

# Bluesletter

Washington Blues Society

February 2023

*Grace Love, Mark Hummel, Tinsley Ellis & Much More!*



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Blues Fans,

I am happy to announce your newly elected Board of Directors for 2023. I return as President, Rick Bowen as Vice President, Marisue Thomas as Secretary, Ray Kurth as Treasurer, and Polly O'Keary will be your new Bluesletter editor.

I appreciate those members who nominated and voted for the 2023 Board! The Board looks basically the same as last year's, but there are many new and exciting things to look forward to this year. One of the main ones is our new editor, Polly O'Keary. She has some great ideas, and while she is finishing up her dissertation for her Ph.D., she is already making a positive impact on the Bluesletter. Editor emeritus Eric Steiner will help with the transition, and we are grateful for his help. On the horizon: New writers and features, a little redesign, and a fresh prospective. I am feeling very positive about this change!

Some other changes are also coming. We may have a new Advertising Director, and I hope to make this announcement shortly. This position has been unfilled for years, and most of this work has been carried by the Board collectively but having someone dedicated to keeping up with this will free us up to implement some other features for you, our members! We have a few other positions open, and if you are interested in learning more, contact me via email at [president@wabluess.org](mailto:president@wabluess.org). These volunteer positions work with a great group of people, are a great way to give back to our community, and you can have a little fun doing it.

The festival season is ramping up, and there are some exciting bookings already announced. This issue features two fun filled events! First, the Walla Walla Guitar Festival. Always a fun time with tons of music. Be sure you check out the ad and preview in this issue. It has quite a lineup, and each venue will be jumpin'. The Coeur D'Alene Blues Festival is in late March and also has an ad and preview in this issue! Producer Craig Heimbigner has put together a great weekend of music and there are always other fun things to do in CDA.

February also brings some great shows at Jazz Alley, and our music calendar is full of lots of great shows for your musical entertainment. Get out and enjoy some live blues, and I hope to see many of you out and about. Be sure to stop and say hi!

Tony Frederickon, President, Washington Blues Society  
Member, Board of Directors, The Blues Foundation, 2013-16



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This month, the Bluesletter welcomes two nationally-touring artists back to the Pacific Northwest! Mark Hummel brings his 30th Annual Blues Harmonica Blowout to Yakima, Seattle and Mt Vernon and Tinsley Ellis returns to our region with special shows in Seattle, Yakima, Portland and Olympia! Bear Drury show readers why "You Should Have Been There" and Steve Pearse returns to these pages with a spirited review of a recent Washington Blues Society Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline. The issue also congratulates this year's Blues Music Award nominees and includes the initial Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") voting ballot!

Above: Mark Hummel at Seattle's Jazz Alley  
(2015 Photo by Eric Steiner)

Cover: Grace Love  
(Photo Courtesy of the Artist)



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**FEBRUARY DEADLINES**

Ad Reservations 5PM on the 5th to [editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org)

Calendar 5PM on the 10 online.  
Please submit @ [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org)

Editorial 5PM on the 5th to [editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org)

Camera-Ready Ad Art 5PM on the 12th  
Please send to [editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org)

Please Note: If the Editor receives enough editorial copy before the 5th, or camera-ready ads before the 10th, space may be filled and material may be saved for a future issue. Please send in contributions early!

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Please send articles and photos only as attachments.  
Please do not embed images or stories directly in emails and please do not send links. Please only send attachments with each file titled with a unique file name instead of computer- or camera-supplied identifiers. All contributions not meeting these requirements will be returned for revisions by the contributor.

Photos: High-resolution PDF, tif, or jpg attachments saved as 300 dpi or greater in traditional print media CMYK format only (for color) or grayscale (for B & W). Cover size: 8.5 in x 11 in. Please do not send photos as RGB images. Please title photos with a unique file name and not use camera-supplied alpha-numeric file titles, and please do not include any watermarks or branding information on any photo. Please also do not send low-resolution, social media photos or collages.

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Washington Blues Society is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote, preserve, and advance the culture and tradition of blues music as an art form. Annual membership is \$25 for individuals, and \$35 for couples. The Washington Blues Society is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization and donations are tax-deductible. The Washington Blues Society is affiliated with The Blues Foundation in Memphis, Tennessee.. Our website is [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org).

**WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY**

**P.O. BOX 70604**  
**SEATTLE, WA 98127**

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Bluesletter Readers,

I am excited to take on the role of editor of the Washington Bluesletter.

I have dreamed of it for years, and it is an incredible honor, but when Tony told me Eric was retiring and strongly urged me to consider taking the role, I told him that it had come at a bad time.

I'm in the final throes of writing a PhD dissertation and that will be a priority over everything until it is

done.

Fortunately, Eric, Tony, and longtime writer Rick Bowen said they'd help out for the next few months while I wrap up my education.

So, now I finally have a chance to do some things I've wanted to do for a long time with this excellent publication.

I have a strong relationship with two universities at which I have taught journalism and other forms of media writing, and I have already set things in motion to get student writers from Seattle University and the University of Washington to contribute.

I also want to widen the focus of the Bluesletter to cover more of the state than we have been able to do so far.

I am looking for contributors from the Bellingham area, the Spokane area, and the Tacoma/Olympia area to keep us up to date on happenings and get us coverage from blues events. If this sounds like you, dear reader, by all means, contact us.

I am excited to cover the full array of music that we find in the blues world. My basic guideline is that, if I would be likely to hear it at a blues festival or on a blues radio show, it is appropriate for the publication.

This issue, for example, has on the cover Grace Love, whose soul band appeared at the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival in 2016. Her new music is eclectic, but rooted in blues and soul, and I am excited to draw attention to it.

I also plan to add a Gospel Corner as soon as I can, featuring some of the incredible powerhouse gospel singers of the area. Seattle's soul scene is becoming nationally renowned, and some of those artists will appear here as well. And we will work hard to forge connections with musical communities of color around the state.

I am also pleased to welcome a future column from Bear Drury on community happenings. It will include news from around the state about who is going in the studio, who is going on tour, blues clubs that are opening or closing, new festivals, and any other blues news

of note. If you have something that you would like included, email it to us!

I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity, and that I have good support while I transition into the role.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Polly O'Keary".

Polly O'Keary, Bluesletter Editor  
Washington Blues Society

A colorful poster for Madison Ave Pub. The background is a vibrant mix of yellow, orange, and blue with a starry, nebula-like pattern. The text is arranged in a clear, organized manner, listing various musical events and their schedules. The pub's name "Madison Ave Pub" is at the top in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, the address and phone number are listed, followed by a "Voted Best Blues Club" award. The events are listed by day of the week, with specific dates and guest names provided for each. The poster also mentions "Red Hot Saturdays live music" and a "Saturday 2/11 UFC" event.

**Madison Ave Pub**  
905 Madison St. Everett 425-348-7402  
Voted Best Blues Club - WA Blues Society

**Mondays with Mad Bojo 7 till 9-ish**

**Tuesday Night Dinner Show 7 till 9**  
2/7 TJ Read 2/14 Blue Healers 2/21 Reji Marc  
2/28 Unbound Band with Kevin Sutton

**Wednesday Unbound Blues Jam**  
with special guests each week 7pm  
2/1 Joe Hellmore 2/8 Chester Dennis Jones 2/15 Dudley Taft  
2/22 Jolene Gayle and Rafael Tranquilino

**Thursday Singer/Songwriter Showcases 7-8ish**  
Kevin Sutton with special guests 2/2  
Stacy Jones with special guests 2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Friday & Sundays Rob Bramblett Entertainment  
presents Everett's Best Karaoke

**Red Hot Saturdays live music**  
2/4 the Soulful 88's 2/18 Moon Daddy Band  
2/25 the Chris Eger Band

**Saturday 2/11 UFC #284 \$10 6-11**

# In Memoriam: Artists We Lost in 2022

*Please appreciate blues performers this year. See them live & buy their music!*

*Compiled by Eric Steiner (Photo of Syl Johnson & Billy Boy Arnold by Eric Steiner)*

Last year, this issue featured a diverse listing of blues artists and other creative community members we had lost in 2021. I also included remembrances of Gary Yeoman by Eric Rice and Clifford "Buck" England of Rev. Dave Brown. Looking back on musicians we lost in 2022, I wish I could have seen Ramsey Lewis, Alan White (Yes), and Gary Brooker (Procul Harum).

Just like last year, this year's listing is admittedly personal. Before relocating to the Pacific Northwest from Chicagoland, I enjoyed seeing Jim Post in local folk clubs, REO Speedwagon at local rock shows, and I had always wanted to see Ramsey Lewis live at legendary venues like Park West, the Star Plaza Theatre, or the Ravinia Festival.

My sources for this compilation include Soultracks, Loudwire, The Blues Foundation, We Heart Music, The Tacoma Ledger, The Seattle Times, and Billboard. I confirmed each listing as of this month's deadline of January 5, 2023, and any omissions or errors are my own.

Alan White, Yes

Anita Pointer, The Pointer Sisters

Archie Roach, Australian Aboriginal Blues

Bettye Crutcher, Stax Records

Bob Neuwirth, Rolling Thunder Revue

Bob Rafelson, The Monkees (Director)

Bobby Rydell, "Wild One"

Boyd Small, The Terraplanes

Bunny Diamond, The Mighty Diamonds

Butch Thompson, A Prairie Home Companion

Charlie Gracie, Philadelphia Rock & Roll

Christine McVie, Fleetwood Mac

Chuck Deardorf, Cornish College of the Arts

Danny Kalb, The Blues Project

Dave Galanin, Native Alaskan Carver & "Strummin' Dog"

Dave Nichols, @prettygoodpicker

David Kearney, "Guitar Shorty"

David Muse, Firefall

Dino Danelli, The Rascals

Don Wilson, The Ventures

Garry Roberts, Boomtown Rats

Grandpa Elliott, Playing for Change

Greg "Slim Lively" Johnson, Cascade Blues Association

Gregg Philbin, REO Speedwagon

Harpdog Brown, Blues Evangelist

Harvey Jett, Black Oak Arkansas

Herbert Deutsch, The Moog Synthesizer

Howard Grimes, Hi Records Rhythm Section



Ian McDonald, King Crimson

Ian Tyson, Ian & Sylvia

Ivy Jo Hunter, "Dancin' in the Street"

Jeff Howell, Foghat

Jeremiah Green, Modest Mouse

Jerry Lee Lewis, "The Killer"

Jim Post, "Back on the Street Again"

Jim Schwall, Siegel-Schwall Band

Jim Seals, Seals & Crofts

Jim Sohns, Shadows of Knight

Jim Stewart, Stax Records

James Johnson, The Slim Harpo Band

James "Super" Wolfe, Tennessee DJ

Jimmy Johnson, "Who's Loving You Tonight?"

Jo Mersa Marley, The Marley Family

Joey DeFrancesco, Hammond B-3 Artist

John Hartman, The Doobie Brothers



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Judith Durham, "Georgy Girl"  
 Kal David, "Sonny Eclipse"  
 Keith Levene, Public Image Ltd.  
 Kelly Joe Phelps, "Sky Like a Broken Clock"  
 Ken Johnson, Wiregrass Blues Society  
 Kim Simmonds, Savoy Brown  
 Lamont Dozier, "Baby Love"  
 Lissa Ramaglia, Bassist Extraordinaire  
 Loretta Lynn, "Fist City"  
 Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson, Muddy Waters Band  
 Mark Lanegan, Screaming Trees  
 Marty Sammon, Buddy Guy Blues Band  
 Meat Loaf, "Bat Out of Hell"

Mickey Gilley, "Urban Cowboy"  
 Mo Ostin, Warner Bros. Records  
 Natty Wailer, Bob Marley & The Wailers  
 Ned Rorem, Composer  
 Pervis Spann, WVON Radio, Chicago  
 Ramsey Lewis, "The In Crowd"  
 Ronnie Hawkins, "The Hawk"  
 Ronnie Spector, The Ronettes  
 Sam Gooden, The Impressions  
 Sam Lay, Paul Butterfield Blues Band  
 Sydney Kirk, The Issac Hayes Movement  
 Syl Johnson, The Brothers Johnson  
 Tabby Diamond, The Mighty Diamonds  
 Taylor Hawkins, Foo Fighters

Terry Hall, The Specials  
 Thom Bell, TSOP  
 Timmy Thomas, "Why Can't We Live Together"  
 Tom Andrews, Blues Festival Guide  
 Tom Murray, Santa Barbara Blues Society  
 Turtle Vandermarr, Dan Hicks & His Hot Licks  
 Vangelis, "Chariots of Fire"  
 Walter "Wolfman" Washington, Roadmaster  
 William Hart, The Delfonics  
 Willie J. Campbell, James Harman Band



**DUDLEY TAFT**  
 BAND

Thursday 2/16 Tacoma, WA  
**MC MENAMINS**  
**SPANISH BALLROOM**

Friday 2/17 Seattle, WA  
**BELLTOWN YACHT CLUB**

Saturday 2/18 Conway, WA  
**CONWAY MUSE**

DUDLEY WILL ALSO APPEAR AT THE  
 JAM AT THE MADISON AVENUE PUB IN  
 EVERETT WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

# You Should Have Been There!

*Special coverage of a recent Washington Blues Society Blues Bash you may have missed!*

*Review & Photos by Bear Drury*

The blues society's monthly Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis on November 8<sup>th</sup> was quite an event. Not only was the music exceptional, but also was the food. Yes, the food. As many of you know, Aurora Borealis has great food. The only problem was that downstairs in the Event Center the only available food offerings were from their limited appetizer menu.

Now, don't get me wrong, their appetizers are really first rate.

But, quite often, I crave something a little more substantial. As I'm sure many of you do, too. Well, never fear. They have decided to make their full menu available to everyone attending the second Tuesday of the month Washington Blues Society Blues Bash. Not only that, but they are now offering full table service for beverages as well as food! That's right, no more having to stand and wait at the bar for your tasty beverage.

As a result of these great changes, now everyone can enjoy a great meal along with great music every month!

And, speaking of great music, there was a lot of that, too.

The night started off with a solo set from Anthony Duron Estrada, and if you haven't heard this man yet, you are missing out. Anthony played an engrossing set featuring a varied mix of older, delta style blues. And, he performed it with soul! The only things that would have made it more authentic would have been moonshine in Mason jars and sawdust on the floor. He took us all back to the time when blues was new, raw, and fresh. He sang, he shouted, he told stories. Anthony is living proof that traditional blues is alive and well and still relevant today.

After a brief intermission, where we gave away 11 CDs and a pair of tickets to see Joe Bonamassa in concert, we braced ourselves



for the night's featured group, Annie & The All-Star Band. Believe me, "All-Star" is an understatement. The band featured Billy Stapleton on guitar, Jeff Davies on bass, Steve Peterson on drums, and you'd be hard pressed to find a tighter, more experienced group anywhere. Toss in the charismatic and gifted Annie Eastwood and you don't simply have a band, you have a FORCE!

When I first moved to Western Washington in 1997, one of the first performers I heard was "Stickshift Annie" Eastwood. I've lost track of how many times I have been privileged to hear her perform, but I have never heard her sound better than she did at the Bash. She was on fire and the band was fanning the flames! She cooed, she crooned, and she growled. She served us her soul on a platter. And no one left hungry.

Normally at our Blues Bashes, the featured band plays 50 or 60 minutes. But the joint was rocking, and Annie lived up to her name as her and the boys double-clutched and kicked it into overdrive and played for almost 80 minutes! The crowd was dancing, clapping, hooting, and hollering for more. And the All-Stars gave it to them.



Now, in case you missed that show you can check out the Washington Blues Society on social media and see the entire show just as it happened.

Sure, it's great to watch online.

But, seriously folks... you should have been there!

Top: Jeff Davies, Steve Peterson, "Stickshift Annie" Eastwood & Billy Stapleton

Above: Anthony Duron Estrada

(Photos by Bear Drury)



**\*Saturday  
The LARGE  
Show!  
ELVIN  
BISHOP**

**\*Saturday  
The Guitar  
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**Sunday  
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Brunch**

**\*Saturday  
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**\*Friday  
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**\*Friday  
Kick-off  
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**Sunday  
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At The  
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**Coyote Kings w/Tiph ~ Big Font**

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Henry Earl Estates - Kontos Cellars - Goose Ridge Tasting Room**



# Alabama Mike & Kid Andersen: Live at West of the Waterway

*"Mike was gracious enough to call up a few local musicians to spice things up."*

By Bear Drury

I recently discovered a new showcase and it's called "West of The Waterway." Located between the tracks for the huge TEMCO Grain dock and the Foss Waterway in Tacoma. It's been around for quite a while as an event venue for weddings and other large events, and I didn't know they hosted musical productions. Turns out that they do, and they do it well. Spacious stage, very nice sound system, ample seating, and courteous, attentive staff.

On Thursday December 8th, I was lucky enough to see the show featuring Alabama Mike and Kid Andersen.

Alabama Mike is a force to be reckoned with, a masterful and hard-driving blues singer and harmonica player who is also one of the most creative and prolific songwriters working today. His decades of performing the blues have enabled him to hone his craft. Mike is the real deal, and he was backed up for this show by a cadre of highly qualified musicians.

Kid Andersen is the Norwegian-born guitar phenomenon who tours the world with the multi-award-winning band "Rick Estrin & The Nightcats," and he produces and engineers many of the biggest blues albums each year at his internationally renowned Greaseland Studios in San Jose, California.

Lorenzo Farrell plays keyboards with Rick Estrin & The Nightcats. His playing was tasteful and well suited to the music. His ability to play fills as well as cover the bass lines is exceptional.

David Hudson is the drummer for The T-Town Aces and competently rounded out the band. David has been playing in the Pacific Northwest for decades and never disappoints.

These four gifted musicians made for a wildly entertaining evening of soulful blues storytelling and high-level fun.

Mike was gracious enough to call up a few local musicians to spice things up. Steve



Bailey on harmonica was first He stepped up and illustrated why he's been a solid fixture on the Pacific Northwest blues scene for decades.

A few songs later, Mike summoned Mr. Joel Astley to the stage, and he also rose to the occasion and added some tasty "tin sandwich" to the mix. Joel's Christmas CD was recorded, mixed, and mastered at Kid Andersen's Greaseland studio.

Towards the end of the show, Kid and Mike called upon the incredible Tim Lerch to share guitar duties on a few songs. If there is a better guitarist in the Pacific Northwest, I've never heard them. "World class" is the term that comes to mind every time I hear him play. The other adjectives simply aren't enough.

The show closed with Kid's wife Lisa Anderson joining the band of vocals. What a great voice!

Lisa's a strong stage talent in her own right.

The show was produced by Tacoma based-BTB Arts & Entertainment, and I look for a future article showcasing their visions for

live blues in the Pacific Northwest.

All in all, it was one of the best local shows I've experienced in quite a while. I'm looking forward to attending future shows at West of the Waterway. I encourage everyone to check it out.

Above: Lorenzo Farrell, David Hudson, Alabama Mike, Kid Andersen & Lisa Andersen.

Page 11: Tim Lerch, Alabama Mike, David Hudson, Joel Astley & Lorenzo Farrell

(Photos by Bear Drury)










## PITCHING A WANG DANG DOODLE?

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# Mark Hummel's 30th Annual Blues Harmonica Blowout!

*Legendary harp tour stops in Yakima, Seattle & Mt. Vernon this month!*

*Compiled by Eric Steiner*

This month, Mark Hummel brings his 30<sup>th</sup> annual Blues Harmonica Blowout to the Evergreen State on the 15<sup>th</sup> at Yakima's Seasons Performance Hall, followed by two dates at Seattle's Triple Door on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, and playing Mount Vernon's historic Lincoln Theatre on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Joining Mark Hummel on this special tour are harmonica aces Magic Dick (J. Geils Band), John Nemeth, Sugar Ray Norcia, and Aki Kumar. Duke Robillard and Anson Funderburgh play guitar, and Wes Starr and Randy Bermudes drive the Blues Harmonica Blowout on drums and bass.

Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout celebrates 30 years this month as the past two years' blowouts were postponed due to the pandemic. The Blowout started on a Sunday night in 1991 at Ashkenaz in Berkeley with four harmonica players: Rick Estrin, Mark Hummel, Dave Earl, and Doug Jay. Throughout the years, the traveling blues show has featured many of the top harp blowers, including Huey Lewis, John Mayall, James Cotton, Charlie Musselwhite, John Hammond, Magic Dick, Lee Oskar, Jerry Portnoy, Corky Siegel, Jason Ricci, Howard Levy, Lazy Lester, Carey Bell, Snooky Pryor, Billy Boy Arnold, Rod Piazza, Kim Wilson, Rick Estrin, Sugar Ray Norris, James Harman, Paul DeLay, Sam Myers, Norton Buffalo, Curtis Salgado, Carlos Del Junco and Gary Primich. The guitar chair is equally stunning with Elvin Bishop, Duke Robillard, Anson Funderburgh, Jr Watson, Steve Freund, Little Charlie Baty, Billy Flynn, Rusty Zinn, Bob Welsh, Charles Wheal... Blowout tours have covered thousands of miles to every part of the US and Canada and including a few European tours. Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowouts have carried the blues torch to many blues fans everywhere!

Mark Hummel, Harp Blowout Producer, Grammy nominee/Blues Award winner/author/harp man started playing harmonica

in 1970 and has gone on to become one of the premier blues harmonica players of his generation. Hummel has been featured on over thirty recordings since 1985 including the Grammy nominated 2013 Blind Pig release Remembering Little Walter (a live recording from a previous Mark Hummel Blues Harmonica Blowout. Hummel's latest CD is Wayback Machine on Electro-Fi. It rated #5 in Roots Music Revue and #20 in Living Blues Magazine for 2020.

Magic Dick, nee Richard Salwitz, was born in New London, Connecticut and is the original harp man from the J. Geils Band, whose many hits flooded the airwaves during the 1970's and 1980's. Chart-toppers like "Freeze Frame", "Centerfold", "First I Look at the Purse", "Must A Got Lost", "Give It to Me" and Magic Dick's own "Whammer Jammer" were in the Top 10 off and on for 20 years, and made them one of the top bands, along with WAR, that featured harmonica prominently in the frontline. Magic Dick went on to start 'Bluestime' with J. Geils after the original band broke up, making two CDs for Rounder Records. Magic Dick is perhaps one of the most famous harp blowers on earth, partially because "Whammer Jammer" was played on Armed Forces Radio in Vietnam through the late '60's until the war ended. It was the first song most baby boomers tried to learn on harmonica, along with John Mayall's classic, "Room to Move." In 1979, Rolling Stone Record Guide music critic Dave Marsh described Magic Dick as possibly "the best white musician to ever play blues harmonica."

Boise, Idaho native John Nemeth's national debut for Blind Pig Records, Magic Touch (2007), produced by Anson Funderburgh, received an ecstatic response from fans and the media, and he was hailed as the new voice of the blues. Living Blues magazine enthused, "Magic Touch gives hope that the blues will survive." In 2008, Németh was recruited by Elvin Bishop to



do some performances and contribute four vocal tracks to his Grammy-nominated album *The Blues Rolls On*.

Németh released two more albums for the label, both hitting #6 on the Billboard Blues Chart, which began his long string of Blues Music Award (BMA) nominations, numbering 20 at last count. Nemeth also won two Blues Blast Music Awards – Best New Artist Debut Recording and Sean Costello Rising Star Award. In 2013 Nemeth relocated to Memphis, TN, where he teamed up with producer Scott Bomar and his classic Memphis Soul band, the Bo-Keys, to create an album of revisited soul classics, *Memphis Grease* (2014 Blue Corn), which debuted at #4 on the Billboard Blues



Chart. John Nemeth won the 2014 BMA for Best Soul Blues Male Artist, followed by Memphis Grease winning Best Soul Blues Album in 2015. Nemeth's newest release *Maybe the Last Time* with Elvin Bishop is sitting at Number One on the charts!

Sugar Ray Norcia is a singer-harp man and also a three time Grammy nominee whose career kicked into high gear in 1979 when he formed the original Sugar Ray and the Bluetones with guitar giant Ronnie Earl. The band has remained in high regard receiving a total of 27 Blues Music Award nominations, and includes winning two Blues Music Awards in 2014. They have appeared on over sixty albums. In 2012 Sugar Ray was inducted into the Rhode Island's Music Hall of Fame. He toured with Roomful of Blues for 8 years. In 2016 Sugar Ray and his band The Bluetones released their CD called *Seeing Is Believing*. Sugar Ray was nominated for an unprecedented seven Blues Music Awards in 2017 including Traditional Blues Male Artist and also B.B. King Entertainer of the Year! In 2020 Sugar Ray and the Bluetones featuring Little Charlie Baty recorded a new CD/album on Severn Records called *Too Far From The Bar*. The album was nominated for five Blues Music Awards. In 2021 Sugar Ray and his band won the prestigious Blues Blast Music Award for the Best Blues Band.

Aki Kumar, India-born, now San Jose, California-based aka "The Only Bombay Blues Man," left his home in Mumbai with the intention of working as a software engineer in Silicon Valley. Then, he discovered the blues, and his life dramatically changed. Singing and playing harmonica, he steeped himself in the music and became a fixture in the blues clubs throughout Northern California, where he developed a unique, audacious blend of Chicago-style blues which then led to playing retro Bollywood pop mixed with the blues. Aki recorded for Little Village Foundation and has been featured in *Variety*, *NPR*... He's played major festivals including *Hardly Strictly Bluegrass*, *San Diego Blues Festival*, and the *Waterfront Blues Festival*.

Rhode Island based guitarist and singer Duke Robillard founded the band Roomful of Blues in 1967 and was, for a time, a member of the Fabulous Thunderbirds. Although Robillard is best known as a rock and blues guitarist, he also plays jazz and swing. He played in bands as Mike "Honey Bear" Robillard and worked for the Guild Guitar Company. He spent over a decade leading Roomful of Blues before departing and becoming guitarist and singer with Robert Gordon and later a member of the Legendary Blues Band. He started the Duke Robillard Band in 1981 eventually adopting the name Duke Robillard and the Pleasure Kings, with whom he toured throughout the 1980s and recorded for Rounder Records. Duke Robillard became a member of the Fabulous Thunderbirds in 1990. He formed a duo with Herb Ellis and the swing trio New Guitar Summit with Gerry Beaudoin and Jay Geils. He was briefly guitarist in 2013 touring with Bob Dylan for his *Time Out of Mind* album. Robillard's newest release on Stony Plain is *Blues Bash*, by Duke Robillard and Friends (both Mark Hummel and Bob Welsh appear).

Guitarist Anson Funderburgh is a long-time member of the Golden State Lone Star Blues

Revue born in Plano, Texas where he first picked up the guitar in high school and was hit by the blues bug through Jimmy Reed, and Lightnin' Hopkins. By 1978, he started Anson and the Rockets with vocalist/harmonica player Darrell Nulisch with the group being signed to Black Top Records a couple years later. In 1986 Nulisch was replaced by Blind Sam Myers who stayed with the group until his death in 2006. Anson and the Rockets went on to win 10

Blues Music Awards (formerly known as the W.C. Handy Blues Awards) widely regarded as the highest honor for blues artists in the United States.

Drummer and Rome, Georgia native Wes Starr has played with a who's who of famed musicians in Texas (Asleep at the Wheel, Anson Funderburgh, Delbert McClinton, Willie Nelson, Marcia Ball, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Omar and the Howlers and Sam Myers) after living in Austin for over 40 years. Wes won a Grammy during his seven year stint in country superstar Hal Ketchum's band.

Petaluma, California native Randy Bermudes is an in-demand blues and roots bassist. Randy started with Hummel, moved on to Little Charlie and the Nightcats for five years and two albums, then joined Charlie Musselwhite for four years and two albums, seven years and two albums with The Fabulous Thunderbirds and back to Charlie Musselwhite, where he's been ever since.

Photos:  
Page 12;  
Top Left: John Nemeth  
Middle Left: Magic Dick

Page 13:  
Duke Robillard & Anson Funderburgh  
(Photos Courtesy of Karen Leipziger)

More Photos Online at  
<https://markhummel.com/blues-harmonica-blowout>

# The Aurora Borealis Blues Bash Experience

*"At the Blues Bash, admission is free, but the experience is priceless!" (continued on next page)*

By Steve Pearse

## *Where and When*

On Tuesday, December 13, 2023, at the Washington Blues Society Blues Bash at the Aurora Borealis night club in Shoreline!

## *Target Audience*

Washington Blues Society members, including musicians, their friends and fans, and all others who enjoy grooving (and dancing!) to fantastic blues performances at a first-rate, centrally located Puget Sound venue.

## *This Article's Focus*

Advertising the club as a great spot to get together with friends and fellow Washington Blues Society members, as well as getting a few customers' and performers' "takes" on the Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis.

## *Setting the Scene*

Every blues venue delivers a vibe of its own, but the very best are havens for performers and listeners alike! Mark Benzion, guitarist extraordinaire for The Billy Appleton Band, recently shared his observations and experiences at the Aurora Borealis with me.

"Over my career as a musician playing many clubs, very few provide an optimal environment for artists to express themselves fully and for patrons to have an equally pleasant experience. The Aurora Borealis certainly hits the mark and is on the short list of best music venues in the Pacific Northwest," said Mark.

As my wife and I walked in the door half an hour or so before the entertainment began, we felt we belonged, as part of a blues-loving mega-family.

Many patrons coming in from the wintry outdoors danced their way into the club, hugs, and first-name greetings all around. And, to top it off, admission was free!

"Welcome to the Aurora, have a seat wherever you like, your server will be with you shortly," our greeter enthused.

As folks walked in, many called out to one another by name, happy to meet up with fellow blues fans and Washington Blues Society members at this Blues Bash, including blues society officers President Tony Frederickson and Vice President Rick Bowen.

And as people gravitated toward tables and chairs, Tony made the rounds, greeting everyone and handing out a coveted red raffle ticket to each customer.

These storied monthly Blues Bash tickets are an attraction in themselves (more on them in a bit). With raised tables facing the bar, an array of tables for four or more across from the huge bandstand, and still providing plenty of room for enthusiastic dancers of all ages, the Aurora Borealis couldn't be more accommodating. Such a joyful place!

A Billy Appleton Band member's young children cavorted among dancing couples and singles that night, and everyone was having a wonderful time.

## *The Performers: Act One*

And what a superb setting and vibe for entertainers at the Aurora Borealis! For that December Blues Bash, the night featured two terrific performing groups. Taking the stage promptly at 7, Powell & McPage (Jevon Powell, acoustic guitar and vocals, and Mary McPage, vocals) entertained the ever-growing, engaged crowd with original tunes, rich harmonies, and lots of fun!

Playing a solid mix of numbers ("Rolling Down the Highway," "Another Hard Night," "A Fool Don't Care," "Ways & Means"), Powell & McPage were obviously having as great a time themselves as were their listeners and dancers.

When I asked Mary how she felt the evening

went, she extolled the club's amenities as well as the audience.

"[Usually] having to run our own PA and lighting system when we play, playing at the Aurora Borealis was like getting the Rock Star treatment!" said Mary. "It's also nice to see the dance floor being used, and it is an all ages room! Being able to bring your family to a nice club for quality entertainment is something I personally very much appreciate."

Connecting up-close and personal with these enthusiastic blues fans, Jevon and Mary also complimented the quality food and reasonably priced drinks served at the venue.

## *Special Blues Bash Moments*

A little after eight, as folks were finishing dinner and waiting for Billy Appleton Band to jump up on stage, Tony grabbed the house mic to announce the winning raffle ticket numbers.

Amazingly (is it Blues Bash karma?), my sister Heather had drawn the best raffle ticket of the night! Two seats at Seattle's Jazz Alley to see The Blind Boys of Alabama! A few drawn tickets later, the magical Aurora Borealis vibe must have been working for me as well as I snagged Mary McPage's latest CD, *Starlight Smoochy Smoochy*.

## *The Performers: Act Two*

A few moments later, The Billy Appleton Band immediately energized the crowd, and no wonder. Not only is this a top-flight band, but the house made sure that this terrific performing group would be able to perform at their very best.

As guitarist Mark Benzion shared with me "The superior onstage sound at the Aurora Borealis allowed all of us in The Billy Appleton Band to be completely relaxed, and I believe we had one of best shows ever due to the simple fact that we could clearly hear



# Grace Love Returns with a New CD

*"It's nothing like I've ever done..."*

By Polly O'Keary

It's been a busy decade. In the last 10 years, Grace Love has gone from being a cover band singer to being called one of the brightest lights in Seattle's emerging soul music scene, to stepping away from her own growing fame to find her own voice as a songwriter.

In February, she will release a new CD as a solo artist, and while she's still got that soul, she now brings in other influences, including rock and roll, blues, and...opera?

"It's like nothing I've ever done," said the singer, with a laugh, as she waited in the ferry line to ride out to her home in Port Townsend in early January. "It's nothing like anyone's heard me do."

That, as it happens, is the point. Love's career as a soul singer as Grace Love and the True Loves was exciting; she worked with Pearl Jam's Mike McCready, was a featured artist on KEXP and NPR, and appeared at top festivals including Folklife and Winthrop Rhythm and Blues.

But the nine-piece soul powerhouse, formed in 2014, was an old-school soul band through and through, which left Love feeling creatively limited.

"I didn't want to be forced into the soul genre. I wanted to do more," she said. "I want something under the soul. Blues, and rock and roll, if I want to. I wanted to find people who want to do experimentation. It was a hard decision."

Since leaving the band in 2016, Love has gone on a bit of a musical walkabout.

"I started playing with a lady band, and we did some rock and roll, and over the years I've tried to figure out what works and what doesn't," she said.

The new CD is a four-song EP called *Work in Protest* and it reflects the musical journey of the last six years, as well as some of the struggles she's faced.



"Everybody talks about a work in progress," she said. "I have had people want to destroy me and abuse me in the music industry. They wanted me to cower. But I'm going to get work done. It's an ode to not giving up when it feels like you should."

"This EP is just solely me, learning how to sample, learning how to produce, just keeping it really simple," she said. "The second single, 'Broke,' is nothing like I've ever done. There's distortion, toms on the floor, it is definitely a blues tune with some rock and roll in it."

Another song has some disco flavor, she said, and, yes, she even taps into a little bit of opera.

As eclectic as the album is, the live show at the CD release party, planned for Valentine's Day evening at the Tractor Tavern in Seattle, will be even more diverse. Around the traditional guitar and bass, she may bring in some surprising instrumentation.

"It could include fiddle, pedal steel, and violin or cello or something of that nature," she said.

The 60-minute set will include her new material, as well as some of her fans' old favorites, she said.

Her voice will always have soul, she said. But now her voice has rock and roll, too, and even opera. And she's also got a whole lot of blues.

"It's about, how does this make me feel?" she said. "How does this make you feel? Tome of it makes you feel all the things, some makes you weep, some makes you angry. It's rooted in the emotions. That's the relationship with blues."

## Aurora Borealis Blues Bash (Cont'd)

each other and ensure we were all synched up on the musical cues throughout each song... The venue's AV guru, Tim, is empathetic to artists and strives to provide the best sound/light experience for both the musicians and the audience...can't wait to come back!" Performing everything from Deep Purple's "Highway Star" to blues favorites such as the Allman Brothers "Whipping Post" and Gary Moore's soulful "Still Got the Blues," The Billy Appleton Band lit the place up with their tight arrangements, masterful musicianship, and engaging style.

### *An Enthusiastic Recommendation for Blues Society Members*

The Aurora Borealis truly is the North Star of Aurora Avenue North in Shoreline! It was an absolute joy to tap our toes to the beat, meet new friends, and enjoy great food and drinks as we basked in the glow of first-rate performers and happy lovers of the blues! At the Blues Bash, admission is free, but the experience is priceless!

# A Quitter Never Wins...

*Welcome Tinsley Ellis Back to the Pacific Northwest Next Month!*

By Kirk Anderson (Photo of Tinsley Ellis  
Courtesy of the Artist)

A singular blues legend will be taking four stages in our Pacific Northwest community in mid March as part of another of his world tours. He'll walk out on stage in front of his 1967 Gibson Vintage Burst ES-345, his 1959 Sunburst Fender Stratocaster with its beautiful deep rosewood fret board, and his 1973 Gibson Les Paul Cherry Sunburst Deluxe to name a few.

"If you want to sound classic, use the instruments that the old masters used," said Tinsley Ellis in a recent conversation.

"A Quitter Never Wins" is a signature song written by Tinsley Ellis and Margaret Sampson. Tinsley released this hit on his fifth studio release, *Storm Warning*, in 1994. Johnny Lang covered it three years later on his big label debut album, *Lie to Me*, released the day before he turned 16. Good advice to the young gun and a definite display of how Tinsley gives back to the community for which he lives. Check out this outstanding album with Chuck Leavell (current Rolling Stones keyboardist), Oliver Woods (now of The Woods Brothers) and the debut studio appearance of Derek Trucks.

Tinsley especially wants the readers of the Bluesletter to know how excited he is about John Mayall's new release during the pandemic, which will include "A Quitter Never Wins" with Robby Krieger (Guitarist/Writer/Founding member of The Doors).

Tinsley was born in Atlanta, but the Ellis family soon moved to south Florida where an impressionable Tinsley Ellis experienced the blues of The Yardbirds, Cream, early Fleetwood Mac, and the legends of the blues. Tinsley distinctly remembers getting to experience a man he emulated, B.B. King. B.B. King broke a guitar string in mid song. B.B. changed out that guitar string and handed it to young Tinsley. With the blues already in Tinsley's heart, this incident drove the blues

into his soul

In the mid-70's, Tinsley moved back to Atlanta to further and complete a formal education majoring in history at Emory University. Still in his late teens, Atlanta gave Tinsley access to see more blues masters. In his 20s, he learned how to play in front of audiences by playing college parties as well as a Summer gig playing outdoors in the blistering Georgia heat at Six Flags amusement park in Atlanta. He credits double digit daily shows as an early lesson in how to play to different audiences.

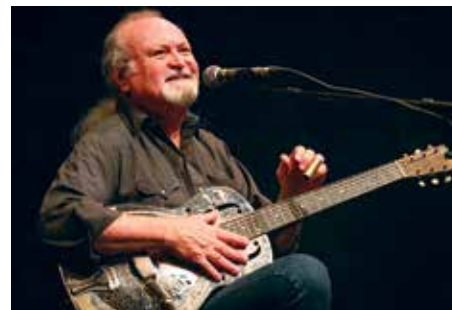
Tinsley continued his musical education with local Atlanta blues band The Alley Cats. They opened for some of those same famed bluesmen. Kaedy Kiely, Georgia Radio Hall of Fame DJ and Atlanta music community heroine shares her feelings about Tinsley.

"I got to know Tinsley when we were students at Emory University around 1980," she said. "He was a very bright, down-to-earth, talented guy who would have been successful at anything he chose as a career. It's truly a joy watching him become one of the world's best as an artist, I'm happy he chose to bless us with his glorious brand of blues!"

Ellis then continued his formal education 90 miles south of Atlanta in Macon. There, Tinsley studied law at Mercer University. His musical education continued in a city known for Otis Redding, Little Richard, The Allman Brothers Band and Capricorn Records. After he left Mercer, Tinsley moved back to Atlanta and met old hand blues vocalist "Chicago Bob" Nelson where they formed The Heartfixers.

The community came back around for Tinsley in 1988 where he was signed to seminal blues record label Alligator Records as a solo artist and released *Georgia Blue*.

Tinsley continued his growth as a writer, singer, guitarist and mentor for the next



32 years releasing 20 albums through four labels including Alligator, Capricorn, Telarc Blues, Heartfixer Music, and back again on Alligator Records.

As a career writing and playing the blues will do, change is inevitable. After six albums in nine years on Alligator, Capricorn was going through a revival. It was a natural progression for Tinsley to move to Capricorn Records with influences Widespread Panic, Gov't Mule and Col. Bruce Hampton, ret.

Tinsley continued shopping new albums through two more releases and the magic between Tinsley and Alligator came back in 2005 for the release of Tinsley's *Live Highwayman*. The next step for Tinsley materialized as he launched his own label, Heartfixer Music where he released four more albums including the all instrumental *Get It* in 2013.

In 2018, the marriage was on again as Tinsley and Alligator again took the blues trail together as Tinsley released *Winning Hand* and in 2020, *Ice Cream in Hell*. The title came to Ellis as he thought about how much you see when you're on the road. How hard it can be on the road. That's the hell.

"But the payoff is the music," said Tinsley. "That's the ice cream."

The CD features 11 songs of raw, guitar drenched experience inspired by B.B., Albert and Freddie King as well as Hound Dog Taylor, Carlos Santana, and others. *Rolling Stone* describes Tinsley's style, "...feral blues guitar..." *Ice Cream in Hell* debuted #1 on

iTunes Blues Albums. Check out the CD. Check out the shows.

The venue is often overlooked as part of the experience. Consider seeing Tinsley at one or more shows next month. Be part of different musical communities and show your support. These gigs are all short drives apart. See a second show or spend the night and experience the community. Save the venue's home page as a favorite to check out in the future. Without these venues, there is only busking on the corner or gigging in your garage to ourselves.

March 18. The Triple Door, Seattle, Washington. An awesome venue with a clean and crisp sound system. Seating is dinner theater style with comfortable tables and booths at different levels. The Triple Door which is in the historic Mann Building that originally hosted vaudeville 100 years ago was re-purposed to a music venue meant to connect the performers to the audience.

March 19. Seasons Performance Hall, Yakima, Washington. This venue, 100 years old, was built as a former church. The Seasons opened in 2005 as an acoustically pure venue in a gorgeous historical building. The staff's goal is to give you the experience of a lifetime.

March 20. Jack London Revue, Portland, Oregon. The Jack London combines the classic speak easy feel in a historic basement Jazz club with the modern bells & whistles of a cutting edge 21<sup>st</sup> century music club. This Portland music shrine constantly books local, national and international acts giving the music fans a variety of entertainment in an incredibly intimate setting.

March 21. The Capitol Theater, Olympia, Washington. Also serving the community for nearly 100 years, this is the largest venue that Tinsley will play on this tour to the Pacific Northwest. Reopened in 1986, this more traditional theater seating combines

conventional theater service for Film Festivals and concerts alike. The attention to artists of the Blues community continues as the Capitol Theater plays host to local and national acts.

Thinking about Derek Trucks and Johnny Lang, I asked Tinsley about how he gives back to the blues by mentoring other artists.

He says he goes out as much as he can to see what music is happening in the local music scenes. When he comes across talented people of all ages who "...have their shit together," this is when he shares some of the lessons he has learned. Tinsley is also very quick to add that he's learned from them, too.

In closing our conversation, I wanted to see who Tinsley thought we should keep an open ear and open mind to. He was quick to suggest both Christone "Kingfish" Ingram and Jontavious Willis. Many Bluesletter readers will know that these guys have played the Pacific Northwest.

Have you seen them?

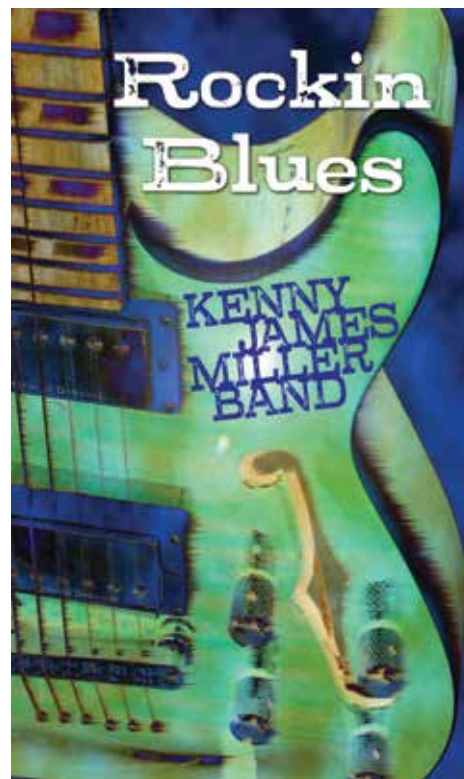
If not, you heard it. From Tinsley Ellis.

Get your shit together and don't miss them again. Support them.

Girls and boys, support the venues they play at.

Give to the community and you will get from the community.

Editor's Note: Last February, I reviewed Tinsley Ellis' Devil May Care CD and recommended it highly. This year, that CD is nominated for a Blues Music Award and Tinsley Ellis is nominated in the Blues Rock Artist category. Please see BMA nomination listing in this issue. Eric Steiner



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# Preview: The 12th Coeur D'Alene Blues Festival

*"It all happens within the beautiful resort on Lake Coeur D'Alene..."*

*Preview and photos of the Blood Brothers & Johnny Rawls by the festival.*

It all happens within the beautiful Resort on Lake Coeur d'Alene, including a cruise on the lake, March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 2nd! This year, the Coeur d'Alene Blues Festival has some real surprises.

Featured headliners combine two 2022 Blues Music Award winners: Mike Zito on the Blues Music Award for Blues Rock Album," and Albert Castiglia won for Blues Rock Artist. They have combined their bands and will be playing together for us as blood brothers on the festival's stage! Produced by Joe Bonamassa and Josh Smith, this will be an opportunity to see Mike Zito and Albert Castiglia touring in support of their new *Blood Brothers* album. The new CD is a much anticipated collaboration and seen here first in the Pacific Northwest.

This year's festival also features a true soul legend, Johnny Rawls. In fact, the term "soul blues" was invented to describe his music. With a career spanning more than 50 years, he's done it all. He's an internationally recognized recording artist, music producer, and songwriter who tours extensively throughout North America and overseas. The Blues Music Awards (and its predecessor, the W.C. Handy Awards) has frequently recognized Johnny's work. To date, 10 of Johnny's albums have been nominated for Soul Blues Album of the Year, with *I'm Still Around* winning in 2019.

The festival is also proud to bring a true iconic icon of roots music, Maria Muldaur. Despite being best known for her 1974 pop mega-hit "Midnight at the Oasis," which received several Grammy nominations, and enshrined her forever in the hearts of Baby Boomers, Maria has toured worldwide and has recorded 41 solo albums covering all kinds of roots music, and she has now settled comfortably into her favorite idiom, the blues. Maria has so many awards and

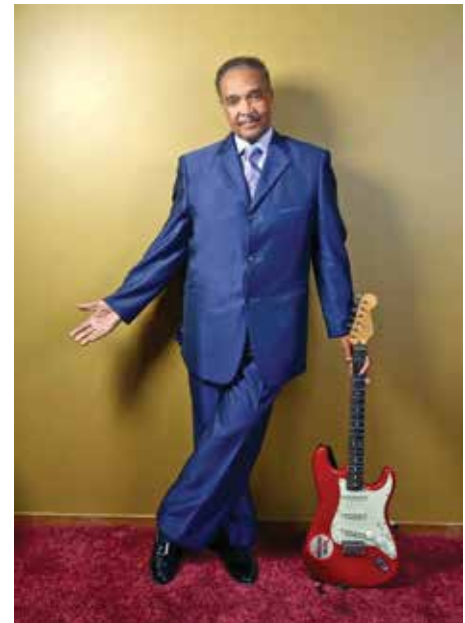


nominations, there's only space for a few.

Her critically acclaimed 2001 Stony Plain Records release, *Richland Woman Blues*, was nominated for a Grammy and for a Blues Music Award, as was the follow up to that album, *Sweet Lovin' Ol' Soul*. *Maria Muldaur & Her Garden of Joy* garnered Maria a 5th Grammy nomination and was also nominated for a Blues Music Award.

In 2011, Maria released *Steady Love*, what she called "Bluesiana Music," her own brand of New Orleans-flavored Blues, R&B and "Swamp Funk." *Steady Love* reached #1 on the Living Blues Chart, and garnered her another nomination for a Best Traditional Female Blues Artist award from the Blues Foundation. For her 40th CD in 2012, Maria produced the acclaimed *First Came Memphis Minnie*, a loving tribute to the pioneering blues woman, and in 2018, Maria released her 41st CD, *Don't You Feel My Leg - The Naughty Bawdy Blues of Blue Lu Barker*, which was nominated for a Grammy in the Best Traditional Blues category. In Sept. 2019, the Americana Music Association awarded Maria a Lifetime Achievement Americana Trailblazer Award.

There are 11 other acts appearing at the festival from all over the Pacific Northwest. SideStep with Max Daniels kick off shows on the Main Stage. Max is the popular leader



of Nu Jack City, and SideStep is a trio of the Spokane area's best musicians from various funk/soul bands.

The Blues Cruise will keep two boats rocking with two newer powerful acts, Justyn Priest and Natasha's Force of Nature.

Friday Night Live will feature the popular Sara Brown Band, and the Saturday afternoon Roof Top Party features Whack-A-Mole, as well as a tribute to Voodoo Church and special guests Ben Rice and soul man Elon C. Jones and Forest Govedare of Deep Forest Project fame.

There will be music in the resort lounges, the lobby and the rooftop with Diego Romero, The Doghouse Boys and Bubble & Squeak.

It all ends with the Sunday Gospel Brunch in Dockside with Voices 4 Praise, an amazing quartet of seasoned professional gospel singers!

Room Packages and all event tickets contact the resort at 855-379-5478. Full line up, <http://www.cdabluesfestival.com/>

Washington Blues Society Blues Bash

**Blues Bash II**

**Tuesday February 28th 7-930pm**

**Kim & Brian**

**La Rocca Boom**



**CCR Sports and Entertainment**

**Cypress Ave , Snohomish**

**FREE**



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**2023 Shows**

**February**

**3. Pub 282 - Camano Island**

**17. The Lime - Kirkland**

**25. The Mill - Milton**

**March 26. Blues Vespers**

**April 14. Third Place Commons - Kenmore**

**15. Slim's Last Chance - Seattle**

**29. Darrell's Tavern - Shoreline**

[stacyjonesband.com](http://stacyjonesband.com)

[www.facebook.com/stacyjonesband](https://www.facebook.com/stacyjonesband)

[www.youtube.com/StacyJonesBand](https://www.youtube.com/StacyJonesBand)



**FRIDAY, MARCH 31**

**Blues Cruises**

Justyn Priest & Natasha's Force of Nature

**Whispers Lounge**

Douhouse Boyz

**Terrace Lounge**

Bubble & Scurak

**Friday Night Live**

Sara Brown Band

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1**

**Rooftop Blues**

Voodoo Church & Whack-A-Mole  
with Guests Elan C. Jones & Forest Govedare

**5 Band Festival**

Blood Brothers - Mike Zito & Albert Castiglia,  
SideStep with Max Daniels, Maria Muldaur,  
Johnny Rawls & Hoodoo Udu

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

**Dockside Gospel Brunch**

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# February 2023 Live Music Calendar!

Our website has the most up-to-date live music calendar & listings online @ [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org)!

## FEBRUARY 1

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Bruce Barnard Trio  
**Rockfish Grill, Anacortes:** Joan Penney 6 PM  
**CCR Sport & Entertainment, Snohomish:** Usual Suspects 7 PM  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** One on One 6 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Highway 99 All Stars 7:30 PM  
**Triple Door, Seattle:** Matt Anderson w/Mariel Buckley 7:30 PM  
**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Karlito Moose & Squirrel 8 PM

## FEBRUARY 2

**Spada Brewery, Snohomish:** Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 6 PM  
**The Crocodile, Seattle:** Larkin Poe 7 PM  
**The Rabbit Box, Seattle:** Dusty 45's 7 PM  
**Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo:** Front St Blues Revue 7 PM  
**Zeek's Pizza, Bellingham:** Whitewing Duo 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** The Stylistics 7:30 PM  
**The Triple Door, Seattle:** Los Lobos 7:30 PM

## FEBRUARY 3

**Big Stick BBQ, Bellingham:** Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 5 PM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Market St Jazz Band 7 PM  
**Black Angus, Puyallup:** Max Renshaw Solo 7 PM  
**Treehouse Café, Bainbridge:** Jeffery Martin 7:30 PM  
**Pub 282, Camano Island:** Stacy Jones Band 7:30 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** The Stylistics 7:30 PM  
**The Triple Door, Seattle:** Los Lobos 7:30 PM  
**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Kimball & the Fugitives 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 4

**Urban Elk, Tacoma:** Kimball & the Fugitives 4 PM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Moxie 7 PM  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** Los Orchids 7 PM  
**Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma:** Kim & Brian Band w/ Lonesome Pine 7 PM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Soulful 88's 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** The Stylistics 7:30 PM  
**Mirkwood Public House, Arlington:** Joel Astley Band and Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method 8 PM  
**Rockfish Grill, Anacortes, Fat Fridays** 7:30 PM  
**The Triple Door, Seattle:** Los Lobos 7:30 PM  
**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Magic Circle 8 PM  
**Conway Muse, Conway:** Mojo Canyon & the 13<sup>th</sup> St Horns 8 PM  
**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Brian Daisley 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 5

**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Sunday Music Revue 7 PM  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** Two Scoops Combo 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** The Stylistics 7:30 PM  
**The Triple Door, Seattle:** Los Lobos 7:30 PM  
**Historic Everett Theater, Everett:** Stick Men 7:30 PM  
**Nectar Lounge, Fremont:** Prezident Brown, Arkaingelle, Selassie Ites 9 PM  
**The Lime, Kirkland:** Herding Cats 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 6

**Oxford Saloon, Snohomish:** SoLoLew 6 PM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** MaD BoJo 7 PM  
**Royal Room, Seattle:** Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 PM  
**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 7

**The Central, Seattle:** Blues Tuesday 7 PM  
**Capitol Cider, Seattle:** John Pinetree Blues Showcase 7 PM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** TJ Read 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kenny Barron Trio 7:30 PM  
**Billy Blues Bar & Grill, Vancouver WA:** Ben Rice & the Hustle 8 PM  
**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** John Case 8 PM

## FEBRUARY 8

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Frank Kohl 5 PM  
**Rockfish Grill, Anacortes:** The Colonel 6 PM  
**CCR Sport & Entertainment, Snohomish:** Usual Suspects 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kenny Barron Trio 7:30 PM  
**The Triple Door, Seattle:** Johnny A 7:30 PM  
**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Super Tonix 8 PM

## FEBRUARY 9

**Rose City Blues Dance Festival, Portland** 11 AM-11 PM  
**Bad Albert's, Seattle Annie Eastwood & Friends** 6 PM  
**Spada Brewery, Snohomish:** Whitewing Duo 6:30 PM  
**The Neptune, Seattle:** The Wood Brothers 7 PM  
**The Rabbit Box, Seattle:** Dusty 45's 7 PM  
**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Bill Anschell trio 7 PM  
**Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo:** Front St Blues Revue 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kandace Springs 7:30 PM  
**Darrell's Tavern, Shoreline:** Joe Hellmore 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 10

**Rose City Blues Dance Festival, Portland** 11 AM-11

PM

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Cosmo's Dream 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kandace Springs 7:30 PM  
**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** McPage & Powell Band 7 PM  
**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Lone State 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 11

**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Lounge Vultures 11 AM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** New Rhythmatics 7 PM  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** Jim Valley Project 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kandace Springs 7:30 PM  
**Rockfish Grill, Anacortes, Red House,** 7:30 PM  
**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Blue Velvet Groove 8 PM  
**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Passarim 8 PM  
**Conway Muse, Conway:** Deal 8 PM  
**The Mill, Milton:** Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 8 PM

## FEBRUARY 12

**Rose City Blues Dance Festival, Portland** 11 AM-11 PM  
**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Sunday Music Revue 7 PM  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kandace Springs 7:30 PM

## FEBRUARY 13

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** MaD BoJo 7 PM  
**Royal Room, Seattle:** Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 PM  
**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 14

**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Washington Blues Society Blues Bash feat. Toby Brady & Monster Road 7 PM  
**The Central, Seattle:** Blues Tuesday 7 PM  
**Capitol Cider, Seattle:** John Pinetree Blues Showcase 7 PM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Blue Healers 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Lucia Micarelli & Leo Amuedo 7:30 PM  
**Billy Blues Bar & Grill, Vancouver WA:** Ben Rice & the Hustle 8 PM

## FEBRUARY 15

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Bruce Barnard Trio  
**Rockfish Grill, Anacortes:** Heron & Crow 6 PM  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** Farrell/Hudson Trio w/guest Tom Boyle 6 PM  
**CCR Sport & Entertainment, Snohomish:** Usual



Suspects 7 PM

**The Mill, Milton:** Lonesome Pine 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Lucia Micarelli & Leo Amuedo 7:30 PM

**Seasons Performance Center, Yakima:** Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout w/Magic Dick, Duke Robillard, Sugar Ray Norcia, John Nemeth, Anson Funderburgh, Aki Kumar, Randy Bermudes, Wes Starr & Mark Hummel 7 PM

**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Dee's Motown Jazz 8 PM

## FEBRUARY 16

**The Rabbit Box, Seattle:** Dusty 45's 7 PM

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Findlay & Lerch 7 PM

**Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo:** Front St Blues Revue 7 PM

**Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma:** Dudley Taft 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Mindi Abair 7:30 PM

## FEBRUARY 17

**Goose Ridge Winery, Redmond:** Kim & Brian 4 PM

**Triple Door, Seattle:** Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout w/Magic Dick, Duke Robillard, Sugar Ray Norcia, John Nemeth, Anson Funderburgh, Aki Kumar, Randy Bermudes, Wes Starr & Mark Hummel 6 PM & 8:30 PM

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Chris Stevens Band 7 PM

**Anderson School, Bothell:** Sheri & Marc 7PM

**Black Angus, Federal Way:** Small Town Soul Band 7 PM

**The Vault, Blaine:** CC Adams & Ellen Lykens 7 PM

**Treehouse Café, Bainbridge:** Katherine Claire 7:30 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Mindi Abair 7:30 PM

**Belltown Yacht Club, Seattle:** Dudley Taft 8 PM

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Duende Libre 8 PM

**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Under the Puddle 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 18

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Lee Oskar & Friends 8 PM

**Triple Door, Seattle :** Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout w/Magic Dick, Duke Robillard, Sugar Ray Norcia, John Nemeth, Anson Funderburgh, Aki Kumar, Randy Bermudes, Wes Starr & Mark Hummel 6 PM & 8:30 PM

**Egan's Ballard Jam House, Seattle:** Lady A Welcome to the Porch 7 PM

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Moon Daddy 7 PM

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Mach One Big Band 7 PM

**The Mill, Milton:** Joel Astley Band 7 PM

**The Spar, Tacoma:** Tupelo 7 PM

**Rockfish Grill, Anacortes:** Free Harmony 7:30 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Mindi Abair 7:30 PM

**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** True Romans 8 PM

**The Blue Room, Bellingham:** Michelle D'Amour & the Love Dealers 8 PM

**Conway Muse, Conway:** Dudley Taft 8 PM

**Rock the Dock, Tacoma:** Eclipse Jazz Band 8 PM

## FEBRUARY 19

**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Sunday Music Revue 7 PM

**The Spar, Tacoma:** Chris Stevens Band 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Mindi Abair 7:30 PM

## FEBRUARY 20

**Lincoln Theater, Mount Vernon:** Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout w/Magic Dick, Duke Robillard, Sugar Ray Norcia, John Nemeth, Anson Funderburgh, Aki Kumar, Randy Bermudes, Wes Starr & Mark Hummel 7PM

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** MaD BoJo 7 PM

**Royal Room, Seattle:** Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 PM

**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 21

**Capitol Cider, Seattle:** John Pinetree Blues Showcase 7 PM

**The Central, Seattle:** Blues Tuesday 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Greta Matassa Sextet 7:30 PM

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Reji Marc 7 PM

**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Acoustic Ave 8 PM

## FEBRUARY 22

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Frank Kohl 5 PM

**Rockfish Grill, Anacortes, Janette West 6 PM**

**CCR Sport and Entertainment, Snohomish:** Usual Suspects 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Dave Holland Trio 7:30 PM

**Nectar, Seattle:** Wintergrass Kickoff Party w/Rushad Eggleston and Ricky Gene Powell & Acoustic Laboratory

**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Angelic Noise 8 PM

## FEBRUARY 23

**Hyatt Regency & The Westin, Bellevue:** Wintergrass 9AM

**The Rabbit Box, Seattle:** Dusty 45's 7 PM

**Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo:** Front St Blues Revue 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Sergio Mendes 7:30 PM

## FEBRUARY 24

**Hyatt Regency & The Westin, Bellevue:** Wintergrass 9 AM

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Scott Lindenmuth Trio 7PM

**Kimball's Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor:** Retro Gruve 7 PM

**Black Angus, Federal Way:** Billy Stapleton's POWERHOUSE Band 7 PM

**Black Angus, Puyallup:** Michael Powers Solo 7 PM

**Grape and Grain, Everett:** Sheri & Marc 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Sergio Mendes 7:30 PM

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Gail Pettis 8 PM

**Bake's Place, Bellevue:** Annie Eastwood All Star Band 9 PM

**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Lumberjax 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 25

**Hyatt Regency & The Westin, Bellevue:** Wintergrass 9 AM

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Mark Dufresne Band 7 PM

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Chris Eger Band 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Sergio Mendes 7:30 PM

**Pub 282, Camano Island:** Joel Astley Band 7:30 PM

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Youfour 8 PM

**Conway Muse, Conway:** Market Street Dixieland Jass Band 8 PM

**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Dogtones 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 26

**Hyatt Regency & The Westin, Bellevue:** Wintergrass 9 AM

**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Sunday Music Revue 7 PM

**The Spar, Tacoma:** Cory Wilds Band 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Sergio Mendes 7:30 PM

**Stars Bar & Grill, City:** Federal Way: Joe Hellmore 8 PM

## FEBRUARY 27

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** MaD BoJo 7 PM

**Royal Room, Seattle:** Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 PM

**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 PM

## FEBRUARY 28

**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline :** Washington Blues Society Blues Bash feat. Kim & Brian and La Roca Boom 7PM

**The Central, Seattle:** Blues Tuesday 7 PM

**Capitol Cider, Seattle:** John Pinetree Blues Showcase 7 PM

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Unbound w/Kevin Sutton 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Bob James 7:30 PM

**Rockfish Grill, Anacortes, Randy Weeks, 7:30 PM**

**Billy Blues Bar & Grill, Vancouver WA:** Ben Rice & the Hustle 8 PM

# Newly Updated Blues Jams & Open Mic Listings

*Jam hosts listed & open mics are either blues-friendly or full band-friendly. Go out & support live music!*

## SUNDAY

**192 Brewing, Kenmore:** All Ages 192 Blues Jam w/ The Groove Tramps 3-7 PM (Times Vary Seahawk Game Days)

**Acorn Brewery, Edgewood:** Blue Jam w/Retro Gruve 5-8 PM

**The Bleu Note Restaurant and Lounge, Lakewood:** Open Mic 6 PM

**The Bennett Craft & Kitchen PoCo, Port Moody, B.C.:** Sunday Blues Jam 3-7 PM

**Bullhead Saloon, Four Lakes:** Open M/Jam 5-8 PM

**Captain Jacks, Sumner:** Open Mic Hosted by Lady Carter T the Gents 7 PM

**Collector's Choice Restaurant (CCR), Snohomish:** Acoustic Open Mic 7 PM

**Club Crow, Cashmere:** Jam Session 1st Sun 7-10 PM

**Conor Byrne, Seattle:** Open Mic 8 PM

**Darrell's Tavern, Shoreline:** Jazz Jam 7-10 PM

**Dawson's, Tacoma:** Tim Hall Band 7-11 PM

**The Boom Boom Rom at the Point Casino, Kingston:** Duff's Rockin' Jam 7-10 PM

**El Sarape Cantina, Shelton:** Open Band Jam 3rd Sun 4-8 PM

**Cafe Racer, Seattle:** The Foundation Open Jam 4th Sun 7-9 PM

**Headworks Brewery, Enumclaw:** Open Mic 6-8 PM

**Joseppi's, Tacoma:** Sunday Jam w/Mo Betta Band 6-9 PM

**Lucky 7 Bar & Grill, Kirkland:** Tommy Wall Sun Blues Jam 7 PM

**Mirkwood Public House, Arlington:** Open Jam 7-10 PM

**O'Malley's Lounge, Olympia:** Blues Jam w/The Pleasure Hounds 6-9 PM

**Purdy's, Sumner:** Jerry Miller Blues Jam 7 PM

**Queen Anne Beer Hall, Seattle:** Open Mic 8 PM

**Twin Dragon, Duval:** Open Jam Hosted by Doug McGrew 7 PM

**Red Dog Saloon, Maple Valley:** Open Jam w/The Walkie Tacos 6 PM

**Warehouse West, Yakima:** Open Mic/Jam Hosted by Rod Giles Band 4-7 PM

## MONDAY

**Conor Byrne, Seattle:** BlueGrass Acoustic Jam 8 PM

**Nectar Lounge, Seattle:** Mo Jam Mondays 9-11 PM

**Royal Room, Seattle:** Jazz Jam Session Hosted by Thomas Marriott 9 PM

**Badger Mountain Brewery, Wenatchee:** North Central Washington Blues Jam 1st, 3rd & 5th Mon 6-9 PM

**Riverside Pub, Wenatchee:** North Central Washington Blues Jam 2nd & 4th Mon 7-10 PM

**Emerald of Siam, Richland:** Open Mic/Band Showcase Hosted by Barefoot Randy/Dirty River Entertainment 8 PM (All Ages until 10:45 PM)

**HD's Bar and Grill, Belfair:** Joe Faker Jam 6 PM

**Headworks Brewery, Enumclaw:** Open Mic 6 PM

## TUESDAY

**Brother Don's, Bremerton:** All Ages Jam w/Tim Hall Band 7-10 PM

**Café Racer, Seattle:** Open Mic 1st & 3rd Tues 7 PM

**Capitol Cider, Seattle:** Tuesday Blues Jam w/John Pine Tree 6:30-8:30 PM

**Royal Esquire Club, Seattle:** Sea-Town All-Stars 8-10 PM

**Elmer's, Burien:** Jam Hosted by The Cory Wilds Band 8 PM-12 AM

**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** Open Mic w/Dano Mac 8 PM

**Antique Sandwich Co., Tacoma:** Open Mic 7-10 PM

**Double J Saloon, Lake City/ Seattle:** Open Mic 1st & 3rd Tues 8:30 PM

**Burien Eagles Jam w/Billy Shew 7-11 PM**

**Grape and Grain, Everett:** Acoustic Open Mic 6-8 PM

**The Garages, Lake Oswego, OR:** Garages Blues Jam w/The Pat Stillwell Band 7:30 PM

**The Hidden Door, Shoreline:** Open Mic 7 PM

**Odin Brewery, Tacoma:** Open Mic 7 PM

**Oxford Saloon, Snohomish:** Acoustic Open Mic Hosted by Jerry Battista 6 PM

**Slippery Pig, Poulsbo:** All Ages Monthly Open Mic 7 PM

**Tweede's Café, North Bend:** Open Mic 6:30-9:30 PM

**Zeek's Pizza, Bellingham:** Live Music 1st Tues 6-9 PM

## WEDNESDAY

**Acorn Brewery, Edgewood:** Blues Jam 7 PM

**Capitol Cider, Seattle:** Jam Night 9 PM

**Bethel Saloon, Port Orchard:** Open Mic 8 PM

**Black Dog Arts Cafe, Snoqualmie:** All Ages Open Mic 7 PM

**Black Lab Gallery, Everett:** Open Mic Hosted by Jeff Crookall 6:30-10 PM

**Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle:** Open Mic 8-11 PM

**Couth Buzzard Cafe, Seattle:** Open Mic 7:30-10 PM

**Stars Bar and Grill, Federal Way:** Linda Myers Wicked Wednesday Jam 8-11 PM

**Darrell's Tavern, Shoreline:** Open Mic 8:30-11 PM

**Filling Station, Kingston:** All Ages Open Mic All Styles & Instruments Welcome 7PM

**The Hidden Door, Shoreline:** Open Jam 7 PM

**Jules Mae's Saloon, Seattle:** Jazz Open Mic 7 PM

**Lake City Pub, Lakewood:** Open Mic 7 PM

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Unbound Blues Jam 7:30-11 PM

**Miller's, Carnation:** Open Mic Last Wed 6 PM

**Mirkwood Public House, Arlington:** One Take Weekly Jam w/Chris Eger & Richard Williams 8-11 PM

**Penn Cove Brewing Company, Coupeville:** Open Mic 6 PM

**Skylark Café, West Seattle:** Open Mic 8-11 PM

**Soundbite Cider, Everett:** Open Mic 7 PM

**Stockton's, Maple Valley:** Jam Night w/Billy Shew 6-9 PM

**Tony V's Garage, Everett:** Open Mic 9-11 PM

**The Tin Hat, Kennewick:** Open Mic & Jam w/The Mondo Ray Band 7-11 PM

**Brickhouse, Vancouver, WA:** Open Mic Hosted by Right as Rain Entertainment 8:30 PM

**Whit's End, Seattle:** All Ages Open Mic 2nd & 4th Thurs 8 PM

## THURSDAY

**192 Brewing Company, Kenmore:** Open Mic 7-10 PM

**Bent Bine Brew Co., Belfair:** Open Mic 6-9 PM

**Bearded Monkey Music, Yakima:** Open Mic 6:30 PM

**The Blue Room, Bellingham:** All Ages Open Mic 6-10 PM

**Bushell & Barrel Cider House, Poulsbo:** Open Mic 6-9 PM

**Cruisers, Post Falls, ID:** Open Mic/Jam Night 6-10 PM

**Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett:** Open Mic 6:30-9:30 PM

**Dawson's, Tacoma:** Blues Jam w/Billy the Pocket 7-11 PM

**Dog House, Seattle:** Jam w/The Uptown All Stars 7:30 PM

**Flight Path, Burien:** Open Mic Jam Night 8:30 PM

**The Growler Guys, Lake City, Seattle:** Jazz Open Mic 7 PM

**Jack-sons Sports Bar & Clubhouse, Yakima:** Open Jam 8-11 PM

**Kimball Coffee House, Gig Harbor:** All Ages Open Mic, 5:30-8 PM

**Looking Glass Coffee, Snohomish:** Open Mic 2nd & 4th Thurs 7PM

**Lucky 7 Bar & Grill, Kirkland:** Pro Jam 8 PM

**The Village Inn Pub, Bellingham:** Jam w/Jimmy D 8-11 PM

**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Blues Jam Last Thurs 8-11 PM

**Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo:** All Ages Front St Blues Review Night w/Thys Wallwork 7-11 PM

**Gordon & Purdy's Pub, Sumner – Outlaw Blues Jam w/Boogie Chillin' 7-11 PM**

**Stars Bar & Grill, Federal Way:** Jam Night w/Billy Shew 8 PM

**The New Moon Craft Tavern, Port Angeles:** Blues Jam 7 PM

**New Frontier Lounge, Tacoma:** Open Mic Hosted by Chuck Muller 7 PM

**The Spot, West Seattle:** Blues Night 6 PM

**San Juan Island Brewing Co., Friday Harbor:** Open Mic 6-8 PM

**Station 18, Seattle:** Jazz Jam Hosted by Kevin McCarthy Trio 7-11 PM (All Ages until 10 PM)

**Red Dog Saloon, Maple Valley:** Open Jam Hosted by The Iron Stallion Band 7 PM

**The Loft Pub, Victoria B.C.:** Open Jam 7-11 PM

**Maverick's, Lakeside, MT:** Blues Jam Thurs 8:30 PM

**The Valley, Tacoma:** Open Mic Hosted by Elizabeth Ashbrook 8 PM

Thirsty Badger, Lynden: Open Mic 7-11 PM

## FRIDAY

Bryant Corner Cafe, Seattle: Open Mic 6:30 PM

La Copa Café, Seattle: All Ages Victory Music Open Mic 6:30-9 PM

Dreadknott Brewery, Monroe: Open Mic 7-10 PM

Kana Winery, Yakima: Open Mic 7-10 PM

SoulFood Coffee House & Fair Trade Emporium, Kirkland: Jazz Jam Last Fri 7 PM

Wicked Cider, Kennewick: Wicked Jamz/Open Mic Every Other Fri 6-10 PM

## SATURDAY

The Spot, West Seattle: Open Mic 6 PM

The Hidden Door, Shoreline: Open Mic 7 PM

Kiss the Sky books, Sultan: Open Mic 7PM

**CONTACT THE VENUE WITH ANY QUESTIONS ON ANY BLUES JAM OR OPEN MIC**

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- 1\$ off the cover and 25% off food at the Raging River Saloon (Fall City, WA)
- \$5.00 off show admission for Friday 9:30 shows at Jazz Alley\*\*

\* Due to postage fees, non-US residents will receive their Bluesletter electronically  
\*\* With valid WBS membership card and advance reservation. Reservations must be made by calling Jazz Alley at (206) 441-8729, and requesting the WBS Special. This offer is not applicable to all shows.

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Tuesday FEB 14th 7-930 pm



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**FREE**  
**ALL AGES WELCOME**





# Congratulations to 2023 Blues Music Award Nominees

Mark Your Calendars for May 11th in Memphis!

Compiled by Eric Steiner and Courtesy of The Blues Foundation

The Blues Music Awards brings together blues performers, industry representatives, and fans from all over the world to celebrate the best in blues recordings and performances from the previous year. The Blues Music Awards are generally recognized as the highest honor given to blues musicians and are awarded by vote of Blues Foundation members. Blues Foundation members may vote for nominees until 11:59 PM CST on March 20, 2023 at [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org).

The 44th Blues Music Awards will be held at the Renasant Convention Center in Downtown Memphis on Thursday, May 11, 2023. Congratulations to all winners and nominees! The following is a complete list of nominees for 2023 Blues Music Awards.

## Acoustic Album

*Acoustic Burnside*, Duwayne Burnside  
*Ain't Nobody Worried*, Rory Block  
*Mississippi Son*, Charlie Musselwhite  
*Thanks for Tomorrow*, Harrison Kennedy  
*The Insurrection Blues*, Corey Harris

## Acoustic Artist

Doug MacLeod  
Guy Davis  
Harrison Kennedy  
Rhiannon Giddens  
Rory Block

## Album of the Year

*The Blues Don't Lie*, Buddy Guy  
*Hard Times*, John Primer  
*Done Come Too Far*, Shemekia Copland  
*May Be the Last Time*, John Németh  
*Leave the Light On*, The Love Light Orchestra

## B.B. King Entertainer

Bobby Rush  
Eric Gales  
Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman)  
Sugaray Rayford  
Tommy Castro

## Band of the Year

Anthony Geraci & The Boston Blues Allstars  
John Nemeth and the Blue Dreamers  
Rick Estrin and the Nightcats  
Southern Avenue  
Tedeschi Trucks Band

## Best Emerging Artist Album

*Buchanan Lane*, Yates McKendree  
*Drums, Roots & Steel*, DaShawn Hickman  
*Major League Blues*, Jose Ramirez  
*Scream, Holler & Howl*, Blue Moon Marquee  
*Who Is He?*, Dylan Triplett

## Blues Rock Album

*Crown*, Eric Gales  
*Devil May Care*, Tinsley Ellis  
*Highs & Lows*, Bernard Allison  
*I Got Love*, Albert Castiglia  
*Open Road*, Colin James

## Blues Rock Artist

Albert Castiglia  
Joanne Shaw Taylor  
Tinsley Ellis  
Tommy Castro  
Walter Trout

## Contemporary Blues Album

*Blues Without You*, Larry McCray  
*Done Come Too Far*, Shemekia Copeland  
*Hard to Kill*, Janiva Magness  
*I Ain't Playin'*, Diunna Greenleaf  
*The Blues Don't Lie*, Buddy Guy

## Contemporary Blues Female Artist

Beth Hart  
Janiva Magness  
Ruthie Foster  
Teresa James  
Vanessa Collier

## Contemporary Blues Male Artist

Chris Cain  
Christone "Kingfish" Ingram  
Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman)  
Ronnie Baker Brooks  
Selwyn Birchwood

## Instrumentalist - Bass

Bob Stroger  
Danielle Nicole  
Larry Fulcher  
Michael "Mudcat" Ward  
Willie J. Campbell

## Instrumentalist - Drums

Chris Layton  
Cody Dickinson  
Derrick D'Mar Martin  
Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith  
Tony Braunagel

## Instrumentalist - Guitar

Chris Cain  
Christoffer "Kid" Andersen  
Joanna Connor  
Kirk Fletcher  
Laura Chavez

## Instrumentalist - Harmonica

Billy Branch  
Bob Corritore  
Dennis Gruenling  
Jason Ricci  
John Nemeth

## Instrumentalist - Horn

Deanna Bogart  
Gregg Piccolo  
Jimmy Carpenter  
Mark Kaz Kazanoff  
Sax Gordon Beadle

## Instrumentalist - Pinetop Perkins Piano Player

Anthony Geraci  
Ben Levin  
Dave Keyes  
Jim Pugh  
Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne

### Instrumentalist - Vocals

Curtis Salgado

Danielle Nicole

Diunna Greenleaf

John Nemeth

Shemekia Copeland

### Song of the Year

"Great Minds Drink Alike"  
Written by Jeff Schroedl

"I Want My Crown" Written by  
Eric Gales, Joe Bonamassa, &  
James House

"The Blues Don't Lie" Written by  
Tom Hambridge

"The Last Time" Written by John  
Németh

"Too Far To Be Gone" Written by  
John Hahn & Will Kimbrough

### Soul Blues Album

*Golden Girl*, Trudy Lynn

*Heartache by the Pound*, Kirk  
Fletcher

*In Too Deep*, Sugaray Rayford

*Leave the Light On*, The Love  
Light Orchestra

*Progeny*, Kat Riggins

### Soul Blues Female Artist

Annika Chambers

Kat Riggins

Thornetta Davis

Trudy Lynn

Vaneese Thomas

### Soul Blues Male Artist

Billy Price

Curtis Salgado

Don Bryant

John Nemeth

Johnny Rawls

### Traditional Blues Album

*Bob Corritore & Friends: You  
Shocked Me*, Bob Corritore

*Hard Times*, John Primer

*May Be the Last Time*, John  
Németh

*Straight From the Heart*, Kenny  
Neal

*They Called It Rhythm & Blues*,  
Duke Robillard

### Koko Taylor Award (Traditional Blues Female Artist)

Deitra Farr

Diunna Greenleaf

Rhiannon Giddens

Rory Block

Sue Foley

### Traditional Blues Male Artist

Billy Branch

Duke Robillard

John Primer

Johnny Burgin

Sugar Ray Norcia



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE  
SEATTLE

Special Thanks to the City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture. This project is being funded in whole or in part by federal award number SLFRP1045 awarded to the City of Seattle by the US Department of Treasury.

**Dimitriou's Jazz Alley**  
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Jazz Alley is a fixture of the Seattle live music and dining scene, family owned and operated since 1980.

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Lucia Micarelli and Leo Anunzio Feb 14-15  
Mindi Abair Feb 16-19  
Greta Matassa Sextet Feb 21  
Dave Holland Trio Feb 22  
Sergio Mendes Feb 23-26  
Bob James Quartet Feb 28

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**2023 64th Avenue**  
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# Whom to Hire, Get in Touch

Send updates, additions & corrections to both [Editor@wablues.org](mailto:Editor@wablues.org) and [ericrichd@aol.com](mailto:ericrichd@aol.com) by the 10th!

## \$

Scratch Daddy (425) 210-1925

## #

44th Street Blues Band 206.714.5180 or  
206.775.2762

## A

A.H.L. 206.935.4592  
Al Earick Band 253.278.0330  
Albritten McClain & Bridge of Souls 206.650.8254  
Alice Stuart & the Formerlys 360.753.8949  
AlleyKatz 425.273.4172  
ALTAI BAND goldenguitarman777@gmail.com,  
galiawind@yahoo.com  
Amigos Nobles 425.268.7064  
Andrew Norsworthy andrewnorsworthy@yahoo.com  
Andy Koch's Badd Dog Blues (formerly Badd Dog  
Blues Society) 360.739.6397  
Annette Taborn 206.306.3398  
Annieville Blues 206.994.9413  
Author Unknown 206.355.5952

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Baby Cakes 206.818.0588  
Baby Gramps Trio 425.483.2835  
Back Porch Blues 425.299.0468  
Backwoods Still 425.330.0702  
Badd Dog Blues Society 360.733.7464  
Barry Torrence 253.226.1103  
Bay Street Blues Band 360.731.1975  
B.E.S.T. Band 206.817.1663  
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Bill Ray Drums 760 803 1686  
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Brian Hurst 360.708.1653  
Brian Lee & The Orbiters 206.390.2408  
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425.766.7253  
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Charlie Saibel 360.357.8553  
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Elliott Bay Blues Band 206.300.6802  
Ellis Carter 206.935.3188  
Eric Madis & Blue Madness 206.362.8331  
Eric's Maine Connection 425.299.7496  
Eric Rice 425.299.7496

## F

Fat Cat 425.487.6139  
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## G

Gary Frazier 206.851.1169

Greg Roberts 206.473.0659  
Groove Tramps 720.232.9664  
Guilded Lily Band 915.222.6401  
Gunnar Roads 360.828.1210

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Hambone Wilson 360.739.7740  
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425.576.5673  
High Note Group 206.214.7977  
Hot Mess Duo 206.214.7977  
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Hungry Dogs 425.299.6435

## J

Jack Cook & Phantoms of Soul 206.517.5294  
James Howard 206.250.7494  
James King & the Southsiders 206.715.6511  
Janie Cribbs & the T.Rust Band 360.331.6485  
JD Hobson 206.235.3234  
Jeff Boutiea & the Blues Choo Train 425.345.5399  
Jeff "Drummerboy" Hayes 206.909.6366  
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Jeremy Serwer 520.275.9444  
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Jim McLaughlin 425.737.4277  
Jim Nardo Blues Band 360.779.4300  
Jimmy Free's Friends 206.546.3733  
Joe Blue & the Roof Shakers 425.766.7253  
Joe Cook Blues Band 206.547.1772  
Joe Guimond 509.423.0032  
Joel Astley 206.214.7977  
John "Scooch" Cugno's Delta 88 Revival  
360.352.3735  
John "Greyhound" Maxwell 360.685.6006  
John Stephan Band 206.244.0498  
John Stephanus 206.459.3278  
Jolene Gayle 509.433.4944  
JP Hennessy 425.273.4932  
Julia Francis & the Secrets of Soul 206.618.4919  
Julie Duke Band 206.459.0860  
Junkyard Jane 253.238.7908

## K

K. G. Jackson & The Shakers 360.896.4175  
Keith Nordquist 253.639.3206  
Keith Scott 773.213.3239



Kenny James Miller Band 406.253.7439  
 Kevin & Casey Sutton 314.479.0752  
 Kid Quagmire 206.412.8212  
 Kim Archer Band 253.298.5961  
 Kim Field & The Mighty Titans of Tone 206.295.8306  
 Kimball Conant & The Fugitives 206.938.6096  
 King Kom Beaux 253.732.0618  
 Kosta Panidis (Kosta la Vista) 509.991.7623

## L

La Roca Boom 206.920.6776  
 Lady "A" & The Baby Blues Funk Band 425.518.9100  
 Larry Hill 206.696.1789  
 Leanne Trevalyan 253.238.7908  
 Lee Oskar & Friends 425.258.3585  
 Leo Muller 206.300.6802  
 Linda Carroll & Retro Gruve 253.606.1500.  
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 Lori Hardman Band 425.218.5341  
 Lucille Street cynmoring@gmail.com

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 Maia Santell & House Blend 253.983.7071  
 Margret Wilder Band (360) 380-2250  
 Mark A. Noftsgier 425.238.3664  
 Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 206.588.1924  
 Mark Riley 206.313.7849  
 Marty Vadalabene 206.914.3026  
 Mary Ellen Lykins Band 360.395.8540  
 Mary McPage 206.850.4849  
 Michael "Papa Bax" Baxter 425.478.1365  
 Michael Wilde 425.672.3206 or 206.200.3363  
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 Mike Haley 509.393.5838  
 Miles from Chicago 206.440.8016  
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 Norm Bellas & the Funkstars 206.722.6551

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 Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method 206.384.0234  
 Porterhouse Blues Band 425.381.7649  
 Powerhouse 425.478.2113

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 Randy Norris & The Full Degree 425.239.3876  
 Randy Oxford Band 253.973.9024  
 Raven Humphres 425.308.3752  
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 Reggie Miles 360.793.9577  
 Reji Marc (206) 486-0386  
 Richard Allen & The Louisiana Experience  
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 RJ Knapp & Honey Robin Band 206.612.9145  
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 Roger Rogers Band 206.255.6427  
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 Roxlide 360.881.0003  
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 Terraplane Band (425)870-5018  
 Terry Hartness 425.931.5755  
 The 509s 509.423.0032  
 The Bret Welty Band 208.703.2097  
 The EveryLeaf Band 425.369.4588  
 The Fabulous MoJo Kings 206.412.9503  
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 The Pat Stilwell Band 503.481.6823  
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 The Spinoffs/Dawnzella Gearhart 206. 718.1591  
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 The Wulf Tones 206.367.6186 or 206.604.2829  
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 Tim Turner Band 206.271.5384  
 Tommy Wall 206.914.9413  
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 Two Trains Runnin' 206.225.9684

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 Under the Puddle 425-512-3153

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Virginia Klemens Band 206.632.6130

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 Whitewing 360.393-1687  
 Willie B Blues Band 206.451.9060  
 Willie & The Whips 206.781.0444

# A LARGE Time Coming to the 2023 Walla Walla Guitar Festival

*Featuring headliners Sugaray Rayford & Elvin Bishop!*

*Courtesy of the Walla Walla Guitar Festival*

We're back at it!

In 2021, the Walla Walla Guitar Festival was unable to go forward on its traditional second weekend in March. Venues were still under lock down. But this was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Walla Walla Guitar Festival... what to do, what to do?

By May, when the restrictions eased, plans were made to throw the anniversary party in October.

Then, all too soon came the decision whether to go back to the traditional weekend in March for 2022 or skip a year.

Skip a year? Let the Walla Walla Guitar Festival family down? That just ain't us, so... We presented the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Walla Walla Guitar Festival back in March of 2022!

Now it's time to get over it, dammit! We want our music. We want our friends. We want to party! It's time for three days (four days if you count Shaman's Pre-fest Jam at the VFW on the 9<sup>th</sup>), over 20 national, regional and local stars, in 10 venues, all within walking distance in downtown Walla Walla!

Each of the shows are back, including the opening concert at the Marcus Whitman Ballroom, featuring Sugaray Rayford, followed by the Friday Kick-off Party with the Dirt Angels, the Wasteland Kings, Gary Winston & the Real Deal, Mike Mendoza and Feedback, and Vaughn Jensen!

Saturday starts with the Acoustic Showcase at the VFW with Big Font featuring Thacher Carter. Next is the LARGE Show in the Marcus Whitman Ballroom, featuring festival host band

Coyote Kings w/Tiphony Dames, followed by Ben Rice with special guest, Tevis Hodge Jr, and headlined by Elvin Bishop! Saturday night is the multi-venue Guitar Crawl with Rae Gordon, Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method, Steamboat Rocks, Whack A Mole, Diego Romero, and The Shades, followed by the Tarwater All-Star Jam at midnight, hosted by Vaughn Jensen!

Sunday wraps it up with The Gospel Brunch, featuring Rae Gordon's Gospel, followed by Jazz at the Fest, hosted by Michael Agidius. The perfect way to wind down the weekend.

Add to this shows in tasting rooms all over downtown Walla Walla all weekend and you'll see why we caution you to take your vitamins!

A little about our Friday and Saturday headliners...

It almost seems silly to tell you folks about a couple of the most loved artists in blues, but here we go.

Sugaray Rayford is once again nominated for B.B. King Entertainer of the Year and Soul Blues Album of the Year Blues Music Awards. He puts on the best show in blues today and will be featured in the Friday opening concert on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ever since Rock & Roll and Blues Hall of Famer Elvin Bishop first hit the scene with the Paul Butterfield Blues Band back in 1965, he's blazed his own musical trail. Whether he was playing raw, eye-popping blues, or writing the evergreen radio hit "Fooled Around and Fell in Love," or touring the world for decades delivering his original, good-time countrified blues,

Bishop has always inspired his fans with his rowdy guitar playing and witty,



slice-of-life songs. Rolling Stone calls Bishop "a legendary guitarist" whose playing is "impeccable and spirited...a distinguished American player." Elvin will be headlining the Large Show on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, in the Marcus Whitman Ballroom.

So, to sum it up, you're all invited to come spend a few days in Walla Walla, at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Walla Walla Guitar Festival, surrounded by faultless food, glorious libation, and most importantly some of the best damn music known to man! It's a great big party and... It's gonna be a LARGE time!!!

Tickets and info are available at <http://wallawallaguitarfestival.com>

Top: Elvin Bishop (Photo by Eric Steiner)

Above: Sugaray Rayford (Photo by Andrzej Liguz)

# February 2023 Blues Bash I & II Previews

*Celebrate live blues in Shoreline and in Snohomish this month!*

By Rick J. Bowen (Photos Courtesy of Each Artist)

The monthly Washington Blues Society Blues Bash continues with in person live events now on two Tuesdays in February. Join us on the second Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> at Aurora Borealis, 16708 Aurora Ave North in Shoreline and then on the fourth Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> at CCR Sports and Entertainment, 215 Cypress Avenue in Snohomish.

The Valentine's Day Blues Bash features music from Seattle super group Monster Road and one man band Toby Brady. The February 28<sup>th</sup> Blues Bash II will have first time bash performers La Roca Boom and new music from Pacific Northwest favorites Kim Archer and Brian Feist, who are promoting their new album *In the Valley of the Blues*.

Each monthly Blues Bash is presented free, and all are welcome. Aurora Borealis in Shoreline is an all ages venue, but CCR Sports in Snohomish is a 21 and over only venue. We will have a door prize raffle with prizes, including CDs, tickets to Jazz Alley in Seattle, and more. We encourage everyone to "Tip the Band" in support of their volunteer performances. More about each Blues Bash performer.

**Toby Brady:** Sweetly nostalgic and searching, Toby Brady typifies the bubbling undercurrent of Americana at its best. His songs are unpretentious and heartfelt, sweeping, lush and haunting all in the same breath. Now calling Seattle home, Toby tours and performs over 200 shows per year all over the U.S. as a solo artist. Or as he would say, "Americana-one-man-vagabond-Gypsy-band, singer of sad songs, maker of melancholy melodies and all-around troubadour of tortured souls." And, he's not kidding, playing vintage suitcases that he converted to drums with his feet while playing guitar and singing. **Monster Road delivers**



authentic, retro rhythm and soul dance hits as a top notch 8-piece show band fronted by Las Vegas veteran Susan Apple and Seattle soul singer Roosevelt McQuarter Jr. Their impressive reproductions of the original hits from an ageless era of music are presented with entertainment dynamics that don't quit.

**Kim and Brian:** These two lifelong musicians and honest songwriters capture the spectrum of life in their stories, then deliver them with musical grit and transparent emotion... and it is the core of their sound. This is blues. Veteran Tacoma musicians Kim Archer and Brian Feist joined forces in 2019 to not only work together as a songwriting duo but also as a double front of a full band. The winners of the 2022 Best New Band



Award from the Washington Blues Society have recently released an extraordinary EP, *In the Valley Of The Blues*, after a successful crowdfunding campaign from their legion of supportive fans. The five-song collection is exactly what you would expect from such a dedicated and talented singer/songwriter team, who are also acclaimed guitarists, and their impeccable rhythm section of Jerome Gates on bass and award-winning drummer Andrew Cloutier (Left Hand Smoke, Lee Oskar).

**La Roca Boom:** Featuring award winning vocalist Suze "La Roca" Sims and Phil "Boom" Duncan, and a revolving cast of characters, La Roca Boom is the best serving of Seattle's Soul shaking Blues and Funk with a dash of hot sauce and a sprinkling of jazz and island breezes. La Roca boom delivers a special course of original compositions to curate audience experiences, so they feel they just witnessed a one of a kind show.



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you don't know your googily  
moogily from your wang dang doodle,  
join the Washington Blues Society

SIGN UP  
ONLINE AT  
WABLUES.  
ORG. OR,  
FILL OUT  
THE FORM  
BELOW &  
MAIL IT IN.

### MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PERKS!

Receive monthly Bluesletter in your mailbox\*  
Monthly All-Ages Blues Bash email notices  
Member discounts for BB Awards and Holiday Party  
10% off purchases at Silver Platters (any location)  
10% discount at the Westport Inn (Westport, WA)  
\$1 off the cover and 25% off food at the Raging River Saloon (Fall City, WA)  
\$5 off the show admission for Friday 9:30 shows at Jazz Alley†  
And more! For the complete, most up-to-date list of membership benefits, visit [wablues.org](http://wablues.org)



### PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT ARE APPLICABLE. THANKS!

- ☐ New      ☐ Renewal      ☐ Address Change
- ☐ Individual Member \$25
- ☐ Couple \$35
- ☐ Band—First Member \$25      ☐ Band—Additional Member \$20
- ☐ Sponsorship—Gold \$1,000      ☐ Sponsorship—Silver \$600      ☐ Sponsorship—Bronze \$400

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2nd Name (couple) \_\_\_\_\_

Band Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us how you heard about the Washington Blues Society: \_\_\_\_\_

### I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

- ☐ Musicians Relief Fund in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ providing assistance to local musicians in their time of need
- ☐ Passing the Torch Fund in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ educating the next generation of local musicians

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . Please send check or money order to WBS  
PO BOX 70604  
SEATTLE, WA 98127

☐ PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

\* Due to postage fees, non-US residents will receive their Bluesletter electronically

† With valid WBS membership card and advanced reservation. Reservations must be made by calling Jazz Alley at 206.441.9729 and requesting the WBS Special. This offer is not applicable to all shows.

# 2023 Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues

## “BB Awards” Voting Ballot

All voting ballots must be received at the Washington Blues Society PO Box, by a Board member, or online, no later than Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Please note: All voting ballots must be received (and not postmarked on March 14, 2023). Please vote for one nominee in each category by circling the name of the nominee.

### *Mark DuFresne Male Vocalist*

Billy Appleton  
Chris Eger  
Eric Rice

### *Blues Female Vocalist*

Andie Whitewing  
Mary McPage  
Sheri Roberts Greimes

### *Electric Blues Guitar*

Eric Rice  
Jevon Powell  
Rafael Tranquilino

### *Slide Blues Guitar*

Billy Stapleton  
Eric Rice  
Sandy Carter

### *Acoustic Blues Guitar*

Brian Butler  
Don Forsyth  
Eric Madis  
Jevon Powell  
Kevin Sutton  
Rod Cook

### *Blues Bass*

Howard Hooper  
Rob Baker  
Scotty Harris

### *Chris Leighton Blues Drummer*

Andrew Cloutier  
Don Montana  
Mark Hotton  
Tommy Cook

### *Paul Green Blues Harmonica*

Bill Davis  
Joe Cook  
Joel Astley

### *Blues Piano/Keyboard*

Billy Reed  
Jim Barnes  
Mark Hurwitz

### *Blues Horn*

Bill Blackstone  
Mike Marinig  
Ron Hendee

### *Blues Instrumentalist-Other*

Angelo Ortiz  
Leanne Trevelyan  
Mike Marinig

### *Best Blues Band*

Davanos  
Eric's Maine Connection  
McPage and Powell  
Stacy Jones Band

### *Best Little Bill & The Blue Notes Traditional Blues Act*

Ben Hunter & Joe Seamons  
Joe Cook Blues Band  
Stevie and the Blue Flames

### *Best Solo/Duo*

Blue Healers  
Brian Butler  
McPage & Powell

### *Best New Blues Act*

Crush Velvet  
Joel Astley Band  
Lonesome & Pine  
Whitewing

### *Blues Performer*

CD Woodbury  
Eric Rice  
Joel Astley  
Stacy Jones

### *Blues Songwriter*

Eric Rice  
Joel Astley  
Mary McPage  
Stacy Jones

### *Washington Blues Recording*

Mary McPage “Starlight Smoochy Smoochy”  
Eric Rice Maine Connection “Stuck Inside”  
Fat James Band, “Mountains in the Sky”  
Stacy Jones “World on Fire”

### *Best Blues Club*

Aurora Borealis  
Madison Pub  
Salmon Bay Eagles  
The Spar

### *Best Blues Jam*

192 Brewery  
Lucky 7 Bar & Grill  
Peabo's  
Unbound

### *Blues Writer*

Eric Steiner  
Polly O'Keary  
Rick J. Bowen

### *Best Blues Photograph*

Dan Hill  
Even Geller  
Gordy Mitchell

### *Best Blues Graphic*

Dennis Hacker: Blues Event Graphics  
Joel Astley, Eric's Maine Connection CD Cover  
Mt. Baker Blues Festival Poster  
Rob Bramblett: “Mountains in the Sky” CD Graphics

### *Best Blues DJ*

Clancy Dunnigan  
John Kessler  
Leslie Fleury

### *Keeping the Blues Alive*

Daniel McMillan  
Jeannie Baker  
Tom Jones

### *Blues Hall of Fame*

Gary Yeoman  
Scott E. Lind  
Scotty Harris

### *Lifetime Achievement Award*

Billy Stapleton  
Daniel McMillan  
Eric Steiner  
Gary Yeoman  
Steve Bailey

### *Best Regional Blues Festival*

Gorge Blues & Brews  
Mt. Baker Rhythm & Blues  
Sunbanks Blues Fest  
Winthrop Rhythm & Blues

### *Best Community Blues Festival*

Gig Harbor Rockin' Rhythm & Blues  
Poverty Bay Blues & Brews  
Snohomish Blues Invasion

### *Best Non-Festival Event*

Blues Vespers  
Jones Family Christmas  
Snohomish Blues Invasion





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