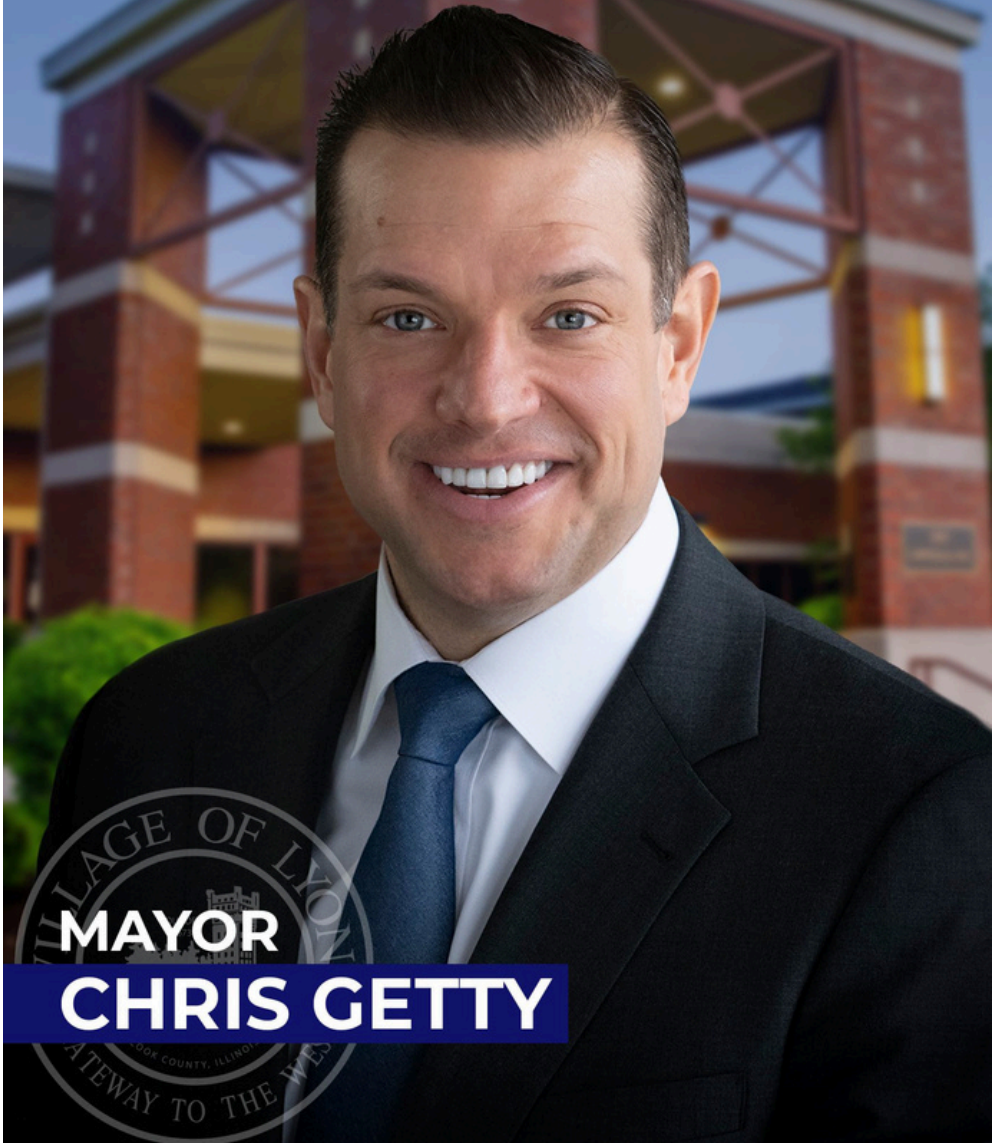




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DEB FINNEY

Your emcee for America's Blues Birthday Party

Deb Finney has had the blues for more than three decades—and she wouldn't have it any other way! For 34 years, she's been the longtime host of KABF's Blues House Party in Little Rock, Arkansas, sharing the music, stories, and the artists who keep the blues alive. A familiar face—and voice

on the blues scene at home and beyond, Deb annually emcees the Delta Cultural Center Front Porch Stage at the King Biscuit Blues Festival, the Big Steam Music Festival, and other blues festivals and events. She's also known for hosting house parties featuring blues and zydeco artists, proving that sometimes the best venue really is the living room. Deb's mission is simple: keep the blues alive, share what she knows, and bring a few new folks along for the ride. If there's live music playing—especially the blues—chances are Deb isn't far away.

Connect with Deb on Facebook: KABF Blues House Party, Instagram: @Redluvsblues and her website blueshouseparty.com.

Scott “Hambone” Hammer

Hambone has been on the air for over 30 years. He has produced one of the longest running radio shows in a town known for the blues. He can be found on listener-supported public radio, WDCB 90.9FM, & wdcb.org, every Thursday, from 10 p.m. to midnight. Hambone broadcasts from the back seat of his Black Cadillac parked on the corner of Jazz Avenue and Blues Boulevard. Hambone has featured over 600 live performances on his show. For over 20 years, he has emceed the Chicago Blues Festival and Blues on the Fox Festival in Aurora.



This program book is made possible by the generous support of our advertisers *and* the hard work of the following people.

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Editor | Design Layout

MAD DOG'S MAIN STAGE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19TH

GREASY GRAVY



GREASY GRAVY

Greasy Gravy is the acoustic duo of Matt Hendricks and Rick “Cookin’” Sherry. Matt Hendricks leads the band on guitar, vocals, banjo, mandolin and is a veteran on the Chicago roots and blues scene. Rick Sherry steps in on washboard, harmonica, clarinet and jug. He has played through the years with bands Devil in a Woodpile, Sanctified Grumblers, and The Hat Stretchers. Rick also accompanied Delta Blues legend, David “Honeyboy” Edwards for many years. These two musicians are a natural match due to their shared love and output of pre-war blues, ragtime, jazz and Hendricks' storied originals.

THE HUNGRY WILLIAMS

Joined together by a love of early swingin’ rock and roll, the Hungry Williams play music that puts a smile on your face and a spring in your step. Legendary Midwest drummer and band leader John Carr has assembled a group of like-minded R&B gurus who deliver the goods. Lead singer Kelli Gonzalez belts it out of the park with sass and charm, while the rest of the core group including Mike Sieger on bass, Joe Vent on guitar, and Jack Stewart on keys make it jump all night long.

With a sax section adding grease to the skillet, the Hungry Williams rock, swing, jump, and stroll at every show, making sure everyone takes some time to leave their worries behind and have some fun.



SHIRLEY JOHNSON & DELMARK ALL-STARS

Shirley Johnson is one of the powerful women carrying the tradition of Chicago blues & soul into the present. A dynamic vocalist known for her soulful voice, emotional depth, and commanding stage presence, Johnson brings the feeling of classic Chicago blues together with the warmth and power of soul. A longtime Delmark Recording artist, she has released three albums on the historic label, including her most recent and highly successful vinyl compilation. For this special festival performance, Shirley Johnson will be featured with the Delmark All-Stars, led by acclaimed guitarist Dave Specter, with Roosevelt Purifoy on keys, Melvin Smith on bass, and Joel Baer on drums.

SPIT CUP AND THE JUKES

They might hail from Adkins, Texas, but Spit Cup and the Jukes are heavily steeped in the Cotton Patch Soul Blues tradition from deep in the Mississippi Delta. This genre originated through the late Junior Kimbrough and has been kept alive by his son, Robert Kimbrough Junior. Spit Cup's lead guitarist and founder, Ryan Washington reached out to Kimbrough on social media to learn this hypnotic brand of blues and has been proud to carry on the Cotton Patch Soul Blues tradition around the country. This band consists of Washington, Rob "Big Rob" Molina on bass, Adam "Korpus Kid" Palacios on harmonica, Jahleel "J Boogie" Rice on drums and Stray Dog on lead guitar.



KEESHEA PRATT



"I sing whatever is needed to give my audience an experience." That's the motto Keeshea Pratt lives by. Whether belting blues, caressing soul, or testifying through gospel and jazz, the Mississippi native delivers authentic, charismatic performances. Pratt's extraordinary voice has shared stages with legends like Bobby Rush, Keb' Mo', and Grace Bumbry. Based in Houston, the International Blues Challenge winner defies categorization, reading rooms with raw expression. Fronting her brass-laden band or stripped down, she brings unmatched vocal power, delivering messages with conviction and grace.

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DWAYNE DOPSIE & THE ZYDECO HELLRAISERS

Dwayne Dopsie and the Zydeco Hellraisers inject a high-octane energy into contemporary Creole music. Born Dwayne Rubin in Lafayette, Louisiana, Dopsie is the youngest son of zydeco icon Rockin' Dopsie. He taught himself accordion at age seven and formed his band at 19, pushing the traditional genre into a fierce, rock- and blues- infused direction. Known as a Grammy-winning accordionist and powerhouse vocalist, Dopsie delivers an explosive live show. Backed by the driving rub-board rhythms of his Hellraisers, the band tours globally, keeping the raw spirit of South Louisiana alive.



SEAN "MACK" MCDONALD



At 25, Sean "Mack" McDonald is one of the younger faces of the blues. Growing up in Augusta, GA, he discovered music through church and family. A gifted multi-instrumentalist, he started on drums at age 2, picked up piano at 3 after hearing Ray Charles, and began teaching himself guitar at 7. His raw yet sophisticated, jazzy style reflects influences ranging from B.B. King and Muddy Waters to Pete "Guitar" Lewis, focusing on music from the late 1940s to early 1960s. Over the last three years, he has made a splash on domestic and international

festival tours. He recently released his debut album, *Have Mercy*, which won the Best Emerging Artist Album Award at the BMAs.

THE STEPHEN HULL EXPERIENCE

Stephen Hull gives the blues community exciting evidence that the future of music is in good hands. Born in 1999, this Racine, Wisconsin native, began playing blues at age 14 and never stopped, taking cues from Albert King and B.B. King as he developed his sweet, soulful guitar sound. Balancing that with stellar lead vocals and a buoyant personality, Stephen has been a fast-rising star in Chicago's blues clubs and venues across southeastern Wisconsin. He has been featured in a variety of blues magazines and has been interviewed by media outlets including *Lake Effect* (broadcast on Milwaukee's NPR). From the Chicago Blues Fest to the Mississippi Valley Blues Fest, The Stephen Hull Experience is making headlines and gaining fans every step of the way.



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10pm -midnight

Scott "Hambone" Hammer hosts
"Hambone's Blues Party"

Saturday - ELEVEN hours of Blues

6pm – 8pm

Leslie Keros hosts "Mood Indigo"

8pm – 9pm

"Blues from the Red Rooster Lounge"

9pm – 11pm

Doug Curry hosts "Blacks & Blues"

11pm – midnight

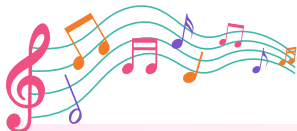
Sammie Jay hosts "Night Train"

midnight – 5am Sunday morning

"Blues Before Sunrise"

hosted by Steve Cushing

WDCB.org



BACK PORCH STAGE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19TH



GAIL STORM



Gail Storm is a New York based singer / songwriter/ pianist. Her repertoire reflects both traditional blues and cross-over jazz, echoing the sounds of New Orleans. Storm is known to have a “heavy left hand” which enables her to lay down the boogie woogie. She plays solo or with sides; she is also a member of the band Back on Bourbon Street, which celebrates the music of New Orleans. Storm’s original music spans blues, jazz, and popish genres. She won the Long Island Blues Challenge in 2023. She is a featured artist in Leslie Abbey’s film “Big Fish Blues”. Storm has recorded several CDs and is currently working on a cd from her 2025 all-original show. For more info: GailStormMusic.com.

MILES MINOR

Miles Minor has certainly made a name for himself on the Chicago blues scene and the list of who he has played with reads like a “who’s who of the blues.” He has performed alongside legends including Buddy Guy, Earl Slick, Mike Wheeler, Linsey Alexander, Mojo Morganfield, and so many more! Some say that he was made to play the guitar. Others say it was made for him. Miles loves walking around and interacting with the audience while playing the guitar with his teeth, a beer bottle or just about anything he can put his hands on. As Minor works the crowd and gets them involved, he always pours everything he has out on the stage!





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DOWNTOWN CHARLIE BROWN & DONNA HERULA



Downtown Charlie Brown and Donna Herula form a power house acoustic roots duo bridging Deep South traditions with classic Chicago Blues. Chicago Blues Hall of Fame inductee Donna Herula is a multi-award-winning singer and resonator guitarist known for her superlative prowess. Multi-instrumentalist Downtown Charlie Brown, "Chicago's Delta," shines on blues piano and slide guitar. Together, they draw packed houses with playful onstage banter, historical storytelling, powerful dual resonators, and a captivating "beauty and the beast" vocal contrast that injects fresh energy into folk-blues.

BOB CORRITORE & JIMI "PRIMETIME" SMITH

Bob Corritore and Jimi "Primetime" Smith first met in 1978 when Smith was playing at B.L.U.E.S on Halsted as part of Big Walter Horton's regular Sunday night gig. 28 years later, in 2016 that they joined forces as a musical team. That's when Smith moved to Phoenix and joined Corritore for an essential partnership of two like-minded traditional blues practitioners. Smith's deep-rooted blues guitar comes straight from his Chicago blues upbringing as the son of Johnnie Mae Dunston and tutelage from Jimmy Reed, Eddie Taylor and others. Now, that Smith's established himself in Phoenix, he and Corritore have been collaborating on some amazing recordings as they continue to uphold their beloved Chicago blues tradition. Their set on Saturday will feature a stripped-down version of this sound with additional guitar support from Billy Flynn.



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MAD DOG'S MAIN STAGE

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20TH

MAXWELL STREET BLUES REVIVAL®



MAXWELL STREET BLUES REVIVAL® carries forward the raw, electric spirit of Chicago's legendary Maxwell Street, where generations of blues musicians turned sidewalks into stages and helped shape modern music. Featuring Anji Brooks, Chicago Slim, Lynne Jordan and South Side Stevie, the Revival blends power house vocals, gritty guitar and deep Chicago roots into a show that honors the tradition without embalming it. Soulful, spontaneous and unapologetically Chicago, this isn't a museum piece . . It's a living blues tradition. Keepin' the Blues Musicians Alive!

RICKEY "QUICKSAND" MARTIN

Drummer, Rickey "Quicksand" Martin, originally from Buffalo, New York, lives in Helena, Arkansas. Ricky got hooked on the blues after hearing it played in the local juke joints. Quicksand has toured with Albert King, Albert Collins, James Cotton, Fin Robinson, John Primer & Charlie Musselwhite. Quicksand provided the beat on Musselwhite's *Mississippi Son* release & on Primer's 2025 CD *Grown in Mississippi*.



Quicksand is a driving force on the Delta-area music scene. He organized the authentic busker stage, **"The Quicksand Stage"**, at the King Biscuit Blues Festival and has worked tirelessly for Blues in the Schools in Helena, Arkansas. Quicksand and Deak Harp play together often.



DEAK HARP



Deak Harp is a celebrated American blues musician and master harmonica craftsman based in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Picking up the harmonica at age twelve, his early career was deeply shaped by blues legend James Cotton. Harp spent years touring as Cotton's driver before eventually opening his acts and playing alongside him. Known for his raw, high-energy Chicago and Mississippi Hill Country blues style, he often performs as a powerful one-man band. Beyond performing, he owns Deak's Mississippi Saxophones, crafting custom harmonicas for music icons like Ozzy Osbourne and Charlie Musselwhite.

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From Maxwell Street and Mississippi Juke joints to the Louisiana bayou and beyond, we're celebrating the many diverse style of blues from every corner of our nation as these fine musicians come to Lyons, Illinois for a birthday party like no other.

While you might be familiar with the traditional Chicago blues, we'd like to take a deeper dive into the many other styles of music you'll find at this one-of-a-kind festival. So, buckle up and let's get down the business of delving into some good old American blues genres.



★ ACOUSTIC DELTA BLUES ★

This raw early style of country blues originated in the Mississippi Delta and pre-dated the blues that was electrified and amplified in Chicago. Some of its trademarks include percussive, syncopated slide guitar, dead thumb fingerpicking and songs delivered with deep, emotional intensity. Two of the finest purveyors of this down-home acoustic Delta blues style are Donna Herula and "Downtown" Charlie Brown, who are popular around the Chicago area and beyond. This dynamic duo has also been recognized for their efforts in preserving this genre while injecting a fresh energy into traditional folk-blues.



↻ COTTON PATCH SOUL BLUES: ↻

This style was pioneered by Junior Kimbrough and is an offshoot of North Mississippi Hill Country Blues. Although Cotton Patch Soul Blues shares Hill Country's driving, one-chord grooves and hypnotic beats, Cotton Patch Soul Blues also emphasizes soulful vocals, lyrical phrasing and a looser, more syncopated back beat. This brand of blues is also highly specialized as there are only two bands dedicated to playing Cotton Patch Soul Blues in its original form. There is Kimbrough's son, Robert Kimbrough Sr., and his Soul Connection Band and Spit Cup and the Jukes, who are making their very first Chicago area appearance here at "America's Blues Birthday Party."



JUMP AND SWING BLUES



Jump blues is an up tempo, high-energy style of blues heavily influenced by big band jazz and boogie-woogie that dominated African-American popular music in the 1940s and early 1950s. Born out of the economic shifts of World War II, which forced large swing orchestras to scale down into smaller combos, it served as the critical musical bridge to the birth of rhythm and blues (R & B) and rock 'n roll. The Hungry Williams band will be demonstrating their own brand of jump blues when they take the stage on Saturday.

Swing blues blends the driving, danceable rhythms of 1930s and 1940s big band jazz with the emotional structures of traditional 12-bar blues. Often overlapping with jump blues, this upbeat style features prominent horn sections, syncopated rhythms, and a shuffle or triplet groove that directly influenced early rock and roll. This retro vibe will be in full "swing" here when Morry Sochet and the Special 20s entertain the crowd with upbeat blues and some vintage swing numbers.



ZYDECO

This upbeat style of American dance music originated in Southwest Louisiana by French-speaking Black Creoles. It melds rhythm and blues, blues and soul with traditional Afro-Caribbean rhythms and Cajun music. Zydeco music heavily features the diatonic accordion and washboard and was popularized in the mid-century by artists like Clifton Chenier. Today, musicians like Dwayne Dopsie and the Zydeco Hellraisers continue to push it forward by adding their own contemporary spin with elements of rock, rhythm and blues, reggae, and blues.



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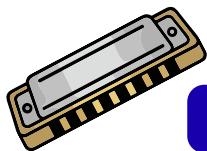


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MORRY SOCHAT & THE SPECIAL 20s

Morry Sochat (pronounced Socket) moved to Chicago from Texas in 1990. He started playing harmonica in 2000. He started The Special 20s in 2005. The Special 20's are Chicago based blues and swing band, specializing in Chicago Blues, Jazz, West Coast Swing and 50's Rock n' Roll!!!! They put on a great show that will have you dancing. They play music that appeals to anyone, old, young, music lovers, blues traditionalists, professionals and even hipsters. The band celebrated their 20-year anniversary in 2025! They just released their 5th CD, *Live at Space*



BOB CORRITORE CHICAGO BLUES REVUE



Bob Corritore returns to his old stomping grounds to reunite with many of his longtime friends in a show that will feature some of the finest traditional Chicago blues players around. This all-star band includes the solid rhythm section of Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith on drums and the incredible Bob Stroger on bass along with first-rate guitar work from Jimi "Primetime" Smith and Billy Flynn. This unit provides the perfect backdrop for cameo appearances from Oscar Wilson, John Primer, Lil Ed and Willie Buck.



Serving as both emcee and band leader, Corritore will be anchoring this brilliant ensemble with his powerful yet sensitive harmonica. Corritore's return to his Chicago roots is always a cause for celebration and this show is no exception.

Oscar Wilson



Oscar Wilson, nicknamed "Mr.43rd Street," is a charismatic Chicago blues vocalist and co-leader of the renowned traditional blues band, The Cash Box Kings. The son of bluesman, H. S. Wilson, Oscar was born in Chicago in 1953 and grew up on the South Side surrounded by blues royalty. Despite his lifelong immersion in the genre, Oscar did not start singing professionally until his mid-50s. Today, his powerful vocals, commanding stage presence, and authentic storytelling anchor the Cash Box King's energetic revival of classic electric blues. Wilson has also been a long-time collaborator with Bob Corritore, both touring and showcasing his Chicago blues vocal skills on many of Corritore's "And Friends" album releases.



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SATURDAY ★ SEPT 19

MAD DOG'S MAIN STAGE



12:30 - 1:20	MATT HENDRICKS & GREASY GRAVY
1:35 - 2:35	THE HUNGRY WILLIAMS
2:50 - 3:50	SHIRLEY JOHNSON & THE DELMARK ALL-STARS
4:10 - 5:20	SPIT CUP & THE JUKES
5:40 - 6:50	KEESHEA PRATT BAND
7:10 - 8:40	DWAYNE DOPSIE & THE ZYDECO HELLRAISERS
9:00 - 10:30	STEPHEN HULL EXPERIENCE w/ SEAN "MACK" McDONALD

BACK PORCH STAGE



1:00 - 1:45	GAIL STORM
2:00 - 2:45	THE MILES MINOR BAND
3:00 - 3:45	DOWNTOWN CHARLIE BROWN / DONNA HERULA
4:00 - 5:00	BOB CORRITORE, JIMI PRIMETIME SMITH, BILLY FLYNN
5:30 - 7:00	OPEN JAM

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LYONS, IL ★ SEPT 19-20, 2026

SUNDAY ★ SEPT 20

MAD DOG'S MAIN STAGE



12:45 - 1:30

MAXWELL STREET BLUES REVIVAL

1:45 - 2:30

DEAK HARP & QUICKSAND

2:45 - 3:45

MORRY SOCHAT & THE SPECIAL 20s

4:00 - 5:50

BOB CORRITORE CHICAGO BLUES REVIEW

feat: BOB STROGER • BILLY FLYNN • KENNY SMITH
OSCAR WILSON • JOHN PRIMER • WILLIE BUCK • LIL ED

6:10 - 7:10

DEMETRIA TAYLOR & HER BAD BOYS

7:30 - 9:00

MUD MORGANFIELD

9:15

FIREWORKS!



BACK PORCH STAGE



1:30 - 2:15

SOME YEARS LATER

2:30 - 3:15

WINDY CITY REV UPS DUET w/ GAIL STORM

3:30 - 4:15

SONIA ASTACIO / DONNY VLECK

4:30 - 5:15

RUSTY ENDS & THE HILLBILLY HOODOO

5:30 - 6:30

QUICKSAND & DEAK HARP

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BOB CORRITORE CHICAGO BLUES REVUE •

FEATURED ARTISTS

Willie Buck

Willie Buck (born William Crawford in 1937) is a legendary Chicago blues vocalist. Raised in Mississippi, he moved to Chicago in 1953, immersing himself in the vibrant Maxwell Street scene. Buck is considered one of the last traditional Chicago blues singers with a style reminiscent of Muddy Waters, who he first saw play at several South Side clubs. Known for his deep, rough-cut baritone and unwavering commitment to traditional electric blues, the Chicago Blues Hall of Fame inductee remains a vital, living pillar of the genre. 2025 was a big year for Willie Buck as he received a Blues Music Award for Best Live Blues Album for his *Live at Buddy Guy's Legends* with the Delmark All-Stars and a Jus Blues "Muddy" award later that year.



LIL' ED WILLIAMS

Lil' Ed Williams is an iconic Chicago blues slide guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter. Born on the city's West Side in 1955, he learned the blues from his uncle, legendary slide master J. B. Hutto. In 1975, Ed formed Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials with his half-brother James "Pookie" Young. Known for their rowdy bottleneck boogie, the band released their debut album, *Rough Housin'* with Alligator Records in 1986, where they now have the distinction of being the longest-serving active members on the Alligator roster. For four decades, Williams has delivered electrifying, soulful blues worldwide and are still going strong with their tenth Alligator release, *Slideways*, which showcases their always exhilarating performances.





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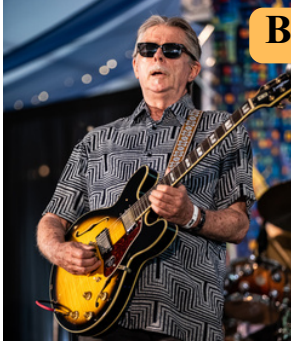
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BOB CORRITORE CHICAGO BLUES REVUE •

FEATURED ARTISTS



Billy Flynn

is a Chicago blues and electric blues guitarist, singer, and songwriter known as one of the most versatile and respected sidemen in the blues genre. He has won two Grammy Awards and has recorded or toured alongside an exhaustive list of legendary blues icons. Proclaimed by fellow musicians as a true "musician's musician," Flynn is celebrated for his deep, nuanced mastery of historic blues techniques, slide guitar, and even surf rock styles.

John Primer is a beloved Chicago blues singer and esteemed guitarist slinger. Born in Camden Mississippi in 1945, he built a diddley bow as a child before moving to Chicago in 1963. He developed his raw slide guitar style during his long-term residency at Theresa's Lounge. His talent led him to become a rhythm guitarist and bandleader for Willie Dixon and his idol, Muddy Waters. Following Waters' death in 1983, Primer spent 14 years touring with Magic Slim & The Teardrops, where he honed his performance skills and learned the intricacies of being a bandleader. A Blues Hall of Fame inductee and three-time Grammy nominee, he fronts the Real Deal Blues Band, keeping traditional Windy City blues alive.

JOHN PRIMER



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BOB CORRITORE CHICAGO BLUES REVUE •

FEATURED ARTISTS



Bob Stroger (born 1930) is a legendary American electric blues bassist, singer, and songwriter who defines the Chicago blues rhythm section. After moving to Chicago as a teenager, he was inspired by watching icons like Muddy Waters at local clubs. His career took off in the 1970s when he joined Otis Rush's band. A multi-time Blues Music Award winner and 2025 Hall of Fame Inductee, Stroger has anchored records and toured with giants like Sunnyland Slim, Jimmy Rogers, and Pinetop Perkins. Known for his smooth chromatic style and dapper stage presence, this living legend continues to actively perform well into his nineties.

Kenny “Beedy Eyes” Smith



Kenny “Beedy Eyes” Smith is an award-winning Chicago drummer, recording artist, songwriter, producer, and educator known for his deep pocket and unmistakable musical feel. The son of legendary Muddy Waters drummer Willie “Big Eyes” Smith, Kenny honors the Chicago blues tradition while bringing a modern and versatile

approach to today's music. He has contributed drums to six Grammy-nominated albums, including the Grammy-winning *Joined at the Hip*, and is a four-time Blues Music Award winner for Instrumentalist-Drums.

Chicago Blues Guide

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO
THE CHICAGO BLUES SCENE

Chicago Blues Guide is a complete guide to Chicago's current blues scene. The Guide section contains listings for Chicagoland's blues clubs, bands, radio shows, record labels and links.

PHOTOS

See the blues in action.



NEWS & FEATURES

What's happening
in the home of the blues.



INTERVIEWS

Conversations with the
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DVDs, CDs and
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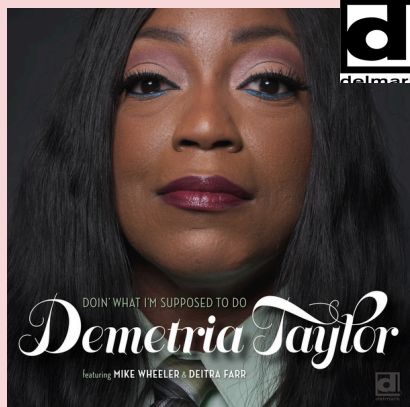
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Demetria Taylor

The daughter of legendary guitarist Eddie Taylor Sr., niece of blues master Jimmy Burns, and sister of guitarist Eddie Taylor Jr., she was raised in the heart of Chicago's blues tradition. Her powerful voice and fiery stage presence reflect that heritage while establishing her as a distinctive artist in her own right. Taylor is also a recipient of the Koko Taylor Award and has released two albums on the historic Chicago label

Delmark Records, further cementing her connection to the city's blues history. Performing with her band, Demetria Taylor brings together tradition, musical knowledge, and contemporary energy, delivering an electrifying Chicago blues experience rooted in the past and alive in the present.



Mud Morganfield



Mud Morganfield is an acclaimed American blues singer and the eldest son of the legendary Muddy Waters. Born in Chicago in 1954, he grew up surrounded by music but spent his early adulthood driving trucks. Following his father's passing, he fully embraced his musical calling, commanding stages with an uncanny physical and vocal resemblance to his dad. Mud honors his family heritage while carving out his own distinct style by blending traditional Chicago blues with elements of soul and R&B. His powerhouse vocals shine on acclaimed albums like *Son of the Seventh*

Son and Deep Mud. Morganfield is also a first-class bass player.



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Whether it's Mud Morganfield's uncanny resemblance to his famous father, Demetria Taylor's "Bad Girl" homage to dad, Eddie Taylor, or Jimi "Primetime" Smith carrying on Johnnie Mae Dunston's musical legacy, many of this weekend's performers were born into the blues and have been putting their own spin on the path their parents set forward.



Mud Morganfield

★ MUD MORGANFIELD ★

Although Mud looks and sounds amazingly like his famous father, he didn't start up in the "family business" until after Muddy Waters passed away in 1983. Mud had been working as a truck driver but kept having a recurring dream about his dad performing on stage yet remaining inaccessible to the younger Morganfield. Mud took this as a sign to take up his own career in music and started singing when he was in his thirties. Like Mud said, "What Else was a Son of a Legend to do?" Despite the resemblance and the eerily similar vocal range, Mud Morganfield is his own man and frequently pens his own songs. Yet, he also honors his dad by breaking into many of Muddy Waters' beloved musical standards such as "Blow Wind Blow" and "I Just Want to Make Love to You." Whether he's belting out one of his dad's signature songs, crooning one of his own compositions or playing some amazing bass rhythms, Mud Morganfield is one of the most dynamic performers on the scene today and we're honored to have him headlining this festival.



Muddy Waters

★ DEMETRIA TAYLOR ★

Delmark Recording artist, Demetria Taylor, hails from one of the "royal families" in Chicago blues. Her dad, Eddie Taylor Sr., was Jimmy Reed's rhythm guitarist who also had a successful solo career, putting out albums on the VJ label like *Bad Boy*. Her mom, Vera, was a blues singer and songwriter while her great uncle is none other than Jimmy Burns. Her brother, Larry, is a blues singer/drummer and her late brother, Eddie Taylor Jr., was a renowned guitarist. Besides boasting a deep blues DNA, Taylor grew up surrounded by legends including Floyd Jones, Carey Bell, Sunnyland Slim, Johnny Littlejohn, Sam Lay, Willie Kent, Tail Dragger, Eddie Shaw, Johnny B. Moore and Magic Slim. Taylor's most recent 2022 Delmark release, *Doin' What I'm Supposed to Do* pays homage to her legacy while adding her own twist to the music. On this release, she takes on her dad's "83 Highway" and brings on esteemed vocalist, Deitra Farr to join her on "Blues Early This Morning," penned by her mother, Vera. In 2022, Taylor also received the "Koko Taylor, Queen of the Blues Award" from the Jus Blues Foundation.



JIMI "PRIMETIME" SMITH

Like Taylor, Jimi "Primetime" Smith grew up surrounded by a long list of famous blues musicians. His mother was Johnnie Mae Dunston, one of the few female blues drummers who performed on Maxwell Street and played with the likes of J.B. Hutto and others. Dunston also famously collaborated with Jimmy Reed. Known for her songwriting ability, Dunston penned songs for Reed and other luminaries who dropped in at their West Side digs for her home-cooking with a side of blues. Besides having Koko Taylor and Willie Dixon as his surrogate aunt and uncle, Smith received guitar lessons from "uncles" Eddie Taylor Sr., and Reed. This tutelage eventually led to a gig at the 1973 Ann Arbor Blues Festival where a 14-year-old "scared to death" Smith took the stage with a slew of blues greats. A few years later, the 18-year-old Smith had a steady gig at B.L.U.E.S. on Halsted playing with the likes of Big Walter Horton, Tenner "Playboy" Venson and Floyd Jones. Smith moved to Minneapolis at the age of 19 and soon established a fruitful musical career there, culminating with induction into the Minnesota Blues Hall of Fame. Smith has since relocated to Arizona, where he has established a strong and successful partnership with harmonica player and producer, Bob Corritore.



Johnnie Mae Dunston & Jimi "Primetime" Smith



DWAYNE DOPSIE

Dwayne Dopsie carries on one of the most powerful legacies in Louisiana Creole music as the youngest son of zydeco pioneer Rockin' Dopsie Sr., The younger Dopsie began playing the washboard at six years old and started on the accordion at the age of seven and learned by watching his dad and practicing relentlessly. Following his father's passing when he was just 16, Dopsie made the decision to leave school and dedicate his life to preserving and expanding his father's legacy. Although rooted deeply in the traditions of his family's musical dynasty, Dwayne has blazed his own distinct path, innovating the genre by infusing raw elements of blues, rock, funk, and soul. This high-octane blend has earned him widespread acclaim, multiple Grammy nominations, and a reputation as the "Jimi Hendrix of the accordion."



Dwayne Dopsie



Rockin' Dopsie Sr.



KENNY "BEEDY EYES" SMITH

As the son of Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith grew up surrounded by blues royalty. But some of his most vivid memories are watching these legendary figures simply hanging out at the house, playing cards and working on cars. After Muddy Waters relocated to Westmont, the Smith family moved into Waters' former home at 4339 S. Lake Park Avenue in Chicago. From these South Side roots, Smith has ascended to world-class status on his own musical merits, including winning a Grammy Award in 2011 for his drum work on *Joined at the Hip* featuring Willie "Big Eyes" Smith and Pinetop Perkins. Smith learned 99 percent of his drumming technique from his father, and that will serve him well when he joins traditional blues practitioners John Primer, Lil Ed, Willie Buck, Oscar Wilson, Bob Stroger, Jimi "Primitime" Smith and others with the Bob Corritore Chicago Blues Revue on the Mad Dog Stage at 4pm on Sunday. Smith joked that this gig will be like a "box of chocolates" as he adapts to each performer's specific style and personality. But whatever he takes on, it's a safe bet this will be one sweet set as Smith seamlessly provides the back beat for these iconic artists. Besides his links to blues legends past and present, the Smith musical lineage continues through the next generation as all his children play drums and sing.



Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith & Willie "Big Eyes" Smith

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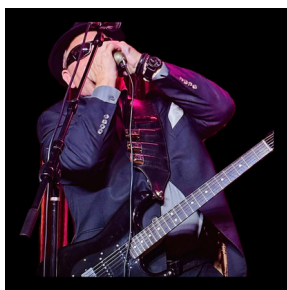
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Rusty Ends & The Hillbilly Hoodoo

Guitarist Rusty Ends spent his Kentucky youth absorbing blues, rock, and country. He began playing Louisville roadhouses professionally at age 15, guided by local guitar wizard Virgil Clopton. This background shaped his signature "Hillbilly Hoodoo" sound—a blend of Kentucky roots, rockabilly, and New Orleans swamp beats. Over a multi-decade career, Ends became a prolific songwriter, releasing three albums through Earwig Music. For over 25 years, his trio with bassist Dave Zirnheld and drummer Gene Wickliffe has translated a lifetime of musical memories into high-energy performances.

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO SONIA

Born and raised in Chicago, Sonia Astacio is a powerful blues vocalist whose sound blends gospel roots, jazz influence, and Afro-Latina soul. The seventh child of a Dominican-American family, she found her voice singing in church before falling in love with the raw electricity of Chicago blues. Sonia's performances are soulful, expressive, and deeply rooted in lived experience. Singing in English and Spanish, she bridges heritage and tradition while carrying Chicago blues forward with authenticity and heart.



[YOUTUBE.COM/@CHICAGOBLUESWOMAN](https://www.youtube.com/@CHICAGOBLUESWOMAN)

The Windy City Rev Ups Duet w/ Gail Storm



The Windy City Rev Ups are a premier Chicago-based band known for a high-energy blend of traditional Chicago-style R&B, soulful harmonica, and guitar-driven rock 'n' roll. Founded by singer-songwriter Rich "Rev," this dynamic group has spent over 15 years tearing up the Midwest music scene. With more than 1,000 live performances under their belt, they regularly headline major festivals and iconic venues like the local House of Blues. Their impressive discography includes 12 streaming releases worldwide, earning them numerous local music awards and building a global fanbase.





Some Years Later

Some Years Later is an original rock group that currently has two albums on Spotify, I-Tunes and Amazon Music. (*Wonder Ride* from 2009 and 2019's *Better Life*) Some Years Later is currently working on a third album, which is scheduled to be released later this year. They have performed with a long roster of world-renowned artists including Kansas, Lou Gramm of Foreigner, the Yardbirds, Eddie Money, Jefferson Starship, Magic Slim, Uli Jon Roth of the Scorpions, Twelve Stones, Poi Dog Pondering, Blue October, The Verve Pipe, Enuff Znuuff and many others. Throughout the course of their 21-year history, Some Years Later has played across across the Midwest, but their catchy riffs, amazing harmonies and intense energy continues to amaze audiences.



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HEADSTONE PROJECT

He was shocked to discover that legendary blues piano player, Otis Spann had been in an unmarked grave in Alsip's Burr Oak Cemetery for nearly thirty years. Salter was appalled that a player of Spann's caliber was treated so deplorably in death and set out to rectify the situation.

As the former Mayor of Whitehall, Michigan, Salter is no stranger to getting things done. He wrote a letter to Blues Revue magazine to call attention to the matter, and the response was gratifying. The magazine received donations from readers all around the world, which enabled them to erect a headstone for Spann. After this, Salter was ready to move on with his mission to honor the deceased. The non-profit Killer Blues Headstone Project was founded in 2009 to make sure that these worthy artists were recognized in the afterlife. After each headstone is placed, Salter includes a detailed synopsis of the deceased's contributions to the blues on the Killer Blues website.

The KBHP has currently placed 179 graves in 17 states, with the most recent addition being Henry "Too Tight Henry" Castle in nearby Homewood, Illinois. Salter said #180 coming soon but he wants to allow time for people to appreciate Castle's newly erected headstone and life history. Salter also said that they have placed 100 headstones in the Chicago area, which isn't surprising considering the city's rich blues heritage. To learn more about the KBHP or donate, visit <https://killerblues.net>

EDDIE TAYLOR BLUES FOUNDATION



The Eddie Taylor Blues Foundation, a non-profit, dedicated to honoring the life, legacy, and musical impact of legendary Chicago electric blues guitarist Eddie Taylor Sr. Managed by his daughter, CEO Brenda Taylor, the foundation serves to promote and preserve Chicago blues history while educating future generations about the profound impact of the Taylor family on American music. The Eddie Taylor Blues Foundation offers educational programming and community

initiatives to keep traditional blues culture front and center for younger generations.

Eddie Taylor is the architect of the "Jimmy Reed sound" with his driving bass rhythms and impeccable timing defining the post-war Chicago blues style. Additionally, Eddie Taylor Sr. was posthumously inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 1987 by The Blues Foundation, based in Memphis,

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The Windy City Blues Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, promoting and presenting the Blues.

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