



Est. 1993

CBS Blues Bash

BLUES NEWS



Sunday
August 7

Doors
7pm



the Full Grown Band
Reunion

DOORS OPEN 7:00
Featured Artist at 8:00
Open Mic Blues Jam 10:00

Charlotte's Home of the Blues



HOSPITALITY TABLE
Bring some goodies
to add to the table!

AUG. 2016
Vol. 23.08

Charlotte Blues Society

www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org

PO Box 32752
Charlotte, NC 28232-2752



CBS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors, and is an affiliated member of The Blues Foundation

MERCHANDISE

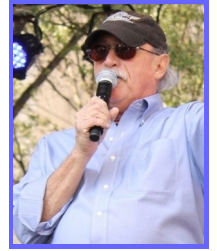
Support the Charlotte Blues Society in style in your Charlotte Blues Society attire. We offer a variety of styles and colors, including short and long sleeved T-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, and hats. Please email CharlotteBluesSociety@aol.com for more information.

Men's Short Sleeve T	\$20
in black, gray, blue	
Men's Long Sleeve T	\$25
in black, gray, blue, light blue	
Men's Polo Shirts	\$40
limited quantities in black,navy	
Women's Short Sleeve T	\$20
(sizes run small!)	
in black, taupe, navy, blue	
Sweatshirts (black)	
zipper down front with Hood	\$40
pullover	\$40
pullover w/out Hood	\$40
zipper down front without Hood	\$50



Hey, Gang.

Things are warming up for the Charlotte Blues Society after taking some time off in July.



Rick Ballew, Pres.

August 7 is our next gathering at the World Famous Double Door Inn and we only have a few more opportunities to meet there, so don't miss any chance to party in that historical place. We are working on a new location for us and we will have one of our Blues Challenges at this venue either in September or October.

There are current Board Members that are ready to retire and we will be holding elections for those positions in November. According to the bylaws we were to rotate off last year but we stayed on because of things we were working on that we didn't want to just drop in anyone's lap — the closing of the Double Door, for example.

I'll let you know in September what positions will be open and we'll update the web page with all of the information.

In the meantime, please join us **August 7** with a Reunion show from **The Full Grown Band** — and help us continue our effort in Keepin' The Blues Alive!

We can't do it without you.

**Autographed
Memphis Guitar**

Tickets Still on Sale ...

**Drawing will be in
December.**

**That gives us several
more months to
accumulate some more
great autographs!**

**Tickets are \$1 each
or 6 for \$5**



CBS Blues Bash This Sunday ... August 7

Reunion Concert by The Full Grown Band



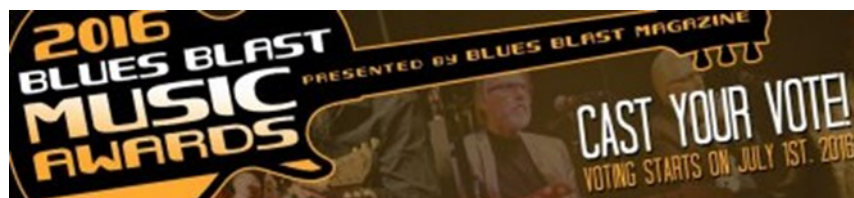
The **Roadshow** band from Rock University performs during the break!

The Roadshow is an elite performance group from Charlotte's Rock University. These young musicians have achieved an intermediate to advanced level on their primary instrument; they also demonstrate a high level of commitment to attending practices -- and learning their parts at RockU as well as independently.

###



Rock University is a music school, independently owned and operated. Rock U specializes in teaching and motivating musicians of all ages through affordable music programs. Performance-band instructors utilize unique teaching methods that are both fun and student-centered. Students will have a blast developing team-building and performance skills as they play with fellow musicians. Once students' performance skills are honed, they can advance into the elite Roadshow group, which is hired to perform all over town in front of hundreds of fans. With the help of our professional and experienced music instructors in guitar, bass guitar, drums, vocals, and keyboards, our students don't just learn in the classroom -- they get the opportunity to perform in a real band on stage at events all around Charlotte. Rock University is also partnered with local organizations recognized by musicians in the Carolinas including the Charlotte Music Awards and the Carolina Entertainment Network.



Voting to determine the winners in Blues music in 12 categories is going on now until **Aug. 15**.
www.bluesblastmagazine.com

Voting is free and open to anyone who is a Blues Blast Magazine subscriber. If you are not currently a subscriber you may vote anyway and your vote will count as you are automatically signed up as a subscriber to our free magazine as part of the voting process. Blues Blast Magazine subscriptions are always free and you may unsubscribe at any time at the bottom of each issue.

~ QUIZ ~

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR ~ BLUES WOMEN ~ ?

1. Discovered by Johnny Otis in the early 1950s, the West Coast girl known as "Peaches" helped transform R&B into Rock 'n' Roll, but her roots always remained in the Blues. In spite of battling numerous demons, including drugs and overeating, she has persevered to become one of America's greatest vocalists and toured up until her death. **Name this diva.**
2. The Blues has its own royalty, from B.B., Albert, and Freddie King to Bessie Smith, who was known as "the Empress of the Blues." As England's Mad King George showed us, royalty and mental instability can go hand in hand. In 1967 the acknowledged "Queen of the Blues" for the past four decades cut a song about losing her mind and getting locked up. **Name the song and the singer.**
3. In the '40s and '50s, the reigning "Queen of the Blues" was a woman who would later go on to huge success with a series of strings-smothered (but tasty) pop tunes. In 1948 she had a straight-ahead blues, "Baby Get Lost," that went to No. 1 on the R&B charts. Many people, however, bought the record just to hear the B side, a hilariously risqué number about "a dentist who's over seven feet tall." **Name that flip side and the woman who sang it.**
4. Most people associate this song exclusively with Janis Joplin, but the original was done by a rough, tough woman who recorded for Houston's Peacock Records in the 1950s. Name that tune.
 - a) "Maybe" b) "Try (Just a Little Bit Harder)" c) "Piece of My Heart"
 - d) "Ball and Chain" e) "Get It While You Can"
5. Born Lizzie Douglas in Algiers, Louisiana, in 1897, she made her first Blues record, "Bumble Bee," in 1929. She would continue to record into the mid-1950s, her biggest hit coming in 1941 with "Me and My Chauffeur Blues." **By what name is she known to the world?**

(Answers on Page 12)



Registration Deadlines:

Regular Deadline — Sept 9, 2016 (\$30 per entry)

Extended Deadline — Nov 4, 2016 (\$35 per entry)

**Love Songs/Pick Your Cause Special Promotion —
Nov 17 - Dec 1, 2016 (\$35 per entry)**

Semi-Finalists announced Feb, 2017

Finalists announced March, 2017

Winners announced April, 2017

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

www.songwritingcompetition.com

Categories include: AAA (Adult Album Alternative), AC (Adult Contemporary), Americana, Blues, Children's Music, Comedy/Novelty, Country, EDM (Electronic Dance Music), Folk/Singer-Songwriter, Christian, Instrumental, Jazz, Latin Music, Lyrics Only, Music Video, Performance, Pop/Top 40, R&B/Hip-Hop, Rock, Teen, World Music, Unpublished, and Unsigned Only. Entrants may submit as many songs as they wish - in the same category or in multiple categories.

In addition to cash and merchandise prizes, winners benefit from a multilateral promotional campaign designed to give international exposure and attention to their songwriting achievements.



Jimmy Thackery (above) and Rusty Barkley, 10-time winner as Best Charlotte Guitarist, sign the guitar



Signatures are still being added! So far: Tommy Castro, Anni Piper, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, Bob Margolin, Eddie Turner, Kenny Passarelli, Bill Szymczyk, Jarekus Singleton, Tab Benoit, Jimmy Thackery, Tinsley Ellis, Rusty Barkley



Blues Society Members and Friends,

Thanks to all of our Charlotte Blues Society members and a few of our friends, we had another successful Taste of Charlotte event this year.

Many of our veterans of the event were back to lend their expertise to the festivities. Once again they proved their dedication to our organization with their hard work. These members always make themselves available when we need volunteers.

Each day went smoothly with Saturday being our busiest day. Friday was off to a good start with water and soft drinks taking the lead during lunch hour and early afternoon, and transitioning to beer and wine sales as the business day gave way to the evening and weekend.

We had fun and worked hard. Some of these fine people worked multiple shifts and days to make this happen. Thanks to the following volunteers:

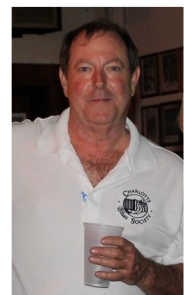


Dick Gilland
 Rene Marie Dubois
 Gail Thomas
 Betsy Norton-Stowe
 Joanie Gardner
 Glen Madera
 Nick Polyzos
 Michael Rothenberg
 Ralph Geddes
 Andy Hahn

Mary Cele Bain
 Scotty Jackson
 Sonny Jackson
 Kaycie Jackson
 Jen Cribs
 Jim Sellers
 Fred Connell
 Vickie Julian
 Rick Ballew
 Travis Issacson

Bruce Ewing
 Nona King
 Bill Scullin
 Bretynn Race
 Rick Kite
 Ray Otstott
 Jo Otstott
 Rick Kausch
 Mary Ann Braun
 Cathy Barnhardt
 Marcy Yancey Dunlap

*Flynn Wolf
 TOC Coordinator*



The disease that could end Eric Clapton's career: why musicians fear peripheral neuropathy

Earlier in June, Eric Clapton revealed the name of the condition which could spell the end of his musical career: peripheral neuropathy.

"I've had quite a lot of pain over the last year," the guitarist told Classic Rock magazine. "You feel like you have electric shocks going down your leg." The condition, which affects nerves in the body's extremities and can cause numbness, shooting pains and loss of coordination, is making it hard for him to play.

Clapton is not the only famous musician to have had the condition — Dave Ball (Procol Harem), Andy Fraser (Free), Keith Emerson (Emerson Lake & Palmer)



[New Orleans, 2014]

As Clapton's neuropathy is in his legs, rather than his hands, it is unlikely that the condition was directly caused by his guitar-playing; the condition could have been brought on by his alcohol consumption, rather than any physical injury.

Clapton's health has been a source of concern for several years. He cancelled a string of concerts in 2013, citing "extreme back pain." The following year, he said he was "looking at retirement," as he could no longer handle the strain of touring: "The road has become unbearable," he told Uncut. "I don't want to go off the boil to the point where I'm embarrassing myself."

"It might be that I can't [keep playing], if it hurts too much," he added. "I have odd ailments."

However, Clapton has no plans to stop recording.

Earlier this month, The Sun reported that he recently been in the studio with The Rolling Stones, recording two tracks for their next album.

"I can still play," he told Classic Rock magazine. "I mean, it's hard work sometimes, the physical side of it - just getting old, man, is hard. I don't know how I survived - the Seventies especially. There was one point there where they were flying me to hospital... and I was *dying*, apparently - I had three ulcers and one of them was bleeding. I was drinking three bottles of brandy and taking handfuls of codeine, and I was close to checking out. It's amazing that I'm still here, really."

Source: T. F. Saunders, www.telegraph.co.uk (6/13/16)

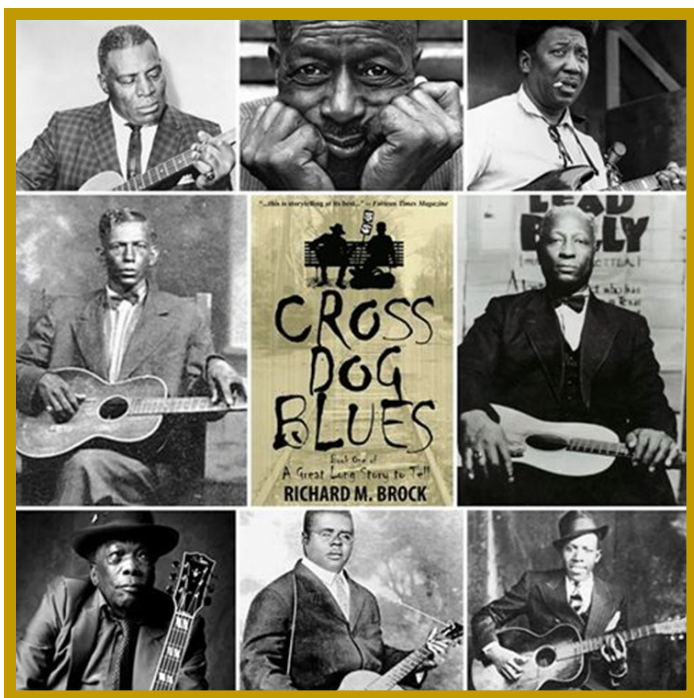
New York Auction House to Sell 1,000 Treasures From the Late, Great King of the Blues

Guernsey's will be conducting a totally unreserved auction of a thousand of B.B. King's most treasured possessions. With the first Lucille believed destroyed more than half a century ago, the only Lucilles ever to be sold will be the three in this auction – also stage jackets and other attire, passports, jewelry, honors and awards. Devoted fans were known to send Mr. King all sorts of gifts including many fascinating portraits of the man. Those, as well as atmospheric photography and rare vintage posters are very much included in this event.



B.B. King, of course, was known for his music and so it would be hard to imagine his collection not containing volumes of hand-written sheet music, lyrics and guitar exercises the artist used when practicing throughout his career

Above is just a small sampling of items to be found in this once-in-a-lifetime unreserved Auction. **To view the entire collection** and learn the details and dates for the Preview exhibition at Gibson and the Auction, please contact Guernsey's or visit www.guernseys.com. To get directly in on the bidding, go to liveauctioneers.com, invaluable.com or proxibid.com, the three bidding platforms where the auction is being conducted.



CROSS DOG BLUES: Book One of A Great Long Story to Tell

by Richard M. Brock

With the rambling pioneers of blues music leading an unforgettable cast of characters, this raw, rousing, and adventurous breakout novel delivers a breathtaking view of life, livin', love and hate in America in the 20th century, and the mysterious beginnings of the music that provided the soundtrack for it all...THE BLUES.

"...poignant...insightful..." -- Kirkus Reviews

"...this is storytelling at its best..." -- Fortean Times Magazine

****Amazon Best Seller in Historical Fiction****

****International #1 Best Seller in Amazon Blues****

4.8 of 5 Stars average reader review

Kindle: \$3.99 / Paperback: \$13.95

US: amazon.com/dp/0991132025



Multiple titles on sale including some fantastic DVDs from Albert Collins, B.B. King, Roy Buchanan, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, John Lee Hooker, Freddie King, Otis Rush, Eric Clapton, Stevie Ray Vaughan, The Rolling Stones, Robert Cray, and many more!

www.alligator.com



Tommy Z — Blizzard of Blues

This CD mixes post-war electric blues with blues-rock, funk, and cool jazz blues into a perfect storm. He's is an artist who puts that soulful blues feeling into all the different styles he plays



Jeff Chaz — Sounds Like The Blues To Me

Jeff's unique style of blues incorporates the style of Memphis combined with the mixture of New Orleans rhythms. "It's Memphis barbecue meeting up with New Orleans gumbo."



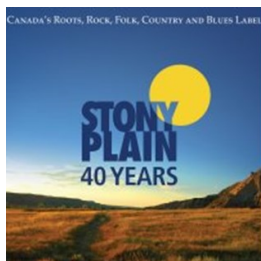
Mark Cameron — Playin' Rough

A CD that features a range of Blues from front porch slide to funky up tempo blues. It's rough-around-the-edges blues ... the way it was meant to be.



Stoney Plain 40 Years

Stoney Plain Records has released a special 3-CD set to celebrate their 40th year as Canada's premier roots music label. The 47-song package includes cuts from its illustrious history of albums, as well as a complete disc of rarities and previously unreleased tracks.



www.stoneyplainrecords.com

Charlotte's Home of the Blues



UPCOMING BLUES/ROOTS MUSIC

Showtime

Sun., 8/7 (8:00) **ANGIE RICKARD & The FULL GROWN BAND ~ Reunion** (\$5 Non-Mbrs) **CBS Blues Bash**

Also, Roadshow — young musicians from Rock University

Fri., 8/19 (9:00) **HENRY RIVER HONEY (with Timothy Pepper)** (\$10)

Deep and dusty Blues, Americana, Bluegras with a heaping helping of heaven — the only way to accurately describe the sound that comes from these singer-songwriters. Shealee and Tracy both have a burning passion to move people with their performance.

Sat., 8/20 (9:30) **SUE FOLEY BAND** (\$12 / \$15)

Multi-award-winning musician and one of the finest Blues/Roots artists working today. When she's not recording or performing internationally, Foley is a Professor of Music, with a specialty in teaching courses related to the roots of American music, creativity, entrepreneurship, and empowering women musicians.

Sat., 8/27 (9:00) **STOLEN HEARTS (with Rhonda Robichaux)** (\$7 / \$10)

Robert Johnson and Pam Taylor — together, this Blues and Southern Soul infused duo have been wowing crowds with their infectious original spin on American Blues and Roots music. Also performing is Rhonda Robichaux, tapping into her swampy New Orleans roots with a mix of Blues, Swing, Jazz, and rock classics and originals. Robichaux and her band competed in the 2013 IBCs in Memphis.

COMING:

- Bill Miller Band - Sept. 2
- Sean Chambers Band - Sept. 10
- Anni Piper - Sept. 22
- Eleanore Tallie - Oct. 5
- The Nighthawks - Oct. 14
- Tommy Castro & The Painkillers - Oct. 27
- Patrick Sweany - Oct. 28

Check for new bookings at
www.doubledoorinn.com

Charlotte Landmark Series (Facebook Post)

The people of Charlotte who love this old club should be speaking out, the Charlotte Landmark Commission should be stepping in, we should be voicing our concern that Charlotte has already lost most of its history in the name of progress. The Double Door should absolutely 100% be saved, preserved, and cherished — somehow.

Show your support at

<https://www.change.org/p/central-piedmont-community-college...>



If Marie were here, she'd be pitching in to support The Double Door Inn (one of her favorite music and dancing hangouts!).

She will be missed.

Marie Rink

Aug. 18, 1947 - June 10, 2016

CHARLOTTE MEDIA VETERANS JOIN FORCES TO PRODUCE A DOCUMENTARY DVD ABOUT THE DOUBLE DOOR INN

Live from The Double Door Inn

Charlotte, NC, August 1, 2016– In a vibrant, ever-changing city like Charlotte, North Carolina, there are establishments that keep us grounded, like roots placed firmly in the dirt. The Double Door Inn is one such place.

Charlotte's Home of the Blues since 1973, the club has hosted many stars on its intimate stage throughout its 43 years. Eric Clapton performed here to an audience of fewer than 100 people in June of 1982. Stevie Ray Vaughan played in October of 1979.

In 1994, the Blues Foundation (formerly the W.C. Handy Awards) named The Double Door Inn Club of the Year, for their work to keep the Blues alive. In 2002, the Avett Brothers recorded their second album, *Live at The Double Door Inn*. A decade later, they were performing at the Grammy Awards.

Countless bands in the region owe their start to brothers, Nick and Matt Karres, and The Double Door Inn. For every Buddy Guy, Steve Earle, John Hammond and Koko Taylor who graced the intimate stage at DDI, there are a dozen Lou Fords, Federal Bureaus of Rock & Roll, and Rank Outsiders; local and regional bands who played weekday nights regularly and developed loyal fan bases at the only place in town that offered live music seven days a week.

Chances are if you live in Charlotte and are a fan of Zydeco music or Ska music; Americana or even Reggae; you saw it performed first at The Double Door Inn. There are countless Double Door Inn tales of first-dates, celebrity sightings, guest musicians, careers launched, and at least one wedding held there. But like so many other live music venues in our fair city—such as Kidnapper's, The Pterodactyl Club and Tremont Music Hall—The Double Door Inn will soon go silent.

The good news, unlike many of the aforementioned clubs, is that there is still time to keep the music alive at The Double Door Inn, if only for five months or so; as the official closing date is January 2nd, 2017. Some remarkable musicians are already booked to revisit The Double Door stage and others will be announced soon.

With that in mind, four longtime Charlotte residents are partnering to produce the "official" documentary about the fans, the staff, and the performers that have made The Double Door Inn a Charlotte Institution. With an endorsement from club owner Nick Karres, Kim Brattain, multiple Emmy award-winning journalists and longtime anchorwoman at WSOC; with business partner Rick Fitts at Kim Brattain Media, a previous producer at WTVI; Chuck Bludsworth, president and creative director at Civilized Films; and Jay Ahuja, author, concert enthusiast, and veteran of local print media, radio and TV, have already started recording interviews and performances to "show and tell" this important story.

A Kickstarter campaign to crowdfund and produce a keepsake Blu-Ray DVD preserving the performances and memories of Charlotte's legendary home of the Blues in 1080 HD launched today at

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/172392859/live-from-the-double-door-inn-a-documentary>.

While we may not be able to spare The Double Door Inn from the wrecking ball, we can certainly make sure it's not soon forgotten.

#

For details on how this project will chronicle the history of this one-of-a-kind music room, please contact Chelsea Engle of Kim Brattain Media at chelsea@kimbrattain.com.



Levon Helm, 2000. Photo shared with permission from and copyrighted by Daniel Coston



Offering authentic Jazz, authentic Blues, and authentic New Orleans Food.

www.blunotes.com

3435 David Cox Road, Charlotte, NC

704-910-1996

Check website for performance updates, menus, and drink specials!

NEW WEEKLY SCHEDULE BELOW

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS	SUNDAYS
Closed	Karaoke 6:00pm	Open Mic & Auditions 7:00PM	Soulful Thursday (Various Artists) 7:00pm	Straight-ahead Jazz (Various Artists) 7:00pm	Live Music on the Patio <u>1:00-4:00</u> Blues & Grooves 7:00pm	3rd Sunday Latin Jazz 6:00-9:00pm



2016 Dilworth Jubilee

Saturday, August 27

Latta Park ~ 3PM - 9PM

601 E. Park Ave, Charlotte

Join us for food, drinks and fun

Live entertainment from
Tosco Music Party!

Beer and wine from
Foxcroft Wine Co.,
Olde Mecklenburg Brewery,
Sycamore Brewing, and
Triple C Brewing Co.

Food trucks from
Dilworth restaurants



Davy Knowles

Thursday, August 11

US National Whitewater Center

Former Back Door Slam frontman Davy Knowles is back out touring in support of his latest studio album "The Outsider."

"... blues is the music I first fell in love with, and I have always connected deeply with it. I enjoy all facets of the genre, from the earliest field recordings, to the more recent guitar gods that electrified and supercharged this music. It's from all along this timeline that I like to draw influence from."

Thursday, Aug. 11 ~ 7PM - 10PM

Belmont Abbey College Island

Free—Open to the Public—Rain or Shine

<http://usnwc.org/davy-knowles/>



The Charlotte Folk Society opens its 2016-2017 Gathering Series on **Friday, August 12th** with **The Snyder Family Band**

Free Concert at 7:30 PM in the beautiful listening room of the Great Aunt Stella Center (926 Elizabeth Avenue)

Doors open at 7 PM. This concert is presented in partnership with Charlotte Community Radio.



Samantha and Zeb Snyder are startlingly gifted siblings whose trio is rounded out with dad, Bud Snyder, who holds down a rock solid upright bass rhythm. Based in the bluegrass tradition, they mix in elements of Southern rock, blues, gospel, Texas swing, and newgrass.



2nd Annual Old Town Cornelius Jazz Fest

Saturday, August 20

Smithville Park ~ 4PM - 9PM

A FREE festival featuring some of the area's most earthy, soulful, unpredictable improvisers on one stage!

In addition to the music, there's a Food Truck Court, Local Craft Brews from D9 Brewing Co., Silent Auction, Local Artisans, and a Kid Zone.

More in Old Town Cornelius ...

2nd Friday Street Festival

August 12 ~ 6PM - 10PM

Oak Street Mill, Old Town Cornelius

Fabulous lineup of entertainment including local bands, performance groups, live art demonstrations!

Local business will be offering special sales and incentives to event guests!

Variety of food & drinks!

"One Stop Shopping" at www.maxxmusic.com

Concert Listings and Links for:

**The Double Door Inn Neighborhood Theater
Visulite Theater The Evening Muse
NC Blumenthal Performing Arts Center**



20th annual CAROLINA DOWNHOME BLUES FESTIVAL

Thursday-Saturday, October 6-8, Camden, SC

This small-town, Southern culture blues club crawl is shaping up to be another memorable weekend for blues fans in the Southeast. Camden, only a few miles outside of the capital of Columbia, SC, is South Carolina's oldest inland city.

**Enjoy great live blues day & night, all intimate venues,
the way the blues was meant to be heard!**

An affordable all-access wristband per day or all-weekend pass is all you will need.

Info being updated constantly at www.fineartscenter.org

Keep checking for the full line-up and schedule!

Only 1½ hours from Charlotte — I-77 South, then SC-97 South



4th Annual International Blues Music Day—August 6, 2016

International Blues Music Day brings together communities, schools, artists, historians, academics, and blues enthusiasts all over the world to celebrate and learn about blues and its roots, future and impact; raise awareness of the need for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding; and reinforce international cooperation and communication.

Each year on the first Saturday of August, this internationally practiced art form is recognized for promoting peace, dialogue among cultures, diversity, and respect for human rights and human dignity, eradicating discrimination, promoting freedom of expression, fostering gender equality, and reinforcing the role of youth for social change. International Blues Music Day is the culmination of the Blues Festival Season which draws public attention to Blues and its extraordinary heritage.

IBMD History: *On August 17, 2011 an online petition was launched advocating for the establishment of an **International Blues Music Day**. Within a few months the petition-group was joined by thousands of members from around the world, comprising of blues enthusiasts, musicians, celebrities, and promoters. After reaching 15,000 members, a formula for an annual date to celebrate IBMD was established as the **first Saturday in August** of each year with the inaugural celebration on August 3, 2013. The initiative was the brainchild of world renowned blues musician Johnny Childs who also stars in the film *The Junkman's Son* and serves as the President of the NYC Blues Society. The IBMD organization and the NYC Blues Society are the lead nonprofit organizations charged with planning, promoting and producing this annual celebration.*

~ Blues Women Quiz Answers ~

1. Born Jamesetta Hawkins in 1938, Etta James has proven herself at home with a variety of musical styles. Her first big hit came in 1954 with "Roll With Me, Henry," followed the next year by another R&B rave-up, "Good Rockin' Daddy." More success followed with ballads like "All I Could Do Was Cry," "Stop the Wedding," and then the two-sided hit "Tell Mama/I'd Rather Go Blind," recorded in Muscle Shoals. Her career was derailed by drug addiction in the mid-'60s and again in the early '70s, before she finally got off dope, a harrowing tale told in her autobiography, *Rage to Survive*. Things began to really turn around in 1988 when she recorded *Seven Year Itch*, the first of several well-received discs for Island Records. Their success freed her to try her hand at contemporary funk, jazz, and old-school torch songs — then later releases reaffirmed her dedication to the Blues. [By 2010 she had to cancel concerts due to her gradually failing health after it was revealed that she was suffering from dementia and leukemia. In November 2011, James released her final album, *The Dreamer*. She died January 20, 2012, just five days before her 74th birthday.]
2. "Insane Asylum." Koko Taylor (born Cora Walton) grew up on a Tennessee farm and came to Chicago when she was 18. She made a living cleaning houses while testing her vocal chops in South Side clubs. Songwriter Willie Dixon heard her perform and became Koko's patron saint at Chess Records, where he wrote and produced her biggest hit, "Wang Dang Doodle." His fingerprints, along with his voice, are all over "Insane." This little passion play is a sort of demented "St. James Infirmary" with a happy ending. Dixon goes out to the asylum, finds his baby there, and asks her what's up with that. Taylor shrieks that without his love, she'd rather hang there, but he can let her be his slave and save her from an early grave. He decides that's cool and off they go into the Thorazine sunset.
3. Dinah Washington (born Ruth Jones) was in her early 20s when she recorded "Long John," a little dental ditty concerning a woman who goes to her dentist about a toothache and is told not to worry, that her cavity just needs filling. His technique must be pretty good, because afterward she exclaims to him how "you thrill me when you drill me." In 1954 she "scored" again with "Big Long Sliding Thing," which was, of course, about a trombone player. Despite her mastery of blues, pop, jazz, and R&B idioms, Dinah's short life was filled with turmoil. She died in 1963 at the age of 39. Her resume included dozens of hit records, along with a steady stream of alcohol and pills, the combination that eventually killed her. She was married seven times, the last to pro football star Dick "Night Train" Lane.
4. (d) "Ball and Chain." Willie May "Big Mama" Thornton left her Alabama home at 14 to pursue her muse. She eventually landed in Houston, where she became a key component of Don Robey's stable of artists. She made her biggest splash in 1953 with "Hound Dog," only to see it eclipsed by Elvis Presley's rockabilly version a year later. "Ball and Chain" had long been a part of Big Mama's repertoire after she moved to the West Coast in the late '50s, but she didn't put it down on record until a 1968 session for Arhoolie Records. Thornton actually did not seem displeased when Joplin covered the tune, since it gave a big bump to both their careers. A decade later cancer had whittled her ample frame to a shell of itself; she died in Los Angeles in 1984.
5. Memphis Minnie was paid the ultimate compliment by other blues players — that she could "play guitar like a man" — and was considered by most of her contemporaries to be the greatest of all women blues singers. Unlike most of the "classic" blues women of the 1920s who came out of the vaudeville/music hall tradition, Minnie's blues came straight from the country. She toured the South singing with Ringling Brothers Circus before settling in Memphis, where she caught the ear of a Columbia Records talent scout. Minnie's first recordings were with guitarist (and first husband) Kansas Joe McCoy, with whom she lit off for Chicago in 1930. She would later marry Little Son Joe, another bluesman, who accompanied her on "Me and My Chauffeur." She recorded for Okeh, Vocalion, Bluebird, JOB, and Checker in her lengthy career. After suffering a stroke, she died nearly penniless in 1973.