



Blues Newsletter

April 2025

CharlotteBluesSociety.org

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 - Ana Popovic April 10 Cornelius
 - The Boneshakers April 30 Charlotte
 - Mr. Sipp May 4 Hickory
 - The Pszeny Project w/ Logan Blizzard June 6 Columbia, SC

Members watch for your discount codes by separate email



ALBERT CASTIGLIA BAND

MARCH 30 Anniversary show



We are very excited to present Albert Castiglia Band for our 32nd 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 at [UBMEEevents.com](https://ubmeevents.com)

[HOME | Albert Castiglia Band](#)

We will have cake, door prizes and raffles.



Blues Sunday

April 6 and May 4 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 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; 704-608-5698



MIGHTY FINE BLUES JAM
SUNDAY APRIL 6, 2025
6:00-10:00
JAMMERS FREE ADMISSION
ALL OTHERS \$10
SIGN UPS AT DOOR ONLY
BACKLINE PROVIDED
ELECTRIC & ACOUSTIC ACTS
WELCOME

LOCATION:
HEIST BREWERY & BARREL ARTS
1030 WOODWARD AVE. CHARLOTTE, NC 28206

The poster features a circular image of a person playing a purple electric guitar. In the bottom left corner is a logo for 'HEIST BREWERY & BARREL ARTS' with a stylized 'X' and 'A' inside a square. In the bottom right corner is the 'CHARLOTTE Blues SOCIETY' logo, which is a circular seal with a building and a musical note inside.

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

MAY 9 2025

ALLY VENABLE

Charlotte Blues Society

BARREL ARTS

Tickets at:
Ubmeevents.com

Show at 8

1030 Woodward Ave. Charlotte, NC 28206

[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>



Welcome to our newest 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 he be seen around town performing with the Rockaholics nearly every weekend.

Randy will be serving as an At-Large Board member. We are still looking for someone to take on the secretary duties.



Neighborhood
Theatre presents
Tab Benoit's
"I hear Thunder"
tour 2025
Sat. April 5 at
8PM
New Music!!!

Tix at
[MaxxMusic.com](https://www.maxxmusic.com)

BB KING Poster Raffle tickets

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

**CHARLOTTE
BLUES
SOCIETY**

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

Saturday APRIL 1st, 1995 7 & 10pm

**The King
of the Blues**

B.B. King
Bobby "Blue" Bland
with special guest
The State Theatre

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



Last Call

Raffle Guitar April 2024-March 2025

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

Its so full, we had to take
the strings off



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

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

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

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



ANA POPOVIC



THURSDAY

APRIL 10

DOORS AT 6:00

SHOW AT 7:00

Cain Center for the Arts
21348 Catawba Ave
Cornelius, NC 28031

CAIN
CENTER
FOR THE ARTS



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.

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

Please help.



Save the dates for the Blues Sunday events.

First Sunday of the Month

All events at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

April 6, May 4, June 1



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BLUES FRIENDS



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



Alberto Morales

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

JOHNNY IGUANA - AT DELMARK: CHICAGO-STYLE SOLO PIANO

DELMARK RECORDS 888

www.johnnyiguana.com

If you love the sound of Chicago blues piano, you'll be dazzled by this set from Johnny Iguana, who's learned from the greats, spent years with Junior Wells and recorded with Buddy Guy, James Cotton, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. A passionate, exuberant outing, it's an amazing effort that transitions from the straight-ahead Windy City blues to powerful, classical-infused, jazz-tinged originals and back again, reinventing city's tradition for a new generation of fans.

Captured at Delmark's Riverside Studio the old-fashioned way...analog and in one take, it's an all-instrumental outing with Johnny reworking tunes by Little Brother Montgomery, Mel London, Chuck Berry, Magic Sam and Jay McShann and tossing in five powerhouse originals of his own.

Definitely not old school, take a chance on "Bass Key Boogie," "Heart of Gold," "Stormy Night," "Messin' with the Kid," "Tripping in a French Ambulance," "You Never Can Tell," "Welcome Distractions," "Riff Raff," "Role 'Em" and "Another One for the Cleaning Crew."



DEAN ZUCCHERO - SONG FOR THE SINNERS

PUGNACIOUS RECORDS

www.deanzucchero.com

New Orleans bassist/tunesmith/producer Dean Zucchero struck gold two years ago with his Electric Church for the Spiritually Misguided, hitting the top of Billboard's blues chart. And he follows up with this collection of 12 original, poignant original cuts - all of which feature guest stars at every turn.

Jimmy Vivino, Bobby Rush, John Boutté, Albert Castiglia, Mike Zito, Sean Riley, John Németh, Tiffany Pollack, Little Freddie King and several others join forces with Dean to cover everything from Saturday night hookups to patricidal nightmares, cohabitation and much more.

You'll dig "Biting Through," "South Side," "She's Saturday Night," "Crawfish No More," "Shine," "Tone of the City," "Mama's Bottle," "Cold Shot," "Suicide for Jesus" and "Fowl Play."

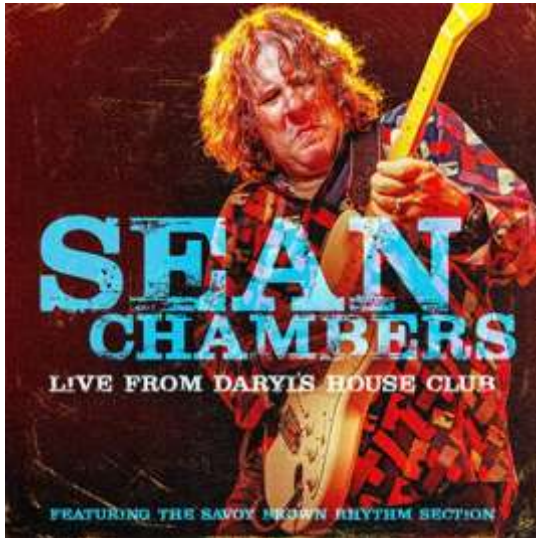


RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

SEAN CHAMBERS - LIVE FROM DARYL'S HOUSE CLUB

QUARTO VALLEY RECORDS

www.seanchambers.com



The former bandleader for Hubert Sumlin and a man recognized by Britain's Guitarist Magazine as one of the top 50 fret masters of the 20th century, Florida-born blues-rocker Sean Chambers has released fiery albums in the past, but he simply scorches with a deep blue flame during this live set.

It's an intense, no-hold barred effort that features Sean's new partnership with bassist Pat DeSalvo and drummer Garnet Grimm, formerly the rhythm section for late label mate Kim Simmonds in the final iteration of his band, Savoy Brown. The song list features a fusion of several Chambers favorites with those of Kim, too. Bop along to "Cobra," "Red Hot Mama," "Louise," "Street Corner," "Bullfrog Blues," "Trouble & Whiskey," "You're Gonna Miss Me," "Louisiana Blues" and "Brown Sugar."

JANIVA MAGNESS - *BACK FOR ME*

BLUE ELAN RECORDS

www.janivamagness.com

Every time seven-time BMA honoree Janiva Magness steps into the studio, you know you're going to get music that packs a punch. And she outdoes herself with this intimate, unhurried masterpiece. It displays both her strengths and vulnerabilities as she bares her soul while dealing with life's obstacles and overcoming them, too.

Guitarists Sue Foley, Joe Bonamassa and Jesse Dayton make guest appearances in a top-notch lineup that includes Sasha Smith and Phil Parlapiano on keys, TJ Norton on harp and a rhythm section composed of drummer W.F. Quinn Smith and bassist Ian Walker.

Painful and soothing, choice cuts abound. Give a listen to "Masterpiece," "Back for Me," "The Same Love That Made Me Laugh," "November," "Holes," "I Was Good to You Baby," "Down So Low," "Do I Need You" and "Hittin' on Nothin'."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



HEAVYDRUNK & WATERMELON SLIM - *BLUESLAND THEME PARK*

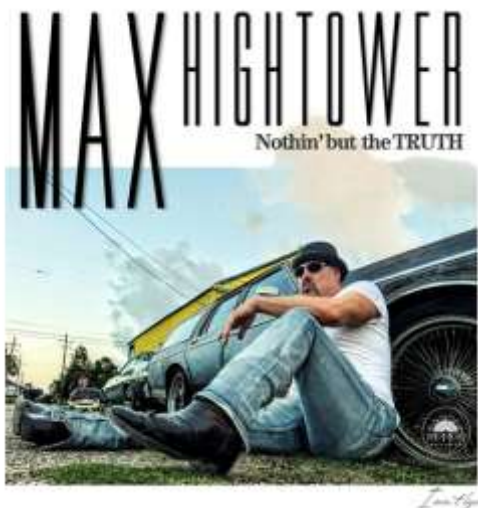
HEAVYDRUNK RECORDS

www.heavydrunk.com | www.watermelonslim.com

Don't be fooled by the cover. This seemingly down-home album packs a thrill ride at every turn. It's a partnership between two of the blues world's most eclectic treasures: Watermelon Slim and vocalist HeavyDrunk - aka Rob Robinson - and his eight-piece horn band. They team to deliver a pleasing, hard-to-define album that combines different stylings throughout.

The horn section - Roy Agee (trombone), Emmanuel Echem and Lorenzo Molina (trumpets), and Evan Cobb and Maxwell Abrams (sax) - keep the heat on high with Kevin McKendree and Eric Bikales cooking on keys. And the journey features backup singers, too.

Hop aboard, fasten up and enjoy "Bluesland Theme Park," "New Wine," "Little Big Horn," "Watermelon Girl," "Road Food and Cheap Motels," "You Make Me Want You," "Better or Worser," "Australia" and "Fresh."



MAX HIGHTOWER - NOTHIN' BUT THE TRUTH

MOMOJO RECORDS MMJ-373

www.maxhightower.com

A veteran road dog who's traveled highways and byways with Mac Arnold & Plate Full O' Blues out of South Carolina since the 2000s, harp player/guitarist Max Hightower finally steps to center stage with this disc, and he does it in style.

Recorded by Big Jon Atkinson at BigTone Studios in New Orleans, this all-original effort is chockful of the deep grooves and funk the city's known for. Bassist Steadman "Fleetwood" Williams Sr. and drummer Brandon Phelps hold down the bottom with a revolving cast of Big Easy talent that includes Atkinson on guitar, Rob Davis on organ and James Beaumont on sax.

Get your funk on with "Double Bubble," "It's on Me," "Damned If I Do," "Here She Comes," "Twitchy Witcha," "Sweet Gum Tree," "Too Much of Not Enough," "Thick Jello," "I Ain't Lyin'," "Snuggle Bug" and "Assmograph."

RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

THE BOB LANZA BLUES BAND - *BREADMAN'S BLUES*

MOMOJO RECORDS

www.boblanza.com

A New Jersey Blues Hall of Famer, Bob Lanza has been serving up some of the tastiest guitar you'll hear in the New York metropolitan area since 1979 while also delivering bread to residents, too. He's toiled at the day job for 45 years, and he celebrates his retirement in the best way possible with the grooves you'll hear here.

It's a contemporary effort that features Vin Mott on harp, Nick Conti on horns, Eric Heilner on keys with a rock-steady rhythm section composed of Nick Fishman on drums and Steve Kirsty on bass.

Join the celebration by tuning in to "Johnny Jinhgo," "Cutoff My Right Arm," "Nicky's Blues," "Same Old Blues," "Upside of Lonely," "A Man Like Me," "Fool Song" and "Rollercoaster."



MITCH RYDER - *WITH LOVE*

RUF RECORDS RUF 1320

www.mitchryder.net

Rock legend Mitch Ryder has been delivering hits since his time with the Detroit Wheels in the '60s, but the 80-year-old is at his bluesiest best here. One of the last musicians to play with Otis Redding, he teams with five-time Grammy-winning producer Don Was for this collection full of tough-but-tender tunes that differ from anything in his extensive catalog.

Four-time BMA nominee Laura Chavez holds down guitar alongside Brian "Roscoe" White, keyboard player Luis Resto, sax and flute player Dave McMurray with percussionists Jeff Canaday and Mahindi Masai and bassist Chuck Bartels. Surprisingly slow and gentle, you'll enjoy "Lilli May," "Pass It to the Right," "Sanguine," "One Monkey," the Latin-flavored "Oh What a Night," "Wrong Hands," "Too Damned Slow," "The Artist" and "Just the Way It Is."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther

BOB CORRITORE & FRIENDS - *PHOENIX BLUES RUMBLE*

VIZZTONE LABEL GROUP/SWMAF RECORDS SWMAF-22

www.bobcorritore.com



The most prolific producer in the blues, harp player Bob Corritore's vast collection of unreleased recordings has produced several sensational compilations in the past few years. And his journey continues with this set, which is dedicated to artists from the Arizona blues scene - almost all of whom deliver a Windy City sound.

Recorded between 1987 and 2017, Corritore's runs on the reeds support an all-star roster that includes former Howlin' Wolf drummer Chico Chism, a young Sugaray Rayford, King Karl, Dave Riley, Big Pete Pearson, George Bowman, Tommy Dukes, Dino Spells and Chief Schabuttie Gilliame -- all of whom are backed by top talent.

Choice cuts include "Big Fat Woman 480 Lbs.," "Come to Me Baby," "Walking in the Park," "Jennie Bea," "I Was a Fool," "Real Bad Day," "Nine Times Out of Ten," "Leopard Speckled Baby," "Laughing Blues" and "I'm Evil."

MARK MULEMAN MASSEY - IT'S BEEN A LONG, LONG TIME

MULETONE RECORDS

www.markmulemanmassey.com

If anyone has a reason to sing the blues, it's Mark Muleman Massey. The grandson of sharecroppers, he grew up in Clarksdale, Miss., and served time in the infamous Parchman Farm Prison, where he learned his craft from David Kimbrough, son of blues legend Junior.

A deeply emotive vocalist and guitarist with one other CD to his credit, Muleman's joined by Memphis giant Travis Wammack and Billy Lawson on guitars, Clayton Ivey and Jim Whitehead on keys, Robbert Fossen on harp, a full horn section and backup singers.

Give a listen to "Been a Long, Long Time," "Baby's Gone," "Can't Tell Me Nothing About the Blues," "Give Me Your Love," "She's Married to the Streets," "My Used to Be," "Going Back to Memphis" and "Your Good Stuff."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

ANDREW DUNCANSON - *CALIFORNIA TRAP*

RUN IT BACK RECORDS 25000

www.andrewduncanson.com

Based out of central Illinois, where he also works with The Dig 3 and Kilborn Alley Blues Band, Andrew Duncanson possesses one of the sweetest voices in the blues universe. And he finally gets to shine on his own on this disc, which also features Bay Area sax player/producer Michael Peloquin.

Co-produced by Kid Andersen and recorded at Greaseland Studios, Andrew's backed by a world-class lineup that includes Jerry Jemmott on bass, Derrick "D'mar" Martin on drums, Jim Pugh on keys and Tia Carroll, Laura Price and Lisa Leuschner Andersen on backing vocals.

There's a bit of honey in every groove. You'll love "Relearning to Climb," "Naw Naw Naw," "California Trap," "Town Saint," "Outer Space," "What Kind of Man," an unbelievable redo of "This Land Is Your Land," "Feeling Better Now," "More Lows Than Highs," "It's a Pleasure" and "Better Off Now."



RA'SHAD THE BLUES KID - *LIVE IN CLARKSDALE*

SELF-PRODUCED CD

www.rtbkblues.com

Based out of the Pine Belt in southern Mississippi, Ra'Shad the Blues Kid - aka Larry McGill -- has been delivering his own brand of contemporary blues since 2011. And he cooks from the jump of this 13-song set, which was recorded in at Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero blues club in Clarksdale.

A young man who deserves far more attention than he receives, the guitarist is backed here by an eight-piece alignment that includes Gabriel Spells on keys, Jock Webb Sr. on harp, Christopher Gillard and Pierre Bramlett on second guitar and a rhythm section that simmers throughout.

Take a trip to the juke and tune in to "Feel Alright," "Juke Joint," "Do It Right," "Bad Girl," "That's What You Are," "Get High," "Hey Baby," "Hey Y'all," "Move Sumthing" and "Juke."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS by Marty Gunther



STEVE HOWELL & THE MIGHTY MEN - YEAH MAN

OUT OF THE PAST MUSIC

www.stevehowell.ws

A finger-picking guitarist inspired by Mississippi John Hurt and other first-generation talents, Steve Howell has never been shy about infusing other styles of music into his performance. And he deftly updates tunes that bridge the blues spectrum with this tasty treat.

Delivering stylishly laid-back covers culled from Blind Lemon Jefferson to Eddie Hinton and Bob Dylan, the Texas treasure is joined in the studio by guitarist Chris Michaels, bassist Jason Weinheimer and drummer Dave Hoffpauir for a set with timeless appeal.

Give a listen to "Lone Lonesome Blues," "Yeah Man," "20% Alcohol," "One Mint Julep," "I'm Glad for Your Sake," "Just Like Romeo and Juliet," "Dearest Darling," "Lover Please," "Wade in the Water" and "Crimes of Freedom."

KID RAMOS - STRANGE THINGS HAPPENING

NOLA BLUE RECORDS NBR 039

www.nolabluerecords.com

One of the greatest guitarists on the West Coast, Kid Ramos is a man of deep faith, too. And when he received a request from a pastor friend to record a musical message of faith, he answered the call by recruiting a star-studded lineup of likeminded souls. The album that he produced here would make gospel and blues singer Sister Rosetta Tharpe break out into a broad smile.

Brian Templeton (The Proven Ones) delivers harp and shares vocalist with Kid's son, Johnny, with backing from Dave Limina (Ronnie Earl) on keys, Stephen Hodges (Mavis Staples) on drums and Mike Turturro (The 44s) on drums. Add horns and accordion and you've got something special.

A mix of covers and new tunes compiled by Templeton, raise your spirits with "Strange Things Happening Everyday," "How I Got Over," "I'm Working on a Building," "Oh What a Meeting," "An Answer for Isaac," "Satan's Jeweled Crown," "Nobody But the Lord," "More Love More Power" and "I'm a Pilgrim."



RED HOT'n BLUES REVIEWS

by Marty Gunther

B.B. KING - B.B. KING IN FRANCE: LIVE AT THE 1977 NANCY JAZZ PULSATIONS FESTIVAL

DEEP DIGS RECORDS DDD03

<https://www.elemental-music.com/>

Think you've heard ALL of B.B. King? Well, you're in for a treat! Originally recorded by France's national radio agency, this set sat in storage for 45 years but is an absolute treasure because it provides a time capsule that catches him working with what became the B.B. King Orchestra for the first time.

Prior to this recording and since the early '60s, he'd toured with backing from drummer Sonny Freeman and Freeman's band, the Unusuals. But this unit is chockful of what now are familiar bandmates and names: B.B.'s nephew/bandleader Walter King, Cato Walker III, Eddie Rowe, James Toney, Milton Hopkins, Calep Emphrey Jr. and others.

Don't miss this skintight set, which includes "Blue Monk," "Sweet Little Angel," "I Like to Live the Love," "Why I Sing the Blues," "I Got Some Outside Help (I Don't Really Need)," "The Thrill Is Gone" and extended takes of "I Need My Baby" and "Sweet Sixteen" and other pleasers.



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

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

There will be an
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
Be sure to join our Charlotte
Blues Society
[Group page on Facebook.](#)

OTPH Funky Blues Jam

2nd Thursdays

7-10PM

Cornelius, NC



Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

MusicEverywhereCLT has a great calendar and an open mic listing.

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



April CBS Board meeting

Tuesday April 15, 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
3rd Sunday 5-8PM

Please check the dates before you go.



TOSCO MUSIC OPEN MIC

First Tuesdays
at the
Evening Muse



The Spring Music party is
April 12 at Knight Theatre.

Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

Daylight Savings Time begins March 9 at 2AM

Keb'Mo, Ovens Auditorium, March 28

Jackie Venson, Stage Door Theater, March 29

Kelli Baker, March 29, Thomas Street Tavern

CBS 32nd anniversary party featuring

Albert Castiglia Band

March 30 at 7:30

Heist Brewery and Barrel Arts

Shinyribs. April 1, Neighborhood Theatre

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

Chris Cain, April 9, Middle C Jazz.

Ana Popovic, Cain Center for the Arts, April 10

**Charlotte SHOUT Pop. Folk, Blues Experience, April 12
Victoria Yards**

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

Tosco Music Party, April 12, Knight Theatre

Pam Taylor, April 17, Petra's

Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

The Pszeny Project with the Fool Hardies,
The Rooster, Gastonia 4/25

Tuck Fest, USNWC 4/25 to 4/27

Merle Fest with Bonnie Raitt, Melissa McKinney and many more,
April 24-27, Wilkesboro, NC

The Boneshakers, Middle C Jazz, April 30

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

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

CBS presents
Ally Venable Band,
May 9, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Mac Arnold, Newton Foothills Festival, May 10

Jamie McLean Band, River Jam - USNWC, May 10

GA-20, Neighborhood Theatre, May 13

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

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

Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

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

Taste Of Charlotte, Uptown, June 6-8

Carolyn Wonderland, Middle C Jazz, June 11

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

Mac Arnold, July 26, The Premier, Hickory

The Boneshakers Middle C Jazz April 30.



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



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY (CBS) is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the American Blues tradition through the presentation of concerts, forums, educational programs and support of local musicians in Charlotte and surrounding areas.

CBS NEEDS YOU !

Please consider volunteering for a committee, board position, or event, Or simply make a Tax-deductible donation. Just a few hours per year will make a difference.

Your memberships fund our shows. We are a 501(c)3 organization and count on members to contribute.

Like us on [Facebook](#). Be sure to post blues related articles on the [CBS group page](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#).

Know of an upcoming show? Share the details with us so we can spread the word!

All are welcome to our monthly Board meetings. These are typically the 3rd Tuesday of the month at a local Charlotte establishment. Next meeting is Tuesday April 15, 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