

Bluesletter

A man with a goatee and a black t-shirt is playing a white electric guitar. He has his eyes closed and a joyful expression. The background is a vibrant, abstract mix of green, blue, and red. The guitar has a light-colored neck and a white body with gold hardware. The man is wearing blue jeans and a black strap for the guitar.

Washington Blues Society

June 2023

KINGFISH +
THE GREAT NW
WE GO BACK A WAYS

MUSIC-LOVER'S GUIDE
TO JUNETEENTH
AROUND WASHINGTON



Hi Blues Fans!

So many events and festivals to choose from! It's going to be a great summer of music with lots of hard choices to be made. I'm writing this month's letter as I finish up with plans for Sunbanks Spring Festival.

We will be home for one weekend and then right back

out to the Sunbanks Country Festival at the first of June. The International Blues Challenge semifinals will be held almost every weekend in June. End of June will bring us the Gorge Blues and Brews down in Stevenson, and that's just the month of June! You will find info on this year's Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival and a couple of other events happening this summer in the May and June editions of the Bluesletter!

We are bringing back the Blues Cruise Raffle this summer! We have an Ocean View Cabin for two on this October's Blues Cruise sailing out of San Diego!

I have had the pleasure of going on many of these cruises and in my opinion this cruise has one of the best line ups I have ever seen! In addition to the cabin, we will be drawing 200 other winners who will receive CDs. With that many prizes it makes for great odds of receiving one! Remember that all proceeds raised by the raffle goes into supporting the Washington Blues Society's Musicians Relief Fund and our Pass the Torch youth education program.

So please support this by buying a ticket at the Washington Blues Society's booth at festivals or if you are out at a Blues Bash or some other show and if I'm there, come over and buy your chance at some great prizes.

I have just finished booking the Gas Station Blues line up for this summer's series of shows in historically hip Downtown Issaquah! This is an event the Washington Blues Society co-hosts in partnership with the Downtown Issaquah Association! Every Thursday in July and August from 7 PM to 9 PM at the Historic Shell Gas Station on Front Street.

This is the ninth year of this series and we have a lot of great talent coming in again this year! We also have a few surprises, as always, with a couple of national touring musicians in addition to many talented local musicians. If you haven't been to Gas Stations Blues, you really owe it to yourself to come on out and check it out! Cold beverages available, lots of great restaurants close by for a good meal, and I guarantee the music will be great! Oh, and we give away a few prizes every week too!

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

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Summer is just starting and it's going to be a busy music season this year! Get out and have some fun! And be sure to stop by and say "Hi." See you out there!



Tony Frederickson, President

Washington Blues Society Board of Directors

Member, Board of Directors, The Blues Foundation (2014-17)

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Welcome to the June Bluesletter! This issue celebrates the blues throughout the Pacific Northwest, welcomes back Christone “Kingfish” Ingram, and acknowledges recent and long-term organizations that support the Washington Blues Society. There’s also information on a new grant opportunity from the City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture for artists interested in performing in and around Seattle Center for the 2023-2024 season. Washington Blues Society Vice President Rick J. Bowen adds some great photos from his experience at this year’s Blues Music Awards in Memphis, and Bluesletter Editor Polly O’Keary takes us on a statewide tour of some exceptional opportunities to experience Juneteenth, which celebrates its third observation as an official federal holiday this year (but many African American communities have celebrated Juneteenth for many years). We hope you enjoy the June issue!

Above: Look who’s reading the Bluesletter!
Interim Blues Foundation CEO and President Kimberly Horton in Memphis
(Photo by Rick J. Bowen)

Cover: Christone “Kingfish” Ingram (Photo by Steve Autio)

In This Issue...

BLUES RIFFS

- 2 Letter from the President
- 5 Letter from the Editor

BLUES FEATURES, NEWS, REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

- 6 Return of the King
- 10 Hey, Eric, While You’re Up, Would You Get Me a Grant?
- 12 Blues on the Road
- 14 A Blues Lover’s Guide to Juneteenth Around the State
- 16 Washington State Blues Stars Shine at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline
- 24 Summertime Blues: June Blues Bash Previews
- 28 Congratulations 2023 Blues Music Award Winners
- 30 Artists at the Center Grant Open for Performing Arts Disciplines

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY STUFF!

- 20 Live Blues Calendar
- 23 Blues Jams & Open Mic Listings
- 25 Department of Corrections
- 26 Blues Talent Guide

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JUNE DEADLINES

Ad Reservations	5PM on 6/5 to editor@wablues.org
Calendar	5PM on 6/10 online. Please submit @ www.wablues.org
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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!

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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.

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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.

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Somehow the Pacific Northwest has abruptly careened into summer. It feels like blues season! I expect the next several issues to be highly festival-focused. This issue has a story about Winthrop's headlining performer Kingfish. This being his third visit to Winthrop, I thought I would get a few comments from him about how his relationship with the festival has grown. I got a lot more than that!

It turns out that Peter Dammann, the artistic director of the Portland Waterfront Blues Festival, and Erika Olsen, Winthrop's festival director, were instrumental (pardon the pun) in launching Kingfish's career from a talented regional musician in the Delta to an international superstar. That story was a lot of fun to report, and to write. Kingfish is a very easy-going guy, very likeable and friendly. Peter is himself a journalist by trade and has a gift for telling stories, so the article fell together pretty easily. I hope you enjoy it.

Putting together the Juneteenth article was a lot tougher, but it was also rewarding. Juneteenth and blues music are a natural pairing, both being born of the same history, so I thought I'd see what I could round up in terms of Juneteenth observations around Washington that had either live blues, funk, soul, or gospel. What I learned is that a lot of people don't plan Juneteenth gatherings as far ahead as promoters plan music festivals! There were a lot of music lineups that were not yet final and so on.

But I did what I could, and as I did, I realized what a cool thing it is that we have Juneteenth as a Federal holiday now. It has been observed in this country for more than 150 years, but such is the social segregation of the nation even today that I suspect many people are quite new to it. The picnics and concerts of Juneteenth showcase soul food, art, poetry, and music that come from Black traditions, and as I learned about each planned event, I found myself thinking that this should have been a federal holiday all along. This is only the third year that Juneteenth has been observed as a formal national holiday, so a lot of events are just getting established. But it's already clear that it is going to be a great holiday every year.

I'm still learning a lot of what goes on behind the curtain with the Washington Blues Society. As ever, I'm eager to share! I have learned that we depend mightily on grants to fund things that our members and supporters can't cover. I also learned that Eric Steiner, still acting as co-editor, is a grant writing machine. There's a story in this issue on some of the grants he's gotten, and I recommend that anyone in an organization like this give it a close read, because grant writing machines like Eric are as rare as hen's teeth and chances are

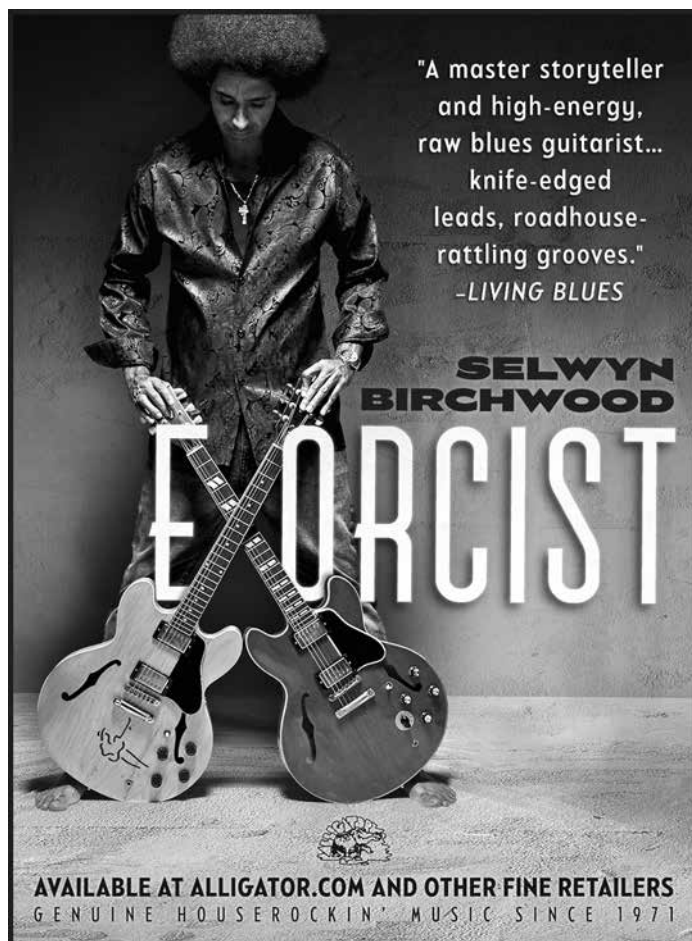
your organization can benefit from his prodigious grant-writing knowledge.

As ever, I am blown away by the generosity and graciousness of Eric Steiner and Sean Donovan, who along with me make up a three-person Bluesletter production team where once there was only Eric. It's a lot of work--how Eric did it himself all these years I'll never know--but it is made deeply rewarding by this teamwork.

Cheers!

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

Polly O'Keary, Editor
Washington Blues Society Bluesletter



The Return of the King

Kingfish comes back to the Pacific Northwest, where a small group of friends helped launch his career

By Polly O'Keary, Editor

Christone Ingram is a Clarksdale, Mississippi bluesman through and through. He got his start playing music in the church there at just 5. In his pre-teens, he was involved as an entertainer with Clarksdale's Delta Blues Museum, which brought him to the Obama White House to . By the time he entered high school, he was gigging regularly around the top clubs of the Mississippi Delta.

But the shows that launched him on his way to nearly overnight superstardom at the age of 16 actually happened in the Pacific Northwest. A Clarksdale man brought him

to the attention of two of his closest friends, who happen to be the main talent buyers for the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival and the Portland Waterfront Blues Festival. They worked with another Washington drummer and promoter to bring him to Waterfront in 2015 and brought him back to Winthrop in 2016 as part of an effort to launch what they believed would be an incredible career.

They were right. Christone Ingram is now known worldwide as Kingfish. When he returns to the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival this year, it will be as one of the most internationally respected guitarists alive. It will also be a celebration for his early supporters that sometimes, talent gets its due.

Meeting Christone

Clarksdale, Mississippi has a giant role in American music mythology. It's the birthplace of the blues, the childhood home of Muddy Waters, the place where legend holds that Robert Johnson sold his soul for the talent that made him a legend. Clarksdale itself is tiny, weathered, and half-empty, a shell of a once-booming cotton town that now depends on tourism for much of its economy.

In that small, colorful town is an art gallery owned by Stan Street, a musician who spent 20 years renovating one of the town's many empty buildings, turning it into the Hambone Gallery, a combination of home, shop, and music venue.

Outside that venue one summer night in 2011, Portland Waterfront Blues Festival director Peter Dammann joined a throw-together band for a street party in front of that gallery. The band included Stan, Seattle singer and Winthrop Beer Garden After



A sign on a Clarksdale sidewalk advertises a 2014 featuring Kingfish opening as a solo act. (Photo courtesy of Peter Dammann).

Party emcee Lady A, a few of Clarksdale's many other formidable musicians, and a 12-year-old boy named Christone, who was playing bass. Winthrop Rhythm and Blues talent buyer Erika Olsen was also there, and captured pictures of the small sidewalk performance.

Peter now remembers remarking on the boy's surprising skill.

"You should hear him play guitar," said Stan.

Peter now confesses that he was then a bit jaundiced about child blues prodigies. But a couple years later, he got that chance to hear Christone, who was playing under his childhood nickname "Kingfish," play guitar.

The sequence of events is a bit jumbled now;



Peter Damman, left, jams with Kingfish at Red's, a legendary Clarksdale, Mississippi juke joint, in 2015, Dammann was visiting to try to arrange a performance for Kingfish at Portland Waterfront Blues Festival. Photo courtesy Peter Dammann.



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Kingfish remembers meeting Peter a couple years later at a jam at the world-renowned juke joint Red's. Peter remembers a show that took place earlier that weekend, in which, he laughingly recalls, his name and Stan's appeared above that of Kingfish on the small sidewalk sandwich board advertising the event. Kingfish was opening the show as a solo artist.

In any case, hearing the young musician on guitar erased any reservations Peter may have had about his prowess.

Shortly thereafter, Washington drummer Jeff Hayes called. At the time, he was traveling the south frequently, finding good musicians to bring to the Pacific Northwest for short tours. He explained that he'd met a young guy called "Kingfish," who by then was gigging steadily throughout the delta. Hayes wanted to bring him to the Northwest. He hoped Peter and Erika could help line up some shows.

Peter and Erika had already been considering ways to support the young artist. They decided to bring him to Portland and give him a chance on the festival stage. But they knew Christone's mother, Princess Pride (cousinto



Erika Olsen and Peter Dammann watch from the side of the stage at Portland Waterfront Blues Festival during Kingfish's 2015 performance. Days later, the two arranged a guest performance for Kingfish with Buddy Guy, who was so impressed he paid for Kingfish to record his first album. (Photo by Kathy Rankin)

country music legend Charlie Pride), was going to need a lot of reassurance that her son would be safe on the road. So in October of 2014, they flew to Mississippi and sat down with the family.

"I remember my mom and I, we all had lunch, and right after that we went to Red's," Christone now remembers. "I got a chance to jam with Peter."

Satisfied that her son would be well-cared for, Princess gave her permission for the trip. Peter scheduled him for a performance the following summer, early in the multiple-day festival.

The show was leagues better than even his supporters could have imagined. Peter had assembled a backing band including some of the most highly regarded musicians in the world of blues. And at just 16 years old, Kingfish fronted that band like he was already a superstar.

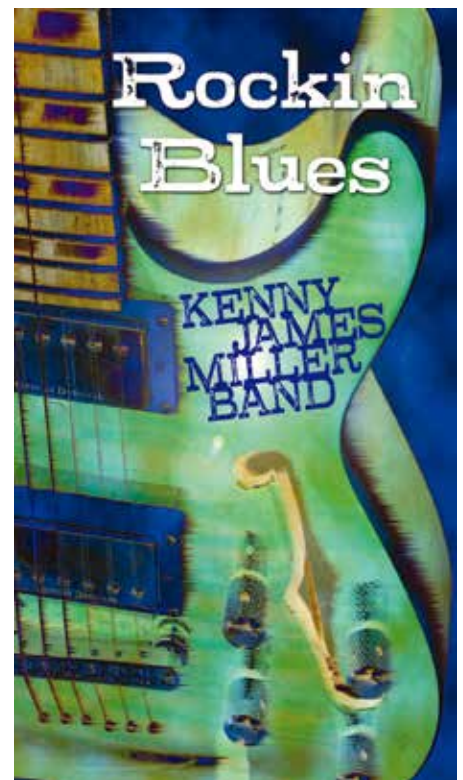
"The set was unrehearsed, and it was just brilliant. It was jaw-droppingly amazing," said Peter. "The range, the dynamics, the way he led the band, was masterful. After that really amazing set Erika said, 'We have to figure out how to get him up on stage with Buddy Guy.'"

Buddy Guy was one of the festival's headliners, and he is well-known for his support of young talent. The problem was, he wasn't playing until nearly the end of the festival. Kingfish had played one of the opening days and was supposed to fly straight home.

(Continued on Page 16)



Kingfish appears at the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival in 2016, his first appearance at the event. This year will mark his third Winthrop performance, which he says will be a little more soul-flavored than his previous shows.



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WinthropBluesFestival.org

"Hey, Eric, While You're Up, Would You Get Me a Grant?"

Special thanks to long-term, and recent, grant agencies for their support.

By Eric Steiner

I've had the good fortune to work in public and private grant and funding-related positions ever since I first learned how to write grants for the Seattle Indian Center at 12th Avenue South and South Jackson Street in the early 1990s.

I've worked in and around grants for the US Department of Labor funding youth employment programs, Casey Family Programs working with America's child welfare system, and for a short time, had my own consulting practice helping states, counties and cities respond to America's opioid epidemic. I've also had the good fortune to speak at a number of grant-related conferences training nonprofit organizations on how to prospect for, and receive, funding. Usually during the Q & A session following many presentations, an audience member would ask: "Hey Eric, while you're up, would you get me a grant?"

With this article, and others that will likely follow, I wanted to not only introduce readers to recent grants received by the Washington Blues Society, but also acknowledge new and long-term funders that have supported the blues society's work. First of all, I'd like to summarize the blues society's key activities, and then thank some of our recent, and long-term, grant partners.

A Blues Society History Lesson

The Washington Blues Society is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote, preserve and advance the culture of blues music as an art form. The blues society is affiliated with The Blues Foundation, headquartered in Memphis, and is the third largest blues society in the world (out of 150 all-volunteer arts organizations). Recognizing this music's roots in African American history, the blues society provides arts and cultural programming to raise awareness among all communities of this uniquely African American art form. The all-volunteer blues society's primary activities are:

1. Produce of a monthly 32-page Bluesletter magazine with a circulation topping 5,000 (in print and online),
2. Host free live blues shows at our second and fourth Tuesday "Blues Bashes" in Shoreline and in Snohomish, and pay musicians a modest stipend from donations received at the door,
3. Host a Musician Relief Fund that confidentially responds to requests for emergency assistance from musicians in need,
4. Staff 40+ festivals and other special events (including memorial services) with volunteers and merchandise sales support,
5. Support an education initiative, called Passing the Torch, designed to reach children and youth through in-school and after-school music workshops led by professional musicians,
6. Host an annual awards show, Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") recognizing blues performers nominated by the society's 1,000+ members,
7. Conduct statewide awards competitions to send a band and a solo/duo act to compete in Memphis at the International Blues Challenge, and
8. Maintain a website that includes a treasure trove of blues information and resources, ranging from an online calendar, a Bluesletter archive, Hall of Fame tabs, and talent and radio listings to promote blues music in the Pacific Northwest.

The Washington Blues Society received the prestigious Keeping the Blues Alive Award in 2009 from The Blues Foundation on its 20th anniversary, and many blues society board members are active nationally in select Blues Foundation events (e.g., International Blues Challenge, Keeping the Blues Alive Awards, Blues Music Awards). For example, current president Tony Frederickson and I

served one three-year term elected to serve on the Board of The Blues Foundation in Memphis. We have led workshops at select Blues Foundation events on budgeting, sustainable operations, and fundraising (including grants, revenue development, in-kind donations).

Of particular importance to the Board of the Washington Blues Society is the organization's proactive work on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and the organization published its DEI statement in the June 2021 Bluesletter. Over the past 70 Bluesletters, a majority of the magazines have featured Black, Indigenous and People of Color prominently, and also have highlighted contributions of disabled and elderly artists, veterans, and religious and sexual minorities.

The blues society has served marginalized communities since 1989 through special events that initially attracted families with developmentally disabled children and youth, veterans and elders of all races and ethnic groups. These annual picnics continue to bring communities together, and the blues society also honors contributions of regional blues elders (e.g., the Holden clan of Seattle, Quincy Jones, Leslie "Star Drums" Milton, et al) through live performance and cover stories in the *Bluesletter*.

Special Thanks!

Over the past couple of years, the Washington Blues Society has been fortunate to receive funds from a select group of public and private grantmakers. We are deeply grateful for this support, particularly in the context of COVID-19 since March of 2020. We are slowly working our way back to pre-pandemic budgets and are mindful of the trust placed in the blues society by these funders. Each of the following grantmakers opened grant competitions over the past three years, and each grant application had its own requirements, formats, timelines, and reporting processes. Grant amounts ranged from \$3,500 to \$34,000 with specific

deliverables or reimbursements, and some applications took me two hours while others needed 30 or more hours for me to complete them.



Washington Department of Commerce, Washington Arts Commission & the Washington Festival and Events Association

This unique public/private partnership helped the Washington Blues Society recoup select pandemic-related losses as part of the federal American Rescue Plan Act. The National Endowment for the Arts is also supporting this work, and the Washington Blues Society is grateful for the opportunity. This one-time, limited grant facilitated a new relationship between the blues society and the Washington Festival and Events Association, a new network for the blues society.



City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture Cultural Organization Reopening Fund

The City of Seattle reimbursed the Washington Blues Society from the federal American Rescue Plan for costs incurred between December of 2022 and March of 2023 as a way for the city to provide direct financial relief to cultural organizations who experienced losses due to COVID-related closures and disruptions in 2020.



Washington Department of Commerce: Working Washington Round 5

This grant, a one-time \$45M statewide set-aside for the arts, heritage, and science sectors, helped the Washington Blues Society offset costs associated with publishing and distributing the monthly *Bluesletter* magazine in 2022, and the blues society is grateful for this support.



4Culture, the Cultural Development Authority of King County: 2022 & 2023 Arts Sustained Support

4Culture has funded Washington Blues Society activities ranging from live performances to *Bluesletter* distribution for a few years. This grant reimburses the blues society for costs incurred during events hosted in King County during 2022 and 2023, such as magazine distribution and printing and sound technician costs at select live music events in King County.



ArtsFund Community Accelerator Grant Program

In March 2023, ArtsFund and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation announced 671 grantees of the Community Accelerator Grant, a historic investment in Washington's arts and culture sector. Administered by Arts

Fund and funded by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the program provided just over \$10M in \$2,500 to \$25,000 grants across Washington state. The distribution was made just six months after the partnership was announced, in response to the continued sector need. The Washington Blues Society is grateful for Arts Fund Support.

Looking Ahead to July...

Next month, I'll provide a step-by-step plan to show readers how we've accessed a select group of public and private grants. This plan will introduce the importance of what I call "administrative scaffolding" that includes a business license, insurance and registration for a System for Award Management account and a Unique Entity Identifier with key federal grant agencies.

I'll also include the five links that I consult several times a week at the federal, state, city, and county levels of government as I look for funding for the Washington Blues Society. Sure, it's admittedly a lot "red tape," but it's all worth it when we can access grant funds to promote, preserve and share live blues music with new and repeat audiences.

Over time, I also want to provide information to artists, bands, festivals and communities regarding resources that may be of interest to for-profit companies, as for-profit enterprises are generally not eligible to apply for grants.

In future issues, I will share resources like local Economic Development Associations, Chambers of Commerce, and outreach through our state's network of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers that are designed to help Washington businesses compete for government contracts. We have many military and federal installations in the Evergreen State, and I would like to learn how we can work with these important community resources to host live blues music.

Blues on the Road!

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

Compiled by Eric Steiner

Here is a sampling of national acts touring through Washington and the Pacific Northwest this month. I'm excited this month's listing includes two live music venues that are new to the Bluesletter: Madame Lou's, downstairs from the Crocodile Café at 2501 1st Avenue in Seattle, and the Shakedown, home to the Racket Bar and Pinball Lounge, at 1212 North State Street in Bellingham.



Tower of Power

June begins with some soulful East Bay Grease courtesy of Tower of Power as this legendary band returns to Seattle's Jazz Alley from the 1st through the 4th. Tower of Power features Emilio Castillo on second tenor sax and vocals, Stephen ("Doc") Kupka on baritone sax, David Garibaldi on drums, Roger Smith on keyboards and vocals, Tom E. Politzer on lead tenor sax, Adolfo Acosta on second trumpet and flugelhorn, Jerry Cortez on guitar and vocals, Marc van Wageningen on bass, and Mike Bogart on Lead Trumpet. Later this summer, Tower of Power will return to Europe for a 13-date tour culminating in two French jazz festivals.



Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band

This month, the 19th, 2023 Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band will play Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery in Woodinville on the 4th. The line-up features guitarist Steve Lukather (Toto), vocalist and guitarist Colin Hay

(Men at Work), multi-instrumentalist Edgar Winter ("Frankenstein"), saxophonist Warren Ham (Kansas), guitarist Hamish Stuart (Average White Band), drummer Gregg Bissonette (Maynard Ferguson). The tour brings the former Beatle back to the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles on the 15th before concluding with shows in Paso Robles at the Vina Robles Amphitheatre on the 16th and in San Jose at the San Jose Civic on the 17th. Last year, Ringo released Live at the Greek Theatre 2019 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the All-Star Band, and in 2010, Ringo produced and released Live at the Greek Theatre 2008.



Bob Log III

One of the quirkiest one man blues bands I've ever seen, Bob Log III, sings "blues punk" through a helmet affixed with an old, wired telephone handset to the Sunset Tavern in Seattle on the 7th and the Shakedown in Bellingham on the 8th. Some of his stage antics aren't suitable for an all-ages magazine, but his sets are often both unpredictable and entertaining at the same time. I wonder how, or if, Bob might work the pinball machines into his set in Bellingham.



Chris Stapleton, Marty Stuart & Allen Stone

One of country music's most prolific songwriters (170+ songwriting credits!) is back on tour. On the 15th, Country Music Hall of Fame Member Marty Stuart and Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival favorite vocalist Allen Stone, join Chris Stapleton at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena, followed by a show at Hayden Homes Amphitheatre in Bend, Oregon, on the 16th. Chris returns to Washington with George Strait and Little Big Town at Seattle's Lumen Field on the 17th, and that same night, Allen Stone sings at the Knitting Factory in Boise, Idaho.

During the production of this issue, I

watched Allen mentor young talent on the American Idol TV show filmed in Hawaii, and it was a lot of fun watching this Chewelah, Washington native help young performers on one of America's highest rated, popular television programs.

(Graphics: Christ Stapleton Tour Logo from Tour Website, Photo of Marty Stuart by Alysse Gafkjem, and Allen Stone Photo from Allen Stone Website).



Erykah Badu & Yasiin Bey

On the 23rd, Erykah Badu and Yasiin Bey bring their Unfollow Me Tour to Seattle's WaMu Theatre. Like Erika, Yasiin, formerly known as Mos Def, is an accomplished musician and actor himself. I fondly remember Erykah's star turn as voodoo priestess Queen Moussette in Blues Brothers 2000. In that movie, Ellwood Blues (Dan Aykroyd) tries to keep the Blues Brothers band together with a strangely prophetic and desperate plea: "... if you walk away now and you walk away from your crafts, your skills, your vocations; leaving the next generation with nothing but recycled, digitally-sampled techno-grooves, quasi-synth rhythms, pseudo-songs of violence-laden gangsta-rap, acid pop, and simpering, saccharine, soulless slush."



Los Lobos, The North Mississippi All Stars & Taj Mahal

Celebrating their 50th year on tour in 2023, Los Lobos ("Just another band from East

L.A.") returns to the Pacific Northwest this month with the North Mississippi All Stars to play Chateau Ste. Michelle in Woodinville on the 23rd, followed by shows featuring Taj Mahal at the Cuthbert Amphitheatre in Eugene on the 24th and the Hayden Homes Amphitheatre in Bend, Oregon on the 25th. Taj Mahal's newest CD on Stony Plain, Savoy, celebrates the legacy of the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem, one of the first public spaces in America that allowed integration between Black and white dancers. I expect that Savoy will land on many "Top 10" CD lists this year!



Jesse Malin

Ever since I saw this memorable New York-based rocker at Seattle's Sunset Tavern decades ago, I marveled at how Jesse Malin kept punk rock alive. On the 26th, he'll play Madame Lou's, the 300-seat venue downstairs from Seattle's main Crocodile Club. Twenty years ago, around his 35th birthday, Jesse recorded his first solo CD, The Fine Art of Self Destruction, after playing in the Heart Attack and D Generation bands around New York. This year, he's re-recorded and re-released the record with the original band. Jesse also was a music supervisor on a 2009 documentary fondly remembering New York's incubator of punk music in the Bowery: CBGB: Burning Down the House. Thanks to Jesse and the documentary, I've learned what the CBGB, and its subtitle, OMFUG acronyms, mean: Country Blue-Grass Blues (CBGB) and Other Music for Uplifting Gourmandizers (OMFUG).



Indigo Girls, Neko Case & Garrison Starr

The Indigo Girls and former Seattleite Neko Case play the Zoo Tunes summer concert series at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo on

the 28th, and Los Angeles-based, Grammy nominated Garrison Starr opens for the Indigo Girls on the 29th. On the 30th, Neko Case will release Wild Creatures, a career-spanning LP with essays from Susan Orlean (The New Yorker) and Katie Crutchfield (Waxahatchie) and guest commentary from Indigo Girl Amy Ray, Talking Head David Byrne, and New York-based music critic Sasha Frere-Jones.



Polly's Pick:

GravelRoad and Lady A w/guests

I was cruising around the local entertainment websites to see what I might want to catch this month and ran across a bit of a surprise at the Tractor Tavern. I saw Lady A's familiar face beaming at me, along side the band GravelRoad, which is a blues-punk band about which Classic Rock Magazine said, "It's a little like what John Lee Hooker may have sounded like in Black Sabbath. And who wouldn't want to hear that?" The depth of Lady A's Rolodex (dated myself there, I'm afraid) never fails to astonish me. This should be a pretty cool show, June 9, at the Tractor Tavern.

A Blues and Gospel Lover's Guide to Juneteenth Around the State

Compiled by Polly O'Keary

Juneteenth has only been a national holiday since 2021. But it has been a holiday for American Black citizens since 1866. Although the Emancipation Proclamation officially outlawed slavery on January 1, 1863, the practice was slow to end. The Civil War was not yet over, and as long as it was being fought, slaveowners defied the national law. Even after the Confederacy surrendered April 9, 1865, many slavers were reluctant to comply. It was not until June 19, 1865, that Union General Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3, forbidding human enslavement in Texas. For many Black Texans, it was the first time they learned they were free.

The following year, the first "Juneteenth" celebration was held in Galveston, Texas, where the emancipation order was given. As the years went on, the celebrations grew and spread. Some Black communities even pooled funds and bought land to hold them on. Some groups made pilgrimages to Galveston to celebrate. By the Civil Rights era of the mid-20th Century, Juneteenth was established in every state in the nation, and became a day to celebrate Black culture, political action, and freedom.

This year will mark the third observation of the remembrance as a federal holiday, but many communities have been celebrating a lot longer than that. Here is a selection of Juneteenth celebrations around Washington that include blues, soul, R&B and/or gospel music from the African-American tradition.

Bellingham

Juneteenth: Freedom Day

This will be the fifth year that Bellingham Unity Committee will host a Juneteenth celebration that honors and celebrates freedom of all people.

- Saturday, June 17
- 2- 6 p.m. at Maritime Heritage Park



- Free
- Bring your food and blanket to spread on the grass around the Maritime Amphitheatre for this community picnic featuring live Funk, Soul, R&B, Reggae music, dance performances, community step, community art wall, community organizations tabling, and more.

Tri-Cities

Red and Black on the Green

Come out wearing your best red and black attire and celebrate Juneteenth at the 2nd annual Red & Black on the Green Soiree to celebrate Black empowerment, freedom and culture!



- Saturday, June 24, 2023. Doors 6:30 pm.
- Frichette Winery, 39412 N Sunset Rd. Benton City.
- \$150 per ticket. Proceeds will fund 2024 youth scholarship awards.

Attendees are guaranteed to enjoy a night amongst the vines filled with delicious soul food, wine, music, poetry, and community. Enjoy a beautiful feast of BBQ chicken, fried fish, macaroni & cheese, greens, black eyed peas, cabbage, cornbread, and red velvet cake. A glass of wine is included with each ticket. Additional wine is available for purchase. Proceeds will directly benefit the scholarship program for local youth through The Tri-Cities Diversity & Inclusion organization. Music includes the soulful Leah Jenae, who made it to the top four of Fox's The Four in 2018, blues powerhouse

Tiphony Dames and the Coyote Kings, and emerging talent HNYZEE with student artist Anyla McDonald.

Spokane

- Monday, June 19

The theme of this year's largest event in Spokane is Liberty, Literacy, Livelihood, planned by the Inland Empire Juneteenth Coalition. At press time details had not been finalized.

Seattle area

Seward Park

SDOT Black Employees Association presents: Juneteenth Event



- Monday, June 19, 11 a.m. -7 p.m.
- Seward Park, Seattle
- Free and open to the public.

Blues, funk and soul queen Lady A and the Fellas will be performing for this 2nd Annual SDOT Black Employee Association Juneteenth Celebration. There will be fun, the Mayor's address, food trucks, good people and music.

The Paramount, Seattle

Songs of Black Folk 2023: Music of Resistance & Hope

- Sunday June 18th, at 7 p.m.
- Seattle at the Paramount Theatre
- Tickets start at \$30



The 2nd Annual Songs Of Black Folk will again present a music tradition that began on the African continent and was transported to the Americas, via slave ships, and took root in the daily sufferings of an enslaved Black people who chose to survive and who fought to be free. This concert will feature the rise of the Negro Spirituals and demonstrate how they have evolved into other Black musical genres including, blues, Gospel, jazz, R&B, Hip-Hop, and even spoken word.

Tacoma

Juneteenth: A Road to Economic Freedom

The festival will include a main stage filled with performances and speakers, an interactive kid's zone and stage, face painting and a playground.



- Monday, June 19, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Stewart Heights Park
- Free

Music will feature BET's 1st Sunday Best Winner gospel artist Crystal Aikin and pop star J. Holiday. The Juneteenth festival will host over fifty vendors from trade associations, local businesses, nonprofits, and finance. The goal is to create an opportunity for economic growth and set a path for financial stability within the BIPOC community, and, of course, to celebrate.

Walla Walla

- Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- At Pioneer Park
- Free

This is the second Walla Walla Juneteenth celebration. Although the music lineup has not yet been announced, blues/soul is planned for part of the event. Music is coordinated by Sounds of the People, a Walla Walla non-profit celebrating and promoting BIPOC artists. The event, though free, is a fundraiser for opportunities for local Black youth, so be on the lookout for ways to contribute. The event includes free soul food but get there early. Last year the organizers planned food for 100 and 400 people showed up! This is a popular event.

Yakima

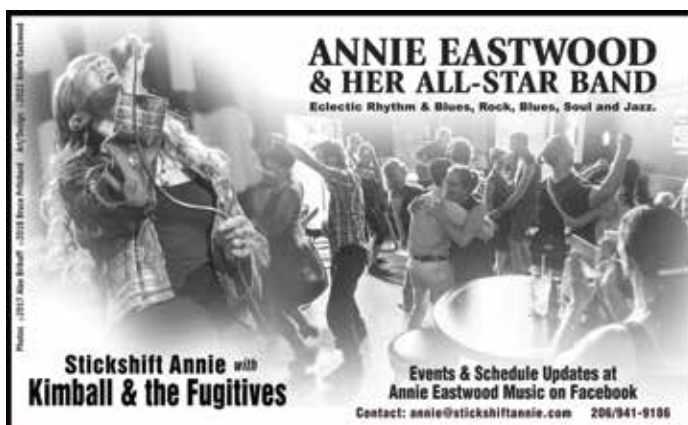
Juneteenth Celebration

- Monday, Jun 19 3 - 6 p.m
- Seasons Performance Hall
- Admission: \$15, VIP tables \$50-\$100

The Seasons Performance Hall invites the community to join in the celebration



of Juneteenth. The celebration will begin with an informal reception with complimentary small bites, non-alcoholic beverages and alcoholic beverages available for purchase. The evening will then showcase Josephine Howell and her band presenting a gospel chorus, blues set, and finally jazz, a journey through the traditions that changed music in America and the world through the infusion of African American styles. Dinner offerings will feature special dishes from traditional family style dinners in the African American Community.



Washington Blues Stars Shine at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline

Celebrating the Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") in the Evergreen State

Compiled by Eric Steiner

On Sunday, April 23rd, the Washington Blues Society recognized achievements of Washington's blues music community in 2022 at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline, Washington at its annual Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") show. The event was also streamed to an online audience from the Washington Blues Society's YouTube channel. Blues society members nominated BB Award recipients in 30+ categories with Joel Astley leading the field with five nominations and five awards.

Joel Astley received the Paul Green Blues Harmonica, Blues Performer, New Blues Band, Blues Songwriter, and Blues Graphic (CD Cover for "Stuck Inside" by Eric's Maine Connection) Awards. Blues society members voted the Blues Invasion in Historic Downtown Snohomish as Best Non-Festival Blues Event, the Mt. Baker Rhythm and Blues Festival as Best Regional Blues Festival, and Poverty Bay Blues and Brews in Des Moines as Best Community Blues Festival.

Long-time blues society performers honored include Billy Stapleton in the Slide Blues Guitar and Lifetime Achievement categories, Scotty Harris in Blues Bass and Blues Hall of Fame, and Mary McPage in the Blues Female Vocalist and Solo/Duo Artist Awards for the McPage and Powell Duo. The Madison Avenue Pub in Everett received its 5th BB Award for Best Blues Club, and blues society voters selected the pub's Unbound Blues Jam for its ninth Best Blues Jam Award. KNKX-FM Blues DJ John Kessler, a 2009 Keeping the Blues Alive Award recipient from The Blues Foundation, received his ninth Best Blues DJ BB Award.

The Washington Blues Society Board selected Robin Barrett (Walla Walla Guitar Festival), Rebecca Williams (Festival Volunteer Extraordinaire), Rob Bramlett (Fully Loaded Podcast, Bramlett Entertainment, Madison Avenue Pub), and Marcia Jackson (Salmon Bay Eagles' "Kitchen Wench") for "Blue to the

Bone" Awards for exceptional contributions to the state's blues community. KNKX-FM Blues DJ John Kessler, a 2009 Keeping the Blues Alive Award recipient from The Blues Foundation, received his ninth Best Blues DJ BB Award.

Each year, the Washington Blues Society's BB Awards' In Memoriam presentation honors the memory of blues community members who have passed on since the last awards show with photos projected on Aurora Borealis' big screens throughout the venue. Washington musicians in this year's In Memoriam included Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters), Van Conner (Screaming Trees), Alan White (Yes), Jeremiah Green (Modest Mouse), Tacoma's Billy Pease, Chuck Deardorf (Cornish College of the Arts), and long-time Ebey Island Freedom Festival musician Dwight Walker.

The Washington Blues Society is an all-volunteer, nonprofit affiliate of The Blues Foundation in Memphis, Tennessee. For more information, please visit www.wablues.org. The awards show is online at <https://www.youtube.com/c/washingtonbluessociety>.

A Personal Take on a Great Show!

The awards show was scheduled to debut at the Nile Shrine Events Center in Mountlake Terrace as a first-ever \$50 ticketed event that would have included a buffet. Instead, a mix-up required blues society leaders to find an alternative, and after working with Ticket Tomato to refund each presold ticket, I was pleased that the show landed back at the Aurora Borealis. The day featured several surprises for me, and thanks to technology, it's available on the Washington Blues Society YouTube channel.

Last year, Bluesletter contributor Kirk Anderson gave me an empty clamshell that once contained the "The tastiest blues" (as in blueberries from the grocery store). Kirk worked the day of this year's awards show, but my wife Vickie and I shared a table in the back room with another Bluesletter contributor, sax man Steve Pearse. A couple



of weeks prior to the show, I got a text from a number I thought I knew. Several texts back and forth and I learned that blueswoman Dana Lupinacci was on the other end of the phone. It was great to see her at this year's awards show!

One of the day's many surprises, apart from announcing awards with Billy Stoops, was seeing Nepalese bluesman Prakash Slim in person for the first time. Keith Scott, "the fishin' musician" introduced me to Slim virtually early during the pandemic (and it resulted in some great Bluesletter coverage of this innovative and insightful blues performer and educator). I later learned that Prakash Slim was on his first American tour "8000 Miles to the Crossroads" that began in early April. Prior to the BB Awards, Slim toured with Blues Music Award nominee Johnny Burgin, and played at the Juke Joint Festival, Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Next year, participate in the Washington Blues Society's Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") process. It all starts with a membership, as nominating your favorite blues act and voting for them, are privileges of membership.

Above: Andie Whitewing & Marisue Thomas
Photo by Rick J. Bowen

Congratulations to this year's Best of the Blues Awards winners!

Open Blues Jam

Madison Ave Pub Unbound Blues Jam

Blues Photographer : Gordy Mitchell

Blues Club: Madison Avenue Pub

Non-Festival Blues Event:

Snohomish Blues Invasion

Blues Writer: Polly O'Keary

Blues Graphic: Joel Astley "Stuck Inside" by Eric's Maine Connection CD Cover

Blues DJ: John Kessler

Community Blues Festival

Poverty Bay Blues & Brews

Regional Blues Festival

Mt. Baker Rhythm & Blues

Chris Leighton Blues Drummer Award

Andrew Cloutier

Paul Green Blues Harmonica Award

Joel Astley

Blues Horn: Mike Marinig

Blues Bass: Scotty Harris

Blues Piano/Keyboard: Billy Reed

Instrumentalist Other: Mike Marinig

Acoustic Blues Guitar: Rod Cook

Electric Blues Guitar: Rafael Tranquilino

Slide Blues Guitar: Billy Stapleton

Mark Dufresne Male Vocalist Award

Chris Eger

Blues Female Vocalist: Mary McPage

Blues Songwriter: Joel Astley

Washington Blues Recording

Fat James Band "Mountains in the Sky"

Solo /Duo Blues Act: McPage & Powell

New Blues Band: Joel Astley Band

Blues Performer: Joel Astley

Little Bill & the Blue Notes Traditional

Blues Act: Joe Cook Blues Band

Blue to the Bone

Robin Barrett

Rebeca Williams

Rob Bramlett

Marcia Jackson



Keeping the Blues Alive: Jeannie Baker

Blues Lifetime Achievement:

Billy Stapleton

Blues Hall of Fame: Scotty Harris

Blues Band: Eric's Maine Connection



Above: Jeannie & Rob Baker

Below: John Kessler, KNKX-FM Blues DJ
(Photos by Rick J. Bowen)

Upper Middle: Rick Bowen & Marcia Jackson

Lower Middle: Prakash Slim
(Photos by Eric Steiner)



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June's Music

Mondays with Mad Bojo 7 till 9-ish

Tuesday Night Dinner Show 7 till 9
 6/6 Brian Butler 6/13 Sirsy 6/20 Reji Marc
 6/27 Unbound Band with Kevin Sutton

Wednesday Unbound Blues Jam
 with special guests each week 7pm
 6/7 Joel Astley & Joseph Barton 6/14 Diego Romero
 6/21 Bill Davis & Justin Kausal Hayes 6/28 Don & Diane Forsyth

Thursday Singer/Songwriter Showcase 7-9ish
 Kevin Sutton with special guests 6/8
 Stacy Jones with special guests 6/15, 6/22, 6/29

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 David Sanborn 8-11
 Charles McPherson 13-14
 Al Di Meola 15-18
 Kings Return 20-21
 Judy Collins 22-25
 Emmet Cohen Trio 27-28
 Acoustic Alchemy 29 - 30

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Nick Vigarino
Rae Gordon
Kim & Brian
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Starbird Rd. Mount Vernon

June 2023 Live Blues Music Calendar!

Our website has the most up-to-date live music calendar & listings online @ www.wablues.org/

JUNE 1

Sunbanks Country & Americana Festival, Electric City 5 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Blues Revue 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Kevin Sutton 7 PM

Black Angus, Federal Way: The Lizards 7 PM

Black Angus, Puyallup: Michael Powers 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Tower of Power 7:30 PM

High Dive, Seattle: Scott Pemberton 8 PM

JUNE 2

Sunbanks Country & Americana Festival, Electric City 1 PM

Music Discovery Center & The Coffee Oasis, Poulsbo: Rafael Tranquilino 6 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Stickshift Annie w/Kimball & the Fugitives 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Tower of Power 7:30 PM

Triple Door, Seattle: Massy Ferguson & Paula Boggs Band 7:30 PM

Pub 282, Camano: Stacy Jones Band 7:30 PM

JUNE 3

Sunbanks Country & Americana Festival, Electric City 1 PM

Cap Sante Marina, Anacortes: Anacortes Waterfront Festival 12 PM

Maritime Gig Fest: Gig Harbor 12 PM

The Repp, Snohomish: Rod Cook 6:30 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Purple Passion Swing Band 7 PM

Molten Works, Woodinville: Blue Healers 7 PM

Rockfish, Anacortes: Sheri Roberts Greimes & Jo Momma 7 PM

Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma: Rockfish & Friends 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Tower of Power 7:30 PM

Grape & Grain, Everett: Norris & Nicely 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Rafael Tranquilino 7 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: BluMeadows 7 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Dermody Sherman Band 8 PM

Snohomish Eagles, Snohomish: Stevie & the Blue Flames 8 PM

The Mill, Milton: Powerhouse 8pm

Conway Muse, Conway: Nick Vigarino 8 PM

Easy Monkey, Shoreline: John Stephan Band 8 PM

JUNE 4

Sunbanks Country & Americana Festival, Electric City 1 PM

Maritime Gig Fest: Gig Harbor 12 PM

La Conner Live, La Conner: Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 1 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: The Dermody/Sherman Band

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Tower of Power 7:30 PM

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

The Lime, Kirkland: Herding Cats 9 PM

JUNE 5

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM

Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective 7:30 PM

Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

The Central Saloon, Seattle: JP Falcon Band 8 PM

JUNE 6

Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Pinetree Tuesday Blues Showcase 6:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Brian Butler 7 PM

Quil Ceda Creek Casino, Tulalip: Stacy Jones Band 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Brandee Younger Trio 7:30 PM

Tim's Tavern, White Center: Big Kitty 8 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: John Case 8 PM

Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver: Ben Rice & the Hustle

JUNE 7

The Spar, Tacoma: Brian Kirk 6 PM

CCR, Snohomish: The Usual Suspects 7 PM

Rockfish, Anacortes: Joan Penny 6 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Brandee Younger Trio 7:30 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Sheri & da Boyz 8 PM

Rabbit Box, Seattle: Dusty 45's 8 PM

JUNE 8

Chinook Fest, Naches 4 PM

Bellevue Connection, Bellevue: Brett Benton 4:30 PM

Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood & Friends 6 PM

Slim's Last Chance Saloon, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Blues Revue 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: David Sanborn 7:30 PM

JUNE 9

Bellevue Downtown Park, Bellevue: Savanna Woods 12 PM

Chinook Fest, Naches 4 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 7 PM

Black Angus, Puyallup: Blues Healers 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: David Sanborn 7:30 PM

Tractor Tavern, Seattle: Gravel Road & Lady A 8 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Stevie & the Blue Flames 8 PM

Tim's Tavern, White Center: Dusty 45's 8 PM

Zesty's, Lakewood: Linda Carroll & Retro Gruve 8 PM

JUNE 10

Fall City, Fall City Days 12 PM

Chinook Fest, Naches 1 PM

The Repp, Snohomish: Norris & Nicely 6:30 PM

Bits, Mukilteo: Blue Healers 7 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Big Mischief Band 7 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Jim Valley 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: David Sanborn 7:30 PM

Easy Monkey, Shoreline: Mark DuFresne Band 8 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Stacy Jones Band 8 PM

JUNE 11

Chinook Fest, Naches 1 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Linda Meyers Band 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: David Sanborn 7:30 PM

Peabo's, Mill Creek: Peabo's Sunday Music Revue

The Lime, Kirkland: Herding Cats 9 PM

JUNE 12

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM

Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective 7:30 PM

Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

JUNE 13

Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Pinetree Tuesday Blues Showcase 6:30 PM.

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w/The Nevertellers

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Sirsy 7 PM

Quil Ceda Creek Casino, Tulalip: Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Charles McPherson 7:30 PM

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

Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver: Ben Rice & the Hustle

JUNE 14

Key Center, Bellevue: Ranger & the Re-Arrangers 12 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Apollo Suns (Special Event) 6 PM

CCR, Snohomish: The Usual Suspects 7 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: ET B3 Trio 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Charles McPherson 7:30 PM

JUNE 15

Bellevue Connection, Bellevue: Massy Ferguson 4:30 PM

Sunbanks, Electric City: Sunbanks Festival 5 PM

Triple Door, Seattle: Booker T Jones 6 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones 7 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Blues Revue 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Al Di Meola 7:30 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Johnny Atomic & the Silver Tongued Devils 8 PM

JUNE 16

Meeker Days, Puyallup 1 PM

Downtown Park, Bellevue: Thunder Honey 12 PM

Bertelsten Winery, Mt Vernon: Powerhouse 5 PM

Triple Door, Seattle: Booker T Jones 6 PM
Old Stove, Seattle: Blue Healers 7 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Jack Cook & the Phantoms of Soul 7 PM
Blue Frog Studios, White Rock B.C.: Deanna Bogart Band & Shakura S'aida 7 PM
Grape & Grain, Everett: Blue Healers 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Al Di Meola 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Ron Bailey & the Tangents 8 PM
Mirkwood, Arlington: Eric's Maine Connection 8 PM
Sons of Norway, Seattle : Mark Dufresne Band 8 PM

JUNE 17

Edmonds Arts Festival, Edmonds 12pm
Meeker Days, Puyallup 1pm
The Repp, Snohomish: Annie Eastwood & Chris Stevens 6:30 PM
Blue Frog Studios, White Rock B.C.: Deanna Bogart Band & Shakura S'aida 7 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: 8th St Big Band 7 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Seattle House Rockers
Grape & Grain , Everett: Blue Healers 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Al Di Meola 7:30 PM
Easy Monkey, Shoreline: Annie Eastwood All Star Band 8 PM
Conway Muse, Conway: Mojo Cannon 8 PM
Rockfish, Anacortes: Stevie & the Blue Flames 8 PM
Jazzbones Tacoma: Stacy Jones Band 8 PM
Bethel Saloon, Port Orchard: King Kom Beaux 8 PM

JUNE 18

Edmonds Arts Festival, Edmonds: Stacy Jones Band 2 PM
The Spar, Tacoma: T Town Aces 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Al Di Meola 7:30 PM
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Peabo's Sunday Music Revue 7 PM
The Lime, Kirkland: Herding Cats 9 PM

JUNE 19

Seasons Performance Hall, Yakima: Josephine Howell Juneteenth Celebration 7 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM
Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective 7:30 PM
Blue Moon, Seattle Andy Coe Band 9 PM

JUNE 20

Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Pinetree Tuesday Blues Showcase 6:30 PM
Quil Ceda Creek Casino, Tulalip: Eric's Maine Connection 7 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Reji Marc 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Kings Return 7:30 PM
Triple Door, Seattle: Bettye LaVette 7:30 PM
Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver: Ben Rice & the Hustle

JUNE 21

Bellevue Square Fountain, Bellevue: Darelle Holden 12 PM
CCR, Snohomish: The Usual Suspects 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Kings Return 7:30 PM

JUNE 22

Bellevue Connection, Bellevue: Miller Campbell 4:30 PM
Bad Albert's, Seattle Annie Eastwood, & Friends 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones w/guests 7 PM
Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Blues Revue 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Judy Collins 7:30 PM
Triple Door, Seattle: Bettye LaVette 7:30 PM

JUNE 23

Bellevue Downtown Park, Bellevue: Entre Mundos 12 PM
Skamania Fairgrounds, Stevenson Gorge Blues & Brews 5 PM
Chateau St Michelle, Woodinville: Taj Mahal Quartet & Los Lobos with North Mississippi Allstars 6:30 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: David Francis 7 PM
Kimball Coffee House, Gig Harbor: Joel Astley 7 PM
The Bindlestick, Snoqualmie: Powerhouse 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Judy Collins 7:30 PM
Pub 282 Camano Island: Annie Eastwood All Star Band 8 PM
Royal Room, Seattle: Late night w/Freddy Fuego 10 PM

JUNE 24

Skamania Fairgrounds, Stevenson: Gorge Blues & Brews 2 PM
Rhubarb days, Sumner: Linda Carol & the Gruv 3 PM
The Repp, Snohomish: Norris & Nicely 6:30 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Joe Cook Band 7 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method 7 PM
Bailey's Corner, Clinton: Nick Vigarino 7 PM
The Spar, Tacoma: Trailer Park Kings 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Judy Collins 7:30 PM
Pub 282 Camano: Joel Astley 7:30 PM
Conway Muse, Conway: Great American Trainwreck 8 PM
Easy Monkey, Shoreline: Powerhouse 8 PM

JUNE 25

Woodinville Junction, Woodinville: Annie Eastwood & Kimball Conant 1:30 PM
The Grange, Duval: Joel Astley 5 p
Chateau St Michele , Woodinville: Leftover Salmon w/Railroad Earth & Yonder Mountain String Band

6:30 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues 7 PM
Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma: Groovin' Higher 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Judy Collins 7:30 PM
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Peabo's Sunday Music Revue 8 PM
The Lime, Kirkland: Herding Cats 9 PM

JUNE 26

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM
Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective 7:30 PM
Blue Moon, Seattle Andy Coe Band 9 PM

JUNE 27

Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Pinetree Tuesday Blues Showcase 6:30 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w/Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek and Acoustic Ave 7 PM
Quil Ceda Creek Casino, Tulalip: Chris Eger Band 7 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Unbound w/Kevin Sutton 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Emmet Cohen 7:30 PM
Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver: Ben Rice & the Hustle

JUNE28

Bellevue Square Fountain, Bellevue: Tomo Nakayama 12 PM
CCR, Snohomish: The Usual Suspects 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Emmet Cohen 7:30 PM

JUNE 29

Bellevue Connection, Bellevue: Bradford Loomis 4:30 PM
Bad Albert's, Seattle Annie Eastwood, & Friends 6 PM
Elizabeth Park, Bellingham: Naughty Blokes 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones w/guests 7 PM
Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Blues Revue 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Acoustic Alchemy 7:30PM]
Triple Door, Seattle: Carl Verheyen 7:30 PM

JUNE 30

Downtown Park, Bellevue: Elias Kauhane 12 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: The Loose Heels 7 PM
Looking Glass Coffee, Snohomish: Blue Healers 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Acoustic Alchemy 7:30 PM
Tim's Tavern, White Center: Dusty 45's 8 PM
Bakes Place, Bellevue: Powerhouse 9 PM

The Return of the King (Continued)

The artist says he can't wait to show off his new material to Winthrop music fans

Phone calls were made, plane tickets rescheduled, and Christone stayed in town. Peter and Erika contacted Buddy Guy and asked if a guest spot for Christone could be arranged. Buddy Guy was already traveling with a young protégé named Quinn Sullivan who was appearing at all his shows, but he welcomed Christone to join them.

"Buddy just stood back and watched the fireworks happen," Peter said.

It was clear to everyone there, Peter said, that they were watching the birth of a star.

"After Waterfront, everyone knew that this guy was something special, and not just for guitar chops, but for the depth of his emotional connection to what he was playing," Peter said. "There are a lot of great players out there. I don't get blown away by guitar chops anymore. But Kingfish was deep."

Things began to happen very quickly.

The Making of a King

Buddy Guy got his drummer Tom Hambridge, a well-known Nashville-based song-

writer and producer, to start work on a recording project with the young artist. Funded by Buddy Guy, the team wrote songs for Kingfish, built him a top-flight studio band, and recorded an album simply called "Kingfish."

In the meantime, Erika and Peter were doing all they could for Christone. Erika called Michael Morris, a veteran agent with top talent agency Monterey International, and recommended that he check Kingfish out. Morris signed him.

Erika got Kingfish on the Winthrop 2016 lineup. And she also put together a showcase called "Young Guns of Guitar," including Kingfish, Samantha Fish, and Portland virtuoso Ty Curtis, for the Portland lineup that year. It remains one of the most highly regarded shows ever to take place at that festival.

The wind was well and truly under the wings of the young guitarist. By the time he was 20, he was established as the torchbearer of the blues. He appeared on NPR's taste-making show Tiny Desk Concerts. He was featured at the Chicago Blues Festival. He got signed to Alligator Records, the most prestigious label in blues music.

When he came back to the Winthrop festival in 2019, he had matured as a musician. He had his own band, was writing his own music, and was excited to show the Winthrop audience how far he'd come.

"I'd been at the Winthrop festival before, but there were some things that needed to be developed," the affable guitarist said. "Not to say I'm fully developed even now or anything. But I'd matured in my sound and the sound of my band, and I was really eager to show the new and im-

proved music."

It was an unforgettable show that he followed that evening by an extended guest spot in the beer garden after-hours jam.

By then, he had established another strong tie with the Pacific Northwest. A doctor had suggested that Kingfish had Asperger Syndrome, which at the time was thought to be related to autism. Today, it is no longer considered a stand-alone neuro-atypicality, but rather a form of high-functioning autism.

Kingfish got involved with the Washington-based organization United By Music North America, an non-profit founded by Amanda Gresham of Gig Harbor, Washington, which makes band performance available to people with a wide array of intellectual disabilities.

"I met Amanda through her friends in Clarksdale and that started a connection with United By Music North America, for people who were challenged but still wanted to do music," Kingfish said. "I loved it since day one."

This summer will mark Kingfish's third show at Winthrop.

He's looking forward to getting back to see his old friends. And he is once again excited to show off his musical growth.

"I think you guys are going to like it," he said. "I'm actually trying to go a more soulful alley, a little more Barry White, Luther Vandross kind of thing. I got some bad, bad new numbers and so it should be a whole different show."

And he has already promised that he'll make an appearance at the after-hours jam in the beer garden once again.

For Peter, it is gratifying to see the world recognize what that first set of Pacific Northwest supporters saw a decade ago.

"You never really know. There are a lot of great artists who never get their due," he said. "But we knew it was going to happen for him."



Kingfish joins the Allstar Jam at the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival beer garden after his second Winthrop performance in 2019, as guitarists David Miller (left) and Peter Damman (right) trade licks. Photo by Steve Autio.

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, Poulso:bo: 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, Poulso:bo: 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: June Blues Bash Previews

Great shows featuring Crushed Velvet, The Never Tellers, Acoustic Avenue & Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek!

The monthly Washington Blues Society Blues Bashes continues with in person live events on two Tuesdays in June. The first on the second Tuesday the 13th at Aurora Borealis, 16708 Aurora Ave N, Shoreline, and the fourth Tuesday, the 27th, at CCR Sports and Entertainment 215 Cypress Ave, Snohomish.

The first Blues Bash features music from up and coming trio from Tacoma The Never Tellers and a reschedule of Crushed Velvet.



Blues Bash II will have a solo set of music from first-time Bash performers Acoustic Avenue and the return of Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek. The monthly Blues Bashes are presented free, and all are welcome; fyi Aurora Borealis is an all ages venue but CCR Sports is 21 and over only. We will have a door prize raffle with prizes including tickets to Jazz Alley and The Neptune Theater in Seattle, and more. We encourage everyone to "Tip The Band," in support of their volunteer performances. More about the Blues Bash performers:



The Never Tellers are a blues infused rock trio from the South Puget Sound. Their sound combines honest storytelling with raw riffs and hard hits, producing a sound akin to the greats of old, yet with a newness all its own. Their synergy as a band produces electrifying live shows with spontaneous transitions that you won't see coming. They have been playing as a group for almost four years now, but they've been jamming since the old days. As they continue to expand their collection of songs, they look forward to bringing their sound to the world.



Acoustic Avenue is the duo of Sue Oelrich on piano, flute and vocals along with Jim Jarriel on guitar and vocals. The Duo play a unique mix of classic pop, country, blues and rock music for your listening and dancing pleasure. They feature great musicianship, vocal harmonies from a duo with many years of experience performing in the Pacific Northwest.



June 27 will be the third performance at a Blues Bash by **Mark Hurwitz and Gin**

Creek, a past nominee for the BB Award in both the Best Traditional Blues Act and Best Band categories. They have performed at all the leading area blues clubs, and at many festivals and events, including Gorge Blues and Brews, The Peninsula Blues Festival, Sunbanks, The Bite of Seattle, and Northwest Folklife. They play a variety of blues styles, including jump blues, with elements of swing and jazz. The piano playing of leader Mark Hurwitz reflects a variety of influences, from classic Chicago blues pianists like Otis Spann to New Orleans keyboard icons like Dr. John, to Jerry Lee Lewis-style rock & roll piano pounders. For the June 27 show the band will feature Mark on keys and vocals, Bear Drury on bass and vocals, Ron Baker on saxophone, and Billy Spaulding on drums.

Top left: Crushed Velvet

Bottom Left The Never Tellers

Top Middle: Acoustic Avenue

Bottom Middle: Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek



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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!



Department of Corrections

By Eric Steiner

Last month, the Bluesletter featured Lee Oskar holding one of his Mick Jagger harmonicas on the cover. It is the issue that blues society Vice President Rick J. Bowen took to Memphis during this year's Blues Music Awards!

While I credited Sean Donovan for the cover art, I did not know at our deadline that Jerry Levine took the picture. Sean worked desktop publishing magic with a very vibrant image of a true musical icon.

I apologize for the oversight. Our new editor, Polly O'Keary, and I are working hard to properly credit all contributors, and we will focus on giving credit where credit is due.

I would appreciate it if any Bluesletter reader contact me and/or Polly when we miss things like this. Better yet, please consider volunteering to be on our Bluesletter proofreading team! We also are looking for a dedicated volunteer to manage our Talent Guide, Calendar, Open Mic & Jam Guide listings, and if your request to update your listing is delayed in print, we apologize.

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Send updates, additions & corrections to both Editor@wablu.es.org and ericrichd@aol.com by the 10th!

\$

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#

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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
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Blues with Benefits 206.459.3278
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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
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
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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

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Filé Gumbo 425.788.2776

G

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

H

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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
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Jeff Menteeer and The Beaten Path 425.280.7392
Jeremy Serwer 520.275.9444
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Jill Newman Band 206.390.2623
James Brunner 509.457.0762
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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
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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

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Keith Nordquist 253.639.3206
Keith Scott 773.213.3239
Kenny James Miller Band 406.253.7439
Kevin & Casey Sutton 314.479.0752
Kid Quagmire 206.412.8212
Kim Archer Band 253.298.5961
Kim Field & The Mighty Titans of Tone 206.295.8306
Kimball Conant & The Fugitives 206.938.6096
King Kom Beaux 253.732.0618
Kosta Panidis (Kosta la Vista) 509.991.7623

L

La Roca Boom 206.920.6776
Lady "A" & The Baby Blues Funk Band 425.518.9100
Larry Hill 206.696.1789
Leanne Trevalyan 253.238.7908
Lee Oskar & Friends 425.258.3585
Leo Muller 206.300.6802
Linda Carroll & Retro Gruve 253.606.1500.
Little Bill & the Bluenotes 425.774.7503
Lori Hardman Band 425.218.5341
Lucille Street cynmoring@gmail.com

M

Madison Ave Blues Revue MAD BOJO 425-422-5062
Maia Santell & House Blend 253.983.7071
Margret Wilder Band (360) 380-2250
Mark A. Noftsgar 425.238.3664
Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 206.588.1924
Mark Riley 206.313.7849
Marty Vadalabene 206.914.3026
Mary Ellen Lykins Band 360.395.8540
Mary McPage 206.850.4849
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Michael Wilde 425.672.3206 or 206.200.3363
Michal Miller Band 253.222.2538
Michelle D'Amour and The Love Dealers 425.761.3033
Midnight Hour 425.238.4039
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Miles from Chicago 206.440.8016
Miles Harris 360.708.2166
Mitch Pumpian 206.276.9737
Monster Road Band (253) 797-9503
Moon Daddy Band 425.923.9081
Mule Kick 216.225.1277

N

New Rhythmatics 425.299.3028
Nick Vigarino 360.387.0374
Nick Mardon Trio 425.208-6616
Nancy Veltkamp 915.222.6401
Norm Bellas & the Funkstars 206.722.6551

P

Paul Green 206.795.3694
Phil Mitchell (425)870-5018
Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method 206.384.0234
Porterhouse Blues Band 425.381.7649
Powerhouse 425.478.2113

R

Rafael Tranquilino Band 312.953.7808
Randy Norris & Jeff Nicely 425.239.3876 or 425.359.3755
Randy Norris & The Full Degree 425.239.3876
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

S

Sammy Eubanks 509.879.0340
Scott E. Lind 206.789.8002
Scott Mallard 206.261.4669
Scotty FM and the BroadCasters 206.261.4669
Scotty Harris 206.683.9476
Shadow Creek Project 360.826.4068
Sheri Roberts Greimes 425.220.6474
Smokin' J's 425.746.8186
Son Jack Jr. 425.591.3034
Spencer Jarrett 510.495.4755
Stacy Jones 206.992.3285
Star Drums & Lady Keys 206.522.2779
Steve Bailey & The Blue Flames 206.779.7466

Steve Cooley & Dangerfields 253.203.8267
Steve Peterson 206.799-8196
Steven J. Lefebvre 509.972.2683 or 509.654.3075
Stickshift Annie Eastwood 206.941.9186
Studio Rob 425.870.7683
Susan Renee "La Roca Soul" Sims 206.920.6776
Suze Sims 206.920.6776

T

TJ Read 206.380.6638
Tamys Hoffman Band 406.570-2303
Terraplane Band (425)870-5018
Terry Hartness 425.931.5755
The 509s 509.423.0032
The Bret Welty Band 208.703.2097
The EveryLeaf Band 425.369.4588
The Fabulous MoJo Kings 206.412.9503
The Jelly Rollers 206.617.2384
The Mongrels 509.307.0517 or 509.654.3075
The Nate Burch Band 425.457.3506
The Naughty Blokes 360.393.9619
The Pat Stilwell Band 503.481.6823
The Rece Jay Band 253.350.9137
The RooTsters (Acoustic Duo) 206.890.6176
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

44th Annual Blues Music Awards in Memphis

Congratulations to this year's Blues Music Award winner

Courtesy of The Blues Foundation

MEMPHIS, TN. —The Renasant Convention Center was packed with blues musicians, fans, and music-world luminaries on May 11th, anxious to see who would be the winners at the 44th Annual Blues Music Awards. Besides awarding honors in 25 categories, the BMAs, as is its tradition, featured performances from many nominees, with the gala ending in a jubilant all-star jam.

The evening's top award winners were Buddy Guy, Albert Castiglia John Németh, each earning two BMAs. Buddy Guy's *The Blues Don't Lie* picked up Album of the Year and Contemporary Blues Album. Albert Castiglia won Blues Rock Album as well as Blues Rock Artist, and John Németh's *May be the Last Time* nabbed Traditional Blues Album; Németh was also awarded instrumentalist Harmonica.

For the 4th consecutive year, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram – took home Contemporary Blues Male Artist. Holding on to their BMA crowns for two consecutive years were Tommy Castro – B.B. King Entertainer of the Year; Albert Castiglia – Blues Rock Artist; Danielle Nicole – Instrumentalist Bass, Curtis Salgado – Soul Blues Male Artist and Sue Foley – Traditional Blues Female Artist (Koko Taylor Award).

Reclaiming their BMA crowns were Ruthie Foster - Contemporary Blues Female, Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith – Instrumentalist Drums, Deanna Bogart - Instrumentalist Horn, Anthony Geraci – Instrumentalist Piano (Pinetop Perkins Piano Player), John Primer – Traditional Blues Male Artist, Doug Macleod – Acoustic Artist, Tedeschi Trucks – Band of the Year, Albert Castiglia Blues Rock Album and Tom Hambridge – Song of the Year.

BMA Veterans winning for the first time in a new category were: Charlie Musselwhite, Mississippi Son – Acoustic

Album, Sugaray Rayford, In Too Deep – Soul Blues Album, Shemekia Copeland – Instrumentalist Vocals, John Németh, *May be the Last Time* – Traditional Blues Album and Instrumentalist Harmonica.

Joining Club BMA for the first time were Laura Chavez – Instrumentalist Guitar, Thornetta Davis – Soul Blues Female, and Dylan Triplett, *Who is He?* – Best Emerging Artist Album.

2023 Blues Music Awards Winners

B.B. King Entertainer of the Year
Tommy Castro

Album of the Year
The Blues Don't Lie, Buddy Guy

Band of the Year
Tedeschi Trucks Band

Song of the Year
"The Blues Don't Lie" written by Tom Hambridge

Best Emerging Artist Album
Who is He?, Dylan Triplett

Acoustic Blues Album
Mississippi Son, Charlie Musselwhite

Blues Rock Album
I Got Love, Albert Castiglia

Contemporary Blues Album
The Blues Don't Lie, Buddy Guy

Soul Blues Album
In Too Deep, Sugaray Rayford

Traditional Blues Album
May Be the Last Time, John Németh

Acoustic Blues Artist
Doug MacLeod

Blues Rock Artist
Albert Castiglia

Contemporary Blues Female Artist
Ruthie Foster

Contemporary Blues Male Artist
Christone "Kingfish" Ingram



IBC Winner Mathias Lattin and Lee Oskar
(Photo by Rick J. Bowen)

Soul Blues Female Artist
Thornetta Davis

Soul Blues Male Artist
Curtis Salgado

Traditional Blues Female Artist (Koko Taylor Award)
Sue Foley

Traditional Blues Male Artist
John Primer

Instrumentalist – Bass
Danielle Nicole

Instrumentalist – Drums
Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith

Instrumentalist – Guitar
Laura Chavez

Instrumentalist – Harmonica
John Németh

Instrumentalist – Horn
Deanna Bogart

Instrumentalist – Piano (Pinetop Perkins Piano Player Award)
Anthony Geraci

Instrumentalist – Vocals
Shemekia Copeland



Above Left: Blue Moon Marquee

Above Right: Joe Whitmer, Lee Oskar, a lucky blueswoman, Bobby Rush, Interim CEO and President of The Blues Foundation Kimberly Horton, and Mr. Sipp enjoying Memphis!

Right: Kimberly Horton and Lee Oskar
(Photos by Rick. J. Bowen)





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Artists At the Center Grant Open for Performing Arts Disciplines

An important opportunity for performers who play frequently in Seattle!

Compiled by Eric Steiner

In producing this issue, I received an email from the City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture. The following guidelines are from the Artists at the Center grant, and I hope that eligible blues performers might be interested in performing at Seattle Center during the 2023-2024 season.

Grant Summary

Artists at the Center is a multi-year collaboration between Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and Seattle Center, with support from Uptown Arts & Culture Coalition and the communities surrounding the Seattle Center campus. This project is made possible by a 10-year community benefit grant from Climate Pledge Arena and the Seattle Kraken professional National Hockey League team, starting in 2021.

Artists at the Center funds individual artists, groups, and organizations to develop and present pop-up performances throughout the year at Seattle Center. Artistic genres may include music, dance, theater, demonstrations, and multi-disciplinary work. Performances will be scheduled between October 2023 and September 2024. Selected participants will receive either \$2,000, \$4,000, or \$6,000 in funding based on the artist/group size and complexity of scope. Awardees from the current season (2022-2023) are not eligible to apply for the 2023-2024 season.

Purpose of Grant

Artists at the Center was designed to

support our vibrant arts communities by introducing emerging and established artists to a revitalized Seattle Center campus, while broadening the arts and cultural experiences in the Uptown Arts & Cultural District. Selected artists reflect the city's cultural diversity and have the unique opportunity to perform at Seattle Center, enjoy technical production support, connect with new audiences, and showcase their talents. Visitors to the campus and the surrounding neighborhood benefit from surprising and delightful pop-up performances throughout the year.

Eligibility/Requirements

You are eligible to apply for this grant if you meet the following criteria:

You are an individual artist, organization, or community-based group located in, or presenting work regularly in, Seattle.

Organizations and individual artists representing communities most impacted by systemic oppression including low-income, people with disabilities, immigrant and refugee communities, and communities of color are encouraged to apply.

You have a Federal Tax ID number (Social Security Number, ITIN, or Employee Identification Number) and are based in, or have current and active programming within, the City of Seattle.

Groups applying are not required to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nor are they required to use a fiscal agent.

You may submit only one application per year to this program.

Awardees from the current season (2022-2023) are not eligible to apply for the 2023-2024 season.

Your performance is eligible to be funded by this grant if it meets the following criteria:

Your performance will be free and open to the public.

You will have event insurance for the performance.

The performance will last 90 minutes or less.

Funding

Award funds may be used for artist fees, marketing and promotional fees, project management and personnel costs, supplies, equipment rentals or other production-related costs, required insurance, and no more than 10% for food-related costs. Additional expenses may be allowed upon advance approval by the grant project manager.

Applicants can apply for the following levels of funding:

Finally, the Washington Blues Society is a grantee of the City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, and I highly recommend eligible artists consider this opportunity.

For more information, please look for this opportunity online at <https://www.seattle.gov/arts>





JOIN US FOR FREE CONCERTS IN SEATTLE'S BEAUTIFUL PARKS

Visit our Facebook page for Concert Lineups: 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

Lineup: To Be Announced
Coordinator: To Be Announced

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 Ban Show
Coordinator: Surf X Seattle

See latest information & park map
directions at 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





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