

# Sunny Bleau and The Moons- Full Bio

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Sunny Bleau and The Moons is a blues band from the Detroit area. performing full length concerts comprised of blue, blues rock, traditional blues, and acoustic blues. Their touring has taken them throughout the Midwest and East Coast. Sunny Bleau and The Moons have twice opened for chart-topping Billboard Artist, Anthony Gomes, and Blues Music Award winner, Thornetta Davis! Sunny Bleau and The Moons have rocked audiences in Memphis to Detroit and Chicago to Philly. They have played iconic venues like The Blind Pig (Ann Arbor, MI), The Token Lounge (Westland, MI), Martha's Midway Taven and Dancehall (Mishawaka, IN), Brauer House (Lombard, IL) as well as King and Union and Alfred's on Beale in Memphis, TN. Sunny Bleau and The Moons perform as a five-piece band or as a duo without missing a beat. Musicians include Sunny Bleau on vocals, harmonica and percussion, Producer/guitarist Nicholas Cocco on guitar, Jack Cosper on bass, Eugene Mann on wind synth and Jon Johnson on drums.

Sunny Bleau and The Moons have released three full-length albums: "Breakfast Served Cold" (2021), "Slow Burn" (2023) and "Bag of Tracks" (2024). "Breakfast Served Cold" earned Top 10 Album status in Blues Music Magazines Top 10 Albums of 2021 with four songs reaching number one of the singles charts. In 2023, the band release its second full-length album, "Slow Burn", which debuted at #4 on the Top 50 Blues Rock Album chart and #29 on the Top 50 United States Album chart. Additionally, they had multiple singles reaching #1 on the US singles charts. In 2024, Sunny Bleau and The Moons release their third album, "Bag of Tracks" which debuted at #26 on the Blues Rock Album charts, and at #50 of the Top 50 United States Albums chart.

In January 2024, Sunny Bleau was invited to performed as part of the National Women in Blues Showcase in Memphis, TN. The event MC was Gina Coleman, and her band, Misty Blues, backed Sunny and Nic Cocco when they performed on the famous STAX stage at Alfred's on Beale Street.

American Singer-Songwriter, Kelly Brock, is "Sunny Bleau". Originally from Scottsdale, AZ but now residing in Oxford, MI, the sultry, gregarious, and personable woman called "Sunny Bleau" is known for her straightforward lyrics, passionate performances, strong vocals, and playful personality. Kelly was given the nickname "Sunny" when she was younger by her father. Sunny has been involved in music her whole life. When she was five, she and her siblings performed in their school talent show, and her love of music continued to grow. By the time she was in high school, Sunny was singing in the high school praise band at her church. One of her youth leaders suggested she learn the guitar and lead the youth praise band. Sunny's dad gave her an acoustic guitar for her 16th birthday, and she quickly learned a hand-full of chords. Sunny had always been a writer of poems and short stories, but now she could start writing songs. Sunny still uses the guitar her father gave her to write her music.

In 2001, Sunny moved to Michigan to attend college. She studied English and theatre, where she performed in multiple productions and pursued playwriting. Following her undergrad, she got married and pursued a Master of Arts in Theatre. She taught technical theatre and directed plays at a local college. After 7 years of teaching, Sunny left the theatre following the birth of her first child. She spent 8 years at home raising her young family and writing songs in her spare time.

In 2019, Sunny met Producer and Guitarist, Nicholas Cocco, and the two began writing songs together. Sunny started performing Jazz and Blues standards alongside Nic at senior homes, private parties and corporate events in the Detroit area where she would sing and also play the kazoo... the gateway drug that would open her up to the harmonica! Now, Sunny incorporates her passionate harmonica solos into their recorded music and live stage shows.

### **Music Director/Producer/Guitarist**

Playing Guitar since the age of 7, his mother told him that if he learned “Malaguena” by Ernesto Lecuona, he would be allowed take guitar lessons and soon after, he was able to play her favorite song, and by the age of 17 his heart and head was focused on jazz, blues, fusion, and progressive rock which led him to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston. While at Berklee he had incredible teachers that inspired him and met many folks that he would perform with over the years. Since his Berklee days, he has gotten to play music with many artists, toured and recorded at studios in New York, LA, and Nashville. Nic has traveled extensively, working as a professional side man, studio musician, producer, and arranger. He has over 100 published works, is a member of ASCAP and has worked with multiple acts, artists, and producers throughout his musical career. Nic is the founder of CoccoMusic, LLC and Co-Founder of Underdog Music and Publishing with Kelly Brock.

### **The Moons 2021-2024**

The backing band behind Sunny Bleau and Nic Cocco is “The Moons.” The moons are an amalgamation of professional musicians that have worked with Nic Cocco over the years in multiple acts.

In 2021, and on the bands debut album, The Moons consisted of bassist Alex Karasinski (Mars Hill), drummer Paul Kastick (Maxi Priest, Big Mountain), Saxophonist Dr. Christopher Barrick (Dean of Music, Eastern Michigan University). Since the initial release of Breakfast Served Cold, road dogs for Sunny Bleau have included: Drummers, Paul Kastick, Paul Price, Mark Sutton and Jon Johnson; Bassists, Alex Karasinski, Michael Fredericks, Gordon Spencer and Jack Cospers; and horns and synths Christopher Barrick, Bruce Collins and Eugene Mann. All professional musicians each with hefty musical credentials!

### **The Moons 2024 Line up:**

The 2024 line up consists of seasoned veteran players that have a great appreciation for the Blues, the music of Sunny Bleau and they are proud to call themselves “Moons:”

### **Horns and Synth:**

Eugene Mann has been playing horns and synths professionally for over 40 years in the metro Detroit area as a soloist, providing music for weddings, conventions, corporate events, as well as

restaurants. As a high School band director and college band leader, in 2015, Eugene became a regular performer and soloist with Nic Cocco's jazz band the Gene-n-Tonics.

Eugene studied music at Oakland University (OU) in the mid-70s, with a staff of Detroit music greats such as Marvin "Doc" Holladay, Marcus Belgrave, Sam Sanders, Herbie Williams, Harold McKinney and many others. During his years with the OU "Afram Jazz Band", they backed many jazz legends in concert including Dizzy Gillespie, Phil Woods, Clark Terry and Thad Jones.

Eugene's career includes playing with the Joyful Sounds Sanctuary Choir, the New Day Band which included other OU jazz musicians. He has also played for National Youth Conventions, UPC General Conference as well as conferences in Chile and Germany. Eugene is currently involved in music minister at area churches, small residential meetings and online live casts.

### **Bass and Keyboards:**

Multi-instrumentalist Jackie Ray Cospers has been a performing and recording musician for over 50 years. As a guitarist and bassist for multiple bands since the late '60's, in the 70's he toured with the band that would later become known as L.T.D. He has recorded with multiple artists and in 2017 he became part of the CoccoMusic studio musician family tracking and recording for multiple artists.

Jack Cospers was born in Leeds, Alabama, a suburb of Birmingham. His family moved to Detroit, MI when he was three years old. One day, his grandmother heard young Jack trying to sing the bass line with the older gentlemen during a church service. That Christmas, ten-year-old Jack received an organ from his grandmother. When he was 16 or 17, Jack began his studies of the bass guitar. Jack plays multiple instruments including piano, organ, guitar and bass. His musical influences include James Jamerson, Jack Bruce, and Ray Shulman. Jack enjoys composing and arranging music.

### **Drums:**

Jon Johnson is a 30+ year veteran drummer who lives for music, spending great amounts of time driving between his home in Michigan and the recording studios he works with in Nashville, TN! A serious session drummer and sideman, Jon brings a vast array of experience and skills to The Moons 2024 line up! Brought in initially to track on several single releases scheduled in 2024, Jon and the band really clicked from the moment they started working together and he now joins the band as the 2024 season drummer.