

# Bluesletter

Washington Blues Society

December 2025

REMEMBERING  
SHERI ROBERTS GREIMES

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

SEE  
MORGAN FREEMAN'S  
SYMPHONIC BLUES  
EXPERIENCE



# Letter from the Editor



It has been a difficult month for Washington blues lovers. News has arrived of the loss of three musicians who brought a lot of joy to fans around the state and the nation. I have fond memories of working with Sheri Roberts Greimes. My trio was working with a new studio, helmed by the amazing owner and engineer Jason Shavey, and he kept being astonished by the guest musicians we brought in. The Hammond B3 player brought in an organ and Leslie cab that had been sitting in his leaky van so long they drained water all over the studio floor, and he played a magnificent part. Then harmonica monster Jim McLaughlin arrived to play a part, and that time he was very ill and frail, barely able to stand but still dressed head to toe in tie dye, and he played the coolest part we could have imagined. Then we brought Sheri in to sing some backgrounds, oxygen tube and all, and she tore the place up. Jason still shakes his head in amazement about that session. Her memorial gathering at the Madison Pub in Everett was jammed to the walls with grieving musicians and friends, because she was one of the most talented, fun-loving, and good spirited people among us. She will be missed.

Then I learned of the death of Loose Gravel, who I never knew personally, but who I'd heard a lot about from players who had worked with him. He was a Tacoma area institution, one of those fellows whose life and art are so enmeshed with their cities that they become part of city lore, as much as railroads, mines, and seaports do. Long live the memory of the King of the Tide Flats.

Today I found out that Bobby Inocente died. He was the subject of our October cover. We featured him because he was part of some of the most influential Philadelphia soul projects of the 1970s, and he was working on a blues album with Bremerton blues singer Lolo Marie. He had lived on the peninsula for more than 20 years, and he was a quiet man whose astonishing resume was little known. Being on the cover of the Bluesletter meant a lot to him. He was eager to share copies with his family and former colleagues on the East Coast. I went to his last gig on earth, when he and Lolo appeared at the Peabo's Sunday showcase October 12. I knew he was ill, but I didn't realize how ill. He did, though, and having his legacy captured and shared in his final days was a comfort to him, it seems. To be a journalist is also to be a historian, and I am very glad that we were able to enshrine Bobby into our archive before he passed.

This large number of losses meant that this issue has been changing non-stop. We had meant to do a cover story on Blue Monday, a new weekly event at El Sid, the lounge in the APEX hall in Everett that once was known as Club Broadway. Washington Blues Society President Casey Sutton and Vice President Kevin Young had been seeking venues to hold blues society events in when they learned that the historic building was once again occupied. It contains a downstairs restaurant, the second floor El Sid, and a gorgeous,

massive ball room on the third floor that was the site of this year's Best of the Blues Awards show. I wasn't able to go to that because I was down to the wire on my doctoral dissertation, but now that I'm finished with grad school, I've been getting out to see shows for the first time in years. I've been to Blue Monday twice, and it is magical. The historic old venue with its elegant floor-to-ceiling, arched windows has a faintly Great Gatsby feel, while the British rock themed décor lends a roguishness that adds up to a uniquely appealing music venue. After Sheri's memorial, I headed up there to find CD Woodbury sitting in with Anthony Estrada, playing fantastic blues music to an appreciative audience. We will do that cover story in February, likely, but until then, I highly suggest spending a pleasant few hours there over the next weeks.

Another reason we couldn't get all the planned content in was that, thanks to the concerted efforts of Blues Society member John Kuhlmann, we had late breaking information about a phenomenal opportunity for our membership. Morgan Freeman has produced and toured with a show called Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience for most of this year, and the show is arriving in Seattle January 2. The show is a multimedia spectacle that incorporates the symphony orchestras of the cities it visits, and Kuhlmann had arranged for the Washington Blues Society to have a table in the lobby of Benaroya Hall for the performance. Then, to our delight, we were told that Morgan Freeman and his team had invited Washington Blues Society members to watch the afternoon rehearsal for free. The details were coming together right up to the press deadline, which we even delayed to make sure we had all the information before publishing. That was also true of the IBC fundraisers planned for this month, making the publishing deadline a bit of a scramble.

This also was the first issue I produced without the help of longtime former editor Eric Steiner. There is a lot to know about publishing a magazine in InDesign, and he passed on a great deal of knowledge, and I am grateful.

I hope to see some of you at these events as well as the other gospel-blues holiday events that Steve Pearse wrote about for this issue. The best of the holidays to you all!

Cheers,

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

Polly O'Keary, Editor



## In This Issue

This month, we pay homage to the well-loved keyboardist and singer Sheri Roberts Greimes, whose death saddened the blues community in November. We converse with her son and musicians who worked with her. We also reflect on the life of Tacoma's "King of the Tide Flats," Loose Gravel.

This issue also focuses on some exciting events taking place around the Sound this holiday season. Morgan Freeman is bringing his Symphonic Blues Experience to Seattle Jan. 2, and he and his team have invited all WBS members to attend the rehearsal the afternoon before the show. Steve Pearse contributed a story focusing on the relationship between gospel and blues and listing several gospel-flavored holiday events happening in December.

It's time to nominate your favorite artists for Best of the Blues Awards! After many weeks of consideration, the WBS Board of Directors established guidelines to clarify the award categories. Please take a minute to review the guidelines, then please fill out your nomination form! They can be mailed in, or turned in at WBS events.



Above: Dan Abernathy joins Keith Scott on stage at the Salmon Bay Eagles.  
(Photo by Eric Steiner)

Cover: Sheri Roberts Greimes (Photo courtesy of Storm Diamond. Cover design and layout by Sean Donovan of Gator Boy Productions, [www.gatorboyproductions.com](http://www.gatorboyproductions.com))

# In This Issue...

## BLUES RIFFS

- 2 Letter from the Editor
- 4 2025 Blues Society Officers & Directors
- 4 Contributing Writers & Photographers

## BLUES NEWS, REVIEWS & FEATURES

- 5. 20 years ago this month!
- 6 Show Reviews: Robert Cray and Keith Scott
- 7 A look back at the life of Loose Gravel
- 10 Remembering Sheri Roberts Greimes
- 11 Carrie's Corner: Previewing the IBCs
- 12 CD Reviews: Buck and Corritore
- 14 A Gospel Christmas in Seattle
- 15 Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues
- 18 Blues on the Road

## WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY STUFF

- 13 BB Award Nomination Guidelines
- 23 BB Award Nomination Form and Board Ballot

## Washington Blues Society December Board Meeting

Thursday, December 11

5-8 p.m.

Location: APEX Everett  
El Sid Cocktail Lounge

Address:

1611 Everett Avenue  
Everett, Washington 98201

**THE WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY BLUESLETTER  
DECEMBER 2025 - Volume XXXVI, Number XII**

**PUBLISHER**

Washington Blues Society - [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org)

**EDITOR**

Polly O'Keary ([editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org))

**PRINTER**

Pacific Publishing Company  
([www.pacificpublishingcompany.com](http://www.pacificpublishingcompany.com))

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Eric Steiner, Polly O'Keary, Carrie Parduhn, Steve Pearse, Angela Jossy

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Eric Steiner, Elizabeth De La Piedra,

**JANUARY BLUESLETTER DEADLINES**

Ad Reservations 5 p.m. on 11/30 to  
[editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org)  
Calendar 5 p.m. on 12/10 online.  
Please submit @ [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org)  
Editorial 5 p.m. on 12/1 to [editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org)  
Camera-Ready Ad Art 5 p.m. on 12/5 to [editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org)

**Please Note: If we receive enough editorial copy before the 30th, or camera-ready ads before the 5th, space may be filled, and material may be saved for a future issue. Please send ALL contributions early!**

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Please send articles and photos as attachments only to [editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org). Please do not embed images or stories in emails and please do not send links.

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

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

Please remove any watermark or branding information from all photos. Do not send low-resolution images, 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



**2025 OFFICERS**

President, Charles Casey Lester Sutton	<a href="mailto:president@wablues.org">president@wablues.org</a>
Vice President, Kevin Young	<a href="mailto:vicepres@wablues.org">vicepres@wablues.org</a>
Interim Treasurer, Carrie Parduhn	<a href="mailto:treasurer@wablues.org">treasurer@wablues.org</a>
Interim Secretary, Dana Lupinacci	<a href="mailto:secretary@wablues.org">secretary@wablues.org</a>
Editor, Polly O'Keary	<a href="mailto:editor@wablues.org">editor@wablues.org</a>
Music Director, Angelo Ortiz	<a href="mailto:music@wablues.org">music@wablues.org</a>
Membership, Mary McPage	<a href="mailto:membership@wablues.org">membership@wablues.org</a>

**2025 DIRECTORS**

Education, Kevin Sutton	<a href="mailto:education@wablues.org">education@wablues.org</a>
Advertising, Open	<a href="mailto:advertising@wablues.org">advertising@wablues.org</a>
Volunteers, Open	<a href="mailto:volunteers@wablues.org">volunteers@wablues.org</a>
Merchandise, Open	<a href="mailto:merchandise@wablues.org">merchandise@wablues.org</a>
Seattle Peace Concerts Co-Chairs Sara St. John & Diane Forsyth	TBD

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Webmaster Emeritus, The Sheriff	<a href="mailto:webmaster@wablues.org">webmaster@wablues.org</a>
Washington Blues Society Logo, Phil Chesnut	<a href="mailto:philustr8r@gmail.com">philustr8r@gmail.com</a>
Editor Emeritus, Eric Steiner	<a href="mailto:ericsteiner@wablues.org">ericsteiner@wablues.org</a>

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Washington Blues Society is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote, preserve, and advance the culture and tradition of blues music as an art form. Annual membership is \$25 for individuals, and \$35 for couples. The Washington Blues Society is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization and donations are tax-deductible. The Washington Blues Society is affiliated with The Blues Foundation in Memphis, Tennessee.. Our website is [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org).. The Washington Blues Society received the Keeping the Blues Alive Award from The Blues Foundation in 2009.



KEEPING THE  
**BLUES**  
· ALIVE ·

**WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY**  
P.O. BOX 70604  
SEATTLE, WA 98127

# Bluesletter History: 20 Years Ago this Month!

(Prepared by Editor Emeritus Eric Steiner)

## Bluesletter December 2005 HOLIDAY EDITION



VOLUME XVII NUMBER XII

BLUESLETTER	
Publisher	Washington Blues Society
Executive Editor	J. A. Vall
Managing Editor	Jeremy Smith
Distribution	J. A. Vall
Proofreaders	Jeremy Smith Rev. Engelhart Mary McPage Lenny Wulff
Calendar Editor	Becki Sue Delk
Design & Layout	J. A. Vall
Printer	Jeremy Smith
Pacific Publishing	Advertising
Advertising	Jeremy Smith
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS	
Bill White	Rhas Rolfe
Roy K. Brown	Lloyd Peterson
Rev. Deb Engelhart	Phil Chestnut
Eric Steiner	Laurette Langille
Johnnie Mustang	J. A. Vall
Jeremy Smith	
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS	
Alan Nahglian	Lloyd Peterson
Phil Chestnut	Rhas Rolfe
Eric Steiner	Mike Lynch

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Dateline Highway 99 ..... 4
- Jam for Cans ..... 6
- Sound Off ..... 12
- Scene & Heard ..... 15
- Jams Schedule ..... 18
- Healing Power of the Blues ..... 21
- Club Guide ..... 26
- Blues Talent Guide ..... 27
- Blues Calendar ..... 28

### HOLIDAY PARTY!

Hosted By The Washington Blues Society  
Sun-December 11th  
**HIGHWAY 99**  
BLUES CLUB  
1414 Alaskan Way-Seattle  
Party Starts At 7pm  
Members & Guests Welcome  
Meet the New Board!

Entertainment By-  
**TOO SLIM & The King Size Troublemakers**

Door Prizes  
Too!

Mission Statement  
The Washington Blues Society (WBS) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote, preserve, and advance the culture and tradition of blues music as an art form. Annual membership fee is \$20 for individuals, \$30.00 per couple, and \$40 for overseas memberships (please see membership application form within this publication.) Bluesletter is the official monthly publication of the Washington Blues Society. The WBS is not responsible for the views and opinions expressed in Bluesletter by any individuals, who are solely responsible for their views. Copyright © WBS 2005 <http://www.wbs.org> P.O. Box 70604, Seattle, WA 98127

Bluesletter Washington Blues Society • December 2005

3

Seattle's own Couple Trouble rhythm section of David Hudson on drums and Tracy Hudson on bass, with the dueling guitar lineup of Dan Baker and Garret Smith. To add another feature to the night, Dana invited saxophonist and newly elected WBS Secretary Jeremy "The Texas Tenor" Smith on stage for her last few numbers.

While soft-spoken and articulate in person, Dana sings with a deep, unique, powerful voice with the range of a trained operatic singer. She puts her all into each song and you can tell that singing must be her favorite thing. From "Let the Good Times Roll" to "Mojo Boogie," Dana sings with style and grace. Nominated Best Female Singer many times, she appears frequently as a featured guest at jams around the Sound. Check out her most recent recording, aptly titled, "Bullt to Satisfy."

In December, the monthly WBS meeting will be replaced by the Annual WBS Holiday Party featuring Tim (Too Slim) Langford and the King Sized Troublemakers followed by an open jam.

Smoke 'em while you got 'em.

All the best,  
James Middlefield

### TIM CASEY & THE BLUESCATS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
WWW.TIMCASEYBLUESCATS.COM  
BOOKING INFO 425-820-4387

Appearing at:  
DECEMBER 3RD  
THE WOODINVILLE LIGHTS FESTIVAL  
The Woodinville Community Center -  
6-8 PM Swing Dance lesson  
w/The Eastside Alleycats Dancers 6-7 PM  
Tim Casey & the Bluescats 7-8 PM  
"Tis the season to swing dance"  
Tickets are \$5.00.  
Ticket info: 425-398-9327

LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH IN 2006  
- Tulalip Casino  
Marysville, WA. 5-8 pm  
"Jump & Swing Show"  
A history of 40's Jump Blues and 50's Rock N' Roll and the dances the music inspired w/ The Eastside Alleycats Dancers...vintage video clips...bar...dancefloor...fun, entertaining and educational!



Dana Lupinacci performs at the WBS November meeting.

### Hurricane Relief Benefits

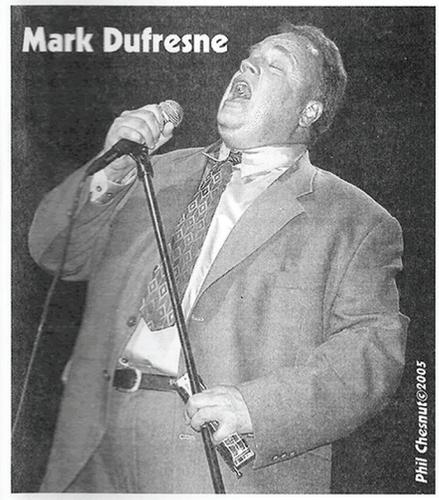
Photos by Phil Chesnut

Our blues community truly stepped up with four fabulous fundraisers to help those in need following the wrath of Hurricane Katrina. So many generous blues fans opened their wallets, and of course, the musicians were all glad to donate their time and talent:

- Seattle's Jazz Alley, net over \$13,000
- Seattle's Highway 99, net over \$3000
- Seattle's New Orleans Restaurant
- Bothell's BC's Beach Club at Silver Dollar Casino, net over \$3000 (hosted by South Sound Blues Assoc. & the WBS)



Stickshift Annie Eastwood



Mark Dufresne

### New and Renewed WBS Members:

New

- Alan Kausal
- Weldon Follis
- August Tyminski
- Larry Hogan
- Mark & Susan Dibble
- Gary Taylor

Renewed

- Justin Kausal-Hayes
- Dana Lupinacci
- David Hudson
- Dan Baker
- Gerritt Smith
- Rick Gould
- Susan Riddell
- Wendy Danielson
- Stephen Lackey
- Lloyd Jones
- William Kendrick
- Kathryn Hettel
- Paul & Sue Krug
- Pete Lusk
- Tom Fitzhugh
- Hugh Gundry
- Noury Bernard-Hasan
- Jim Startup
- Donna Boatman
- Dennis & Marcie Konopinski
- Jeanette Sterling
- Jeff McElhinney

Thanks for your participation!

5

25

# Concert Reviews: Robert Cray and Keith Scott

*Two Great Live Blues Shows in the Evergreen State!*

By Eric Steiner

Last month, I enjoyed a weekend of music that began in Mount Vernon, Washington, at the historic Lincoln Theatre on November 8 with the Robert Cray Band on its Out Driving Around Tour, followed by Washington Blues Society member Keith Scott's return to Seattle's longest running venue hosting live blues music, the Salmon Bay Eagles, in Seattle's historic Ballard neighborhood, the next night.

My "November Blues Tour" included my wife Vickie Scott-Steiner and sister-in-law Cindy Oliver, and our last blues show together was Cindy's first show at Seattle's Triple Door to see Grammy-nominated and Keeping the Blues Alive Award-recognized blues artist Janiva Magness earlier this year. This time, we bunked at Burlington's Candlewood Suites for the Robert Cray show and stayed at Lynwood's Embassy Suites for Keith Scott's show (and I highly recommend each hotel to Bluesletter readers).

We bought VIP tickets through the band's pioneering Onelive e-commerce partner, which afforded us fifth row seats, an autographed photo, an exclusive Out Driving Around Tour t-shirt, and a souvenir Robert Cray guitar keychain. Our Onelive "bling" arrived a week before the show and I was pleased to learn that this company began helping Willie Nelson with local tours in Texas 15 years ago and has since grown to generate \$1B in gross revenues for a diverse array of blues, country, rap and rock artists.

## ***The Robert Cray Band: Out Driving Around Tour***

The night before the Lincoln Theatre show, the Robert Cray Band returned to its Eugene, Oregon, roots. Robert Cray and bassist Richard Cousins formed the band near the University of Oregon campus in 1974, and several years later, it was the "house band" for John Landis' "National Lampoon's Animal House" starring John Belushi and Tim Matheson.

Robert Cray has an uncredited cameo in



Robert Cray appears at the Lincon Theater in Mount Vernon Nov. 8. Photo Credit: Vickie Scott

the film as a bass player with Otis Day & The Knights. The band plays the Isley Brothers' "You Make Me Wanna (Shout)" at a fraternity's toga party led by campus troublemaker (and future US Senator) John "Bluto" Blutariski (a 28-year old John Belushi in fine form!) with classmates played by many fellow actors relatively new to the big screen, including Kevin Bacon, Tim Matheson, Karen Allen and Peter Riegert. I watched "National Lampoon's Animal House" while writing this review, and it's hard for me to believe that this film was released 47 years ago!

The Robert Cray Band 2025 Tour, Out Driving Around, features Robert Cray on guitar and vocals, Richard Cousins on bass, Dover Weinberg on keyboards and Les Falconer on drums. Dover joined the band in 1979, left a few years later, and rejoined in 2008. Celebrating his thirteenth year behind the drum kit, Les is a relative newcomer, but together, I thought they communicated with each other telepathically as they anticipated every chord change or follow Robert's lead.

The Robert Cray Band's 15-song set in Mount Vernon reached back into the award-winning bluesman's deep back catalogue, with "Phone Booth" and the title cut from his second album "Bad Influence" released on Hightone Records in 1983, and "I Guess I Showed Her" and "Right Next Door (Because of Me)" from

his groundbreaking, major label debut on Mercury Records in 1986, "Strong Persuader."

On the night's lone cover, Howlin' Wolf's "Sittin' On Top of the World," Cousins brought his acoustic bass for the first time. Richard brought the instrument back several times during the show, and each time, it added a unique depth and counterpoint to Robert Cray's electric guitar.

I had forgotten how Robert Cray engaged audiences. Throughout the evening, he commented on many of his original songs, especially around decidedly downcast songs like "I'm Done Cryin," "I Shiver" and "Poor Johnny" from "Nothing But Love" (Provogue Records, 2012), "Shame and a Sin" (Mercury Records, 1993), and "Twenty" (Sanctuary Records, 2005). Robert referred to drummer Les Falconer as "SP" "because you just can't trust what you learn in school. He's just SP." The audience was in on the joke about his "Strong Persuader" release, and each time Robert gestured toward the drummer, it enthusiastically responded "SP!"

Robert Cray's second encore resonated deeply with the audience. I looked back to see many patrons on their feet singing "This Man," arguably the most anthemic blues response to our current leaders' in Washington, D.C., from the 2020 CD on

*(Continued on pg. 17)*

# Legendary Tacoma Bluesman Loose Gravel Dies

The “King of the Tide Flats” was the founding member and long time leader of Loose Gravel and the Quarry

By Angela Jossy

*Reprinted with permission from the Tacoma Weekly Volcano. Edited lightly for length. |*

When we talk about Tacoma’s most iconic musicians throughout history, several names come to mind, like The Fabulous Wailers, The Sonics, Jerry Miller and so on. Now, Steve “Loose Gravel” Luhtala joins that list of Tacoma legends who are no longer with us. Whether you called him “Gravel” or “King of the Tide Flats,” he was known as a blue-collar type of man who worked by day as a longshoreman and by night as the frontman for Loose Gravel and the Quarry, a blues band featuring his gravelly baritone voice. His signature sound was deep, warm, resonant, and husky, which added an unforgettable feel to both his original songs and covers.

Born and raised in Tacoma, Gravel discovered the blues as a teen after picking up a John Lee Hooker album.

“Ever since then I’ve been into everybody from Willie Dixon and B.B. King to Robert Johnson,” he told an interviewer in 2008. “Now I’m mainly writing my own material, but I still carry the sound of those old boys.”

By the early 1990s, Loose Gravel and the Quarry had become a fixture of the Puget Sound blues scene. The lineup included an impressive roster of players: Johnny Burgess on keyboards, Steve Cooley on guitar, Glenn Hummell on drums and Rich Nesbitt on bass.

Their sound was big, earthy, and driven by honesty. The band played everywhere from local taverns to major festivals. For years, their Thursday-night blues jam at the Emerald Queen Casino drew hundreds of players from across the region. Original songs like “Raining in

Tacoma” and “Boulder in the Highway” captured the texture of the Pacific Northwest, featuring wet pavement, hard work, long nights, love stories, and redemption.

His daughter, Tehra Luhtala says his song “Ol’ Marie,” was written for his late wife Gayle Naccarato Lahtala. “That song Ol’ Marie was about my mom,” Tehra says. “It’s how he kept her memory alive.”

Longtime bandmate Johnny Burgess points to “Spirits in the Wind” as the song that epitomized his friend. “That’s the one where you really hear Gravel’s soul,” Burgess said.

Luhtala’s work as a longshoreman on Tacoma’s tideflats inspired some of his lyrics, and earned him his nickname, the “King of the Tide Flats,” a title his friends and fans still use.

“He was an amazing, hard-working provider,” his daughter Tehra recalls. “He was an honest, good man who always helped anyone who needed it. He worked hard his entire life and always provided for his family first and foremost.”

In later years, Gravel faced new challenges. After being diagnosed with throat cancer, Gravel endured radiation treatments that damaged his voice and hearing. Though he continued to sing as long as he could, it became increasingly difficult to perform. His final live show was at The Spar Tavern on May 28, 2011, in front of a packed house. He was, as Burgess put it, “hanging his hat up.”

Before his illness, Gravel was known for mentoring young musicians on stage, welcoming them to jams, and teaching through example what it means to play with heart.

Loose Gravel and the Quarry released two



full length albums, including Boulder in the Highway and Around the Sound, both filled with original blues steeped in Northwest soul. The former won regional acclaim and became a favorite among blues lovers. Today, his music can still be found on Amazon, eBay, and Spotify, though physical copies are increasingly rare. Fans searching for the real thing might also reach out to keyboardist Johnny Burgess, who still represents the band and its history. He says he might still have a few copies.

Burgess says simply, “He was the King of the Tide Flats, and he always will be.”

At the end of a 2008 video interview live from Bite of Seattle with DigitalReporter on YouTube, he said, “that’s what I want on my epitaph.”

And so it shall be, how how how how!

Above: Loose Gravel, also known as “King of the Tide Flats,” was a Tacoma blues institution for decades before succumbing to cancer. Photo courtesy of the Tacoma Volcano.

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH THE  
WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY — A FESTIVE  
NIGHT HONORING OUR MEMBERS, MUSIC,  
AND COMMUNITY!

SUNDAY **21  
DEC** AT 4 PM

LIVE MUSIC BY  
CHAD RUPP &  
THE SUGAR ROOTS

**\$10 Suggested Donation**

**AURORA BOREALIS**  
16708 AURORA AVE N, SHORELINE, WA 98133

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY  
PRESENTS

# BLUE MONDAYS

EVERY MONDAY 7-9PM

FEATURING

MUSIC WITH THE  
WBS BLUES AMBASSADORS

EL SID AT APEX EVERETT  
1611 EVERETT AVE, EVERETT

WWW.WABLUES.ORG

South Sound Blues Association

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE  
SINCE 2005

[www.southsoundblues.org](http://www.southsoundblues.org)

## 'HOME OF THE BLUES'

*in the heart of Ballard*

- Live music every Thurs, Fri and Sat
- Great food, great drinks, great people
- New members always welcome
- Dedicated to charity, community and "People Helping People"

5216 20th Ave NW  
Seattle, WA 98107

Wednesday-Sunday  
3pm-CLOSE

[SalmonBayEagles.com](http://SalmonBayEagles.com)
[@SalmonBayEagles](https://www.instagram.com/SalmonBayEagles)
[facebook.com/SBE2141](https://www.facebook.com/SBE2141)

Photos ©2017 Alex Birkhoff ©2018 Bruce Pritchard Art Design ©2022 Annie Eastwood

## 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](mailto:annie@stickshiftannie.com) 206/941-9186

## THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS: FUNDRAISER AT EL SID!

*Joel Astley Band*

**Monday,  
December 1st  
7:00pm**

**\$10  
at the Door**

Apex Everett - El Sid Room  
1611 Everett Ave

*Sutton & Pitman*

**FOLLOWED BY ALL-STAR INVITATIONAL JAM!**

# MOJO CANNON.COM

Featuring: Mark Noftsker & The 13th Street Horns

7PM SAT DEC 06 - MADISON AVENUE PUB - Everett  
8PM SAT JAN 17 - AURORA BOREALIS - Shoreline  
7PM SAT FEB 28 - MADISON AVENUE PUB - Everett

# Remembering Sheri Roberts Greimes

*"She put her heart into everything she loved, and she loved music."*

By Polly O'Keary, editor

Friends and fans of Sheri Roberts Greimes and her band JoMama always turned out to see her wherever she played, especially at Everett's Madison Pub. Monday, November 10, they turned out in droves to say goodbye. After a sudden battle with cancer, the pianist whose voice could bring a stadium to its feet despite the oxygen tube that she depended on in her last years, passed away last month, and musicians and friends gathered to remember her for her warm heart, extraordinary talent, and devotion to music.

"Her work ethic was nonstop," said John Harley Roberts Griemes, her only child, shortly after her death. "She set her mind to something and it would go like the wind." Early on in life, that something was country music, he said. While living in Nashville, Sheri "sang at the Grand Ol Opry and did some shows like Rising Star and she was really catching on in her her musical career down there," said John.

But when John was born, Sheri decided to put family first. She moved to Everett to be closer to family, who had all moved to

the coast from the Wenatchee area where Sheri grew up, and went to work as a nurse. She stayed in the medical field for the next 10 years, eventually teaching phlebotomy at Everett Community College.

"She worked herself to exhaustion," John said. Then she developed COPD, and developed an infection in her lungs that left lasting damage. Nursing was no longer an option.

"She could no longer work, so she turned to something she really loved and turned that into her moneymaker," John said. Through her nursing years, she kept a piano in the house and played it so often it went out of tune, he recalled. Over time, her interest in country shifted to blues. For the last 15 years, she played and sang the blues full time.

For the last eight of those years, she played with her band JoMama, playing originals and classics. At her memorial at the Madison, the remaining members of the band gathered one last time on stage, where guitarist Mark Lagen grew emotional playing the band's songs without Sheri.



Afterwards, he remembered Sheri as a prolific songwriter who was loyal to her bandmates and friends.

"She grew me as a pedal steel player," he said. "She had so much material. And she used to say to me, 'Thank you, I couldn't do this without you.' And I'd say, 'No, thank you. I couldn't do this without you.'"

Mark's career has been long; he has been performing since he was 14. Working with Sheri was the highlight of that career, he said.

"I had a blast," he said. "It was the best eight years I have ever had."

Sheri also enjoyed sitting in on various group projects, and was a frequent guest at Stacey Jones's Wednesday night songwriters' showcase at the Madison, *(continued pg. 11)*

*(Continued from pg. 10)*

Above and left: Sheri Roberts Greimes had a powerhouse voice, despite the COPD that forced her to carry oxygen with her to shows. Photo above courtesy of Storm Diamond. Photo credit left: Margo Lagen



## Carrie's Corner: *Get Ready for the 2026 International Blues Challenge*

By Carrie Parduhn

The Washington Blues Society is sending two local acts to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee in January. The Joel Astley Band will represent the blues society in the band category, and Kevin Sutton & Jonathan Pitman will compete in the solo/duo category. Both acts competed locally over the summer and fall for the right to head to Memphis's famous Beale Street, where blues talent from all over the world will

come together for one week. Over 20 clubs will be participating January 13-17, 2026.

Hotel and IBC Pass information is found online at [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org).

The Washington Blues Society is among the societies who fully fund travel and accommodations for Washington's competing acts. There are two fundraisers planned for December, one on Dec. 1 and the second Dec. 29, both at El Sid in Everett's APEX building. Donations are welcome for sending off our talented

acts. We wish them all the best!! It's just another way we are keeping the Blues alive!

Below, left to right: Kevin Sutton and Jonathan Pitman together form the duo that will represent the Washington Blues Society at the IBC in the solo/duo category. Joel Astley (right) is the singer, songwriter and harmonica player whose band will compete in Memphis. Photos courtesy of the artists.



## Remembering Sheri, cont'd

Stacy said, between sets playing piano at the memorial.

One such collaboration was so memorable that Stacy, upon learning of Sheri's death, posted video of it online, along with a story about the show.

"We did a showcase opening for Janiva Magness," Stacy said. Sheri sang one of the songs on the set and stopped the show with it. "She got a standing ovation from the entire stadium," Jones said.

As her health quickly declined, she drew pleasure from her memories in music, said

Storm Diamond, who was close friends with Sheri.

"I played A Bleeding Heart for her before she died," Storm said. "It was the first song she ever wrote. She had a tear in her eye and smile on her face, from knowing she was loved."

John said that as her COPD worsened, she sometimes struggled to get to shows.

"She did everything she could, putting her all on stage every night," he said. "Sometimes she was tired, and then she did it for everyone else. But she loved

having a good time. There were times she was really sick, but she fought through it to go see her friends."

Now, although he misses his mother immensely, John takes comfort that Sheri spent her last years happy.

"She put her heart into everything she loved, and she loved music," he said. "It was a good thing it was her job at the end."

# CD Review

New CD from Willie Buck and Bob Corritore



**Willie Buck & Bob Corritore**

*Oh Yeah*

*(Vizztone Label Group/SWMAF Records)*

By Eric Steiner

Award-winning harmonica player Bob Corritore's a pretty busy blues man. He hosts live music at the Rhythm Room in Phoenix on Indian School Road, a 34-year old venue honored with a prestigious 2025 Keeping the Blues Alive Award from The Blues Foundation and he spins the blues every Sunday night on FM 91.5 KJZZ-FM on his award-winning "Those Lowdown Blues" radio show. "Those Lowdown Blues" received a 2007 Keeping The Blues Alive Award from The Blues Foundation, and several Best Blues Radio Station awards from Phoenix' "New

Times." This year (so far), he's released three blues CDs through the VizzTone Label Group and the Southwest Musical Arts Foundation. This past June, he released "Oh Yeah," featuring Chicago blues man Willie Buck along with 12 other artists who offer up 10 delightful and authentic cuts of traditional Chicago blues. Bob and Willie have worked together since the 70s before Bob relocated to the Valley of the Sun, and the CD features six originals from Willie Buck, one from guitarist Billy Flynn (Cash Box Kings, Legendary Blues Band), two from Muddy Waters, and the title cut from Ellis McDaniel (Bo Diddley). "Oh Yeah" is from Bob's "From the Vaults" Series, which taps into Bob's considerable collection of performances captured when his friends visited him in Arizona. Joining Willie and Bob is a core band of guitarists Billy Flynn, Jimi "Primetime" Smith, and Steady Rollin'

Bob Margolin; blues bass legend Bob Stroger, pianists Anthony Geraci and Ben Levin, and drummer Wes Starr. Nine of the CD's 10 songs were recorded between 2021 and 2023 at Tempest Recording by Clarke Rigsby in Tempe, and Willie Buck's "Went Home this Morning" from 2011 features guitarists Jon Atkinson and Mojo Mark Cihlar, drummer Brian Fahey and bassist Troy Sandow. Regular readers know that Bob is also a Highway 99 All Star, and he returns to our region with this band as his schedule allows. My favorites on this CD include Billy Flynn's original "Money Can't Buy Everything" and the cover of Muddy Waters' "Baby Please Don't Go," but I think that "Oh Yeah" is pure Chicago blues gold from start to finish!

**Madison Ave Pub** 905 Madison St. Everett 425-348-7402

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

**Wednesday Unbound Blues Jam**  
**7 till 10-ish**

12/3 Eric Rice 12/10 Scott E. Lind  
12/17 Bill Davis & Larry Hayes  
12/24 & 12/31 no jams  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

**Rockin' Fridays 8-12**

12/5 One Island Drop  
12/12 After 4 Band  
12/19 TBA 12/26 Sugar Push

**Tuesday Night Dinner Show 7-9**

12/2 Nick Vigarino 12/9 Norris-Nicely  
12/16 Unbound 12/23 Sutton-Pitman  
12/30 Ryan T. Higgins Band

**Thursday's Music**

12/4 WA Blues Society's Blues Ambassadors  
First Thursday every month!  
**Singer-Songwriter Showcase**  
Stacy Jones with special guest  
12/11 and 12/18

**Red Hot Saturdays 7:30-11:30**

12/6 Mojo Cannon  
12/13 Leah T & her MFJB  
12/20 Dana Osborn Band  
12/27 Joe Cook Band

**Sunday Night Karaoke presented by**  
**Rob Bramblett Entertainment**  
Have fun with friends singing your favorites!

# Best of the Blues Award Nomination Guidelines

Please review before filling out the Best of the Blues Award nomination form on pg. 23

This year, the board of the Washington Blues Society clarified the guidelines for the Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues Awards. Below are the eligibility rules for the award categories.

The awards categories have been changed slightly. The Best Blues Band and Little Bill Best Traditional Blues Band have been combined, and a category has been added for blues rock.

Rules are not given here for all award categories. Rather, these guidelines were written to add clarity where it was lacking, based on feedback from musicians, members, and board members past and present.

## Guidelines

As usual, categories 1-11 are open to all blues performers who live in Washington.

**11. Blues Instrumentalist:** This category is for artists playing instruments that do not have their own award category. Please include both the artist's name and the instrument they play.

## Band awards

To be eligible for a band award, bands must have played at least five shows in the year prior to the awards ceremony, and although it is not necessary that all members live in the state, the act's front person or front people must.

**12. Best Blues Rock Band:** For bands that play a mix of blues and rock.

**13. Little Bill Best Traditional Blues Band** This category is for bands that play at least 75% blues music, approximately.

**15. Best New Blues Act:** To be eligible, the band must have been established within the prior year and play approximately 75% blues.

**17. Best Songwriter:** To be eligible, the winner must have written at least one documented song in the calendar year prior to the nomination.

**18. Washington Blues Recording:** Must be a recording of at least four songs, released in the year prior to the nomination.

**21. Best Blues Writer:** Board members are ineligible, (meaning that Bluesletter editor Polly O'Keary can't be nominated). Former board members are eligible.

**22. Best Blues Image:** Please name both the artist and the image, collection of images from a single event, or video. If you don't know the name of the artist, the name of the image will suffice. The image must have been created in the year prior to the nomination.

**23. Best Blues Graphic:** This award is for a graphic image created during year prior to the nomination. The name of the graphic must be included, and the name of the artist if known.

**24. Best Blues DJ:** Nominees can be the DJ of a radio show or podcast.

**28. Best Regional Blues Festival:** To be eligible, approximately half the acts should be from outside the region.

**29. Best Community Blues Festival:** To be eligible, about 75% of the artists should be from Washington or Oregon.

**31. Best Non-Festival Event:** No WBS events can be nominated, such as the Blues Bash or the Christmas Party. Can include concert series.

## Lifetime awards

People can only win the Keeping the Blues Alive, Hall of Fame, and Lifetimes Achievement awards once. A list of previous winners appears at right.

**25. Keeping the Blues Alive:** No current WBS Board member can be nominated but prior WBS Board members can be nominated. A list of board members appears on the wablues.com website.

**26. Blues Hall of Fame- Individual:** To be eligible, an artist must have been playing in the area for at least 25 years, with the exception of nominations made posthumously.

**27. Blues Hall of Fame-Band:** To be eligible, a named act must have been playing in the area for at least 25 years, with the exception of nominations made posthumously.

## Previous winners:

**Keeping the Blues Alive:** Patrick Lynch, Cholo Willsin, Rod Downing, Rikki & Kevin Cates, Raven & Sheri Humphres, Robert & Carol Sawyer, Marlee Walker, Ken Page & Frankie Lee, Randy Oxford, Leslie Fleury, Rev. Dave Brown, Randy Oxford, Jeff Hayes & Lloyd Peterson, Jimmie Jean Tuttle, Rhea Rolfe, Dennis "Blues Boss" Dudley, Hwy 99 Blues Club, Tim & Michelle Burge, Tony Frederickson, Steve Sarkowsky, Paul Quilty & Willow Stone, Tom Hunnewell, Eric Steiner, Dennis "Zab" Zvoloski, Rick J Bowen, Ed Maloney, Amy Sassenberg, Winthrop Music Assoc., Jeannie Baker, Mark Hurwitz, Billy Stoops

**Blues Hall of Fame-Band:** Little Bill & the Bluenotes; Alice Stuart & the Formerlys; Steve Bailey & the Blue Flames; Junkyard Jane; Isaac Scott Band; Charles White Band; Fat James Band; Jeff Herzog & The Jet City Fliers

**Blues Hall of Fame-Individual** Isaac Scott, Dick Powell, Little Bill Engelhart, Buck England, Leslie Milton, Patti Allen, Duffy Bishop, Rich Dangel, Charles White, Kathi McDonald, Nick Vigarino, Mark Dufresne, Randy Oxford, Mark Whitman, Alice Stuart, Dave Conant, Jack Cook, David Brewer, Paul Green, Kirk "KT" Tuttle, Chris Leighton, L.J. Porter, Tim "Too Slim" Langford, James "Curley" Cooke, Mark Riley, Kevin Sutton, Jim McLaughlin, Lee Oskar, Billy Stapleton, Lissa Ramaglia, Tracy Arrington, Jimmy Holden, CD Woodbury, Scotty Harris, Scott E Lind, Steve Bailey

**Lifetime Achievement:** Isaac Scott, Patti Allen, Dave Conant, Rich Dangel, Patti Allen, Randy Oxford, Mark Whitman, Tommy Morgan, Fat James Grosvenor, Alice Stuart, Kirk "KT" Tuttle, Lee Oskar, Charles White, Tim "Too Slim" Langford, Nick Vigarino, Mark Riley, Raven Humphres, Jim McLaughlin, Paul Green, Scott E Lind, Mark DuFresne, "Stick Shift" Anne Eastwood, Jimmy Holden, Lissa Ramaglia, Billy Stapleton, Sean Denton, Steve Bailey

# Gospel Christmas Events Evoke the Spiritual Roots of Blues

*Gospel Magnificat, Black Nativity, Blind Boys, Lady A, and South Africa's Soweto choir put the spirit in the season*

*By Steve Pearse*

The experts agree: gospel and the blues are inextricably linked; they are, in fact, 'two sides of the same coin.' So when a "church" holiday rolls around, some of the most jubilant musical celebrations come from gospel musicians. This Christmas season, blues lovers can find special meaning in stunning gospel based events around Seattle

The pairing of the secular and the spritual is common to Christmas and to blues music alike. While the blues often grow out of personal struggles, quintessential gospel music is a church choir, belting out promises of salvation and deliverance. In short, blues artists jam on Saturday nights in juke joints, while the gospel choir puts on its Sunday-best and uses its congregation as affirmation, its chorus.

Artists known for performing in both traditions abound, including Mississippi John Hurt, Mahalia Jackson, Etta James, B.B. King, Muddy Waters, and the king of soul, Sam Cooke. These artists and so many others performed 'cross-over'—blues/gospel— music, branching out from African American spiritual roots.

Take, for example, "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," first published in 1867. The Dixie Hummingbirds, a choral quintet, recorded 'Nobody Knows' in 1959, transforming this somber spiritual into a more hopeful—and more blues-tinged—gospel song. Several years later, Sam Cooke's soulful interpretation upped the tempo and the ante, adding guitar licks and drums, Cooke's soaring voice approaching a rock-gospel vibe .

So how did these musical branches evolve from their spiritual roots? According to Rev. Robert Jones, Sr., Baptist minister and blues musician, "You had these blues musicians, who were looking at how the vitality was slipping out of sacred music, and they combined the blues with the sacred, and that produced gospel." The

shared musical calculus of gospel and the blues is defined by 'blue notes' (flattened 3rds, 5ths, and 7ths); the 12-bar blues structure; musical dialogue, including call and response; and emotional, personal expression. Listen to Chicago-based Thomas A. Dorsey's (the father of gospel music) seminal composition "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" (1932); its lyrics speak to the composer's unspeakable loss of his wife and unborn child, yet rise to the speaker's ultimate salvation:

*When my life, my life is all, almost gone,  
oh yes / At the river,*

*Lord, I stand / Guide my feet, Lord, and  
hold my hand /*

*Yes, take my hand, precious lord, and lead  
me on.*

Reverend Dorsey's voice is spare, yet powerful, recorded during a live church service, complete with gospel chorus. A generation later, B.B. King's 1959 blues-infused rendition of "Take My Hand," King's only recorded foray into pure gospel, features his signature blues-infused baseline groove, dynamic voice, and strong piano and organ riffs and choruses..

Today's gospel grows from many denominational roots, including Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and a number of fundamentalist churches across America. Washington abounds with gospel choirs,



including the Seattle Children's Chorus ('Lifted') and the 100-member UW Gospel Choir, led by ethnomusicologist Phyllis Byrdwell, who weaves teaching into performances. Byrdwell also serves as minister of music for Mount Zion Baptist Church in Seattle and as music educator for Lakeside School in North Seattle.

So please, Washington Blues Society members, plan to attend at least one of the gospel performances listed on the following page. And when you do, listen with care: you will hear and feel the art and style of the blues as it infuses gospel with its own joy and style.

Above: A choir backs dancers in Langston Hughes' rousing Black Nativity, a gospel-rooted take on the Christmas story. The event returns this year to the Braodway Performance Hall for eight performances. Photo credit: Susan Fried.

# Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience at Benaroya

Legendary actor teams up with Seattle Symphony to present blues, invites WBS members to rehearsal

By Polly O'Keary, Editor

Two of the most stirring musical experiences a person can have is to attend the symphony, and to see a world class blues band. The symphony is overwhelming, a cascade of sound that captures all the senses. A world class blues band can wrap sound around a person's heart, lifting it, tearing at it, breaking it, and lifting it again. January 2, thanks to the efforts of the blues loving actor Morgan Freeman, people will be able to experience both. And all members of the Washington Blues Society have been invited to experience the live afternoon rehearsal free.

Morgan Freeman, whose voice is arguably the most famous in the film industry, has been a supporter of blues music for many years. While visiting Clarksdale, Mississippi, with a friend one day, he encountered some backpackers who asked him where they might hear blues. Although Clarksdale is often called the cradle of blues music, at the time there was no venue that regularly offered blues music to the many blues lovers who made pilgrimages from around the world to the music's source. So he and that friend partnered to build Ground Zero, a live blues club that features music six nights a week.

Now, Morgan Freeman has created a Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues



Experience, a multimedia event that combines members of the Ground Zero house band with symphony orchestras around the United States and Canada, while Freeman's famous voice narrates the event as archival footage of blues history appears on a giant screen.

"It's pretty powerful," Freeman told a television station in Canada. "Audiences... are going to see a very unique and pleasant experience. A lot of audiences get excited about it. It is something very powerful."

The event is one night only, and the Washington Blues Society will have a table in the lobby offering information about the society. And earlier in the day, Washington Blues Society members have been invited to attend the orchestra's rehearsal with the band free of charge. No membership card is needed; entry is on the honor system, but the showrunners have requested that the blues society provide a rough head count estimate by December 10. Those who would like to attend are encouraged to email [info@wabluessociety.org](mailto:info@wabluessociety.org) to let the society know.

## December Gospel-Inspired Holiday Happenings

**UW Gospel Choir:** Meany Center for the Performing Arts, Katheryn Gerlich Theater. (Seattle UW campus). Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.

**Gospel Magnificat:** A choral celebration of the canticle of Mary. Kent Stevenson, composer and director, Gospel jazz choral concert featuring an 8-piece backing band. December 6, 2 p.m., Plymouth United Church of Christ, Seattle. December 13, 2 p.m., St. Therese Church, Seattle; December 20, 7 p.m., Plymouth United Church of Christ

**Black Nativity:** Langston Hughes' song-play featuring a city-wide gospel choir, actors, and a live band. An annual tradition that 'celebrates the Christmas story with gospel music, dance, and vibrant color' Broadway Performance Hall (Intiman) December 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 23, 26, 28

**Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show** Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle, December 15, 16, 17. 7:30 p.m.

• **Soweto Gospel Choir:** '... a world-class South African gospel group will bring

its vibrant and powerful voices to the Seattle stage.' The Moore Theater, Seattle. December 18, 7:30 p.m. The Mount Baker Theater, Bellingham. December 17, 7:30 p.m.

**One Seattle Soul Holiday Concert:** Produced by Lady A and the Rhapsody Project, this free show features Lady A, Dexter Allen, roots blues artists Joe Seamons and Briar, and noted gospel artists John Oliver III and Josephine Howell. The Moore Theater December 14 at 3 p.m.

# The Gospel Magnificat

A Gospel Jazz Setting of the Cantic of Mary by Kent Stevenson

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 - 4 PM  
Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church (Greenwood)  
7500 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle 98103

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024 - 7 PM  
First Baptist Church (First Hill)  
1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle 98122

\$25 / door \$15 / Student  
For info: 206 519 4575

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

# BLUES BASH

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 - 7PM

**BLUE TIDE**

ALL AGES WELCOME!

**CHRISTI MICHELLE & HER HIRED GUNS**

\$10 DONATION RECOMMENDED

**AURORA BOREALIS**  
16708 AURORA AVENUE NORTH, SHORELINE, WA 98133  
WWW.WABLUES.ORG | WASHINGTONBLUESOCIETY

**CASCADE BLUES ASSOCIATION**

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

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

The Blues Foundation AFFILIATE

**ROCK FISH GRILL**

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!

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

# MUSICIAN RELIEF FUND THURSDAY

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH - 7PM

PERFORMANCES BY THE  
**WBS BLUES AMBASSADORS**

**MADISON AVE PUB**  
905 MADISON AVE, EVERETT, WA

WWW.WABLUES.ORG

# Concert Reviews, Cont'd.

(Continued from Pg. 6.)

Nozzle Records, "That's What I Heard." While I wished the band played "Nothin' But a Woman," I was grateful for his varied set list. That song from the "Strong Persuader" CD featured the Memphis Horns, and I can see just how much that legendary horn section added to it.

As we left Mount Vernon, I thought of Robert Cray's acceptance speech when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Blues Foundation in 2011 in Memphis. I was on the Board of The Blues Foundation at the time and felt privileged to be there. His smile lit up the room. At the time, he was the youngest member of the Hall of Fame. Since then, Robert Cray's work on three albums have also been inducted into the Hall of Fame: "Strong Persuader," "False Accusations" and "Showdown," the landmark record also including Johnny Copeland and Albert Collins.

In addition, of the 16 Grammy nominations Robert Cray has received from the Recording Academy, he's won five awards in both the contemporary and traditional blues categories.

## **Keith Scott: State Street Blues at the Salmon Bay Eagles**

The second night of our "November Blues Tour" brought Vickie, Cindy and me back to our old Ballard neighborhood, and Seattle's longest-running venue featuring live blues music, the Salmon Bay Eagles.

Chicago-area bluesman, and Washington Blues Society member, Keith Scott returned to Salmon Bay in the middle of a 13-date winter tour that included shows in Leavenworth, Richland, Bainbridge Island, Seattle's Owl 'N Thistle Pub, and Gratitude Brewing in Eugene, Oregon.

We stayed for Keith's first 10-song set, which included many surprises, and, true to the welcoming spirit of this historic

Aerie in Ballard, many surprise guests.

Keith introduced us to members of the JP Falcon Band. This Bellingham-based band first befriended Keith at a jam session at the Shoreline in Birch Bay, and they have played together as their schedules have allowed.

Bluesman JP Falcon won the 2023 Best Band and Best Local Performer award by Bellingham Alive magazine and the band played 22 gigs during the month of November. I am particularly impressed with the photo JP uses on his website: He's saluting the late, legendary Bellingham bluesman Fat James, who is projected behind him onstage.

This past summer, indigenous activist Winona LaDuke invited JP to perform at her annual birthday party on Madeline Island, Wisconsin in Lake Superior. Originally from Browning, Montana, JP is a member of the Blackfeet Nation.

Joining JP and Keith onstage were Dave Tendi and Steve Pearse on sax, Bob Davis on bass, and Salmon Bay Eagles jam host guitarist Dan Abernathy. His wife Judy manages the Aerie and presided over the annual chili cook off that concluded with the Seattle Seahawks win earlier in the day.

Keith started strumming Muddy Waters' classic "Champagne and Reefer" and then added a slide to an impassioned version of Hound Dog Taylor's "Gimme Back My Wig." Dan then played a mean slide guitar on Howlin' Wolf's "Sittin' On Top of the World" before Keith introduced the band.

"Hey," said Keith. "I want to introduce to you a real legend on guitar, Mr. Dan Abernathy. Give it up!"

We learned that Dan played guitar on Moby Grape's last album with the late Jerry Miller who passed on last year. From 1987 to 1991, Dan played rhythm guitar with many of the founding members of Moby

Grape, including guitarists Peter Lewis and Jerry Miller, bassist Bob Mosley and drummer Don Stevenson.

"I was just the sixth man, really," said Dan.

After hearing Dan play guitar, I thought he was much too modest.

The band then played BB King's "Every Day I Have the Blues" and Lightning Hopkins' "Evil Hearted Women Blues" before JP Falcon joined in on a spirited cover of the blues classic "Caledonia."

Sax man Dave Tendi set aside his horn and surprised everyone with his soulful, deep vocals on "The House of the Blues" with Steve Pearse filling in nicely on his horn.

As Keith and the band finished "Sweet Little Angel," I marveled at how each member of this pick up band fit together. No solo intruded or played over another, and each band member stepped up when it was their turn to play. At times, Keith did some impromptu arranging and each soloist played their part.

That's the magic of a blues jam that features blues artists like Keith Scott, JP Falcon, Dave Tendi, Dan Abernathy and Bob Davis. !

Next month, the Salmon Bay Eagles will celebrate 36 years of live blues in Washington State. It began in 1989 when the late Jimie Jean Tuttle asked bluesman Kevin Wallace to put together a house band for a Sunday evening blues jam. That house band featured her husband, Kirk "KT" Tuttle on drums, Jeff Davies on bass, Fast Freddie and Kevin on guitars and Raven Humphres on sax with many special guests that have included "Too Slim" Langford, Eric Madis and Mark Hurwitz. I fondly remember home cooking courtesy of Marcia Jackson ("The Kitchen Wench") and former Worthy Secretary Rocky Nelson's many blues shows there.

# Blues on the Road: A Fine Finish to 2025

*This month, experience music and cultural legends and some pretty special holiday shows to close an eventful year!*

By Eric Steiner

This month's preview marks my final Blues on the Road installment that I've laid out in the Adobe In Design program to support Editor Dr. Polly O'Keary, and it features a range of exceptional opportunities to experience live music in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

This admittedly rather personal list of recommendations includes a 2006 National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship recipient long recognized for her family's cultural contributions to America's civil rights movement of the 1960s, a native son of Everett who schooled John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd the blues while they were shooting "National Lampoon's Animal House" on campus at the University of Oregon, and three nationally-touring artists who will bring very special shows to celebrate the holidays in downtown Seattle!



## **Smokey Robinson: Up Close - Hits and More**

Jazz Alley kicks of the month on December 1 and 2 with a very special show from Smokey Robinson. This acclaimed singer-songwriter's career spans 4+ decades of hits. Robinson has received numerous awards, including the GRAMMY Living Legend Award, NARAS Lifetime Achievement Award, an Honorary Doctorate from Howard University, Kennedy Center Honors, and the National Medal of Arts Award from the President of the United States. He has also been inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters' Hall of Fame. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Robinson founded The Miracles while still in high school. The group was Berry Gordy's first vocal group, and it was at Robinson's suggestion that Gordy started the Motown Record dynasty. Their single of Robinson's "Shop Around" became Motown's first #1 hit on the R&B singles chart. Robinson continued to write hits, including "You've Really Got a Hold on Me," "Ooo Baby

Baby," "The Tracks of My Tears," "Going to a Go-Go," "More Love," "Tears of a Clown" (co-written with fellow Detroiter Stevie Wonder), and "I Second That Emotion." (Banner from Smokey Robinson Website)



## **Mavis Staples**

On December 2, welcome the legendary Mavis Staples to Seattle's McCaw Hall with the legendary Mavis Staples, who sang such classic songs with The Staple Singers as "Respect Yourself," "I'll Take You There," and "Let's Do It Again." Last month, Universal Music's Anti- imprint released "Sad And Beautiful World," with contributions from Buddy Guy, Bonnie Raitt, Jeff Tweedy, Derek Trucks, Katie Crutchfield, MJ Lenderman, and Justin Vernon. I look forward to Ms. Staples singing "We Got to Have Peace" written by her friend Curtis Mayfield, Gillian Welch's "Hard Times" by Gillian Welch and the title song by Sparklehorse's. I shouted about Mavis' recent show at Seattle's Paramount Theatre for the annual Seattle Theatre Group fundraising gala in these pages, and I highly recommend this rare opportunity to experience a true American legend as the closest she'll get to our region is two shows in Denver next March! Selfishly, I wonder if Smokey Robinson would join Mavis Staples at McCaw Hall for an encore (Note to Smokey's handlers: It's just a Monorail ride away in the shadow of the Space Needle!). (Photo of Mavis Staples by Elizabeth De La Piedra)

## **Curtis Salgado**

On December 6, soul blues icon Curtis Salgado will play the Airport Tavern Music Hall on South Tacoma Way in Tacoma. Curtis Salgado is one of the most decorated



artists in the blues today: a B.B. King Entertainer of the Year and multi-time Soul Blues Male Artist winner. This year, he swept the Blues Music Awards with Soul Blues Male and Soul Blues Album for "Fine By Me," released on the Little Village Foundation record label in 2024. Curtis' earlier releases on the Alligator Records label have earned a shelf of Blues Music Awards from The Blues Foundation, including B.B. King Entertainer of the Year, Soul Blues Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year statuettes. (Photo of Curtis Salgado by Eric Steiner)

## **Songwriters' Rooms**

Long-time Washington Blues Society partner The Seattle Theatre Group will host its third Songwriters' Room networking opportunity during its 2025-26 season on December 14, 2-6 PM at Kerry Hall. This opportunity is reserved for songwriters 18+ and is a monthly songwriting meetup designed to foster collaboration, dismantle barriers in the music scene, and give emerging artists a space to co-create. Kerry Hall, on the Seattle University Cornish College of the Arts campus on Seattle's Capitol Hill, is located

at 710 East Roy Street. This unique program brings musicians of diverse backgrounds together through rotating songwriting sessions, guided warm-ups, and intentional networking opportunities. Scholarships are available to select applicants to defray the \$20 fee (and registration is required).

**Big Hank's Christmas Blues Show at the Blue Frog Recording Studios in White Rock, British Columbia**

Many years ago, I saw Hank Lionhart's "Uncle Wiggly's Hot Shoes Christmas," with British Columbia's Keeping the Blues Alive Award photographer Suzanne Swanson, and on December 13, Hank will lead Big Hank ("Uncle Wiggly") & The Smokin' Hot Toasters at the Blue Frog Recording Studios in White Rock, British Columbia. The Smokin' Hot Toasters feature Big Hank Lionhart on guitar and vocals, Steve Cross on guitar, Mick Woodhouse on bass, Dave Emery on drums, Steve Ranta on keys, and Jerry Cook and Jonnie Bridgeman on sax.

Prior to the pandemic, Hank Lionhart and Mark Comerford represented the Fraser Valley Blues Society in the Solo/Duo competition at The Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge as The Blue Hearts, and I highly recommend this show for an enjoyable celebration of Christmas music (and "Uncle Wiggly's" festive costumes!).

In learning about this show, I learned something new about artists like Gino Vanelli, Mindi Abair or the award-winning, genre-bending funk band, Coco Jafro, from sponsor WAVE 98.3 FM online from Vancouver ("Vancouver's Coolest Vibe"). For other special holiday themed shows, see Steve Pearse's preview in this issue!



**Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show**

From December 15-19, Jazz Alley

welcomes back six-time Grammy-winners and Gospel Music Hall of Famers, the Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show for three nights. The line-up includes singers Sterling Glass, J.W. Smith, Ricky McKinnie, guitarist/singer Joey Williams and a full band with drums, keyboard, and bass. Show times Monday - Wednesday at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:00pm Monday and 5:30pm Tuesday and Wednesday. This show is supported by KNKX. (Photo of the Blind Boys of Alabama Courtesy of Jazz Alley)



**David Benoit Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown featuring Courtney Fortune**

From December 18-21, the venue welcomes pianist/composer/arranger David Benoit with special guest vocalist Courtney Fortune for a Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown. Band members are David Benoit on piano, vocalist Courtney Fortune, bassist Roberto Vally and drummer Dan Schnelle. Show times Thursday & Sunday at 7:30pm and Friday & Saturday at 7:30pm and 9:30pm. Doors open at 6:00pm Thursday and 5:30pm Friday through Sunday. This show is supported by KNKX. (Photo of David Benoit Courtesy of Jazz Alley)



**Mark O'Connor's An Appalachian Christmas featuring Maggie O'Connor**

The third Jazz Alley Christmas show is supported by KBCS and welcomes 3x Grammy-winner, 7x CMA award winner, composer/fiddler Mark O'Connor featur-

ing vocalist/fiddler Maggie O'Connor for two nights and two shows on December 22 and 23, on tour in support of their new album "A Christmas Duo." Show time Monday and Tuesday at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:00pm each night. (Photo of Mark and Maggie O'Connor Courtesy of Jazz Alley)

**Author's Note:** If you'd like to suggest a show of a nationally touring artist for a future Blues on the Road preview, please email Eric Steiner at [ericsteiner@wablues.org](mailto:ericsteiner@wablues.org) and/or [ericrichd@aol.com](mailto:ericrichd@aol.com) (yes, I'm that old)!



MUSICIANS  
RELIEF  
FUND



tax-deductible  
contributions are  
always in tune

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

# December 2025 Live Blues Music Calendar

Our [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org) calendar is the most current & contact the venue for start time + additional details

## DECEMBER 1

**El Sid, Everett:** Blues Ambassadors 7p.m.  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mad Bojo 7 p.m.  
**The Royal Room, Seattle:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Smokey Robinson 7:30 p.m.  
**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 p.m.  
**Owl 'N Thistle, Seattle:** Aquilizer 9 p.m.  
**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** La Luz 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 2

**Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend:** Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.  
**The Royal Room, Seattle:** David Nicoletta Ensemble Holiday Jazz 7:30 p.m.  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Nick Vigarino 7 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Smokey Robinson 7:30 p.m.  
**McCaw Hall, Seattle:** KEXP Yule Benefit With Jeff Tweedy and Mavis Staples 7:30 p.m.  
**Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver:** Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.  
**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** The 350's 7p.m. Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 3

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m. Ranger and the Re-Arrangers Django Christmas 7 p.m.  
**CCR, Snohomish:** Usual Suspects 6 p.m.  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Jacky Terrasson Trio 7:30 p.m.  
**Seamonster, Seattle:** Weinstein Wednesday 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 4

**Port Townsend Winery, Port Townsend:** Eric Madis 4 p.m.  
**Black & Tan, Seattle:** Live Lounge 7 p.m.  
**Cellar Cat, Kingston:** Annie Eastwood Trio 5 p.m.  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Blues Ambassadors 7 p.m.  
**Metier Brewing Co. Seattle:** Elnah Jordan 7 p.m.  
**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Daddy Treetops and the Pourboys 8 p.m.  
**Tractor Tavern, Seattle:** Chris Smither and The Motivators 8 p.m.  
**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Sugar Time Trio 8 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Brittany Davis & Black Thunder 7:30 p.m.  
**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Lonnie Williams Baand 8 p.m.  
**Snapdragon, Vashon:** Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.  
**Owl and Thistle, Seattle:** Danny Godinez Presents 9 p.m.

## DECEMBER 5

**Rockfish, Anacortes:** Bluesfish 7 p.m.

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Guitar Gil and Friends 7 p.m.  
**Kimball Coffee, Gig Harbor:** Powerhouse 7 p.m.  
**Bainbridge Island Museum, Bainbridge:** Simon Chrisman and Wes Corbett 7:30 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Boney James 7:30 p.m.  
**CCR, Snohomish:** Earl Van Haydn 8p.m.  
**Mermaid Lounge, Seattle:** Alicia Healey and Wes Weddell 8 p.m.  
**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Trio Flamenco 8 p.m.  
**El Capitan's, Bellingham:** Cassandra May and James 8 p.m.  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** One Island Drop 8 p.m.  
**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Trifecta 8 p.m.  
**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Jim Campilongo Trio, 8p.m. Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 6

**Good Shepherd Center, Seattle:** Blue Street Voices 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
**The Repp, Snohomish:** Annie Eastwood & Billy Stapleton 6:30 p.m.  
**Brewminati, Proser:** Chris Smither and The Motivators 7 p.m.  
**Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett KatEgory 7 Band 7 p.m.**  
**Getaway tavern, Mountlake Terrace:** Stacy Jones Band 7 p.m.  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Centerpiece 7 p.m.  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mojo Cannon 7 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Boney James 7:30 p.m.  
**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Prom Date Mixtape 8 p.m.  
**CCR, Snohomish:** The Pioneer Squares 8p.m.  
**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Tumbling Dice 8 p.m.

## DECEMBER 7

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Jones Family Christmas 5 p.m.  
**Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma:** SSBA Holiday Party w The Coyote Kings 5 p.m.  
**Eddison Inn, Edison:** Chris Eger Christmas Show 5:30 p.m.  
**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Sunday Music Revue 7 p.m.  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** Chad Rupp and the Sugar Roots 7 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Boney James 7:30 p.m.  
**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Randy Weeks 4 p.m., Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

## DECEMBER 8

**El Sid, Everett:** Blues Ambassadors 7p.m.  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mad Bojo 7 p.m.  
**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 p.m.  
**Owl 'N Thistle, Seattle:** Aquilizer 9 p.m.  
**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** La Luz 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 9

**Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend:** Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.  
**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Washington Blues Society Blues Bash featuring The Blue Tide and Christie Michelle and her Hired Guns 7 p.m.  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Norris and Nicley 7 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Mike Stern Band 7:30 p.m.  
**The Royal Room, Seattle:** Cherrie Adams with The Forman-Finley Band 7:30 p.m.  
**Nectar, Seattle:** Robert Glasper 8 p.m.  
**Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver:** Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.  
**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** The 350's 7:30 p.m. Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 10

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m. Michael Wansley 7 p.m.  
**CCR, Snohomish:** Usual Suspects 6 p.m.  
**Seamonster, Seattle:** Hot Rod 7p.m.  
**The Spar, Tacoma:** Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.  
**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Rebecca James 7:30 p.m.  
**Royal Room, Seattle:** Where's Beth 7:30 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Mike Stern Band 7:30 p.m.

## DECEMBER 11

**Black & Tan, Seattle:** Live Lounge 7 p.m.  
**Bad Albert's, Seattle:** Annie Eastwood and Friends 6 p.m.  
**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.  
**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Pearl Django 7 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** The Spinners 7:30 p.m.  
**The Royal Room, Seattle:** The 11th Annual Snow Globe benefiting Northwest Harvest w Kristin Chambers and the Mack grout Trio 7:30 p.m.  
**Nectar, Seattle:** Sunsquabi 8 p.m.  
**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Jeff and the Jet City Fliers 8 p.m.  
**Snapdragon, Vashon:** Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.  
**Owl and Thistle, Seattle:** Danny Godinez Presents 9 p.m.  
**Seamonster, Seattle:** Paige Sandusky Band 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 12

**North Terminal Marketplace, Sea Tac Airport:** Eric Madis 11:30 a.m.  
**Hidden Hall, Seattle:** Deal 6:30 p.m.  
**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 7 p.m.  
**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** The Spinners 7:30 p.m.  
**The Royal Room, Seattle:** Alice Howe & Freebo / Tekla & Jeff 7:30 p.m.  
**Rockfish, Anacortes:** Chris Eger and the Fat James

Band 7:30 p.m.

**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Storm Rider 8 p.m.

**CCR, Snohomish:** The Short Cutz 8 p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** After 4 Band 8 p.m.

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Pearl Django 8 p.m.

**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Raising Slane 8 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Shady Bottom 8p.m.  
Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 13

**Royal Room, Seattle:** 23rd Annual Holiday Hootenanny and Sing-along 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**Egan's, Seattle:** McPage and Carr Christmas Show 7 p.m.

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** 85th Street big Band 7 p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Leah Tussing and MFJB 7 p.m.

**Pub 282, Camano Island:** Rock Radio 7 p.m.

**Sound 2 Summit, Snohomish:** Stacy Jones Band 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** The Spinners 7:30 p.m.

**Rockfish, Anacortes:** Harp Attack 20 with Steve Bailey, Joe Cook, Joel Astley, The Blue Flames 7:30 p.m.

**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Blues Velvet Groove Funk-A-Licious Holiday Party 8 p.m.

**CCR, Snohomish:** Jet City players 8 p.m.

**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Ron Bailey and the Tangents 8 p.m.

## DECEMBER 14

**Moore Theater, Seattle:** One Seattle Soul Holiday Concert 3 p.m.

**Kilworth Chapel, Tacoma:** Blues Vespers w Stacy Jones Band 5 p.m.

**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Sunday Music Revue 7 p.m.

**The Spar, Tacoma:** Sunday Blues 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** The Spinners 7:30 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Red Dress 4 p.m., Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

## DECEMBER 15

**El Sid, Everett:** Blues Ambassadors 7p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mad Bojo 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas 7:30 p.m.

**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 p.m.

**Owl 'N Thistle, Seattle:** Aquilizer 9 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** La Luz 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 16

**Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend:** Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Unbound 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas 7:30 p.m.

**Royal Room, Seattle:** Critical Mass Big Band Home for the Holidays 7:30 p.m.

**Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver:** Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Foleada 7p.m. Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 17

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.

**CCR, Snohomish:** Usual Suspects 6 p.m.

**The Spar, Tacoma:** Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.

**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Jazz Punishments 7:30 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas 7:30 p.m.

**Royal Room, Seattle:** Cascadia Big Band Christmas 7:30 p.m.

**Nectar, Seattle:** Steely Dead 8 p.m.

## DECEMBER 18

**Black & Tan, Seattle:** Hillman City Sway 8 p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Songwriters Showcase 7 p.m.

**Pub 282, Camano Island:** Chris Eger Band 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** David Benoit 7:30 p.m.

**Seamonster, Seattle:** How Now Brown Cow 7:30 p.m.

**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** All Stars and No Stripes 8 p.m.

**Snapdragon, Vashon:** Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.

**Owl and Thistle, Seattle:** Danny Godinez Presents 9 p.m.

## DECEMBER 19

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Rain City Riff Raff 7 p.m.

**Pub 282, Camano Island:** Roc Martens 7 p.m.

**Royal Room, Seattle:** 23rd Annual Holiday Hootenanny and Sing-along 7 p.m.

**Kimball Coffee, Gig Harbor:** The Profits 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** David Benoit 7:30 p.m.

**CCR, Snohomish:** Davanos 8 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Phoebe Katis 8 p.m.  
Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 20

**Black and Tan Hall, Seattle:** Hot Piano Club of Seattle 5 p.m.

**The Royal Room, Seattle:** Crack Sabbath Xmas show 7:30 p.m.

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Take Seventeen Big Band 7 p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Dana Osborn 7 p.m.

**Pub 282, Camano Island:** Jimmy Wright 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** David Benoit 7:30 p.m.

**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Diamond Star Halo 8 p.m.

**CCR, Snohomish:** Engage 8 p.m.

## DECEMBER 21

**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Washington Blues Society Holiday Party 4 p.m.

**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Sunday Music Revue 7 p.m.

**The Spar, Tacoma:** Sunday Blues 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** David Benoit 7:30 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Marriott Brothers 4 p.m., Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

## DECEMBER 22

**El Sid, Everett:** Blues Ambassadors 7p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mad Bojo 7 p.m.

**Royal Room, Seattle:** Alex Baird 7:30 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Mark O'Connor 7:30 p.m.

**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 p.m.

**Owl 'N Thistle, Seattle:** Aquilizer 9 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** La Luz 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 23

**SeaTac Sub Pop, Sea Tac Airport:** Eric Madis 11:30 a.m.

**Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend:** Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Sutton & Pittman 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Mark O'Conner 7:30 p.m.

**Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver:** Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Bigtooth 7p.m. Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 24

**North City Bistro, Shoreline:** Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.

**Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma:** Gin Creek Christmas Eve 5 p.m.

**The Spar, Tacoma:** Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.

## DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## DECEMBER 26

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Big Mischief 7 p.m.

**The Royal Room, Seattle:** Django Jazz Christmas with Ranger and the "Re-Arrangers" 7 p.m.

**CCR, Snohomish:** Steel Country 8 p.m.

**Hidden Hall, Seattle:** OG McTuff Holiday Special 8 p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Sugar Push 8 p.m.

**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Ryan T Higgins Band 8 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

*(Continued on Page 23)*

# December 2025 Live Blues Music Calendar (Continued)

Our [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org) calendar is the most current & contact the venue for start time + additional details

## DECEMBER 27

**Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park:** Rebecca James 7 p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Joe Cook Band 7 p.m.

**Edison Inn, Edison:** Fat Fridays 8 p.m.

**Pub 282, Camano:** Stacy Jones Band 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kenny G 7:30 p.m.

**Royal Room, Seattle:** Pigpen & The Royal We 7:30 p.m.

**CCR, Snohomish:** The Vandalls 8 p.m.

**Nectar, Seattle:** True Loves w Boot Juice 8 p.m.

**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Karlito, Moose and Squirrel 8 p.m.

## DECEMBER 28

**Peabo's, Mill Creek:** Sunday Music Revue 7 p.m.

**The Spar, Tacoma:** Sunday Blues 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kenny G 7:30 p.m.

**Royal Room, Seattle:** Pigpen and Sweeter than The Day 7:30 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

## DECEMBER 29

**Angel of the Winds, Arlington:** Fat Fridays 11 a.m.

**El Sid, Everett:** Blues Ambassadors 7p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Mad Bojo 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kenny G 7:30 p.m.

**Blue Moon, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 9 p.m.

**Owl 'N Thistle, Seattle:** Aquilizer 9 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** La Luz 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 30

**Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend:** Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Ryan T Higgins Band 7 p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kenny G 7:30 p.m.

**Hidden Hall, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 8 p.m.

**Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver:** Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.

**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle:** Bigtooth 7p.m. Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

## DECEMBER 31

**Triple Door, Seattle:** Dusty 45's 7p.m.

**Jazz Alley, Seattle:** Kenny G 7:30 p.m.

**Aurora Borealis, Shoreline:** Arena and the 80's Ladies 8 p.m.

**CCR, Snohomish:** Mystery Date 8 p.m.

**Hidden Hall, Seattle:** Andy Coe Band 8 p.m.

**Four Points Ballroom, Bellingham:** Chris Eger Band 8 p.m.

**Nectar, Seattle:** Eldridge Gravy and the Court Supreme w Citrus 8 p.m.

**Neptune, Seattle:** Mudhoney 8 p.m.

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Short Cutz 8 p.m.

**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Annie Eastwood All Stars 8 p.m.

**Wenatchee Convention Center, Wenatchee:** Whiskey Trail 8 p.m.

**Eddison Inn, Eddison:** Ron Bailey and the Tangents 9 p.m.

**ALL STAR INVITATIONAL JAM**

**December 29 | 7PM**  
**EL SID - APEX EVERETT**  
**1611 Everett Ave, Everett**

Logos for Washington Blues Society, Apex, and Everett are at the bottom.

2 Books by NW Legend Little Bill

**\$25 per or 2 for \$40**

EMAIL ORDERS  
**JENGEHART22@COMCAST.NET**

# BB Award Nomination Form

Please review guidelines, pg. 13

1. Male Vocalist \_\_\_\_\_
2. Kathi McDonald Female Vocalist \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Electric Blues Guitar \_\_\_\_\_
4. Slide Blues Guitar \_\_\_\_\_
5. Acoustic Blues Guitar \_\_\_\_\_
6. Blues Bass \_\_\_\_\_
7. Blues Drummer \_\_\_\_\_
8. Blues Harmonica \_\_\_\_\_
9. Blues Piano/Keyboard \_\_\_\_\_
10. Blues Horn \_\_\_\_\_
11. Blues Instrumentalist - Other \_\_\_\_\_
12. Blues Rock Band \_\_\_\_\_
13. Little Bill & The Blue Notes Traditional Blues Band \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Best Solo/Duo \_\_\_\_\_
15. New Blues Act \_\_\_\_\_
16. Patti Allen Blues Performer \_\_\_\_\_
17. Blues Songwriter \_\_\_\_\_
18. Blues Recording \_\_\_\_\_
19. Blues Club \_\_\_\_\_
20. Blues Jam \_\_\_\_\_
21. Blues Writer \_\_\_\_\_
22. Blues Image \_\_\_\_\_
23. Blues Graphic \_\_\_\_\_
24. Blues DJ \_\_\_\_\_
25. Keeping the Blues Alive \_\_\_\_\_
26. Blues Hall of Fame (Individual) \_\_\_\_\_
27. Blues Hall of Fame (Band) \_\_\_\_\_
28. Regional Blues Festival \_\_\_\_\_
29. Community Blues Festival/Event \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
30. Lifetime Achievement \_\_\_\_\_
31. Non-Festival Blues Event \_\_\_\_\_

## Board Member Ballot

The following people have been nominated for positions on the WBS Board of Directors. Please vote for these candidates or write in an alternative. Due by Dec. 9. Can be turned in at the Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis.

### President

- Casey Sutton
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Vice President

- Kevin Young
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Secretary

- Dana Lupinacci
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Treasurer

- Susan (Duchess) Dodd
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Director

- Mary McPage
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Music Director-

- Angelo Ortiz
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Editor

- Polly O'Keary
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 70604  
Seattle, WA 98127

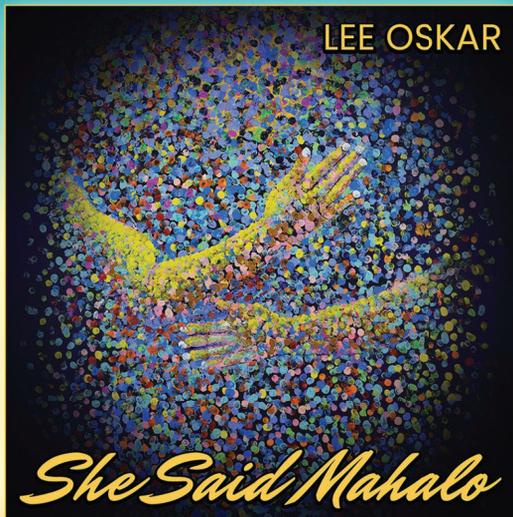
Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 5617



Change Service Requested



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



"She Said Mahalo"  
The new album  
from Lee Oskar

Available Now



Streaming on:



Lee Oskar

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

