

Bluesletter



Washington Blues Society

December 2023

**BLACK NATIVITY
RETURNS!**

**SHEMEKIA
COPELAND**
LIVE AT JAZZ ALLEY

ON BASS
BOB STROGER

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Blues Fans,

The December *Bluesletter* deadline is here, and I'm thinking about the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday, and I can't help but think of how thankful I am for all that has happened this past year. This year has been loaded with lots of positives and tons of fun events.

Each festival I worked in 2023 had strong line ups, and I was able to reconnect with many old friends and make many new friends as well.

The year was good financially for the Washington Blues Society, and we are headed into next year with a positive outlook. We should have a full line of new shirts and other Washington Blues Society merchandise available for members and music fans in 2024.

The Musician's Relief Fund is healthy and we help musicians with health issues and who find themselves in need. However, need knows no season, and we appreciate any donations earmarked to our Musicians Relief Fund. Please also know that all inquiries and requests for assistance are kept confidential, anonymous, and are reviewed by three duly elected blues society board members. We also confidentially work with applicants to help them secure existing public benefits depending on availability and eligibility.

We are also setting into place a new footprint for our youth program, the "Pass the Torch" education program, which is our version of the "Blues in the Schools" from past years.

We have started setting up this next year's Seattle Peace Concerts and hope to increase attendance and bring these events and music to many more parks in Seattle and increase out reach to wider audiences, more neighborhoods, and more parks facilities. Casey Sutton has come on board to help with this and with his knowledge and experience as a music and festival producer in St. Louis. We are grateful that Casey's on the board.

This has been a great year and I'm thankful and very positive about the future and look forward to the new year!

Hope to see many of you at the Holiday Party at Aurora Borealis on Sunday, December 3rd and please check the flyer in this edition for more information.

Happy Holidays!

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



Fred Meyer Community
Rewards Program
Supports the Washington Blues Society

All things holiday, all in one stop
Fred Meyer
www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards

2 Books by NW
Legend Little Bill

\$25 per or 2 for \$40



LITTLEBILL1959@COMCAST.NET



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



In This Issue...

BLUES RIFFS

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

BLUES NEWS, REVIEWS & FEATURES

- 6 Shemekia Copeland Live at Jazz Alley!
- 8 Black Nativity: A Holiday Tradition Returns
- 10 An Exceptional Year for Live Music
- 12 Bob Stroger: The Godfather of Chicago Blues
- 16 CD Reviews
- 24 Holiday Blues Happenings 2023
- 28 2024 Grammy Award Nominations!

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY STUFF!

- 4 2023 Blues Society Officers & Directors
- 18 Washington Blues Society Membership Form
- 19 Advertisement Purchase Order Form
- 20 December 2023 Live Blues Music Calendar!
- 22 December 26th Blues Bash Preview in Snohomish
- 23 Updated Blues Jams & Open Mic Listings
- 25 Blues Bash Preview: December 12th in Shoreline
- 26 Blues Talent Guide
- 29 2023 Bluesletter Covers: A Colorful Look Back
- 29 Time to Vote for Your 2024 Board of Directors
- 31 2024 Best of the Blues Nomination Ballot



This issue celebrates the return of a legendary Seattle cultural institution, Langston Hughes' Black Nativity, as it returns to the Intiman Theatre after an 11-year absence from December 12th through December 30th. Frequent contributor Kirk Anderson recalls his top 10 shows of 2023 in the Pacific Northwest (out of a total of 59!), Chicago's Soppro Productions' Founder Bud Monaco honors his friend, award-winning bluesman Bob Stroger, and Eric Steiner and Rocky Nelson welcome Shemekia Copeland back to Jazz Alley for two shows! Don't forget to vote, not only for members of the 2024 Washington Blues Society Board of Directors, but also to nominate your favorite artists for the 2024 Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") of the Washington Blues Society! This issue includes CD reviews, blues news, an updated calendar, and a special preview of New Year's Eve events to ring in 2024!

Happy Blues New Year!

Above: From *Black Nativity*, which returns to the Intiman Theatre
(Courtesy of Wesley Fruge')

Cover: Pastor Patrinell "Pat" Wright (1944-2022) leads *Black Nativity* in 2008
(Courtesy of Wesley Fruge')

Cover Designed by Sean Donovan, Gator Boy Productions

THE WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY BLUESLETTER
DECEMBER 2023 - Volume XXXIV, Number XII

PUBLISHER

Washington Blues Society - www.wablues.org

EDITOR

Polly O'Keary (editor@wablues.org)

PRINTER

Pacific Publishing Company
(www.pacificpublishingcompany.com)

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Eric Steiner, Rick J. Bowen, Polly O'Keary, Bear Drury, Bud Monaco, Kirk
Anderson, Rick J. Bowen, Will Crockett, Tony Frederickson

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Eric Steiner, Lacey McNaughton, Liberty Ellis Miller, Bear Drury,
Sopro Foto by Bud Monaco, Wesley Frege'
Red Light Entertainment (Mavis Staples Management)

JANUARY BLUESLETTER DEADLINES

Ad Reservations	5PM on 12/5 to editor@wablues.org
Calendar	5PM on 12/10 online. Please submit @ www.wablues.org
Editorial	5PM on 12/5 to editor@wablues.org
Camera-Ready Ad Art	5PM on 12/12 to editor@wablues.org

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

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please send articles and photos only as attachments. Please do not embed images or stories directly in emails and please do not send links.

Please only send attachments with each file titled with a unique file name instead of computer- or camera-supplied identifiers. All contributions not meeting these requirements will be returned for revisions by the contributor.

Photos: High-resolution PDF, tif, or jpg attachments saved as 300 dpi or greater in traditional print media CMYK format only (for color) an grayscale (for B & W). Cover size: 8.5 in x 11 in.

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

Please title photos with a unique file name and not do not use camera-supplied alpha-numeric file titles, and please do not include any watermarks or branding information on any photo. Please also do not send low-resolution, social media photos or collages.

CAMERA-READY AD SPECS & COSTS

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

BLUESLETTER ADVERTISING DISCOUNTS

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



2023 OFFICERS

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

2023 DIRECTORS

Music Directors, Bear Drury & Mary McPage	music@wablues.org
Membership, Open	membership@wablues.org
Education, Open	education@wablues.org
Volunteers, Jeannie "Whoopiekitty" Baker	volunteers@wablues.org
Merchandise, Tony Frederickson	merchandise@wablues.org
Advertising, Open	advertising@wablues.org

THANKS TO OUR 2023 STREET TEAM

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

SPECIAL THANKS

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 70604
SEATTLE, WA 98127

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Hello Blues Lovers!

This month, because of a brief and frightening health scare, I had a chance to see what an amazing community we have.

The short version of a rather longer story is that I got a bit run down, then when I got sick due to something else, I flat out collapsed on the street and my poor husband had to call an ambulance and I spent the night in the hospital for the first time in my life.

I posted an account of that incident on my Facebook page, and I was immediately inundated with good wishes and concern from dozens of people from our music community. Many people sent me messages with their experiences and with suggestions for what to discuss with my doctor. Another thing that warmed my heart a million times over was the people who reached out to my poor, frazzled husband, to see if he was doing all right.

To this day, I still don't know exactly what caused my blood pressure to drop so suddenly or so far—I've certainly been ill before but never had my legs given out like that—but I learned one thing: if something more serious should ever befall me, I now know folks would be there for my husband, and I wouldn't be alone with it either, and that is such a comfort. I've seen this community rally for others who have had various crises, but it's different when it's me in the hospital, and finding oneself on the receiving end of all that warm concern is humbling.

We have a special thing in the Pacific Northwest blues community.

That community is really large, too. As I write this, I'm resting up from a busy weekend traveling to Idaho and Oregon to play music. We did a show in Boise on a Thursday night, with support from the Boise Blues Society.

The president and some of the other board members were there and they were talking about how they hope to coordinate with other blues societies in the region to establish a route for touring musicians. If the societies were able to offer, say, a Thursday in Boise, a Friday or Saturday in Spokane or Seattle, a Tuesday blues society event in Seattle, and then a Wednesday in Portland, swinging through the Pacific Northwest would be a lot more viable for mid-level national acts, especially during the off season.

I am quite excited about the return of Black Nativity, the annual Christmas musical play written by Langston Hughes and produced in Seattle for many years by Reverend Patrinell "Pat" Wright of the Total Experience Gospel Choir. Pat Wright died last year, and it seemed that the beloved annual Seattle run of the show might never

return after the COVID-19 years.

This winter it is back, and our amazing intern Will Crocket, who continues to write wonderful things for us even though summer is long over and he's back in school, has a great story about Black Nativity in this issue. It would be fun to plan an outing! Hit me up on social media if that sounds like fun and maybe we can round up a posse and go see it. I used to go every year and I have missed it! That's how I first heard the incomparable Josephine Howell, one of the greatest blues/gospel voices maybe in the whole nation. I remember thinking that if she and some of the other choir singers in the show started working in local blues clubs, people like me would never find work again. They are tremendously talented and skilled.

There are several blues society events coming up too, including the Holiday Party, and I hope I can see some folks there as well.

Cheers!

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

Polly O'Keary, Editor (on temporary sabbatical)
Washington Blues Society Bluesletter



ROCK FISH GRILL
ANACORTES BREWERY

Local Food - Local Beer - Made Here

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

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

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

We Want You!
To Join the
Washington Blues Society



Robert Johnson

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



Your Membership Benefits include:

- Monthly Bluesletter in your mailbox*
- Monthly All-Ages Blues Bash Email notices
- Member Discounts for BB Awards and Holiday Parties
- TICKET RAFFLES AND GIVE AWAY OPPORTUNITIES
- WEEKLY BLUES NEWS REPORTS
- VOTING PRIVILEGES FOR BEST OF THE BLUES AWARDS

• \$5.00 off show admission for Friday 9:30 shows at Jazz Alley**

* Due to postage fees, non-US residents will receive their Bluesletter electronically
**with valid WBS membership card and advance reservation. Reservations must be made by calling Jazz Alley at (206) 441-9729, and requesting the WBS Special.
This offer is not applicable to all shows.

Shemekia Copeland at Seattle's Jazz Alley!

She turned Seattle's most elegant room for live music... into a blues club on Chicago's South Side..."

By Eric Steiner

This past October, I had the privilege of introducing Shemekia Copeland over the course of two nights at Seattle's Jazz Alley as she was touring on the strength of her 2023 Grammy-nominated CD in the Best Contemporary Blues Album category, *Done Come Too Far* (Alligator Records).

I was pleased that former blues society Secretary, Rocky Nelson, joined me as he interviewed Shemekia from her home in Chicago when he hosted the Blues Power Hour on Armed Forces Radio in Afghanistan in 2008. After the show, he gave Shemekia a CD of that same Christmas broadcast to the troops with her interview. More about that later.

And the Winner Is...

At this year's Blues Music Awards, she was nominated for Album Of The Year (for the Grammy Award-nominated *Done Come Too Far*, Song Of The Year (for "Too Far To Be Gone," co-written by John Hahn and Will Kimbrough), Instrumentalist of the Year (Vocals), and Contemporary Blues Album of the Year. Of these four nominations, Shemekia received the Instrumentalist of the Year (Vocals) Keeping the Blues Alive Award from The Blues Foundation in Memphis.

In September of this year, Shemekia Copeland received the Female Blues Artist of the Year and Vocalist of the Year at the 2023 Blues Blast Music Awards in her home state in Peoria at the 3300 Event Center.

In addition to these well-deserved nominations and awards, Shemekia Copeland also received five awards from *Living Blues* magazine's prestigious Critics' Poll, Best Blues Album of 2022, and Readers' Poll. More information: <https://livingblues.com/30th-annual-living-blues-awards-2023/>.

Live in Seattle

At each Seattle show, she turned Seattle's most elegant room for live music into a blues club on Chicago's South Side or a Mississippi

Juke Joint. Each set would have been right at home at Theresa's or the Checkerboard Lounge on the South Side, or Po' Monkey's Lounge in the Delta or at the Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale.

"She would blow the doors off of Red's" quipped Rocky about another world-class juke joint in Clarksdale.

She started each show off with "Walk Around Heaven," which featured the exceptional slide guitar from Ken "Willie" Scandlyn, who's played in Shemekia's band for the past 14 years. Ken was very generous with his time, talking to us about how much fun Shemekia's latest tour is, and how tight the band was. Bassist Kevin Jenkins has been with her 19 years, lead guitarist Arthur Neilson has served 25, and drummer Dan Hickey, who is also a long-time member of Shemekia's road-tested band.

"The shows in Seattle were so much fun," said Shemekia after the show. "It was especially great to see all the people from the Washington Blues Society. Those people know how to party. I had a blast!"

Each set included over 90 minutes of music. For me, Shemekia's plaintive and emotional treatments of "Clotilda's on Fire," which tells the story of the last slave ship to arrive on US shores five decades after slavery was outlawed. From the stage, she described how mainstream media covered this sad discovery of American history.

"This ship was on *60 Minutes*, Questlove did a special show about the Clotilda, and there were about 27 books devoted to its discovery."

When I first heard "Clotilda's on Fire" on her *Uncivil Wars* CD, I wondered why it wasn't in every high school's history curriculum across the nation. It certainly should be.

During each set, Shemekia told stories behind the songs, and she honored the memory of her father Johnny Copeland and her mother, Sandra, who passed away last year. One of the most touching songs she



"It's 2 AM, Do You Know Where Your Baby Is?"
(Photo by Eric Steiner)

included in each set was "Nobody But You," a love song that Johnny wrote about Sandra. The audience delighted in Shemekia's traditional call and response on the song's upbeat refrain.

"She totally engaged the crowd throughout her sets," said Rocky.

I particularly liked learning about "that pretty boy" in her life, her seven-year old son Johnny. She also told us that she's "going to keep on making records" as she considers herself "the Susan Lucci of the blues," a reference to an actress who won her first Daytime Emmy Award on her 21st nomination.

"That was a stunner to me," exclaimed Rocky. "John Hahn's songwriting and her powerful vocals are a natural for the Grammys!"

On John Prine's "Great Rain," guitarist Ken "Willie" Scandlyn fueled Dan Hickey and Kevin Jenkin's powerful engine room with a solid foundation on a song from one of Chicago's foremost troubadours from that city's folk renaissance in the late 70s.

When Shemekia talked about her husband, an avowed metal-head fond of bands like



Two Friends Reuniting at Jazz Alley
(Photo by Eric Steiner)

Metallica, on John Hahn's "I Fell in Love with a Honky (in a Honky-Tonk Bar)," she said she sang this song at the Ryman Auditorium when she opened for Jason Isbell, in one of the most hallowed halls for country music in Nashville. For me, that's country music street cred of the highest order.

"That sure was a heel-kicking, country romp that must have been a hoot at the Ryman!" said Rocky.

"Ain't Got Time for Hate" is more than just a song that started her 2019 CD, *America's Child*. It's much more than just a slogan posted over an American flag on a T-shirt that I bought at Jazz Alley from Shemekia at the merch booth. I consider the song to be an urgent rallying cry for a decidedly divided United States of America in 2023.

Shemekia Copeland's sets in Seattle filled Jazz Alley each night. It was also a thrill to sit near bluesman John Stephan, whom Rocky recognized as a much appreciated performer at the Salmon Bay Eagles' Thursday Blues Nights, and reconnect with Scotty Harris, Barbara Hammerman and Amanda Gresham of United By Music North America.

"It was good to see you and Rocky last night at Jazz Alley," John Stephan wrote me the morning after the show. "I always hook up with Arthur and Shemekia when they're in town. I met them at Bumbershoot in Memorial Stadium 20 years ago while I was

working with Bonnie Raitt. Nice people."

I particularly liked it when Shemekia recognized their work with United By Music North America from the stage. It was also nice to see current Washington Blues Society Secretary Marisue Thomas out on the town.

I asked Rocky, a former Washington Blues Society Secretary, to help me introduce Shemekia to a full and excited, blues loving house. I invited Rocky because I knew it would be special for him to share with Shemekia how much her career has meant to him and to her loving fans.

A Little History: The Blues Power Hour

In 2008, Rocky interviewed her by phone from her home in Chicago when he hosted the Blues Power Hour in Afghanistan on Armed Forces Radio during the all-important Christmas radio program.

"The holidays are always a time of being with loved ones, and those in a war zone were far away from theirs, and in harm's way," said Rocky. "Her contributions were extremely poignant to those serving their country and missing their families from afar."

Rocky had not heard Shemekia perform since Koko Taylor's last performance at the Blues Music Awards in Memphis in May of 2009.

I noticed that Rocky was unusually pensive when Shemekia asked if she could "take us to church." Rocky nodded, and I thought of his work with the Rev. Al Green at his Full Gospel Tabernacle church in Memphis (especially when he worked with a Ft. Lewis Army unit to design and paint a large, motivational sign out of plywood with the troops; "Less Al Qaeda/More Al Green").

At that moment, Scanlan and Nielsen's guitars launched into riffs straight out of Memphis on the John Hahn-Will Kimbrough's co-write, "Walk Until I Ride," a moving song about the civil rights movement that is starkly relevant today.

"Her vocals are so uplifting that she makes

you feel you're living right," Rocky wrote in my notebook. "They are simply magical, especially for all those people who still believe in the magic of live music," said Rocky remembering John Sebastian's song that launched the career of The Lovin' Spoonful in 1965, "Do You Believe in Magic?"

"I have never had the chance to properly thank her," continued Rocky. "Thanks for the invitation, Eric. I'm very, very grateful. Please also thank Jazz Alley's owner John Dimitriou, publicist Rachael Millikan, and host Rob Perry for this opportunity."

"I first interviewed Shemekia 20 years ago in the corner not far from stage right. She clutched a stuffed Teddy Bear in her arms and seemed quite comfortable to discuss her musical career as it was just taking off," Rocky recalled.

"Each night on this tour, she powerfully took us on an emotional blues journey of love, loss, redemption and hope," continued Rocky. "With her dynamic and exceptionally diverse vocal range, she has matured spectacularly!"

As we left Jazz Alley, Rocky Nelson gave Shemekia a CD of his 2008 Blues Power Hour radio show, and she planted a kiss on his cheek.

"Thank you so much, Rocky," said Shemekia.

Several songs continue to resonate with me weeks, and months, after Rocky and I left Jazz Alley. Rocky was especially proud of her rocking rendition of Rick Vito's "It's 2 AM" that she left the crowd wanting still more for her curtain calls.

"This song was a foxhole favorite, and I played it on almost every Blues Power Hour show," reminisced Rocky.

"Her sets ran the gambit of country, blues and jazz but, she can also flat rock-out!" Rocky said with pride.

Author's Note: Special thanks to Rocky Nelson for his contributions to this story.

Black Nativity : A Holiday Tradition Returns

"I think Intiman is really focused on bringing underrepresented voices to the stage..."

By Will Crockett

For 14 years, Langston Hughes's gospel song-play, *Black Nativity*, an all-Black adaptation of the Nativity story, was staged by Seattle's Intiman Theater.

This production of *Black Nativity* served as a staple not only of the festive holiday season, but also of our community's love for holiday spirit, faith, and quality drama.

The curtain fell on the last production of *Black Nativity* in 2012 at the Intiman Theatre due to a number of reasons, the most pressing being financial challenges.

However, after 11 years, it finally returns to the Intiman Theatre for the Seattle community for its debut on December 12th, and will run until December 30th.

Up until the last production of *Black Nativity* at the Intiman, legendary figures Jacqueline Moscou, Rev. Dr. Samuel McKinney and Patrinell Wright were the visionaries behind this renowned production. Attending their production of *Black Nativity* had become a tradition for many families during the holidays, and its 11-year absence has since been deeply felt by the community.

This season, new creatives of color are reinventing and renewing the production, who vow to respect what the production has meant in the past, in addition to bringing in their own perspectives and narratives indicative of the times. After all, a lot has happened since 2012.

Wesley Fruge, Intiman's current Managing Director and longtime theater expert, said that being brought on to Intiman has been an incredible honor. Fruge said that he has always sought to elevate historically marginalized voices and to keep theater alive as an effective tool for societal critique

"I think Intiman is really focused on bringing underrepresented voices to the stage, which is something that's a passion area of mine," he said.

"We're investing in new voices and younger

audiences and more diverse audiences to participate in this really important art form—which is more than just an art, but it's also part of our democracy," he continued.

Fruge said that the history behind *Black Nativity* is bigger than any one member of the project, or even the production itself.

"When you're out and you're meeting people and they're telling you stories about Intiman, they know Intiman better than I do," he said. "They might have been coming here longer than I've even lived in Seattle."

"One of the things that people tell me is the sort of impact that *Black Nativity* has had in their lives and in this community," continued Fruge. "When you hear that so consistently, you're like 'There's something there that's missing that we haven't been able to do in many years.'"

Fruge explained that he is excited to be working with Intiman's creative team and *Black Nativity*'s new artistic lineup, including decorated Director Valerie Curtis-Newton.

"Valerie is one of the most storied, legendary directors in town and working around the country," he said. "We're very lucky that we've been able to collaborate with her so much... so lucky to learn from Val and get to see and enjoy her work."

Curtis-Newton, the Head of Directing and Playwriting at the University of Washington, Founding Director at the Hansberry Project, and renowned director and writer, spoke about the demand for *Black Nativity* in its absence.

"Every year people were asking them when tickets were going to go on sale, so they (Intiman) knew that there was an interest in return of *Black Nativity*," she said.

"They just found themselves in a more stable place and decided to reinvest in community coming out of the pandemic," Curtis-Newton continued.

"It seemed like a really great opportunity to call folks together, and I was really honored

to be asked to be a part of it," she said.

Jacqueline Moscou's production of *Black Nativity* left Curtis-Newton with an incredible legacy to honor. Curtis-Newton spoke about delivering this play with respect to Pat Wright and the other incredible community leaders that were involved in *Black Nativity* 11 years ago.

"All we can do really is try to lean into the spirit of the seasons, spirit of community and hope and faith," she said.

"We are faithful and believe very much that our gifts will be sufficient to make something beautiful and excellent. That's all that we think that Pat (Wright) would ask of us, that we do our best, and we do it in the spirit of love, and of the season."

Curtis-Newton explained that this year's production will have some of the same elements the Moscou's *Black Nativity*, but also will be influenced by recent social evolutions.

"Every year when it's done, the second act was sort of a reflection of the current times," said Curtis-Newton.

"The biggest reason for the different second act actually has to do with the pandemic. We spent three years basically, as a community of people walled away in a bubble," she said.

"Our driving force has focused on many questions," she continued. "Questions like: How do we help people come out of the bubble? How do we simply be in the presence of each other and be glad about it? How do we make a joyful noise together?"

In addition to Curtis-Newton, there are a number of new and returning voices that will be included in this year's *Black Nativity*, including freshman and veteran Intiman cast members Esther Okech, Felicia Loud, Shauncy Omar, Yusef Seevers and Jarron

A. Williams.

The *Black Nativity* choir will also include both new and returning talents from Intiman. The creative team also features Choreographer Vania C. Bynum and Scenic Designer Jennifer Zeyl.

Visit the Intiman Theatre website (<https://www.intiman.org/>) for more information about the Intiman team and tickets to *Black Nativity*, which will run from December 12th until December 30th.

Whether you are looking to reignite holiday traditions or begin new ones, act fast to secure your tickets to the renewed and reimagined *Black Nativity* before they sell out!



Upper Middle and Left: Production Stills from *Black Nativity* at The Intiman Theatre
Below: A legacy photo of Rev. Patrinell "Pat" Wright from the 2008 production of *Black Nativity* (Photos Courtesy of Wesley Fruge')



An Exceptional Year for Live Music in the Pacific Northwest

“I relished the idea of taking a walk back through my 2023 music memory lane.”

By Kirk Anderson

This past year, I saw 59 live shows, and here's my top 10.

There have been a couple of times in my life where my cornucopia of music runneth over. One time was in New Orleans in April/May of 2001 when I took a job that had me go there six weeks of training. This included the last weekend of April and first weekend of May.... The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. Seven days of music of all genres by day at the racetrack, 21 days of many of the same bands of all sizes joining local bands at the smaller music clubs that make New Orleans the king of live music!

As this was my first year leaving the concert circuit, I still had a lot of friends touring. Turns out over the 42 days I was in NOLA learning a new job, I also saw nearly 60 shows.

We entered 2023 not knowing what to expect. This past year just seemed like maybe, just maybe, live music may return to the new normal after the Covid-19 pandemic shut-down.

I did not plan or commit to hit a certain number of shows in 2023. I kept meeting kind people who loved music as much (or even more) than I do. I went to shows with friends, or went alone, and just met other music fans. I saw that, despite what social media and the news tells us, there are so many kind people happy to take the chance to talk music with a stranger. One show turned into two, then 10, and ultimately 59!

As I was talking with Editor Emeritus Eric Steiner, I related my experiences during these shows to experiences he's shared. Always fun to talk with another brother in the blues!

Eric asked if I had time to write a small piece on the best 10 shows I saw this year. I relished the idea of taking a walk back through my 2023 music memory lane. Looking back, going to 59 shows was an achievement, and selecting my top 10 was

hard work. Because I enjoyed each and every show I experienced this past year.

From Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery's amphitheatre, The Crocodile, The Neptune Theatre to Jazz Alley, The Triple Door, High Dive, Nectar Lounge, Climate Pledge Arena, Tacoma Dome, Aurora Borealis, and the Edmonds Center for the Arts, these venues and hosts gave us their best.

As I look back, I have seen many of these artists before, know personally, or just never was able to see them play before. Finally, here in Seattle, their tours ran through our beautiful part of the country. Some of these artists still had original band members, some have had a few replacements due to the nature of music, and others are road shows with rotating members. Seattle continues to show why she is home to many great things to so many people.

Here are my top 10 shows of the 59 I have seen so far in 2023. No numbering system for best to worst of the 10.

Mavis Staples, by far, was at the top of my list, 30 minutes in the summer as part of a larger four band tour.

By the way, 2024 is looking to have a great start with Gov't Mule coming back for three Pacific Northwest shows, and I'll preview their "30 Years Strong" tour in an upcoming *Bluesletter*.

Mavis Staples. She was part of the Trombone Shorty tour with Ziggy Marley and Robert Randolph at Chateau Ste. Michelle Amphitheatre in the middle of the hot summer. Her voice rings through the decades of The Staples Family performances and was right in front of me. Her voice is still so sweet and powerful. This sweet lady commanded the stage of extremely talented musicians and commanded the VIP visitor area after her set.

Trombone Shorty. I hadn't seen Trombone Shorty since my days working part-time in New Orleans in the late 90's - early 2000's before Katrina. He was always just a dude



The Legendary Mavis Staples
(Press Photo Courtesy of Red Light Management)

in the crowd until he got on stage. His show was eye popping and wide open. The show he put on introduced me to his new repertoire as he has become a major stage draw all on his own. The few tunes from the old days brought a tear to my eye as memories came back.

The Northwest Blues All Stars. This regional supergroup recently played the Triple Door with bass players taking turns (Yeah, Polly, my first time seeing you doing it on stage... Yeow!). A cover of a Cab Calloway (Whoa jazz/blues swing- side roots of the Blues) found the vocals provided out in the audience standing atop the backs of the booths singing without amplification.

Jazz is Dead. This show allowed me to see a band I hadn't seen since the late 90's now with Steve Kimock front and the long time bass player, Alphonso Johnson. Alphonso has been part of Santana, the Grateful Dead, Weather Report, and my memory was on a track to remember him from flugelhorn player Chuck Mangione's band. My older brother turned me onto Chuck Mangione when his song "Chase the Clouds Away" was picked to open the Montreal Olympics. I heard Alphonso play off of jazz great Esther Satterfield on "Land of Make Believe" from the same album. He stood five feet in front of me!

Dumpstafunk & Jon Cleary. This bill brought my New Orleans days back and as the concert began, the cold rain of Seattle

quickly faded and the warm Spring or Fall days I spent in New Orleans came back. Original tunes along with Doctor John and Professor Longhair covers had me tasting crawfish etouffee!

GA-20. This trio from Boston is currently touring the world. They were at Nectar Lounge as an opener! Again, they were five feet in front of me. A trio but without a bassist. What? Yeah! I don't know how they bring so much bottom end but they bring another twist to the blues. A hot, hot mesmerizing show featuring gritty, Chicago blues from artists like Hound Dog Taylor & The House Rockers.

Too Slim & The Taildraggers. This award-winning band has a new drummer. I loved Shakey as the drummer, but the new drummer fits in in a different way. As I've written in *Bluesletters* for the Washington Blues Society and *Blues Notes* for the Cascade Blues Association, y'all here in the Pacific Northwest turned me on to Tim and the band, and I want to see them every time I can. They are true Pacific Northwest blues artists and continue to thrill everyone in the audience (Shh, I think they thrill themselves too).

Tinsley Ellis, Marcia Ball & Curtis Salgado. One of my friends from Atlanta, Tinsley Ellis, finally got back to the Pacific Northwest after missing the pandemic dates and this time this 40+ year bluesman was on a double solo acoustic bill with Marcia Ball. He played Seattle with Marcia, and then played Tacoma with Curtis Salgado on a 2020 makeup date.

Most of you know Curtis and his band is a Pacific Northwest mainstay. Fans were singing along! His talent is showcased around the world. Tinsley and Marcia each played a solo set and then closed the show by playing several songs together.

Mark Hummel's Annual Blues Blowout. Mark's return to Seattle brought harmonica players from around the globe. They melded their styles together for a show that kept giving me the chance to see musicians share their talent for give and take as well as showcasing their individual talents. It was an incredible show where musicians came out into the audience to let us see them play like we were just sitting in their living room watching a friend play... an extremely talented friend play.

Los Lobos. "Just Another Band from East LA" played several shows over four consecutive sold out nights. Having seen them open for Tedeschi Trucks Band last summer at White River Amphitheatre, it was such a treat to be in such an intimate venue and being so close to them with an awesome sound system (and awesome sound tech running the sound board).

Sonny Landreth & John "Greyhound" Maxwell. This distinctive Louisiana bluesman and slide guitarist shared his unique style of slide and ran through a set list of tunes of local importance, from his own history and a new tune that he said they were working out in preparation to play at Eric Clapton's annual Crossroads Festival.

This acoustic and eclectic set was made even better by John Greyhound Maxwell's night opening acoustic set played on his beautiful National guitars.

Dave Mason. I had never seen him before, although through my whole life, his songs were always there. From Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, David Crosby, to Steve Winwood and Traffic, Fleetwood Mac, Leon Russell and Bonnie & Delaney, Dave has been part of the magic. Again, in a small venue, his banter with the audience was so surprising and soul filling. Someone so big, just cutting it up with us in the audience.

Damn. Even Garaj Mahal played at the end of 2022!

Seattle, in terms of live music, you got it going on!

We're outta the pandemic shutdown. It's there for you. Support your favorite groups and your favorite venues. At almost every show, I took the time to thank the workers at the venues and they all responded so warmly! If you have a top show you saw, or top five or top 10 ...join the Washington Blues Society on Facebook. Would love to see your lists and descriptions on social media!

What are you going to do in 2024?

Hint: A majority of these artists say they try to come back to the Pacific Northwest every year, and I can't wait to see who is going to come back!



PITCHING A WANG DANG DOODLE?

**Check out our huge updated,
accessible, upstairs party room**

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

Preserving & Promoting Blues Music

as a part of our
Cultural Heritage and Tradition



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

Robert “Bob” Stroger: The Godfather of Chicago Blues

“I’ve had the distinct pleasure of introducing Robert on stage many, many times over the years...”

Story & Photo by Bud Monaco

During any conversation among blues fans, and knowledgeable blues aficionados, of blues bassists, blues vocalists, and blues entertainers throughout Chicagoland, North America, Europe, or South America, a leading topic of conversation is often the legendary, elder statesman and senior ambassador of the blues, Robert “Bob” Stroger. He’s widely recognized as today’s “Godfather of Chicago Blues.”

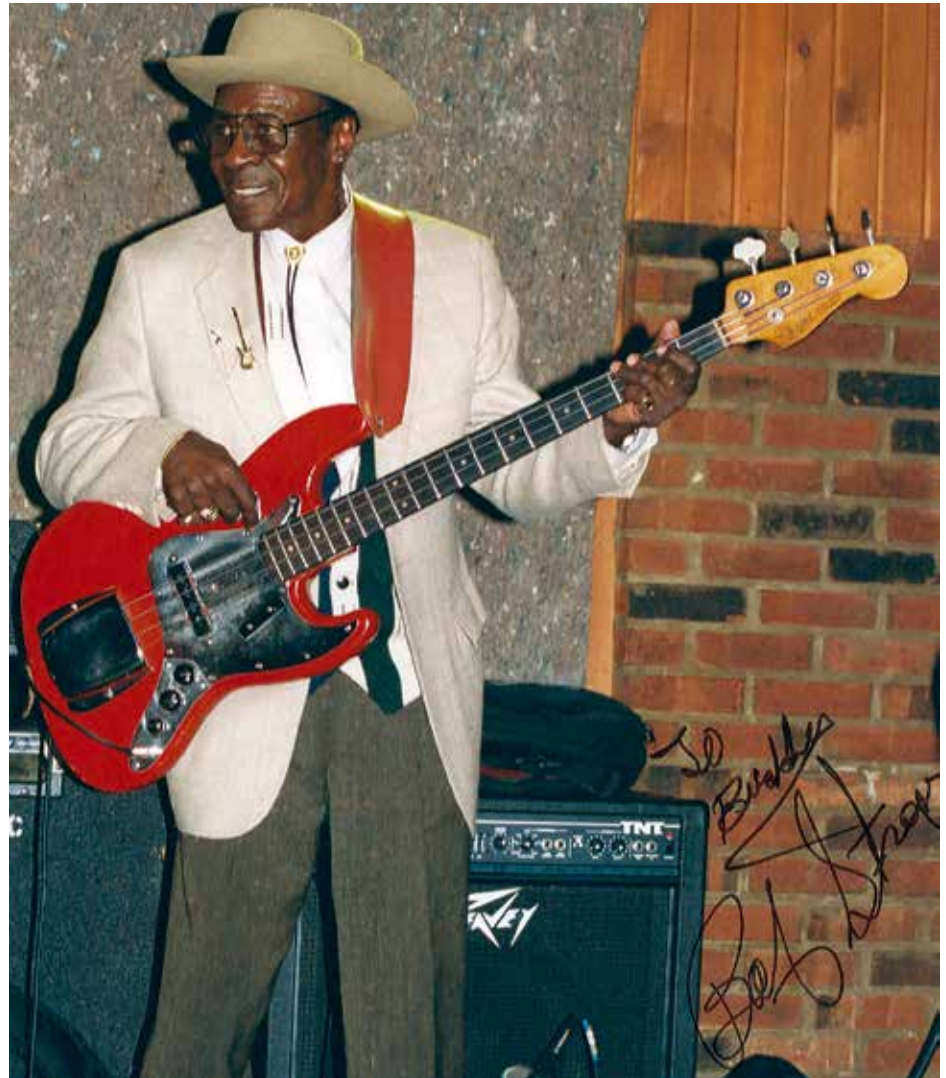
I first met Robert back in the early 1980s when he performed with Jody Noa and the Sho’ Nuff Blues Band on one of my Sopro Music Blues Revue Concert Events, which I have produced for nearly 40 years throughout Chicagoland. I encourage *Bluesletter* readers to read more about my production company, and many events that have brought rock and roll, blues, and classic rock ‘n roll to venues across the region, at www.sopromusic.com. Working with Robert Stroger has been a real privilege and has been one of the brightest spots in my work promoting live blues music.

Let me tell you why.

Seeing and hearing Robert perform with his exquisite perfection, all-consuming stage presence, charm, and elegance, was (and is) absolutely astounding, to say the least. Over many past decades, Robert has performed at numerous Sopro Music Blues Revues and other concert events, and he was always undeniably the star of the show, hands down.

I’ve had the distinct pleasure of introducing Robert on stage many, many times over the years, and each time, I’ve considered it a highlight of my career promoting live music. I look forward to the next time I have the opportunity to introduce Robert again further on up the road.

Becoming a friend and brother in music with Robert has been an honor and privilege that I’ll always hold dear to my heart. In Robert’s company, I feel I’m in the company of blues royalty. Because I am. Robert is soft-spoken,



On Bass: The Award-Winning Robert “Bob” Stroger
(Photo by Sopro Productions’ Bud Monaco)

polite, and considerate, and always sharply dressed. At every gig, Robert’s the sharpest dressed man in the room wearing one of his prized, custom-tailored suits, and while on stage, he dons his trademark Stetson, wide-brimmed hat.

Robert was born in Hayti, Missouri, on December 27, 1930, and arrived in Chicago in 1955, where his family took up residence in Chicago’s rough and tumble, fabled West Side. He eventually met up with other Chicago blues performers at Silvio’s

Nightclub

on West Lake Street where he began performing as a bass guitarist. Many blues legends played at Silvio’s, including Bobby Rush, Freddie King, Luther Allison, Magic Sam, Eddie Taylor Sr., Muddy Waters, and Howlin’ Wolf.

Not long after, he formed his own blues band which he named the Red Tops. At the time, Chicago club owners hired musicians with uniforms, and while Robert and his family band, which included cousin Ralph Ramey

on harp and brother-in-law Johnny Ferguson on guitar, couldn't afford suits and ties, a relative sewed red circles on top of the Red Tops' tam berets. Over time, the band's name changed, and first call players like fellow bassist Willie Kent joined the band.

During Robert's seven decade career, he has performed and recorded with some of the greatest blues artists of all time, including Eddie King, Otis Rush, Sunnyland Slim, Golden "Big" Wheeler, Mark Hummel, Carey Bell, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, Jimmy Rogers, Buster Benton, Eddie "The Chief" Clearwater, Louisiana Red, Homesick James, and Snooky Pryor. Of course, I'm partial to the work we have done together at Sopro Productions!

Around his 91st birthday two years ago, Delmark Records released *That's My Name* from Bob Stroger and the Headcutters, featuring a Brazilian blues band that has worked with Bob over the past 15 years when he has played in Brazil. The Headcutters sound like they could have recorded at 2120 South Michigan Avenue in the 1950s, and feature guitarist Ricardo Marca, harp player Joe Marhofer, bassist Arthur "Catuto" Garcia, and drummer Leandro "Cavera" Barbeta. *That's My Name* also includes guest keyboard player Luciano Leães and saxophonist Braion Johnny.

Robert's own catalogue of recordings include *In the House: Live at Lucerne, Vol. 1*, on Germany's Crosscut Records (2002) and *Bob is Back in Town*, on a label founded by Sunnyland Slim, Airway Records (2007). In 1983, Bob was part of an all-star session recorded by Norway's Strawberry Records, *Blues Meeting in Chicago*, featuring Sunnyland Slim, S.P. Leary and Zora Young.

Robert's work with Kenny "Beady Eyes" Smith, particularly on 2014's *Keeping It Together* (Big Eye Records) and 2011's Grammy-winning *Joined at the Hip: Pinetop Perkins & Willie "Big Eyes" Smith* (Telarc Records) represents what I consider to be classic, old school Chicago blues music played

by blues masters.

Five of the prestigious awards that Robert has received include the Blues Music Award for Best Bassist from The Blues Foundation in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Earlier this year, Robert received the Living Legend Award from the Jus' Blues Music Foundation at an annual celebration of the blues at the Horseshoe Casino in Tunica, Mississippi. The award recognized Robert with "A special tribute for an artist we respect as a living legend for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to blues and soul music." I particularly liked David Whiteis' essay in the Jus' Blues award program, which ends with "In honor of his long and still-vital career as a tireless carrier of the blues torch, we are proud to present Bob Stroger with the 2023 Jus' Blues Living Legend Award."

Whiteis received a Keeping the Blues Alive Award for Achievement in Journalism from The Blues Foundation in 2001. I encourage all blues fans to read not only Whiteis' page on Bob Stroger, but also the foundation's 40-page award program at <https://www.jus-blues.org/2023-jus-blues-magazine.html>

This past September, Robert received the Best Blues Bassist Award at the 16th annual Blues Blast Music Awards held at the 3300 Event Center in Peoria, Illinois. The *Blues Blast* is a free, weekly online blues magazine, and the June 20, 2021 issue features a cover story on Robert by Steven Ovadia with photos by Roman Sobus (<https://www.blues-blastmagazine.com/featured-interview-bob-stroger-2/>)

Robert, over the past seven decades, has toured North America, Europe, and South America.

At 93 years old, he continues to tour and perform without missing a beat, or a single note, on his vintage Fender Precision bass guitar while singing the blues, along with storytelling anecdotes, to adoring and dedicated fans across three continents.

Robert's current blues band, Bob Stroger and Friends, consists of an ever-changing line-up, includes drummer/vocalist Kenny "Beady Eyes" Smith, vocalist Kimberly Johnson, guitarist/vocalist Billy Flynn, guitarist/vocalist Joey Saye, vocalist Mike Avery, guitarist/bassist Ari Seder, vocalist Oscar Wilson, guitarist Eddie Neese, and pianist/vocalist Piano Willie. Bob Stroger and Friends regularly perform Chicago, Delta, contemporary, classic, and swing blues at blues clubs throughout Chicagoland and the Midwest.

When not playing with Bob Stroger & Friends, Robert also performs with Chicago's own West Madison Kings, with guitarist/vocalist Eddie Neese, bassist Mike McCune, drummer Pookie Styx, and keyboardist/vocalist Bill "One Take Willie" Shackford.

I've covered and explored plenty of Robert's history through his incredible music career, and I could probably write a 300+ page biography to cover his entire career. But that's for another time and place.

I trust that the readers and staff of the Washington Blues Society *Bluesletter*, (whose former president and editor, and blues journalist, Eric Steiner, asked me to write about Robert Stroger), will enjoy reading and learning about Robert's extraordinary life and times during his impeccable tenure as the world-class blues bass tone king and entertainer who will be fondly remembered for years to come.

As for myself, I'll always remember the times I spent with Robert, both on and off stage, and during the road trip when the Sho' 'Nuff Blues Band traveled to St. Louis to perform on the Wrangler Jeans Blues Competition Event.

Anyone who knows Robert knows that he'll continue to entertain us for years to come with the same grace, style, and elegance he has exhibited throughout his illustrious career, and he'll be heralded and remembered with love and appreciation by generations of blues fans for decades into the future further on up the road.

**Washington Blues Society
Holiday Party - Sunday December 3rd**

4-9pm

Aurora Borealis



**Musical Guests
Rae Gordon Band**

**A Salute to
The Fat James
Band
featuring
Chris Eger**



All Ages

Welcome

\$10 Suggested Donation





December Blues Bash Series

BASH I

12/12 Aurora Borealis - Shoreline 7pm

Stevie and the Blue Flames

Itterly & Pittman



BASH II 12/26

Jill Newman and The McCarters

CCR - Snohomish 7pm

All Are Welcome – FREE



CD Reviews



EightLock
Lions Roaring in Quicksand
(Steele Records)

Sometimes, you try listening to a new band because of a band member you know, and sometimes it's because the band's format piques your new band interest. In this case, the line-up piques an interest and the band's format is either going to be great or a train wreck. EightLock's founding father is none other than internationally respected guitar/amp maker Paul Reed Smith (PRS). Paul explains the band name EightLock comes from eight strong musicians locked together in song. Based out of Stevensville, Kent Island, Maryland (an hour outside of Baltimore) since 1985, PRS guitars and amps are played by artists ranging from Carlos Santana, David Grissom, John Mayer, Eric Krasno and Jimmy Herring to Grant Mickelson (Taylor Swift), Kevin Oliver (Parliament), and Danny Rader (Keith Urban) and leading guitarists across all genres of music. *Lions Roaring in Quicksand* was released on December 1, 2023 with the driving single, "Breathe," out on November 10th. The CD has 14 tracks with 10 original songs and four covers, which include Al Green, Norman Whitfield (Motown) as well as Alejandro Alex Gonzalez Trujillo and Mana. The artist format includes three guitarists (including PRS), three drummers, a bass player, and a lead vocalist. Is this musical Nirvana? A train wreck? The 10 original tunes run an interesting gamut of styles which start with three drummers. Each drummer starts a harmonious groove of Baltimore funk straight from the Washington Parkway, "DC Go-Go" "(stolen by so many and blended around the nation) and New Orleans Swing. OK, I heard one particular train wreck with the three drummers, but they persisted, and it became a distant memory. Instead, each brings their background to round out the overall beat of each song. Each drummer takes the lead and the others take rhythm (so to speak). What? Yeah, you just have to hear it to believe it! Can you imagine being

the bass player and having to complete the rhythm section by wrangling three drummers? The bass player's strength and experience navigates what could otherwise be very rough musical seas to pull together the melody and thump. Three guitarists that reached Paul's discerning guitar ear and piqued his interest. He has designed so many signature guitars for famous guitarists that you know he knows what to watch for and listen for. Although in a much different vein, *Lions Roaring in Quicksand* reminds me a little like hearing Les Paul play his famous guitar at the legendary Blue Note in NYC. Power chords, syncopation, and guitars through blasting through a Leslie speaker! Adding the strength of lead vocalist Mia Samone Davis, *Lions Roaring in Quicksand* is "...a heady brew of blues, soul, rock, funk and other roots sounds" that we're all in love with. Kirk Anderson



Lisa Biales
At Christmas
(Big Song Music)

Ohio blueswoman Lisa Biales' 11th CD is her first holiday CD, *At Christmas*. Nine of the 10 songs are originals, the one cover was written for Louis Prima and His Orchestra, "Shake Hands With Santa Claus." Recorded at Johnny Lee Schell's Ultratone Studios in Studio City, California and produced by award-winning drummer Tony Braunagel, the CD sounds like a few friends just hanging out, making music. Because that's what it is. The CD has been in the works since 2017, and Tony lined up some pretty accomplished players, and they wrote, rehearsed and recorded the CD in a week! Joining Lisa and Tony are seasoned pros like Chuck Berghoffer on bass ("These Boots Were Made for Walkin'" from Frank and Nancy Sinatra), Johnny Lee Schell on guitar, and Jeff Paris on keyboards, David Carpenter on bass, Mark Pender on trumpet, Jerry Vivino and Joe Sublett on sax, Garrett Smith on trombone, Michael G. Ronstadt on cell, Doug Hamilton on violin and Maxayn Lewis on background vocals. I enjoyed the jaunty

"The Boy I Met for Christmas," the rocking "Mary's Little Baby Boy," the title tune that joyfully evokes a Crescent City second line, and the playful "I Like You Mister Claus." I also enjoyed the nine upbeat, positive and forward-looking songs on this CD, but the story behind "When the Snowflakes Fall" reflects a reality faced by too many families (not only during the holidays, but all year long): "Her daddy never kept a job very long/Guess he went drinking all the time." I understand that Christmas-themed CDs are a decidedly niche market, but November 2023 CD reintroduced me to important messages of holiday music. *At Christmas* includes fun moments with Santa, a little dog named Lulu Magoo that will clean the floor for you, and the CD's closer, "Christmas Cheer" is an upbeat remembrance of all things Christmas. Eric Steiner



Various Artists
Christmas Collection
(Alligator Records)

This past October, Alligator Records released its 1992 CD, *The Alligator Records Christmas Collection*, on red vinyl LP. The original CD sold 90,000 copies 31 years ago, and the 2023 LP was remastered under label founder Bruce Iglauer's supervision. This timeless Christmas blues LP features 14 of the label's best-known blues artists, including Koko Taylor, Kenny Neal, Tinsley Ellise, Katie Webster, Elvin Bishop, and Charlie Musselwhite. Shortly before his 2009 Blues Power Hour radio interview with Shemekia Copeland, Armed Forces Radio Blues DJ Rocky Nelson introduced Koko Taylor's "Merry, Merry Christmas" on the all-important holiday broadcast for the troops far from home. I hope readers check out Rocky's reconnection with Shemekia at Seattle's Jazz Alley in this issue. I enjoy like William Clarke's "Please Let Me Be Your Santa Clause" and Son Seals' "Lonesome Christmas" on this reissued LP. I've got an unused LP player in my garage, and I'm going to unpack it to play *The Alligator Records Christmas Collection*. I hope you will, too. Eric Steiner



www.BLUEZZEETES.COM
530-321-7197
One stop shop for your Blues Apparel

South Sound Blues Association
KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE SINCE 2005
www.southsoundblues.org

Dusty Strings

MUSIC STORE • SCHOOL • REPAIR SHOP

Instruments & Accessories
Private Lessons, Group Classes & Workshops

MARTIN • TAYLOR • COLLINGS • GOODALL • IRIS • DEERING
 PISGAH • NORTHFIELD • NATIONAL • BEARD • USED & VINTAGE

3406 Fremont Avenue N, Seattle
(206) 634-1662 • dustystings.com

THE ALLIGATOR RECORDS CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

NOW AVAILABLE ON VINYL!

"Superb, original tinsel-sprinkled blues" –Blues & Rhythm
 Alligator's 1992 genuine houserockin' holiday classic now on vinyl for the first time! 14 of our best-known artists performing a down home mixture of yuletide favorites and new holiday originals. Pressed on red vinyl.
HERE'S TO A NOT-SO-SILENT NIGHT!

Available at alligator.com and other fine retailers
 GENUINE 'HOUSEROCKIN' MUSIC SINCE 1971

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

Stickshift Annie with Kimball & the Fugitives

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

We Want You! To Join the Washington Blues Society

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

Your Membership Benefits include:

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

Robert Johnson

* Due to postage fees, non-US residents will receive their Bluesletter electronically with valid US membership card and advance reservation. Reservations must be made by calling Jazz Alley at (206) 441-9720, and requesting the WBS Special. This offer is not applicable to all shows.

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

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

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PERKS!

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



PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT ARE APPLICABLE. THANKS!

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

Name _____

2nd Name (couple) _____

Band Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

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

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

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

☐ PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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



Washington Blues Society Advertisement Purchase Order Form

BLUESLETTER PRINT AD SPACE *(circle your choice)*

Advertisement Graphics Must Be Sent As Attachments

All Images -> High Resolution 300dpi TIFs

For Color -> CMYK TIFs

For Black/ White -> Grayscale

AD SIZE	DIMENSIONS <i>Height x Width in mm</i>	BLACK/WHITE	COLOR
FULL PAGE:	238 X 187.3	\$360	\$450
½ PAGE VERTICAL	238 X 91.3	\$210	\$264
INSIDE ½ PAGE HORIZONTAL	116.66 X 187.3	\$210	\$264
BACK ½ PAGE HORIZONTAL	116.66 X 187.3	\$312	\$390
¼ PAGE VERTICAL	116.66 X 91.3	\$120	\$150
1/12 PAGE SQUARE	56 X 59.3	\$210	\$264
BUSINESS CARD	56 X 91.3	\$36	\$46

DESIRED BLUESLETTER PUBLICATION MONTH(s) _____

ONLINE-ADS *(circle your choice)*

CLICK THRU SIDE BAR GRAPHIC AD \$25 PER MONTH

CLICK THRU BANNER GRAPHIC \$50 PER MONTH.

(All Ad artwork for online publishing must be jpg. file, no PDFs)

EMAIL BLASTS

CLICK THRU GRAPHIC IN WEEKLY BLUES NEWS EMAIL DISTRIBUTION \$50 / EMAIL BLAST

EMAIL BLAST QUANTITY _____ **AD START DATE** _____ **AD END DATE** _____

Print Advertising Discounts:

20% off - 12-month pre-payment

15% off - 6-month pre-payment

10% off - 3-month pre-payment

Name of Event/ Artist/ Organization _____

Primary Contact: Name _____ Email _____

Business Address _____

Phone (print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

ALL ADVERTISING SUBMISSIONS TO ADVERTISING@WABLUES.ORG

December 2023 Live Blues Music Calendar!

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

DECEMBER 1

Markey Square, University Place: Christmas Tree Lighting feat. Stacy Jones Band 5 PM

Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: James Carr Band 7 PM

Blues Frog Studios, White Rock B.C: Blue Moon Marquee 7 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Boney James 7:30 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Blues 55 8 PM

Engels Pub, Edmonds: Joe Cook Band 9 PM

DECEMBER 2

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: 85th Street Big Band 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Vaughn Jensen & Friends 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Boney James 7:30 PM

Rockfish Grill, Anacortes: Billy Appleton Band 7:30 PM

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

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Elnah Jordon Experience 8 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: DEAL 8 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Dermody Sherman Band 8 PM

DECEMBER 3

Bellevue Crossroads, Bellevue: Brian Butler 12:30 PM

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Washington Blues Society Holiday Party w/ the Rae Gordon Band & the Salute to the Fat James Band feat. Chris Eger 4 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues w/Stevie & The Blue Flames feat. Ruby Dee 7 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Boney James 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 4

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

DECEMBER 5

Quil Ceda Creek, Tulalip: Annie Eastwood & Her All-Star Band feat. Guitarist Billy Stapleton 6 PM

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

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Ryan T Higgins 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Mike Stern Band 7:30 PM

Madame Lou's, Seattle: Butcher Brown 7:30 PM

Engels Pub, Edmonds: Jim & Leah T 8 PM

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

DECEMBER 6

The Spar, Tacoma: LTD Event w/Farrell, Hudson & Friends 6 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Mike Stern Band 7:30 PM

Tractor Tavern, Seattle: Kate Dinsmore 8 PM

DECEMBER 7

The Triple Door, Seattle: Starlight Jazz Band 5 PM

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

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

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Revue 7 PM

West of the Waterway, Tacoma: LTD Presents Kid Andersen's Greaseland All-Stars feat. Alabama Mike, D.K. Harrell, and Lisa Andersen 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Blind Boys of Alabama 7:30 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Jeff & the Jet City Flyers 8 PM

DECEMBER 8

Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: The Undertones 7 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Northwest Swing 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Blind Boys of Alabama 7:30 PM

Palindrome Port Townsend Event Center, Port Townsend: LTD Presents Kid Andersen's Greaseland All-Stars feat. Alabama Mike, D.K. Harrell & Lisa Andersen 7:30 PM

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

The Royal Room, Seattle: Navidad Salsera w/Elere & Freddy Fuego Salsa Combo at 7 PM.

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Mark DuFresne w/Billy Stapleton's Powerhouse 8 PM

DECEMBER 9

Latona Pub, Seattle: Kimball Conant & Annie Eastwood 7 PM

The Royal Room, Seattle: 21st Annual Holiday Hootenanny with Carrie Clark & The Lonesome Lovers and the Von Piglet Family Players, 7 PM (All ages until 10 PM)

The Spar, Tacoma: Twang Junkies 7 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Boogie Boulevard 7 pDison Ave Pub, Everett: The 2023 Jones Family Christmas & Toys for Tots 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Blind Boys of Alabama 7:30 PM

The Chapel at The Good Shepherd Center, Seattle: BlueStreet Cool Yule '23: Holiday Jazz Concert 7:30 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Oly Mountain Boys 8 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Rod Cook & Toast 8 PM

Engels Pub, Edmonds: The Bel Reds 9 PM

DECEMBER 10

Skagit Valley Farmers Market, Mt Vernon: Norris & Nicley 11 PM

SeaTac Airport/North Terminal, SeaTac: Eric Madis 12:30 PM

Interfaith Community Sanctuary, Ballard: Blues Vespers w/Grant Dermody & Tim Sherman 5 PM

McMenamins Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma: South Sound Blues Association Holiday Party w/musical guests The Chris Eger Band and The RT Collective 5 PM

Jazzbones, Tacoma: The Maia Santell & House Blend Jazz & Blues Holiday Show 6 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues w/Cold 102s feat. Anthony Estrada 7 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Blind Boys of Alabama 7:30pm

Black Diamond, Spokane Inland Empire Blues Society ASM Band Bloody Mary Jam 3 PM

DECEMBER 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 7:30 PM

Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

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

DECEMBER 12

The Royal Room, Seattle: Celebrate Chanukah 7 PM

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

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w/Itterly & Pitman and Stevie & the Blue Flames 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Jim Caroompas 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: The Heavy Hitters 7:30 PM

Tractor Tavern, Seattle: Jenner Fox Presents A John Prine Christmas 8 PM

Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver WA: Ben Rice & The Hustle 8pm Royal Room, Seattle: Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra feat. Jenny Davis 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 13

McMenamins Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma: Jenner Fox Presents A John Prine Christmas 7:30 PM

The Spar, Tacoma: Butch Harrison & Friends 6 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Tr Heavy Hitters 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 14

The Triple Door, Seattle: Starlight Jazz Band 5 PM

Bad Alberts, Seattle: Annie Eastwood & Friends 6 PM
Slims Last Chance, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones Songwriter Showcase 7 PM
Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Revue 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Average White Band 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 15

The Royal Room, Seattle: 9th annual Snow Globe Holiday Concert 7:30 PM
Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: Mark DuFresne Band feat. Billy Stapleton 7 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Jazz Misfits 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Average White Band 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Ron Bailey & the Tangents 8 PM

DECEMBER 16

The Spar, Tacoma: Trailer Park Kings 7 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Stage One 7 PM
North City Bistro, Shoreline: McPage & Powell 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Average White Band 7:30 PM
Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline: Mark DuFresne Band feat. Billy Stapleton 8 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Linda Lee & The Pickups 8 PM
Engels Pub, Edmonds: Eric Rice 9 PM

DECEMBER 17

Kilworth Chapel University of Puget Sound, Tacoma: Blues Vespers w/the Stacy Jones Band 5 PM
The Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues w/Red House 7 PM
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Peabo's Sunday Music Revue 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Average White Band 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 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

DECEMBER 19

The Royal Room, Seattle: Celebrating "A Charlie Brown Christmas" 5 PM
Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Pinetree Blues Showcase 6:30 PM
Bake's Place, Bellevue: Jennifer Rae Holiday Experience
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Jim & Leah T 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Pan American Nutcracker 7:30 PM

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

DECEMBER 20

The Royal Room, Seattle: Celebrating "A Charlie Brown Christmas" 5 PM
Bake's Place, Bellevue: Greta Matassa Holiday Show, "And to All a Goodnight"
The Spar, Tacoma: Solar feat. John Hanford 6 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Pan American Nutcracker 7:30 PM
Engels Pub, Edmonds: C3 Trio 9 PM

DECEMBER 21

The Triple Door, Seattle: Starlight Jazz Band 5 PM
Slims Last Chance, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones Songwriter Showcase 7 PM
Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Revue 7 PM
Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma: Kim Feld Harmonica Showcase feat. Kim Field Mark Dufresne, Joe Cook & Joel Astley 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: David Benoit Charlie Brown Christmas 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: All Stars No Stripes Kevin Wallace Memorial Christmas Party 8 PM
Black Diamond, Spokane: Cary Fly Inland Empire Blues Society Boogie 8 PM

DECEMBER 22

Bake's Place, Bellevue: Celebrate the Holidays with Eden
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Two Scoops Combo 7 PM
North City Bistro & Wine Shop, Shoreline: Joan Penney Crazy Holiday Show, 8 PM
Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: The Soulful 88s 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: David Benoit Charlie Brown Christmas 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Joe Cook Band 8 PM

DECEMBER 23

The Repp, Snohomish: Annie Eastwood & Chris Stevens 6:30 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Jack Cook & the Phantoms of Soul 7 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Cold 102's 7 PM
The Spar, Tacoma: Jay Mabin & Friends 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: David Benoit Charlie Brown Christmas 7:30 PM
Rockfish, Anacortes: The Fat Fridays 730pm
Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline: Billy Stapleton's Powerhouse Band 8 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: The Bale Jumpers 8 PM

DECEMBER 24

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

DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 26

Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Pinetree Blues Showcase 6:30 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w/Jill Newman & the McCarters 7 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Unbound 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: 7:30 PM
Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver WA: Ben Rice & The Hustle 8 PM

DECEMBER 27

The Spar, Tacoma: King Dre 6 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Kenny G 7:30 PM
December 28
The Triple Door, Seattle: Starlight Jazz Band 5 PM
Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood & Friends 6 PM
Slims Last Chance, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones Songwriter Showcase 7 PM
Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front St Revue 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Kenny G 7:30 PM
Tractor Tavern, Seattle: Betsy Olson Band w/Danny Newcomb & Nurse Ratchett 8 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Chris Stevens Band 8 PM

DECEMBER 29

Crocodile, Seattle: Samantha Fish w/Sgt Splendor 6 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Blue Notes 7 PM
The Royal Room, Seattle: Home for the Holidays Special Annual Jazz Show, 9:30 PM
Madame Lou's, Seattle: Cytrus 8:30 PM

DECEMBER 30

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: The Fat Fridays 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Kenny G 7:30 PM
The Spar, Tacoma: Evergreen Playboys 7 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: John Stephan Band 7 PM
Admiral Theater, Bremerton: Samantha Fish 7:30 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Kenny G 7:30 PM
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Lee Oskar & Friends 8 PM

(Continued on Next Page)

December 26th Blues Bash Preview in Snohomish

Join the Washington Blues Society for two great blues artists on Boxing Day this year!

Compiled by Mary McPage & Ray Kurth

First up are The McCarters.

The McCarters are a Pacific Northwest duo that specializes in Classic Country, Western Swing, assorted standards as well as a bit of classic Pop. Shelley McNaughton's warm lead vocals and Steve Carter's skilled guitar accompaniment have made them a local favorite. After years of playing in full bands, The McCarters present a more laid back and "nearly" acoustic listening experience with recognizable songs and great harmonies. (The McCarters' photo by Lacey McNaughton)

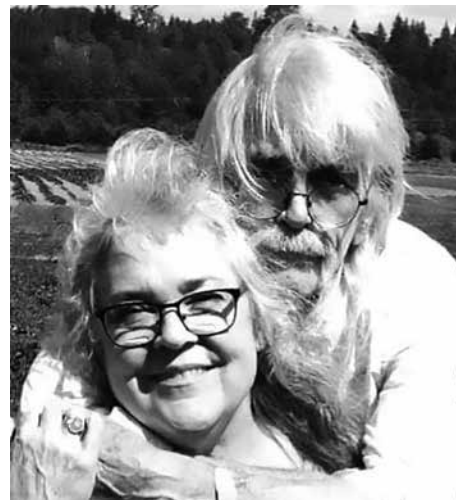
with well-crafted songs and tasteful playing." Bill says that "Blues audiences would be better for knowing her work." (Jill Newman photo by Liberty Elias Miller)

Collectors Choice Restaurant is a 21+ venue, with delicious food & drinks. The show starts at 7:00 PM. CD giveaways and tickets to major music events are (typically) included during the course of the evening.

Come early to get a good seat!

Left: The McCarters

Below: Jill Newman



Closing out the evening is electric blues and slide guitarist, Jill Newman.

Jill is an artist who shreds convention and can really play the blues! She's been described as a fierce guitarist, able to squeeze out a raw emotional sound, with the technical skills to play a smoking solo. Jill and her Chicago style blues trio are regulars in the Pacific Northwest scene and have been playing shows from Vancouver, BC to Seattle, WA. Some highlights include Seattle's Northwest Folklife Festival and opening for national touring act Danielle Nicole in Seattle. Jill's original CD's have been featured on *At The Crossroads* radio on internet stations throughout Europe and North America. Jill has shared the stage with Juno nominated guitarist Bill Johnson who describes her as "...part of the new vanguard of female Canadian blues guitar slingers..."



December 2023 Live Blues Music Calendar (Continued)

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

DECEMBER 30 (CONTINUED)

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Eric Madis 8 PM

DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Kenny G 7:30 PM

The Royal Room, Seattle: Barton Harufi & His Orchestra, 7 PM (prix fixe dinner seating \$80), 9:30 PM (bar seating \$25).

Block 41, Seattle: Lee Oskar & Friends 9 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: The Vududes, 8 PM

Spanish Ballroom at McMenamins, Tacoma: Jennifer Batten & Full Steam, 9 PM

Normanna Lodge, Everett: Annie Eastwood w/ Kimbal & the Fugitives 9 PM

Conway Muse, Conaway: Stacy Jones Band 9 PM



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 PM

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

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

(Continued on Page 25)

Holiday Blues Happenings 2023

"... here is a preview of several that feature members of the Pacific Northwest blues community.

Compiled by Rick J. Bowen

Every year, December is filled with holiday events, and here is a preview of shows that feature members of the Pacific Northwest blues community.

On Friday, December 1st, University Place hosts a Christmas Tree Lighting in Market Square from 5-&:30 PM, with food, children's activities, and live reindeer from the Rainer Reindeer Ranch. The Stacy Jones Band will welcome Santa to the festivities!

On Saturday, December 2nd, the Madison Ave Pub in Everett hosts the 12th annual Jones Family Christmas and Toys for Tots drive and kickoff party at 7 PM. Admission is one new unwrapped toy. The event features music from the Stacy Jones Band and special guests.

On Sunday, the 3rd, the Washington Blues Society hosts its annual Holiday Party at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline at 4 PM, with music from the Rae Gordon Band and the Salute to Fat James Band featuring Chris Eger, Chip Hart, and Dave Cashin.

The Chapel at Seattle's Good Shepherd Center in Wallingford, hosts BlueStreet Cool Yule '23: Holiday Jazz Concert on the 9th at 7:30 PM.

On the 10th, at 5:30 PM, the Interfaith Community Sanctuary in Ballard hosts a very special Blues Vespers with music from Grant Dermody and Tim Sherman, and brief reflections from Imam Jamal Rahman and Rev. Dave Brown.

Also on the 10th, McMenamins Spanish

Ballroom in Tacoma hosts the South Sound Blues Association Holiday Party at 5 PM with the Chris Eger Band and RT Collective, and Jazzbones in Tacoma hosts the Maia Santell & House Blend Jazz & Blues Holiday Show at 6 PM.

On the 12th, award-winning songwriter Jenner Fox presents "A John Prine Christmas" at Seattle's Tractor Tavern, followed by a show on the 13th at the Spanish Ballroom at the McMenamins in Tacoma.

Seattle's Jazz Alley presents three special holiday series this year beginning with the Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas show on the 7th-10th, followed by the Pan American Nutcracker Suite on the 19th-20th, and a tribute to Charlie Brown Christmas music with David Benoit, the 21st-23rd. Seattle's own Grammy-winning saxman Kenny G rings in the New Year December on the 27th-31st.

On the 17th at 5 PM, Blues Vespers hosts its monthly service with blues, poetry, and reflections by Rev. Dave Brown at Kilworth Chapel University of Puget Sound with music from the Stacy Jones Band. This event supports the Bryant Neighborhood Center in its work with those in need, particularly individuals and families who are unhoused. Please bring winter essentials, such as coats, blankets, socks, gloves, and hats, to help our neighbors.

In Ballard, the Salmon Bay Eagles, hosts the All Stars No Stripes Kevin Wallace Memorial Christmas Party on December 21st.

On the 22nd, Shoreline's North City Bistro hosts the Joan Penney Crazy Holiday Show

at 8 PM.

Bake's Place in Bellevue presents three special holiday shows this year. On the 19th, the venue hosts the Jennifer Rae Holiday Experience, followed by the Greta Matassa Holiday Show, "And to All a Good Night," on the 20th, and Celebrate the Holidays With Eden Friday, on the 22nd.

The Conway Muse rings in 2024 with the Stacy Jones Band and Annie Eastwood with Kimball and the Fugitives at a New Year's Eve Gala at the Normana Lodge in Everett.

On the 30th at 8 PM, Lee Oskar and Friends return to the North City Bistro and Wine Shop, followed by a special New Year's Eve benefit show for KNKX-FM at Seattle's Block 41 at 115 Bell Street in Belltown. Lee Oskar and Friends feature Dean Schmidt on bass, Darian Asplund on sax, Mack Grout on keyboards, Alex Mortland on guitar, Andrew Cloutier on drums, and Denali Williams on percussion.

McMenamins Elks Temple in Tacoma hosts Jennifer Batten & Full Steam for a New Year's Eve show at 9 PM. Batten is a 10-year alumna of the Michael Jackson band, touring on his *Bad*, *Dangerous*, and *History* CDs, and playing at the Super Bowl XXVI half time show.

As always, please check with the venues for updates, reservations, and any schedule changes.

Happy Holidays to All!



December 12th Blues Bash Preview in Shoreline!

Join the Washington Blues Society for two great blues artists on the second Tuesday this month!

By Bear Drury

Steve Itterly's musical calling began as a teenager. Introduced to Bob Dylan, John Hurt, and Robert Johnson by his father, Steve felt moved by these legends, their passion, and raw potential of their guitar and vocal styles. Itterly called New York home until venturing to Boston after college where he studied country-blues and rag-time guitar with local legends: Paul Rishell and George Radcliff Thomas. However, it wasn't until after a move to Colorado, that Steve found his own voice and started writing songs.

Steve is the winner of the 2016 Telluride Blues and Brews Festival's Acoustic Blues Competition and represented the Washington Blues Society in the 2022 International Blues Challenge competition in Memphis as one half of the duo Lonesome & Pine. Steve has since shared billings with musical titans Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, Keb Mo, Steve Winwood, and Anders Osborne.

Jonathan Pitman's musical journey began in Spokane at age 14 when his father gave him a box of harmonicas and instructions on how to play "Christmas In Prison" by John Prine. He spent his early years studying the recordings of Little Walter, Sonny Terry, James Cotton, and Mark Hummel to name just a few. Jonathan moved to the Seattle area in 2010 to further pursue his music.

He's quickly established himself as a versatile accompanist and has been a featured guest with many top local acts.

Although Jonathan is well versed in Chicago blues, that's not the only focus of his talents. Recently, he's also been working in projects performing Piedmont Blues, 1920's & '30's jazz, as well as bluegrass, and country.

This incredible evening of music also features Stevie & the Blue Flames, so please join your fellow Washington Blues Society members in celebrating two great blues acts on the second Tuesday at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline.



L to R: Jonathan Pittman on Harmonica
Robin Kallsen, Occasional Guest Bassist
Steve Itterly on Guitars & Vocals
(Photo by Bear Drury)



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

**Contribute to this
important fund today!
Contact us at treasurer@wabluessociety.org**

Updated Blues Jams & Open Mic Listings (continued)

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

(Continued from page 21)

THURSDAY (CONTINUED)

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

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

Maverick's, Lakeside, MT.: Blues Jam Thursdays 8:30 PM

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

Thirsty Badger, Lynden: Open Mic 7-11 PM

FRIDAY

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

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

Dreadknott Brewery, Monroe: Open Mic 7-10 PM

Kana Winery, Yakima: Open Mic 7-10 PM

SoulFood Coffee House & Fair Trade Emporium:
Jazz Jam Last Friday 7 PM

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

SATURDAY

The Spot, West Seattle: Open Mic 6 PM

The Hidden Door, Shoreline: Open Mic 7 PM

Kiss the Sky Books, Sultan: Open Mic 7 PM

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

Blues Talent Guide

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

\$

Scratch Daddy (425) 210-1925

#

44th Street Blues Band 206.714.5180 or 206.775.2762

A

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

B

Baby Cakes 206.818.0588
Baby Gramps Trio 425.483.2835
Back Porch Blues 425.299.0468
Backwoods Still 425.330.0702
Badd Dog Blues Society 360.733.7464
Barry Torrence 253.226.1103
Bay Street Blues Band 360.731.1975
B.E.S.T. Band 206.817.1663
Bill Brown & The Kingbees 206.276.6600
Bill Ray Drums 760 803 1686
Billy Barner 253.732.0618
Billy Shew Band 253.514.3637
Billy Stapleton 425.478.2113
Black River Blues 206.396.1563
Blackjack Kerouac 206.697.8428
Blackstone Players 425.327.0018
Blue 55 206.216.0554
Blue Healers 206.940.9128
Blues on Tap 206.618.6210
Blues Playground 425.359.3755
Blues Redemption 253.253.921.7506
Blues Sheriff 206.979.0666
Blues To Do Monthly 206.328.0662
Blues with Benefits 206.459.3278
Bobby Holland & The Breadline 425.681.5644
Boneyard Preachers 206.755.0766 or 206.547.1772
Bobby Patterson & the Two Tones 509.869.0350.
Brian Butler Band 206.361.9625

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

C

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

D

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

E

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

F

Fat Cat 425.487.6139
Filé Gumbo 425.788.2776

G

Gary Frazier 206.851.1169
Greg Roberts 206.473.0659
Groove Tramps 720.232.9664
Guided 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
Joe Morgan 206.769.8579
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.
Linda Lee & the Pickups Band 206.295. 8895
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. Noftsgier 425.238.3664
Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 206.588.1924
Mark Riley 206.313.7849
Marty Vadalabene 206.914.3026
Mary Ellen Lykins Band 360.395.8540
Mary McPage 206.850.4849
Max Campbell 425.218.5603
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 & The Love Dealers 425.761.3033
Midnight Hour 425.330.5373
Mike Haley 509.393.5838
Miles from Chicago 206.440.8016
Miles Harris 360.708.2166
Mitch Pumpian 206.276.9737
Monster Road Band (253) 797-9503
Moon Daddy Band 425.923.9081
Mule Kick 216.225.1277

N

New Rhythmatics 425.299.3028
Nick Vigarino 360.387.0374
Nick Mardon Trio 425.208-6616

Nancy Veltkamp 915.222.6401
Norm Bellas & the Funkstars 206.722.6551

P

Paul Green 206.795.3694
Phil Mitchell 425.870.5018
Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method 206.384.0234
Porterhouse Blues Band 425.381.7649
Powerhouse 425.478.2113

R

Rafael Tranquilino Band 312.953.7808
Randy Norris & Jeff Nicely 425.239.3876 or 425.359.3755
Randy Norris & The Full Degree 425.239.3876
Randy Oxford Band 253.973.9024
Raven Humphres 425.308.3752
The Rece Jay Band (253) 350-9137
Red House 425.377.8097
Reggie Miles 360.793.9577
Reji Marc (206) 486-0386
Richard Allen & The Louisiana Experience 206.369.8114
Richard Evans 206.799.4856
Right Hand Drive 206.496.2419
RJ Knapp & Honey Robin Band 206.612.9145
Rob Moitoza 206.401.2856
Robert Baker 425.870.7683
Robert Patterson 509.869.0350
Robert and Randolph Duo 509.216.0944
Rod Cook & Toast 206.878.7910
Roger Rogers Band 206.255.6427
Ron Hendee 425.280.3994
Roxlide 360.881.0003
Russ Kammerer 206.551.0152
Rusty Williams 206.282.0877

S

Sammy Eubanks 509.879.0340
Scott E. Lind 206.789.8002
Scott Mallard 206.261.4669
Scotty FM and the BroadCasters 206.261.4669
Scotty Harris 206.683.9476
Shadow Creek Project 360.826.4068
Sheri Roberts Greimes 425.220.6474
Smokin' J's 425.746.8186
Son Jack Jr. 425.591.3034
Spencer Jarrett 510.495.4755
Stacy Jones 206.992.3285
Star Drums & Lady Keys 206.522.2779
Steve Bailey & The Blue Flames 206.779.7466
Steve Cooley & Dangerfields 253.203.8267
Steve Peterson 206.799-8196
Steven J. Lefebvre 509.972.2683 or 509.654.3075
Stickshift Annie Eastwood 206.941.9186
Studio Rob 425.870.7683
Susan Renee "La Roca Soul" Sims 206.920.6776

Suze Sims 206.920.6776

T

TJ Read 206.380.6638
Tamys Hoffman Band 406.570-2303
Terraplane Band (425)870-5018
Terry Hartness 425.931.5755
The 509s 509.423.0032
The Bret Welty Band 208.703.2097
The EveryLeaf Band 425.369.4588
The Fabulous MoJo Kings 206.412.9503
The Grayhounds 206.751.7644
The Jelly Rollers 206.617.2384
The Mongrels 509.307.0517 or 509.654.3075
The Nate Burch Band 425.457.3506
The Naughty Blokes 360.393.9619
The Pat Stilwell Band 503.481.6823
The Rece Jay Band 253.350.9137
The RooTsters (Acoustic Duo) 206.890.6176
The Soulful 88s/Billy Spaulding 206.310.4153
The Spinoffs/Dawnzella Gearhart 206. 718.1591
The VuDudes 206.999.0729
The Wired Band 206.852.3412
The Wulf Tones 206.367.6186 or 206.604.2829
Tim Hall Band 253.857.8652
Tim Turner Band 206.271.5384
Tommy Wall 206.914.9413
Town Hall Brawl 206.940.9128
Two Scoops Combo 206.933.9566
Two Trains Runnin' 206.225.9684

U

Unbound 425.231.0565
Under the Puddle 425-512-3153

V

Virginia Klemens Band 206.632.6130

W

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

2024 Grammy Award Nominations!

Congratulations to blues, roots and related nominees in select categories.

Compiled by Rick J. Bowen

The following is a select list of 2024 Grammy nominations announced by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, the organization that hosts the Grammy Awards.

Los Angeles' Crypto.com Arena will host the 2024 Grammys on Sunday, February 4th. The 66th annual Grammy Awards will be aired live on the CBS Television Network and will stream on Paramount+ (live and on-demand for Paramount+ with SHOWTIME subscribers, or on demand for Paramount+ Essential subscribers the day after the show airs).

Three new Grammy award categories will debut at the 2024 awards: Best African Music Performance, Best Alternative Jazz Album and Best Pop Dance Recording. The following categories include blues, roots, and traditional nominations and the Washington Blues Society congratulates each nominee in the following categories.

Category 47. Best Traditional Blues Album

Ridin', Eric Bibb (Stony Plain)

The Soul Side Of Sipp, Mr. Sipp (Malaco Records)

Life Don't Miss Nobody, Tracy Nelson (BMG)

Teardrops For Magic Slim Live At Rosa's Lounge, John Primer (Blues House Productions)

All My Love For You, Bobby Rush (Deep Rush Records)

Category 48. Best Contemporary Blues Album

Death Wish Blues, Samantha Fish And Jesse Dayton (Rounder Records)

Healing Time, Ruthie Foster (Blue Corn Music)

Live In London, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram (Alligator Records)

Blood Harmony, Larkin Poe (Tricki-Woo Records)

LaVette!, Bettye LaVette (Jay-Vee Records)

Category 50. Best Regional Roots Music Album

New Beginnings, Buckwheat Zydeco Jr. & The Legendary IIs Sont Partis Band (Bloodline Music)

Live At The 2023 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers (Munck Music)

Live: Orpheum Theater Nola, Lost Bayou Ramblers & Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (Independent)

Made In New Orleans, New Breed Brass Band (Independent)

Too Much To Hold, New Orleans Nightcrawlers (Independent)

Live At The Maple Leaf, The Rumble Featuring Chief Joseph Boudreaux Jr. (Independent)

Category 42. Best American Roots Performance

"Butterfly," Jon Batiste (Verve & Interscope Records)

"Heaven Help Us All," The Blind Boys Of Alabama (Single Lock Records)

"Inventing The Wheel," Madison Cunningham (Verve Label Group)

"You Louisiana Man," Rhiannon Giddens (Nonesuch Records)

"Eve Was Black," Allison Russell (Fantasy Records)

Category 43. Best Americana Performance

"Friendship," The Blind Boys Of Alabama (Single Lock Records)

"Help Me Make It Through The Night," Tyler Childers (Hickman Holler Records/RCA)

"Dear Insecurity," Brandy Clark Featuring Brandi Carlile (Warner Records)

"King of Oklahoma," Jason Isbell and The 400 (Unit Southeastern Records)

"The Returner," Allison Russell (Fantasy Records)

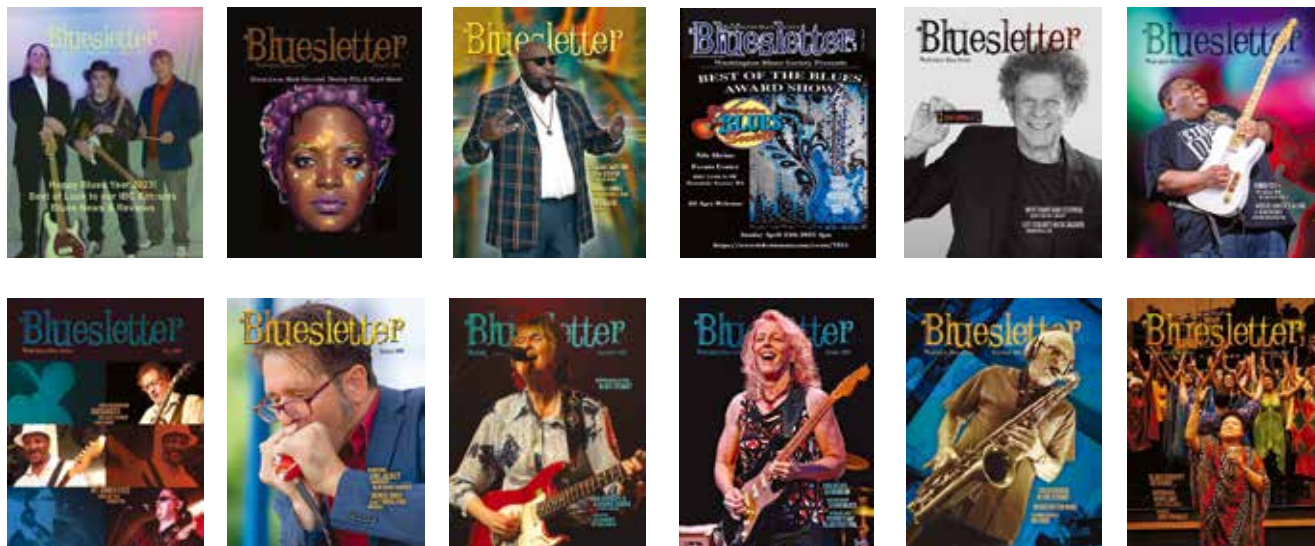


Happy Blues Holidays!



2023 Bluesletter Covers: A Colorful Look Back

Thank-You to Each Photographer, Writer, Artist & Reader for a Great Bluesletter Year



Time to Vote: Your 2024 Board of Directors

Please vote no later than the December blues bash for the 2023 Board of Directors

Courtesy of the Washington Blues Society

The 2024 Board of Directors nominations for the Washington Blues Society are in and the Bluesletter encourages current Washington Blues Society members to vote for the society's five elected positions on the Board of Directors no later than December Blues Bash.

Due to the production schedule of this issue, we ask that members use this ballot to vote at the December Blues Bash for the five elected positions on the Board of Directors.

The five Washington Blues Society volunteer Board positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Bluesletter Editor.

For more information on suggested requirements for each position, please see the November 2019 Bluesletter online at www.wablues.org.

Washington Blues Society members may also write-in candidates for any position

and votes will be tabulated during the December Blues Bash.

Each elected volunteer Board member serves a one-year term.

In turn, the elected Board of Directors appoint the following volunteer Directors: Music Director, Membership Director, Education Director, Volunteer Director, Merchandise Director and Advertising Director.

To vote, circle one or all of the following (or submit the name of a write-in candidate).

President: Tony Frederickson

Vice President: Rick Bowen

Secretary: Marisue Thomas

Treasurer: Ray Kurth

Bluesletter Editor: Polly O'Keary

Madison Ave Pub

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



December's Music

Mondays with Mad Bojo 7 till 9-ish

Tuesday Night Dinner Show 7 till 9

12/5 Ryan T Higgins, Hunter Dunn & Rick Bowen

12/12 Jim Caroompas & Deidre Blankenship

12/19 Leah Tussing & Jim Barnes

12/26 Unbound with Kevin Sutton

Wednesday Unbound Blues Jam
with special guests each week 7pm

12/6 Seattle Slim 12/13 Randy Norris & Jeff Nicely

12/20 Domonic Espinoza & Kevin Sutton

12/27 Kevin Sutton & Casey Sutton

Thursday Singer/Songwriter Showcases 7-9ish

Kevin Sutton with special guests 12/7

Stacy Jones with special guests 12/14, 12/21, 12/28

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

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

Red Hot Saturdays live music

12/2 Vaughn Jensen & Friends 12/9 Jones Family Christmas

12/23 the Cold 102's 12/30 John Stephan Band

Saturday 12/16 UFC #296 Free! 6-11



Dimitriou's Jazz Alley

SEATTLE'S JAZZ CLUB

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

December 2023 SHOWS

Boney James 1-3

Mike Stern Band 5-6

Blind Boys of Alabama

Christmas Show 7-10

The Heavy Hitters 12-13

Average White Band 14-17

Pan America Nutcracker 12-23

David Benoit Christmas tribute to
Charlie Brown 21-23

Kenny G 27-31



2033 8th Avenue
Seattle WA 98101
Phone (206) 441-9729
jazzalley@jazzalley.com
JAZZALLEY.COM

You can contribute to nonprofits 365 days a year on the
Washington Gives platform

WASHINGTON
GIVES

POWERED BY 501 COMMONS

www.givebigwa.org/WashingtonBluesSociety

2023 Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues Award Nominations Now Open!



2023 Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues “BB Awards” Nomination Ballot

All nomination ballots must be received at our PO Box or by a Board member no later than Tuesday, January 9, 2024 (January Blues Bash).

Please nominate one nominee in each category. For more information, please refer to the December 2019 Bluesletter article online at www.wablues.org.

Mark DuFresne Male Vocalist

Blues Female Vocalist

Electric Blues Guitar

Slide Blues Guitar

Acoustic Blues Guitar

Blues Bass

Chris Leighton Blues Drummer

Paul Green Blues Harmonica

Blues Piano/Keyboard

Blues Horn

Blues Instrumentalist - Other

Best Band

Best Little Bill
& The Blue Notes Traditional Act

Best Solo/Duo

Best New Blues Act

Blues Performer

Blues Songwriter

Washington Blues Recording

Best Blues Club

Best Blues Jam

Blues Writer

Best Blues Photographer

Best Blues Graphic

Best Blues DJ

Keeping the Blues Alive

Blues Hall of Fame (Individual)

Regional Blues Festival

Community Blues Festival/Event

Lifetime Achievement

Non-Festival Blues Event

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



P.O. Box 70604
Seattle, WA 98127

Change Service Requested



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

LEE OSKAR

"She Said Mahalo"
The new album
from Lee Oskar

Available Now

She Said Mahalo

Streaming on:

Lee Oskar

Photo © Michael Bruce
Painting © Lee Oskar
©2023 Lee Oskar Enterprises, Inc.

Dreams We Share .com