

# Bluesletter

Washington Blues Society

July 2023



THREE WASHINGTON  
GUITARISTS  
YOU NEED TO KNOW  
MORE ABOUT



MT. BAKER FEST  
GONE BUT NOT  
FORGOTTEN





## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Blues Fans,

I have a little heads up for those who frequent our website! We have an active and heavily used website, which is great and what we have worked to create. The downside is that opens us up to hackers who try to take advantage of our audience. We just had a such a situation occur this last month. We quickly contacted our web host, Mon-

ster Tamer, and they jumped right in remedied the issue. We believe that we have corrected the issue and it is still being monitored as a precaution. We added some defensive software to our website and enacted a two-step protocol for those of us working behind the screens to safeguard against future problems. I bring this up as we are still getting reports of a few issues. If you get taken to a page that is not one you've seen before on our website, send a message to me with a screen shot at [president@wabluessociety.org](mailto:president@wabluessociety.org). Please also consider deleting your browser cache or history. If you have a link to the hacked Washington Blues Society website in your history, you will be taken to the link provided by the hacker. By simply closing and deleting this history, you can then restore a new link to our website and be taken to our correct site. Please know the the board, and Monster Tamer, are always working to enhance the website and make sure it is safe and secure for all to use.

We have had to cancel many of our International Blues Challenge semi-finals as too few acts signed up. That happens occasionally, and we still have a strong list of entrants who have entered for our semi-finals at the Aurora Borealis, on Sunday, July 9 at noon to determine who will move onto the finals. We will have our finals at our annual Washington Blues society summer picnic. More on that next month!

Please plan to purchase a Legendary Blues Cruise raffle ticket or two! The net proceeds of this raffle go to help local musicians in times of need. At only \$20.00, it is a great value and there are 200 other prizes in addition to the grand prize! We can only sell 1000 tickets, so the odds of winning a raffle prize are very good! Board members will be out and about through the summer months and be able to help you with a purchase!

Gas Station Blues out in Issaquah has a great line-up this year and will be worth the short trip! The talent is stellar, and we literally have performers from all over the world! This is the ninth year of this series, and it is lot of fun with lots of give aways, talented musicians, cold beverages and lots of great places close by to grab dinner before or after the show! Don't miss out! Every Thursday night in both July and August at 7 p.m at the Historic Shell Gas Station and Feed Mill on Front Street. More online at [www.wabluessociety.org](http://www.wabluessociety.org)!

Yours in the Blues!

Tony Frederickson, President  
Washington Blues Society  
Member, Board of Directors, The Blues Foundation (2015-2017)

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**This month's Bluesletter celebrates of the blues from several unique vantage points from the Pacific Northwest.** The lead story, co-written by Editor Polly O'Keary and new Summer Intern Will Crockett, offers thoughtful and surprising profiles of Chris Stevens, Vaughn Jensen, and Herman Brown. Each of these exceptional guitarists has a story to tell, and the Bluesletter encourages readers to see these bluesmen live wherever they may play. The issue also features a story rooted in Gospel music, encouraged by Stevie Wonder, that shows how award-winning performer Bernadette Bascom is helping youth find their voice through her "Music as Language App." The Bluesletter is also pleased to update readers about the new home of Seattle's Rhapsody Project in historic Union Station and congratulates British Columbia's Blue Moon Marquee on some well-deserved recognition from a Canadian First Nation arts award. Finally, the issue has several previews, ranging from Blues on the Road to Mama Jo's Blues Festival at Bertelsen Winery, and fondly remembers the Mt. Baker R & B Festival.

Above: Blue Moon Marquee (Photo by Rick J. Bowen)  
 Cover: Chris Stevens, Vaughn Jensen & Herman Brown  
 (Collage by Sean Donovan)

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**JUNE DEADLINES**

Ad Reservations	5PM on 6/5 to editor@wablues.org
Calendar	5PM on 6/10 online. Please submit @ <a href="http://www.wablues.org">www.wablues.org</a>
Editorial	5PM on 6/5 to editor@wablues.org
Camera-Ready Ad Art	5PM on 6/12 to 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) an grayscale (for B & W). Cover size: 8.5 in x 11 in.

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Please only send high resolution, CMYK, print-ready images.

Please title photos with a unique file name and not do 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



Hello Blues Lovers!

As I write (in mid-June), the spring quarter is ending at the University of Washington where I am a graduate student in pursuit of a PhD and also a teacher of journalism. This has been an insanely busy quarter so I'm looking forward to catching my breath while seeing some great shows. I also am looking forward to having some summer help!

I'm pleased to introduce everyone to our new summer intern, Will Crockett! Will

was a student of mine in an advanced journalism class last year and I was very happy when he took me up on the offer of a summer internship with the Washington Bluesletter. He is a good writer and a music lover and he is also a great team player.

He also was a great help putting our cover story together. I knew I wanted to do a cover featuring Washington musicians. It struck me that we could do a cover on three guitarists we haven't talked about a whole lot in the Bluesletter before but who are remarkable musicians.

My husband Tommy Cook hosts an invitational jam session every Sunday night at Peabo's in Mill Creek and so he knows everyone. I asked him who the most underrated guitarist in the area was. "Chris Stevens," he said, with no hesitation. That made sense; Chris is an astonishing player and for some reason he hasn't really shown up in our pages.

I knew I wanted Herman Brown in the article. The man is simply one of the best blues guitarists in the state, and not only that, he's prodigious at funk, soul, and jazz, and he was once on Motown, for Pete's sake. A guy with his skill and resume is a credit to the whole scene, but we've never told his story before.

And I knew there's a lot of players in Eastern Washington that we haven't featured much, so I took the opportunity to call attention to Vaughn Jensen, who is remarkable for a whole lot of reasons. He's very popular in Eastern Washington, especially in the Tri-Cities area where he lives, but he hasn't gotten much recognition from us.

Will got ahold of Chris right away. Vaughn was easy to reach, too, and gave Will a great interview. But to get Herman, we had to track him down. I knew he was doing a Lady A show at the Tractor, opening for Gravel Road's CD release party, so Will and I agreed to meet there before the show. There we found Herman, a bit sheepish for being so hard to reach, but ultimately happy to give us an interview, and so the story was complete.

And it was the start of another story. Seattle's Gravel Road, of whom I'd known nothing, turned out to be a very good rock/blues band of

the raw, edgy, hill country inspired Jr. Kimbrough vein. As it happens, they were the backing band for the equally raw and edgy legend T Model Ford for years. Gravel Road was releasing their ninth album that night with Lady A's band opening, and how we managed to have a band in Seattle that once backed up T Model Ford and that put out nine albums of gritty blues rock without me ever seeing them at a festival, hearing them on the radio, or reading about them almost makes me frightened. What else am I missing?

Well, I hope we at the Bluesletter can make sure we don't miss too much. Our goal is to feature national acts coming to the region *and* local acts that are up to interesting things. If you know of a local act that you think should get some attention because they are getting an album out, going on tour, getting signed by someone, regrouping after years away, starting a festival, retiring after lots of years, or just because they are amazing and have a cool history and we've never written about it, let me know.

Cheers!

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

Polly O'Keary, Editor

A promotional poster for the Stacy Jones Band. The background is a fiery, orange and yellow flame pattern. In the top left, there is a small portrait of Stacy Jones. To the right of the portrait, text reads: "5 time Best of the Blues Award winner 'Best Band'", "Stacy Jones Band Celebrates 20 years With the release of WORLD ON FIRE", and "Available worldwide iTunes Spotify Amazon Bandcamp". Below this, a list of "2023 Shows" is provided: "July 1. Studebaker Alley - Cle Elum", "6. Gen Coulon Park - Renton", "8. Mama Jo's Blues - Bertelsten Winery", "14. Lake Tye Park - Monroe", "15. North Bend Block Party", "21. Burlington Summer Concerts", "22. Stanwood Summer Concerts", "22. Getaway Tavern - Mount Lake Terrace", and "28. Ellensburg Music Festival". At the bottom, the website "stacyjonesband.com" and social media links "www.facebook.com/stacyjonesband" and "www.youtube.com/StacyJonesBand" are listed.

# Three Washington Guitarists You Should Know More About

*Chris Stevens, Vaughn Jensen, and Herman Brown: Three kinds of amazing*

*By Will Crockett and Polly O'Keary*

Washington blues, like all classic genres, evolves and changes with the times. But as artists come and go, rise to popularity and then vanish into other lives or places, there are many local stalwarts who have provided brilliant and consistent blues music for decades, sometimes with very little recognition. In this article, The Washington Blues-letter highlights three of the state's great guitarists whose stories may surprise you, and whose music will inspire you.

## **Chris Stevens: Washington's Working Man**



Among the many undersung musical heroes of the Pacific Northwest is Chris Stevens, a born-and-bred Seattle blues guitarist who has stayed true to his soulful roots for half a century. Stevens has jammed, gigged, and recorded with many highly renowned Pacific Northwest musicians, and has led a number of his own ensembles throughout his career.

Like many of his peers, Stevens found the blues as a young artist. Stevens explained the circumstances that led him to the record that would inspire his music for decades to come.

"I met a kid in junior high school, I was about fifteen at that point, and he claimed to be a drummer and I claimed to be a guitar player, so I said 'okay let's form a band,'" said Stevens. "He said, 'What you need to do is go out and get a record by the Paul Butterfield Blues Band and learn how to play like guitarist Mike Bloomfield.'"

It seems like a tall order at first.

"I listened to this record and I went 'what are you crazy?'" said Stevens. "Bloomfield

was really fast and I had no idea how to play lead guitar."

But the record also drew him to blues deeply

"There was something about the blues that I recognized when I first heard it," he said. "There seemed to be something deeper about it. Not that it was better or more sophisticated but there was a depth to it... we'll call it the feeling of it."

After a few years of exploration and practice, Stevens managed to secure a spot in a jazz ensemble as a college freshman with his newly-honed jazz and blues skills. Then he started playing with Brian Butler and Jack Cook, two other Washington stalwarts, in a band called The Three Guitars. The band was richer in talent than gigs, and Stevens was still playing more rock than blues.

But by the '80s, after discovering the lively blues scene of Pioneer Square, Stevens found another important figure in his career; Tom Boyle.

"Tom played in a band called Drivin' Wheel, and he would invite me to come and sit in with them anytime I wanted," Stevens said. "They were really nice to me. I wasn't really a blues guitar player, but I had my blues records. And Steve Ray Vaughn had come out by then, so that turned my attention back to blues from rock as it did with so many guitar players."

Since then, Stevens has had blues and jazz bands including the Kingalings, Chris Stevens and the Screamin' Blue Jays, and the Chris Stevens Band. Out of love for the music and its practitioners, Stevens grew to be one of the state's most technically proficient and emotionally lyrical guitarists. But even as recognition and awards came for his peers, he seemed to fly under the radar a bit, he said.

"I have never played with anybody famous. I have never been recognized in any way by the Washington Blues Society. I have never even been nominated for any of their guitar awards," said Stevens, a bit ruefully. "No one has paid attention to me for 40 years."

And though playing for the aficionados who love his music is rewarding, Stevens has noticed that work has steadily disappeared since he started out with Jack Cook and Brian Butler all those years ago.

"It used to be, through the '80s and even through the '90s, Pioneer Square would have 10 clubs, all of them with blues bands playing every Friday and during the week," he said. "Gigs seem to be slim nowadays, at least for me. And after Covid things quite changed, of course. The Seattle blues scene kind of disappeared."

Stevens said he hopes The Washington Blues Society can help players like him find audiences and keep blues music alive into the future.

"Thank you for being interested, and I'll maybe see you at a gig," he said. "I think that's what blues societies are supposed to be for, to go out and listen to some blues."

## **Vaughn Jensen: Tri-Cities Inspiration**



Another incredible talent deserving of any and every blues fan's attention is Central Washington's Vaughn Jensen. Not only has Jensen played countless blues bars and festivals with many notable players, he hosts the allstar jam at the Walla Walla guitar festival most years, as well as a weekly jam sessions in Richland.

A single interview with Jensen outlined a unique and incredible life amounting to what he sees as a guitar career blessed by God. Jensen, a member of Northern California's Paiute nation, began his musical career



playing heavy metal.

"I remember there was a time when I could run the people right out of the band room," said Jensen, with a laugh. "I was just turning the distortion up and playing power chords and doing the machine gun, making my own stuff up. I always made my own stuff up. I never really had the patience to learn other people's music."

As a young man, Jensen got in serious trouble with the law and wound up spending a good portion of his early adulthood incarcerated. While serving time, he met a man who was determined to introduce him to the blues, regardless of his interest in the genre.

"He brought me the old stuff, like Sunhouse and a lot of Robert Johnson," Jensen remembered. "He brought me Leadbelly, Howlin' Wolf, BB King, SRV, Rick Derringer, Gary Moore, a lot of the hot white-boy blues, and of course there was Clapton...It was a very eclectic group of, I mean, well over 100 cassette tapes. Whatever inspired him that he thought I might like, I found it sitting in my possession real soon."

When Jensen made it back to the outside world, now a devoted blues guitarist with a lean Texas sound, determined to turn his life around, he also found a great deal of inspiration in Washington musicians.

"My favorite blues guitar player of all time is Perry Roper," Jensen said. "He's a local guitar player in the area, he's got the best blues awards, and he plays in my band quite often."

Jensen also did a short tour with another one of his local favorites, Willy Straub, "Willy is one of the finest guitar players you'll ever hear in your life," he said. "I got a chance to go on a little bit of a tour with him with Randy Oxford, and it was just one short trip to Montana to the Flat Lakes Blues Festival as part of the Pacific West All Star Show. Willy does things that I could never really hope to do with a guitar. He is one of the very best guitar players ever, anywhere."

As he steadily built a fanbase in the Pacific Northwest, Jensen also built himself a life as a strong family man and community member. He got married, quit drinking, raised goats with his wife, and found spirituality. When an opportunity came to save a life, he took it with no hesitation.

A year sober, in about 2014, Jensen met a Modoc native man whose ancestors were hereditary neighbors of the Paiute. The man had hereditary kidney disease and would die without a transplant. Jensen felt guided to get tested and learned he was a perfect match, if he could just lose 20 pounds. Over the next year, he shed the weight and prepped for the surgery. After he donated one of his kidneys, the Modoc man returned to his life and family in California. And, Jensen said with a laugh, that 20 pounds found its way back to him.

Jensen said that he thinks the blues will survive and thrive, based on the young talent he sees.

"I see the kids that are coming out today, the internet generation kids, they're the best musicians that the world has ever seen," he said. "All I can do is think of it as either they're old souls coming back, or they just have the vast knowledge of the internet. Whatever it is, they're the best musicians the world has ever seen."

Jensen hopes to be part of the generation that hands off the music to this upcoming talent.

"I just would like to see more support from musicians for musicians rather than dealing with it as a competition," he said. "I've always seen it more of an inspiration than a competition. I would like to see the guys that have got it pass it down to the guys that don't."

### **Herman Brown: Seattle's Secret Legend**



One of Washington's best kept secrets is guitarist Herman Brown. From recording with Motown to playing with greats in Hollywood, Brown has continued to influence the blues and funk scenes of the West Coast since the '70s.

Brown's family, of both African and Native American ancestry, hailed from Florida but wound up in Arkansas, possibly owing to forced migration on the Trail of Tears. The family worked on a plantation for a time, but made their way North bit by bit. Brown's grandfather got a job as a pullman porter on the Great Northern Railroad, riding from Milwaukee to Seattle. Brown's father decided to fight in WWII to get off of the plantation. He mustered out of the service in California and moved up to Washington with his father.

Brown, like many other musical giants of the Pacific Northwest, went to Garfield High. But his major inspiration turned out to be his great uncle on his father's side, a blues guitar player known as "the BootBinder" but named Frank Brown, for whom his father was also named.

Brown hadn't started out wanting to play guitar.

"When I was in third grade I asked my dad for a clarinet," Brown said. "My best friend played the cornet and we were going to make it big, right?"

However, fortunately for the Washington blues scene, the clarinet was too expensive and Brown settled for a guitar like that played by his uncle, discovering he had a talent for it. At 19, he was in a top Seattle band called Cooking Bag which was the house band at Seattle's Ebony club and in rotation on Seattle's Black radio station KYAC. At the time, a local promoter used to bring Stax recording artists to the club, and Brown got to back many of them.

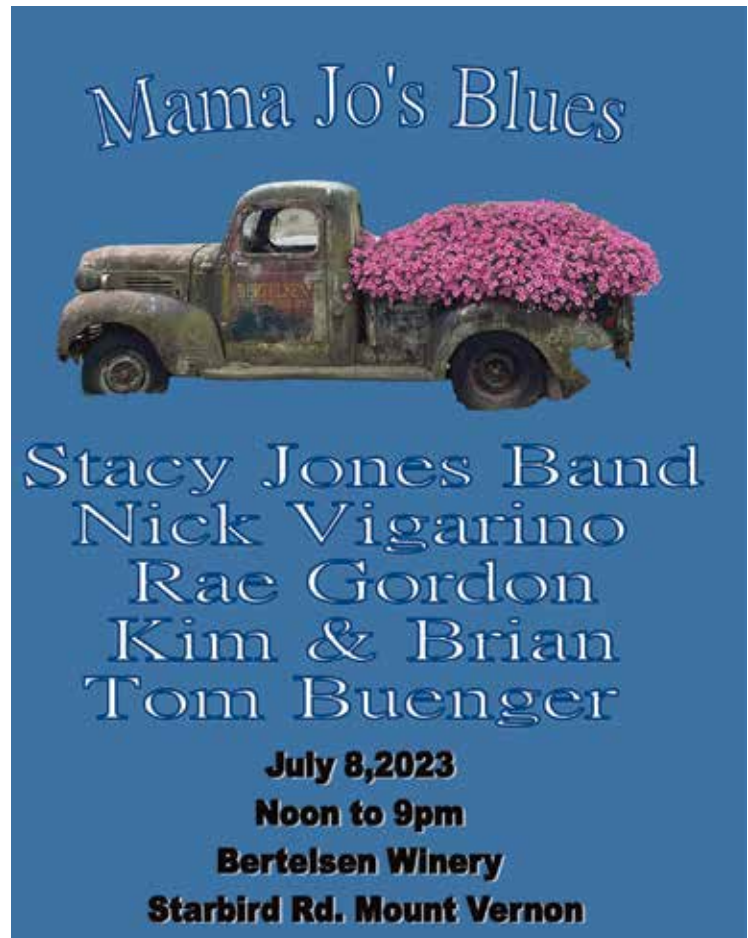
"We had Al Green twice, Syl Johnson from Chicago (Take Me to the River), Garland Green, who did the album Jealous Kind of Fella, and ZZ Hill, who did 'Down Home Blues.' I ended up playing with him again. Rufus Thomas, he was very popular, and he would only use our band when he was here."

(Continued on page 22)

# Preview : Mama Jo's Blues Festival

*By Rick J Bowen*

Located on Mt. Vernon's Starbird Road, Bertelsen Winery has been hosting concerts and special events since the family-owned vineyard opened in 2014 on a scenic hillside atop the gateway to southern Skagit valley. On July 8, the venue will join the legions of Northwest blues festivals, hosting the inaugural Mama Jo's Blues Festival as a one day event packed full of exciting national and regional entertainment, onsite food vendors, Bertelsen wine and local craft beer. Ticketing includes options for VIP table seating and general admission lawn seating. The line up represents the best of the Northwest blues and roots scene. Opening the show is up-and-coming contemporary gospel blues artist Tom Buenger, followed by 2022 "Best New Band" award winners the Kim and Brian Band. Current Cascade Blues Association president and IBC finalist Rae Gordon brings her band up from Portland and living legend and lightning slide guitar master Nick Vigarino will present his full Meantown Blues Band. The 2023 headliner is five-time "Best Band Award," winner The Stacy Jones Band who will cap off eight hours of music with their dynamic version of Seattle Southern rock and blues. The 21-and-over event runs from noon to 8 p.m. For more info go to: <https://bertelsenwinery.com/concerts/>.



## Mt Baker Tribute Show planned for Aug. 5

*By Chris Eger*

On Saturday, Aug. 5, the Tribute to the Mount Baker R & B Festival will be held at the festival area behind the Beach Bar at 7879 Birch Bay Drive in Blaine, Washington. The event honors and celebrates the legacy of the Mount Baker R & B Festival, and features Hamilton Loomis, the Chris Eger Band, the Bobby Patterson Band, Midlife Crisis and the Alimony Horns, and Cory Vincent and the Electric Band.

All ages welcome! Gates open at 11 a.m. with music beginning at 1 p.m. After hours All-Star Jam to be held at the Beach Bar after mainstage performances. There are only 1,000 tickets available for the event. For more information, go to <https://bakerbluestribute.ticketleap.com/mount-baker-rhythm-and-blues-festival-tribute/>.

For 25 years, Lloyd and Marsha Peterson have put on this beloved event, thrilling thousands, bringing acts from across the globe and garnering national accolades. A decade ago, this festival won the most prestigious award given to an event by the

Blues community. The Blues Foundation and the Blues Music Awards honored the Mount Baker Rhythm And Blues Festival with the Keeping the Blues Alive award 2013.

The event has steadily grown from humble beginnings at the Deming Christmas Tree Farm from 1995 to 2004 to an event attended by over a thousand people every summer at the Deming Logging Show grounds from 2005 to 2022. January, the Deming Logging Show officials opted not to renew the lease of the property to the festival. The news came as a shock to all involved, including festival founder, Lloyd.

The Mount Baker Rhythm And Blues Festival, for a quarter of a century, has featured for local, national, and international artists alike, to showcase talents and love of music with music lovers from all walks of life. For myself, this festival has been a perennial mainstay platform, not only bolstering my passion and my career, but also serving as a homecoming of sorts, wherein close friendships have begun,

grown, and flourished over the years. This is a sentiment and experience not uncommon to this event, shared by many who've attended.

Such devotion to the music community for decades is a legacy that deserves to be honored. The volunteers, attendees, musicians and of course, Lloyd and Marsha, deserve at the very least, a closure of sorts and a celebration of the memories made at this event.

Our goal is exactly that – A one day concert in the style of the Mount Baker Rhythm & Blues Festival, as a tribute to Lloyd and Marsha, each of the many volunteers and the festival itself.



# Welcome to the 43rd Annual Seattle Peace Concerts



JOIN US FOR FREE CONCERTS IN SEATTLE'S BEAUTIFUL PARKS

Visit our Facebook page for Concert Lineups: [www.facebook.com/groups/SeaPeace](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SeaPeace)

## Sat, July 1st – Seward Park

International Reggae Day  
Coordinator: Farhad Tyabji & Culture Yard

## Sun, July 9th – Upper Woodland Park Picnic Shelter #1

Reggae & World Music Day  
Coordinator: Farhad Tyabji & Culture Yard

## Sun, July 23rd – Magnuson Park

Hippies Against Homelessness  
Coordinator: Seattle Union Gospel Mission & Uncle Ron's Band

## Sun, Aug 6th – Volunteer Park

A Folk, Blues, and Americana Sunday  
Coordinator: Sara St. John

## Sun, Aug 13th – Seward Park

School of Rock Day  
Coordinator: Jon Scherrer

## Sun, Aug 27th – Seward Park

Blues Picnic at Seward Park  
Coordinator: Washington Blues Society

## Sun, Sep 10th – Volunteer Park

Seattle Surf Band Show  
Coordinator: Surf X Seattle

See latest information & park map  
directions at [www.seapeace.org](http://www.seapeace.org)

All ages welcome. Admission is free but please bring food bank donations.

### 2023 Support Team:

\* Don Glenn \* Washington Blues Society \* Jon Scherrer \* Sara St. John \*  
\* Farhad Tyabji \* Ed Portnow \* Will Morgan \* Kevin Bean \*

Here are some of our 2023 Sponsors and Supporters





# 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival

The Blues Ranch  
Winthrop WA



#winthropblues  
#bestlittlefest

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram  
North Mississippi Allstars  
Marc Broussard • Ruthie Foster  
Judith Hill • Rick Estrin & the Nightcats • Eddie IV • Jackie Venson  
Too Slim & the Taildraggers • Dwayne Dopsie & the Zydeco Hellraisers • Yates McKendree  
Veronica Lewis • Stephanie Anne Johnson • Methow Juke Joint Allstars • and more!



800-820-9884  
WinthropBluesFestival.org



# Community Blues Festivals Near You

*A sampling of “under the radar” community blues festivals throughout our region this month!*

*By Eric Steiner*

During the production of this month's Bluesletter, I learned about how long-time blues promoter, and former Washington Blues Society elected Secretary Rocky Nelson, has worked to bring live blues this month to Brinnon, Washington. At the blues society, our Board of Directors work hard to show readers that we're not just “the Seattle Blues Society,” and this preview of small, community-oriented festivals is an example of this work.

After a doing a little bit of research online, I was pleasantly surprised at the diversity of local, small-scale, blues festivals that are available to blues fans in Washington, British Columbia, Oregon, and Idaho. I wanted to include festivals that generally do not advertise in these pages, are admittedly “under the radar” with limited media coverage, and hope that blues fans and these festivals alike appreciate this coverage in our magazine. I'm pleased that each of the following local, community blues festivals are making their Bluesletter debut with this modest preview and hope that readers will consider these events which are “off the beaten path” away from Interstates 5 and 90 in the greater Pacific Northwest.

## **July 8-9: Chemainus Blues Festival, British Columbia**

Not far from Victoria, British Columbia, the Chemainus Valley Cultural Arts Society will present a two-day blues festival in Waterwheel Park in Chemainus on Vancouver Island on July 8 & 9. The line-up features former Washington Blues Society International Blues Challenge representative Blue Moon Marquee, Lester Quitzau, Brandon Isaak, Mark Crissinger, Dave Harris, Lonesome Don Wilkie, and many more! I was pleased to see former Twisters band member Brandon Isaak on the bill, because “Yukon Slim” always puts on an unpredictable and delightful show! The Chemainus Blues Festival is sponsored by the Mid Island Co-Op, British

Columbia Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia, and the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

## **July 14-15: Southern Oregon Blues Festival, Winston, Oregon**

The Southern Oregon Blues Festival features two days of live blues at the Winston Community Center at 440 SE Grape Avenue in Winston, Oregon (just South of Roseburg near the Umpqua National Forest. Friday's lineup features headliner Full Circle, followed by Arthur Buezo, Stonedham, New Age Phonograph, and Mark Baratta. Saturday's lineup features co-headliners The Black Cadillac Kings and the Fabulous Del Montes, followed by the Spence Brothers, Widespread Haze, Hecktic Week, Jon Fro, Grimiss, and Second Chance. The Southern Oregon Blues Festival is free to attend, with a suggested \$10 donation at the door. In addition to the music, there will be food and drink vendors, merchandise booths, and other attractions to enjoy throughout the weekend.

## **July 15: Da Blues Had a Baby Blues & Rock Festival, Boise, Idaho**

Celebrate live blues courtesy of the Boise Blues Society at Da Blues Had A Baby: Blues & Rock Festival also featuring Blues Addicts and Last Call on the Main Stage and Cunningham & Moss on Small Stage. The Boise Blues Society is working with the Ironwood Bar & Grill, 5467 North Glenwood Street Garden City, Idaho, and 12<sup>TH</sup> Fret Music on South Broadway in Boise. Tickets are \$20 for 21+.

## **July 29: Vintage Car & Camper Show, Brinnon, Washington**

Mark your calendars and save the date for July 29 in picturesque Brinnon, Washington in historic Jefferson County. Hitchin' Vintage Trailers presents a benefit blues show to support the Brinnon Fire Association in partnership with the Cove RV & Country Store featuring exceptionally talented Washington Blues Society acts



La Roca Boom (featuring Suze Sims) and former blues society president Nick Vigarino. Both Suze and Nick have represented the Washington Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis as winners of our statewide blues competitions, and they'll bring their “A-game” to Brinnon! La Roca Boom will perform at the Cove RV Park at the car and camper show that includes a benefit auction. Nick Vigarino will play South of the Cove RV Park and Country Store, which will include a tour of vintage cars and campers! Please look for Rocky Nelson's distinctive poster around Jefferson County advertising the event!

Above; Former Washington Blues Society President Nick Vigarino & his merch kit at Bailey's Corner on Whidbey Island (Photos by Eric Steiner)

# Blues on the Road!

*Join the Washington Blues Society in welcoming nationally touring artists to the Evergreen State!*

*By Eric Steiner*

This month's Blues on the Road column is pretty special for me. Many of my favorite musicians and singers are returning to our region this month, like Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Lisa Fischer, and Robert Cray, and I'm reaching a milestone that many men in my family haven't in generations past. I'm turning 65 this month on the 18th, and that means I'll learn about our country's medical plan for senior citizens called Medicare and sign up for discounts at Denny's and the Washington state ferries. Please join me in welcoming nationally touring acts to the greater Pacific Northwest, and British Columbia's Lower Mainland, this month!

## 1. Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore w/ The Guilty Ones

On the 12th, Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore with The Guilty Ones start their Pacific Northwest leg of their 2023 tour at Portland's Aladdin Theater, followed by an intimate show at Seattle's Tractor Tavern on the 13th. They will drive to the Vancouver Island Musicfest on the 14th before returning to The Tractor on the 18th. In 2002, I saw Jimmie Dale Gilmore play with Joe Ely and Butch Hancock as The Flatlanders at Nashville's "Dancin' in the District" summer concert series, and it was an exceptional experience thanks in part to Gilmore's storytelling and guitar playing.

## 2. Albert Lee

This month, Pacific Northwest and British Columbia Lower Mainland blues fans have five opportunities to see legendary British guitarist Albert Lee, who has won two Grammy awards for his work as a country artist. Over five decades, he's played with a "who's who" of blues and Americana acts, and Eric Clapton considers him a virtuoso on the guitar. For me, that's pretty much an iron clad reference! Catch Albert at Seattle's Tractor Tavern on the 11th, followed by two dates on the 15th and 16th at the Vancouver Folk Music Festival in British Columbia. then he is at the historic Lincoln Theatre on the 18th, at Port Townsend's Palindrome on the 19th and Portland's Alberta Rose Theatre on the 21st.

## 3. Gary Clark, Jr.

During the production of this month's

Bluesletter, I watched portions of the May 22 Jeff Beck Tribute Concert from Royal Albert Hall in London on YouTube. I was amazed by Gary Clark, Jr.'s command of songs like "Let Me Love You" and "People Get Ready" with Eric Clapton, Ronnie Wood, and Rod Stewart. This month, he'll play the Farewell Festival in Redmond, Oregon on the 21st and Chateau Ste. Michelle in Woodinville, Washington, on the 22nd and 23rd. Gary will then play two shows in Montana: one at The Elm in Bozeman on the 25th followed by one at the Kettlehouse Amphitheater in Bonner on the 26th before wrapping up his Pacific Northwest tour at the Festival in Sandpoint, Idaho on the 28th. Gary's been nominated for Grammy awards six times and has taken home four statuettes dating back to his first win in 2014 in the Best Traditional R & B Performance Category.

## 4. Robert Cray

Welcome Robert Cray back to the Pacific Northwest as part of his 2023 world tour. On the 14th, he'll play The Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon before a show at the Federal Way Performing Arts and Events Center the next night. On the 16th, he'll play Portland's Revolution Hall before heading across the mountains for three shows in Idaho: The Egyptian Theatre in Boise on the 18th, The Argyros Performing Arts Center in Ketchum on the 19th, and The Colonial Theatre in Post Falls on the 20th. I was in the audience when Robert was inducted into the Hall of Fame at The Blues Foundation while I was a member of the Board of Directors, and I've always considered his modest acceptance speech a stark contrast to his impassioned guitar work onstage. For me, a Robert Cray live blues show reconnects me to the reason I gravitated to the blues in the '70s.

## 5. Blues Traveler & Big Head Todd and the Monsters

Blues Traveler & Big Head Todd and the Monsters are teaming up for the Blue Monsters Tour 2023, which includes shows in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. On the 14th, these acts play Outlaw Field at the Idaho Botanical Garden in Boise, followed by a set on the 15th at the Northern Quest Amphitheater in Airway Heights near Spokane. On the 17th, the bands play the Mt. Baker Theatre in Bellingham. The show is sponsored by Wild Buffalo Presents and features







5.

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7.



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two of blues music's most popular acts. Blues Traveler has released 14 studio albums and has played over 2,000 live shows in front of more than 30 million people, and, in "Run-Around," had the longest-charting radio single in Billboard history, which earned them a Grammy® for Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals. Big Head Todd and the Monsters have become an American institution following three and a half decades of writing, recording, and touring (totaling over 3,500 performances). When I turn 65 on the 18th, the tour stops at the Wine Country Amphitheater in Walla Walla before driving South on the 19th to the Hayden Homes Amphitheater in Bend, Oregon. Working their way back to Washington, the acts play McMenamins Grand Lodge in Forest Grove on the 21st, the Cuthbert Amphitheater in Eugene on the 22nd, ZooTunes at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo on the 23rd before returning to Oregon for a show at the Britt Pavilion in Jacksonville on the 25th.

#### 6. Greg Adams & East Bay Soul

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley welcomes Greg Adams and East Bay Soul touring in support of their new release, *The Real*, on the 18th and the 19th. Band members are Greg Adams (trumpet, flugelhorn, and background vocals), Terrell Edwards (lead vocals) Michael Stever (trumpet, flugelhorn), Johnnie Bamont (alto, tenor and baritone saxes, flute, and background vocals), Ed Wynne (alto, tenor sax, flute and background vocals), Nick Milo (keys), Richards Smith (guitar), Del Atkins (bass), and Herman Matthews (drums). Show times Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:00pm each night.

#### 7. Christone "Kingfish" Ingram

This month, we have other opportunities to see Grammy-winning Christone "Kingfish" Ingram in addition to the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival. On the 20th, he will play the legendary Commodore Ballroom on Granville Street in Vancouver, British Columbia. then Seattle's Neptune Theatre for a show on the 21st. I have many fond memories of seeing blues giants like Willie Dixon at the Commodore, and hope Christone will fill the room! On the 22nd Kingfish headlines the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival before heading South to play the Hawthorne Theatre in Portland, Oregon.

#### Looking Ahead to August...

#### 8. Otis Taylor

On August 1st and 2nd, KBCS 91.3, KNKX and Dimitriou's Jazz Alley welcome bluesman Otis Taylor in support of his new release on Octave Records, *Banjo...* Taylor is one of the most celebrated blues artists in the world. He, along with Etta James, were voted the "Best Blues Entertainer" title in 2004. *DownBeat* Magazine named Taylor's *Double V* as Blues CD of the Year for 2005 and named *Recapturing the Banjo* as Blues CD of the Year, in 2008, where they wrote "there's not been a better roots album released this year or decade than *Recapturing the Banjo*." Taylor's 2015 release *Hey Joe Opus Red Meat* was editor's choice album for the year in *Blues Music Magazine*, *Premier Guitar Magazine*, named "Album of the Year" by *Blues411*, and one of the top 30 albums of the year by *The Blues magazine*. *DownBeat* gave it 4 and half stars and listed it as one of their top 100 albums of the year.

#### 9. Ranky Tanky w/Lisa Fischer

KNKX and Dimitriou's Jazz Alley welcome 2023 Grammy winners Ranky Tanky (a Gullah phrase for "get funky") with special guest vocalist Lisa Fischer on August 3rd-6th. Band members include Quiana Parler (vocalist), Charlton Singleton (trumpet, vocals), Clay Ross (guitar, vocals), Kevin Hamilton (bass), Quentin Baxter (drums, percussion), five lifelong friends from South Carolina, who have established themselves as passionate global ambassadors for their local culture and community, helping to faithfully preserve the traditions originated by African Americans in the coastal South during slavery that are kept alive through the present day. Fresh from a 2023 Grammy Award for Best Regional Roots Music Album, Ranky Tanky are celebrating their second Grammy win in a four-year span. I first saw Lisa Fischer when she sang with the Rolling Stones on the *Steel Wheels* tour in 1989, and she spent 25 years singing backup for the Glimmer Twins before singing solo and joining Ranky Tanky on the road.

All images courtesy of the artists and their respective websites, except for #7 (Photo of Christone "Kingfish" Ingram by Rory Doyle) and #8 (Photo of Otis Taylor by Eric Steiner)

# Bernadette Bascom's app project helps kids find their voices

*Long-time Seattle singer discusses her voice lessons app, the legacy she hopes to leave behind*

By Shira Zur, University of Washington

Bernadette Bascom wants to teach your child to be able to say “no.” And “ouch.” And ask you how your day is going.

And she wants to do that with music, through voice lessons that are as accessible as possible.

Speak! Music As Language, Bascom's new app supported by Microsoft volunteers, consists of videos and activities to teach users how to sing, and as the well-known R&B artist learned long ago, learning to sing can help some children learn how to talk.

The app is the latest iteration of long term project of the well-known R&B singer and music professor; one that was the subject of a 2012 King 5 documentary that won the station-and Bernadette-a day-time TV Emmy award.

The documentary, a five-minute piece called “Bernadette's Touch,” told the story of how the veteran of the music industry found her way into the world of music therapy. Bascom, the daughter of a Baltimore civil rights activist, herself knew the power of encouragement. As a young singer with the Philadelphia recording act The People's Choice, who had a #1 single in 1975 called “Do It Any Way You Wanna,” she came to the attention of Stevie Wonder, who not only encouraged her to make a living as a musician, but made her the first artist to be signed to Stevie Wonder's record label Black Bull.

Bascom had a successful recording career, including a hit single titled “that resulted in a 15-year stint as a headliner performing all genres in the award-winning show “Divine Divas” on the Las Vegas strip. But she loved Seattle from the first time she visited on an early-career tour, and she decided to move back to the city, where she worked as a vocal coach and occasional producer, as when she put together a 25-singer show called “PRAISE! A Sunday Gospel Supper” that ran successfully at the Triple Door theater.

When then-stranger, now life-long

friend Judy Grattons asked her if she would be interested in teaching kids with disabilities, Bascom in 2007 began coaching the Northshore Wranglers, an inclusion program for individuals with special needs in Woodinville.

Over the course of working with Bascom, Grattons' son, a member of the Northshore Wranglers, grew in confidence. He learned not only to sing and speak more clearly, but he also overcame his fears of being in public and on stage.

“This was the first time that anyone in my world had ever given my disabled son a voice,” Grattons said. “He fell in love with her. We fell in love with her.”

Bascom noticed that when taking her lessons, her students, some of whom had verbal impairments, would repeat the words of the songs they were practicing in everyday conversation. There is science backing that observation. Practicing music can change our brain's structure and increase connectivity among different regions of our brain, according to a Harvard neurobiology newsletter.

Bascom went on to apply the same teaching methodology at the Music Project, a program she funded to teach children with special needs how to sing, but also how to communicate and express themselves. It was that project that formed the subject of the Emmy-winning King 5 news documentary.

In 2019, Bascom pitched the idea of creating an app that could extend the concepts that made the Music Project successful into the technological realm.

Rekha Nair, a senior product man-



ager at Microsoft, works on the team of volunteers that came together in a code-writing event called a “hackathon” to develop the app after Bascom had pitched the idea to Microsoft.

Passionate about Bascom's work, Nair and other volunteers decided to continue working on the app after the hackathon had ended. A large reason why the team believed in the app and its success came from seeing the progress made by Bascom's former students, according to Nair.

“We knew that even at that point, technology will be the enabler if we can have a group of people here who show so much evidence in terms of just living a normal life,” Nair said. “It was pretty easy to know that this was available to anybody for that matter.”

The same values from the Music Project carried over into the app, according to Bascom. The app, however, is not geared towards children with disabilities, or any audience group in particular — any person can benefit from watching her



videos and interacting with the app, she said.

"I teach parents, siblings, caregivers, and teachers how to do the technique, so that they can do it in the comfort of their own home," Bascom said. "Now you've opened up the whole family to helping this child. That's what the app is about."

In many ways, every aspect of Bascom's work in the community has been reflected in the app, called Speak! Music As Language. Grattons, who has been able to see the change brought by Bascom to the Northshore Wranglers first-hand, maintains that the app will continue making similar impacts.

"It's going to allow kids all over the world to learn to speak more clearly through singing," Grattons said.

Bascom will begin touring the app at the Fairfax County School District in Virginia, after which she hopes to continue spreading her time-tested vocal techniques across schools in the United States.

"I want to be like Johnny Appleseed," Bascom said. "It's meant to be [inspiring] because it inspired me. It keeps me going every day."

For Bascom, the app is her legacy. Along with the Music Project and her awe-inspiring singing career, it's what she hopes others will remember her by after she is gone.

"I made a difference in this world," she said. "I made an opportunity for someone that needed it. I was able to love large."



(Opposite page) Long-time friends Stevie Wonder and Bernadette Bascom celebrate Bascom's 2012 Emmy for "Bernadette's Touch," a news documentary about her work teaching disabled people how to use their voices. Bascom is working with Microsoft on an app to help people find their voices through singing. Photo by Rob Bouchder, Jr.

# Five Resources: Grants & Related Information

*Here's my "go-to" list of resources for grants and other sources of support for the Washington Blues Society*

By Eric Steiner

As promised in the last issue, I wanted to show Bluesletter readers my favorite "go-to" sites I visit frequently to learn about current and prospective funding opportunities for the blues society, The Blues Foundation, artist friends, and others.

There is a wealth of free resources online regarding grants for nonprofit organizations as well as contracting opportunities for for-profit businesses, such as artists and bands. While most musicians I know do not earn a living wage to support a household, I hope that information about grants and contracts in the Bluesletter may be of interest and use so that artists can access these concrete opportunities. This month, I'm sharing my top four links for grants and primary link for government contracts.

Please remember that nonprofit organizations are generally only eligible for grants, and that for-profit businesses, like artists and bands, are eligible for contracts.

## Gateway to Federal Grants

<https://www.grants.gov/>

I wish this site existed when I learned to write grants in the late 1980s. Back then, I submitted grants to agencies in triplicate in paper; today, all submissions are electronic and there is an often overwhelming amount and type of support available for applicants. The Grants Learning Center at this site is invaluable, and there must be at least 1,000

hours of online learning available on nearly any topic of interest, ranging from budget development to the life cycle of grants. This is our government's primary resource for grants, and it's a valuable tool and resource to learn about how our government funds grant activities. When I used to present at conferences, my favorite subject was Grant.gov, because of its breadth of information available.

## The Grantsmanship Center

[www.tgci.com/funding-sources/washington](http://www.tgci.com/funding-sources/washington)

This page provides a general overview to grants in Washington State. There are links to four state funding sources, 35+ related resources like local United Way organizations and networking and affinity groups. I am pleased that the Washington Blues Society has accessed technology through Tech Soup, a hub for technology donations, and maintains an online presence at the 501 Commons, and is funded by the Washington Arts Commission for specific, time-limited activities.

## City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture

[www.seattle.gov/arts/programs/grants](http://www.seattle.gov/arts/programs/grants)

The City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture supports more than a dozen arts funding opportunities, and in last month's Bluesletter, I highlighted the innovative Arts at the Center competition, which opened on May 16<sup>th</sup> and closed on June 27<sup>th</sup>. I encourage all blues artists to learn about opportunities available at the city.

## 4Culture – King County

[www.4culture.org/](http://www.4culture.org/)

The Washington Blues Society has been fortunate to receive funds to publish the Bluesletter and promote live blues music in King County. 4Culture has a diverse portfolio designed to highlight the diversity of arts and artists in King County, and it offers Grants + Artist Calls, Poetry on Buses, a Cultural Education Initiative, and a Touring Artists Roster.

## Washington Procurement Technical Assistance Center

<https://washingtonptac.org/>

According to the organization's website, "a Procurement Technical Assistance Center advises businesses on how to win government contracts and subcontracts. The one-on-one technical assistance includes bid reviews, marketing assistance, contract performance, small business certifications, and more." I strongly suggest that each interested artist who has set himself or herself up as a private, for-profit business to explore contracting with local, state, and national governments. There are assistance centers located around the state, and I think that they may be able to help artists market themselves to events like concerts on military bases or even export their CDs overseas.





# Congratulations to Blue Moon Marquee

Duo recognized twice at the 2023 Summer Solstice Indigenous Music Awards!

By Rick J. Bowen

The 2023 Summer Solstice Indigenous Music Awards took place at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on June 6, and Vancouver island duo Blue Moon Marquee took home two awards: Live Musical Performance of the Year for "Long Black Train," and Roots Album of the Year for *Scream, Holler & Howl*. The duo represented the Washington Blues Society at the 2020 international Blues Challenge and continue to have great success in their music careers.

Affiliated with the Society of Composers, Authors, and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN), Blue Moon Marquee won four awards at this year's Maple Blues Awards hosted by the Toronto Blues Society: Songwriter of the Year, the Acoustic Act, Recording/Producer, and Entertainer of the Year.

The Summer Solstice Indigenous Music Awards were established in 2021 as part of

the nearly 30-year-running Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival and take place bi-annually. Their goal is to celebrate the "artistic excellence and accomplishments of First Nations, Inuit and Métis musicians from across the country."

This month, catch Blue Moon Marquee live at the Festival Internationale du Jazz in Montreal on the 1st, The Buchart Garden in Brentwood Bay, BC on the 7th, and the Chemainus Valley Blues Festival in Chemainus on the 8th. On the 13th, the duo plays at Lake Meridien Park in Kent, WA., and on the 16th, A.W. and Badlands Jass play the Pachana Bay Music Festival in Health Bay, BC., and close out the month on the 21st at the Mission Folk Festival in Mission, BC.



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

*July's Music*

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

**Tuesday Night Dinner Show 7 till 9**

7/4 closed 7/11 Jill Newman, Margaret Wilder & Friends  
7/18 Mark Riley 7/25 Unbound Band with Kevin Sutton

**Wednesday Unbound Blues Jam with special guests each week 7pm**

7/5 Nick Vigarino 7/12 Mark Riley  
7/19 Cory McDaniel & Billy Reed 7/26 A J Fullerton

**Thursday Singer/Songwriter Showcase 7-9ish**

Kevin Sutton with special guests 7/6  
Stacy Jones with special guests 7/13, 7/20, 7/27

**Fridays and Sundays, Rob Bramblett Entertainment presents Everett's Best Karaoke**

Have fun with Rob and all your friends while singing to your favorite songs. Also Saturdays after live music!

**Red Hot Saturdays live music**

7/1 McPage & Powell Band 7/15 John Stephan Band  
7/22 Stevie & the Blue Flames 7/29 Kim & Brian

**Saturday 7/8 UFC #290 \$10 6-11**

**12th Annual Big Sky Blues Music Festival**  
Aug 4-6 2023

Free youth music workshops  
Kids and adults free

Pilgrim Creek Park  
Noxon, Montana  
All Star Jam Sunday night!

Cory Fly Band  
The Stacy Jones Band  
Eric Rice Band w/ Scotty Harris  
Geminii Dragon  
Billy D & the Hoodoos  
Charles Mack Band  
Tack Foster & the Tambling Dice  
John Firshi  
Dennis Johnson & the Revelators  
Robin Barrett & the Coyote Kings w/ Typhany Dames

Budweiser  
406-370-1222  
bigskyblues.org  
BUD LIGHT

# 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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.



# MOUNT BAKER R&B FESTIVAL: Gone, maybe, but never forgotten

By LLOYD PETERS, festival promoter

A 15-year legacy at the Deming Log Show Grounds has apparently come to an end. In September of 2022, the Log Show Representative called to confirm 2023 dates as well as 2024 and 2025. I proceeded with bookings and equipment orders as I had done for 15 years. Having contracts in place and deposits sent out, I received an email from Bob Larsen, Log Show president, indicating that our lease wouldn't be renewed for 2023. It appears that they wanted all or part of the grounds during our weekend in 2023. Sad? Unfair? Yes, to both, especially after confirming last fall.

In 1995, The Mount Baker R&B Festival had its humble beginnings at River's Edge Christmas Tree Farm—a special thanks to Lawrence and Bea Walton for offering their property up for 10 years while we practiced. Since 2007, the Mount Baker R&B Festival held at the Deming Log Show Grounds has become a mecca for thousands of blues fans from far and wide. No other venue can compare with the amazing opportunities built into the Log Show property. The 100+ acre site gave festival fans a clean, full-service camping opportunity including 75 RV hookups and ample flat campsites. Also, we had an indoor jam facility complete with beer garden, stage and large dance floor. My contracts always included agreement by the artists to join the local musicians at the jam. Countless hours of amazing, one-of-a-kind performances happened each year in this perfect, indoor venue. Professional sound engineers Jon Case and Neil Sorenson kept the jam vibe going strong each year in those nightly jams. These after-hours jams became the icing on the cake for players and fans alike. Each summer, True Tone Audio brought out and built a fantastic, 40-foot professional stage and a sound and lighting and crew complete with Washington's best technicians. Yearly, all the musicians expressed their joy after every performance as to the excellent sound reproduction and top-notch technicians. Great people make great shows.

I would be remiss not to mention the amazing group of volunteers who assembled each year to facilitate the festival. Most showed up mid-week prior to each year's show. The early ones got to work setting up the site, led by Pat Ailles, Site Director for all 25 years. As others showed up, they set up camp in preparation for beginning the event. It takes a lot to or-



ganize camping for a thousand. Teri Sirmens and several WECU bank tellers handled the difficult job of manning the ticketing chores; never a problem they couldn't handle. Buster Brewer served as Volunteer Chief, scheduling and setting up for the weekend's activities. Over the years, most volunteers found their own niche during the event. Most handled security to insure the safe and comfortable experience for the weekend. Without them, no festival would have happened. We lost a few of these dedicated volunteers; Patrick, Gordy, Chuck, Brian, Sparky are certainly a part of the Mount Baker legacy.

A major force in the look of the Mount Baker R&B Festival has been my dear friend Stephen Peringer. An illustrator of the highest order, he delivered his amazing festival art year after year. The vibe of this event became one with the image. Thanks to Stephen for a job well done! I've thought about the Mount Baker history and what to do with it. So, on August 5, at the Mt. Baker Tribute show, I have decided to auction some 20 posters, signed by every performer, framed and beautifully presented in a silent auction for each so fans can display their favorite year in their home or studio.

The look of the festival wasn't just these great pieces of art. I had help in bringing the graphic images to life. Jeannie and Robert Baker had a really big hand in that. Jeannie became the boss of the Mt. Baker Facebook Page while Robert, "The Professor," wrestled with the website. It wouldn't have been nearly as successful without them getting the word out.

Special thanks to the Washington Blues Society. No festival can be successful without a beer garden. The WBS worked each year with the State in getting the Liquor License, serving and checking ID. It wasn't just one

beer garden. We had to get over half a dozen separate licenses in order to provide beverages each day as well as at the after-hours jam each night. They also provided advertising to us in their Bluesletter at a reduced fee. Many thanks from us all.

It has always been my focus to include local and regional musicians in every one of my shows. Luckily, I met Chris Eger when he was 15. In 2008, I invited the Chris Eger Band to perform. Realizing his talent, I planned on putting CEB on the Mount Baker stage each year. Someone with his talent deserves a place in the sun to hone his God-given talents. Chris has talent in spades. I even imagined that Chris and his partner, Lisa Maxey, might take over production of the Mount Baker R&B Festival. Time will tell on that one. I'm behind him and he knows it.

There is some good news. Chris and Lisa as CEB Productions are honoring the festival with a "Tribute Show" on August 5 in Birch Bay at the popular Beach Bar. He has planned a full day's lineup of talent: Cory Vincent Electric Band, Midlife Crisis and the Alimony Horns, Bobby Patterson Band, Chris Eger Band and festival favorite Hamilton Loomis. Let's not forget the beloved after-hours jam. It'll be at the Beach Bar, directly after the show!

Finally, thank you to all the friends, sponsors and fans who supported the event for all those 25 years. Personally, my heartfelt thanks to my wife Marsha. She put up with a lot of stress and huge amounts of work for the good of all. We had one hell of a run! We did it all for you but couldn't have done it without each and every one of YOU!

# July 2023 Live Blues Music Calendar!

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

## JULY 1

**Seward Park, Seattle:** Seattle Peace Concert 12PM  
**Waterfront Park, Portland:** Waterfront Blues Festival 12 PM  
**Vancouver International Jazz Festival:** Vancouver. BC 1PM  
**The Point, Kingston:** Summer Sounds 6 PM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Two Scoops Combo 7PM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** McPage & Powell 7PM  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** Los Orchids 7PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Acoustic Alchemy 7:30 PM  
**Rockfish, Anacortes:** Mark Dufresne 7:30PM  
**Conway Muse, Conway:** Moon Daddy 8 PM  
**Studebaker Alley, Cle Elum:** Stacy Jones Band 8 PM

## JULY 2

**Waterfront Park, Portland:** Waterfront Blues Festival 12 PM  
**Vancouver International Jazz Festival, Vancouver BC 1 PM**  
**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Peabo's Sunday Music Revue 7 PM  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** All Funk 'n Games 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Acoustic Alchemy 7:30PM

## JULY 3

**Waterfront Park, Portland:** Waterfront Blues Festival  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mad Bojo 7 PM  
**The Royal Room, Seattle:** The Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30PM  
**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 PM  
**Owl & Thistle, Seattle:** The Great Monday Jam 9 PM

## JULY 4

**Groovestock Ranch, Ferndale:** Rock Our Freedom Fest 11:30 AM  
**Waterfront Park, Portland:** Waterfront Blues Festival  
**Quil Ceda Creek, Tulalip:** Nick Vigarino's Meantown Blues 6 PM  
**Hotel Bellwether, Bellingham:** The Atlantics 7 PM

## JULY 5

**The Spring District, Bellevue:** Lady A 12 PM  
**Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle:** Jason Isbell 6 PM  
**CCR, Snohomish:** Usual Suspects 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Nearly Dan 7:30PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** Sheri & Da Boyz 8PM

## JULY 6

**Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue:** Jesse James & The Mob 4:30 PM  
**Slims Last Chance, Seattle Dusty 45's 6 PM**  
**Elizabeth Park, Bellingham:** D'Vas & Dudes 6 PM  
**Pine Lake Park, Sammamish:** Laurel Canyon Legacy 6:30PM  
**Historic Shell Station, Issaquah:** Gas Station Blues

7 PM

**Gene Coulon Beach Park, Renton:** Stacy Jones Band 7 PM  
**Hotel Bellwether, Bellingham:** Chris Eger Band 7 PM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Kevin Sutton Songwriter Showcase 7 PM  
**Slippery Pig, Poulsbo:** Front St Revue 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Nearly Dan 7:30PM  
**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** All Stars & No Stripes

## JULY 7

**Bellevue Downtown Park, Bellevue:** Camile Bloom 12 PM  
**The Point, Kingston:** Summer Sounds 6 PM  
**Lake Tyee Park, Monroe:** The Soul Searching Band 6 PM  
**Burlington Visitor Center Amphitheater, Burlington:** Troy Fair Band 6 PM  
**The Repp, Snohomish:** Norris & Nicely 6:30 PM  
**Historic Wallace Blues Festival, Wallace, ID 7 PM**  
**The Vault, Blaine:** Nick Vigarino 7 PM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Blue Notes 7 PM  
**Black Angus, Puyallup:** Max Renshaw Solo 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Nearly Dan 7:30PM  
**The Butchart Gardens, Brentwood Bay, BC:** Blue Moon Marquee 8 PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** Tim Turner 9 PM  
**Bake's Place, Bellevue:** Annie Eastwood's All-Stars feat. Billy Stapleton 9:30 PM

## JULY 8

**Church Road, Bow:** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Goobstock Music Festival 12PM  
**Bertelsen Winery, Mt Vernon:** Mama Jo's Blues Festival 12 PM  
**The Point, Kingston:** Summer Sounds 6 PM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Rain City Riff Raff 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Nearly Dan 7:30 PM  
**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Rain City Time Machine 8 PM  
**Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline:** Mark DuFresne Band feat. Billy Stapleton 8 PM  
**The Mill, Milton:** Mid-Nite Bourbon 8 PM  
**Conway Muse, Conway:** Jack Mattingly 8 PM  
**The Hidden Door, Shoreline:** =John Stephan Band, Seattle House Rockers 9 PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** Coverdale 9 PM

## JULY 9

**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** International Blues Challenge 12 PM  
**Woodland Park, Seattle Peace Concerts 12 PM**  
**La Conner Live, La Conner:** Fantasy Band 1 PM  
**Immanuel Presbyterian, Tacoma:** Blues Vespers w/ Kim & Brian, Adam Levy and the Mint Imperials, Tim Lerch 5PM  
**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Peabo's Sunday Music Revue

7PM

**The Spar, Tacoma:** Lisa Mann w/Lara Price 7pm  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Nearly Dan 7:30PM

## JULY 10

**Angel of the Winds, Arlington:** Fat Fridays 11 AM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mad Bojo 7 PM  
**The Royal Room, Seattle:** The Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30PM  
**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 PM  
**Owl and Thistle, Seattle:** The Great Monday Jam 9 PM

## JULY 11

**Ste Michelle Winery, Woodinville:** Lady A 5 PM  
**Quil Ceda Creek Casino, Marysville:** CD Woodbury Band w/ Joel Astley & Mike Marinig 6PM  
**Capitol Cider, Seattle:** John Pinetree Blues Showcase 6:30PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Leo Kottke 7:30PM  
**Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver WA:** Ben Rice & The Hustle 8PM

## JULY 12

**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** The Go 2's 8 PM  
**CCR, Snohomish:** Usual Suspects 7 PM  
**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Portage Bay Big Band 7:30PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Leo Kottke 7:30PM

## JULY 13

**Bellevue Connection plaza, Bellevue:** Kim & Brian Band 4:30 PM  
**Bad Albert's, Seattle:** Annie Eastwood & Friends feat. Billy Stapleton 6 PM  
**Elizabeth Park, Bellingham:** The Sweet Goodbyes 6 PM  
**Slims Last Chance, Seattle Dusty 45's 6 PM**  
**Pine Lake Park, Sammamish:** Farm Strong 6:30PM  
**Historic Shell Station, Issaquah:** Gas Station Blues 7 PM  
**Lake Meridian Park, Kent:** Blue Moon Marquee 7 PM  
**Hotel Bellwether, Bellingham:** Jasmine Greene 7PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Big Bad Voodoo Daddy 7:30PM  
**Slippery Pig, Poulsbo:** Front St Blues Revue 8 PM  
**Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle:** The Paul Audia Band (Italy), Joe Hellmore & John Stephan Band 8PM  
**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Tim Sherman Band 8 PM

## JULY 14

**Waterfront Waypoint Park, Bellingham:** Northwest Tune-Up Festival 9 AM  
**Bellevue Downtown Park, Bellevue:** Norman Baker & the Backroads 12 PM  
**Uptown Vashon Island, Vashon:** Vashon Strawberry Festival 4 PM  
**Bothell Landing, Bothell:** Massy Ferguson 6 PM



**The Point, Kingston:** Summer Sounds 6 PM  
**Lake Tyee Park, Monroe:** Stacy Jones Band 6 PM  
**Park at Bothell Landing, Bothell:** Massy Ferguson 6 PM  
**Burlington Visitor Center Amphitheater, Burlington:** Wes Jones 6 PM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Mike Fast & the Arctops 7PM  
**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Mr. Pink 7:30 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Big Bad Voodoo Daddy 7:30 PM  
**Pub 282, Camano:** CC Adams Band 7:30 PM  
**Lincoln Theater, Mount Vernon:** Robert Cray 7:30 PM  
**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Mark Riley 8 PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** Lone State 9 PM

## JULY 15

**Waterfront Waypoint Park, Bellingham:** Northwest Tune-Up Festival 7 AM  
**Uptown Vashon Island, Vashon:** Vashon Strawberry Festival 4 PM  
**Downtown North Bend, WA:** North Bend Block Party 12PM  
**La Conner Live, La Conner:** Broham 1PM  
**Allyn Days, Allyn:** King Kom Beaux 3 PM  
**The Quarter Deck, Des Moines:** True Romans, Garron Choate, Left Hand Smoke 3 PM  
**The Point, Kingston:** Summer Sounds 6 PM  
**The Repp, Snohomish:** Annie Eastwood & Chris Stevens 6:30PM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Lucille St Collective 7 PM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** John Stephan Band 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Big Bad Voodoo Daddy 7:30PM  
**Rockfish, Anacortes:** Nick Vigarino 7:30PM  
**Pacific Arts Center, Federal Way:** Robert Cray 7:30 PM  
**The Mill, Milton:** Mark Riley 8 PM  
**Brass Kraken, Poulsbo:** Joel Astley 9 PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** Brian Daisley 9 PM

## JULY 16

**Waterfront Waypoint Park, Bellingham:** Northwest Tune-Up Festival 7 AM  
**Uptown Vashon Island, Vashon:** Vashon Strawberry Festival 11 AM-4 PM  
**Vashon Strawberry Festival 11AM-4PM**  
**Skagit Valley Farmers Market:** Norris and Nicely 11AM  
**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Peabo's Sunday Music Revue 7 PM  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** Mark Riley 7PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Big Bad Voodoo Daddy 7:30PM

## JULY 17

**Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle:** The Dead South 6PM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mad Bojo 7 PM  
**The Royal Room, Seattle:** The Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30PM

**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 PM  
**Owl and Thistle, Seattle:** The Great Monday Jam 9 PM

## JULY 18

**Quil Ceda Creek, Tulalip:** Lady A 6 PM  
**Capitol Cider, Seattle:** John Pinetree Blues Showcase 6:30 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Greg Adams & East Bay Soul 7:30PM  
**Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver WA:** Ben Rice & The Hustle 8PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** Karlito Moose & Squirrel 8 PM

## JULY 19

**The Spring District, Bellevue:** Birch Periera & the Gin Joints 12 PM  
**Kent Station, Kent:** Lady A 6 PM  
**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Jazz Punishments Big Band 7 PM  
**CCR, Snohomish:** Usual Suspects 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Greg Adams & East Bay Soul 7:30PM  
**The Triple Door, Seattle:** Greg Koch 7:30PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** Super Tonix 8 PM

## JULY 20

**Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue:** Billy Stoops & the Dirt Angels 4:30PM  
**Slims Last Chance, Seattle:** Dusty 45's 6PM  
**The Quarter Deck, Des Moines:** Carrie Clark 6 PM  
**Elizabeth Park, Bellingham:** The Atlantics 6 PM  
**Pine Lake Park, Sammamish:** Santa Poco 6:30PM  
**Historic Shell Station, Issaquah:** Gas Station Blues 7 PM  
**Slippery Pig, Poulsbo:** Front St Blues Revue 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kirk Whalum 7:30PM  
**Neptune, Seattle:** Steve Earle 8 PM

## JULY 21

**The Blues Ranch, Winthrop, WA:** Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival  
**Seattle Center, Seattle, WA:** CHEQ Bite of Seattle  
**Burlington Visitor Center Amphitheater, Burlington:** Stacy Jones Band 6PM  
**Soul Food Coffee, Redmond:** Songwriters in Seattle Showcase 6 PM  
**The Point, Kingston:** Summer Sounds 6 PM  
**Lake Tyee Park, Monroe:** Brickhouse 6 PM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Folichon Cajon Trio 7 PM  
**The Triple Door, Seattle:** Leroy Bell & His Only Friends 7PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kirk Whalum 730PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** The Encounter 9 PM

## JULY 22

**The Blues Ranch, Winthrop, WA:** Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival  
**Seattle Center, Seattle, WA:** CHEQ Bite of Seattle  
**Stanwood plaza, Stanwood:** Stacy Jones Band 2PM  
**Ste Michele Winery, Woodinville:** Gary Clark Jr 6 PM  
**The Point, Kingston:** Summer Sounds 6 PM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Seattle House Rockers 7 PM  
**Snohomish Eagles, Snohomish:** Joel Astley 7 PM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Stevie & the Blue Flames 7 PM  
**Blue Frog Studios, White Rock BC:** Dennis Jones 7 PM  
**Granite Falls Eagles, Granite Falls:** Joel Astley 7 PM  
**Burien Eagles, Burien:** Kimball & the Fugitives w/ Annie Eastwood 7 PM  
**Bailey's Corner, Clinton:** Nick Vigarino 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kirk Whalum 7:30PM  
**Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline:** Billy Stapleton's POWERHOUSE Band 8 PM  
**The Get Away, Mountlake Terrace:** Stacy Jones Band 8PM  
**Conway Muse, Conway:** Star Drums & Lady Keys 8 PM  
**Rock the Dock, Tacoma:** Linda Carol & the Gruv 8 PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** 3 Dog Bite 9 PM

## JULY 23

**The Blues Ranch, Winthrop, WA:** Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival  
**Seattle Center, Seattle, WA:** CHEQ Bite of Seattle  
**Mercer Island Farmer's Market, Mercer Island:** Billy Stapleton's POWERHOUSE Band 11AM  
**Magnuson Park, Seattle:** Seattle Peace Concert 12PM  
**La Conner Live, La Conner:** Chris Eger Band 1 PM  
**Horizon Point Park, Lacey:** Linda Carol & the Gruv 1 PM  
**Sea Monster, Seattle:** Annie Eastwood w Kimball & the Fugitives 4 PM  
**Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle:** Blues Traveler, Big Head Todd & the Monsters 6 PM  
**Ste Michele Winery, Woodinville:** Gary Clark Jr 6 PM  
**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Greta Matassa 7 PM  
**The Spar Tacoma:** Joel Astley 7 PM  
**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Peabo's Sunday Music Revue 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kirk Whalum 7:30PM

## JULY 24

**Angel of the Winds, Arlington:** Usual Suspects 11 AM

(Continued on Page 29)

## Three Washington Guitarists You Should Know More About (cont'd)

*"You do your own music and you're in it for the long run. You're in it for life."*

*Continued from page 7*

Thomas, then also a popular Memphis DJ, introduced Cooking Bag to other Stax artists, including The Dramatics, the Three Degrees. He also introduced Brown to Rudy Ray Moore, then a Seattle resident, a street poet and comic who is often called the "Father of Rap" and who went on to found a dynasty of "blaxploitation" films centering on a character named "Dolemite," the subject of a recent Eddie Murphy movie.

Brown, too, himself found his way into film, but it took a while; his band's first single, a 45, was one of many featured in the 2009 film "Wheedle's Groove," about the brilliant but forgotten decade between 1965-1975 in which Seattle's funk and soul scene was among the richest in the world.

At the urging of Motown acts The Chocolate Chips and Whisper Brown's band went to California but didn't survive the move. Brown went on to Los Angeles, found success, came back long enough to marry his high school sweetheart and take her back to LA with him.

Among the people he worked with in those years were All Wilson, whose #1 Billboard hit "Show and Tell" went double platinum, and the Sylvers, who had back-to-back #1 hits with "Boogie Fever" and "Hot Line."

"One of the more memorable tours I did was 21 one-nighters with Tom Jones," Brown said, smiling at the memory. "It was Dolly Parton's tour bus, and they tore that bus up. I got off the bus in Kansas City because the bus driver said, 'You better get your stuff off the bus, 'cause I'm leaving.'"

Brown went on to make three albums with the Sylvers on the Motown label, then followed bandleader Leon Sylvers to Solar Records, a project of record producer Dick Griffey and "Soul Train" impresario Don Cornelius. He made an album with the sat-in-clad disco crooners Shalamar, including the single "Take That To The Bank," among other high profile projects.

In 1981, the Motown-signed band Ozone, then managed by legendary Motown chief Berry Gordy's sister Gwen, offered Brown a spot on lead guitar, and Brown stayed for three albums.

Ozone had several successful singles, but their biggest influence was as a backing band for many Motown recording artists, including Billy Preston, Rick James, Bobby Nunn, and most notably Teena Marie, who also appeared on Ozone's recordings.

Brown also got the opportunity to play guitar on tour for Billy Preston and Sammy Davis, Jr. Preston, he said, was a "genius," with perfect pitch.

"He could hear a doorbell go 'ding-dong' and tell you what two notes they were," Brown said.

By 1985, though, Brown and his wife had four children, and Brown didn't want to raise them in South Central L.A. So the family relocated to Seattle for a while, then moved on to Edmonton, Alberta, where Brown played in a popular reggae band.

Throughout his years in California, Brown had stayed in constant contact with his Seattle family, including his brother Septimus, who had a band called Septimus with a cousin who had returned from Vietnam.

While in Seattle, the brothers started a studio and rehearsal space in Fremont called The Funhole, just in time for the grunge explosion. The studio became a hangout for some of grunge's leading lights, including Kurt Cobain and members of Soundgarden.

Brown returned to Seattle for the last time in about 1997, when his father passed away and he came home to care for his mother who had grown ill. Since then he has recorded and performed steadily with Septimus, as well as serving as a long time musical partner of Seattle blues, soul and funk maven Lady A.

His family talent will not stop with Herman's generation.

"My son is Vitamin D. He's the guy around who is one of the main hip hop producers here in Seattle," Herman said, with considerable pride.

He has reason for that pride. Fandom.com writes of his son: "widely acknowledged as one of the most important contributors to the Seattle hip hop scene and the founder of the 'Seattle sound,' Vitamin D is responsible for the production and engineering on many of the area's releases, most of which are recorded in his studio, The Pharmacy."

Vitamin D started his first label in the family basement as a high school student, which made for interesting memories, said Brown. "Macklemore used to come to my house to hit on my daughter!" he remembered with a chuckle.

Brown thinks there are perhaps more adventures ahead of him. Lady A, he believes, could be on the verge of major success.

"I think she's getting ready to blow up and I say that because she has good songs," he said. And having good songs that are your own is everything, he said.

"That's where it starts," said Brown. "You do your own music and you're in it for the long run. You're in it for life."





# 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:** 192 Blues Jam w/The Groove Tramps 3-7 PM , All Ages, Times vary on Seahawks' Game Days  
**Acorn Brewery, Edgewood:** Blue Jam w/Retro Gruve 5-8 PM

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

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

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

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

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

**Club Crow, Cashmere Jam Session 1st Sunday, 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 Room at the Point Casino, Kingston:** Duff's Rockin' Jam 7-10 PM

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

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

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

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

**Lucky 7 Bar and Grill, Kirkland:** Tommy Wall Sunday 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, Duvall:** Open Jam Hosted by Doug McGrew 7 PM

**Red Dog Saloon, Maple Valley:** Open jam with 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

**Chi Town Pizza, Spanaway:** Muddy Monday Blues Jam 6-9 PM

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

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

**Tim's Tavern, White Center/Seattle:** Open Mic 6:30-11 PM (All Ages Until 10 PM)

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

**Riverside Pub, Wenatchee:** North Central Washington Blues Jam, 2nd & 4th Mondays, 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 & Grill, Belfair:** Joe Faker Jam 6 PM

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

**Jackson St Bar, Spokane:** Open Mic 8 PM

## TUESDAY

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

**Café Racer, Seattle:** Open Mic 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 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

**Elmers, Burien:** Jam Night Hosted by The Cory Wilds Band 8 PM-Midnight

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Zeeks Pizza, Bellingham:** 1st Tuesday, Live Music Night, 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 & Grill, Federal Way:** Linda Myers Wicked Wednesday Jam 8-11 PM

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

**Des Moines Public House:** Jam Night 7-11 PM

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

**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 Wednesday 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**

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

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

**Whit's End, Seattle:** 2nd & 4th Thursdays All Ages Open Mic 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:** Open Mic 6-10 PM All Ages

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

**Chan's Red Dragon, Spokane:** Jam Night 7 PM

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

**Pt 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/Uptown All Stars 7:30 PM

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

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

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

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

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

**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 Thursday 8-11 PM

**Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo:** Front St Blues Review Night w/Thys Wallwork, All Ages, 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 Night Hosted by Chuck Muller 7 PM**

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

**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)

*(Continued on Page 25)*

# Summertime Blues Bashes!

Join us at the Aurora Borealis in Shoreline and CCR Sports & Entertainment in Snohomish this month!

By Rick J. Bowen

The monthly Washington Blues Society Blues Bash continues with live events on two Tuesdays in July. The first bash is on July 11 at 7 p.m. at Aurora Borealis, 16708 Aurora Ave N, Shoreline, and July 25 at CCR Sports and Entertainment 215 Cypress Ave, Snohomish at 7 p.m.

The first Blues Bash features music from new acoustic duo Lewis and Sutton, as well as The Usual Suspects. Bash number two features a solo set from touring artist AJ Fullerton of Colorado and the award-winning Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers.

The monthly Blues Bashes are presented free, and all are welcome. Aurora Borealis is an all ages venue and CCR Sports is 21 and over.



**Lewis and Sutton:** Lewis and Sutton is a comedy duo from the Catskills circuit. They have been entertaining young and old for many years and now are sharing the songs of their childhood. These two singers and guitar players will regale you with songs of levee workers, riverboat gamblers, spike drivers, and other tales sure to amuse. (Photo of Lewis and Sutton by Kevin Sutton).



**Usual Suspects:** The Usual Suspects are a five-piece ensemble made up of veteran Northwest musicians who have performed around the world. Lead vocals are shared by Dean Reichert on guitar and bassist Don Wilhelm along with drummer Chris Leighton, Jeffery Morgan on keys, and trumpeter Ron Hendee. The group performs every Wednesday at CCR in Snohomish. (Photo of the Usual Suspects by Morgan).



**A.J. Fullerton:** A.J. Fullerton is an American roots-rock artist originally from Colorado. Over the last decade he has carved out a niche as a finger style and slide guitarist, singer-songwriter, and producer. Touring both solo and with his full band, he draws from numerous influences classical and contemporary. A.J. is one of the fastest ris-

ing names in the world of roots, rock, and blues and was named one of "75 Modern Blues & Blues Rock Artists You Must Hear 2021" by Blues Muse Magazine. He has opened for Robert Cray, Jimmie Vaughan, Samantha Fish, Charlie Musselwhite, Chrystone "Kingfish" Ingram, Otis Taylor, Patrick Sweany, and many more. His latest record *The Forgiver & The Runaway* debuted at #1 on the iTunes Blues Charts. A.J. has received 24 Colorado Blues Society Members' Choice awards. Most recently, A.J. wrote and produced Memphis artist Tony Holiday's album *Motel Mississippi* which debuted at #6 on the Billboard Blues Charts in April of 2023. (Photo of AJ Fullerton by Scotty Henton).



**Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers:** What happens when you combine an award-winning poet and songwriter/singer from the Pacific Northwest with a classically trained guitarist, a smokin' rhythm section, and a sax player with top notch r&b, funk, and jazz chops? You get Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers, an award-winning blues band that delivers fun, funky original tunes as well as strong interpretations of blues classics, all of which showcase the variety of the blues genre. The band has released seven studio albums, most recently *Hot Mess* in October 2022, which charted internationally, was named one of the best blues albums of 2022 by Tahoe Online and won two silver medals from the Global Music Awards. Blues Blast Magazine said, "There is a lot to like here. D'Amour's vocals are controlled and balanced, delivering power when she needs to and offering restraint when appropriate. The electric and steel guitar work are super, the backline is steady, solid, and funky and the horns add nice dimensions to the music."



# Updated Blues Jams & Open Mic Listings (continued)

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

## THURSDAY (CONTINUED)

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

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

**Maverick's, Lakeside, MT.:** Blues Jam Thursdays 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:** Victory Music All Ages 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:**  
Jazz Jam Last Friday 7 PM

**Wicked Cider, Kennewick:** Wicked Jamz/Open Mic  
Every Other Friday 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 7 PM

PLEASE CONTACT THE VENUE WITH QUESTIONS  
ABOUT THEIR BLUES JAM OR OPEN MIC (START  
TIME, ALL-AGES, ETC).

THANK YOU!

## CD Review

### BLUE HEALERS TRANSMISSION



I like everything about this album! The first thing I liked about it is the packaging of the CD (yes, I'm still into CDs, but it is also available as a download for more modern folks). Great, slightly spooky front and back covers, nice "making of" shots on the inside. I like the title, "Transmissions." chedelic" feel (their word for it, and I agree) that, for me, hearkens back to the great Bay

Area psychedelic bands of the '60s - Quicksilver Messenger Service, Country Joe and the Fish perhaps. Influences from folk and country music, blues, and even twangy California beach music were evident then, and they are evident here and now just as well. Let's sit down and write some music with no prescriptions, no preconceptions. Just let it flow.

The album opens with the plaintive, minor-keyed song "Vultures." Singer/bass player Diane Forsyth's gypsy voice is set off by Don Forsyth's sustained, moaning guitar (perhaps via an E-Bow, used to good effect by Pink Floyd's David Gilmour). The mood brightens with "Holy Matrimony," a sort of country blues with Diane sounding like she's singing through a harp microphone and Don offering a nice sliding mix of National acoustic and electric guitars. This tune looks to be a live crowd pleaser if the video on the Healer's website is an indication (see this and others at bluehealers.net).

One of my favorites, "Be in the Moment," follows - sounds indeed like having a moment with your yoga teacher, after class and after a few hits of PNW's finest! The look inward continues with a Jungian search for the "Ocean in Me" - "Walking to the river 'til I touch hands with the ocean in me..." We've all spent time on that search I think. "Lucky" brings Don Forsyth to the front, singing in a contented sort of way, with a shimmering electric solo. Don shows lot of bandwidth on this collection; guitar like we like to hear! "Sunfair Road" is a romantic, folky kind of fingerpicking tune, followed by "Empty Roads," a dark, David Lynch kind of desert song, with great Ventures-style guitars. Diane can surely get spooky when she wants to, like here, and the music is a perfect compliment. song, and the album, home.

It's been a decade since I reviewed the Forsyths and company's last outing, "Town Hall Brawl," and it's been a pleasure to reconnect with this unique, creative duo and the songs they make together.

*Review by Mark Dalton*

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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!

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## #

44th Street Blues Band 206.714.5180 or 206.775.2762

## A

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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

## B

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  
Bill Brown & The Kingbees 206.276.6600  
Bill Ray Drums 760.803.1686  
Billy Barner 253.732.0618  
Billy Shew Band 253.514.3637  
Billy Stapleton 425.478.2113  
Black River Blues 206.396.1563  
Blackjack Kerouac 206.697.8428  
Blackstone Players 425.327.0018  
Blue 55 206.216.0554  
Blue Healers 206.940.9128  
Blues on Tap 206.618.6210  
Blues Playground 425.359.3755  
Blues Redemption 253.253.921.7506  
Blues Sheriff 206.979.0666  
Blues To Do Monthly 206.328.0662  
Blues with Benefits 206.459.3278  
Bobby Holland & The Breadline 425.681.5644  
Boneyard Preachers 206.755.0766 or 206.547.1772  
Bobby Patterson & the Two Tones 509.869.0350.  
Brian Butler Band 206.361.9625

Brian Hurst 360.708.1653  
Brian Lee & The Orbiters 206.390.2408  
Bruce Govan 206.817.1663  
Bruce Koenigsberg / Fabulous Roof Shakers 425.766.7253  
Bruce Ransom 206.618.6210  
Bump Kitchen 253.223.4333 or 360.259.1545

## C

C.D. Woodbury Band 425.502.1917  
CC Adams Band 360.395.8540  
Charles White Revue 425.327.0018  
Charlie Butts & The Filtertips 509.655.1071  
Charlie Saibel 360.357.8553  
Chester Dennis Jones 253.797.8937  
Children Of The Blues 818.292.2541  
Chris Eger Band 360.770.7929  
Chris Lord 425.334.5053  
Chris Stevens' Surf Monkeys 206.236.0412  
Coyote Blues 360.420.2535  
Craig Parrish/Margaret Wilder Band 360.380.2250  
Crooked Mile Blues Band 425.238.8548  
Curtis Hammond Band 206.696.6134  
Cyndi Moring and Lucile Street 206.849.8471

## D

Daddy Treetops 206.601.1769  
Dan & the Dynos 206.225.9684  
Dana Lupinacci Band 206.860.4961  
Daniel McGuillicuddy 206.465.7507  
Dave Albert 425.269-3665  
Dave Townsend (Midnight Hour) 425.238.4039  
David Hudson / Satellite 4 253.630.5276  
Dennis "Juxtamuse" Hacker 509.264.7879  
Dick Powell Band 425.742.4108  
Don Bird 818.292.2541  
Doug McGrew 206.679.2655  
Doug Skoog 253.921.7506  
Dudley Taft 513.713.6800

## E

El Colonel 360.293.7931  
Elliott Bay Blues Band 206.300.6802  
Ellis Carter 206.935.3188  
Eric Madis & Blue Madness 206.251.0339  
Eric's Maine Connection 425.299.7496  
Eric Rice 425.299.7496

## F

Fat Cat 425.487.6139  
Filé Gumbo 425.788.2776

## G

Gary Frazier 206.851.1169  
Greg Roberts 206.473.0659  
Groove Tramps 720.232.9664  
Guiled Lily Band 915.222.6401  
Gunnar Roads 360.828.1210

## H

Hambone Blues Band 360.458.5659  
Hambone Wilson 360.739.7740  
Heather & the Nearly Homeless Blues Band 425.576.5673  
High Note Group 206.214.7977  
Hot Mess Duo 206.214.7977  
Hot Wired Rhythm Band 206.790.9935  
Hungry Dogs 425.299.6435

## J

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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 "Drummerboy" Hayes 206.909.6366  
Jeff & The Jet City Fliers 206.818.0701  
Jeff Menteer and The Beaten Path 425.280.7392  
Jeffery Alan Olson & the Blues Choo Train 425.345.5399  
Jeremy Serwer 520.275.9444  
Jesse Weston 425.610.0933  
Jill Newman Band 206.390.2623  
James Brunner 509.457.0762  
Jim Caroompas (Rumpus) 925.212.7760  
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

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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.  
Little Bill & the Bluenotes 425.774.7503  
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Lucille Street cynmoring@gmail.com

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Randy Oxford Band 253.973.9024  
Raven Humphres 425.308.3752  
The Rece Jay Band (253) 350-9137  
Red House 425.377.8097  
Reggie Miles 360.793.9577  
Reji Marc (206) 486-0386  
Richard Allen & The Louisiana Experience  
206.369.8114  
Richard Evans 206.799.4856  
Right Hand Drive 206.496.2419  
RJ Knapp & Honey Robin Band 206.612.9145  
Rob Moitoza 206.401.2856  
Robert Baker 425.870.7683  
Robert Patterson 509.869.0350  
Robert and Randolph Duo 509.216.0944  
Rod Cook & Toast 206.878.7910  
Roger Rogers Band 206.255.6427  
Ron Hendee 425.280.3994  
Roxlide 360.881.0003  
Russ Kammerer 206.551.0152  
Rusty Williams 206.282.0877

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Scott Mallard 206.261.4669  
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Star Drums & Lady Keys 206.522.2779  
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Steven J. Lefebvre 509.972.2683 or 509.654.3075  
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Studio Rob 425.870.7683  
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The Pat Stilwell Band 503.481.6823  
The Rece Jay Band 253.350.9137  
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The Soulful 88s/Billy Spaulding 206.310.4153  
The Spinoffs/Dawnzella Gearhart 206. 718.1591  
The VuDudes 206.999.0729  
The Wired Band 206.852.3412  
The Wulf Tones 206.367.6186 or 206.604.2829  
Tim Hall Band 253.857.8652  
Tim Turner Band 206.271.5384  
Tommy Wall 206.914.9413  
Town Hall Brawl 206.940.9128  
Two Scoops Combo 206.933.9566  
Two Trains Runnin' 206.225.9684

## U

Unbound 425.231.0565  
Under the Puddle 425-512-3153

## V

Virginia Klemens Band 206.632.6130

## W

West Coast Women's Blues Revue 206.940.2589  
Whitewing 360.393-1687  
Willie B Blues Band 206.451.9060  
Willie & The Whips 206.781.0444

# Rhapsody Project gets new home in historic King Street Station

*The project makes music and other cultural arts available to youth*

*By Sophia Callan, University of Washington*

A new 1,000 square foot home base in King Street Station is in the works for The Rhapsody Project, a youth-based program focused on music education. The new site will help the project expand their reach and curriculum in October.

The Rhapsody Project has been a home for uplifting youth and building community through education and roots music since 2013. The organization provides music instruction, cultural events, virtual classes, and cultural workforce development with the goal of establishing racial and cultural equity. But until now, they've been doing it in various school and rented spaces. Now, their programs that teach people to root themselves in their heritage through music and confronting injustice can be held in a new home on Jackson Street.

"We want to give students tools of where they come from and understand they aren't necessarily dictated by heritage but their power to create and establish themselves," said Joe Seamons, the co-founder of The Rhapsody Project.

The Rhapsody Project is one of five organizations making a new home on the second floor of the historical King Street Station. The project, named Station Space, will provide space for youth and community-based cultural and music organizations. The other partner organizations are Totem Star, Red Eagle Soaring, Whipsmart, Jackson Street Music Program, and the Cultural Space Agency, the public development authority for the project. Construction is in progress and set to wrap up in October.

Community listening and design sessions for the space were held in the spring of

2022. During that time, a fundraiser for the project was launched, and The Rhapsody Project began building more curriculum for workshops in the new space.

Seamons said groups, including the Vadon Foundation and Historic South Downtown, have raised over \$4 million towards a goal of \$4.6 million to invest in the space. The space will host music classes and workshops, as well as some new additions.

"We'll have a small library space for instruments, books, and records," said Seamons. "We'll also have a kitchenette space and a workshop for luthiery."

The kitchenette is being made to support and provide food for gatherings, including hot food at jam sessions for youth. The luthiery workshop will be utilized to educate students on practicing and teaching proper stringed instrument maintenance and repair.

There will also be a small venue space, according to Briar, who goes by one name, an instructor at The Rhapsody Project, where the project hopes to host concerts, open mics, and performing arts classes.

"There will be public events held at the space. We want them to serve families and students, with a goal of reflecting on heritage," said Briar.

To the people at The Rhapsody Project, building this space is also significant to blues music and its cultural connection to Seattle and its communities.

"It is essential to understand that the cultural experience we are facing in Seattle is very socially segregated," said Seamons.



"There is a lot of ignorance surrounding blues music, and it is often affiliated with a path of discrimination."

Seamons hopes to put the space in the hands of historically disenfranchised people in the project and Seattle community, and he hopes the project will continue to extend its impact beyond teaching students about music.

"Most of our students are young people of color. With this new space, The Rhapsody Project can significantly expand its current programs and resources to teach a greater number of students about their heritage through music and use it as a means to connect with their backgrounds," Briar said.

Photo: Anita "Lady A" White and John Oliver III (center front, in white) and a group of young musicians participate in a music program through the Rhapsody Project. Photo courtesy of the Rhapsody Project.

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# A Blues Filled Summer in University Place!

*For the fourth summer in a row, the City of University Place will present two free outdoor concert series*

By Mark Hurwitz

For the fourth summer in a row, the City of University Place (adjacent to Tacoma) will present two different, free outdoor concert series. Music on the Square concerts will be held every Wednesday, 6-8 PM, from July 19th and through August 30th. The Curran Apple Orchard Concerts will take place every other Thursday, 6:30 PM to 8 PM, from July 6 through August 31.

As Music Director for these events, I try to bring in artists from a variety of genres, everything from jazz to salsa to Brazilian to bluegrass.

But as a blues musician myself, it's important to me that this music we all love is well-represented. Little Bill and Rod Cook, Junkyard Jane, The Jerry Miller Band, The T-Town Aces, Maia Santell and House Blend, and File Gumbo are some of the blues artists who have performed in University Place.

The 2023 Music on the Square line-up will feature Billy Stoops and the Dirt Angels, the Stacy Jones Band, Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek, and Darelle Holden (long time back-up singer for Tom Jones).

On August 16th, there will be a special blues night "double header" with Rafael

Tranquilino, this year's BB Award winner for Best Guitar, and Heather Jones and the Groove Masters. The Curran Apple Orchard concert series will include performances by the Billy Shew Band and King Kom Beaux, a past representative of the Washington Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

The Music on the Square concerts are in the plaza in front of University Place City Hall, 3609 Market Place West, off Bridgeport Way. Every week there's a different food truck, and food and refreshments are also available from the restaurants around the square. Seating and tables for dining are provided. The Curran Apple Orchard is at 3920 Grandview Drive West. Seating is on the lawn, or you can bring a blanket or folding chair. Here's the full 2023 calendar:

## Music on the Square, Wednesdays, 6-8 PM

- 7/19 Flor de Luna
- 7/26 Darelle Holden & DHQ
- 8/2 Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek
- 8/9 Billy Stoops and the Dirt Angels
- 8/16 Rafael Tranquilino Band, Heather Jones & the Groove Masters
- 8/23 Conjunto Caribe
- 8/30 Stacy Jones Band



## Curran Apple Orchard, Every Other Thursday, 6:30-8 PM

- 7/6 Billy Shew Band
- 7/20 Hook Me Up
- 8/3 King Kom Beaux
- 8/17 FarmStrong
- 8/31 America's First Corps Jazz Band

You can also expect to hear blues at the City of University Place Christmas tree lighting ceremony, which will take place on December 1.

Photo: The Bayou Boyz appear at an earlier University Place outdoor concert.

Photo by Mark Hurwitz.

## Blues Calendar (cont'd)

### July 24

**Angel of the Winds, Arlington:** Usual Suspects 11 AM  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mad Bojo 7 PM  
**The Royal Room, Seattle:** The Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30PM  
**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 PM  
**Owl & Thistle, Seattle:** The Great Monday Jam 9 PM

### July 25

**Quil Ceda Creek, Tulalip:** Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method 6 PM  
**Capitol Cider, Seattle:** John Pinetree Blues Showcase 6:30 PM  
**Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver WA:** Ben Rice & The Hustle  
**CCR, Snohomish:** Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w/ Michele & Love Dealers and AJ Fullerton  
**Purdv's Public House, Sumner:** Mark DuFresne Band feat. Billy Stapleton 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Big Band 7:30PM

### July 26

**Bayview Corner Summer Street Dance, Langley:** Nick Mardon Trio 6 PM  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** RT Collective 6 PM  
**Battle Point Park, Bainbridge:** Lady A 6:30 PM  
**CCR, Snohomish:** Usual Suspects 7 PM  
**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Roadside Attraction 7:30PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Pete Escovedo Latin Jazz Big Band  
**The Triple Door, Seattle:** Greg Howe 7:30PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** Ken Reid Band 8 PM

### July 27

**Slims Last Chance, Seattle:** Dusty 45's 6 PM  
**Elizabeth Park, Bellingham:** Free Harmony 6 PM  
**Pine Lake Park, Sammamish:** Eden 6:30 PM  
**Freeway Park, Seattle:** Joel Astley 7 PM  
**Historic Shell Station, Issaquah:** Gas Station Blues 7 PM  
**Hotel Bellwether, Bellingham:** The Atlantics 7 PM  
**Slippery Pig, Poulsbo:** Front St Blues Revue 7 PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** ConFuncShun 7:30PM  
**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Cory McDaniel & the Gone Johnson Revue 8 PM

### July 28

**Esther Short Park, Vancouver WA:** The Craft Beer & Wine Fest 5PM  
**Downtown Ellensburg, WA:** Ellensburg Music Festival  
**The Quarter Deck, Des Moines:** Naomi Wachira 6PM  
**The Point, Kingston:** Summer Sounds 6 PM  
**Burlington Visitor Center Amphitheater, Burlington:** Lemon Creek 6 PM  
**Lake Tyee Park, Monroe:** Hair Nation 6 PM  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Chris Stevens Band 7 PM  
**The Triple Door, Seattle:** Jorma Kaukonen 7:30PM  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** ConFuncShun 7:30PM  
**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** Lumberjax 9 PM

### July 29

**Esther Short Park, Vancouver WA:** The Craft Beer & Wine Fest 12PM  
**Downtown Ellensburg, WA:** Ellensburg Music Festival

**The Point, Kingston:** Summer Sounds 6 PM

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Take 7 Little Big Band 7PM

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Kim & Brian 7 PM

**Snohomish Eagles, Snohomish:** MaD BoJo 7 PM

**The Spar, Tacoma:** Groove Colony 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** ConFuncShun 7:30PM

**The Triple Door, Seattle:** Jorma Kaukonen 7:30PM

**Conway Muse, Conway:** Mark DuFresne Band 8 PM

**Engels Pub, Edmonds:** CD Woodbury 9 PM

### July 30

**Mercer Island Farmers Market, Mercer Island:** Kimball & the Fugitives w/Annie Eastwood 11AM

**La Conner Live, La Conner:** Joan Penney 1 PM

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

**The Spar, Tacoma:** The Spar, Tacoma: Rod Cook & Toast 7 PM

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** ConFuncShun 7:30PM

### July 31

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mad Bojo 7 PM

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

**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 PM Owl and Thistle, Seattle: The Great Monday Jam 9 PM

# You Should Have Been There!

*Lisa Mann's Portland Blues Showcase and Kenny Wayne Shepherd Backroads Blues Festival 2023*

*Story & Photos by Bear Drury*

Thanks to the efforts of LTD Presents, on Thursday May 25th, 2023 the quiet little venue in Tacoma known as West Of The Waterway was once again transformed into a raucous honky tonk as that feminine fireball known as Lisa Mann ignited the room with her traveling Portland Blues Showcase.

The first to spark the flames was Ben Rice on an instrument I had personally never seen before. A washboard guitar. Yes that's what I said. Now go back and read that again. A washboard... Guitar. Not a washboard that you strum with spoons or thimbles on your fingers. Not a guitar made from a cigar-box or an oil can. But a guitar, made from a washboard. And boy, howdy, he played the scrubbin' outta that thing! It sounded amazing. Of course just about anything that Ben Rice plays is going to sound amazing. He just doesn't know any other way to sound. It seems that Ben's father builds them. So my suggestion for all y'all slide players out there is to grab one while you can, because these things are gonna be a big deal real soon and the demand is going to exceed the supply.

Backed up by Jason 'J.T.' Thomas on guitar, Dave Melyan on drums, and of course Lisa Mann on bass, Ben finished warming up the crowd on his resonator guitar before Lisa took over on vocals. And that, friends and neighbors, is when the flames really took hold.

Slinging her six-string bass like a flame thrower she left no doubt, that when it comes to red hot blues that the Great Pacific Northwest is bringing the HEAT! Lisa's voice is even more powerful than it was when I first heard it almost 20 years ago. Her stage presence and energy is infectious. She simply captivates an audience. Lisa is not just a singer, she's not just a musician. Lisa Mann is an ENTERTAINER. Something that seems to be sadly lacking today. Thankfully we have local artists who are keeping the tradition of entertaining alive. Whether she was singing it's just fine to be an, "Old Girl", or putting her foot down and telling her man, "It's The Monkeys Or Me", her original songs give us an insight into her soul and her humor. And both are great places to visit.

And as if Lisa didn't have the heat turned up enough, then she went and unleashed Karen Lovely on us.

For those of you who have never experienced the sophisticated vocal stylings of Miss Karen Lovely let me try and set the scene for you. Remember the scene in the movie "All About Eve" when Bette Davis says, "Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night." That's a Karen Lovely show. When she takes the stage, the audience needs seatbelts. And maybe a fire extinguisher. This night was no different. There were fireworks going on. If Francis Scott Key had seen this show our national anthem would be a shuffle! Karen is yet another Entertainer who knows how to connect with her audience.

The final 20 minutes of this show were indescribable by any words found in any thesaurus. This is the reason music was invented. To express the emotions that words cannot. I sincerely hope that LTD Presents brings Lisa Mann's Portland Blues Showcase back again real soon.

You really, really, should have been there.



## Kenny Wayne Shepherd Backroads Blues Festival 2023

I was lucky enough to have my best friend invite me to attend the KWS Backroads Blues Festival at the beautiful Chateau Saint Michelle Winery in Woodinville, Washington on Sunday June 28th. It was a beautiful day for an outside concert. Especially one of such magnitude. Kenny Wayne Shepherd (the KWS in the festival name) is doing a great service in making multiple generations (and styles) of the blues more accessible to wider variety of audiences and locations.

Building of the success of the first Backroads Blues Festival in 2022 featuring Buddy Guy and Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, Kenny Wayne not only enlisted old friend Joe Bonamassa along with the up and coming King Solomon Hicks, but featured the legendary Bobby Rush during his own set.

The show promptly started on time with a tight set by "King" Solomon Hicks. A tight trio of just guitar, bass, and drums allowed Hicks to feature not only his strong skills as a singer but his mastery of his guitar. Blues but with an obvious jazz influence he's not just another I-IV-V ka-chunker. Always playing just enough to suit the song but not too much to overshadow his vocals, this man understands how to construct a song for maximum impact. His 30 minute set was over way too soon for me. I want to hear more from him. He may be from Harlem, but his music is for everyone. I hope he returns to the area soon.

I also want to say that the sound system, especially for Hicks set, was one of the best I've ever heard for an outdoor show of that size. The fidelity was exceptional.

Next up was Joe Bonamassa. And of course you know what to expect from Mr. B.

And he delivered. One of the fastest stage changes I've ever seen. Bing, Bang, Boom. Right out of the gate, the entire band hit the ground running like it was the Kentucky Derby. People seem to either love or hate Bonamassa but you must give the man credit. He





puts on a professional show. He comes to play and play he does. His entire band he top notch. No big band from the golden age ever did it any better. Tight arrangements, and everyone was smiling. Well as much as they could with the sun beating them in the face. Even Joe took a few seconds to comment on the unusual brightness of the sun that day. It was worthy of Steve Martin in "Planes, Trains & Automobiles". Like Solomon Hicks, his 70 minute set was over much too quickly. And for those keeping track, he only broke one guitar string, but he still finished the song.

Another blindingly fast stage change, and considering how much gear was moved I was astonished. And I am rarely astonished anymore.

Now it's time for the man behind all of this. Kenny Wayne Shepherd.

I'm sure most of you know who he is so I won't dwell on his biography. I admire his dedication to keeping The Blues alive in all of its forms and making it as accessible as possible to everyone. I believe that's the true beauty of The Blues. It truly is music for everyone. And judging from the crowd there was a bit of everyone there. And Kenny Wayne Shepherd and his band didn't seem to disappoint anyone. With Chris "Whipper" Layton (y'all remember him from that little band that backed up that guy from Texas Stevie Ray something or other) on drums, and Noah Hunt on vocals (man that guy can sing), Joe Krown on Keyboards, and Kevin McCormick on bass they kept the energy flowing. Building on the foundation Hicks and Bonamassa had built as the sun went down they really poured on the heat.

About 25 minutes into their set Kenny introduced the esteemed Bobby Rush. And at 89 years old he took us all to school! Singin', dancin', playing the harmonica, he showed us all, exactly what it's all about. He out-sang, he out-danced, he out-styled, he just plain out-did, everybody on stage for about twenty minutes. You had to see it to believe it.

Things calmed down for a little while after that. And the KWS band went back to doing what they do. But not for long. After playing for about another thirty minutes, Kenny announced that they weren't going to do the normal 'Pretend we're done and walk off stage, and then come back and play some more. We'll just get everybody back and play some more now.' And then he called Joe Bonamassa, Reese Wynans, Bobby Rush, and Solomon Hicks back and they performed the ultimate rendition of a Stevie Ray Vaughan slow blues classic. But I ain't gonna tell you what it was. Because... you should have been there.





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