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- The Charlotte Blues Challenge registration is now open.
- Thank You Intrepid Artists International for your sponsorship!
- Blues Sundays and Open Jams
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Sponsorships and memberships are available.

The Charlotte Blues Challenge 2025 is officially underway.

Interested Bands, Solo/Duo and Youth musical acts may now



register on our website. Please download, complete and submit the application, pay your registration fees and you will contacted upon receipt. The Challenge is scheduled for Oct 5 and 12, 2025 at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts. Exact time TBD based upon the number of entries. Self produced CD are also eligible for consideration. These must comply with the rules as stated on the website. Electronic submissions allowed.

Registration is open now thru Sept 8.

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

Don't miss performances by Albert Castiglia and DK Harrell in Charlotte this summer. See the show list below.

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Blues Sunday

July 6, Aug 3 at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts. Tickets on sale now. Doors at 5:30. Show at 6. <u>Tickets \$10</u>. Jammers are no charge. All Ages Full Backline provided. Sign up at door ONLY!

We will have Blues Jams on July 6, Aug 3

Come see the <u>Rockaholics</u> July 6 when they lead the Mighty Fine Blues Jam at Blues Sunday.



DejaBlues returns for August 3 Jam



2025-2026 Guitar Fender Squire Stratocaster

We are off and running with our raffle guitar for 2025-2026. Carolyn Wonderland recently signed as did GA-20 & Mac Arnold. Its filling up fast. Four months in and the strings are already OFF!



Tickets available at all shows, \$10 each. and Online now. Drawing not later than April 2026.

CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY

Rock Hill, SC

Bluesletter

For memberships please go our <u>website</u>.

Got any ideas for future shows?

Please let us know at <u>CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com</u>

Or post to the <u>Facebook Group</u>.

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
- WYTX
- WNCU 90.7 Durham, NC

Monday- Thursday 7 - 10PM Streaming or Mobile App only Saturday 7-9PM & 9-11Pm

Who did we miss? Send us your personal favorite to cltbluessociety@gmail.com





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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.

> First Sunday of the Month All events at Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts July 6, Aug 3, Sept 7, Oct 5

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BLUES FRIENDS

















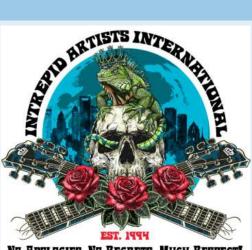






U.S. National Whitewater Center





NO APOLOGIES, NO REGRETS, MUCH RESPECT!





THE BLUES FOUNDATION







D.K. HARRELL - TALKIN' HEAVY

ALLIGATOR RECORDS ALCD 5027

www.dkblues.com



Now just age 27, Louisiana-born D.K. Harrell exploded onto the blues scene in 2023 with his *The Right Man* CD, delivering single-note guitar runs that announced to the world the arrival of a star ascendent. He follows it up with his debut release on Alligator, which proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that he belongs at the highest level of the blues world.

Already a Blues Music Award winner, D.K.'s a mesmerizing performer whose original lyrics are delivered from the heart and pack a punch equal to the sting of his six-string. He's backed here by Kid Andersen on rhythm, Jim Pugh on keys and a star-studded lineup that includes both June Core and Derrick "D-Mar" Martin on drums.

Don't miss "A Little Taste," "Grown Now," "Talkin' Heavy," "PTLD," "Good Man," "Into the Room," "No Thanks to You," "Liquor Stores and Legs," "What Real Men Do" and "Praise These Blues."

THE ALEXIS P. SUTER BAND - *JUST* STAY HIGH

NOLA BLUE RECORDS NB43

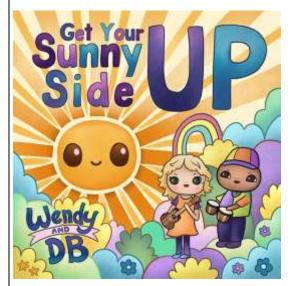
www.alexispsuter.com

Possessing one of the most distinctive female voices in the music industry, Alexis P. Suter delivers lyrics with the force of a hurricane. And the three-time BMA nominee will knock your socks off with this disc. It's an all-business, 14-song set of gospel-infused blues that will still provide a lift despite tunes comprised of all the struggles the world presents.

The Brooklyn, N.Y.-based contralto is backed by several top talents from the region: guitarist Jimmy Bennett, bassist Peter Bennett, drummer Ray Grappone and keyboard player Daniel Weiss aided by bassist Byron Isaacs, percussionist Lee Falco and Will Bryant on keys.

Give a listen to "God Gave Me the Blues," "Some People," "Breathe," "My Only Need," "It Ain't Easy," "4 Wheels Beats 2 Heels," "Big Girl Panties," "Just Stay High," "Isolation," "Song for You," "Love Always Wins" and "Piece of Clay."





WENDY & DB - CELEBRATION DAY

SELF-PRODUCED CD

www.wendyanddb.com

2023 Grammy nominees for their star-studded Into the Little Blue House CD, Wendy Morgan and Darryl Boggs are dedicated to delivering azure, upbeat music that's directed at children but inspiring for adults, too. And they continue their trajectory with their stellar, all-original follow-up.

Wendy handles ukulele and Darryl guitar in a set that contains positive-themed elements of rap, soul, reggae and more. A hardto-define, it's guaranteed to keep you smiling throughout. They're joined by a baker's dozen of top-flight instrumentalists who provide a surprise at every turn.

Bop along to "Celebration Day," "Sunny Side Up," "I'm in a Mood," "Ouchie Ya Ya," "Never Give Up," "Rainbow in My Heart," "Let's Make a Mess," "Recycling Bin," "Not Just a Girl," "If You're Happy and You Know It," "Seymour the Sloth" and "Science of Pancakes."

DAVE SPECTER - LIVE AT SPACE

DELMARK RECORDS 889

www.davespecter.com



A fixture in the Delmark family for more than 30 years, Dave Specter has played a part in dozens of straight-ahead Windy City blues albums, but he ascends to a different level with this rich and warm live set. Recorded at his long-running club in suburban Evanston, it's a silky-smooth, jazz-infused effort that reinvents the Chicago for 21st-century audiences. Dave and Brother John Kattke, his longtime keyboard-playing partner, share vocals in a skintight quartet that also includes 2025 BMA nominee Rodrigo Mantovani on bass and Marty Binder, a superstar keyboard player who toiled for years with Junior Wells, Albert Collins and Buddy Guy. Chockful of winners, tune in to "Rumba & Tonic," "Alley Walk," "Blues from the Inside Out," "On Your Way Down," "March Through the Darkness," "Chicago Style," "Same Old Blues," "The Stinger," "Bluebird Blues," "Ponchatoula Way" and "Ridin' High."

ALL THINGS SWAMP - DRESSED

LITTLE VILLAGE FOUNDATION LVF 1070

www.littlevillagefoundation.com

Second-line funk isn't a musical style confined to New Orleans. It thrives in the San Francisco Bay Area, too, thanks to the diaspora of Cajuns and Creoles who settled there decades ago. Have any doubt? All Things Swamp are a ninepiece ensemble chockful of talent, and they'll have you dancing steadily from the jump of this set.

The roster includes Steely Dan sax and guitar player Dean Parks, *America's Got Talent* finalist/sax player Tim Hockenberry, pianist/vocalist/musical director Dan Gordon – who penned the theme to TV's *The Office*, Little Village founder/organist Jim Pugh and a deep roster of top session players.

Shake your booty to "Sidewalk Strut," "Bah-Duey-Duey," "Dancing Machine," "Mercy Mercy Mercy," "Rocking Chair," "Blues for Ben," "How Much Fun" and "Take It to the Street."

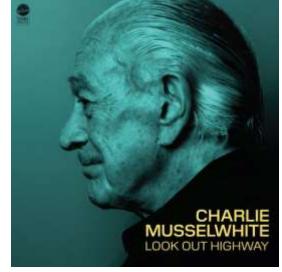
CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE - *LOOKOUT HIGHWAY*

FORTY BELOW RECORDS FBR 046

www.charliemusselwhite.com

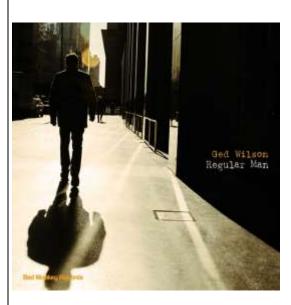
It's always a treat when Charlie Musselwhite steps into the studio. And it's even better this time because he teams up for the first time ever with his regular road band at Greaseland Studios in California, where he re-teams with former bandmate Kid for a cohesive set that finds him with one foot in loneliness and the other on the road. Kid contributes guitar and keys in addition to his usual work at the controls as Charlie dazzles on harp. They're joined by Matthew Stubbs (GA-20) on six-string, June Core on drums and Randy Bermudes (Fabulous Thunderbirds) on bass with Al Kapone and Edna Luckett sitting in on vocals.

With Charlie at his absolute best, you'll adore "Lonesome Highway," "Sad Eyes," "Storm Warning," "Baby Won't You Please Help Me," "Highway 61," "Ready for Times to Get Better," "Ramblin' Is My Game," "Ghosts in Memphis" and "Open Road."





JULY 2025



GED WILSON - REGULAR MAN

BAD MONKEY RECORDS

https://gedwilson.bandcamp.com/

A British multi-instrumentalist who fuses acoustic blues with roots and jazz, Ged Wilson has flown under the radar for years in the U.S. But one listen to this CD will have you hunting out his four previous releases. It may be mostly quiet and unhurried, but it will quickly strike a positive chord thank Wilson's interesting, original lyrics, which flow like a river throughout.

Ged – pronounced "Jed" – grew up in Manchester, where he was strongly influenced by John Mayall as a child. He handles guitar, keys and harp – all of which combined to deliver a full-band feel despite his only accompaniment, percussionist Dicky (no last name), who produced. Looking for a change of pace? You'll enjoy "Regular Man," "Tib Street Blues," "Movers and Shakers," "Street Dog," "Promised Land," "Murder on Bolton Road," "Ghost Train" and "Sands of Time."

HUGHES TAYLOR - ROASTED

THE BENT NOTE RECORDS

www.hughestaylormusic.com

A native of Macon, Ga., who's been a fixture across the South since debuting with *Hear My Melody* in 2016, guitarist Hughes Taylor simply blazes from the jump of his sixth album. It's an all-original mix of blues-rock that's loaded with explosive, steady-driving fretwork, a heavy beat and a voice to match. Hughes' tight four-piece band features the rhythm section of Ben

Alford and Nich Gannon with Zach Wilson on keys. They're augmented by Emily Lynn and Evie Somogyi on backing vocals. Powerful throughout but never over-the-top, give a listen to "Moondance Baby," "Ballad of Big Bill McGuire," "Until It Hits," "Midnight Angel," "(In the Morning) When It's Over," "Beautiful Stranger," "When Love Comes Home," "Before You Fall" and "Rochester."



DAVIS COEN - LIVE AT PROUD LARRY'S

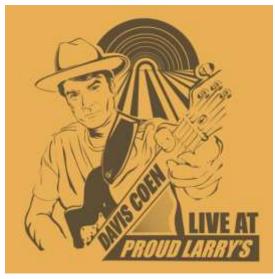
SOUNDVIEW RECORDS SVX 1009

www.daviscoen.com

Based out of Memphis and a blues/roots performer who frequently appears in documentaries and film soundtracks, guitarist Davis Coen chose the legendary Proud Mary's music hall in Oxford, Miss., to record this live set. It's an intimate, emotion-packed set captured in two different alignments across multiple nights.

A mix of originals interspersed with blues classics, the opening four tracks feature keyboard player John Gage and the Just Groovin' Experience before turning over duties to Davis' longtime drummer Kinney Kimbrough (son of the legendary Junior Kimbrough), and basis Justin Showah.

Deep in the beat throughout, you'll enjoy "You Gonna Miss Me," "Basement with the Blue Light," "Stay All Night," "Anna Ann," "Don't Let the Deal Go Down," "Mile After Mile," "Long Black Veil" and "Jack of Diamonds."



KIM FIELD & THE PERFECT GENTLEMEN - *DON'T NEED BUT ONE*

BLUES DREAM RECORDS

www.kimfield.com

Based out of Portland, Ore., and fronted by harp player/author Kim Field, the Perfect Gentlemen are one classy act. They swing from the hip on this debut CD, delivering a mix of straight-ahead blues, soul and more, all of which feature sugar-coated vocals and sophisticated solos in their rich charts.

The world-class lineup includes Vyasa Dotson (Curtis Salgado) and Whit Draper on guitars with Denny Bixby (Buddy Miller, Chet Atkins) on bass and Jimi Bott (Fabulous Thunderbirds, Mannish Boys) on percussion. West Coast treasure Louis Pain sits in on keys, and the Soul Survivor Horns do, too.

Swing and sway to "Don't Need But One," "Please Don't Ask Me," "Black Diamonds," "Dress the Monkey," "All These Little Things," "I Give In," "Emergency," "So Dark in Here," "Flower Shop" and "The Man That Got Away."





EASY TIGER LANISIEGAL MEETS JOHNNY MASTRO

IAN SIEGAL & JOHNNY MASTRO - EASY TIGER

CONTINENTAL BLUE HEAVEN RECORDS CBHCD2056 www.iansiegal.com

A collaboration between one of the top vocalists in Britain and a harp player who's been a longtime major player in the New Orleans blues scene, guitarist Ian Siegal and Johnny Mastro will grab you from the opening notes of this CD, which has already hit the top spot on Australian blues charts. Produced and recorded by Big Jon Atkinson in the Big Easy analog and straight to tape and delivered in a full-band setting, it's a deep-in-the-beat blues-rock pleaser with throwback appeal that's properly self-described as a jarring, 5 a.m. wakeup call in a sleazy motel.

Crank up the sound and give a listen to "Four on the Floor," "Balling the Jack," "No Mercy," "Dog Won't Hurt," "Tall & Tight," "Miss Your Cadillac," "Emperor's New Clothes," "Wineheaded" and "Who's in Church."

MIKE DANGEROUX - EMPTY CHAIR

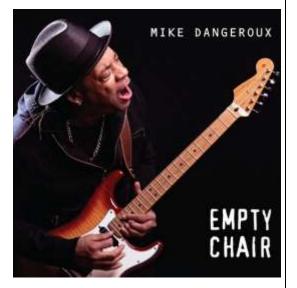
RD RECORDS

www.mikedangeroux.com

A veteran vocalist/guitarist who's worked with Koko Taylor, Buddy Guy, Nellie "Tiger" Travis, Inetta Visor, J.W. Williams and a host of others in the Windy City, Mike Dangeroux is one of the most under-recorded artists on the Chicago blues scene. But he returns to the studio in style with this driving, deep-blue EP.

It's an all-original effort that takes listeners through love, loss and redemption, all of which is propelled his emotional, stinging fretwork and powerful vocal delivery. Co-producer Vincent Varco provides keys with Daron Casper Walker on drums.

Open your ears to "End Like This," "Money Back," "Play My Cards Right," "No Good for Me," "Empty Chair" and "What's Taking So Long."



JAMES COOK - CAPTAIN'S AUDIO PROJECT

TASTE GOOD MUSIC

https://mudporch.bandcamp.com/album/captains-audio-project

Based out of Portland, Ore., James Cook is best known as a member of the unique ensemble Trashcan Joe, which performs with instruments constructed out of trash cans. But he makes his debut as a soloist with this set, shifting between multiple guitars and upright bass to deliver a soothing set of acoustic blues.

James possesses a warm tenor voice and a jazz-influenced attack. He's accompanied by keyboard player Mike Danner, who recorded and produced, and a horn section composed of Paul Brainard, Scott Van Schoick and Willie Mathis. An album with old-time appeal, tune in to "Really Hard to Find," "Out on the Minam," "The River," "Freak," "Satan Wrote This Song," "Waiting for the Moon," "There's a Hole," "I'll Follow" and "Sometimes."





Jimmy Adder

JIMMY ADLER - IT'S HOT!

SELF-PRODUCED CD www.jimmyadler.com

A stylish guitarist, Jimmy Adler has been thrilling audiences out of Pittsburgh for decades, and he swings relentlessly from the hip while providing a little sunshine to a troubled world this deep blue and jazzy mix. It's an addictive set that contains elements of Latin elements, gospel and the Big Easy that will keep you smiling throughout.

Jimmy's surrounded by the best backing unit the Steel City has to offer. It includes Bob Insko and Jim Richley on bass and drums, Steve Binsberger on keys, a quartet of horn players and several backup singers, too.

Choice cuts abound among "Best of Times," "Slow Drag," "Recipe for Love," "Higher Ground," "Benny the Booker," "Fish Fry," "Lighthouse," Connie Jones," "Savor the Flavor" and "It's Hot."

AKI KUMAR - GOD BLESS THE USA

LITTLE VILLAGE FOUNDATION 1072 www.akikumar.com

Mumbai, India's gift to the U.S., harp player Aki Kumar delivers a love letter to his adopted homeland with this self-recorded set. He cuts a steady groove throughout, marrying traditional sounds with the rhythms of South Asia – music he's branded as Bollywood blues. If you haven't heard it yet, it's a real eye- and ear-opener because the combo really works.

Aki's now based in the Bay Area, and his cast of characters here includes keyboard player/guitarist Bob Welch along with Rome Yamilov and Pete Fazzini on sixstring, Randy Bermudes and Kedar Roy on bass, June Core on drums with Tony Stead on organ. Adding to the mix are Jim Santi Owen on tabla and khanjira, sitar player Will March and sax player Jack Sanford.

Take a chance on "Should I Stay (Immigrant Song)," "A Plea to Be Free," "Jarvos Woman," "Desi Strut," "Time Will Tell," "Thoughts and Prayers," "God Bless the USA," "It Is What It Is," "Hard to Get" and "Harp Tuah."



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 (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

Thanks for helping to Keep the Blues Alive!

Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

Have shows to contribute? Send a PM or email to <u>CLTbluessociety@gmail.com</u> Be sure to join our Charlotte Blues Society Group page on Facebook.



MusicEverywhereCLT has a great calendar and an open mic listing.



http://musiceverywhereclt.com/calendar/

July CBS Board meeting

Tuesday July 15, 2025

Time: 6:00 Social, 6:30 Business

Location: <u>Caswell Station</u> 366 N Caswell Rd, Charlotte

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

Local Jams, Shows and Festivals



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



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

Pam Taylor July 31, Evening Muse

Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

Blues Sunday: Open Blues Jam

Aug 3, DejaBlues, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

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

Albert Cummings Shelby, NC Aug 8

DK Harrell, Eastway Regional Rec Ctr., Aug 21

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

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

Christone 'Kingfish' Ingram Sept 6, Neighborhood Theatre

Blues Sunday: Southern Resonance Roots Festival Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts Sept 7, 12 to 7:30 2 stages, rain or shine. Free and open to the Public

Black Mountain Blues Fest, Sept 26-28

Tinsley Ellis, Sept 28, Neighborhood Theatre

Tosco Music Beatles Tribute - Friday, October 3 at Knight Theater FabFest Daytime - Saturday, October 4 at CPCC's Parr Center

Charlotte Blues Challenge Oct 5 & 12, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Duane Betts & Palmetto Motel Oct 6, Neighborhood Theatre

NC Harmonica Festival Concord, NC Oct 10-11

Charlotte Blues Challenge Oct 5 & 12, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Local Jams, Shows and Festivals

Tedeschi Trucks with Little Feat, PNC Oct 18

Philip Sayce, Cain Ctr, Oct 18

Blues Sunday: Open Blues Jam Nov 2, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts

Tab Benoit – Nov 8, Neighborhood Theatre

Blues Sunday: Holiday party & Open Blues Jam Dec 7, Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts





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 Taxdeductible 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 <u>Facebook</u>. Be sure to post blues related articles on the <u>CBS group page</u>. Follow us on <u>Instagram</u>.

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 July 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