

Bluesletter

A close-up photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing red-rimmed glasses and a blue suit jacket over a red shirt. He is holding a red harmonica in his hands and playing it. The background is a blurred blue and green.

Washington Blues Society

August 2023

RIISING STAR
JOEL ASTLEY
SIGNS WITH
BLUE HEART RECORDS
GRAVEL ROAD
TALKS T-MODEL FORD
AND MORE

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Blues Fans,

It's been a great festival season so far and I have had a blast being out representing the Washington Blues Society at many events across the Pacific Northwest. Starting earlier this year at the Coeur D'Alene Blues Festival in Idaho, and then

jumping over to the Walla Walla Guitar Festival. Almost every weekend has found me out having fun and interacting with members, musicians, and friends. Some weeks have offered so many events that the blues society had booths at multiple events across the region on the same weekend.

The Board of Directors has also been busy as we continue to grow and we now host two Blues Bashes a month. One at the Aurora Borealis in Shoreline on the 2nd Tuesday, and one in the Old Man's Brewery Room at Collector's Choice Restaurant on the 4th Tuesday. The blues society has taken the helm of the Seattle Peace Concerts, and so far, this summer, we have had three different free music events in great Seattle parks.

Plans are underway for our annual Washington Blues Society picnic, our International Blues Challenge Finals, and Gas Station Blues has kicked off at the Historic Shell Gas Station on Front Street in downtown Issaquah. We have already discussed our annual Holiday Event, and the Board has had preliminary discussions about events for the Musicians Relief Fund and next year's Best of the Blues award show. So much more music and fun to come!

With all of that going on, I have decided to start another event! Over the last 20 years, I have had the pleasure of meeting many musicians, producers, and other music industry people and built many new friendships. Now, I'm going to help some of these friends with midweek gigs that will support them on the road and provide members with intimate, free shows that feature many of these very talented artists. With that, I present you with the First Tuesday President's Blues Bash (preview in this issue!)

Hope to see many of you out and about this summer! Stop by the booth and say "Hi"!



Tony Frederickson, President
Washington Blues Society
Member, Board of Directors, The Blues Foundation (2014-2017)

Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program
Supports the Washington Blues Society

Fred Meyer

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/l/community/community-rewards>

2 Books by NW
Legend Little Bill

\$25 per or 2 for \$40



LITTLEBILL1959@COMCAST.NET

CASCADE
BLUES
ASSOCIATION

**"KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE"
AWARD WINNER
FOR BLUES ORGANIZATION
OF THE YEAR 2003**

PO Box 14493, Portland, OR 97293
503-223-1850
WWW.CASCADEBLUES.ORG

The Blues Foundation
AFFILIATE

In This Issue...

BLUES RIFFS

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

BLUES NEWS, REVIEWS & FEATURES

- 6 Harmonica Artist Joel Astley Signs with Blue Heart Records
- 10 Edgar Winter Talks with B'ham "Bluesland" host about "Brother Johnny" Album
- 12 Blues on the Road & A New Blues Bash!
- 14 Cajun Culture Comes Back to Kent
- 16 A Fraternity Among Pacific Northwest Musicians
- 22 GravelRoad's Long Trip Through the Blues
- 24 2023 International Blues Challenge Finals at the Conway Muse
- 30 Music Makes Its Mark in Historically Hip Downtown Issaquah

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY STUFF!

- 4 2023 Blues Society Officers & Directors
- 18 Washington Blues Society Membership Form
- 20 August 2023 Live Blues Music Calendar!
- 23 Updated Blues Jams & Open Mic Listings
- 26 Blues Talent Guide
- 28 Red Hot August Blues Bashes

The lead story in this month's issue celebrates Joel Astley's signing to the Memphis-based Blue Heart Label, explores Mississippi blues history through the GravelRoad Band and T-Model Ford, and includes several previews of some great live blues shows. Please consider adding the following live blues events to your blues calendar this month: Gas Station Blues in Historically Hip Downtown Issaquah every Thursday this month, Hot August Night with CROS and the Kim & Brian Band in the Spanish Temple Ballroom at McMenamin's in Tacoma on the 17th the Cajun Fest in Kent on the 19th, and the Washington Blues Society's 2023 International Blues Challenge Finals at the Conway Muse on the 20th. Eric Steiner's Blues on the Road column also includes a preview of a new and exciting Washington Blues Society show, The First Tuesday President's Blues Bash, which will feature John Primer in September and Doug MacLeod in October. This issue also welcomes two returning contributors: KMRE-FM Bluesland host Leo Schumaker's interview with Edgar Winter about his Grammy-winning blues CD, *Brother Johnny*, and Daniel "Double H" Brady's gratitude to the Pacific Northwest blues community for including him at blues jams and select blues gigs.

Cover: Joel Astley (Photo by Travis Wetherbee from Last Lite Photography and composition and color by Sean Donovan)

THE BLUESLETTER
AUGUST 2023 - Volume XXXIV, Number VIII

PUBLISHER

Washington Blues Society - www.wablues.org

EDITOR

Polly O'Keary (editor@wablues.org)

PRINTER

Pacific Publishing Company
(www.pacificpublishingcompany.com)

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Eric Steiner, Polly O'Keary, Rick J. Bowen,
Will Crockett, Tony Frederickson, Leo Schumaker,
Daniel "Double H" Brady

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Eric Steiner, Jean Frank Photography, Mike McNett, Jason Cohen,
Paul Brown, Tony Frederickson, Clancy Dunagin, Stephanie Tice,
Jesse James, Rocky Nelson, Travis Wetherbee from Last Lite Photography

JUNE DEADLINES

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

Please do not send photos as RGB images. Please only send high resolution, CMYK, print-ready images.

Please title photos with a unique file name and 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.

CAMERA-READY AD SPECS & COSTS

SIZE	B/W	COLOR	HT x W in mm
full pg	\$360	\$450	238 x 187.3
½ pg vertical	\$210	\$264	238 x 91.3
½ pg horizontal	\$210	\$264	116.66 x 187.3
back ½ pg horizontal	\$312	\$390	116.66 x 187.3
¼ pg vertical	\$120	\$150	116.66 x 91.3
business card horizontal	\$36	\$46	56 x 91.3
business card vertical	\$36	\$46	91.3 x 56

BLUESLETTER ADVERTISING DISCOUNTS

20% off	12-month pre-payment
15% off	6-month pre-payment
10% off	3-month pre-payment



2023 OFFICERS

President, Tony Frederickson	president@wablues.org
Vice President, Rick Bowen	vicepres@wablues.org
Secretary, Marisue Thomas	secretary@wablues.org
Treasurer, Ray Kurth	treasurer@wablues.org
Editor, Polly O'Keary	editor@wablues.org

2023 DIRECTORS

Music Director, Open	music@wablues.org
Membership, Open	membership@wablues.org
Education, Open	education@wablues.org
Volunteers, Jeannie "Whoopiekitty" Baker	volunteers@wablues.org
Merchandise, Tony Frederickson	merchandise@wablues.org
Advertising, Leah Tussing	advertising@wablues.org

THANKS TO OUR 2023 STREET TEAM

Downtown Seattle, Tim & Michelle Burge	blueslover206@comcast.net
North Sound, Malcolm Kennedy	malcarken@msn.com
Northern WA, Lloyd Peterson	freesprt@televar.com
Peninsula, Dan Wilson	allstarguitar@centurytel.net
Port Angeles Area, Alvin Owen	alvino227@gmail.com
Eastern Washington, Paul Caldwell	caldwell-p@hotmail.com
Ballard, Marcia Jackson	sunyrosykat@gmail.com
Lopez Island, Carolyn & Dean Jacobsen	cjacobsen@rockisland.com
Portland, Oregon	kathylrankin@gmail.com
International Blues Raconteur, Rocky Nelson	coeme2018@gmail.com

SPECIAL THANKS

Webmaster Emeritus, The Sheriff	webmaster@wablues.org
Washington Blues Society Logo, Phil Chesnut	philustr8r@gmail.com

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
P.O. BOX 70604
SEATTLE, WA 98127

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Former editor Eric Steiner, who I regard as co-editor, and I both think this is going to be our best issue yet as a team. We have gotten some great content in from a talented bunch of contributors, and I'm also excited about the cover.

I remember Joel Astley from when he first started playing harmonica. I was tickled when Joel mentioned it in his interview with our talented intern Will Crockett. He used to show up at our jam at the Blarney Stone in

Bell Town. He was one of just a handful of regulars. I don't remember him being bad at playing, even though his comments make it seem like he thought he might have been a bit green. What I do remember is how nice he was. We all decided right away that we liked him, because he was polite and seemed to be trying to soak up the culture of blues music in the Northwest as fast as he could. I also remember having great conversations with him when he told me he was quitting drinking. I had done the same thing myself a few years earlier and the outcome was so good I tend to wax enthusiastic when the topic comes up. It's not often that the plan to quit drinking actually sticks, though, so I was pleasantly surprised when he kept with it.

It's also one thing to have some fun and learn some stuff at jams and quite another to develop oneself as a performing act. It takes singular determination and courage to do the latter. But as the years went on, Joel's name started coming up more and more frequently. I would see pictures of him in the Bluesletter and notice that he'd put together a great look, cool suits and dapper shoes, and I thought it was a bit like watching John Nemeth come up back in the day. One moment he was a Pacific Northwest harmonica player from Boise and the next he was a national act in a great suit. But even as Joel grew in his career, he remained a humble and generous guy. When I would have fundraisers for this or that, he was right there, going to some trouble to meet up so he could donate some of his cool artworks for auctions and so on. A couple of times he paid me the massive compliment of calling me up to ask for my thoughts about band wrangling, and I enjoyed those conversations. I also thought he had one of the most creative steaming shows during the lockdowns, as he played music and discussed it while creating beautiful little works of art. He was a big part of what held our community together through those times.

I'm very excited about his Blue Heart deal and I expect to see him blow up nationally soon. No one has done more to earn it.

On another note, I had a great experience at the new Mama Jo's Blues Festival in Mount Vernon in July. My husband Tommy Cook got hired to play on Rae Gordon's set and Rae said I ought to come up to and join her on a gospel tune we like to sing together. I had the singular pleasure of sitting in the grass, watching live music, without

having to do anything but listen, for a whole afternoon. I got there during Kim Archer's set and was blown away by her charisma and talent and big, joyful grin, as well as her musicianship and professionalism. I also was surprised to recognize her bass player Kenny Pryor, who I worked with more than 20 years ago and hadn't seen since. We got to talking and he mentioned that he had thought about writing a book about his life in music. My ears perked up and I got details. It's a good story. It made me think that later this fall we should do a story about a few notable but underrecognized Washington bass players. If you have an idea for who has a cool story and is not talked about as much as they should be, send me an email to editor@wabluessociety.org. I really am looking for tips from the Eastern Washington folks especially. Who's a great blues bassist on the dry side that deserves more attention?

I thank Leo Schumaker up in Bellingham for his contribution of a great interview with Edgar Winter, and Will for his good work on the Cajun Fest story and the Joel Astley story. I appreciate all contributors a great deal! By the time this issue comes out, I'll be on the road with my group for the rest of the summer, so your contributions of stories, festival pictures, CD reviews, etc. will be doubly appreciated.

Cheers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Polly O'Keary".

Polly O'Keary, Editor
Washington Blues Society Bluesletter



Harmonica artist Joel Astley signs with Blue Heart

Seattle rising star talks about his climb from jam sessions to joining a label

By Will Crockett, Intern

The ability to make a living playing the blues is an incredible feat in and of itself, but being able to choose between making a living in music or visual arts is a rarity. From selling 80 original paintings in a pandemic year, to being up for the Washington Blues Society's best new band award against himself, Joel Astley is an extraordinary case of creative fervor, and now, he has a record deal.

Born and raised in Seattle, Astley realized his artistic ability early through his sketching and painting skills. Before he committed himself to the blues he was a prolific artist, "My main expression was visual art," he said. "I had shows, and I was into sculpture and ink and printmaking, oil painting, trying to get a foothold in the Seattle scene there, and had a couple of shows back to back kind of around, like 2003."

However, Astley realized that the harmonica called him more than the brush, eventually devoting his time to the blues.

Like many blues artists, Astley found his calling at an open-stage jam night at the Blarney Stone in the early 2000s, hosted by Bluesletter editor Polly O'Keary, Tommy Cook, and Justin Kausal-Hayes.

"I had never been to a jam and open stage before and it blew my mind," said Astley. "It was love at first bite and I had the bug. I started looking up where the other jams were in the city and, mind you, I wasn't really good, you know?"

But throughout his years, Astley has subscribed to the belief that jams are the best place for beginners and veterans alike to converge.

"I learned that that is where you cut your teeth, that's where you figure it out," he said. "To this day, I think it's really important for professionals, when they go to a jam, to remember that it isn't for them. It's for the folks that are learning it's for the guys that are just figuring it out, looking for guys to start their first band or their next band or whatever."

Astley said that he loves the masters, not

only the classic blues harmonica legends, but really any solo instrument provides him with inspiration.

"I started with the main cannon of your blues harmonica players, so you're talking about Little Walter, Junior Wells, Sonny Boy Williamson, Howlin' Wolf, and the revolving door that was the Muddy Waters band," he said. "Then I started getting into the more obscure ones and the ones that were a little less bluesy and a little more jazzy, like Carlos Del Junco, Paul Delay, and Jason Ricci."

It wasn't until 2014 when Astley started his first group with Matt Payne, Tim Walsh, and Pauly "Hammy" Hamilton called The Noise Remedy. The band gigged together for a couple of years, until 2016, when they disbanded. From there, Astley began his journey in and out of bands.

Getting sober in the early 2000s helped Astley to give his artistic career, and eventual music career, more attention. He realized that his habits were getting in the way of his business and passion, "The way that I drank and the way that I was using drugs didn't really allow time for anything else," he said.

"Of course just from a practicality standpoint, it just puts time and money in your pockets," he said. "The sobriety kind of came right at the same time as a bunch of other major life changes. My girlfriend got pregnant, and we decided to keep the baby and decided to stay together. All at once I got clean, I became a father and got married, like, all within a year."

From there, Astley went on to win 18 awards from the Washington Blues Society, including multiple Best Harmonica Awards, multiple Best Male Voice Awards, Best Song Writer and of course, Best New Band Award. Additionally, Astley was fortunate enough to thrive, relatively, during the pandemic.

While the rest of the world was scrambling to adjust to an online community, Astley and the Washington blues community banded together for online jams and streaming shows that Astley believed kept the blues scene alive through COVID. "Kid Anderson

started doing these virtual shows, and this thing called 'Can't Stop the Blues' emerged online," said Astley. Can't Stop the Blues was a major virtual blues venue, and was used heavily by professional musicians and avid concert goers during COVID. CSTB and organizations like it across the country are the reasons that members of the blues community can still play today.

"They had two shows every night. I think it was five nights a week, they would show one hour of one band, and then one hour of the second band. And the tip jars were open, you know, like PayPal links in the comments. They were absolutely vital for some of the musicians."

After making friends with the musicians he met during a Zoom song circle put on by Mark Hummel and others, he learned that one of them was headed to San Francisco to put on a show, and Astley spontaneously decided to attend. "Not even knowing where I was going to stay, not knowing anybody like that, I just wanted to meet these cool people," said Astley.

"I wrote to Kid Anderson and I was like, 'I'm gonna be in the Bay Area. I would love to see the studio.' He wrote back, he goes, 'Yeah, awesome, bring some of that artwork.' I was like, 'holy shit. I'm on his radar.'"

Surprised and excited, Astley still needed a place to stay. In another incredible instance of his good karma, Astley reached out to singer and harp player Aki Kumar, only having seen him perform, and secured a place to stay and transportation. "I friended him on Facebook and said, 'Hey, man, I'd love to meet you when I'm down there,'" recalled Astley. "He goes 'Cool, where are you staying?' I replied, 'I haven't figured it out yet.' And he wrote back. Oh, you stay with me. You can use my car," Astley said. "Aki is a freaking prince."

That trip to California changed the trajectory of Astley's music career for the better. "It just opened, flung open a door for me, you know?" Astley said. "I mean, it really, really did."

Having made these new connections, and visiting California a few more times to maintain them, Astley decided it was time to record his album, and he knew who he wanted on the project. "I'm taking my songs down to Greaseland," he decided. "I want to record with Kid Anderson. I want him to do it."

Discovering that he had a few free days on tour, Astley reached out to Anderson ready to record, and once again things fell into place. "It worked out and I recorded a freaking (11 track) album in two days," he said. "The rough mixes were completely finished."

"He (Kid Anderson) is a madman," Astley went on. "After the second day he's like, 'Alright, go down to the Safeway, get me some Red Bulls and some coffees. We're going to mix this thing, and around like 9:30 the next morning, it was done.'"

Having the finished product, titled "Seattle to Greaseland," Astley contacted Johnny Burgin, who toured with Astley in California and said that he had connections at the label. Within days Astley's was considering an invitation from Blue Heart records.

"It's a different kind of label," he said. "They're not bankrolling anything, and subsequently, I don't have to surrender the rights to anything. They're very hands off, IP-wise, basically a promotion and distribution label. So as far as the production, manufacturing, the mixing, the mastering, and the recording, that's all up to me."

Astley was very humble about his new deal, stressing that it was the kindness of others that gave him the opportunity to sign with Blue Heart. He attributes most of his best experiences, like playing with some of his heroes including Mark Hummel and Billy Flynn, to the good will of other people.

"The way I ended up on stage with some of these guys was either kindnesses by others, or kindnesses by me to others," he said. "I'm absolutely a true believer that energy comes back the way you put it out."

Astley's success is also no doubt owing in part to his unique tone, which he worked hard to develop, he said. He began playing



through small solid-state amps, then shifted towards tube amps like many harmonica players. Astley decided to make his own.

"I have an amp that I built myself and put into a typewriter box that I found at the thrift store, an old tweed box from the '50s," said Astley, laughing. "Part of my personal style is that I don't want to show up at the ball wearing the same dress as someone else."

You can find Joel Astley's upcoming shows

on his website, joelastley.com, and listen to his new album when it is released August 18.

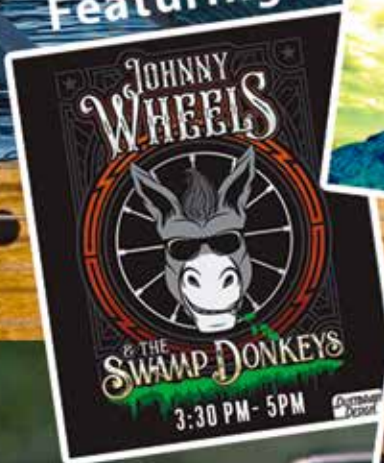
Joel Astley (above right) plays the blues at the Blues Cafe in Memphis, Tennessee, at a show for The Blues Foundation in 2023. Astley spent most of 2023 in Washington, but had shows all over the country, including gigs in Tennessee, Colorado, and Oregon. (Photo by Stephanie Tice)

DES MOINES BEACH PARK

AUGUST
26
11AM-7PM



Featuring:



DrinkToMusic.org



TICKETS & INFO



21 AND OVER EVENT.

Welcome to the 43rd Annual Seattle Peace Concerts



2023

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

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

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



Edgar Winter talks with B'ham "Bluesland" host about "Brother Johnny" album

Tribute album took 2023 Grammy for Best Contemporary Blues

Bellingham's Leo Schumaker, host of the radio show "Bluesland" on KMRE 102.3 FM (now 88.3 FM) scored an interview with Edgar Winter on the topic of his album "Brother Johnny." When this interview took place on Johnny Winter's birthday February 23, the album had won a Grammy just two weeks earlier for Best Contemporary Blues Album. Here is an excerpt of that interview, in which Edgar tells the story of putting the album together with a cast of stellar musicians.

By Leo Schumaker

Leo-Welcome to Bluesland, Edgar Winter, on Johnny Winter's birthday.

Edgar-Thank you Leo. Are you ready to Rock and Roll?

Leo-Yes, I am. Your new album "Brother Johnny" on Quatro Records is an amazing tribute to your brother, bluesman Johnny Winter, and has just won a Grammy for Best Contemporary Blues Album. The album is now Number 2 on The Billboard Blues Charts. How did this album come about?

Edgar-First I'm glad you know it's my brother Johnny's birthday. I thought about him even though he has departed this physical plane all day. Johnny's presence is in his music and is going to live on in my heart forever.

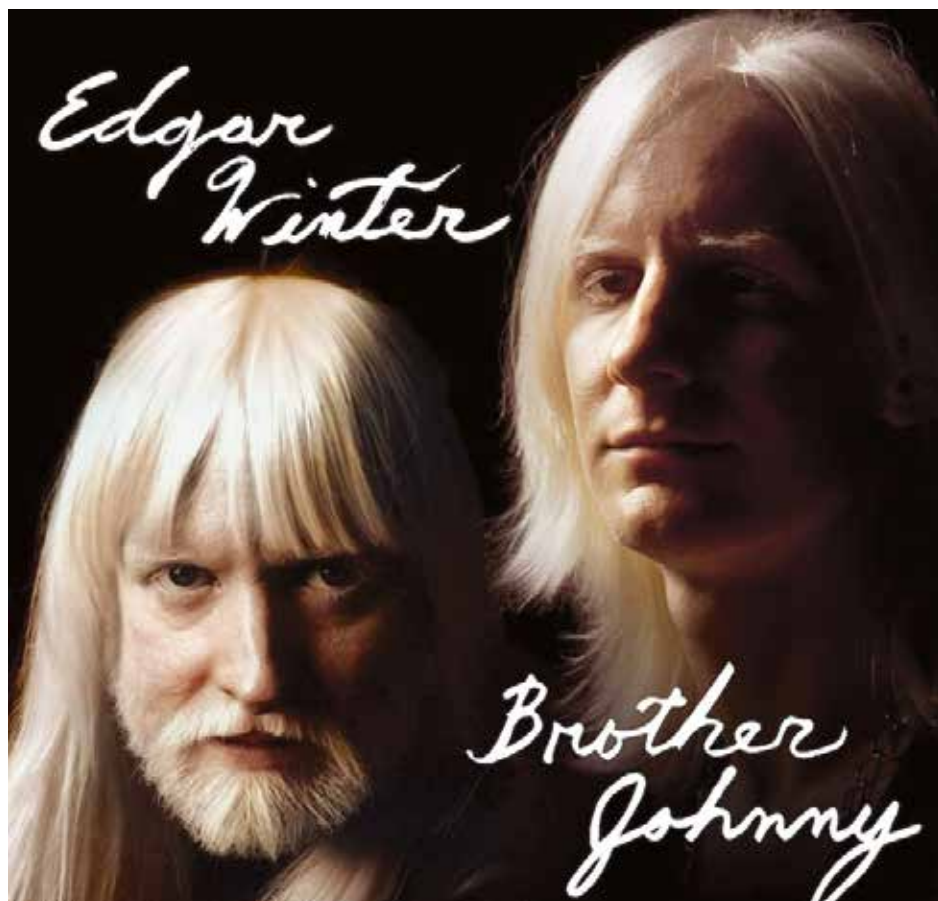
I hope this album "Brother Johnny" will help his memory live on for future generations to come.

Leo-One of the first things fans of Johnny and I are discussing is why aren't you and Johnny in The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?

Edgar-Good question. I don't have a ready answer for that. Maybe as a result of the album "Brother Johnny" it might happen. Johnny certainly deserves it.

He was a true rocker. My tastes are somewhat peculiar. I love jazz, classical, country and western, rock and blues. I am certainly going to push for Johnny to be inducted.

Leo-When I hear this album I hear great music and love from all the musicians who played on it. Who were the musicians?



Edgar-There were a number of people including Joe Bonamassa, Joe Walsh, Billy F. Gibbons, Derek Trucks, Warren Haynes, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Michael McDonald, Taylor Hawkins, Sir Ringo Starr, Keb' Mo', Doug Rappoport, my own lead guitarist, Bobby Rush and many more. A lot of amazing stars played on this album.

Leo-Did you ask them to play on this album?

Edgar- I asked them. I do want to thank them and the three people that made this album possible. First my beautiful wife Monique Winter, whom I've been married to for over 40 years, who convinced me to do this record.

I wasn't sure I wanted to do a tribute album to Johnny. I had been approached by several record companies. It seemed like all they wanted to know was who would I have as guest stars, what was the budget, what guarantees can you give us it will make money,

etc. I said I don't know. I haven't given it much thought and don't know if I want to make this album. This was shortly after Johnny's passing, 2014, and I wasn't emotionally ready to do it at that time.

Monique said to me how I always felt Johnny was my musical hero, brother and how 'you wouldn't be where you're at if not for him. You owe it to yourself, Johnny and the world.' Monique was right in every respect.

Also I'd like to thank Ross Hogart, producer and engineer, who loves Johnny's music with all his heart and put his life on hold to dedicate himself to this project and suggest artists including Keb' Mo' who had done that TajMo album with Taj Mahal that won a Grammy. Ross also suggested John McVie to play slide on Highway 61 and Doyle Bramhall Jr. to do acoustic slide. I always thought of Doyle as a electric guitar blues player. I had no idea he was such a great acoustic slide player.

I also want to thank Bruce Quarto of Quarto Valley Records who finally decided me on making the record "Brother Johnny." Bruce wanted to do the record for all the right reasons and said he didn't care how long it takes or how much it costs.

'Do it as you see fit,' Bruce said. Bruce just wanted to bring Johnny's music back into the world for all the fans that followed Johnny's music and hopefully to a new generation that might not be familiar with Johnny and give the music fans a chance to discover him. That was how the record "Brother Johnny" started.

I actually started out with the songs and I thought, well, obviously, "Rock and Roll Hoochie Koo," and then the early songs that Johnny wrote himself like "Mean Town Blues," "I'm Yours and I'm Hers." Those had to be on there. Then there were certain songs that were famously associated with Johnny that he did like "Jumpin' Jack Flash" that he just tore it up with. Also "Highway 61." Johnny loved The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan so of course those songs had to be there.

Then I thought, do I want to do a straight ahead blues record as a tribute to Johnny's great legacy or should it be more of a personal tribute from me to my brother and include a lot of the songs that are a bit more obscure and my personal favorites? That includes songs like "Stranger" which is a beautiful ballad that shows Johnny's sensitive and vulnerable side that he doesn't usually display.

My wife Monique got the idea of having Michael McDonald, who is our dear friend that I've worked with back in the '80s, to sing that song. As soon as she said it I thought of his magical voice and his haunting voice that only Michael can do.

Then Joe Walsh picked that song to play on. Basically what happened is, after I assembled all the songs, I didn't associate any particular song with an artist and I let the artist pick the song because I didn't want an artist to play any song that they didn't feel passionately about playing.

I was really surprised by Joe Walsh, whom I go way back with to when he was in The James Gang and we used to play shows together in the '70s.

I think of Joe Walsh as a rocker and I thought

he would pick something like "Jumpin' Jack Flash." I kinda of wanted him to play on "Johnny B. Goode" but he picked the song "Stranger," and he did a beautiful job with a really sensitive heartfelt solo.

Then after that happened I was thinking about Ringo Starr and if there was any chance that of getting him to play on this album and didn't think there was because he doesn't play on that many musicians' albums.

Well, I don't know if you aware of this, but Ringo is married to the beautiful Barbara Bach and Barbara's sister is Marjorie who is married to Joe Walsh, making them brothers in law.

So, after Joe picked out "Stranger" and I know they have played on some tracks together, kinda keeping it all in the family, so I finally got up the nerve to call up Ringo and I explained that the album was a tribute to my brother and Ringo said "Edgar, I'll do it for you." I couldn't believe it and said, 'Wow, Ringo Starr!'

So we have Joe Walsh, Ringo Starr and Michael McDonald, a different array of musicians that you wouldn't think of being on the same album.



August's Music

Mondays with Mad Bojo 7 till 9-ish

Tuesday Night Dinner Show 7 till 9
 8/1 AJ Fullerton 8/8 Jaime Reynolds 8/15 Uncle Doug Cooper
 8/22 Kim & Brian 8/29 Unbound with Kevin Sutton

Wednesday Unbound Blues Jam
with special guests each week 7pm
 8/2 Billy Stoops 8/9 CD Woodbury 8/16 Christina Porter and Kevin Sutton 8/23 Leah Tussing and Kevin Sutton 8/30 Leo Bootes

Thursday Singer/Songwriter Showcase 7-9ish
 Kevin Sutton with special guests 8/3
 Stacy Jones with special guests 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31

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
 8/5 Neal Fallen w/ Doug Skoog, Curtis Smith, Joe Hendershot, Billy Barner and Steve Blood 8/12 Jo Mama
 8/26 Joel Astley Band cd release party

Saturday 8/19 UFC #292 \$10 6-11

Blues on the Road & a New Blues Society Blues Bash

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

By Eric Steiner

This month, my Blues on the Road column is a little cramped for space due to the volume of solid blues content in this issue. That said, I'd like ask readers to not only consider several nationally touring acts for their concert calendars this month, but also support a free and new Washington Blues Society First Tuesday Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline beginning in September.



Buddy Guy

First of all, I'd be remiss if I didn't strongly recommend Chicago blues legend Buddy Guy on what might be his last tour. I have fond memories of seeing Buddy Guy over the past 30 years and think that his most recent, award-winning CD, *The Blues Don't Lie*, is his best one. He'll bring his "Damn Right Farewell" tour to Spokane on the 9th at the First Interstate Center, to Seattle at the Paramount on the 10th, and to Jacksonville, Oregon at the Britt Festival Pavilion on the 12th. As of press time, I'm on the waitlist at the Seattle Theatre Group's Paramount Club for a pair of good seats and hope to go! (Photo of Buddy Guy by Eric Steiner).

Too Slim & The Taildraggers

Also on the 10th, Too Slim and the Taildraggers play Seattle's Triple Door, and on the 11th, the band plays at the WIT Wineries in Prosser followed by the Riverfront Blues Festival in Libby, Montana on the 12th. On the 18th, Too Slim and the Taildraggers play a free concert at the



Suncadia Resort Summer Concert Series before performing at the Airway Heights Music Festival in Airway Heights on the 19th. The following week, the band returns to the Rockfish in Anacortes on the 25th followed by the Poverty Bay Blues Festival in Des Moines on the 26th and Spokane's legendary Pig Out in the Park on the 31st. I hope that the band brings some of their family's delicious Essie's South American sauce for sale in each merch booth! (Photo of Too Slim and the Taildraggers by Paul Brown).



Sonny Landreth

The end of the month brings another Louisiana musical treasure to our region as Sonny Landreth plays Seattle's Triple Door on the 29th and 30th before heading down to Portland for a show at the Aladdin

Theatre on the 31st. His 2020 CD, *Blacktop Run* (Mascot Label Group/Provogue) is one of my favorite Louisiana blues records. (Photo of Sonny Landreth by Jason Cohen).



Tab Benoit

Tab Benoit returns to the Pacific Northwest with shows on the 24th at Portland's Aladdin Theatre and on the 25th at Seattle's Neptune Theatre before driving East for two shows at the Elm in Bozeman, Montana on the 28th and 29th. On select shows, the Rumble, featuring Chief Joseph Boudreaux Jr. will join Tab onstage (Photo of Tab Benoit by Jean Frank Photography).

A New First Tuesday Washington Blues Society Blues Bash!

The First Tuesday President's Blues Bash will begin on September 5th at the Aurora Borealis. The shows will run from 7:00 pm and end around 9:00-9:30 pm. We will feature Chicago blues legend John Primer, a Blues Hall of Fame inductee with many Blues Music Awards and Grammy nominations.

On October 3rd, we'll welcome Doug MacLeod with his new *Hurricane Blues* release. Each of these free, First Tuesday shows will be "you gotta be there, must-see" live blues shows! Don't forget: Please



tip generously at the new First Tuesday President's Blues Bash to help these nationally touring musicians while they're on the road. (Photo of John Primer by Mike McNett).

Stay tuned next month for more Blues on the Road throughout the Pacific Northwest, which will also include more information on upcoming First Tuesday President's Blues Bash shows at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline!



Downtownkentwa.com

CAJUN Fest



Saturday,
August 19
2-7 pm

Live Music

Bayou Envie, Two Loose Cajun/Zydeco,
Zydeco Locals, Eric "Two Scoops" Moore

Food Trucks n' Beer Garden

Presented by:   








Cajun culture comes back to Kent

Cajun Fest returns for a second year with live music and lots of color

By Will Crockett, Intern

Kent, Washington, is home to countless cultures and subcultures, whether it be music from across the world, or food from the local farmer's market. Still, the Kent Downtown Partnership manages to surprise with new and exciting public events celebrating the city's vastly diverse population. This year, on August 19, from 2-7 p.m., Kent will host the second annual "Cajun Fest."

Gaila Haas, executive director for the Kent Downtown Partnership, is extremely excited to host another festival appreciating Louisiana culture, and says that there are more local people being represented by it than many long-time residents were aware.

"Actually, we learned that there's a lot of people from the South, specifically from Louisiana who have moved up to this area after Katrina," she said. "There's a much stronger presence here than we knew, actually."

Haas said that the festival was conceived from casual talks with local business owner Neil Robinson of Altha's Louisiana Seasoning N' Spices.

"Everything in his story is all about Louisiana," Haas said. "He has a kitchen, he cooks food, and he has gator, everything is Cajun food oriented in his store. We've had a lot of sidewalk conversations about how we can create some scene in downtown Kent that would capture the culture and vibrant liveliness of New Orleans and their Mardi Gras and music and food, and so we came up with the Cajun fest."

The festival will include food, live music from zydeco bands and otherwise, and even a mini second line parade. The four acts that will be performing at Cajun Fest in August are Seattle's piano virtuoso Eric "Two Scoops" Moore, Portland's Cajun/zydeco band Too Loose, the Zydeco Locals, and Bayou Envie, along with The Bigfoot Brass Band, who will lead the second line parade.

The funding for Kent's Cajun Fest comes from grant funding and sponsorships

"This festival costs about \$20,000 to produce," Haas said. "It's important for us to make this event free to people. It basically pays for itself, which is what the goal is."

Last year's festival was such a success that the



only thing that needed changing, Haas says, is the amount of food.

"Our food lines were extraordinarily long, and people actually waited in those lines and we were really sad about that," she said. "That was the only feedback you really heard from attendees was that this was an amazing event, but you could use more food."

Haas said that for last year's event, the partnership was only expecting 1,500 attendees, but ended up hosting over 3,500 people at the 2022 Cajun Fest. Because of the incredible success of the first festival, they are expecting an even greater turn out.

"I'm hoping this year we can get about 4,500 people at this event," said Haas.

Not to worry though, there will be enough space and southern grub for everybody.

"The space that we have available will accommodate those levels of people because not everybody stays for the whole duration," Haas said.

Haas hopes, the first festival having already passed, that people will be more comfortable to dive into its spirit.

"It was a ton of fun to see so many people dressed up last year in the colors of the Mardi Gras," she said. "And while this isn't Mardi Gras, it's very similar in that it has that very

flamboyant feel to it. I would say you know, people should look forward to coming prepared with a costume of some sort."

If the Bayou music isn't enough to convince you to be one of the thousands attending Kent's Cajun Fest, make it for the hot southern food, and the live art vendors. Haas says that any and everybody that can make it, should.

"I would like to just say to the audience, that all are welcome," she said. "We would love to see more people coming into historic downtown Kent, not only for this event, but for all the other great assets that it has. We are looking forward to seeing people for another really successful event."

Above: A Cajun Fest attendee wears traditional colors and accessories of Mardi Gras in the spirit of the day for the first Cajun Fest last summer in Kent, Washington. This year, all ages will enjoy Cajun food and zydeco and blues music, and Mardi Gras garb is encouraged. . (Photo courtesy of the Kent Downtown Partnership)


Dimitriou's Jazz Alley
SEATTLE'S JAZZ CLUB
Jazz Alley is a fixture of the Seattle live music and dining scene, family owned and operated since 1988

August 2023 SHOWS

Otis Taylor 1-2
 Ranky Tanky w Lisa Fischer 11-12
 Jovino Santos Neto 3
 Four Tops 9-13
 Stanley Jordan Plays Jimi 15-16
 John Pizzarelli Trio 17-20
 Lydia Pense and Cold Blood 22-23
 Fred Wesley and the JB Horns 24-27
 Marc Seals Quartet 29-30
 Keiko Matsui 31



2032 6th Avenue
 Seattle WA 98101
 Phone (206) 441-9729
 info@jazzalley.com



12th Annual Big Sky Blues Music Festival
Aug 4-6 2023
 Pilgrim Creek Park
 Noxon, Montana
 All Star Jam Sunday night!

Free youth music workshops
 Kids and dogs free

Hosted by E. Hoot

Carly Fly Band
 The Stacy Jones Band
 Eric Rice Band w/ Scotty Harris
 Billy D & the Hoodoos
 Tuck Foster & the Tumbling Dice
 Robin Barrett & the Coyote Kings w/ Typhony Dames
 Dennis Johnson & the Revelators
 Charles Mack Band
 John Firshi
 Gemini Dragon

Budweiser
 406-370-1211
 bigskyblues.org
 BUD LIGHT

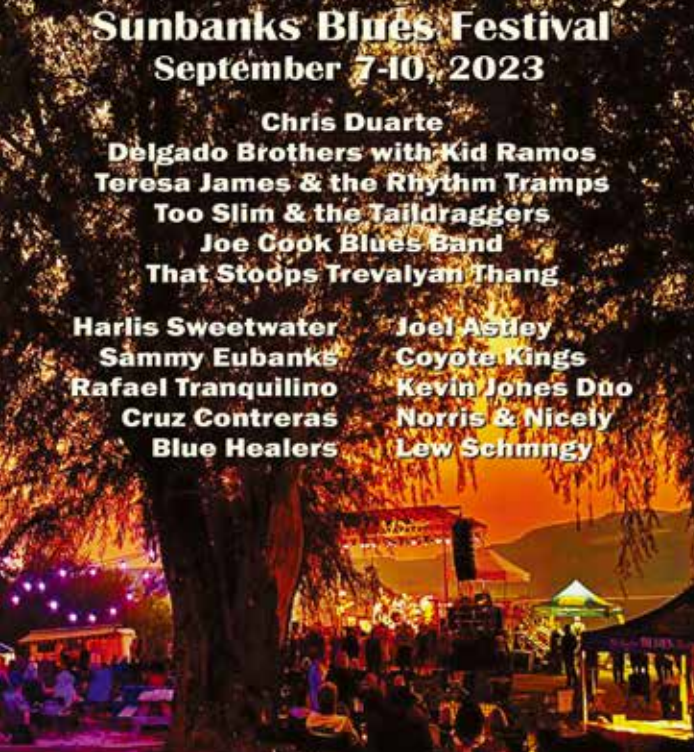


Sunbanks Blues Festival
September 7-10, 2023

Chris Duarte
Delgado Brothers with Kid Ramos
Teresa James & the Rhythm Tramps
Too Slim & the Taildraggers
Joe Cook Blues Band
That Stoops Trevalyan Thang

Harlis Sweetwater
Sammy Eubanks
Rafael Tranquillino
Cruz Contreras
Blue Healers

Joel Astley
Coyote Kings
Kevin Jones Duo
Norris & Nicely
Lew Schmingy



Sunbanks Lake Resort 57662 HWY 155 N., Electric City, WA (near Grand Coulee Dam)
 Music, Camping, RV Hook-ups, Cabins, Villas, Day Passes, Beach, Boat Launch, Mini Golf and more!
Reservations: 509-633-3786

SUNBANKS ROCKS

FEATURING CLASSIC AND CURRENT ROCK FROM THE GREAT NORTHWEST

SEPTEMBER 14-17 2023

HEART BY HEART
 FEATURING STEVE FOSSEN & MICHAEL DEROSIER OF HEART

LEROY BELL
RONI LEE
THE T-BIRDS
PETTY FEVER
JANIS LIVES (JOPLIN)
CREEDENCE REVELATION
RANDY HANSEN (JIMI HENDRIX)
WHEEL IN THE SKY (JOURNEY)
WASTED WORDS (ALLMAN BROTHERS)
STONEPONY (LINDA RONSTADT)
VICTIMS OF LOVE (THE EAGLES)
ALMOST HUMAN (KISS)
MONSTER ROAD
TRUE ROMANS



A Fraternity Among Pacific Northwest Musicians

"Being included in this 'fraternity,' as I have called it, means a lot to me."

By Daniel Brady (AKA "Double H")

Over the past few years, and particularly within the past year, I have discovered that there is a real fraternity among blues musicians, particularly blues harpists, here in the Pacific Northwest. I have been truly amazed by it.

Western Washington has some amazing blues harp players, some of whom are professional. Since October of last year, I've had the opportunity to meet a few of them. Artists like Jim McLaughlin, Joel Astley, and Joe Cook. Each of them has been exceptionally encouraging and, to some degree, have greeted me as a peer.

For example, on Halloween weekend, Jim McLaughlin was one of four featured artists at an event called Harpageddon. I had met Jim at a jam two weeks prior. Since Harpageddon was not an open jam, I did not bring my harmonicas with me.

I wasn't there to play. I was there to just watch the show.

Yet, about halfway through the evening, I found myself outside with Jim McLaughlin, making small talk.

"Did you bring your harps with you?" he asked.

I told him I hadn't.

"Oh man," said Jim. "You should have brought your harps. We might have gotten

you up to play with us."

Then, in February, Jim made it a point to tell me about a jam he would be hosting in April and invited me to attend.

My immediate reaction: "If someone of Jim McLaughlin's caliber is going to extend that kind of invitation to me, there's no turning that down."

And then there's Joe Cook.

I met Joe, almost by accident, in November last year. On a Sunday evening, Joel Astley was doing a show with Johnny Burgin, which I attended. Their concert began at 5 PM and ended around 6:30 PM. While there, I learned that a tavern not far from there was featuring some live music that night. I drove over there and saw the Joe Cook Blues Band.

During the intermission I said hello to Joe, and we talked for just a moment about harp playing.

A month later, Joe Cook guest-hosted a jam at the venue that had hosted Harpageddon. I went to that jam. I took my turn on stage. I said hello to Joe, and that was about it. And then, in April, he attended that jam that Jim McLaughlin was hosting. Again, we said hello to each other, and that was about it. So far as I knew, Joe Cook just saw me as one guy he ran into once in a while, but didn't pay much attention to.

Then, in May, Joe Cook was guest hosting



that jam again. I attended, with my good friend Anthony Duron Estrada. Watching Joe play, I told Anthony, "Man, I need to learn from him."

At the end of the night, I greeted Joe and said "Man, you were great tonight. That was awesome."

"Thanks," he said. "You were really good, too. In fact, you get better every time you play."

Hold on.

Hit the pause button.

That night was the third time I had taken a stage while he was present. I had no indication that he was noticing or paying attention to my performance. With that statement, he was telling me that he had been paying attention; enough attention to notice improvement in my playing.

Wow!

I then complimented him by saying, "Man, I need to learn from you!"

ANNIE EASTWOOD & HER ALL-STAR BAND
Eclectic Rhythm & Blues, Rock, Blues, Soul and Jazz.

Stickshift Annie with Kimball & the Fugitives

Events & Schedule Updates at
Annie Eastwood Music on Facebook
Contact: annie@stickshiftannie.com 206/941-9186

Local Food - Local Beer - Made Here

Live Blues, Jazz and Roots
Every Week featuring
Top Regional and National Acts

Official Sponsor of the
Washington Blues Society
Best of the Blues Awards

320 Commercial Avenue • Anacortes, WA 98221 • 360.588.1720
Visit us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube!



To my surprise, Joe said “Well, I’ll give you lessons.”

The camaraderie among blues musicians is not limited to harpists. About three weeks later, on a Friday, I saw a picture on Facebook. It was a sign outside a tavern, advertising that the Joe Cook Band would be there on Saturday night. I didn’t realize that the picture had been posted the week before. So, on Saturday, thinking I might get the opportunity to learn something from Joe Cook, I put a harmonica in my pocket and went to the tavern.

When I got there, no Joe Cook. He’d been there a week ago. That night, the Lori Hardman Band, which I’d never heard of, was playing. Though I’d never heard of them, it turns out I had recently met two of her band members. I met her drummer, Dano Mack, at a jam in April. Her guitarist, Eric Rice, was Joe Cook’s co-host at the jam in May.

When I walked into the tavern, Dano immediately greeted me, and we started visiting.

“Did you bring your harps with you?” he asked.

“Well, I’ve got one in my pocket,” I said.

“Maybe we’ll get you onstage to play a song or two with us,” Dano said.

Excuse me?

It wasn’t a jam.

This was a gig. And it was *their* gig. They were under no obligation to let anyone else get up and play with them. Besides, I wasn’t there, expecting to play. I was there, thinking I would see Joe Cook and thought that maybe, just maybe, he might teach me something after the show.

Sure enough, after they’d been playing for an hour or so, they brought me up onstage. Lori Hardman took a break from singing, Eric Rice called out the song, and we started playing. And during that song, he didn’t give me one solo, he gave me two!

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and was amazed. These are professional musicians. They were getting paid to be there. I had to believe that, wanting to sound good, these professionals would not invite anyone to play with them unless they were confident that the person would not blow it.

So, what amazed me was the level of confidence they had in my ability to play with them and not turn the show into a train wreck.

If you’ve been part of the Pacific Northwest blues scene for any length of time, I suspect that this sense of fraternity among musicians doesn’t surprise you. I’ve reached the point where it doesn’t really surprise me anymore.

However, I deeply appreciate it.

In my article in the March Bluesletter, I wrote of the time when I thought that no one would ever want to hear me play harmonica on account of my physical handicap.

Truthfully, I thought I’d never be good enough for anyone to enjoy listening to me.

Since I started taking it seriously, I’ve discovered that I could improve to a level where people don’t say “Oh God, put that thing away.”

But there are many levels of skill, even in playing harmonica. And quite often, people who don’t play a musical instrument are highly impressed by those who can play at even the most basic skill level.


Those who do play an instrument, particularly those who are highly skilled, can have a more discerning ear. They can tell whether someone is good or not, because they know what it takes to be good at it.

So, this kind of encouragement from other musicians, which I know to be far better than I am, is something I truly am grateful for.

Being included in this “fraternity,” as I have called it, means a lot to me.

Page 15: Joe Cook
(Photo Courtesy of the Artist)
Left: Joel Astley
(Photo by Jesse James)

**MUSICIANS
RELIEF
FUND**



**tax-deductible
contributions are
always in tune**

**Contribute to this
important fund today!
Contact us at [treasurer@
wablues.org](mailto:treasurer@wablues.org).**

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



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.

Hot August Night w/CROS and the Kim & Brian Band

Save the Date: August 17th at the Spanish Ballroom in the McMenamins Elks Temple in Tacoma

By Rick J. Bowen

The Washington Blues Society and the South Sound Blues Association present a Hot August Night Concert featuring the 2022 Washington Blues Society's Best New Band award winners Kim and Brian Band from Tacoma and International Blues Challenge Finalist CROS from Phoenix Arizona on Thursday, August 17th at the Spanish Ballroom in the McMenamins Elks Temple in Tacoma. A night of fiery blues and searing soul.



CROS

CROS the winner of the 2018 and 2019 Phoenix Blues Society's Blues Challenge, and finalists in the 2019 Blues Foundation International Blues Challenge. Former bassist for Lucky Peterson and Grammy Award winner James Cotton, CROS has shared the stage with a number of accomplished artists in a variety of genres, including alternative rock group Inflatables Soule, rap group

Cypress Hill, blues, R&B and jazz artists Koko Taylor, Buddy Guy, Marcus Miller, Otis Taylor, Shemekia Copeland, Otis Rush, Maria Muldaur, Marcia Ball, Bernard Allison, Johnny Winter, Jimmy Johnson, Kenny Neal, and numerous jazz ensembles.

By fusing an amazing blend of music and experience over his career, CROS brings an incredible and unique presence to every performance. Devyn Poole on drums brings the fire and intensity that no other drummer can match!

Laying down that driving beat with a groove that cannot be matched, Devyn is a drummer of all drummers! Rick Mutter on keys, adding that extra element that brings the music to life! Darryl Porras on guitar, lays down the backbone of the groove as he lays down the rhythm and leads. Kenny Brown on guitar adds power, intensity, drive, and passion to the band.

You will experience a multitude of feelings and emotions all while sitting back and enjoying the ride through a mixture of soul, funk, blues, rock, R&B and folk that will leave you satisfied and clamoring for more all at the same time. (Photo Courtesy of CROS).

Kim & Brian Band

Veteran Tacoma musicians Kim Archer and Brian Feist joined forces in 2019 to not only work together as a songwriting duo, but also as a double front of a full band.



Since then, they won the 2022 Washington Blues Society's Best New Band award and released an extraordinary EP, *In the Valley Of the Blues*, after a successful crowdfunding campaign from their legion of supportive fans. The five-song collection is exactly what you would expect from such a dedicated and talented singer/songwriter team, who are also acclaimed guitarists, and their impeccable rhythm section of Jerome Gates on bass and award-winning drummer Andrew Cloutier (Left Hand Smoke, Lee Oskar). (Photo Courtesy of the Artists).

"*In the Valley of the Blues* offers a fresh take on classic themes, original songs and arrangements, outstanding musicianship and a talented group of players who work to put it all together...This little band makes a big, beautiful sound." - Jane Henderson, South Sound Blues Association.



August 2023 Live Blues Music Calendar!

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

AUGUST 1

Quil Ceda Creek, Tulalip: Blues & BBQ Nick Vigarino 5 PM

Madison Ave Pub, AJ Fullerton 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Otis Taylor 7:30 PM

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

AUGUST 2

Bellevue Beats, Bellevue: Aaron Crawford 12 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Mike Jop Funky Jazz 6-9 PM

Old Town Park, Tacoma: Amelia Day 6:30 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Otis Taylor 7:30 PM

Engels Pub, Edmonds: McPage & Powell 8 PM

AUGUST 3

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: Katie Wade 4:30 PM

Slims Last Chance, Seattle Dusty 45's 6 PM

Pine Lake Park, Sammamish: Cloud Cover 6:30P M

Curran Apple Orchard, University Place: King Kom Beaux 6:30 PM

Historic Shell Station, Issaquah: Gas Station Blues Jolene Gayle 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Kevin Sutton Songwriter Showcase 7 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Revue 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Ranky Tanky w/sp guest Lisa Fischer 7:30 PM

AUGUST 4

Bellevue Downtown Park, Bellevue: Amelia Day 12 PM

Darlington Bluegrass Music Park, Darlington: Re/ Evolution Music & Camping Festival 10 AM

City Park, Noxon, MT: Big Sky Blues Festival 4 PM

Skylark, West Seattle: Whitewing 5 PM

The Point, Kingston: Summer Sounds 6 PM

Visitor Center Amphitheater on Desolation Sound, Burlington: Summer Nights Concerts

Bothell Landing, Bothell: Laurel Canyon Legacy 6 PM

Brewminatti, Prosser: A.J Fullerton 7 PM

Black Angus, Puyallup: Roger Williamson Duo Black 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Ranky Tanky w/sp guest Lisa Fischer 7:30 PM

AUGUST 5

Darlington Bluegrass Music Park, Darlington: Re/ Evolution Music & Camping Festival 10 AM

The Beach at Birch Bay, Blaine: Tribute to the Mount Baker Rhythm and Blues Festival 12 PM

Ashford County Park Amphitheater, Ashford:

Rainier Music Festival 12 PM

City Park, Noxon, MT: Big Sky Blues Festival 12 PM

Marymoor Amphitheatre, Redmond: Big Thief & Lucinda Williams 5 PM

The Moore Theatre, Seattle: Los Lonely Boys 6 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Neal Fallen All Stars 7 PM

Jazz Alley Seattle: Ranky Tanky w/sp guest Lisa Fischer 7:30 PM

Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline: Annie Eastwood & Her All-Star Band feat. Billy Stapleton 8 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Joel Astley 8 PM

Engels Pub, Edmonds: James Carr Band 9 PM

AUGUST 6

Darlington Bluegrass Music Park, Darlington: Re/ Evolution Music & Camping Festival 10 AM

Volunteer Park, Seattle: Seattle Peace Concerts 12 PM

City Park, Noxon, MT: Big Sky Blues Festival 12 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Silver Tongued Devils 7-10 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Ranky Tanky w/sp guest Lisa Fischer 7:30 PM

AUGUST 7

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 9P M

Owl and Thistle, Seattle: The Great Monday Jam 9 PM

AUGUST 8

Qui Ceda Creek Casino, Tulalip: Blues n BBQ Stacy Jones Band 5 PM

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w/the Charles White Revue 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Jaime Reynolds 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Jovino Santos Neto Quinteto 7:30PM

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

AUGUST 9

Bellevue Square Fountain, Bellevue Beats: The W Lovers 12 PM

Old Town Park, Tacoma: Saltwater Sky 6:30PM

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Four Tops 7:30 PM

First Interstate Center for the Arts, Spokane: Buddy Guy 7 PM

AUGUST 10

Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo, BC: Nanaimo Blues Festival 3 PM

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: Joel Astley 4:30 PM

Slims Last Chance, Seattle Dusty 45's 6 PM

Riverwalk Park, Mt. Vernon: Eden 6 PM

Pine Lake Park, Sammamish: Jewell Tones 6:30 PM

Historic Shell Station, Issaquah: Gas Station Blues w/Eric Rice 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones Songwriter Showcase 7 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Revue 7 PM

The Paramount, Seattle: Buddy Guy w/Eric Gales 7 PM

The Triple Door, Seattle: Too Slim & the Taildraggers 7:30 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Four Tops 7:30PM

AUGUST 11

Bellevue Downtown Park, Bellevue: Duende Libre 12 PM

Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo, BC: Nanaimo Blues Festival 12 PM

Riverfront Park Pavilion, Libby MT: Riverfront Blues Festival 5PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Four Tops 7:30 PM

AUGUST 12

Si View Park, North Bend: Mt, Si Festival 1 PM

Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo, BC: Nanaimo Blues Festival 12 PM

Riverfront Park Pavilion, Libby, MT: Riverfront Blues Festival 1 PM

Gig Harbor Sportsman's Club, Gig Harbor: Gig Harbor Rhythm & Blues Festival feat. Billy Stapleton's Powerhouse Band 4 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Jo Mama 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Four Tops 7:30 PM

AUGUST 13

Seward Park, Seattle: Seattle Peace Concert 12 PM

Si View Park, North Bend: Mt. Si Festival 1 PM

Black Dog Arts, Snoqualmie: Nick Vigarino 2 PM

C&P Coffee, West Seattle: Itterly & Pittman: 3 PM

Carnation Farms, Carnation: Leroy Bell 4 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Mark DuFresne Band feat. Billy Stapleton 7 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Four Tops 7:30PM

AUGUST 14

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM

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

Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

Owl & Thistle, Seattle: The Great Monday Jam 9 PM

AUGUST 15

Qui Ceda Creek Casino, Tulalip: Blues n BBQ feat. Eric Maine Connection 5 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Doug Cooper 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Stanley Jordan Plays Jimi 7:30PM

AUGUST 16

Old Town Park, Tacoma: Pretty Funk Dub 6:30 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Stanley Jordan Plays Jimi 7:30PM

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

AUGUST 17

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: Brother John & the Surrogates 4:30PM

Music at the Marina, Everett: Lady A 5 PM

Slims Last Chance, Seattle Dusty 45's 6 PM

Elizabeth Park, Bellingham: 6 PM

Pine Lake Park, Sammamish: Laurel Canyon Legacy 6:30PM

Historic Shell Station, Issaquah: Gas Station Blues 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Eric Rice Songwriter Showcase 7 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Revue 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: John Pizzarelli Trio 7:30 PM

AUGUST 18

Bellevue Downtown Park, Bellevue: Sampada Bhalero 12 PM

Burlington Visitor Center Amphitheater, Burlington: Billy Appleton Band 6 PM

The Point, Kingston: Summer Sounds 6 PM

Grape n Grain, Everett: Norris & Nicely 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: John Pizzarelli Trio 7:30PM

The Triple Door, Seattle: Jr. Cadillac 7:30PM

AUGUST 19

Marymoor Amphitheatre, Redmond: Chomp 10 AM

Thorton Rd, Ferndale: Mt. Baker Peace Festival 1 PM

Nile Shrine Events Center, Mountlake Terrace: Nile Brew Festival 3 PM

Lighthouse Park, Mukilteo: Stacy Jones Band w/ Tom Buenger 6 PM

Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline: Mark Dufresne Band feat. Billy Stapleton 8 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: John Pizzarelli Trio 7:30 PM

The Triple Door, Seattle: Jr. Cadillac 7:30 PM

Bella Femmina, Gig Harbor: Linda Carroll & Retro Gröve 8 PM

AUGUST 20

Skagit Valley Farmers Market, Mt. Vernon: Norris & Nicely 11 AM

Roslyn Farmer's Market, Roslyn: Billy Stapleton's Powerhouse Band 12 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Washington Blues Challenge International Blues Challenge Finals 1 PM

The Grange, Duval: Stacy Jones Band 5 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Mr. Hasty 7 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: John Pizzarelli Trio 7:30 PM

AUGUST 21

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM

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

Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

Owl & Thistle, Seattle: The Great Monday Jam 9 PM

AUGUST 22

Qui Ceda Creek Casino, Tulalip: Blues n BBQ Chris Eger 5 PM

CCR Snohomish, Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w Annie O'Neal & the Wolf Tones, and Chester Dennis Jones 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Kim & Brian 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lydia Pense & Cold Blood 7:30 PM

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

AUGUST 23

Allan Yorke Park, Lake Tapps: Tunes at Tapps w/ Cory Wilds Band 5 PM

Old Town Park, Tacoma: Playtonics 6 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lydia Pense & Cold Blood 7:30 PM

North Cove Park, Lake Stevens: Spin Offs 8 PM

AUGUST 24

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: Island Bound 4:30 PM

Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood & Friends feat. Billy Stapleton 6 PM

Slims Last Chance, Seattle Dusty 45's 6 PM

Lake Wilderness Park, Maple Valley: Spin Offs 6 PM

Riverwalk Park, Mt. Vernon: Chris Eger & the Powerhouse Horns 6 PM

Pine Lake Park, Sammamish: Taylor Made 6P M

Historic Shell Station, Issaquah: Gas Station Blues w /John Primer 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones Songwriter Showcase 7 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Revue 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Fred Wesley & the New JB Horns 7:30PM

AUGUST 25

Bellevue Downtown Park, Bellevue: Britany Collins 12 PM

Port of Peninsula, Ocean Park: Peninsula R&B Festival 5 PM

The Point, Kingston: Summer Sounds 6 PM

Burlington Visitor Center Amphitheater, Burlington: Midlife Crisis & the Alimony Horns 6 PM

The Barn at Wilson farm, Lake Tapps: Stacy Jones Band 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Fred Wesley & the New JB Horns 7:30PM

Neptune Theatre, Seattle: Tab Benoit 8 PM

Nectar Lounge, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 8 PM

Bake's Place, Bellevue: Annie Eastwood & Her All-Star Band feat. Billy Stapleton 9 PM

AUGUST 26

Port of Peninsula, Ocean Park: Peninsula R&B Festival 12 PM

Des Moines Beach Park, Des Moines: Poverty Bay Blues & Brews 12 PM

Burien Riviera, Burien: Stacy Jones Band 5 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Joel Astley 7 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Linda Carroll & Retro Gruve 7 PM

Bailey's Corner Store, Clinton: Nick Vigarino 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Fred Wesley and the New JB Horns 7:30 PM

Nectar Lounge, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

AUGUST 27

West of the Waterway, Tacoma: 3rd Annual Dock Street Blues & Jazz Festival feat. Annika Chambers & Paul Deslauriers 12:30PM

Seward Park, Seattle: Seattle Peace Concerts Blues Picnic 12 PM

Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Annie Eastwood w/ Kimball & the Fugitives 4PM

McMenamins Anderson School, Bothell: Norris & Nicely 5 PM

The Grange, Duval: Joel Astley 5 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Fred Wesley & the New JB Horns 7:30PM

(Continued on Page 29)

GravelRoad's long trip through the blues

Drummer Marty Reinsel on touring with T Model Ford, traveling the Delta, and hitting Europe in the fall

It was an odd lineup, I thought, for a Friday night at the Tractor Tavern June 9. Lady A's funk and blues band was going to be there, opening a CD release party for a band called GravelRoad that I'd never heard of, but that was described as a blues punk band. I couldn't really picture it; her fabulous funky soulful blues show featuring a band whose musical experience probably adds up to a century and half, opening for what I pictured as some edgy young shaved-head guys with guitars around their knees.

Shortly after I got there, I got to hear sound-check, and understood why the lineup actually made a lot of sense, and also why some people might call GravelRoad punk. They were doing cutting edge electric Hill Country blues along the lines of R. L. Burnside's album *Ass Pocket Full of Whiskey*. It was driving, hypnotic, and gritty, and like much electric Hill Country, it had a punk sensibility without trying to.

And Lady A's band was a full traditional funk and blues experience that was raucous enough to set the stage nicely for the rough-edged blues rock show that followed. The crowd was big and digging it, and I've made you wish you'd been there, well, you can see Lady A and Gravel Road share a bill again in October, but you'll have to fly to Prague.

I hadn't intended to write a story about the show, but I was curious how this lineup came about and how it was they were reconvening in Europe in a few months. Once I realized that GravelRoad was releasing their 9th album, had been on the road for 20 years, and had been the backup band for T-Model Ford for four years, I grabbed for a notebook and started asking questions. Drummer and co-founder Marty Reinsel was gracious enough to sit down in the Tractor Tavern green room upstairs from where Lady A's band was tearing the place up during the opening set and give us the story.

GravelRoad, it happens, formed on Martin Luther King Way in the late 1990s, when Pittsburgh native Reinsel moved into a house in the Central District with guitarist Stefan Zillioux and they started jamming just for fun. During those years, Reinsel developed the strong love of blues that he



got from other musicians in Pennsylvania, playing with local artists and listening to the greats, including Albert King, BB King and Muddy Waters. He also discovered lesser-known artists, including North Mississippi's Jesse Mae Hemphill, who he calls an important early influence. Also important was Othar Turner's fife and drum band, whose tradition is carried on today by great-granddaughter Sharde Thomas.

When he found his way to the North Mississippi sounds of R.L. Burnside and Jr. Kimbrough he decided to make a trip to the source.

"Junior Kimbrough had a juke joint off of like Route 4 in Chulahoma County in North Mississippi," he said. "It was one of those places that musicians would come from all over. You'd have the Stones show up, like they would play a show in Memphis and the next day they'd go down to Junior's Jook Joint."

Between 1991, when Kimbrough bought the dilapidated old church, and 1998, when he died and the club passed to his sons, he and R.L. Burnside held house parties there every Sunday night.

Reinsel arrived in 1999, where he found a thriving and welcoming group of traditional artists still playing the hypnotic North Mississippi style at the juke joint, which burned down in 2008.

"I was so pleasantly surprised with how well I was received," he said. "I was an outsider, but they were like, 'hey, you're coming down to check out music,' and welcoming me to play and go to juke joints and things like that."

Inspired, Reinsel continued to travel between Seattle and Mississippi in the 2000s, often with a partner named Margaret "Muggs" Light with whom he toured the US as Sugar Farm, playing the North Mississippi style, just her on guitar and Reinsel on drums. He also tarted touring with GravelRoad, formed with Stefan Zillioux, a harder-edged project that still remained true to its North Mississippi roots.

While in Mississippi, he and Muggs got to attend church with Kimbrough's sons and extended family and eventually those of the Burnside's.

(Continued on page 25)

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 7-10 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)

2023 International Blues Challenge Finals at the Conway Muse

Bands: James Howard Band & Mid-Nite Bourbon, Solo/Duo: Blue Tide & Blue Healers

By Rick J. Bowen

The Washington Blues Society and the South Sound Blues Association present the 2023 International Blues Challenge Finals on Sunday, August 20th at 1 PM at the Conway Muse in Conway, Washington. The contest will feature entries from two full bands, The James Howard Band and Mid-Nite Bourbon, along with two solo/duo acts, Blue Tide and the Blue Healers.

The four acts will compete before a panel of judges for the chance to represent Washington State at the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge in January, 2024 in Memphis. The picnic-styled event will feature an afterparty hosted by three- time International Blues Society CD Woodbury and his trio along with the Washington Blues Society and South Sound Blues Association BBQ.

More Info on the Contestants



Mid-Nite Bourbon is a three-piece band that came together in December 2021. Brian Oliver (guitarist w/Palmer Junction, Boogie Chillin), Sean Peabody (Session bassist in Los Angeles, Nashville, and Muscle Shoals) and Devan Bland (drums w/Punish the Scribes) formed the trio after a few nights at Purdy's Blues Jams in Sumner. (Photo of Midnight Bourbon by Tony Frederickson).

James Howard has been playing guitar for 46 years and teaching guitar professionally since 1984. In 2012, James won the Best Blues Guitarist Award in Lee Ritenour and Yamaha's Six String Theory Global Guitar Competition, with applicants from 49 countries world-wide. The James



Howard Band won the Washington Blues Society's competition in 2016 and represented the Pacific Northwest at the prestigious International Blues Challenge in Memphis. (Photo of James Howard by Clancy Dunagin)



Blue Healers is a roots duo based in Snohomish, playing stripped down originals and covers with grit and weirdness. Don Forsyth is an innovative guitarist with deep blues influences and an unconventional expansive and expressive style. Diane Forsyth is a deep voiced bass playing songwriter with soul, folk, country, and interstellar influences. (Photo of The Blue Healers by Clancy Dunagin).

The Blue Tide is the Seattle-based acoustic blues duo of Daniel Rapport and J.D. Lenoir. The duo has performed together since attending Garfield High School in Seattle and released the self-produced album *Plague Blues* in 2022. (Photo of The Blue Tide by Tony Frederickson).



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!

(Continued from page 21)

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!

GravelRoad's long trip through the blues

(Continued from page 22)



He and Muggs even got invited to visit R.L. Burnside at his family home as the aged bluesman was living out his last months.

Then in 2008 came an unexpected and fateful opportunity. The legendary blues man T Model Ford, then 88, was appearing at the Deep Blues Festival in Minnesota and needed a backing band. GravelRoad was there, and agreed to fill in. That turned into a 10-city tour over the next month.

"It was really successful in every way," Reinsel said. "Everybody got along. And we finished up the tour, a little run going from Greenville to like Oklahoma City. It was so much fun. And at the end of the last show T Model said, 'Let's keep going.' I was like, 'Alright.' And two weeks later T Model had a heart attack."

T Model's then-girlfriend called Reinsel

from the hospital one day and said that T Model wanted to talk.

"I was like, 'Hey, how you doing, man?' and he said, 'I'm ready.' And I thought, what's he ready for? Like, is he seeing the light? Did he call to say goodbye? And then he said, 'I'm ready to get back out on the road!' So I said, you take whatever meds they tell you to take and we'll go pack."

Three months later, the tour was back on. T Model got stronger as the tour went on.

"I think he kind of vibed getting the younger folks out with him and feeling younger and being out on the road," Reinsel said. For the next three years, they toured regularly, and recorded two albums with T Model, including "The Ladies Man" and "Taledragger."

When T Model died after an illness in 2013, GravelRoad carried on, playing the edgy Hill Country they call PsychDelta. For the last 10 years, they have toured internationally and recorded album after album. They also have placed music into independent film sound tracks and TV shows

For the release party for their 9th album, "Duty To Warn" they wanted to work with a strong local act. They heard Lady A and her band at a festival and invited them to open the show. In turn, Lady A worked out an opportunity for GravelRoad to join her at a festival in Prague in October, when both her band and GravelRoad will be touring Europe.

"We like to mix it up," said Reinsel. "And places like it when they can put together an interesting lineup."



Page 21: GravelRoad includes guitarists Jon Kirby and Stefan Zillioux, bassist Joe Johnson and drummer Marty Reinsel.

Left: GravelRoad poses for a photo with T Model Ford. The Seattle musicians served as the backup band for the Mississippi artist.

Above: Flyer (Courtesy of Rocky Nelson). Images courtesy of the artists.

Whom to Hire, Get in Touch

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

\$

Scratch Daddy (425) 210-1925

#

44th Street Blues Band 206.714.5180 or 206.775.2762

A

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

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
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
Guilded 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

Jack Cook & Phantoms of Soul 206.517.5294
James Howard 206.250.7494
James King & the Southsiders 206.715.6511
Janie Cribbs & the T.Rust Band 360.331.6485
JD Hobson 206.235.3234
Jeffery Alan Olsen & the Blues Choo Train 425.345.5399
Jeff "Drummerboy" Hayes 206.909.6366
Jeff & The Jet City Fliers 206.818.0701
Jeff Menteer and The Beaten Path 425.280.7392
Jeremy Serwer 520.275.9444
Jesse Weston 425.610.0933
Jill Newman Band 206.390.2623
James Brunner 509.457.0762
Jim Carompas (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

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
Michael "Papa Bax" Baxter 425.478.1365
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
Mike Haley 509.393.5838
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



RED HOT AUGUST BLUES BASHES



BASH I

Aug 8th

The Charles White Revue
Aurora Borealis - Shoreline
7PM



BASH II Aug 22

Chester Dennis Jones
Annie O'Neill & The Wolf Tones
CCR - Snohomish 7PM
All Are Welcome - FREE



August 2023 Live Blues Music Calendar! (Continued)

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

(Continued from Page 21)

AUGUST 28

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM

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

Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

Owl & Thistle, Seattle: The Great Monday Jam 9 PM

AUGUST 29

Crossroads Farmers Market, Bellevue: Eric Madis 1 PM

Qui Ceda Creek Casino, Tulalip: Blues n BBQ w/The True Romans 5 PM

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

Purdy's, Sumner: Soulful 88's 7 PM

Triple Door, Seattle: Sonny Landreth w/John Greyhound Maxwell 7:30 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Marc Seales Quartet w/sp. guest Ernie Watts 7:30 PM

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

AUGUST 30

Riverfront Park, Spokane: Pig Out in the Park 12 PM
Market Square, University Place: Stacy Jones Band 6 PM

Old Town Park, Tacoma: Randy Campbell 6:30 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

Triple Door, Seattle: Sonny Landreth w/John Greyhound Maxwell 7:30PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Marc Seales Quartet w/sp. guest Ernie Watts 7:30PM

Engels Pub, Edmonds: Sheri & Da Boyz 8 PM

AUGUST 31

Riverfront Park, Spokane: Pig Out in the Park 12 PM

Riverwalk Park, Mt. Vernon: Mama Dirty Skirt 6 PM

Music at the Marina, Everett: Leroy Bell 5 PM

Slims Last Chance, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM

Historic Shell Station, Issaquah: Gas Station Blues w/Jon Firshi 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones Songwriter Showcase 7 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Revue 7PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Keiko Matsui 7:30PM

Help Us Keep Our Listings Up to Date!

Please send updates to our online and print calendar, talent guide & open mic/jam guides to editor@wablues.org and vicepres@wablues.org.

Print deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month (September's listings are due on August 10th).

Thank you!



PITCHING A WANG DANG DOODLE?

Check out our huge updated, accessible, upstairs party room

Low rates, full bar, wood dance floor & more
Contact the Salmon Bay Eagles (206) 783-7791

Preserving & Promoting Blues Music

as a part of our Cultural Heritage and Tradition



www.rainydayblues.org
a 501c3 non-profit organization



South Sound Blues Association

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE SINCE 2005

www.southsoundblues.org

We Want You! To Join the Washington Blues Society

Sign up online at www.WABLUES.org or scan this QR code with your phone




Robert Johnson

Your Membership Benefits include:

- Monthly Bluesletter in your mailbox*
- Monthly All-Ages Blues Bash Email notices
- Member Discounts for BB Awards and Holiday Party
- TICKET RAFFLES AND GIVE AWAY OPPORTUNITIES
- WEEKLY BLUES MEN'S REPORTS
- VOTING PRIVILEGES FOR BEST OF THE BLUES AWARDS
- \$5.00 off show admission for Friday 9:30 shows at Jazz Alley**

* Due to postage fees, non-US residents will receive their Bluesletter electronically
**With valid WBS membership card and advance reservation. Reservations must be made by calling Jazz Alley at (206) 441-6729, and requesting the WBS Special. This offer is not applicable to all shows.

Music Makes Its Mark in Historically Hip Downtown Issaquah

Acclaimed Gas Station Blues and Confluence Music Festival Bring Summer Refrain

Courtesy of the Downtown Issaquah Association

As Rihanna would say, “Please don’t stop the music.”

Lyrics the Downtown Issaquah Association (DIA) lives by.

For the ninth year, the Gas Station Blues presents every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Historic Shell Station, 232 Front Street North in Issaquah, Washington’s downtown Creative District. The series opened on July 6th and continues with five shows in August.

In partnership with the Washington Blues Society, Gas Station Blues features live music from notable blues artists from around the world. The artists are internationally renowned and draw crowds from throughout Washington. Both the blues society and the DIA are dedicated to preserving music and maintaining culture and history.

As one of only 13 Creative Arts Districts in Washington, downtown Issaquah is a cultural draw for art and music lovers around the world,” said DIA President Christina Bruning. “The amount of creative talent that converges every year is remarkable.”

Rounding out the summer with music and art, the fifth annual Confluence Music Festival returns on August 27th. The festival will run 2-7 PM and feature local and internationally renowned musicians and a wide range of artists.

On Sunday, August 20th, as a warmup weekend for the Confluence Music Festival on the 27th, a brand-new event, the Brady Byther Memorial Concert, will be certain to entertain with 12 bands from 10 AM to 6:30 PM at Issaquah’s Confluence Park. Hosted by Kaleidoscope Rock Academy, the Memorial Concert is a local talent showcase named after guitarist Brady Byther who played for

teen bands Gravity’s Curve and error 404 for eight years and was a mainstay at Kaleidoscope and local music events from 2014 to 2022. Brady passed away far too soon at the age of 21 in January of 2023.

What to know about Gas Station Blues

- Concerts are free!
- Suitable for all ages
- Wine, beer and other beverages and food available for purchase from local restaurants. Fins Bistro will be onsite with beverages and snacks. Or reserve Fins’ patio seating across the street for the best seats around.
- Consider getting takeout from one of the locally owned restaurants: Japan Ginger, The Great American Diner, Chicago Pastrami, Levitate, Maharaja Cuisine of India, Sip Thai Zoom, Subway, 96 Front Street N, Krawbar, Montalcino Italian Ristorante, Vino Bella, Las Margaritas, El42 Cantina, JaK’s Grill, Sunset Ale House, Macky’s Dim Sum, Khao San Thai Cuisine, Fifty5 Sunset, Big Picture.
- You’ll want to stay until the end. Bring a comfy chair!

Gas Station Blues 2023 Season

Aug. 3 Jolene Gayle
(Arlington) w/Joe Hellmore
(Spain)

Aug. 10 Eric Rice (Seattle)

Aug. 17 Stacy Jones (Seattle)

Aug. 24 John Primer (Chicago)

Aug. 31 John Firshi (Idaho)

What to know about the Confluence Festival

- Location : Confluence Park, 595 Rainer Blvd North in Issaquah
5 hours live music with a beer & wine garden

- Access to the full park
- Bring your own chairs – or spread out a blanket for the whole family
- Food trucks will be onsite.

About Issaquah

Issaquah, named “Best Burb” by *Sunset Magazine*, one of the “Best Towns for Families” by *Family Circle*, and one of the “Best Towns” by *Outside Magazine*, is a draw for outdoor and culture enthusiasts from around the world. With more than 40,000 diverse residents, it is situated conveniently off I-90, just 16 miles east of Seattle.

Nicknamed “Trailhead City,” Issaquah is nestled within the Issaquah Alps (Cougar, Squak and Tiger mountains). It’s an outdoor paradise, drawing locals and tourists to beautiful hiking trails, paragliding, pristine lakes and nature attractions in state and community parks.

About the Downtown Issaquah Association

The DIA is a leader in the community, promoting culture and arts in Downtown Issaquah. As one of the few Creative Arts Districts in the state, it strives to cultivate a thriving Olde Town that builds community and celebrates local charm through visual, performing, and musical arts.

~RAINIER~ MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023



12 Noon to 10pm

12:00 Linda Carroll and Retro Gruve

1:30 Billy Stoops & The Dirt Angels

3:00 Monster Road

4:30 Brian James Was Here

6:00 Island Bound

7:30 Diego Romero

9:00 Filthy Fifth

LIVE
MUSIC

BEER
GARDEN

FOOD TRUCKS ~ CRAFT VENDORS
ASHFORD COUNTY PARK AMPHITHEATER

29801 SR 706 E, Ashford, WA



\$40.00 Advance ~ \$45.00 Gate ~ 17 & under free!

<https://rainiermusicfestival.bpt.me>



P.O. Box 70604
Seattle, WA 98127

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 5617

Change Service Requested



The Washington Blues Society is a proud recipient of a
2009 BLUES FOUNDATION
KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE AWARD

40 YEARS *Lee Oskar*
OF EXCELLENCE since 1983

Same Quality
NEW Eco-Friendly Packaging

Connect with us...
leeoskar.com