

Blue Letter



Washington

September 2023

REMEMBERING AN ICON
ALICE STUART

**PAUL RUCKER'S 78
& SOULFUL SEATTLE**
@ 23RD & JACKSON

CD PREVIEW
**LEE OSKAR'S
SHE SAID MAHALO**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Blues Fans,

In this issue, we celebrate Alice Stuart, her Hall of Fame career, and her musical legacy. Over the many years I have known Alice, I got to know her and we became good friends. She was an amazing person, and I found her history inspiring.

She came to Seattle after graduating from high school in Chelan all by herself, got a job, and figured out what she wanted to do! At that time, this was a very uncommon thing for a young woman to do. Fortunately for her she settled in the University District and met some of the local musicians from the music scene that had developed there. She found her life's work, spent many years in Seattle, and started her long path in becoming a foundational artist who opened doors for women to be professional musicians. She spent several years here and learned from some of Seattle's best musicians at that time. It quickly became apparent that Alice had talent and passion to express her self and her ideas.

After spending several years in Seattle, she moved south to California and was quickly noticed and really started making a name for herself. She played the Berkeley Folk Festival, was invited back for a second and a third time which was not common for a new musician. In California, she met a "who's who" of professional musicians and played with many well-known performers such as Mississippi John Hurt, Frank Zappa, and Van Morrison. By the mid 70s, she was well established, credited with opening the doors for women to play lead guitar and front their own bands!

Later, she returned to Seattle and started her band that most of us know, "Alice Stuart and the Formerlys".

Some of my favorite moments working with Alice when she decided to try her luck in Memphis at the International Blues Challenge. We spent a lot of time together doing the fundraising for the trip and she did well as the solo/duo representative for the Washington Blues Society. I also worked with her at many other gigs and always enjoyed our time together. She was a one-of-a-kind performer and is recognized by many for opening doors for women in music. I will miss Alice and her friendship. She was truly one of best!

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

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This month's magazine honors the memory and legacy of Alice Stuart. In addition to remembrances from a number of Pacific Northwest musicians, the issue features special memories of Alice from Detroit bluesman Pat Smillie, former Washington Blues Society Secretary Rocky Nelson, and a poem from Blues Vespers' Rev. Dave Brown. Eric Steiner recalls a memorable soul food lunch at the Central District's Simply Soulful restaurant that includes a surprise connection with an early supporter of the blues society, social justice artist Paul Rucker. In addition to an exciting preview of nationally touring artists visiting our region in Blues on the Road, this issue also previews Lee Oskar's exciting new CD, *She Said Mahalo*, and the CD release party on September 15th at Seattle's Royal Room. CD reviews are back in these pages with seven releases on the Blue Heart, Gulf Coast, and Blues House record labels. September also marks an important milestone for the Washington Blues Society. This month, the blues society will host three Blues Bashes! Our very first President's Blues Bash on the 5th with John Primer and Steve Bell at the Aurora Borealis in Shoreline, the 2nd Tuesday Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis with Ross Robinson and the Joel Astley Band, and on the 26th at Collectors Choice Restaurant in Snohomish with the Norris & Nicely Duo and the Rafael Tranquilino Band.

Above: John Primer at the 2016 Chicago Blues Festival
(Photo by Eric Steiner)

Cover: Alice Stuart (Photo by Dennis Dudley)
(Composition and color by Sean Donovan)

In This Issue...

BLUES RIFFS

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

BLUES NEWS, REVIEWS & FEATURES

- 6 Remembering an Icon: Alice Stuart
- 8 One Special Memory of Alice Stuart
- 8 With Alice Stuart at Chicago's Red Brick Recording Studios
- 9 Thanksgiving
- 10 CD Show Preview: Lee Oskar's *She Said Mahalo*
- 12 Travelogue: Blues in Las Vegas
- 14 Simply an Exceptional Soul Food Lunch
- 16 CD Reviews
- 19 Blues Preview: North Bend Blues Walk
- 24 Previews: Blues on the Road
- 31 You Should Have Been There!

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY STUFF!

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

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



This issue is courtesy of Eric Steiner. I'm on tour right now, and the tour is going very well, and part of the reason it's going very well is that we have a heavy schedule. I have been able to do very little on this issue, but Eric stepped up and made it happen.

He had already said he would try to cover for me some while I was on tour, and he had the September issue just about all organized and ready to go, and then we lost Alice

Stuart. To say that Alice was a giant in Pacific Northwest blues doesn't do her importance justice. She is a giant in the history of women in music. The best source I know to read her whole story is online at Historylink.org, which is a lot more informative than Wikipedia. Suffice it to say, she was a huge deal in the seethingly brilliant music world of the early 1960-70s, a lead guitarist, bandleader, and widely respected blues/folk musician at a time when women in music were seldom taken as seriously as were men.

For me, Alice Stuart represented a woman who lived a fully realized, almost magical life. She was in the Mothers of Invention and had a brief romance with Frank Zappa. She toured with top acts of the 1960s and 1970s. She was a close friend of John Fogerty. She recorded on Chris Strackwitz' Arhoolie Records label, arguably the most consequential folk label of the era. She lived in Los Angeles when it seemed like everything exciting in American music was happening there and elsewhere in California.

I've always had a nostalgia for the 1960s, even though I wasn't born yet. She was right where I would like to imagine myself: a full participant in the art renaissance. The cover of her album *Full Time Woman*, released in 1970 on Fantasy Records, epitomizes how I see her in that era. She's leaning down from her motorcycle to kiss her young child. You get the sense she's going on the road (although touring from a motorcycle would be tricky) and kissing her kid goodbye. She's a full-time woman, a musician in charge of her own life who also can be a mother. It was a transgressive image at the time; women were supposed to be the ones who stayed with the kids while the men went adventuring and writing poignant but manly songs like "Freebird" and "Ramble On" about it. And women generally sat on the back of the motorcycle.

Every time we lose someone like Alice, it feels like we've lost a link back to a time in which people still had the gumption to change the world. Alice and her generation of musicians and artists had audacity. They remade culture to suit themselves with the sort of righteous fervor I associate with the French Revolution; reckless



but certain that change was vital and they were the ones to bring it about. Taj Mahal once commented that Alice Stuart had cut the road that Bonnie Raitt walked. Alice and a handful of ferociously talented women like her cut the road all of us have walked ever since. I'm out here walking it now. As I write, I'm sitting in the lobby of a La Quinta Inn in Nashville, with my portable office all spread out around me.

We just wrapped up a very successful, but also very grueling, couple of weeks in the Midwest, and tomorrow we start our tour of the Southeast, with dates in Tennessee, North and South Carolina and Florida before making our way back along the Gulf Coast and up through Texas.

I love this life. These days each year are the days that sustain me for the rest of the year. When I'm on the road playing our own music, I feel freer than I do at any other time. I would do this year-round if I could. It's hard keeping everything in balance, traveling while working on the *Bluesletter* and finishing my degree and doing whatever side hustles I can to keep the bills paid. That album cover from *Full Time Woman* says a lot about that; Alice did it all with young kids. I respected Alice immensely and I also liked her a lot. With this letter, I add my voice to the thousands remembering her now. May she rest any way she wants to, just the way she lived.

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

Polly O'Keary, Editor
Washington Blues Society Bluesletter



Remembering an Icon: Alice Stuart

Pacific Northwest Musicians Share Memories of Alice Stuart

Compiled by Rick J. Bowen

"Very sad to hear that dear sweet Alice Stuart has passed. She is a trailblazer who inspired so many, myself included. A quick story. She was typically gracious when I tentatively asked if she would like to play at the first of what became many, House of Bourbon revues I staged at the legendary Highway 99 Blues Club in Seattle starting around 2010. This was a huge gift as she was without doubt the 'big draw' of the night and had to drive several hours to get to the gig, and then back home after. I'll never forget her humility and kindness at that moment. For those that didn't know her, Alice came across as super intelligent and generally mild mannered, but beneath that had a steely side you definitely did not want to cross. During that first show, the chatter at the tables was kinda loud, and Alice being Alice, stopped playing and told folks to shut the hell up. Priceless. Thank you, Alice, for everything." Son Jack Jr.

"I first met Alice Stuart in 1994 when I was playing with Laura Love at the Strawberry Music Festival held at the time in Camp Mather, just outside of Yosemite National Park. I didn't know anything about her at the time. She wasn't performing and seemed a bit awestruck by our performance. We did play together a little the next day informally but at the time to me she was just a new fan who played music. In retrospect I think at the time she was just getting back into playing after a fairly lengthy hiatus and probably felt a bit like the world had passed her by. When we returned to play the Strawberry festival a couple of years later Alice was on the bill. I caught part of her set. I liked it but unfortunately didn't give it the attention it deserved. My loss. A few years later Alice moved to the Seattle area. I saw her perform, heard her recordings, performed with her on occasion and we became friends. And I finally got that she was the real deal - and then some. I was truly honored when she asked me to play her wedding reception in 2002. Apart from



Alice Stuart Early in Her Career

(Photo by MB Worden)

being a true artist Alice was funny as hell - she was great company, and she didn't take any shit from anyone. I will miss her. RIP Alice." Rod Cook

"Few Pacific Northwest musicians reach the heights nationally that Alice did. A kind, sweet lady. RIP." Dennis Dudley

"Alice was a great friend of Curley Cooke's, so during the five years that Curley and I were together before he passed on, I got

to see her and hang out with her often. I had the amazing opportunity to work with her for a month teaching Blues in Schools at Purdy Women's Prison. She used to say as we left the prison every day "But for the grace of God." She was incredibly compassionate and patient with women we were working with. I realized how blessed I was to be her friend and music partner for a time. I'm sorry it won't be happening again. I love you, Alice." Annette Taborn



Alice Stuart's Signature Converse Shoes
(Photo by Chris Loechel)

"Alice was a musical trailblazer for women rock, blues, and folk guitar player and singers."

"The world lost a legend, and I lost my mom. Where to begin? Alice Stuart lived an incredible life. So much passion and energy, I think I thought she'd outlive us all! Our relationship wasn't always easy, and we didn't always see eye to eye, but I sure loved that feisty lady. Her talent never ceased to amaze me. Thanks, mom, for everything you taught me. For instilling in me the importance of advocating for myself, for filling my life with the love of music and good food. You leave behind a loving family - children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who will keep your memory alive."

"The word 'legendary' is thrown around loosely these days, but Alice has earned that adjective. A Pacific Northwest native, Alice

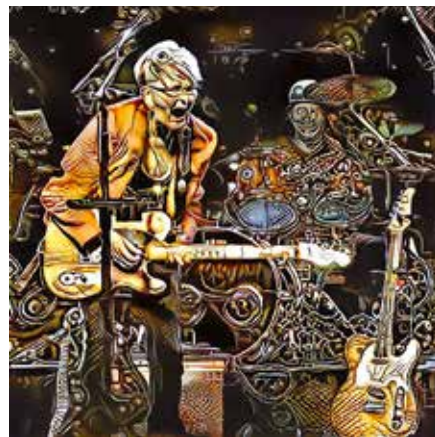
has traveled the world as a major blues artist, touring with the likes of Van Morrison, Mississippi John Hurt, and Joan Baez. She was an original member of Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention, she's appeared on The Dick Cavett Show, and her songs have been recorded by Kate Wolf, Irma Thomas, and Jackie DeShannon. I've been a huge fan of Alice's for a long time." Kim Field.

"Alice. I will always remember seeing you in Anchorage at Chef's Inn/Blues Central. You're such a powerhouse, yet your softness came through in the amazing music you gave us! You've touched so many lives and hearts." Jimmy Drounette.

"I will never forget the kindness of your personality. That smile and the fantastic music. One of the kind! Rest In Peace my dear friend." Rafael Tranquilino.



On the Cover of the Bluesletter
(Photo by Blues Boss)



Alice Stuart
(Art by Alan Sitar Brown)

"Such a pioneer and beautiful soul. She will be missed, but never forgotten." Polly O'Keary.

One Special Memory of Alice Stuart

"I will miss her very much and she is in my heart."

By Rocky Nelson (Photo by Blues Boss)

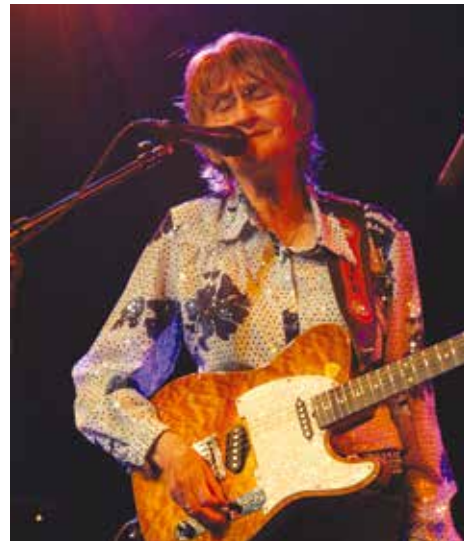
One time, Alice Stuart invited me to hear her play in Olympia, and during the show, she called me up on stage.

She asked me to talk about myself, and I normally don't like to do that. She wanted me to talk about the Washington Blues Society, writing articles about her, and my radio show, "Blues Power Hour." I developed, produced, and DJ'd the first-ever all blues radio program in the history of Armed Forces Network. Broadcasting from Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan, the show reached all troops in theatre of all nations participating in Operation Enduring Freedom (and at least five European countries).

I was a little embarrassed, but obliged her.

I was wearing a silk jacket bought on Bagram Air Field with NATO flags on it. She said she wanted it and I handed it over to her right then and there with pride. We talked about our relationship. Alice wore that jacket at many of her subsequent events.

We had many meetings over the years (at restaurants and at her home in Tumwater) and she regaled me with stories of the many well-known artists she played with and mentored like Bonnie Raitt during her early 1960s days in Los Angeles days. Alice was an extremely giving and selfless individual. I will miss her very much and she is in my heart.



With Alice Stuart at Chicago's Red Brick Recording Studios

"She was incredibly generous with her time and talent."

By Pat Smillie

Back in 2006, Washington Blues Society Bluesletter Editor Eric Steiner emailed me and asked if I might be willing and able to show Alice Stuart around Chicago. I've since relocated back to my hometown of Detroit, and fondly recall our time in Chicago. I am saddened to learn about Alice's passing.

Alice was coming to town to play a couple of gigs, and to see if she could make any contacts for future gigs in the area. She stayed with her friend on Chicago's North Side.. She had a show booked nearby in Rogers Park at the now-shuttered Heartland Cafe.

Alice and I met down on Halstead Street to check out two legendary Chicago blues clubs: Kingston Mines and B.L.U.E.S. Kingston Mines, opened in 1968, is Chicago's oldest continuously operating blues club. B.L.U.E.S. did not survive the pandemic and closed in 2022. In 2006, when Alice and I hung out at B.L.U.E.S, this joint was jumpin'.

Alice was a fun lady and we hit it off right away. She had a lot of great stories about Frank Zappa, John Fogerty, and others.

I told her that I was almost finished tracking



my new album. I offered to give her a tour of Red Brick Recording Studios on Madison Street in Chicago's West Loop and introduce her to producer Bud Johnson. Sadly, Bud committed suicide in 2022.

Alice listened to a couple of my tracks and seemed to like them. So, I decided to "shoot my shot"... I asked Alice if she might be willing to play on a song.

"ABSOLUTELY!," she said. I was absolutely thrilled that Alice wanted to play on my CD!

So, we invited her back the next afternoon

and she cut tracks on three of my songs on my 2006 CD, *Down by the River* (Fat Bank Music). She was incredibly generous with her time and talent. Alice played rhythm guitar on the original songs "Snaggle Tooth" and "Clouds," and she also played the solo on my re-working of Muddy Waters' "Can't Lose What You Never Had.." She killed it!

Unfortunately, that album is not available on any digital platforms. I do, however, have some physical CD copies available at my live shows and through my website (www.patsmillie.com).

Over the years, Alice and I stayed in touch a little bit through Facebook. We'd encourage each other and comment on each other's posts about gigs and/or press reviews, etc. I remember having at least one or two phone calls with her, checking in. Unfortunately, Alice and I never were able to reconnect.

I fondly remember the time I spent showing Alice around Chicago in 2006. I am forever grateful for her creative spirit and willingness to play on my album. I am extremely proud of our collaboration.

Rest easy, Alice... your work is done.

Thanksgiving

For Alice Stuart and So Many Others

By Rev. Dave Brown, Blues Vespers

It seems to happen a lot these days.
I wake up and read that another
fellow traveler has left this world.

It comes with being a certain age, I guess.
You would think I'd get used to it
but I never do, I never do.

Parting is not a sweet sorrow.
The sweetness of memory sustains
but never erases the pain.

The phone calls stop, her guitar is silent,
you miss her voice, the B-3 stilled,
her bass no longer finds a groove.

We say goodbye again and again
never to be the same. Grateful yes, thankful,
to be sure, yet the weight of grief remains.

It happens more often these days,
to those of us of a certain age.
We say goodbye, tears fall.

We wipe our eyes,
remember in silence
and are thankful

that when the sun
rises in the morning
we get to see it.



Blues Vespers in 2001

Left: Mark Riley & Alice Stuart

Right: Alice Stuart, Mark Riley, Two Musicians, and Rev. Dave Brown Sporting His Colorful Sneakers!

(Photos Courtesy of Rev. Dave Brown, Blues Vespers)

CD Show Preview: Lee Oskar's *She Said Mahalo* (Dreams We Share)

"Catchy and quintessentially Lee Oskar, 'Funky Rhetoric' is both fresh and familiar, contemporary, and timeless..."

Press Release Adapted by Eric Steiner

This month is a very special month for the Pacific Northwest and the world.

Save the Date: September 15th!

On September 15th, Lee Oskar's *Dreams We Share* will release *She Said Mahalo*, produced and illustrated by Lee Oskar, recorded, and mixed by Brandon Busch, and mastered by Robert Rice. Presented as a DigiPack CD and album, *She Said Mahalo* features package layout and design by Dmitri Antos, liner notes by Keri Oskar, and original artwork by Lee Oskar.

On the 15th, Lee Oskar and Friends will play a CD release celebration at the Royal Room, 5000 Rainier Avenue South in Seattle. Doors will open at 7 PM and the show will begin at 8 PM.

The show features Lee Oskar on harmonica, Dean Schmidt on bass, Darian Asplund on sax, Mack Grout on keys, Alex Mortland on guitar, Andrew Cloutier on drums, and Denali Williams on percussion.

Full disclosure: I been big fan of Lee Oskar's work since I first heard "Low Rider" in the 70s, and my enthusiastic review of *She Said Mahalo* is in this issue.

Last year, I had the privilege of experiencing the CD release party of Lee's groundbreaking CD, *Never Forget*, at Seattle's Triple Door. My review of that unforgettable night of music is the cover story of the May, 2022, *Bluesletter*, and I encourage readers to discover it online. Jerry and Lois Photography's cover shot captures Lee at just the right time, and their photos of the band, and Lee, drummer Andrew Cloutier and host-KING-FM Weatherman Jeff Renner capture some pretty memorable moments from that evening.

A Must Listen: "Funky Rhetoric"

Leading up to the release of the full album this month, Oskar rolled out the single, "Funky Rhetoric," on Friday, June 2nd. Catchy and quintessentially Lee

Oskar, "Funky Rhetoric" is both fresh and familiar, contemporary and timeless (link to the song: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/m0c9xc6xebsyaei/08%20-%20Funky%20Rhetoric.mp3?dl=0>).

The 10-track album of Lee Oskar's original compositions includes rich instrumentations featuring Oskar's signature harmonica and many other outstanding musicians, including those who perform with Oskar regularly as Lee Oskar & Friends: Darian Asplund (Saxophone); Andrew Cloutier (Drums); Denali Williams (Percussion); Dean Schmidt (Bass); Brian Monroney (Guitar); Alex Mortland (Guitar); Andrew Joslyn (Strings); and Mack Grout (Keys and Piano); as well as special guest artists: Takahiro Miyazaki (Saxophone and flute); Paul Hanson (Bassoon); Randy Oxford (Trombone) Harold Brown (Drums, Percussion); Thione Diop (Percussion); Joe Doria (Organ); Phil Peterson (Strings); "Sancho" Youichrou Suzuki (Shakuhachi) and Mayo Higa (Shamisen). Oskar plays various harmonica models in altered tunings and keys on this album, as specified in the liner notes.

Lee Oskar is an internationally acclaimed harmonica virtuoso, composer, producer, manufacturer, visual artist, and lifelong musical explorer.

He is world-renowned for his iconic role as a founding member, co-composer and lead harmonica player of the pioneering funk/jazz band that composed and recorded such hits as "Low Rider," "Spill the Wine," "Cisco Kid," "The World is a Ghetto," "Slippin' into Darkness," "Why Can't Be Friends," and many more chart-topping songs from 1969-1993. Since that time, Oskar and his original bandmates from that era perform as the LowRider Band.

In my review of the *Never Forget* CD release party last year, I wrote that "During the 1970s, Lee created what I consider the soundtrack of my teenage years through songs like "Why Can't We Be Friends,"



Lee Oskar Live at The Triple Door in 2022
(Photo by Jerry & Lois Photography)



An Exceptional CD from an Exceptional Artist!
(Photo by Jerry & Lois Photography)

"Lowrider," "The World is a Ghetto," "Summer," "All Day Music," and "Spill the Wine" (with former Animal and WAR member Eric Burdon)."

With songs from *She Said Mahalo* like "Funky Rhetoric," I play Lee's new record for my 2-year old granddaughter Parker, and I absolutely love the way she smiles and moves to Lee's music. I can't wait to share the soundtrack of my teenage years with her, thanks to Lee Oskar's music.

Oskar also performs around the world with



Lee Oskar Live at the 2014 Westport Blues Festival
(Photo by Michael Bruce)

outstanding musicians from the Pacific Northwest, known as Lee Oskar & Friends, featuring well-loved mega-hits, new arrangements of his own compositions, and exciting newer material.

Artistically, Oskar has earned critical and popular acclaim for more than four decades with his wide-ranging portfolio of unforgettable compositions evoking different moods, rhythms, and genres.

In the words of Seattle Times critic Misha Berson, "The harmonica man can really blow, but he can croon, too."

Lee Oskar has earned ASCAP writing awards, and had his signature sound celebrated in Pitbull and Keshha's smash hit, "Timber," which was inspired by Oskar's harmonica contributions in the song "San Francisco Bay."

In 2020, Lee Oskar established his own recording label, Dreams We Share.™ He proudly produces professional recording artists as well as his own music.

Never Forget: An Unforgettable Record

The first collection of Oskar's original work under Dreams We Share.™ is his masterwork, *Never Forget* (January 2022). This landmark project serves as a culmination of his life's work and an artistic memoir of his life, created in memory of



Man at Work: Lee Oskar
(Photo by Suzanne Fogarty)

all who have suffered from the Holocaust and other atrocities against humankind around the world. *Never Forget* garnered international acclaim from music critics and fans alike.

Lee Zimmerman (*Goldmine*) considers *Never Forget* to be a "tender tapestry threaded with emotion and commitment, it's an album destined to stand the test of time in both its impact and importance. In fact, both a tremendous triumph and an extraordinary accomplishment."

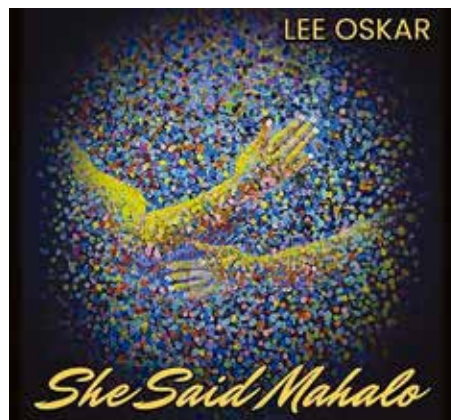
Oskar's latest collection, *She Said Mahalo* (Dreams We Share, 2023), presents rich orchestrations of several original compositions performed by Lee Oskar & Friends, including the single "Funky Rhetoric" and "One Fist."

Also under his Dreams We Share.™ label, Oskar recently produced and released the much-anticipated album, *So Much Trouble*, featuring original songs written and performed by David Rotundo, a well received Canadian artist and Lee Oskar Harmonicas' featured artist (Dreams We Share, October 2020).

In addition, Oskar has produced the work of other artists playing his compositions, including Takahiro Miyazaki from Japan, whom Oskar considers to be one of the world's greatest saxophone players.

Playing for Change

Lee Oskar is proud to be a featured artist on globally recognized Playing for



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Oskar's harmonica company, Lee Oskar Harmonicas—now celebrating its 40th Anniversary—innovated an interchangeable and replaceable system that has become the industry's gold standard. Always the innovator, Lee Oskar created a special limited edition line of harmonica products exclusively available through Playing for Change to help support artists and musical education around the world. Most recently, Sir Mick Jagger collaborated with Lee Oskar to create a special limited edition of collectible Lee Oskar Harmonicas bearing his name.

From the unforgettable melodies and orchestrations to the poetic liner notes and gorgeous artwork and design, Lee Oskar's *She Said Mahalo* is another exceptional work of art from this multi-talented, globally recognized performing and visual artist.

Please explore the following websites to learn more about this exceptional artist: www.leeoskarmusic.com, www.dreamsweshare.com and www.leeoskar.com.

Travelogue: Blues in Las Vegas

"This year, I lasted 17 minutes on Bernie's deck poolside in the 117 degree heat."

By Eric Steiner

Most summers, my wife Vickie and I celebrate our birthdays with long-time friends Bernie and Margie Janes as three of us were born in the third week of July. We often travel together, and thanks to Margie's insistence that I join Allegiant Air's mileage plan and credit card, we met up with them at their Henderson, Nevada home after a night at the Golden Nugget downtown.

Margie was Vickie's roommate at Pacific Lutheran University when pagers were new, and my first wife moved in with Bernie when our son was very young. There's a blues song behind this story, because Bernie is now one of my closest friends.

I felt guilty flying on Allegiant from BLI-LAS as my primary airline and credit card allegiance has been to Alaska Airlines for 22+ years. However, Allegiant's quick 2-hour ride to Las Vegas, significantly lower ticket prices, and amenities for veterans (free checked bags, priority boarding and a free beverage) rationalized my airline infidelity.

Growing up on the far South Side of Chicago, I have fond memories of Midwestern summers. I relished the heat and humidity, as I was just a kid having fun outside. This year, I lasted 17 minutes on Bernie's deck poolside in the 117 degree heat.

En route to the BLI, I joined the Las Vegas Blues Society. Blues society President Jimmy Carpenter won The Blues Foundation's prestigious Blues Music Award for Best Instrumentalist – Horn in 2021 and 2022, and I looked forward to learning more about how the Las Vegas Blues Society promotes the blues in Nevada.

During our visit, a blues society go-to venue, the Sand Dollar Lounge, celebrated its 48th anniversary on Spring Mountain Road near The Mirage on The Strip. A second Sand Dollar, opened last year, is across the street from the Golden Nugget downtown.

This month, the Las Vegas Blues Society is hosting an annual Handy Artists Relief Trust (HART Fund) fundraiser on the 6th prior to the sold-out Big Blues Bender, which is billed as a "musical vacation of a lifetime! 50+ artists, 5 stages, 4 days & nights



A Dave Koz Band Selfie from the Smith Center in Las Vegas - Summer Horns 2023 Tour!
(Dave Koz at the back, Candy Dulfer at left & Eric Darius taking the selfie down front)

of 'round the clock world class blues music, all within a four-star Las Vegas resort!" The Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino hosts the 4-day event, and it would be a thrill to see Bob Margolin's "50 Years with Muddy Waters" show, Keb' Mo', Beth Hart, the Blood Brothers, Jimmie Vaughan, and the rest of the line-up!

Earlier this year, Margie bought tickets to Dave Koz' 2023 Summer Horns Tour at Reynolds Hall in the Smith Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Las Vegas (near the Golden Nugget). Seventeen years in the making, the 11-year old Smith Center is an elegant space housing Reynolds Hall, Myron's at The Smith Center, and the Troesh Studio Theater.

Dave Koz' set featured 16+ songs from his smooth jazz catalog, but for me, that label's a misnomer. This outfit rocked. Sax players Candy Dulfer and Eric Darius joined Dave, and the show had many memorable songs.

I enjoyed Koz' "Highwire," "Saxagogo," and "Night on the Town," but the real highlight for me was a tribute to the late Bobby Caldwell, a James Brown medley, and Candy Dulfer's haunting "Lily Was Here" recorded

with Dave Stewart in 1989. I liked it when they played the sax riff of Gerry Rafferty's 1978 "Baker Street," as it reminded me of when I last emerged up from the Bakerloo line of the London Underground.

When I got home, my Las Vegas Blues Society shirt was in my mailbox. I forgot that new members get free t-shirts with the society's "Bet on the Blues" tagline. A nice touch for new members.

I look forward to returning to Las Vegas and Henderson in cooler weather, especially to catch a show at the Sand Dollar! The blues society also hosts an all-ages jam at the Soul Belly BBQ on Main Street on the second Saturday of the month in the afternoon, and it looks like a lot of fun.

When in Las Vegas, I enjoy reading local writers like John 'Kats' Katsilometes in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Las Vegas is also opening a new concert hall, called The Sphere, where U2 will play their *Achtung Baby* CD in its entirety during their upcoming Las Vegas residency. I'm really intrigued by The Sphere, and could see the orb in the distance on The Strip from Bernie and Margie's deck in Henderson.

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Simply an Exceptional Soul Food Lunch

"Polly was right. I found myself in a Mississippi restaurant in Seattle's Central District."

By Eric Steiner

This past April, Editor Polly O'Keary covered the grand opening of Seattle's Simply Soulful restaurant, and during the production of the last issue, Polly and I joined Bluesletter Intern Will Crockett for lunch there. Simply Soulful is at 23rd and Jackson, an historically significant intersection in Seattle's Black community.

My smoked brisket and fries reminded me of Abe's BBQ on DeSoto Avenue in Clarksdale and Alcenia's Restaurant on Front Street in Memphis. Classic Southern places.

Will had just returned from a Widespread Panic show at Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado, and Polly was rehearsing for her upcoming tour down the Oregon coast. This was no ordinary lunch, though.

During lunch, I was struck by three distinct sparks that have infused this magazine with a new sense of energy and purpose.

First of all, Polly is Will's professor of communications in her work toward her Ph.D. at the University of Washington in her day job, and Will is eager to hone his skills as one of our newest volunteers.

Secondly, I found Will's energy to not only learn about our blues community, but also his skill in crafting readable and interesting stories, refreshing.

Finally, our 90-minute lunch flew by as we explored new ways to show readers about our region's diverse and accomplished blues community in a Black-owned restaurant across the street from a shuttered Starbucks that once counted Magic Johnson as one of its backers. Jazzman Ray Brown recorded *Live at Starbucks* at the former 23rd and Jackson store to honor the neighborhood's place in Seattle music history.

During the production of this issue, I also learned that the Black-owned Black Coffee Northwest plans to move from Shoreline to the former Starbucks at 23rd and Jackson in a Vulcan Real Estate-managed area that



Public Art at 23rd & Jackson: "78" by Paul Rucker
(Photo by Lara Swimmer)

was once home to many Black-owned businesses.

As I finished my smoked brisket, I thanked Polly for her article on Simply Soulful in the April issue. Polly was right. I found myself in a Mississippi restaurant in Seattle's Central District. After lunch, I revisited the menu, and think that Chef Barbara Collins, daughter, and business partner Lillian Rambus have a recipe for success. Next time, I hope to get there before Barbara's sweet potato pie sells out!

I hadn't spent time at 23rd and Jackson in a long time. Back then, Promenade 23 featured a Red Apple Market and Welch's Hardware (and old-school, family-run neighborhood shop). Neighborhood mainstay Jackson's Catfish Corner is on the corner in a relative high-rise, and East African Imports Store and Restaurant is across the street.

I looked at the sidewalk in front of Simply Soulful and noticed public art, titled 78, that featured a green tone arm and a black LP that featured concentric circles of names of notable 32 venues and 70 local musicians

who worked in Jackson Street's thriving music community in the 20th century. Installed in 2021, the tone arm serves as a bench overlooking the LP.

The tone arm and LP were designed by artist and composer Paul Rucker, who relocated to White Center in 2019 after nearly 20 years in the Central District.

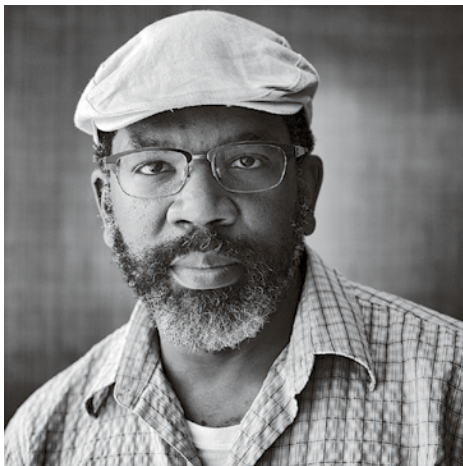
For me, his name rang a bell.

Loudly.

Paul was the Washington Blues Society's grant officer from the City of Seattle in Mayor Greg Nickels' administration in the early 2000s. He helped us get a Mayoral Proclamation that I read at our annual picnic at Seattle's Magnuson Park, and provided valuable technical assistance during the blues society's earliest experience with City of Seattle grants.

His career as an artist, and an activist, has certainly blossomed since his tenure working as an arts administrator for the city.

Former *Seattle Times* music critic, and jazz scholar, Paul de Barros' book *Jackson Street*



Paul Rucker by Ryan Stevenson

After Hours: The Roots of Jazz in Seattle (Sasquatch Books, 1993) informed Rucker's installation in front of Vulcan Real Estate's Jackson Apartments.

Paul Rucker's other public art pieces include "In Light of History" in Baltimore, "Human Rights Legacy" in Tacoma, and "Banking While Black," a presentation of historically thriving Black Wall Streets in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Durham, North Carolina and Richmond, Virginia.

Currently, Paul is Assistant Professor and the Curator for Creative Collaboration for VCU-arts at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Paul's honors and recognition include work as a Guggenheim Fellow, a TED Senior Fellow, a Rauschenburg Fellow,

and an iCubed Arts Research Fellow at VCU.

Paul is also developing Cary Forward, a multidisciplinary art space and learning center in Baltimore, which will tell the story of systemic racism in the US.

He's planning to open in 2024 with initial support from the Mellon Foundation and the Art for Justice Fund.

As I learn more about Paul's work with Cary Forward, I'm adding it to my travel bucket list as I expect it will tell powerful stories just like ones I've experienced at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Alabama. To learn more about Cary Forward, please go to www.caryforward.org.

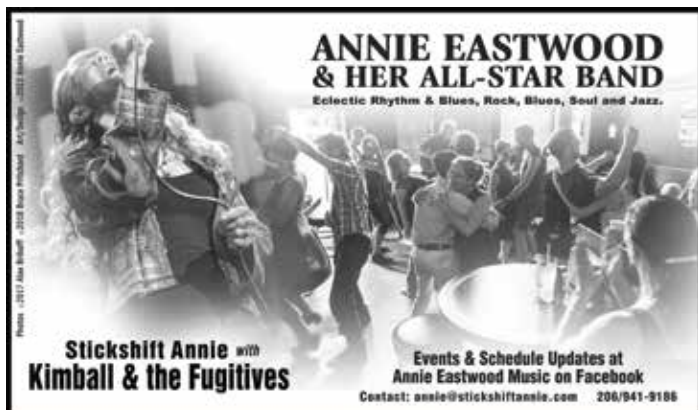
As I finished this story, I was one of 1.9M viewers of Paul's powerful 7-minute TED talk, "The Symbols of Systemic Racism -- and How to Take Away Their Power," which features a crash course on the Ku Klux Klan (home to five million members, the population of New York City at one time), the value of cotton sales in 1860 (\$5B in today's dollars), and Paul's own 75 Klan robes that he designed and sewed by hand that were made out of kente cloth, camouflage, burlap, silk and satin. Paul recalled seeing Klan rallies growing up in South Carolina and noted that "the Klan's robe factory in Georgia kept 20,000 robes on hand just to keep up with demand."

As I left Will and Polly to drive home, I thought of how that intersection at 23rd and Jackson had changed over the years and how gentrification has impacted the community. It's complicated, and more nuanced than my limited experience working in the Central District when I worked for the Seattle Indian Center learning about grants and human services for most of the 1990s.

However, I truly hope that Simply Soulful and Black Coffee Northwest can, over time with Vulcan Real Estate's assistance, profitably anchor one of the most storied intersections that was once home to a music Mecca of Seattle's Black community.

Selfishly, I thought of just one thing as I drove onto the ferry in Mukilteo bound for home on Whidbey Island.

When can I get back to 23rd and Jackson for a catfish lunch at the Simply Soulful Cafe with greens, mac and cheese, and sweet potato pie?





Grainne Duffy
Dirt Woman Blues
 (Blue Heart Records)

For her sixth album, *Dirt Woman Blues*, Irish roots phenom, singer-songwriter and guitarist Grainne Duffy ventured far from the emerald isle to sunny Southern California to find a bigger and bolder sound. She partnered with American blues-rock guitarist Marc Ford, best known as a former member of the Black Crowes and created a tandem guitar sound with her husband Paul Sherry who also plays in her band. They enlisted Gary Clark, Jr.'s Austin, Texas rhythm section: drummer JJ Johnson and Bass and keyboard player Elijah Ford (Marc's son). The sessions yielded a collection of nine new tracks centered around Duffy's haunting alto and a mash up songwriting styles from Celtic storytelling to Delta Blues poetry and Laurel Canyon 70's rock. Rick J. Bowen.



John Primer
Hard Times
 (Blues House Productions)

John Primer's latest CD, *Hard Times*, was one of my favorite blues releases from 2022. Of the 13 original songs, I continue to revisit three that speak of resilience and hope: "I Won't Sweat It," "Tough Times," and "You Mean So Much to Me." John's long-time band, The Real Deal Blues Band, really shine on this CD with Steve Bell on harmonica, Lenny Media on drums, and Dave Forte on bass. Special guests add to this "blues go-to" band's sound with Rick Kreher on second guitar, Johnny Iguana on keyboards, and John's 17-year old daughter Aliya on "Tough Times" vocals. Primer's Chicago blues apprenticeship began on Maxwell Street, continued at the fabled Theresa's Lounge, followed by work with Willie Dixon's Chicago Blues All Stars, Muddy Waters' Legendary Blues Band, a 13-year run with Magic Slim & The Teardrops, and continued success with the Real Deal Blues Band. The title tune

opens with hypnotic slide guitar and settles into a classic, infectious boogie. From start to finish, *Hard Times* is a solid Chicago blues record, and Eric Kriesant's photography is bittersweet as B.L.U.E.S. on Halsted St. owners Rob Hecko and Jennifer Littleton opened their doors one last time for the album's photo shoot. John Primer returns to the Pacific Northwest this month, and I hope Washington Blues Society members will catch his shows at the Oak Harbor Music Festival and at the Washington Blues Society's inaugural President's First Tuesday Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline! Eric Steiner



Mike Bourne Band
Cruisin' Kansas City
 (Blue Heart Records)

Kansas City, much like New Orleans, has a unique distinction of being a melting pot and a swingin' capital of jazz and blues musical styles that played no small part in influencing what would become R&B and rock n' roll in the 1950s. Guitar man Mike Bourne has spent time in other cities of music Chicago and Atlanta, but makes the Missouri border city his home and plays his own version of what is known as Kansas City blues. In tribute to the players who mentored him and the many late nights in the sweaty clubs of the famous 18th and Vine district he recorded, *Cruisin' Kansas City*, was released this summer to widespread critical acclaim. Joining Bourne for the 13 songs set are members of his band Kansas City Boogie and a collection of friends and special guests, including guitarist Johnny Burgin, keyboardists Dave Creighton and Johnny Iguana, Big D Erickson, Micky Munoz from the Hoodoo Brothers, John Paul on drums, and Greg Hopkins, trumpeter with the Buddy Rich Orchestra. Rick J. Bowen.



Lee Oskar
She Said Mahalo
 (Dreams We Share)

Lee Oskar's new instrumental CD, *She Said Mahalo*, offers many uplifting and bright moments, especially on the opening "Caribbean Love Song," and on another song with a distinctly island-influenced vibe, "Most Favored Nation." "Children of the World" and "Morning Rush" features many nuanced strings and rhythms, and the hypnotic "She Said Mahalo" weaves Lee's understated harmonica with gifted guitar parts. Joining Lee in the studio are many musicians who play with him regularly as Lee Oskar & Friends, including Darian Asplund on sax, Andrew Cloutier and Harold Brown on drums, Denali Williams on percussion, Dean Schmidt on bass, Brian Monroney and Alex Mortland on guitar, Andrew Joslyn on strings, and Mack Grout on keyboards. Special guest artists also add to the sound: Takahiro Miyazaki on sax and flute, Paul Hanson on bassoon, Randy Oxford on trombone, Thin Diop on percussion, Joe Doria on organ, Phil Peterson on strings, Sancho Youichrou Suzuki on shakuhachi (Japanese flute) and Mayo Higa on shamisen (Asian banjo-lute). I enjoyed Lee Oskar's original art in the CD package designed by Dimitri Antos, and 12-page booklet with Lee's insightful comments on each song. When I heard the first single from the CD online earlier this summer, "Funky Rhetoric," I marveled at how the song reminded me of the joyful music that Lee Oskar made in the 70s. Please add Lee Oskar & Friends' *She Said Mahalo* CD release party to your live music calendar on September 15th at Seattle's Royal Room on Rainier Avenue South! Eric Steiner.





**Arlen Roth &
Jerry Jemmott**
Super Soul Session
(Blue Heart Records)

It is such a gift and hard won privilege when an artist reaches the point in their career when they can make art for art's sake. The new album, *Super Soul Session*, from Arlen Roth and Jerry Jemmott reflects that joy and status. Guitar hero and music education pioneer Roth and Grammy winning bassist Jemmott, aka "The Groove Master," were both chief session and touring musicians of the late 1960s and early 1970s, working with many of the period's well-known rock, pop, soul, blues, and jazz artists. The longtime friends join forces on a baker's dozen of iconic tracks from their career discography in celebration of over 50 years of making great music. The pair invited many A-list players to join them for the New York sessions enlisting the talents of keyboardist Bruce Katz, guitarist Tom Gage, drummer Chris Parker, The Uptown Horns and special guests Jo Louis Walker and African vocalist Mukamuri. The collection of cover songs is more than a trip down memory lane, and a loving exploration and deep dive into some of the duos favorite songs, many of which they had a hand in creating the original recordings. Rick J. Bowen.



Joel Astley
Seattle To Greaseland
(Blue Heart Records)

After working hard to establish himself on the Pacific Northwest music scene singer-songwriter, harmonica man and graphic artist Joel Astley is poised to burst on to the national scene with his debut solo album *Seattle To Greaseland*. The collection of 11 original songs was released nationally this past August by Blue Heart Records. *Seattle to Greaseland* was recorded at Greaseland Studio in San Jose, California, by acclaimed producer and multi-instrumentalist Kid Andersen who invited some of his

"Greaseland Regulars," to join in on the weekend jam sessions that yielded a fine album of authentic styles from straight ahead blues to classic R&B, jumping swing and a sweet Gospel number that together create the unique vibe of West Coast blues. The opening track, "Born Crying," has a swampy down on the bayou feel and the jump blues "Candy Shop," rips at a furious sugar fueled pace. Astley turns the notion of "Hard Luck and Trouble" on its head during the honky tonk blues bouncer "Just Right" and points out how the universe eventually finds a way of balancing the scales on the slinky reverb-soaked "Karma Wheel." Anderson pumps the clavinet and June Core drives the groove on the ultra-funky "Secondhand Kid. The vaudeville number "Takin' It With Me" has theatrical flair of a pre-war, Tin Pan Alley song, and the gents keep it swinging hard on "Hot As Hell," a sure fire dance floor filler. Astley commemorates a long lost Seattle club, "88 Keys," which helped launch his career and everyone who was "in the know" called "Bobby's Place." The album closes with Astley and the crew taking us to church on the Gospel two beat "No Brighter Gold," celebrating the pure joy music brings to the world. Rick J Bowen



Jimmy Carpenter
The Louisiana Record
(Gulf Coast Records)

Two-time Blues Music Award winning sax player Jimmy Carpenter returned to Louisiana at the invitation of Gulf Coast Records co-owner and guitarist Mike Zito to record an album of 11 covers. The CD, *The Louisiana Record*, showcases not only Jimmy Carpenter's exceptional sax, but also some of the Crescent City's finest songs. While former Rockpile member Dave Edmunds' "I Hear You Knockin'" hit the top 40 in 1970, the song was written by Dave Bartholomew and Pearl King for Smiley Lewis in 1955. Many of these songs share similar histories – recorded by many artists over the years – and I really enjoyed the way Mike and Jimmy updated several

of them. I've heard "I Got Loaded" covered by Los Lobos and Tab Benoit many times, but the band working with Jimmy in historic Dockside Studios in Lafayette playfully nails Camille Bob's original song. Joining Jimmy and Mike in the studio are Wayne Moreau on drums, Casandra Faulconer on bass, and John Gros on keyboards. My other favorites on *The Louisiana Record* include Sam Cooke's "Bring It On Home to Me," Allen Toussaint's "All These Things," and a favorite sax party instrumental, Lee Allen's "Rockin' at Cosimo's." This month, I'm returning to New Orleans, and thanks to this song, I'll stop by Cosimo's on Burgundry Street in the French Quarter (although I thought this pub was related to J & M Records ("Tutti Frutti") and its founder, Cosimo Mattassa, it's not.). Different Cosimo. This record brings Jimmy Carpenter back to New Orleans as he lived and performed there from 2004 until 2016. He currently lives in Las Vegas, where he leads the Las Vegas Blues Society and plays a key role in the annual Big Blues Bender long weekend of live blues. I'm glad I discovered *The Louisiana Record*, and it sits with alongside CDs from Tab Benoit, Allen Toussaint, The Meters, and The Neville Brothers. Eric Steiner.



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Blues Preview: North Bend Blues Walk

"One ticket gets you in to all venues all night long, starting at 6 PM and going until 12 AM!"

By Rick J. Bowen

Blues are back in North Bend, Washington, on Saturday, September 23rd from 6 PM to Midnight. The North Bend Blues Walk is a one-day blues festival for all ages downtown featuring 20 venues, 23 bands, and 70+ musicians.

One ticket gets you in to all venues all night long, starting at 6 PM and going until 12 AM. Check the schedule for a schedule of staggered start and end times so you can catch as much as possible of a who's who of A list performers.

This year's line-up includes the born storyteller and award-winning songwriter Michelle D'Amour and the Love Dealers, Steve Sarkowsky's latest project (Mr. Hasty), two-time nominee for Washington Blues Society Best Band Mark Hurwitz and Gin

Creek, and award winning blues saxophonist Lonnie Williams.

Don't miss the Ross Robinson Duo or the Whitewing Duo, the Mary Ellen Lykins & Craig Adams Duo, or the winner of the 2023 Best Traditional Blues Band Award from the Washington Blues Society, the Joe T. Cook Blues Band.

New groups performing this year include The Cold 102's and the Steve Itterly and Jonathan Pitman Duo. The Rafael Tranquilino Band plays the North Bend Blues Walk (and don't miss him at one of our three Blues Bashes this month).

A power trio featuring guitar, bass and drums that fuse rock, blues and funk, Eric Rice & His Maine Connection will light up North Bend and the winner of the South Sound Blues Association Back to Beale


Street Competition, King Kom Beaux, will be rocking.

Soulful singer and powerhouse vocalist, Sheri Roberts Greimes, brings her band Jo Mama to the event, Tommy Dale & The Dangerfields will deliver a mix of originals and covers, and Joel Astley continues the campaign for his new CD *Seattle to Greaseland*.

Blues Hall of Famers the Mark DuFresne Band will close out the festival at Boxley's, the home of North Bend Blues Walk, and JazzClubsNW.org.

Tickets available online at www.northwest-blueswalk.com, in advance, and on the day of the show.

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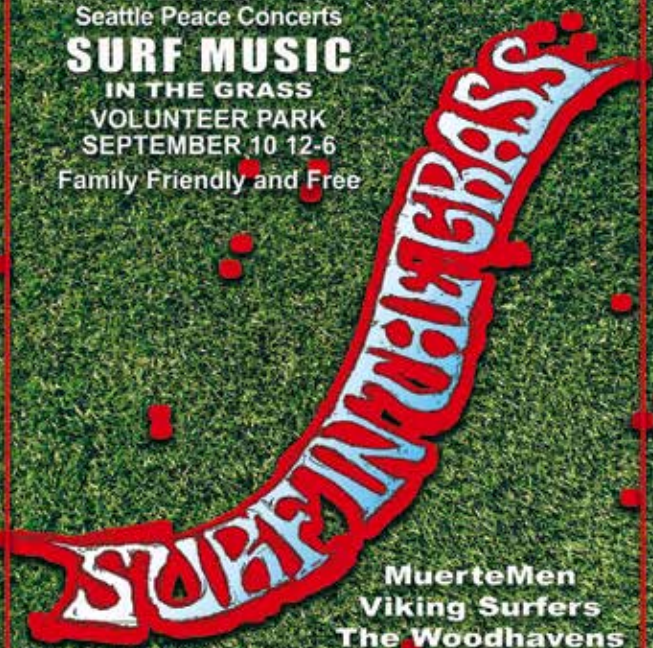
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SEPTEMBER 1

Riverfront Park, Spokane: Pig Out In The Park 11AM
Ebey Island, Everett: Freedom Fest 12 PM
Downtown Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor Music Festival 6 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: The Ravenscroft Nolan Group 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Keiko Matsui 7:30PM
Engels Pub, Edmonds: Ken Reid Band 9 PM

SEPTEMBER 2

Downtown Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor Music Festival 11 AM
Riverfront Park, Spokane: Pig Out In The Park 11 AM
Ebey Island, Everett: Freedom Fest 12 PM
Seattle Center, Seattle: Bumbershoot 12:30 PM
Skylark, West Seattle: Whitewing 5 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Centerpiece Jazz Band 7 PM
Duvall Tavern, Duval: Amber Lanterns 7 PM
Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline: Billy Stapleton's POWERHOUSE 8 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Keiko Matsui 7:30 PM
Engels Pub, Edmonds: Karlito Moose & Squirrel PM

SEPTEMBER 3

Downtown Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor Music Festival 11 AM
Riverfront Park, Spokane: Pig Out In The Park 11AM
Seattle Center, Seattle: Bumbershoot 12:30 PM
Ebey Island, Everett: Freedom Fest 12 PM
Columbia Street Northwest, Olympia: Olympia Harbor Days 12 PM
Gilkey Square, La Conner: Savanna Woods 1PM
The Junction, Woodinville: Norris & Nicely 1:30 PM
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Peabo's Sunday Music Revue 7 PM
The Spar, Tacoma: Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek w/ Tanya Hodel 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Keiko Matsui 7:30 PM
Quil Ceda Creek, Tulalip: Michelle Taylor Band 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 4

Angel of the Winds Casino, Arlington: The Fat Fridays 11 AM
Ebey Island, Everett: Freedom Fest 12 PM
Riverfront Park, Spokane: Pig Out In The Park 11 AM
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

SEPTEMBER 5

Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Pinetree Blues Showcase 6:30PM.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Spare Hearts 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Martin Taylor 7:30PM
Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver WA: Ben Rice & The Hustle 8PM
Engels Pub, Edmonds: Acoustic Ave 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 6

The Spring District, Bellevue: Live Music 12 PM
Bayview Corner, Langley: Doctor Savage 6P M
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM
The Spar, Tacoma : LTD Presents John Primer & Steve Bell Duo 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Martin Taylor 7:30 PM
Engels Pub, Edmonds: Graceland: Manila 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 7

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: Jesse James & The Mob 4:30 PM
Sunbanks, Electric City: Sunbanks Blues & Roots Festival 5 PM
Slims Last Chance, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM
Oxford Saloon, Snohomish: Chris Eger 6P M
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Kevin Sutton Songwriter Showcase 7 PM
Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Revue 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Gerald Albright 7:30PM

SEPTEMBER 8

Lighthouse Park, Mukilteo: Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival 4 PM
Lake Leland Amphitheater, Quilcene: Moon Fest 5 PM
Sunbanks, Electric City: Sunbanks Blues & Roots Festival 5 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Swing Street 7 PM
Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: King Kom Beaux 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle : Gerald Albright 7:30 PM
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Elnah Jordon Experience 8 PM
Rockport Pub, Rockport: Chris Eger 8 PM
Engels Pub, Edmonds: Billy Appleton Band 9PM

SEPTEMBER 9

Lighthouse Park, Mukilteo: Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival 12 PM
Sunbanks, Electric City: Sunbanks Blues & Roots Festival 12 PM
Lake Leland Amphitheater, Quilcene: Moon Fest

12 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Solid Gold 7 PM

Rockfish Grill & Anacortes Brewery, Anacortes : Billy Stapleton's POWERHOUSE 7:30 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle : Gerald Albright 7:30PM

Engels Pub, Edmonds: Guy Johnson 9 PM

SEPTEMBER 10

Volunteer Park, Seattle: Seattle Peace Concerts Surf Band Show 12 PM
Lighthouse Park, Mukilteo: Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival 12 PM
Sunbanks, Electric City: Sunbanks Blues & Roots Festival 12 PM
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Peabo's Sunday Music Revue 7 PM
The Spar, Tacoma: Enders Brothers 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Gerald Albright 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 11

Angel of the Winds, Arlington: Fat Fridays 11 AM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM
The Royal Room, Seattle : The Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30PM
Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM
Owl & Thistle, Seattle: The Great Monday Jam 9 PM
September 12
Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Pinetree Blues Showcase 6:30 PM
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w/Ross Robinson & The Joel Astley Band 7 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Leo Bootes & Selena Gomez 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Oz Noy, Jimmy Haslip, Dennis Chambers 7:30PM
Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver WA: Ben Rice & The Hustle 8PM

SEPTEMBER 13

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM
The Spar, Tacoma : LTD Presents Farrell, Hudson & Friends 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Oz Noy, Jimmy Haslip, Dennis Chambers 7:30 PM
Engels Pub, Edmonds: Wood N Villains 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 14

Electric City: Sunbanks Rock Festival 5 PM
Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood & Friends 6 PM
Slims Last Chance, Seattle Dusty 45's 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase w/

Stacy Jones 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Delvon Lamarr Trio 7:30PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Blues Revue 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 15

Sunbanks, Electric City: Sunbanks Rock Festival 5 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Jazz Misfits 7 PM

Chateau Ste. Michelle, Woodinville: Steve Miller Band 7 PM

Mirkwood, Arlington: Chris Eger 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Delvon Lamarr Trio 7:30 PM

The Royal Room, Seattle: Lee Oskar & Friends 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 16

Sunbanks, Electric City: Sunbanks Rock Festival 12 PM

The Urban Elk, Tacoma: King Kom Beaux 4 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: North Seattle Jazz Orchestra 7 PM

Rockfish, Anacortes: Whitewing 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Crooked Mile 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Delvon Lamarr Trio 7:30 PM

Pub 282, Camano: Mary Ellen Lykins & the CC Adams Band 7:30 PM

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Annie Eastwood & Her All-Star Band feat. Billy Stapleton 8 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Stacy Jones Band 8 PM

Easy Monkey, Shoreline: Annie Eastwood & Her All-Star Band 8 PM

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

SEPTEMBER 17

Sunbanks, Electric City: Sunbanks Rock Festival 12 PM

Skagit Valley Farmers Market, Mount Vernon: Norris and Nicely 12 PM

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

The Spar, Tacoma: Mitch Woods 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Delvon Lamarr Trio 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 18

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

SEPTEMBER 19

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

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Jimmy Culler & Trisch Schimmel 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Cecile McLorin Salvant 7:30PM

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

SEPTEMBER 20

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Jazz Punishments Big Band 7 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: King Grand 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Cecile McLorin Salvant 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 21

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

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Blues Revue 7 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Spanish Harlem Orchestra 7:30 PM

Pub 282, Camano: Whitewing 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 22

Binford Metals, Kent: Binford Field of Dreams - Trailer Park Kings 5 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Honky Tonk Sweethearts 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Spanish Harlem Orchestra 7:30 PM

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

Vouge, Chelan: Spin-off's 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 23

North Bend Way, North Bend: North Bend Blues Walk 6 PM

Wit Cellars, Prosser: Kim & Brian 7 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Sound of Swing 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Margret Wilder Band 7 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Twang Junkies 7 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Spanish Harlem Orchestra 7:30 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Spin-Offs 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 24

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

The Spar, Tacoma: Dr. Jop 7PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Spanish Harlem Orchestra 7:30PM

SEPTEMBER 25

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

SEPTEMBER 26

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

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

CCR, Snohomish: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w Norris & Nicely and Rafael Tranquilino 7PM
Purdy's Public House, Sumner: South Sound Blues Showcase 7 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Christian McBride 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 27

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Christian McBride 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 28

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

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

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

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Blues Revue 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Samara Joy 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 29

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Cavort 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Samara Joy 7:30 PM

Bake's Place Bar & Bistro, Bellevue: Powerhouse 9:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 30

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Ray Skjelbred and the Yeti Chasers 7P M

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Billy Stoops and Dirt Angel 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Samara Joy 7:30 PM

Bake's Place Bar & Bistro, Bellevue: Powerhouse 9:30PM

SNOHOMISH



Blues Invasion

Sunday October 1st

1-9PM

Oxford Saloon

CCR Sports and Entertainment

Spada Farmhouse Brewing

Carnegie Hall

IBC Fundraising Event

Featuring Dozens of Blues Acts

on First Street - Snohomish

Raffles and Silent Auction

Shuttle Van from venue to venue



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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 30)

Previews: Blues on the Road

Join the Washington Blues Society & welcome nationally touring artists to our region!

By Eric Steiner

This month, I wanted to alert readers to some pretty special shows, starting with Bonnie Raitt's return to our region, followed by Washington Blues Society President Tony Frederick's first President's Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline. I also wanted to think about some other special shows, but as I typed this month's column, one question bugged me: "Is it really the 50th anniversary of Steve Miller's LP, *The Joker*?"



Bonnie Raitt

In 2022, Bonnie Raitt released *Just Like That...*, her 21st album and her first new release in more than six years. Last year, she received three Grammy Awards: Best Americana Performance, Best American Roots Song, and Song of the Year for the song, "Just Like That..."

On the 2nd, Bonnie Raitt plays Victoria, British Columbia's Royal Theatre with special guest Roy Rogers followed by two sold-out shows in Vancouver at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on the 3rd and in Spokane at First Interstate Center for the Arts on the 6th. Additional dates include two shows in Montana: At the Kettlehouse Theatre in Bonner, Montana on the 8th and the Theatre at the Brick in Bozeman on the 9th. Bonnie Raitt continues to amaze listeners on record and audiences in person, and *Just Like That...* is one of my favorite recent blues releases. (Publicity photo of Bonnie Raitt & Friends, taken in 2006) by Sioux Nesi).



John Primer

Chicago blues legend John Primer plays Gas Station Blues in Issaquah on August 31st, before the Oak Harbor Music Festival on Whidbey Island on September 1st, followed by a private party in Seattle on the 2nd. Then, it's down to Oregon at the Alberta Rose Theatre on the 3rd and a private fundraiser in Manzanita on the 4th before joining the first-ever Washington Blues Society President's First Tuesday Blues Bash on the 5th at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline before playing The Spar in Tacoma on the 6th. Welcome back to the Pacific Northwest, John! Please see previews of the Washington Blues Society's three Blues Bashes in this issue! (Photo of John Primer by Eric Steiner).



Dave Mason's Endangered Species Tour

Dave Mason's celebrating his 77th birthday this year on tour in Salem at the Elsinore Theatre on the 7th before a show in Tacoma at the Rialto Theatre on the 9th before playing the Bing Crosby House in Spokane

on the 10th. I hope his sets include such Traffic classics like "Dear Mr. Fantasy" and "Rock and Roll Stew" as well his own hits like "Only You Know and I Know." (Dave Mason Tour Graphic Courtesy of the Dave Mason Website).



Sue Foley & Zan Fiskum Acoustic Tour

After August festivals in Salmon Arm and Vancouver, British Columbia, Blues Music Award winning blueswoman Sue Foley plays Seattle's Triple Door on the 6th before returning up Vancouver to play the Rio Theatre on the 7th. Sue received the Blues Music Award's Traditional Blues Female Artist in 2020, 2022, and 2023! (Photo of Sue Foley by Danny Clinch).



Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra

On the 11th and 12th, Ottmar Liebert and Luna Negra return to Seattle for shows at the Triple Door. Earlier this year, I introduced the band at Jazz Alley, and his show remains one of my most treasured memories of flamenco guitar. Please add his shows at the Triple Door to your live music calendar this month. (Photo by Mike Lane).



Steve Miller: J50 – The Evolution of The Joker

The Steve Miller Band returns to Chateau Ste. Michelle in Woodinville on the 15th to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 5x Platinum-selling LP, *The Joker*. The anniversary edition of this historic and groundbreaking release includes commentaries from Steve, unreleased material, and alternate takes from the original LP's sessions. (Photo of J50 Picture Disc from the Steve Miller Band Website).



The See It All Tour: Devon Allman, Donovan Frankenreiter & Goodnight, Texas

Welcome Devon Allman back to the Pacific Northwest for shows at McMenamin's Spanish Ballroom in Tacoma on 13th before traveling up to Williwaw Social Club in Anchorage, Alaska on the 14th before returning to the Aladdin Theatre in Portland, Oregon on the 15th. The band wants to set a world record by playing 50 shows in 50 days, and according to the Devon Allman Project website, "The

concept is simple. The execution will be brutal..... 50 shows in all 50 American states in less than 50 days. Like modern day Evel Knievel's, the tour is going to test the wills of these road tested veterans at every turn." (Tour Graphic from the www.DevonandDonovan.com Website).



Herbie Hancock

Herbie Hancock returns to Seattle on the 16th to play the Moore Theatre on the 16th. As a young undergraduate at Illinois State University in the 70s, I sat in the fifth row to see Hancock. I know it's not blues, but to this day, I remember his versions of "My Funny Valentine" and "Watermelon Man." Other shows in our region include Rifflandia in Victoria, British Columbia on the 17th and McMenamin's Grand Lodge in Forest Grove, Oregon, on the 19th. (Photo by Kwaku Alston).

The Rumba Kings

On the 22nd and 23rd, the Rumba Kings return to Seattle's Triple Door for two shows each night. The band's posted Kirk Anderson's interview from the March, 2023 issue and check it out online at



<https://therumbakings.net/press>. Better yet, welcome them back to the Triple Door! (Photo Courtesy of the Rumba Kings).



Save the Date: October 2, 2023 for a Special Show at Jazz Alley: In Concert for Cancer

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley and In Concert for Cancer present "An Evening of Soulful Inspiration" featuring an All-Star lineup including R&B star singer Kenny Lattimore, Grammy-Award winning singer Judith Hill, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer drummer Danny Seraphine and 2x Grammy-Nominated saxophonist Mindi Abair. Show time is 7:30 PM, doors open at 6 PM. This year's show is In Concert for Cancer's 12th annual benefit. As a part of In Concert for Cancer's longstanding commitment to making a positive impact, all net proceeds from the benefit concert will be split equally between two remarkable institutions. (In Concert for Cancer Graphic Courtesy of Jazz Alley).

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 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

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 Filtartips 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

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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

Guilled 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 Caroompas (Rumpus) 925.212.7760

Jim McLaughlin 425.737.4277

Jim Nardo Blues Band 360.779.4300

Jimmy Free's Friends 206.546.3733

Joe Blue & the Roof Shakers 425.766.7253

Joe Cook Blues Band 206.547.1772

Joe Guimond 509.423.0032

Joel Astley 206.214.7977

John "Scooch" Cugno's Delta 88 Revival 360.352.3735

John "Greyhound" Maxwell 360.685.6006

John Stephan Band 206.214.7781

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
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 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
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 The Soulful 88s/Billy Spaulding 206.310.4153
 The Spinoffs/Dawnzella Gearhart 206. 718.1591
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 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

September Previews: Three Blues Bashes!

See John Primer & Steve Bell, Ross Robinson, The Joel Astley Band, Norris & Nicely & The Rafael Tranquilino Band!

By Rick J. Bowen

The monthly Washington Blues Society Blues Bashes continue with three live events on Tuesdays this month.

Our 1st bash is the new President's Blues Bash with Chicago bluesmen John Primer and Steve Bell at Aurora Borealis, on the 5th at 7 PM at Aurora Borealis, 16708 Aurora Avenue North in Shoreline. Our 2nd bash is also at Aurora Borealis on the 2nd Tuesday, the 12th at 7 PM featuring acoustic blues master Ross Robinson followed by another CD release event from a Seattle favorite, and multiple Washington Blues Society "Best of the Blues" award winner, Joel Astley and his band. The 3rd bash, on the 4th Tuesday of the month features former Washington Blues Society International Blues Challenge representatives the Norris & Nicely Duo and the Rafael Tranquilino Band at CCR Sports and Entertainment, 215 Cypress Avenue in Snohomish on the 26th at 7 PM.

Our monthly Blues Bashes are presented free, and all are welcome. Aurora Borealis is an all ages venue, and CCR Sports is 21+ only. We will have a door prize raffle with prizes including tickets to Seattle's Jazz Alley, and more! We encourage everyone to tip the band to support of their volunteer performances.

The following is more about each performer at our three Blues Bashes this month.

The President's Blues Bash features legendary Chicago bluesmen John Primer and Steve Bell. John has received a number of accolades since forming his first band in 1955, most recently a Blues Music Award, a Muddy Award and a Blues Blast Award. His catalogue includes 87 recordings and was Muddy Waters' music director. Steve's father, Carey Bell, taught his son to play harp, and he's been in Primer's Real Deal Blues Band since 1996. John and Steve will turn Shoreline's Aurora Borealis into a legendary Chicago blues club harking back to B.L.U.E.S., The Checkboard Lounge, Silvio's or Theresa's!



(Photo of John Primer by Eric Steiner, Photo of Steve Bell from John Primer Website)

Ross Robinson was born in Rhode Island in 1958, lived mostly in Massachusetts, and moved to Washington State in 2014. Ross has been playing Piedmont blues, Delta blues and finger style guitar since 1989. He sings and writes his own material and has played many fine venues in the Boston area,



such as Club Passim, the Original House of Blues, and the Boston Blues Festival. Ross currently performs across Western Washington. (Photo of Ross Robinson Artist Courtesy).



Joel Astley came to music after many years of working as a visual artist. Since forming his first band in 2014, he has been recognized by the Washington Blues Society with multiple "Best Of The Blues" Awards, including five for Best Harmonica, three for Best Male Vocalist, three for Best Songwriter and one for Best Performer. He earned his reputation as a bandleader while performing with numerous northwest bands, and he is now leading his own award-winning band. He performs all over the Pacific Northwest, has appeared on several recordings, and has performed and toured with many national blues artists. His debut recording sessions at Greaseland Studios were released as a well-received debut album. (Photo of Joel Astley Artist Courtesy).



Randy Norris and Jeff Nicely, an eclectic acoustic blues duo, deliver dynamic vocals, exceptional acoustic guitar and harmonica interplay. In 20+ years of making music together, this seasoned duo blends the sounds and elements of soul, rock, New Orleans rhythm and Delta blues. Randy and Jeff are well traveled, each with Midwest roots, playing everything from loose pickin' parties to tight funk 'n soul revues. After 10 years in Los Angeles doing session and sideman work, Randy brought his

repertoire North, joining Jeff in fronting the popular turn of the century Seattle-area band, Blues Therapy. Performing as a duo since 2008, Randy Norris & Jeff Nicely earned Semi-Finalist status at the 2012 and 2013 International Blues Challenges in Memphis and were awarded the 2017 Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues Award for Solo/Duo Blues Act. Their credo as performers: "If there's no feeling, you're just wasting your breath." (Photo by Norris & Nicely by Amy Nagel-Jamison).

Rafael Tranquilino is an accomplished music producer, instrumentalist, and a funk-, rock-, blues-, jazz-, and neo-soul artist. Awarded the 2023 Washington Blues Society's Best Electric Blues Guitar Award, Rafael's musical career began when he was 10 years old as he became a part of his family's musical legacy. He later then learned play many instruments, such as drums, bass, harmonica, and keyboards. He gained popularity in the U.S. playing guitar and as acting musical director for



the Randy Oxford Band from 2006 to 2011, before branching out and forming the Rafael Tranquilino Band. Rafael then grew to be a skilled music producer, with past and ongoing projects in the works. (Photo of Rafael Tranquilino by Gordy Mitchell).



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Updated Blues Jams & Open Mic Listings (continued)

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

(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



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www.sunbanksfestival.com

You Should Have Been There!

Curley Taylor & Zydeco Trouble at the Aurora Borealis in Shoreline!

By Bear Drury (Photo of Curley Taylor Courtesy of the Artist)

The first time I heard Curley Taylor was many years ago at the old Highway 99 Blues Club. I was impressed. It's darn difficult to find good Zydeco music up here in the Greater Pacific Northwest. We've had a long line of wannabes, but damn few of the genuine article.

The next time I heard Curley Taylor & Zydeco Trouble was at the 2022 Rainier Music Festival and I was very impressed. Their one hour set that night left me wanting more. And this year, I got it. A full evening of Curley Taylor & Zydeco Trouble on July 29, 2023 at Aurora Borealis. And this time I was greatly impressed!

First let's get some background on Curley.

Curley Taylor comes from a long line of Louisiana Zydeco musicians. He started out at 16 in his father's band, Jude Taylor and the Burning Flames. By the time he was 25, Curley was a first-call Zydeco drummer and had toured with C.J. Chenier, son of the legendary Clifton Chenier.

Along the way, Curley wanted to try accordion, the quintessential Zydeco instrument, and learned to play it within six months of picking it up. Now, eight albums later, he and his band have played Zydeco all over the USA, and Curley's most recent album, 2022's *Number Ones* is fantastic. Look for a review of it in an upcoming issue of the Bluesletter. Now, about the show in Shoreline.

Zydeco Trouble hit Aurora Borealis like a crawfish boil hits a picnic table! Steaming, hot and spicy!

First of all, the place was packed! The front half of the room was cleared of all tables and the night started with Sean "Gator Boy" Donovan and Erika Olsen showing everyone the proper way to perform the Zydeco two-step.

The band hit the stage. Or rather, they commandeered the stage. And captivated the room. Curley Taylor is backed up by Dayton January on bass, Jaque Randle on scratchboard, Coutland Mack on keyboards, and Eric "Boss Hog" Minix on drums.

You'd be hard pressed to find a tighter, more well rehearsed group anywhere. And the harmonies... My gosh, if biscuits and gravy could sing, this is what they'd sound like.

Curley Taylor & Zydeco Trouble can best be described as a true 21st century Zydeco Show. They are a Zydeco show with soul! They have merged Creole heart with Cajun spice, added that New Orleans beat, mixed in some Memphis soul, tossed in some Muscle Shoals rhythm and blues, and created a savory sound that will please just about everyone's musical palate.

Mixing originals with standards such as "Big Mamou," plus Zydeco-flavored versions of classics as diverse as "Cisco Kid" and "Rockin' Robin." Curley and the guys aren't afraid to push the boundaries.

This is a Zydeco band for folks who thought they didn't like Zydeco, and if you already liked Zydeco, you'll love this band. The momentum never stopped the entire night. The crowd went crazy when Curley called the effervescent Lady A onstage to help out with the Zydeco party.

Keeping the energy going during the break between sets, Erika and Sean gave yet another dance lesson. The crowd remained until the very end. To say the joint was jumping would be an understatement. They manage to hit the Seattle area about once a year. Next year don't miss them. I know I won't. Maybe we should do this more than once a year?

For those of you who missed it... well... You should have been there.



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