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- And so much more.....

Members watch for your discount codes by separate email



# ALBERT CASTIGLIA BAND MARCH 30 ANNIVERSARY SHOW

Join your Charlotte Blues Society for our 32nd anniversary celebration as we present an evening of Blues, Rock & Soul with the one & only

**ALBERT CASTIGLIA**

*Sunday  
March  
30*



**BARREL  
ARTS**

Doors at 6:30 Show at 7:30  
tix \$25 at:  
[Ubmeevents.com](http://Ubmeevents.com)

**CHARLOTTE  
Blues Society**

1030 Woodward Ave. Charlotte, NC 28206

We are very excited to present Albert Castiglia Band for our 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary show. With a new album release, Blues award nominations, sold out tours, you don't want to miss this one. [Tix](#) \$25 on sale now. [HOME | Albert Castiglia Band](#)



Feb. 2, 2025 Blues Sunday.

Join us for the **Ross Osteen Band** followed by an open Blues Jam with leader CBSO.

Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts. [Tickets](#) on sale now. Doors at 5:30. Show at 6. Tickets \$15. Jammers are no charge. Full Backline provided. Sign up at door ONLY!

**WE WILL HAVE BLUES JAMS ON MARCH 2, APRIL 6 AND MAY 4.**

DejaBlues is a local group of blues loving musicians lead by John Kunkel on Bass. David Whitaker, Sr. on guitar/vocals, Patterson Campbell on drums, Graves Upchurch on guitar/vocals. Contact [jbassplayer2021@gmail.com](mailto:jbassplayer2021@gmail.com); 704-608-5698





# **With heavy hearts we must share the loss of Hendrix "Hooter" Hough**

**June 28, 1953 - January 10, 2025**

**Charlotte, North Carolina - Hendrix Barry "Hooter" Hough passed away peacefully on January 10, 2025, with his beloved son Richard by his side. Born on June 28, 1953, in Charlotte, NC, Hendrix was the cherished son of Ogburn M. Hough, Sr. and Mary Lee Hendrix Hough.**

**From a young age, Hendrix developed a passion for music, sparked by listening to rock and roll records and beating rhythms on a toy drum. He carried this passion throughout his life, attending school in Lancaster, SC, and graduating from Lancaster High School.**

**After high school, Hendrix pursued his love for music as a drummer, playing with multiple bands. He worked a variety of jobs to support his musical dreams, demonstrating a dedication and drive admired by all who knew him. Later in life, Hendrix turned his focus to the technical side of the music industry, becoming a skilled sound engineer at a Charlotte music venue. Hendrix's talent, coupled with his warm and generous nature, earned him a wide circle of friends and deep respect within the local music community. He was admired not only for his musical abilities but also for his kindness, humor, and authenticity as a human being.**

**Hendrix is survived by his loving son, Richard Hough of Richmond, VA, his brother, Ogburn M. Hough, Jr. of High Point, NC, a niece, a nephew, as well as many devoted friends who will forever cherish his memory.**

**Hendrix Barry "Hooter" Hough will be remembered for his unwavering love of music, his compassionate spirit, and the joy he brought to those around him. May he rest in peace.**

**[Smokey Joe's Café](#) is holding a memorial for Hooter on Sunday Feb. 2, 2025 at 5PM.**



## MTV is releasing ERIC CLAPTON UNPLUGGED...OVER 30 YEARS LATER



MTV UNPLUGGED is available to stream on [Paramount+](#) beginning Wednesday, February 12, 2025 in the U.S. and globally.

Considered one of the most iconic installments of the MTV Unplugged series, 18x GRAMMY® Award-winner Eric Clapton originally recorded his unforgettable performance of ERIC CLAPTON UNPLUGGED in 1992 at Bray Studios in Windsor, England. In this all-new extended, remixed and remastered edition, ERIC CLAPTON UNPLUGGED...OVER 30 YEARS LATER will feature never-before-seen interviews of Clapton discussing the inspiration behind specific songs with the crew just before he took the stage, seamlessly integrated with the performance footage.

# BB KING Poster Raffle tickets

Get your raffle tickets while they last! Only a few of the 100 left!

This is an authentic, vintage play bill from April 1, 1995;

Signed by BB King himself

Framed and ready to hang on your Music memorabilia wall.

**FUNDRAISING RAFFLE** [www.charlottebluessociety.com](http://www.charlottebluessociety.com)

**CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY**

**Vintage B.B. King Playbill**  
from  
April 1, 1995  
State Theatre  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Autographed  
and Framed

**Only 100 tickets to be sold.**  
\$20 each  
Available online  
and at our  
events.  
Need not be  
present to win.

**BB King**  
The King of the Blues  
with special guest Bobby "Blue" Bland

**STATE THEATRE**





# Raffle Guitar April 2024-March 2025

**RAFFLE GUITAR SIGNATURES** include: Christone “Kingfish” Ingram, Dylan Triplett, Joanne Shaw Taylor, Ally Venable, Coco Montoya, Ghalia Volt, The Nighthawks, Zach Sweeney, Albert Cummings, GA-20, Anthony Geraci band, Mac Arnold, Kersi Joli, Curtis Salgado, Alan Hager, Chris O’Leary, Walter Trout, DK Harrell, Boneshakers’ Randy Jacobs, Nemo, Jontavious Willis, James Hunter, Larry McCray, Jamie McLean, Mike Zito, Shelby Kemp, Eddie 9V & more.

Tickets on sale at our shows, events, and online \$10/each. Drawing on **March 30, 2025** at our Anniversary show. Need not be present to win.

This G&L S-500 guitar was donated by Vera Guitar.

VERA Guitars

10420 John Price Road Suite F

Charlotte NC 28273

704-343-5670

[info@veraguitars.com](mailto:info@veraguitars.com)

Its so full, we had to take  
the strings off



## RISING TALENT

These young men are Keeping the Blues Alive.

♥ Watch the [Blues Rock Show](#) with [Taj Farrant](#) on YouTube

THEN GO SEE HIM IN  
ASHEVILLE.

**TAJ FARRANT:** "CHAPTER  
ONE" ALBUM RELEASE  
TOUR AT THE  
GREY EAGLE MUSIC HALL,  
ASHEVILLE FEBRUARY 23,  
2025 8PM  
HE IS 15 YRS OLD



♥ **Give a listen to Charlotte's own Anthony Vasquez**  
**new EP release. Available from his [linktree](#) here.**

You may remember the AV Duo, Alex & Anthony's set at our 2023 30<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary party. Well they grow up fast folks and the music is flowing.

♥ **Alex J. Wolfe**, a frequent CBS Jammer has released  
his debut EP "Ain't Hard to Satisfy". It's available on all the  
platforms; here is the [Spotify link](#).



For Merch or memberships please go our website,  
Patches now available

<https://charlottebluessociety.org/shop%2Fstore>



Interested in a new Blues Jam forming in NoDa on Wednesday evenings? We hope to kick this off in early Feb. 2025

It will be at JackBeagle's NoDa location

3213 N. Davidson St., Charlotte, NC, 28205  
(704) 334-1540 Backline provided. All ages until 9PM



*Thanks for helping to Keep the Blues Alive!*

**Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of NC Presents**



**Mr. Sipp**  
**Mississippi Blues**  
**Child**

**Grammy Award Winning Blues Artist**

**\$35**

**Eventbrite.com**

**May 3 2025 Greenville NC Convention Center**  
**May 4 2025 Hickory NC Convention Center**

Save the Date for Mr. Sipp in Hickory, NC. May 4, 6-9:30PM.

There will be an opening act.

Easy parking and a fantastic cause.

Tix at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

<https://www.pffpnc.org/>



Help us fund raise while enjoying yummy Krispy Kreme donuts. When you purchase your doughnuts using our fundraising sales page. \$14 per dozen!! Check it out here:

<https://grouprai.se/krispykreme52456sa>

Digital coupon to use when ever you are hungry!



## Keeping the Music Alive Drive update:

We have received several cash donations, multiple basses and guitars, and have purchased a bass and a guitar amp. Keep it going!



The Charlotte Blues Society is pleased to announce our "Keeping the Music Alive" drive in co-operation with VFW 1160. If you or anyone you know has music instruments or equipment that are not actively making music, we would appreciate you giving it a new life and earning a tax deduction!

### Contact:

**Ken Deery**      **CBS Board member**      **980.322.1821**

**Dennis Savage**      **VFW 1160 Board member**      **909.266.5119**

Drop off location is VFW 1160, 2831 The Plaza, Charlotte, NC 28205

A [GOFUNDME](#) has been created as well.





# International Blues Challenge Results

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE'S TOP SELECTIONS FOR 2025!



Our Charlotte Blues Challengers for 2025:

Band: *Datrian & the Family Tree*  
 Duo: *Cory Luetjen & the Traveling Blues Band*  
 Youth: *Jackson Slater*  
 Self Produced CD: The Pszeny Project - *Smokey Bourbon*

## BAND DIVISION

Winner: Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal  
 2nd Place Band: Ra'Shad The Blues Band  
 3rd Place Band: Dylan Salfer Band

## SOLO/DUO DIVISION

Winner: Joce Reyome  
 2nd Place: 2 Blues for You

## BEST GUITAR AWARD

Winner: Dylan Salfer

## MEMPHIS CIGAR BOX GUITAR AWARD (BEST SOLO/DUO GUITARIST)

Winner: Nic Charles

## LEE OSKAR HARMONICA AWARD (BEST HARMONICA PLAYER)

Winner: Jock Webb Sr.

## BEST SELF-PRODUCED CD

Winner: Piper & The Hard Times  
 – *Revelation*

★*Cory Luetjen & the Traveling Blues Band* were selected as finalists in this steep competition while the Family Tree made it to the semi-finals. We are so proud of all our challengers! Here are some links if you want to check them out, buy some music or merch. Please 'like' and 'follow' these rising stars.

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

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

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

[https://www.instagram.com/guitar\\_Slater\\_official](https://www.instagram.com/guitar_Slater_official)

We plan to open registration for this fall's challenge in late June. Watch for the announcement.

*Got any ideas for future shows?*

*Please let us know at [CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com)*

*Or post to the [Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.charlottebluessociety.org).*

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

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

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

Who did we miss? Send us your personal favorite to [cltbluessociety@gmail.com](mailto:cltbluessociety@gmail.com)

## Help us save our history.

Thinking about donating your CBS memorabilia to the University of North Carolina Charlotte, [J. Murrey Atkins Library Archives & Rare Book](#) collection?

If you are unsure, the Curator, Dawn Schmitz, is available to discuss your questions and concerns either in person or by phone.



We have entered into an agreement to Gift our archived materials to their Archives collection. Both physical and digital items are desired; all items will be preserved and

catalogued. They will be made accessible for research. Many will be digitized.

If you have items you want to donate, please contact [Bonnie Spalding](#). We are able to do this over time. Time to clean out that file cabinet, dust off the old photos and feel JOY! Remember your kids won't care.

*Old T Shirts or other apparel, recordings, tapes, CDs, Videos, photographs (or scans); old newsletter copies, posters, business documents, IBC related materials, oral histories and the like.*

## Get Involved!

### Secretary needed!

Want to be on the board of directors? Help in other ways?  
Volunteers needed for Committees, the Executive Board, Blues  
in the Schools and Newsletter content.

**Save the dates for the Blues Sunday events.**

**Watch for your member only discount by email.**

**First Sunday of the Month**

**All events at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts**

**Feb 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1**

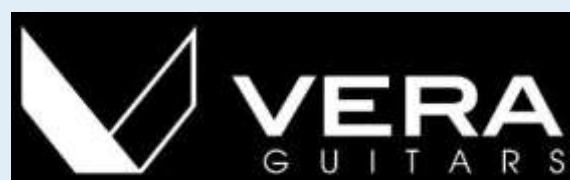


**Spring into  
Daylight  
Savings with  
Blues Music**

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



# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BLUES FRIENDS



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



Alberto Morales

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## EDDIE 9VOLT - *SARATOGA*

RUF RECORDS RUF 1315

[www.eddie9volt.com](http://www.eddie9volt.com)

Possessing one of the most distinctive and soulful voices in the blues world, Eddie 9Volt – aka Brooks Mason – simply exploded onto the scene out of his native Georgia a few years ago. And he delivers his best set yet with this fiery mix of Southern soul, blues, funk and more.

Recorded in Atlanta and Denver, Colo., Eddie handles vocals, guitar and percussion, alternating from full-band alignments to small combos. Family members Lane Kelly and Chad Mason are in the lineup along with about 20 other talents. Don't miss this one!

Give a listen to "Saratoga," "Halo," "Love Moves Slow," "Cry Like a River," "Delta," "Wasp Weather," "Truckee," "Love You All the Way Down," "Chamber of Reflections" and "The Road to Nowhere."



## CORKY SIEGEL - CORKY SIEGEL'S SYMPHONIC BLUES NO. 6

DAENSERLY RECORDS 4305

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

A master harp and keyboard player, Corky Siegel has lived at the cutting edge of the entertainment industry since the '60s, working with Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters and other giants while composing works that fuse blues with classical music in a way never heard before. And he delivers an instant masterpiece with this disc, taking the concept to a level it's never reached before.

Chockful of azure phrases that will appeal to even the staunchest blues fan, this is his first full-symphony effort since two highly successful albums with conductor Seiji Ozawa and the San Francisco Symphony in the '70s. It was originally commissioned by conductor Stephen Gunzenhauser of the Lancaster (Pa.) Symphony. It finds its way to disc as a celebration of Corky's 80th birthday.

Accompanying the work are three other bluesy elements that feature tabla giant Kalyan Pathak, Siegel's Chamber Blues group and violinist Dr. Jaime Gorgojo. Making things even more special is a spoken-word piece in which Corky details his journey.

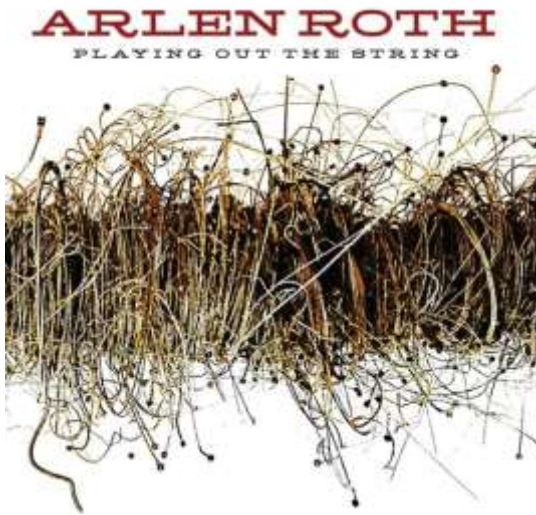


# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## ARLEN ROTH - PLAYING OUT THE STRING

AQUINNAH RECORDS AQ-202403

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



One of the foremost guitarists in the world, Arlen Roth's previous release, the all-electric *Super Soul Session*, teamed him with bass legend Jerry Jemmott and spent 55 consecutive weeks in the Top Five of soul charts in 2023. He changes the pace with this one, going acoustic in a soulful set that still delivers plenty of warmth certain to take away the winter chill. It's a dynamic cross-section of stylings – everything from blues to folk and more -- and includes covers taken from the songbooks of Gus Cannon, Roy Orbison, Norman Blake, Townes Van Zandt, Allen Toussaint and Blind Blake with an original to spice things up, too. Give a spin to "Walk Right In," "Church Street," "Randall Collins," "Gonna Move Across the River," "Pancho and Lefty," "You Can't Do That Stuff No More," "Java," "Diddy Wah Diddy" and "Play Out the String."

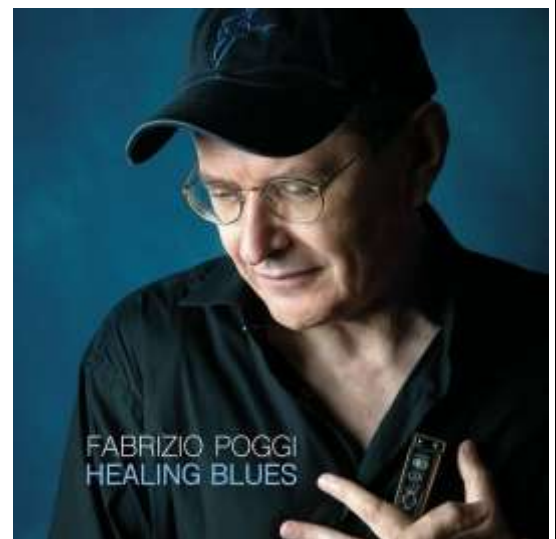
## FABRIZIO POGGI - HEALING BLUES

APPALOOSA RECORDS

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

Recently knighted by the Italian government, harp player Fabrizio Poggi is an international treasure who's worked with dozens of American talents. And he hits a home run with this intimate, soothing disc. A mix of tunes from his archives and fresh tunes recorded for last year's Record Store Day, it's a continuation of his Basement Blues series, and it'll definitely warm your heart.

This one features the voice of Shar White, who's worked alongside Eric Clapton for decades, as well as Guy Davis, Fabrizio's partner for the Grammy-nominated *Sonny & Brownie's Last Train*, and guitarist Enrico Polverari. Music for the soul, you'll enjoy "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me," "Pilgrim," "Song for Angelina," "You Gotta Move," "Amazing Grace," "Walk On," "Mr. Slowhand," "The Blues Is Alright" and "Every Life Matters."



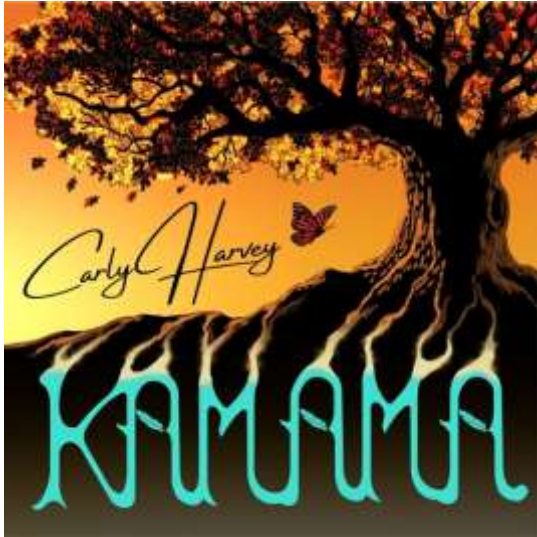


# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## CARLY HARVEY - *KAMAMA*

SELF-PRODUCED CD

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



Based out of Washington, D.C., where she's the undisputed queen of the local blues scene, Carly Harvey makes her full-length recording debut with this deeply personal, hard-to-define set. Sharing both African-American and Indigenous roots, she fuses and transports both cultures back to their roots while delivering a contemporary mix of blues, funk, jazz and Indigenous elements.

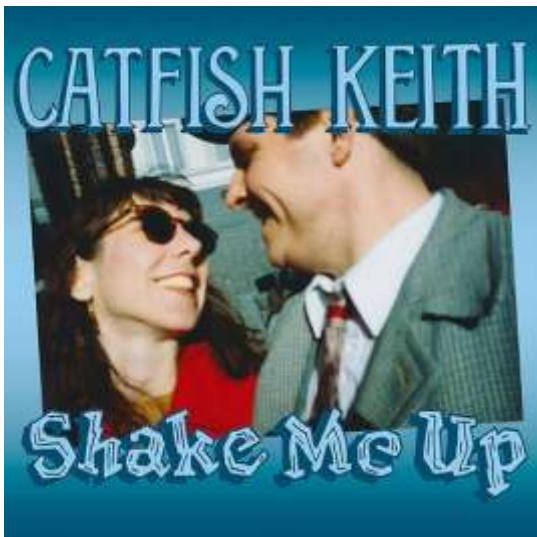
The all-original effort was co-produced with Mark Kenneth Williams and is chockful of pentatonic melodies common to the lullabies, flute music and dances of her Eastern Band Tsalagi and Tuscarora ancestry and rhythms firmly based in the Delta. Joe Louis Walker, Annika Chambers-DesLauriers and Dave Keller make guest appearances.

You'll enjoy "Native Scat," "Mean Old Woman," "Misery," "She Ain't Me," "Let Me Go," "Take Your Love," "Kamama," "Human Too" and "Worth Waiting For."

## CATFISH KEITH - *SHAKE ME UP*

FISH TAIL RECORDS FTRCD0022

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



A frequent Grammy and BMA award nominee, Iowa-based Catfish Keith is a beloved practitioner of the songster tradition, putting his own sensational spin on a mix stylings, seamlessly blending a hypnotic mix of country blues, ragtime and gospel along with originals that fit hand-and-glove with musicians who worked a century ago.

He's at the absolute top of his game with this solo effort. His picking technique on National Reso-Phonic and other six-strings is hypnotic. This 14-tune set breathes new life into several long-forgotten pre-War treasures along with other tunes obscured by time, but still worth the listen.

Tune in to "My Only Little Darlin' One," "Rolling Log Blues," "Go, I Will Send Thee," "Fuss & Fight," "Sleep Baby Sleep," "Who Pumped the Wind in My Doughnut," "Mother's Last Words to Her Son" "Diddy Wah Diddy" and "There Will Be a Happy Meeting."

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## GILES ROBSON & JOHN PRIMER - *TEN CHICAGO BLUES CLASSICS*

BLUES HOUSE PRODUCTIONS

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

You expect something special when you team the top traditional harp player in Europe with a hall-of-fame guitarist from the U.S. And that's what you get with this set, which brings together reed master Giles Robson and Chicago treasure John Primer. It's an energetic tribute to Windy City sound of the '50s and '60s, and it will go down as one of the best albums of the year.

Giles and John met for the first time during a U.K. in 2023, but their delivery sounds as if they've been playing together all their lives. Robson handles vocals on seven of the ten tracks, all of which have a full-band feel despite working as a duet. Don't miss "Blow Wind Blow," "My Babe," "Rollin' Stone," "Juke," "Let Me Explain," "Long Distance Call," "Dealing with the Devil," "Bad Boy" and "Last Night."



## MAC ARNOLD & PLATE FULL *O'BLUES - ON A MISSION*

SELF-PRODUCED CD

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

An enduring artist whose career began with James Brown, includes a long stint as bassist for Muddy Waters and seven years as a producer on Soul Train, Mac Arnold has shunned the spotlight by farming back home in South Carolina for decades. But he still cooks with gas on this set, which plows a thick groove throughout.

Shining on vocals with his well-worn tenor as well as his trademark gas-can guitars, Mac is backed by guitarist Austin Brashier, harp, bass and keyboard player Max Hightower and a rhythm section composed of drummer Rick Latham and bassist Mark Gardner.

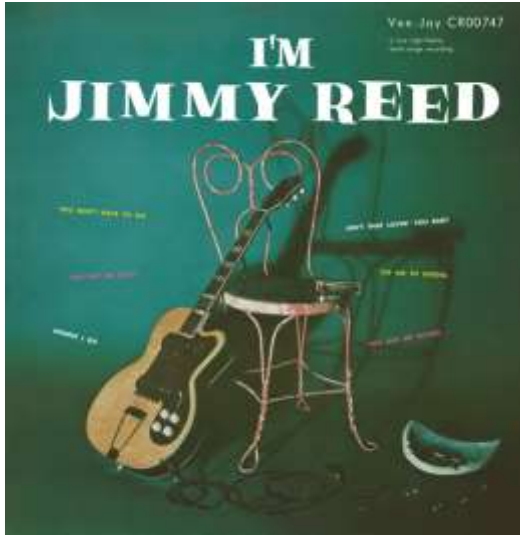
You'll enjoy "Blues All Over You," "Dance the Blues Away," "I Am the Blues," "Love Story," "On a Mission," "Slider," "Swamps of Louisiana" and "Won't Tell the Truth."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## JIMMY REED - I'M JIMMY REED

CRAFT RECORDINGS CR00747

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

Guitarist/harp player Jimmy Reed was the best-selling bluesman in the world in the '50s and for good reason. His simple but distinctive sound stood out from the crowd through its visceral feel and lyrics that spoke directly to issues faced by common man.

A welcome reissue from Craft Recordings, this one first hit the market on Vee-Jay in 1958. Despite its age, however, the tunes ring just as true today as they did then. Top talents in the lineup include guitarists Eddie King, John Littlejohn, John Brim and Albert King, who sat in on drums, too. Choice cuts include "Honest I Do," "Boogie in the Dark," "You Got Me Crying," "Ain't That Lovin' You Baby," "You Got Me Dizzy," "Can't Stand to See You Go," "You're Something Else" and "You Don't Have to Go."

## EVA CARBONI - *BLUES SIREN*

MAD EARS PRODUCTIONS MEPCD024

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

Born on the Italian island of Sardinia but a woman who studied at the esteemed Vocal Power Academy in Los Angeles, Eva Carboni is a blues siren and more. A powerful but honeyed alto, she's already a sensation around the world, and she'll captivate you, too, with this mix of blues, jazz and rock.

Directed by British producer/songwriter Andy Littlefield, this is Eva's third CD. She's backed here by several top UK talents, including keyboard player Vic Martin (Gary Moore) and bandleader/guitarists Mick Simpson and Rene Lacko. Tune in to "Walking a Tightrope," "Slow Road to Redemption," "Another Blues Song," "Meant to Be," "Blues Siren," "Don't Get in My Way," "I've Paid My Dues," "Alive and Breathing" and "Falling Apart Again."





# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

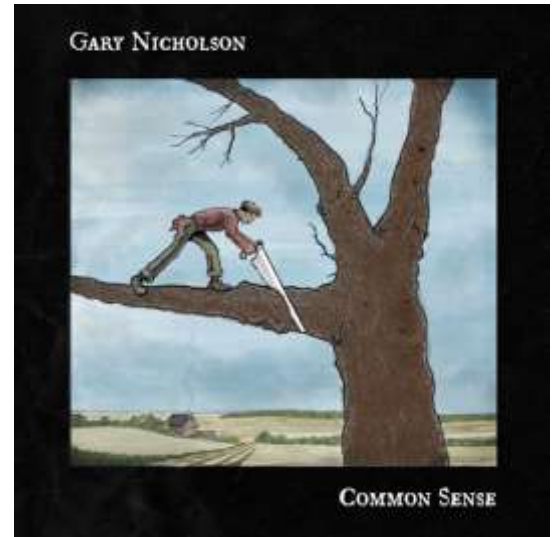
## GARY NICHOLSON - *COMMON SENSE*

QUALIFIED RECORDS

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

A Grammy-winning songwriter across the blues/Americana spectrum, Nashville-based Gary Nicholson doesn't make many albums. But when he does, it's always worth a listen. And that's the case with this disc, which delivers a message of peace and understanding in a troubled, divided world. Gary's penned hits for everyone from Willie Nelson to B.B. King, and he calls out the big guns here. The lineup includes appearances from Rick Vito, Anson Funderburgh, Kevin and Yates McKendree, Colin Linden, Tony Braunagel and the late Mike Finnigan.

"What a Little Love Can Do" sets the tone. And lend an ear to "The Truth About a Lie," "Make Good Trouble," "We Don't Talk About It," "Follow the Money," "Worry B. Gone," "All That Makes Me Happy Is the Blues," "Common Sense," "Woody's Dream" and "There's No Them."

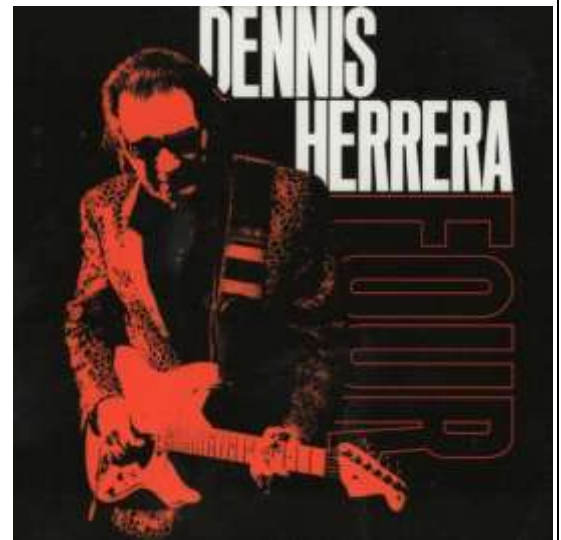


## DENNIS HERRERA - *FOUR*

DEEP GROOVE RECORDS

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

If you're a fan of deep-in-the-pocket blues, you'll adore this set from guitar slinger Dennis Herrera. Based in San Jose, Calif., he cut his teeth in the smoldering Bay Area scene when the Fillmore West, Avalon Ballroom and Winterland were kicking out the grooves, and he learned his lessons well. Dennis possesses a stinging single-note attack that fuses West Coast, Texas and the Windy City. And his partner-in-crime, Rich Wenzel, provides a perfect fit on keys. Add a skintight rhythm section, horns and an appearance from Anson Funderburgh and you've got a treat. You'll bop along to "Can You Feel It," "All Said and Done," "Blues and Roll," "Insta Groove," "It's All Too Much," "Lazy," "All This Time," "Mean Ole Texas Shuffle" and "You Stole My Heart."

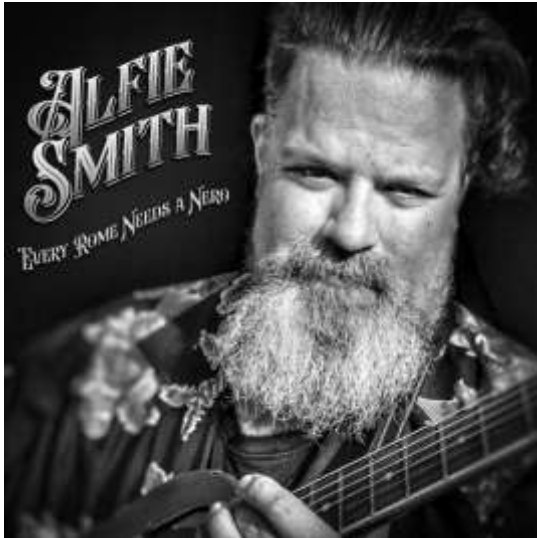


# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## ALFIE SMITH - EVERY ROME NEEDS A NERO

SELF-PRODUCED CD

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



A smoky but sweet baritone who's been a fixture in the Ontario blues and folk scene for decades, Hamilton-based Alfie Smith hasn't released an album in a decade, but returns to the studio in style with this disc. It's a muscular set that features deeply personal and autobiographical tunes along with some mellow tunes too.

Alfie's voice is the star here in varying arrangements that include contributions from keyboard player Jesse O'Brien (Colin James) and several other talents from Eastern Canada.

Laid back and warm, you'll enjoy "Every Rome Needs a Nero," "East End Girl," "All the Blues I Need," "Sweet Persephone," "Time Is a Rocketship," "Mule," "Stupid Fool," "Blue Fire" and "Bird on a Wire."

## BLUES PEOPLE - *THE SKIN I'M IN*

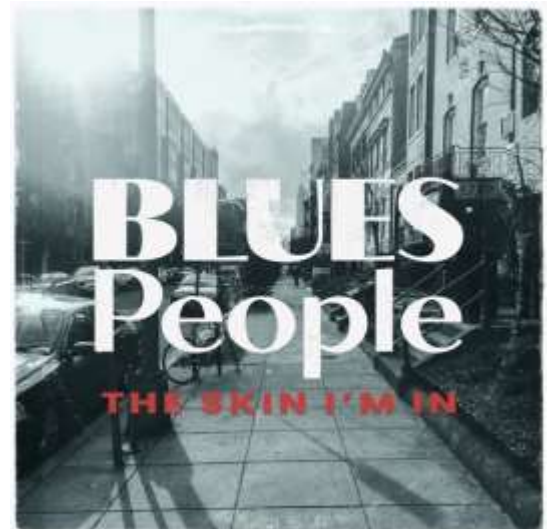
SELF-PRODUCED CD

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

Lead singer/guitarist Kelton Cooper and bassist Mike Griot have been friends in bands in the New York metropolitan area for more than 40 years while working with Kool & the Gang, Sue Foley, Lauryn Hill, Michael Hill's Blues Mob and others. But they finally join forces in a spectacular way as BLUES People with this debut CD.

Cooper and Griot started writing tunes together during the pandemic along with another friend, drummer Gene Lake (David Sandborn/Josh Smith). They team with keyboard player Ron Thompson and hit the streets running with this all-original set.

Contemporary big-city blues at its best, you'll enjoy "Amnesia," "The Skin I'm In," "I Was Always There," "Troubled Times," "Blues Interlude," "Smoke & Mirrors," "Nuthin' Really" and "Knee Off My Neck."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## MISSISSIPPI MACDONALD - *I GOT WHAT YOU NEED*

AMP RECORDS

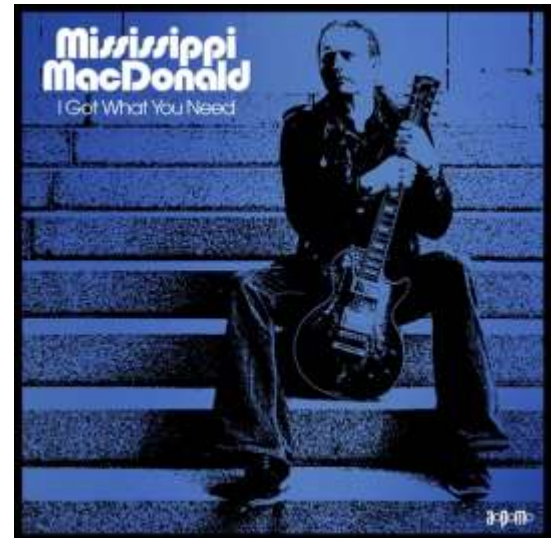
[www.mississippimacdonald.com](http://www.mississippimacdonald.com)

Born in London, Oliver "Mississippi" MacDonald may have been emersed in Brit pop as a child, but he's one of the deepest, true-blue and soulful artists in Europe today. A two-time UK Blues Award winner, he absolutely shines here, delivering stinging single-note runs on six-string while delivering vocals in a honeyed style that would make his forebears in Memphis smile.

His skintight backing unit features Phil Dearing on keys and second guitar, Elliott Boughen on bass and Jim Kimberley on drums with Lucy Randall providing backing vocals.

Combined, they shine as brightly as he does.

Don't miss "I Got What You Need," "We're Gonna Make It," "3:35 AM," "Hard Luck and Trouble," "Soul City One," "If I Could Only Hear My Mother Pray Again" and "Your Dreams."



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

Look out for and listen [to WSGE 91.7fm](#) 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







# RECORDING ACADEMY® GRAMMY AWARDS

Nominations have been released for the 2025 Grammy Awards to be held Sunday, February 2, 2025.

See the list of nominees in the blues categories below.

## **BEST CONTEMPORARY BLUES ALBUM**

***Blues Deluxe Vol. 2*** — Joe Bonamassa  
***Blame It On Eve*** — Shemekia Copeland  
***Friendlytown*** — Steve Cropper & The Midnight Hour  
***Mileage*** — Ruthie Foster  
***The Fury*** — Antonio Vergara

## **BEST TRADITIONAL BLUES ALBUM**

***Hill Country Love*** — Cedric Burnside  
***Struck Down*** — The Fabulous Thunderbirds  
***One Guitar Woman*** — Sue Foley  
***Sam's Place*** — Little Feat  
***Swingin' Live at The Church in Tulsa*** — The Taj Mahal Sextet

## **BEST AMERICANA ROOTS PERFORMANCE**

**"Blame It On Eve"** — Shemekia Copeland  
**"Nothing In Rambling"** — The Fabulous Thunderbirds Featuring Bonnie Raitt, Keb' Mo', Taj Mahal & Mick Fleetwood  
**"Lighthouse"** — Sierra Ferrell  
**"The Ballad Of Sally Anne"** — Rhiannon Giddens

## **BEST AMERICAN ROOTS SONG**

**"Ahead Of The Game"** — Mark Knopfler, songwriter (Mark Knopfler)  
**"All In Good Time"** — Sam Beam, songwriter (Iron & Wine Featuring Fiona Apple)  
**"All My Friends"** — Aoife O'Donovan, songwriter (Aoife O'Donovan)  
**"American Dreaming"** — Sierra Ferrell & Melody Walker, songwriters (Sierra Ferrell)  
**"Blame It On Eve"** — John Hahn & Will Kimbrough, songwriters (Shemekia Copeland)

The Blues Foundation has announced the nominees for the **46th Annual Blues Music Awards**, to be held in Memphis, Tenn., on May 8 at The Renasant Convention Center.

The BMAs are generally recognized as the highest honor given to blues musicians and are awarded by vote of Blues Foundation members.

Here are the nominees:

**Acoustic Album**

*Naked Truth*, Tinsley Ellis

*One Guitar Woman*, Sue Foley

*Raw Blues 2*, Doug Macleod

*The Legend of Sugarbelly*, Guy Davis

*Things Done Changed*, Jerron Paxton

**Acoustic Artist**

Doug MacLeod

Eric Bibb

Guy Davis

Keb' Mo'

Kevin Burt

**Album of the Year**

*Blame It On Eve*, Shemekia Copeland

*Fine By Me*, Curtis Salgado

*Hill Country Love*, Cedric Burnside

*Person of Interest*, Billy Price

*What Are You Waiting For?*, Anthony Paule

Soul Orchestra featuring Willy Jordan



**B.B. King Entertainer**

Duke Robillard

Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman)

Rick Estrin

Shemekia Copeland

Sugaray Rayford

**Band of the Year**

Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra

John Nemeth and the Blue Dreamers

Nick Moss Band

Rick Estrin and the Nightcats

Southern Avenue

**Best Emerging Artist Album**

*8000 Miles to the Crossroads, Prakash Slim*  
*Carry On, Destini Rawls*  
*Drifter, Jovin Webb*  
*Go Be Free, Sonny Gullage*  
*Revelation, Piper & The Hard Times*

**Blues Rock Album**

*About Time, Dennis Jones*  
*Broken, Walter Trout*  
*Life is Hard, Mike Zito*  
*Righteous Souls, Albert Castiglia*  
*Struck Down, The Fabulous Thunderbirds*

**Blues Rock Artist**

Albert Castiglia  
 Mike Zito  
 Tab Benoit  
 Tommy Castro  
 Walter Trout

**Contemporary Blues Album**

*Blame It On Eve, Shemekia Copeland*  
*Blues In My DNA, Ronnie Baker Brooks*  
*Do It My Own Way, Vanessa Collier*  
*Good Intentions Gone Bad, Chris Cain*  
*The Hits Keep Coming, Rick Estrin & the Nightcats*

**Contemporary Blues Female Artist**

Beth Hart  
 Carolyn Wonderland  
 Danielle Nicole  
 Ruthie Foster  
 Vanessa Collier

**Contemporary Blues Male Artist**

Chris Cain  
 Johnny Sansone  
 Mike Zito  
 Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman)

**Ronnie Baker Brooks**

**Instrumentalist – Bass**

Benny Turner  
 Bob Stroger  
 Jerry Jemmott  
 Michael "Mudcat" Ward  
 Rodrigo Mantovani

**Instrumentalist – Drums**

Chris Peet  
 Derrick D'Mar Martin  
 June Core  
 Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith  
 Tony Braunagel

**Instrumentalist – Guitar**

Chris Cain  
 Christoffer "Kid" Andersen  
 Christone "Kingfish" Ingram  
 Eric Gales  
 Ronnie Baker Brooks

**Instrumentalist – Harmonica**

Billy Branch  
 Bob Corritore  
 Kim Wilson  
 Mark Hummel  
 Rick Estrin

**Instrumentalist – Horn**

Jimmy Carpenter  
 Doug James  
 Deanna Bogart  
 Trombone Shorty  
 Vanessa Collier



**Instrumentalist – Pinetop Perkins Piano**

**Player**

**Anthony Geraci**  
**Ben Levin**  
**Bruce Katz**  
**Eden Brent**  
**Mitch Woods**

**Soul Blues Female Artist**

**Annika Chambers**  
**Candice Ivory**  
**Kat Riggins**  
**Thornetta Davis**  
**Vaneese Thomas**

**Instrumentalist – Vocals**

**Beth Hart**  
**Billy Price**  
**Curtis Salgado**  
**Danielle Nicole**  
**Ruthie Foster**

**Soul Blues Male Artist**

**Alabama Mike**  
**Billy Price**  
**Curtis Salgado**  
**Johnny Rawls**  
**William Bell**

**Song of the Year**

***"Blues For My Dad"***

*performed and written by Chris Cain*

***"Blues In My DNA"***

*performed and written by Ronnie Baker*

*Brooks*

***"Mama, I love you"***

*performed by Albert Castiglia and written by*

*Albert Castiglia, Kevin Burt, & Jerry Jemmott*

***"Tough Mother"***

*performed by Shemekia Copeland and written*

*by John Hahn & Will Kimbrough*

***"Mother Watch the World Go By"***

*performed by Eden Brent and written by Bob*

*Dowell & Eden Brent*

**Traditional Blues Album**

***Crawlin' 'Kingsnake, John Primer & Bob***  
***Corritore***

***Getaway Blues, Eden Brent***

***HAPPY HOUR, Mitch Woods***

***Hill Country Love, Cedric Burnside***

***Roll With Me, Duke Robillard***

**Koko Taylor Award**

**(Traditional Blues Female Artist)**

**Diunna Greenleaf**

**Eden Brent**

**Rhiannon Giddens**

**Sue Foley**

**Teeny Tucker**

**Soul Blues Album**

**Fine By Me, Curtis Salgado**

**Human Decency, Sugaray Rayford**

**Person of Interest, Billy Price**

**REVIVAL, Kat Riggins & her Blues Revival**

**What Are You Waiting For?, Anthony**

**Paule Soul Orchestra featuring Willy Jordan**

**Traditional Blues Male Artist**

**Cedric Burnside**

**Duke Robillard**

**Jimmie Vaughan**

**John Primer**

**Jontavious Willis**



## Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

Have shows to contribute?

Send a PM or email to

[CLTbluessociety@gmail.com](mailto:CLTbluessociety@gmail.com)

Be sure to join our Charlotte

Blues Society

[Group page on Facebook.](#)

*OTPH Funky Blues Jam*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays*

*7-10PM*

*Cornelius, NC*



MusicEverywhereCLT has a great calendar and an open mic listing.

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



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### **Feb. CBS Board meeting**

**Tuesday Feb. 11, 2025**

**Time: 6:00 Social, 6:30 Business**

**Location: [Caswell Station](#) 366 N Caswell Rd, Charlotte**

Watch for the Email reminder and Agenda

# Local Jams, Shows and Festivals



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



## TOSCO MUSIC OPEN MIC

First Tuesdays  
at the  
Evening Muse

**Don't forget  
their Love  
Notes concert  
Feb 8!**



Hot Tuna, Jan 27, Neighborhood Theatre

Selwyn Birchwood, Jan 29, Middle C Jazz

Pat Travers Band, 2/1, Neighborhood Theatre

**Blues Sunday:** Feb 2, **Ross Osteen Band** from WNC at 6  
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts. Open Jam after the show!

Ronnie Baker Brooks, Feb 5, Neighborhood Theatre



## Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

Robert Jon & the Wreck, Feb 7, Neighborhood Theatre

Anthony Gomes & Pam Taylor, Feb 7, The Rooster in Gastonia

MARC BROUSSARD - Time is a Thief Tour,  
Tuesday 2/25, Neighborhood Theatre

Blues Sunday, March 2, Open Blues Jam with DejaBlues  
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

The Main Squeeze w/Quinn Sullivan, March 8, Neighborhood Theatre

Gary Clark, Jr., Ovens Auditorium, March 10

Bywater Call, March 12, Middle C Jazz

Joe Bonamassa, Ovens Auditorium, March 14

Keb'Mo, Ovens Auditorium, March 28

Jackie Venson, Stage Door Theater, March 29

The Pszenny Project, The Rooster, 3/29

CBS 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary party featuring

**Albert Castiglia Band**

March 30 at 7:30

Heist Brewery and Barrel Arts

Tab Benoit, April 5, Neighborhood Theatre

Blues Sunday: April 6, Open Blues Jam with DejaBlues,  
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Experience Hendrix, April 9, Ovens Auditorium

# Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

Ana Popovic, Cain Center for the Arts, April 10

Mac Arnold's Cornbread & Collard Greens festival, 4/12/2025,  
Fountain Inn, SC

Lovin' Life Music Festival May 2-4, Uptown Charlotte  
Dave Matthews Band, Benson Boone, Gwen Stefani

Blues Sunday: May 4, Open Blues Jam with DejaBlues  
Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Mr. Sipp, Prof Firefighters & Paramedics present Mr. Sipp  
Hickory Convention Center, May 4

Mac Arnold, Newton Foothills Festival May 10

Blues Sunday: June 1, TBD, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Taste Of Charlotte, Uptown, June 6-8





## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at a local Charlotte establishment. Next meeting is Tuesday Feb. 11, 2025 - 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](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org)