

# CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

may 2025 edition



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

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Members watch for your discount codes by separate email

## ALLY VENABLE BAND FRIDAY MAY 9, 2025 CHARLOTTE, NC

We had so much fun at last years celebration, we are excited to have Ally return to Charlotte in May



[Tickets](#) \$30 Advance, \$35 DOS [UBMe](#)

Join us for Ally's Money & Power tour as she shares her new studio album *Money & Power* releasing April 2025 on Ruf Records

Rules are there to be broken. Expectations are there to be defied. Glass ceilings are there to be shattered. Having spent the past decade carving out her own unique space in the male-dominated world of blues-rock, Ally Venable's combative sixth album, *Money & Power*, demands more of both – for herself, for women around the world, and for anyone else who thought they weren't worthy of a seat at the table.

"*Money & Power* is such a strong statement, especially for women," says the award-winning Texas gunslinger of her Nashville-recorded new release, on which Ally's crack-squad band is joined by A-list guests Shemekia Copeland and Christone 'Kingfish' Ingram. "All the songs on this album showcase the theme of what it truly means to be a force to be reckoned with. I want this record to wake people up."

In February 2024, *Money & Power* sessions saw Ally and producer/drummer Tom Hambridge push through the doors of Nashville's famous Soundstage Studios. Led by the guitarist's burnt-honey vocal and soulful fretwork, the studio band was a wish list of first-call musicians, including Isaac Pulido (drums), EJ Bedford (bass/keys), Kenny Greenberg (guitars), Rob Coreton (bass), Luke Mosely (keys), Tim Lauer (keys), Jorion Dawson (saxophone) and Jason Grant (trumpet), all topped off by the backing vocals of Rachel & Sarah Hambridge.

"My favorite part of making this album," reflects Ally, "was having the opportunity to work with all the talented musicians that played on it."

"Making this album felt very therapeutic, as well as a milestone in my musical journey," she says of the 11 originals (plus a hard-driving cover of Janet Jackson's Black Cat). "I hope these songs allow people to see into my life in a vulnerable way and hold a strong perspective that empowers women and breaks the glass ceiling."

*Money & Power* is a modern roots record that plays by its own rules and marches to the beat of its own drum. The same could be said for Ally herself. “I’m thrilled to release this album,” she says. “For me, it’s a sonic embodiment of a woman’s unstoppable ambition, and really showcases my musicality on all fronts. I’m looking forward to seeing where this one will take me.”



<https://www.facebook.com/allyvenableband>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/allyvenableband>

<https://www.instagram.com/allyvenableband>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@allyvenableofficial>



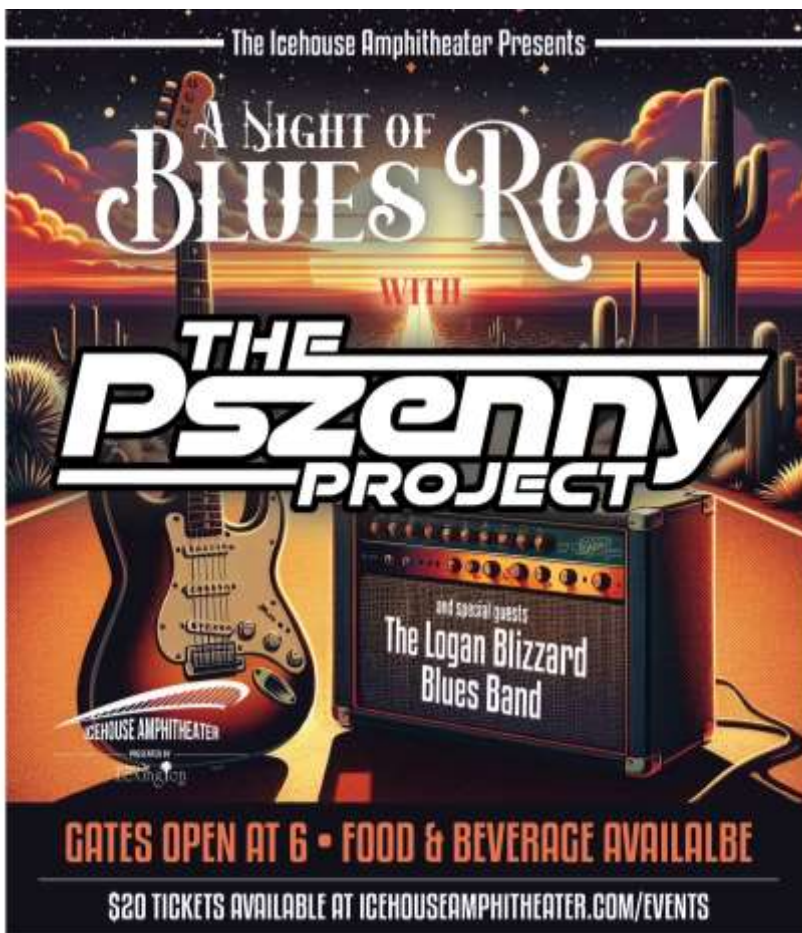
## RISING TALENT

### The Logan Blizzard Blues Band from Lexington, SC

Logan will be opening for Ally Venable on May 9, 2025.

<https://www.facebook.com/theloganblizzard/>

He is also playing with the Pszenny Project (Our CBS' Self Produced CD nominee for the 2025 IBC and Charlotte IBC contestants) on



**June 6** in  
Columbia, SC. [The  
Pszenny  
Project](#)

Tickets at

[icehouseamphitheater.com/events](https://icehouseamphitheater.com/events)



## Welcome to our newest At-Large Board Member: Randy Honeycutt.

Randy played his first live show on bass guitar at the age of thirteen. He has a deep passion for music, and knows the chance to play an instrument is a true blessing.

Randy has been an engineer for television broadcasts and sports for 47 years, and is currently chief engineer for WJZY-TV, WMYT-TV, and Queen City News.

His spare time is spent building custom basses, and can be seen around town performing with the [Rockaholics](#) nearly every weekend.

Come see the Rockaholics June 1 and July when they lead the Mighty Fine Blues Jam at Blues Sunday.



Thank you to our Sponsor Intrepid Artists International for their generous contribution.

# BB KING Poster Raffle tickets

Last Chance - Drawing May 9 at the Ally Venable show.

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.**

**B.B. King**  
The King  
of the Blues  
Bobby "Blue" Bland  
with special guest  
The Stateline







# Blues Sunday

May 4, June 1, July 6 at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts. Tickets on sale now. Doors at 5:30. Show at 6. [Tickets \\$10](#). Jammers are no charge. All Ages Full Backline provided. Sign up at door ONLY!



**We will have Blues Jams on May 4,  
June 1, July 6**

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



# CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY

## GUITAR RAFFLE 2025-2026

\$10 each    Drawing Spring 2026

### ARTIST'S SCHEDULED TO SIGN THIS AWESOME GUITAR:

- Albert Castiglia
- Jackie Venson
- Chris Cain
- Tab Benoit
- Ana Popovic
- Ally Venable Band
- GA-20
- Bywater Call

Donated by



Charlotte Blues Society on the Web

- The Pszenny Project
- Mr. Sipp
- Melissa McKinney
- The Bone Shakers
- Mac Arnold
- Jamie McLean Band
- The String Cheese Incident
- The Wood Brothers
- ...and others!



# Congratulations to Garrett Collins: Winner of the Raffle Guitar April 2024- March 2025

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@vera guitars.com](mailto:info@vera guitars.com)



Garrett pictured here with Dad, Roger Collins



# Membership Drive - March 1 to May 1

All New or Renewed memberships or Membership Referrals that result in a New membership will be entered to win a pair of tickets to see **Mr. Sipp in Hickory May 4 or Ally Venable in Charlotte May 9.**

@cltbluessociety   
**JOIN OUR**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

Now through May 1, 2025 Renew, Join or Refer to enter to win a pair of concert tickets to Mr. Sipp or Ally Venable band



Concert  
Ticket Drawing  
May 2



Event discounts



Support Live Music  
Keep the Blues Alive



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

Please indicate on your membership form the name of the person who referred you so they may be included in the drawing and the show you prefer.

Winners will be contacted on Friday May 2 by email.

Note: If you are in the middle of your membership, it will be extended by 12 months. Payment may be made online, Credit card, Cash or

check.

Join/renew on our Website or at our events - March 2, March 30, April 6. We will also be at several shows around town.

Remember memberships help fund all we do from shows to expenses.

For memberships please go our [website](http://www.charlottebluessociety.org).

*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)







## Get Involved!

### Leadership needed!

We are losing several senior board members due to relocation.

We need help to keep going.

Take a leap of faith and step up to help!!!

Volunteers needed for Events, putting up posters, inventorying merch, the Executive Board, Blues in the Schools and Website/Newsletter content.

We MUST raise additional funds in 2025 to continue our mission of Keepin' the Blues Alive.

Consider one of these annual Sponsorship levels

**Blue Diamond \$500**

**Sapphire \$275**

**Friends of CBS \$100**

Please help.



Save the dates for the Blues Sunday events.

First Sunday of the Month

All events at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

May 4, June 1, July 6

# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BLUES FRIENDS



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



Alberto Morales

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## SOUTHERN AVENUE - *FAMILY*

ALLIGATOR RECORDS AL 5024

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

Featuring sisters Tierinii, Tikyra and Ava Jackson, Southern Avenue definitely is a family band that's taken the blues world by storm in recent years. And they celebrate their unity and growth as well as their move to the Alligator, too, with this tapestry of harmonies and rhythms, all of which are deeply rooted in the soil of Memphis where they were born and grown.

Produced by Grammy winner John Burk (Ray Charles, George Benson) at the legendary Royal Studios, it's a steamy affair anchored. Ori Naftaly handles guitar with Tierinii on vocals, Tikyra on drums and Ava on violin. Jeremy Powell sits in on keys, and Blake Rhea and Luther Dickinson alternative on bass.

You'll be shaking your booty to "Long Is the Road," "Upside," "Found a Friend in You," "Family," "Rum Boogie," "Gotta Keep the Love," "Sisters," "Back to What Feels Right," "Flying," "Believe" and "We Are."



## TIM GARTLAND - RIGHT AMOUNT OF FUNKY

TASTE GOOD MUSIC

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

Tired of all the harp players who are Little Walter/Sonny Boy clones? Nashville-based Tim Gartland serves up something different with this all-original set. The veteran reed-blower provides a healthy mix of blues, soul and a little of reggae, too, in a laid-back mix that will still have you rocking throughout.

Tim's harp lines glide effortlessly with lyrics to match. He's backed by an all-star rhythm section -- drummer Jack Bruno (Joe Cocker) and bassist Mike Joyce (Delbert McClinton) - with Robert Frahm laying down silky-smooth guitar lines, too.

An understated treasure, groove along to "Waste a Worry," "Right Amount of Funky," "A Better Life," "Walk Away," "If This Ain't Heaven," "Alone Times," "About to Cry" and "Stop Working."





# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## MATT "THE RATTLESNAKE" LESCH - *BLUES CUT LIKE GLASS* THEME

BLUE LOTUS RECORDINGS

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



The former lead guitar player for legendary St. Louis bluesman Big George Brock, Matt "The Rattlesnake" Lesch finally makes debut as a frontman with this CD. And like his nickname suggests, it definitely packs a bite, delivering an all-original, contemporary set full of sounds inspired by artists of the past.

The heavyweight lineup includes Michael Burks' former rhythm section -- drummer Chuck "Popcorn" Loudon and bassist John Davies - and Hammond B3 organist Wayne Sharp along with guest appearances from bassist Gus Thornton (Albert King), keyboard player Taylor Streiff (Nick Moss) and multi-instrumentalist Sean "Mack" McDonald, too.

Take a deep dive into "Feel So Good," "He's a Bluesman," "I'm So Tired," "She's My Everything," "Sittin' at the Station," "Blues Cut Like Glass," "Keep Your Promise," "Let Me Cook for Ya," "Still Got My Blues" and "Jammin' at Paul's."

## ALLISON AUGUST - *AUGUST MOON*

MOMOJO RECORDS MMJ 377

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

Love your blues with a heaping helping of soul? You'll adore this album from West Coast vocalist Allison August. Born into a family of professional musicians that stretches back four generations, her honeyed voice shines throughout a set that touches on marriage, motherhood, joy and determination.

Recorded pre- and post-pandemic, Paul Barrere of Little Feat is just one of the ensemble, which includes the late Mike Finnigan on keys and Lenny Castro and producer Tony Braunagel on percussion with Maxayn Lewis and Teresa James on backing vocals.

Silky smooth and danceable, you'll enjoy "Afraid of Love," "Dashboard Madonna," "I Won't Say No," "What Would Mama Say," "Honey Jar," "Dog in You," "Blues Is My Religion," "The Cure" and "Born Yesterday."

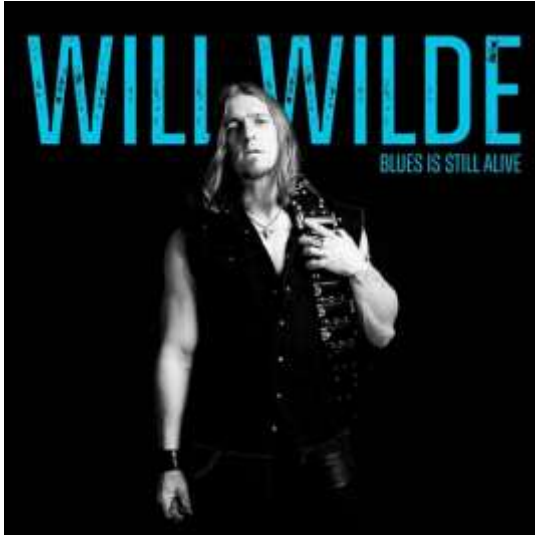


# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## WILL WILDE - THE BLUES IS STILL ALIVE

VIZZTONE LABEL GROUP VT-BA02

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



Like Jason Ricci on this side of the Atlantic, harp player Will Wilde consistently blows away the competition in Europe with an attack in a style that emulates the sound and intensity of blues-rock guitar. He plays full throttle from the jump with this effort -- his first foray into the American market.

Walter Trout makes a guest appearance on the opener, and Will's backed by Jeff Beck drummer Steve Rushton with Russell Carr on bass and Greg Coulson on keys. His sister, Dani Wilde - a world-class singer in her own right, is just one of several ladies providing background vocals. Buckle up for this one, and enjoy "Blues Is Still Alive," "Wild Man," "Don't Play with Fire," "Trouble of That Girl," "Stole My Love," "Girl's Got Soul," "Broken Dream Blues" and "Don't Trust Me."

## FARMHAND - LONG HOLLOW BLUES

SELF-PRODUCED

No website



Don't be fooled the pastoral image of this cover. Farmhand is a collection of top Nashville musicians who've produced a must-listen set of blues, blues-rock and more and who chose their name after coming together and launching the project on a farm in the outskirts of the city.

The cast includes BMA-nominee songwriter/harp player/rhythm guitarist Richard Fleming, drummer Jimi Foglesong and bassist Geoff Newhall, all of whom provide vocals. They're augmented by guitarists Jamie Potterbaum, Dan Pearson and Michael Saint-Leon, who engineered and produced.

Grab this one off of your favorite download service and boogie along to "I'm Not Complaining," "Worthy," "I Still Have Dreams," "Fresh Out," "Tractor Woman," "Didn't Mean to Do It," "Tried to Tell You," "That Hit a Nerve" and "Can't Live with Her."

# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## JOHNNY RAWLS - *MAKE THEM DANCE*

CATFOOD RECORDS CFR034

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

A true soul-blues survivor, Johnny Rawls is like fine wine. Now in his early 70s, he's been hitting the top of the charts since the '80s, when he and L.C. Lockett formed a partnership after the death of their bandleader, O.V. Wright. And he delivers another soulful, rock-steady masterpiece here.

Grab your better half and head to the dance floor for this one. The sensation roster includes guitarist Wil McFarlane and bassist/label owner Bob Trenchard with guest appearances from keyboard player Claton Ivey (Johnnie Taylor, Bobby Womack) and a full horn section. BMA president Kimberly Horton and gospel star Trinecia Butler provide vocal accents.

Don't miss "So Cold," "Dreams of You," "Make Them Dance," "Move in My Direction," "Costs Too Much," "Give It to Me," "Rip Off the Bandage," "Say That You Love Me," "Swimming with the Sharks" and "The Long Road."



## TONY HOLIDAY - *KEEP YOUR HEAD UP*

FORTY BELOW RECORDS FBR 044

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

A Utah native who's been at the center of a soul-blues revival in Memphis since 2017, road-dog harp player Tony Holiday delivers a sweet treat here. It's a compilation of recordings captured during recent tours, and it was produced by two-time Grammy-nominee producer/label owner Eric Corne.

A 2024 BMA nominee for best emerging artist, Tony is joined by a superstar 18-person roster that includes Eddie 9V, Albert Castiglia, Laura Chavez and Kevin Burt. Guitarist Jad Tariq and keyboardist Sasha Smith provide backing throughout.

Get down to "She's a Burglar," "Twist My Fate," "Woman Named Trouble," "Good Times," "Shoulda Known Better," "Walk on Water," "Drive It Home" and "I Can Not Feel the Rain."





# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## GUY VERLINDE & TOM EYLENBOSCH - *PROMISED LAND BLUES*

BANDR MUSIC BANDRCD01

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

With a style that harkens back to the first generation of Chicago blues, when of piano-guitar duos became the rage, Guy Verlinde and Tom Eylenbosch captured top honors in the 2024 Belgian Blues Awards. And they hold nothing back on this golden CD. It's a mostly contemporary, original set interspersed with a couple of traditional covers.

Verlinde has worked across Europe for decades while Eylenbosch - nicknamed "Brittle Bones" - is a former child prodigy who found an escape from health issues when he discovered Otis Spann and others in his youth. They're joined by harp players Olivier Vander Bauwede and Steven Troch and a gospel choir.

Dark themes run deep throughout. Give a listen to "Heaven Inside My Head," "Tears Over Gaza," "I've Got You," "You Gotta Move," "Reckonin' Blues," "Gotta Let You Go," "Hard to Admit," "Do That Boogie," "Pursuit of Happiness" and "World Goin' Wrong."

## ERIC JOHANSON - LIVE IN MISSISSIPPI

RUF RECORDS RUF 1326

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

Louisiana-born guitarist Eric Johanson's most recent outing, *The Dirty and the Deep*, hit the top of the Billboard blues charts. And he follows it up in style here with this set, which was captured at the Ground Zero Blues Club in Biloxi, Miss. Captured live after a year of touring, the performance is skintight and polished throughout thanks to the driving rhythms of bassist Will Repholz and drummer Terry Scott Jr. Its blues-rock with a definite Gulf Coast sting. It's guaranteed to have you feeling like you're sitting in the front row.

Settle in, play it loud and enjoy "Nowhere to Go," "Undertow," "Yellow Moon," "Galaxy Girl," "I Walk on Guilted Splinters," "Live in Mississippi," "Familiar Sound," "Changes the Universe" and "Don't Hold Back."



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

## FRAN DREW & THE LUCKY STRIKES - *TRIAL BY FIRE*

SHAKEY BUDDHA RECORDS AL 5024

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

Fran Drew describes herself as “Peg Bundy meets Lou Ann Barton,” and for good reason. She’s a full-throated, unrelenting alto who fronts a steady-driving, commanding Texas blues combo. They cut a deep groove on this disc, which captured the top prize in the Connecticut Blues Society’s competition for best self-produced album of the year of 2024.

Steve Isherwood and Gene Donaldson trade guitar duties anchored by drummer Dennis Cotton and bassist Max “Ce la Vie” Samson. Sax Gordon is just one of a half-dozen quality musicians who lend a helping hand.

Take a trip to the roadhouse and swing along to “Neighbor Neighbor,” “Breaking Up Somebody’s Home,” “Flamin’ Maimie,” “Something You Got,” “Fujiyama Mama,” “I Look Good in Bad,” “The Hunter,” “You Can Have My Husband” and “Chauffeur Blues.”



## JAD TARIQ - JAD TARIQ SINGS

MOMOJO RECORDS

[Jad Tariq | Facebook](#)

Jad Tariq possesses a retro look, and for good reason. A silky-smooth guitarist whose fretwork would have been welcomed in any upscale café in the '50s or '60s, he delivers a sound that would have fit comfortably into the era. His debut release, it'll also offer up a breath of fresh air for folks in the 21st century, too.

Born in New Jersey and based in Memphis, Jad possesses a rich baritone that fits perfectly with the music he plays. It was recorded by roommate/guitarist Jon Hay at Lola's Place Studio and mixed and mastered by Dave Gross. Give it one listen and you'll be wanting more!

Give a spin to “Flapjack,” “You Think You’re too Good for Me,” “Had You Told It Like It Was,” “Fortune’s Fool,” “Bloodshot Eyes,” “No Sleepin’est Woman” and “So Much Water.”



# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



## THE SELDOM SCENE - *REMAINS TO BE SCENE*

SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS RECORDS

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

If your tastes run to bluegrass and Western swing in addition to blues, you'll adore the latest release from the Seldom Scene. Four-time Grammy nominees, they've been together for 53 years, and they definitely hit a sweet spot here no matter what style of music you prefer. The quintet's based out of greater Washington, D.C., and it's the final album for guitarist Dudley Connell, who's spent three decades with the group, which includes mandolin player Lou Reid, bassist Ronnie Simpkins, banjoist and fiddler Ron Stewart and dobro player Fred Travers. Kick back a while and enjoy "Last of the Steam-Powered Trains," "Man at the Crossroads," "A Good Time Man Like Me Ain't Got No Business (Singin' the Blues)," "Hard Travelin'," "Walking Down the Line," "Lonesome Day," "White Line," "Show Me the Way to Go Home" and "The Story of My Life."

## STRATCAT WILLIE & THE STRAYS - *DON'T SLOW DOWN!*

SELF-PRODUCED CD

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

Another longtime group, guitarist/vocalist StratCat Willie Hayes has been fronting his band, the Strays, out of the southern tier of New York for more than 40 years. And he's at the top of his game with this disc - an old-school, Chicago blues pleaser composed of originals based on difficult decisions and the unpredictability of modern life.

Guaranteed to get your hips shakin' and toes tappin', this three-piece unit serves up a BIG sound with Ted Goldwin on bass and Dave Salce on drums, Rich Graiko and Josh Cohen provide horns with backup vocals from SingTrece and Mabel Welch. Blu Lou Cicconi sits in on the mic on one cut.

Tune in to "I Ain't Got Nothin'," "Demons Within," "Slow Down," "Go on Home," "No Pleasin' You," "Consuela," "Ain't Gonna Change," "I'm Down," "Rollin' and Tumblin'," "Don't Let Him In" and "StratCat Boogie."





# RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

## BOB CORRITORE & FRIENDS - *DOIN' THE SHOUT*

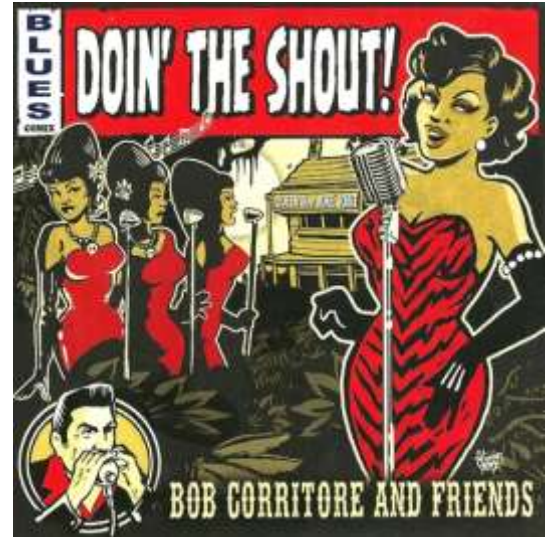
VIZZTONE LABEL GROUP/SWMAF RECORDS SWMAF-28

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

It's hard to believe that Bob Corritore can outdo himself after his most recent release, *Phoenix Blues Rumble*, but the harp player/producer does just that here. It's composed of 12 tasty, star-studded takes culled from recording sessions conducted during the past two years.

The 30th album in his illustrious career, Corritore shines backing up special guests Thornetta Davis, Bobby Rush, Thornetta Davis, Bob Stroger, John Primer, Oscar Wilson, Johnny Burgin, Kid Ramos, Anthony Geraci, Ben Levin and a bevy of talent that extends from Arizona to the East and West Coasts.

Don't miss "Say Baby Say," "Woman Wanted," "Doin' the Shout," "I Guess I'm a Fool," "Just a Dream," "I've Got Three Problems," "That Don't Appease Me," "Twenty Room House," "Same Old Thing" and "My First Love."



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

Look out for and listen [to WSGE 91.7fm](http://wsge91.7fm) 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



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**



*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.

Melissa McKinney -  
opening act.

Easy parking and a  
fantastic cause.

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

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

## 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*



## Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

MusicEverywhereCLT has a great calendar and an open mic listing.

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



### May CBS Board meeting

**Tuesday May 20, 2025**

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

**Location: Caswell Station 366 N Caswell Rd, Charlotte**

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



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





## Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

### The Boneshakers Middle C Jazz April 30.



Tix [Events](#) | [Middle C Jazz](#)

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

The Alex Lopez Xpress and Memphis Lightning,  
The Evening Muse May 2

DejaBlues May 3, Caswell Station

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

## Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

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

McKinley James, River Jam - USNWC, May 8

CBS presents  
**Ally Venable Band,**  
featuring the **Logan Blizzard Blues** band  
in our Youth Showcase  
May 9, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Mac Arnold, Newton Foothills Festival, May 10

Jamie McLean Band, River Jam - USNWC, May 10

GA-20 with Zach Person, Neighborhood Theatre, May 13

The Fool Hardies,  
The Pauline Tea-Bar 2326 Arty Ave CLT May 16

Cory Luetjen & Traveling Blues Band,  
Maiden Town Hall May 16

THE STRING CHEESE INCIDENT with The Wood Brothers,  
The AMP, 5/17

Seth Walker, Evening Muse 5/23

The Fool Hardies, Smokey Joe's, 5/23

## Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

Pam Taylor & the Flyin' Vs  
SHUG's Salisbury, NC May 29

Blues Sunday: Open Blues Jam  
June 1, The Rockaholics, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

The Pszenny Project with Logan Blizzard Band  
The Icehouse Amphitheater, Fri, Jun 6 Lexington, SC

Eric Roberson, June 6

Taste Of Charlotte, Uptown, June 6-8

Carolyn Wonderland, Middle C Jazz, June 11

DejaBlues, Caswell Station, June 13

Zach Person, Iredell Arts Council, Statesville, June 19

Drew Foust & the Wheelhouse, June 19, USNWC River Jam

Blues Sunday: Open Blues Jam  
July 6, The Rockaholics, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Greenwood, SC Blues Cruise (Festival) July 10-13

The Chris O'Leary Band July 16, Middle C Jazz

Albert Castiglia Band, July 19, USNWC River Jam

Cory Luetjen & Traveling Blues Band,  
Thomas Street Tav, July 26

Mac Arnold, July 26, The Premier, Hickory



## Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

The 2025 SPAH Convention - San Antonio, Texas Aug. 12-16, 2025

Albert Cummings  
Shelby, NC Aug 8

The New River Blues Festival, Grassy Creek, NC Aug 31

Coltrane Jazz & Blues Festival, High Point, NC Aug. 30-31  
Ruthie Foster

Christone 'Kingfish' Ingram Sept 6, Neighborhood Theatre

Duane Betts & Palmetto Motel Oct 6, Neighborhood Theatre

Tedeschi Trucks, PNC Oct 18

Tab Benoit – Nov 8, Neighborhood Theatre



## 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 MY 20, 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)