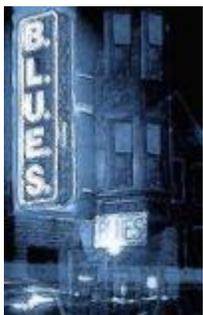


# Home of the Blues highlights

The CHICAGO BLUES GUITAR STORY



Chicago grew to be the Blues center during the 1940's and 1950.'s. Thousands of Southerner's left and headed for Chicago with the work and a "better life" promise. Early electric blues had the "Soul"of the Delta and rawness the amplified sound of Chicago with a small combo.

The early electric blues of the 1950's featured highly amplified guitar evolving into single string "Guitar" playing.

Chicago, 43rd St. South Side the year 1947. A middle class working man's area with night clubs. All filled with customers and live music. Musicians like

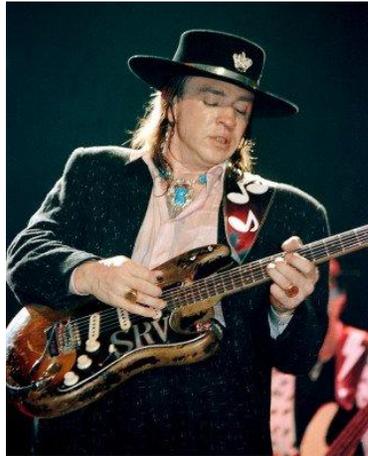
Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf and Elmore James are playing in the clubs with mostly acoustic instruments. The musicians are about to use electronics as a next instrument along with local South side musicians to create "Chicago Style Hard Blues"



Blues Greats



Ray Charles



Stevie Ray Vaughan



Leadbelly



Big Mama Thornton



Albert Collins



Otis Rush



Frank "Son" Seals



Big Maybelle



[Taj Mahal](#)



[Big Maceo Merriweather](#)



[Little Walter](#)



[Billie Holiday](#)



[BB King](#)



[Bo Diddley](#)



[Muddy Waters](#)



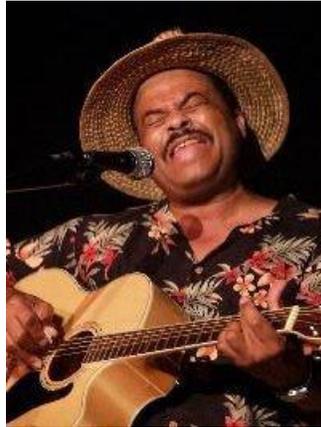
[Etta James](#)

As legendary guitarist Robert Johnson put it, Chicago has been a “sweet home” for the blues. The most recognizable cultural signature this city has produced, Chicago blues has diverse and contradictory roots: [African American](#) migration from the South and the growth of the modern music industry; regional folk genius and ethnic entrepreneurial savvy. This rich sense of origin and history makes blues music such a celebrated civic resource, one that still shapes cultural and social practice throughout the Windy City.

[\(Read More...\)](#)



[Ron Prince](#)



[Mark Stampley](#)



[Shirley King](#)



[David Dupont](#)  
["Chainsaw"](#)

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Buddy Guy

Born George Guy on July 30, 1936 in Lettsworth, Louisiana, [Buddy Guy](#) began playing professionally in the Baton Rouge area in the early 1950s. The young Buddy Guy was mainly influenced by [T-Bone Walker](#), [Lightnin' Hopkins](#), [Lightnin' Slim](#), and [Guitar Slim](#). In 1957, Buddy Guy went to Chicago. In 1958, he won the "Battle of the Blues" against Magic Sam and [Otis Rush](#). After this success, Buddy Guy soon made his first recordings for Artistic. In 1960, Buddy Guy signed with Chess Records and became a star in the Chicago blues scene. He also sat in many recording sessions with other blues giants like [Muddy Waters](#), [Howlin' Wolf](#), [Willie Dixon](#), [Little Walter](#), [Sonny Boy Williamson](#), and [Koko Taylor](#).

The revolution began inauspiciously enough in 1948 with the release of a 78-rpm single by a singer-guitarist called Muddy Waters. Coupled on Aristocrat 1305 were a pair of traditional Mississippi Delta-styled pieces "I Cant Be Satisfied" and "I Feel Like Going Home," and on them Waters' dark, majestic singing. Waters' use of amplification gave his guitar playing a new, powerful, striking edge and sonority that introduced to traditional music a sound its listeners found very exciting, comfortably familiar yet strangely compelling and, above all, immensely powerful, urgent.



Muddy Waters



**Jimi Hendrix**

James Marshall "Jimi" Hendrix (born Johnny Allen Hendrix; November 27, 1942 – September 18, 1970) was an American guitarist, singer and songwriter. He is often considered to be the greatest electric guitarist in the history of rock music by other musicians and commentators in the industry, and one of the most important and influential musicians of his era across a range of genre. He was influenced by blues artists such as [B.B. King](#), [Muddy Waters](#), [Howlin' Wolf](#), [Albert King](#), and [Elmore James](#), [rhythm and blues](#) and soul guitarists [Curtis Mayfield](#), [Steve Cropper](#), as well as by funk and some modern jazz. In 1966, Hendrix, who played and recorded with [Little Richard](#)'s band from 1964 to 1965, said, "I want to do with my guitar what Little Richard does with his voice."

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Blues All-Stars



Buddy Guy



Howlin' Wolf



Mavis Staples



Bobby Bland



Percy Sledge



Albert King



*Koko Taylor*  
Koko Taylor



Sugar Blue



[Chuck Berry](#)



[Shirley King](#)



[John Lee Hooker](#)



[Billy Branch](#)



[Fats Domino](#)



[Junior Wells](#)

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