as many entries as you would like using the submission form on the [web page](#). Students and Artists encouraged!

Get Creative and see your art on our 30th  
Anniversary Merch & Swag!

Contest begins April 1, 2022 and ends February 1, 2023.

**FREE to ENTER**



**RAFFLE GUITAR**  
**Fender Starcaster Strat**  
**with Black Metallic finish**



*Signatures include:*

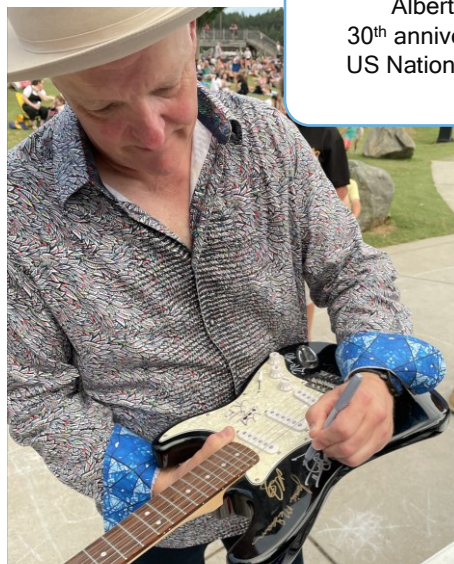
- ◆ Eddie Turner
- ◆ Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
- ◆ Vanessa Collier
- ◆ Laura Chavez
- ◆ Samantha Fish
- ◆ Jamie McLean
- ◆ Albert Cummings
- ◆ Luke Winslow-King
- ◆ Roberto Luti
- ◆ Diane Durrett
- ◆ plenty more to come....

Tickets on sale NOW until April 2023

\$10 each

Purchase online at our website or at a show.

Albert Cummings signs our  
 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Fender Guitar,  
 US National Whitewater Center  
 on June 2, 2022.



Donated by our very own past President,  
 Mary London Szpara.

Are you in the Silk Screen, printing or garment business?

ISO company to help replenish the merch bins. Keeping it Local while Keepin' the Blues Alive

Please contact [CLTBluessociety@gmail.com](mailto:CLTBluessociety@gmail.com) with your referral.

Other Local shows - On-Line Calendar updated frequently

Upcoming Blues Shows at the US National Whitewater Center (whitewater.org) Charlotte, NC

The shows at the Whitewater Center are FREE to all. Parking \$6/car.

Bring your chairs and blankets.

All shows start at 7PM.

Great food and beverages available.

Thursday July 7  
Albert Castiglia

Join the Charlotte Blues Society at the USNWC for a night of Blues Rock with Albert Castiglia



Thursday July 7 at 7:00 PM  
charlottebluessociety.org

Join the Charlotte Blues Society for a night of great blues with award winning guitarist, singer & songwriter Carolyn Wonderland



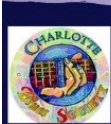
Friday July 8

Doors at 7:00 Show at 8:00

\$22 Advance \$28/DOS



Charlottebluessociety.org



511 E. 36th St. Charlotte NC 28205



Friday July 8 at  
Neighborhood Theatre

Carolyn Wonderland

Join the Charlotte Blues Society for an Evening of hot summer Blues, Rock & Soul with Damon Fowler



Wednesday July 13, 8:00

\$20 Advance \$22.50 DOS



511 E. 36th St, Charlotte 28205



Wednesday July 13 at Neighborhood Theatre

Damon Fowler

**Greenwood SC Blues Cruise  
Festival. 21<sup>st</sup> Annual!  
July 7-9, 2022**

The Blues Cruise is the music component of the South Carolina Festival of Discovery.

[2021 Greenwood Blues Cruise | Uptown Greenwood](#)

**Dr. Mac Arnold's 80th  
Birthday Gratitude  
Celebration**

**Wed. July 20, 2022  
Anderson, SC.**

Tickets at [Eventbrite](#)



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 20TH, 2022  
DOORS AT 5 PM**

COME CELEBRATE THE LEGENDARY BLUES MAN  
**DR. MAC ARNOLD  
& PLATE FULL O BLUES**  
FEATURING A CELEBRITY JAM WITH

BOB MARGOLIN, BOB STROGER, TONY "TC" COLEMAN  
REV. BILLY C WIRTZ, WANDA JOHNSON  
ROGER HURRICANE WILSON, JOE SURVIVAL CARUSO,  
BEAUTIFUL BOBBY BLACKMON, MARK BUMGARNER,  
MARVIN KING, SHEILA ROUNDTREE, TONY RONDOLONE,  
CHUCK BEATTE, JOE JONES, ERIC WEILER, TEZ SHERARD,  
DR LUV BEATS, CRIS BRADY & JAGUAR 4, IKE MADDOX,  
AUSTIN REECE, KENNY DORE & RIVEN ROOTS

GREENVILLE HEAD SHOTS

**TOMMY IS COMING TO  
CHARLOTTE!**

Don't miss B.B. King 2022  
Entertainer of the Year

**TOMMY CASTRO WITH TINSLEY ELLIS**

July 21

at the Neighborhood Theatre.

Tickets at [MaxxMusic](#).  
This show is sure to sell out.



**Tedeschi Trucks Band  
PNC Music Pavilion Sat July 23**



**FABFEST -  
CHARLOTTE'S  
BEATLES  
FESTIVAL  
JULY 22-23, 2022**



FabFest 2022 includes two evening concerts at Knight Theater in Uptown Charlotte:

The Fab Four - 8pm, Friday, July 22

Tosco Music Beatles Tribute - 7:30pm, Saturday, July 23 AND

FabFest Daytime - a full day of live music, memorabilia, speakers and activities 10-5pm, Saturday, July 23 at Central Piedmont Community College



Join the Charlotte Blues Society for a night of great blues/rock with bassist, singer & songwriter  
Danielle Nicole



Saturday July 23 2022  
Doors at 7:00 Show at 8:00  
\$20 Advance/\$22.50 DOS



Charlottebluessociety.org



511 E. 36th St. Charlotte NC 28205



Saturday July 23 at  
Neighborhood Theatre  
Danielle Nicole

Join the Charlotte Blues Society as we present  
the Queen of Blues Rock Guitar  
Joanna Connor



Wednesday July 27 2022  
Doors at 7:00 Show at 8:00  
27.50 Advance/\$30 DOS



Charlottebluessociety.org



511 E. 36th St. Charlotte NC 28205



Wednesday July 27 at Neighborhood  
Theatre  
Joanna Connor

*Taste of Charlotte*

Sept 30 - Oct 2

Truist Field  
(Knights Baseball Stadium)

324 South Mint St.  
Charlotte, 28202



FOOD, FUN, MUSIC for the whole family!

Fri 11am-11pm  
Sat 11am-11pm  
Sun 11am - 4:30pm

www.tasteofcharlotte.com

Volunteers needed to staff the beverage booth. We use this to fund our shows. Food coins will be shared with Volunteers. Multiple 4 hour shifts available.

Contact Flynn Wolfe at  
flynnwolfe@gmail.com

QUEENCITYJAMSESSION.COM  
August 19-21, 2022

Join the Charlotte Blues Society for three days of great music & libations!!



https://www.queencityjamsession.com



2921 N. Tryon St.  
Charlotte NC 28206  
Charlottebluessociety.org



Memberships fuel the music. Please renew or join NOW. Makes a great gift!

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## DAVE WELD & THE IMPERIAL FLAMES - *NIGHTWALK*

DELMARK RECORDS 874

[www.daveweld.com](http://www.daveweld.com)

A fixture in Chicago blues since the mid-'70s, Dave Weld learned his trade at the feet of legendary slide guitar master J.B. Hutto and as a member of the Houserockers, replacing the late Hound Dog Taylor. He absolutely blazes in this set, incorporating 21st century sensibilities and putting a new spin on the West Side sound that's been dominant since the '50s.

Produced by Tom Hambridge, Weld shares vocals and song credits with the dynamic Monica Myhre throughout with backing from a veteran Windy City lineup and guest appearances from harp player Billy Branch and horn players Sax Gordon, Bill McFarland, Kenny Anderson and more.

There are ten not-for-the-faint-of-heart originals and two covers here. Strap up and enjoy "Mary Who," "Don't Ever Change Your Ways," "Don't Tell Mama," "Red Hot Tabasco," "Now She's Gone," "Cry, Cry, Cry," "She Was a Woman" and "Hit by the 103."

## VANESE THOMAS - FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

BLUE HEART RECORDS BHR 025

[www.vaneesethomas.com](http://www.vaneesethomas.com)

Memphis powerhouse Vaneese Thomas outdoes herself on her latest CD, delivering a cross-section of blues, soul, gospel and Americana and joining forces to pen all 12 of the tunes, too, almost all of which focus on the struggles and roadblocks all humans face in a world riled with troubles.

The beats run deep in this star-studded set, which includes contributions from Scott Sherrard (Gregg Allman), Bo Mitchell, the Memphis Horns (Marc Franklin and Kirk Smothers) as well *Letterman* bassist Will Lee and *Saturday Night Live* drummer Shawn Pelton. Vaneese's rich alto has never sounded better.

The highlights abound, including "I Raise the Alarm," "Same Blood Same Bone," "I'm Movin' On," "When I've Had a Few," "Bad Man," "'Til I See You Again," "He's a Winner," "Fight the Good Fight" and "Lost in the Wilderness."

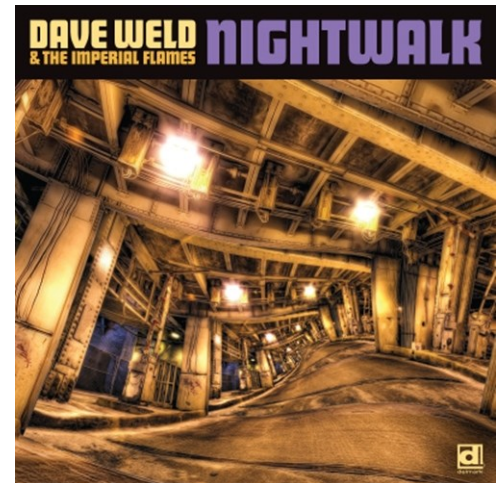
## BRAD ABSHER AND THE SUPERIALS - *TULSA TIME*

HORTON RECORDS

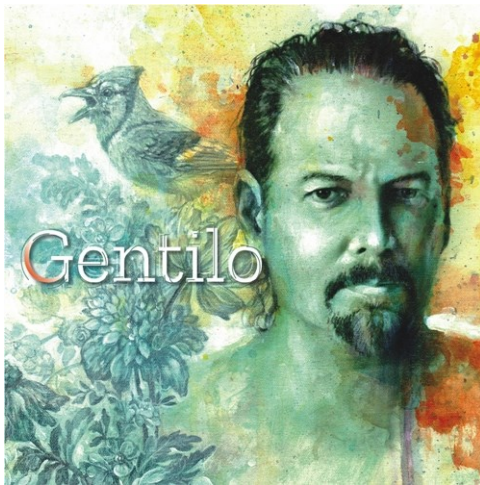
[www.bradabshermusic.com](http://www.bradabshermusic.com)

A former IBC finalist from Tulsa, Okla., honey-toned vocalist/guitarist Brad Absher debuts his new band and returns to his roots with this relaxed set of blue-eyed soul that's imbued with a healthy dose of influences from his former homes in Houston and the Gulf Coast. The eighth album in his career, this one was produced by jazz virtuoso Chris Combs at the famed Paradise Studio, where Leon Russell laid down many of his biggest hits, and delivers everything from horn-backed soul to blues-rock and two-steps that are perfect for grinding on the dance floor.

There's a laid-back treat around every corner. Don't miss the originals "Be the Luv," "Neutral Ground," "As Hard as I Can," "Hard Times," "Should Be Prayin'," "Turn It Up" and a cover of The Iguanas' "So Tired."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



## BOBBY GENTILO - *GENTILO*

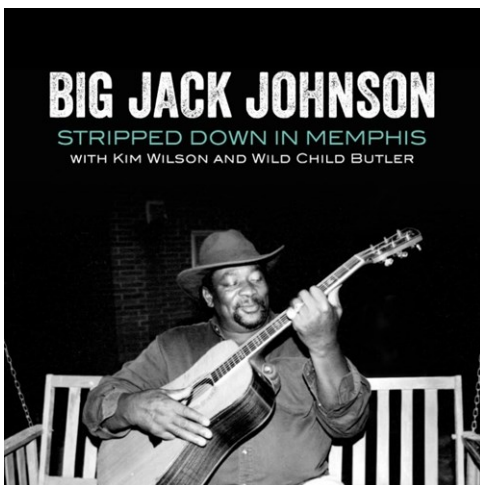
BLUE HEART RECORDS BHR 024

[www.bobbygentilo.com](http://www.bobbygentilo.com)

An award-winning producer/guitarist who spent 15 years in Clarksdale, Miss., as a member of Big Jack Johnson's Cornlickers and in its incarnation as the house band at Red's Lounge after his passing, Bobby Gentilo steps out of the shadows with this debut CD, an interesting mix of Hill Country, funk and soul.

A Washington, D.C., native, Bobby's backed here by members of his own groups, and he recorded in analog at Right Coast Recording in Columbia, Pa., delivering a collection of tunes that are highly danceable and interesting throughout.

A unique and upbeat mix, you'll dig "Disease," which opens with an infectious electronic beat, the trance-blues original "Peace Train," the swinging "Tell Me," "The Greatest," "The Real You," "Treat Me So Mean," "Tire Fire" and "Higher."



## BIG JACK JOHNSON - STRIPPED DOWN IN MEMPHIS

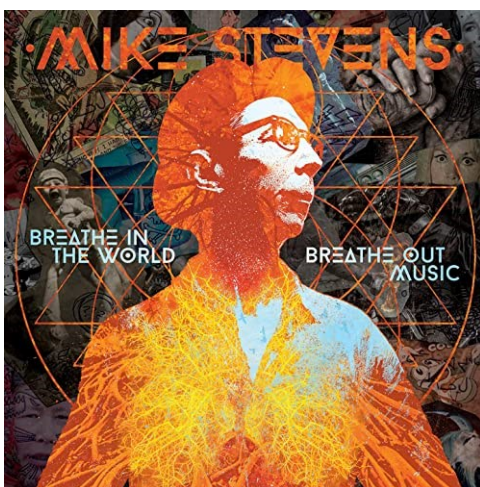
M.C. RECORDS MC-0090

[www.mc-records.com](http://www.mc-records.com)

Nicknamed The Oil Man and one of the most beloved musicians ever to emerge out of the Delta in the modern era, W.C. Handy Award winner Big Jack Johnson died in 2011 at age 70, but joins forces with harp players Kim Wilson and George "Wild Child" Butler and lives again with this set.

The nine songs here was recorded in 1998 and 2000 as outtakes from two previous M.C. releases, *Lickin' Gravy* and *The Memphis Barbecue Sessions*, and they're a welcome, warm, intimate treat. The trio are at the top of their game, and the four Wild Child tracks are all never-before-released original treasures.

Turn back the clock a spell and give a listen to "Baby What You Want Me to Do," "Run Blues Run," "Aching All Over," "Alcohol," "See Me Coming," "Going to Norway," "Part Time Love," "Going to Norway" and "The Hully Gully Twist."



## MIKE STEVENS - BREATHE IN THE WORLD, BREATHE OUT MUSIC

STONY PLAIN RECORDS SPCD1452

[www.mikestevensmusic.com](http://www.mikestevensmusic.com)

One of the most beloved musicians in Canada, the uber-talented harp player Mike Stevens almost lost his ability to walk, think and hold an instrument because of late-stage Lyme disease, but bounces back strong with this interesting mix of blues, roots, country and West African music.

A 35-year music veteran best known in the U.S. through the Grand Ole Opry, where he's made more than 300 appearances, Stevens handles vocals on four tracks along with six instrumentals aided by guitarists Kevin Breit, Jesse Wells and other top North-of-the-Border talents.

The sweet country blues "Like a Little Bird" opens the action. You'll also enjoy "Watermelon Pie," "Grumbling Old Man Grumbling Old Woman," "Bad in a Good Way," "Jesse's Request," "Ida Red," "Devil's Bride" and a wild, rapid-fire reinvention of "Orange Blossom Special."

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## JAY AND THE COOKS - *DRIED UP DREAMS*

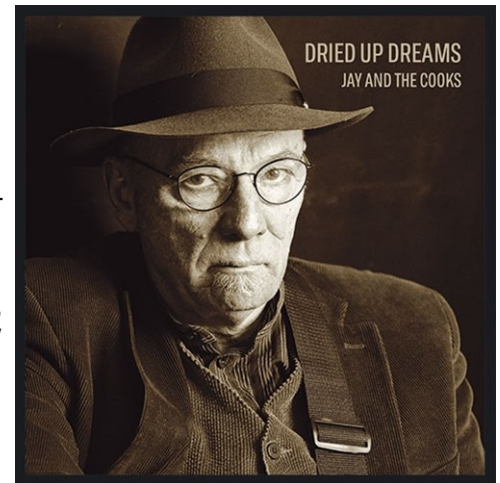
JUSTE UNE TRACE

[www.jayandthecooks.com](http://www.jayandthecooks.com)

Based in France for decades, native Chicagoan Jay Ryan and his band of 60-something expats deliver an hard-to-peg mix of driving blues-rock and roots on their latest CD. With backing from driving drumbeats, fiddle, banjo and more, Ryan delivers thought-provoking lyrics reminiscent of Tom Waits if he added blues to his mix.

A distinctive baritone that'll grow on you despite his limited range, Jay spent years in Austin, where his group served as the first-ever opener at the legendary Continental Club, and New York, where he was a punker. His Cooks' background include service time with Chuck Berry, Percy Sledge, Jeff Healey and more.

If you're looking for something different, this one definitely qualifies. Lend an ear to "Alton McCarver," "Frontline Worker Blues," "Chew the Cud," "Poor Everybody," "Organic Lush," "Dried Up Hearts," "Empty Glass of Love" and "Confederate Son."



## ANGEL FORREST - ANGEL'S 11 VOL. 11

AD LITTERAM RECORDS

[www.angelforrest.ca](http://www.angelforrest.ca)

A seven-time Maple Blues Awards female vocalist of the year, Montreal-based Angel Forrest hit nothing but high notes in 2016 with *Angel's 11*, a concept album that features 11 of top Canadian guitarists. It's a seamless follow-up to a previous release of duets with leading singers across the blues/roots spectrum.

The roster includes 2020 BMA vocalist of the year and former IBC winner Dawn Tyler Watson, the sensational Crystal Schawanda, Brandon Isaak, Harry Manx, Rob Lutes, Ricky Paquette, Kal David and Lauri Bono, Jonas Tomalty and a handful of other heavyweights. Mellow and deeply emotive throughout, give a listen to "Living in Bardo," "Mad River," "Gypsy Heart," "Hope," "Just Enough," "Whiskey & Wonder," "Glitter & Glow" and "Please, Please, Please."



## HENRY KAISER & ROME YAMILOV - *THE LENOIR INVESTIGATION*



## HENRY KAISER & ROME YAMILOV - *THE LENOIR INVESTIGATION*

LITTLE VILLAGE FOUNDATION LVF 1046

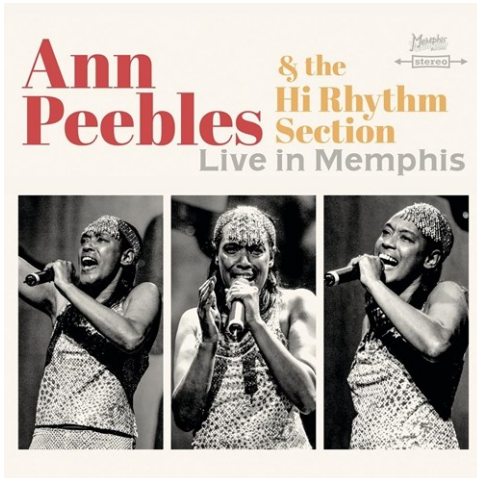
[www.littlevillagefoundation.com](http://www.littlevillagefoundation.com)

Guitarist Henry Kaiser - an ethnomusicologist and composer who's a colossus in freeform jazz, rock and electronica - teams with Russian-born Rome Yamilov - a rising San Francisco fret master - to reinterpret tunes from '50s giant J.B. Lenoir's songbook in a way that they've never been heard before. Despite being light years apart in style, their love for his music '50s makes every track an off-the-wall winner.

The duo put an all-electric spin on Lenoir's country blues. Delivered in English, Russian and Hindi, it's a cross-cultural, highly improvised, sometimes psychedelic treat. Yamilov handles most vocals with backing from Jim Pugh, Kid Andersen, Aki Kumar and June Core. This set will blow your mind. Dial in "The Whale Has Swallowed Me," "People Are Meddlin' in Our Own Affairs," "I Feel So Good," "How Long," "Play a Little While," "God's Word," "What About Your Daughter," "I'll Die Trying" and "Alabama March/Down in Mississippi."

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther



## ANN PEEBLES & THE HI RHYTHM SECTION - LIVE IN MEMPHIS

SELECT-O-HITS/MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL RECORDS MIR 2038

[www.selectohits.com](http://www.selectohits.com)

This disc finally reaches an audience after 30 long years. Captured in February 1992 at the Peabody Hotel, it was supposed to be the first self-produced and funded album by showbiz consulting giant David Less. But the show butted heads with Michael Bolton who packed 18,000 fans into The Pyramid across town, and Less took such a hit because of poor attendance that he never released it.

Fans can rejoice, though, because this teaming of St. Louis-born soul-blues superstar Ann Peebles with the hit-making Hi Rhythm Section - guitarist Thomas Bingham, drummer Howard Grimes and brothers Leroy (bass) and Charles (keys) Hodges -- simply smolders and smokes throughout.

This joyous blast from the past features several of Ann's biggest hits, including "If I Can't See You," "Didn't We Do It," "I Feel Like Breaking Up Somebody's Home," "I'm Gonna Tear Your Playhouse Down," "(You Keep Me) Hangin' On" and "I Can't Stand the Rain." Don't miss this one!



## MICK SIMPSON - THE SLOW BLUES SESSIONS

MAD EARS PRODUCTIONS

[www.micksimpson.co.uk](http://www.micksimpson.co.uk)

A fixture in the UK scene since the '80s, Mick Simpson has flown under the radar in the U.S. despite being one of the most stylish guitarists on the planet whose credits include membership in Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings and creation of songs that have appeared in *Running Man*, *Three Men and a Baby* and other blockbusters.

Mick finally began releasing his own albums in 2010 after 25 years in the business. This tasty, mellow, 11-song compilation captures 58 minutes that encapsulate some of the high points of the four discs he released during the ensuing decade. And his voice shines just like his fretwork.

Rich, contemporary blues devoid of pyrotechnics but infused with class, you'll adore "Love Me Tonight," "You Gotta Change," "When the Sun Goes Down," "Unfinished Business," "Somewhere Down the Line," "Drowning in My Tears," "Promised the Earth" and "Remember."

## KENNY NEAL - STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

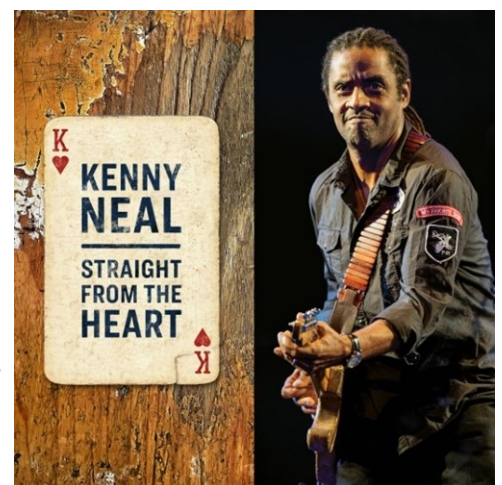
RUF RECORDS RUF 1296

[www.kennyneal.net](http://www.kennyneal.net)

2022 BMA contemporary artist of the year nominee Kenny Neal calls out the big guns for his latest CD, going old-school as he pays homage to the jazz- and soul-infused music that dominated his youth in Baton Rouge, La.

The eldest son of harmonica giant Raful Neal and a member of one of the largest family musical aggregations the world has ever known, Kenny joins forces with Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, Tito Jackson, Rockin' Dopsie Jr. and the Zydeco Twisters, brother Darnell, daughter Syreeta and several other Red Stick talents to produce a rue that cooks from the jump. His first trip back to the studio since the Grammy-nominated *Bloodline* in 2016, it should contend for honors, too.

Rock steady to "Blues Keep Chasing Me," "Mount Up on the Wings of the King" featuring Kingfish, "Two Timing" featuring Tito, "Louise Ana" and "Bon Temps Rouler" featuring the Twisters, "It's Been So Long," "Someone Somewhere," "I've Got to Tell Somebody" and "New Orleans."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

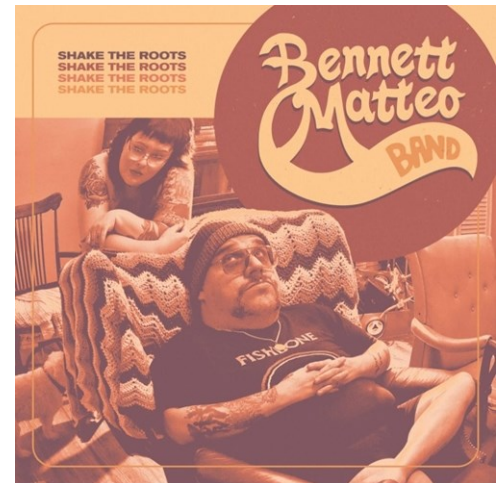
## BENNETT MATTEO BAND - *SHAKE THE ROOTS*

GULF COAST RECORDS GCRX9083

[www.bennettmatteoband.com](http://www.bennettmatteoband.com)

Fronted by world-class guitarist Gino Matteo and his equally talented vocalist wife, Jade Bennett, the Bennett Matteo Band explodes out of the gate with this experimental, all-original mix of contemporary blues, soul and funk.

Recorded and co-produced by Kid Andersen at Greaseland Studios, Jade's wall-rattling alto shines throughout. The duo are backed by an all-star lineup that several regulars from the Little Village Foundation talent pool, including Pugh, Rick Estrin & the Nightcats percussionist Derrick "D'Mar" Martin, Nic Clark and The Sons of the Soul Revivers. Cutting-edge music a the 21st-Century world, tune in to "Doesn't Really Matter," "Shiny Creatures," "Believe in Me," "Paid & Broke," "Warm Inside," "Oh Lord," "Table for Two" and "When I Close My Eyes."



## RANDY MCALLISTER - *POWER WITHOUT POWER*

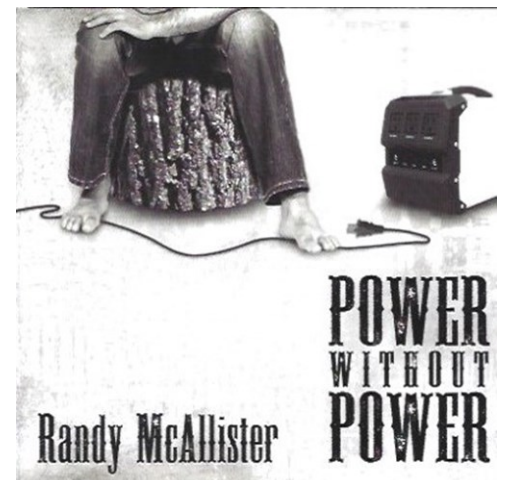
REACTION RECORDS

[www.randymcallister.com](http://www.randymcallister.com)

A melismatic vocalist who apprenticed with harp legend "Earring" George Mayweather, sixth-generation Texan Randy McAllister has been a fixture in the blues since the '90s when he worked with Mike Morgan & the Crawl and Andrew "Jr. Boy" Jones. He simply dazzles in this highly percussive set of acoustic blues.

McAllister is a former Grammy nominee and lifelong drummer, too - something that's apparent here through his rhythmic delivery, which is enhanced by sparse backing from guitarists Brandon Hudspeth (Levee Town/Dustin Arbuckle) and Howard Mahan, who sits in on three cuts.

Ten toe-tapping originals and a single cover, give a listen to "Surprise!!!," "Face First," "Envy's Embrace," "Sweet Spot," "C'mon Brothers and Sisters," "Clear My Head," "Donnie Downer" and "Like Nothin' Else."



## SUGARAY RAYFORD - *IN TOO DEEP*

FORTY BELOW RECORDS FBR 027

[www.sugarayrayford.com](http://www.sugarayrayford.com)

Sugaray Rayford captured a Grammy nomination in 2020 for the CD *Somebody Save Me* and serves up another masterpiece with this one - up ten deep-in-the-pocket grooves checkful of upbeat messages about social justice, civil rights, post-traumatic stress syndrome and more.

A two-time BMA soul-blues male artist of the year, a B.B. King Entertainer of the year and an undeniable force of nature on stage, Suga and his skintight ensemble will have you dancing throughout, but his gritty lyrics shine the brightest on this one.

Top tracks include "Invisible Soldier," "In Too Deep," "No Limit to My Love," "Miss Information," "Please Take My Hand," "Gonna Lift You Up," the love song "Golden Lady of the Canyon" and "United We Stand."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

A member of the CBS board since 2018, Marty Gunther is no stranger to the area or the Blues. A native Rhode Islander who attended App State, his first exposure to the music came through Muddy Waters at Newport in 1960. His complete baptism into the Blues came in 1966 when Howlin' Wolf was crawling across the Newport stage and singing "Moaning at Midnight." A longtime member of the Chicago blues community, where many international stars were close friends, he was taught by harmonica payer Sugar Blue, and co-founded the Nuclebusters, one of the hardest working bands in South Florida, where he resided previously. In addition to writing the "Red Hot 'n Blues Reviews" column and contributing occasional articles, Marty's an in-demand journalist across the Blues spectrum. Senior writer at Blues Blast Magazine, he's also a contributor to The Groove, the monthly newsletter of the Crossroads (Ill.) Blues Society, and his CBS reviews appear regularly in Chicago Blues Guide.

Special thanks to our Blues friends



[FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES CHARLOTTE UPTOWN](#)



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



# Keepin' The Blues Alive

## 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!

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

Thank you!

The CBS Board



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