

Blues

Washington

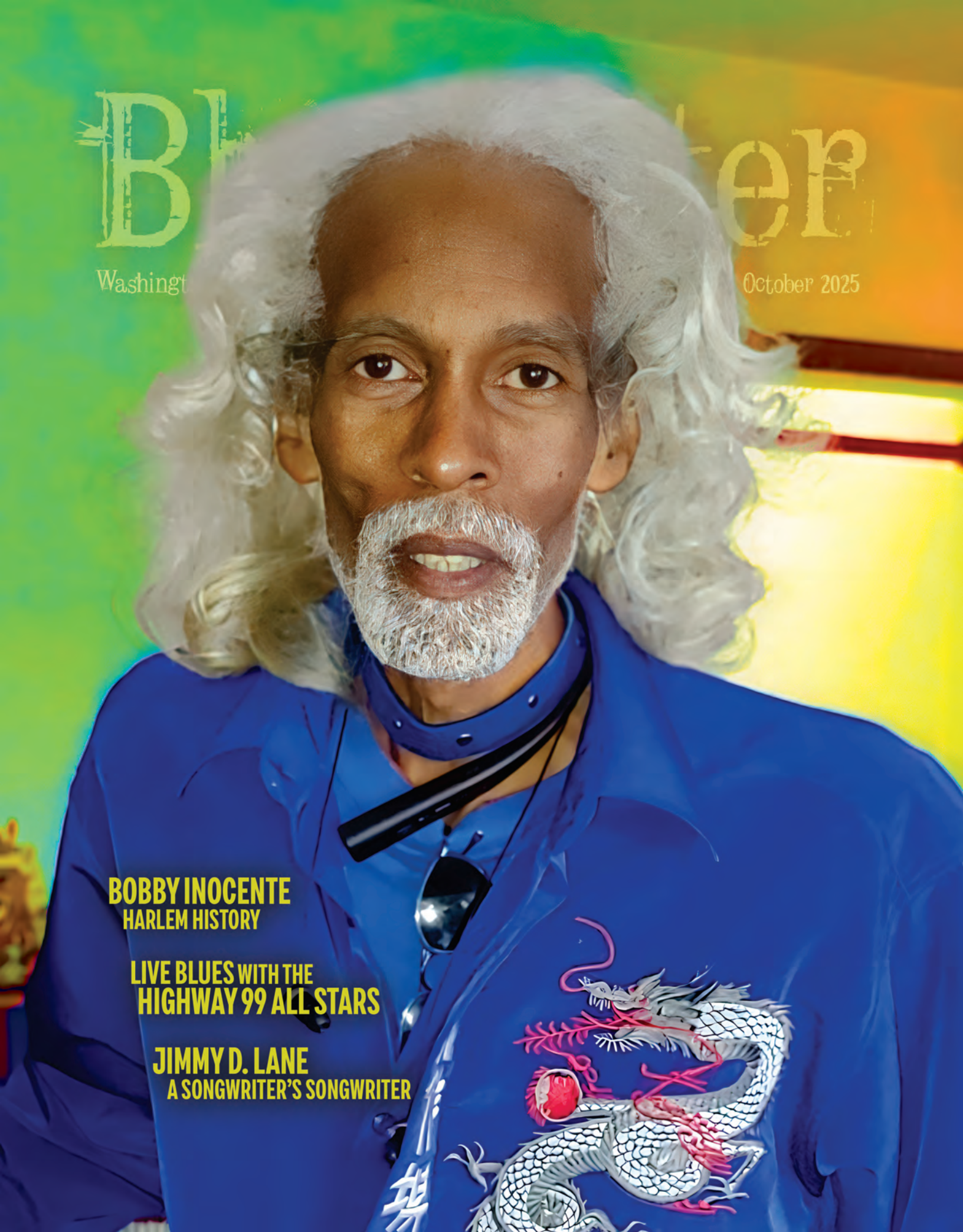
er

October 2025

BOBBY INOCENTE
HARLEM HISTORY

**LIVE BLUES WITH THE
HIGHWAY 99 ALL STARS**

JIMMY D. LANE
A SONGWRITER'S SONGWRITER



Letter from the Editor



This issue's article about Bremerton's unsung musical legend Bobby Inocente was one I have been looking forward to since my husband, drummer Tommy Cook, came home from a studio session with him.

"You gotta write about this guy I recorded with today," he announced. "You wouldn't believe the stuff this guy has done. He played at the Apollo. He

played with every soul band you can think of. And he's a super nice guy."

My ears perked up, because I know there are several Washington musicians with eye-popping resumes that few people know of. I was glad to write about the Seattle guitarist Herman Brown last year for that very reason. I am always looking to capture the histories of the musicians of Washington state so that they aren't lost.

I finally got out to interview Bobby Inocente a month ago. I had already read up on him, and the scant amount of information about him on the internet made me doubly anxious to see his story recorded. Among the many things he has done in an illustrious career was play with the MFSB Band, which is to soul what the Funk Brothers were to Motown. However, unlike the Funk Brothers and other studio teams like them, MFSB members very seldom got individual credit for their work.

Bobby is not primarily a blues player, but I found him a worthy subject for the Bluesletter because soul is a popular inclusion in blues festivals, and because many blues fans also love funk, soul, and R&B music, all of which Bobby has done extensively. Furthermore, Bobby is currently at work on a blues recording with Bremerton singer Lolo Marie. Lastly, there will be a rare opportunity for north Seattle and Snohomish County blues fans to hear Bobby and Lolo at Peabo's Sunday night showcase on October 12.

Interviewing Bobby was an adventure. His story is so sprawling and vast that, just as I felt I had almost accounted for the timeline of his professional career in New York, he was already off on a tangent reflecting on shows he did many years later with Helen Reddy, or a Grammy party he went to in L.A., or the time he met Chuck Berry in a truck stop out on the road.

It is a magical story. It speaks to eras that left important marks on American music, but more than that, it offers a glimpse into cultural scenes that were unique, vivid, intense, and brief. Harlem in the late 1960s, Philadelphia in the early 1970s, L.A. in the '80s, Bobby was there, like the Forest Gump of music.

I was also impressed that Bobby helped revive the career of gay country music icon Patrick Haggerty, 50 years after Haggerty's record, the first country album with gay themes recorded in the US, sold less than 1,000 copies in 1972. With Bobby's help,

Haggerty's rebooted Lavender Country caught national attention, even winning a feature article in Rolling Stone Magazine in 2022.

I hope you enjoy reading about Bobby's odyssey through music, and I hope it inspires you to get out and see him play with Lolo when you get the chance. Guys like Bobby won't be with us forever, and we are fortunate to have people like him in our midst.

Cheers!



Polly O'Keary, Editor
Washington Blues Society Bluesletter



2 Books by NW
Legend Little Bill
\$25 per or 2 for \$40



EMAIL ORDERS
JENGELHART22@COMCAST.NET



Welcome to the October Bluesletter! This issue features an interview with a groundbreaking musician from Bremerton, Bobby Inocente, looks back at a special year in Washington Blues Society history, and includes frequent contributor Kirk Anderson's review of two shows of the Highway 99 All-Stars at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley. Returning contributor Michele D'Amour McDanel talks songwriting with Chicago blues royalty Jimmy D. Lane (and gives Bluesletter readers reasons to check out Canadian singer songwriter Jill Newman's excellent new CD in our reviews section). Finally, it's also time to nominate candidates for the 2026 Washington Blues Society Board of Directors – please see former secretary Marisue Thomas' nomination guidelines and your nomination ballot in this issue! Next month, the Bluesletter will feature an expanded reviews section, an interview with Taj Mahal to celebrate his 30th anniversary at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley in Seattle, and welcome Robert Cray to the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon, Washington. (Eric Steiner)

Above: Highway 99 All-Star (and Keeping the Blues Alive Award recipient) Bob Corritore signs his most recent LP "Doin' the Shout" for 2026 Washington Blues Society International Blues Challenge bandleader Joel Astley at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley! (Photo by Kirk Anderson)

Cover: Bobby Inocente - See Polly O'Keary's featured interview this issue! Cover design and layout by Sean Donovan of Gator Boy Productions, 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

- 6 Bobby Inocente is Playing the Blues
- 8 Talking Songwriting with Jimmy D. Lane
- 10 Carrie's Corner
- 12 CD Reviews
- 14 Highway 99 All-Stars at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley
- 18 Blues on the Road

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY STUFF!

- 5 Washington Blues Society History... a Look Back
- 9 Dept of Corrections
- 11 Election Season: Board Nominations Now Open
- 20 October 2025 Live Music Calendar
- 23 It's Nomination Time!

THE WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY BLUESLETTER
OCTOBER 2025 - Volume XXXVI, Number X

PUBLISHER

Washington Blues Society - www.wablues.org

EDITOR

Polly O'Keary (editor@wablues.org)

PRINTER

Pacific Publishing Company
(www.pacificpublishing.com)

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Eric Steiner, Polly O'Keary, Carrie Parduhn, Klirk Anderson,
Nealie Anderson, Kevin Anderson, Marisue Thomas,
Michele D'Amour McDanel

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Gordy Mitchell, Eric Steiner, Carrie Parduhn,
Nancy Rankin Escovedo, Keith Scott, Lolo Marie, Kirk Anderson

NOVEMBER BLUESLETTER DEADLINES

Ad Reservations	5 p.m. on 9/30 to editor@wablues.org
Calendar	5 p.m. on 10/10 online. Please submit @ www.wablues.org
Editorial	5 p.m. on 10/1 to editor@wablues.org
Camera-Ready Ad Art	5 p.m. on 10/5 to 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 only as attachments only to 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 identifier. 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 than traditional print media CMYK format only (for color) and grayscale (for B & W). Cover size: 8.5 in x 11 in.

Please never, ever send photos formatted as RGB images. Please only send high resolution, CMYK, print-ready images. Please title photos with a unique file name, and please remove any watermark or branding information from all photos. If time allows, volunteers will remove all watermarks from all photos submitted. 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	president@wablues.org
Vice President, Kevin Young	vicepres@wablues.org
Interim Treasurer, Carrie Parduhn	treasurer@wablues.org
Interim Secretary, Dana Lupinacci	secretary@wablues.org
Editor, Polly O'Keary	editor@wablues.org
Music Director, Angelo Ortiz	music@wablues.org
Membership, Mary McPage	membership@wablues.org

2025 DIRECTORS

Education, Kevin Sutton	education@wablues.org
Advertising, Open	advertising@wablues.org
Volunteers, Open	volunteers@wablues.org
Merchandise, Open	merchandise@wablues.org
Seattle Peace Concerts Co-Chairs Sara St. John & Diane Forsyth	TBD

SPECIAL THANKS

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

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. The Washington Blues Society received the Keeping the Blues Alive Award from The Blues Foundation in 2009.



WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 70604
SEATTLE, WA 98127

Washington Blues Society History... a look back!

EACH YEAR THE BLUES FESTIVAL GUIDE CONGRATULATES THE RECIPIENT OF THE KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE AWARD FOR BEST BLUES SOCIETY

KBA RECIPIENT 2009

BLUES FOUNDATION'S BLUES SOCIETY OF THE YEAR WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

by Eric Steiner and Malcolm Kennedy



The Washington Blues Society (WBS) is celebrating its 20th anniversary and is fortunate to receive the Keeping the Blues Alive Award from the Blues Foundation. We are also proud of our fellow 2009 KBA recipients from the Evergreen State: John Kessler (Public Radio) and Barbara Hammerman (Sponsor).

Over the last two decades, WBS has grown from a small group of Seattle blues lovers to over 600 members; perhaps because the Board of Directors – all volunteers for our 501c3 nonprofit – has focused on the basics. In addition to hosting a two-hour “Blues Bash” concert every month, WBS publishes the *Bluesletter* that lands in members’ mailboxes by the first of every month. While we don’t sponsor a festival, we host a free, all-ages summer picnic featuring five bands. Recently, grants from Seattle’s Office of Arts and Culture have provided stipends for bands playing the picnic, and the event has helped raise the Society’s visibility in the greater Seattle area. In addition, the WBS holiday party brings people together with blues music. WBS also provides volunteers to blues festivals throughout the state, including the Sunbanks festivals, Mount Baker Rhythm and Blues Festival, the Country Blues Workshop at Centrum in Port Townsend, the Winthrop Blues Festival, Rendezvous Blues Festival and more.

The society has a small Musicians’ Relief Fund, which helps families with emergency assistance, medical bills and even funeral expenses for blues community members in need. The Board also actively engages local blues clubs in raising funds. Most notably, the Highway 99 Blues Club has been

a stalwart supporter of WBS activities by hosting fundraisers, offering discounts, and has opened its doors when it had been normally dark. It’s no coincidence that Highway 99 has taken home the hardware in the annual WBS “Best of the Blues” award in the Blues Club category for the last four years.

Venues as diverse as Tacoma’s Jazzbones, Dimitrou’s Jazz Alley in Seattle, Engel’s in Edmonds and Grinder’s in Shoreline all have contributed to the success of the WBS, and the Red Crane Restaurant provides an all-ages venue.

Our annual awards show, the BB Awards, honors artists in 28 categories. This year, the BB Awards will return for a third time to Seattle’s elegant Triple Door, home to world-class talent like Sonny Landreth, Tommy Castro, Janiva Magness, Harry Manx and a whole host of usual touring suspects.

This year has been an exceptional year for the Washington Blues Society. Recognition from the Blues Foundation has been important, and we will continue to work hard and focus on the basics – providing our membership with quality live blues experiences and in the pages of our *Bluesletter*. 🎸

Slippery Noodle Inn
May 8th & 9th

Watseka Blues & BBQ
May 30th

Jefferson County Fair
opening for Kenny Wayne Shepherd
July 11th

Blues on the Chippewa
August 1st

Big Bull Falls Blues Festival
August 14th

Paramount Blues Festival
August 21st

“Jamie Brace really rocked the house at the Madison Blues Society 2009 Wild Women event.” Madison Blues Society

“With the addition of Jared, the sky is again the limit for this hardworking band.”
Sharon Pomaville, Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine

hounds tooth

For Bookings Contact: JD Optekar
414.828.6395 jd@houndstoothblues.com
www.houndstoothblues.com



Members of the 2009 Washington Blues Society at Seattle’s Salmon Bay Eagles Club: Eric Steiner (President), Mary McPage (Editor), Dennis Dudley (Blues Boss), Malcolm Kennedy (V.P.) and Tony Frederickson (Merchandise Director) Photo by Zap

Bobby Inocente is Playing the Blues

Bremerton veteran of Apollo Theater and Philly Soul's legendary MFSB band reflects on star-studded career

By Polly O'Keary, Editor

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, a musician who got a gig at the Apollo Theater in New York City's Harlem had made it. The most famous black blues, R&B and soul artists in the world worked there, including Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin, James Brown and Luther Vandross. Even the members of the bands that backed the competitors at Amateur Night at the Apollo, a televised talent show begun in 1935 that still runs today, had landed one of the best gigs you could get.

Bobby Inocente got his first gig there when he was just 16. Over the next 50 years, the musician, now living in Bremerton, worked with legends from Teddy Pendergrass to Chubby Checker. At one time or another, he played genres from soul, blues and R&B to country and western.

Last month found him sitting down in a studio in Shoreline working on his latest project, a blues recording with Bremerton singer Lolo Marie, with whom he will appear as the featured guests at Peabo's Sunday night invitational showcase in Mill Creek on October 12. As the studio session players took a break, he reminisced about his experiences at the heart of some of America's greatest music scenes, including the Apollo in the early 1970s and the great age of Philadelphia soul.

New York Beginnings

For a guy whose day job was teaching high school for many years, Bobby Bobby skipped a lot of school as a kid growing up in the Bronx.

"I was a chronic truant," he said. "In New York there was always something to do."

Bobby had fallen in love with music at age 11, when he first saw The Beatles on TV, and he'd been playing guitar ever since. When he and his friends cut class, they usually went to see live music in Greenwich Village or Harlem.

One of Bobby's favorite spots was The Apollo Theater.

"It was one of four places that we used to call the chitlin' circuit back then," he said. "In Washington, D.C., you had the Howard Theater. In Chicago, you had The Regal. Philadelphia had the Uptown, and the granddaddy of them all was the Apollo."

Bobby spent so much time there that he got to know a lot of the people who worked there, and even started running errands for some of the celebrities who came to perform.

"I remember going around the corner, getting chicken dinner for Redd Foxx," he said. "You met a lot of people at the Apollo."

One of the acts that performed at the Apollo the most in those days was Little Anthony and the Imperials. The doo-wop group had a string of hits through the 1960s, including "Tears on My Pillow" and "Shimmy Shimmy Koko Bop," and they were near the height of their career, appearing on the Ed Sullivan Show, American Bandstand, Soul Train, and other national shows.

Bobby was already playing small clubs by then, but was relatively unknown. Then Little Anthony's guitar failed to make it to a show at the Apollo.

"I went backstage and pleaded with Little Anthony, you know, can I do the set?" Bobby said. "He gave me my first break. That's how I first broke into the business."

Soon, Bobby was a regular at the Apollo, and Little Anthony even wanted to take him on tour. When Bobby's mother worried about the lifestyle of the people her son was working with, Little Anthony reassured her.

"Little Anthony went to my mother and said, 'I will take care of him, you know, just allow him to come on the road.' And I did. But I only did it during the summer when I didn't have school. When school started, Anthony said, 'Man, you gotta go back to school.'"

Life in New York in those days was exciting. The music scene was exploding, and



Bobby Inocente, right, backs Bremerton blues artist Lolo Marie at a local show. The two are recording a song written by Inocente, a musician who has backed some of the largest soul and R&B bands in history. Photo courtesy Lolo Marie.

celebrities were everywhere. Bobby ran errands for a house-bound Buddy Miles, and Louis Armstrong lived around the corner from where Bobby's mother worked.

"You'd think Louis Armstrong would live in this big mansion, but no," Bobby said. "It had plastic on all the furniture, but whenever the ice cream man would come into the neighborhood, he would buy ice cream for every kid."

One memorable weekend, Bobby even hung out with the Ramones

"They wore these leather outfits and they slept in them," he remembered. "They never changed them. They were so stiff that if they took them off, they would stand."

Bobby became well-positioned in the music industry in New York. In addition to his prestigious work at the Apollo, he got involved with booking at the legendary Manhattan music club CBGB's, working with the owner's niece.

"We would sit at the desk, and groups would come in and they would give us cassette tapes of their band, and if we liked them, we put them in the stack," Bobby recalled with a chuckle. "If we didn't like them, we threw them in the garbage."

The Philly Sound

But despite his growing profile in New York, Bobby heard from a well-known DJ that Philadelphia was the place to be for a young black artist. Two songwriters and producers, Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, and a record studio called Sigma Sound Studios, were launching a generation of new artists with a distinctive sound that was revolutionizing modern music. The funk influence and orchestral string arrangements on many of the songs became known as the “Philly Sound.” Part of the reason Philadelphia was so productive was the production team called Gamble and Huff were writing hit after hit, including “Love Train,” “Me and Mrs. Jones,” and “If You Don’t Know Me By Now.” Artists who emerged from the scene included Patti LaBelle, Teddy Pendergrass, The Spinners, The O’Jays, and The Three Degrees.

Much like The Swampers of Muscle Shoals, the Funk Brothers of Motown, and the Wrecking Crew of Los Angeles, a core group of studio musicians backed many of the artists of the Philadelphia soul scene. That group, based out of Sigma Sounds Studio, included about 30 or so members over the course of a decade, and was called the MFSB Band, an acronym for Mother, Father, Sister, Brother. It was an elite group, but not inaccessible.

“A lot of those guys, especially the MFSB guys, would moonlight after they were finished with their sessions,” Bobby said. “They’d go out to clubs in Philly and play. They did rock & roll stuff for the money, but most of those guys were jazz musicians in their hearts. You’d always see them out in different spots.”

Bobby impressed some of the players enough to get work with MFSB, often as a bassist, and he started playing in the backing bands for artists including Teddy Pendergrass, The O’Jays, The Spinners, the Th ee Degrees, and Barry White. He also got to work on the most successful TV show theme song of all time.

Simply called “The Sound of Philadelphia,” or TSOP, for short, it was the theme song for the long-running show Soul Train. Upon its release, it hit #1 on the Billboard chart in 1974 and stayed there for two weeks, later winning a Grammy.

Bobby remembers songwriting with MFSB as something like getting a homework assignment. Gamble and Huff would give the team a song to develop, sometimes little more than a title and an idea, and the band would do the rest.

“We’d sit at the table and put all these ideas together, you know? Knock it around,” Bobby remembered. “It might be that I would come up with a tune. But we’d need a hook. So we’d say, let’s try to work on the hook line, and stuff I like that. And it was pretty successful.

Ken Fordyce, now the owner of Seattle’s Mirror Sound Studio, was a young engineering intern in those days. Although they wouldn’t meet until many years later, Fordyce still recalls seeing Bobby coming and going through Sigma.

“Bobby would come in for sessions all the time,” Fordyce said. “He was part of the main rhythm section there. Those guys were on countless R&B records.”

Teaching and Touring

Soon, Bobby established a pattern that served him well for the next 20 years. He made use of his college degree by becoming a high school history teacher. He would teach and play music around Philadelphia through the school year, and tour in the summers.

“I would have never been able to have a music career had I had another kind of job because I would have never had that break every year,” he said. “School teaching was the best thing for me.”

Over the next 16 years, Bobby toured with a wide variety of artists, from soul giants to Helen Reddy to Dick Clark’s Cavalcade of Stars, with which Bobby backed The Golden Boys, including Bobby Rydell,



Inocente poses with close friend Patrick Haggerty, founder of Lavender Country, which released the first country album with gay themes in 1972. Inocente helped Haggerty revive the project to national acclaim in 2022.

Frankie Avalon, and Fabian. He traveled most of the US and many other countries, attended Grammy parties after the awards, and included among his friends many of the world’s most famous musicians.

But after a while, the lifestyle lost some of its appeal. The music business changed, and so did music tastes. Bobby stopped traveling as much as he had. He moved around a bit, and while living in Atlanta, he met a woman from Bremerton. The two married, and Bobby retired from teaching and settled down in the Pacific Northwest.

Lavender Country

Bobby kept playing music, and kept expanding his horizons.

One day, while visiting one of his in-laws in a retirement home, he found himself watching a guy play guitar, accompanied by another guy on harmonica.

“It sounded terrible,” said Bobby, with a laugh. But he started talking to Patrick Haggerty, the guitar player, and they became close friends.

Haggerty, as it happened, was once something of an icon in the Seattle gay scene. In 1972, he had founded a band called Lavender Country that recorded the first gay-themed album in country music. That band played pride events and got a lot of

(Continued on Page 17)

Talking Songwriting with Jimmy D. Lane

"Songwriters, no matter their lineage or style, recognize each other instantly... a kinship deeper than genre."

By Michele D'Amour McDanel

Songwriters are a rare breed—part craftsperson, part alchemist—always chasing something elusive. For many performers, the most compelling festival moments often happen away from the spotlight. As a songwriter myself, I'm endlessly fascinated by how others approach their craft. There's something intimate about reading interviews or biographies where artists pull back the curtain and share how a song comes to life.

I've had brief but memorable conversations along these lines with Stacy Jones at Singer-Songwriter Nights at the Madison Pub in Everett, which bassist Patrick McDanel and I have shared with her. It's always fun comparing notes with someone who understands the joys and frustrations of chasing a melody or wrestling a verse into shape.

So, when the opportunity arose to talk shop with Jimmy D. Lane at the Big Sky Blues Festival this past August in Noxon, Montana, I didn't hesitate. Jimmy—the son of legendary blues songwriter Jimmy Rogers—has carved out his own impressive reputation, belonging to that small fraternity of artists who not only perform but also create the songs that endure.

The conversation unfolded naturally over chocolate chip and M&M cookies I'd baked for our drummer Carl Martin's birthday. Impressively, Jimmy managed not to get any chocolate on his all-white outfit. My band, Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers, had just finished opening the festival Friday night, and Patrick and Carl were ready to back Jimmy as his rhythm section after our set.

As we listened to Sammy Eubanks, Jimmy and I found ourselves deep in discussion about the mysteries of songwriting after he complimented me on the originals in our set.

We discovered a common experience: those moments when melodies or lyrics arrive as mere fragments—tantalizing pieces that feel

important, but incomplete. We compared methods for capturing and storing these musical breadcrumbs, knowing that sometimes the perfect song emerges by combining a melody from two years ago with lyrics scribbled down just last week. Jimmy's system is more organized than mine, which has inspired me to try something similar.

We also talked about another kind of song—the ones that arrive like lightning, fully formed from first line to final chord. These "download" songs, as we called them, seem to come from somewhere beyond conscious effort, complete with lyrics, melody, and groove all at once. At those times, it's simply magic.

As we talked, I realized how deeply satisfying it is to connect with another songwriter this way.

Our backgrounds and musical paths are very different: Jimmy is blues royalty, raised in Chicago and steeped in the Chicago style; I don't come from a family of performers, and my songs lean toward the funky/soul end of the blues spectrum. Still, we recognized the same creative struggles and breakthroughs in each other's stories.

It's a clear reminder that beneath all style and genres, songwriters share a common language in the eternal quest to capture something true and meaningful, and convey it in just three and a half minutes. Songwriters, no matter their lineage or style, recognize each other instantly. It's a kinship that runs deeper than genre.

My conversation with Jimmy D. Lane at this year's Big Sky Blues Festival was one of the highlights of my musical year—a rare meeting of kindred spirits in the uncommon world of songwriters.



Steve Gorringer on Guitar, Noel Barnes on Sax, Carl Martin on Drums, Michele D'Amour McDanel on Lead Vocals, Patrick McDanel on Bass and Merlyn Ahern on Keys (Photo by Gordy Mitchell)



Jimmy D. Lane
(Photo by Gordy Mitchell)

Dept of Corrections

Oops! Correcting the record in the Bluesletter.

The listings of the winners of the Washington Blues Society's Best of the Blues Awards, printed in the July issue, contained three errors.

The winner of the Little Bill and the Blue Notes Traditional Blues Act was the Joe Cook Blues Band. The winner of the Best Community Blues Festival was Ebey Island's Freedom Fest. And the Best Non-Festival Event was the Washington Blues Society Blues Bash.





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

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

Photos: 2017 Alan Belfort, 2018 Bruce Pritchard, Art Design: 2022 Annie Eastwood



South Sound Blues Association

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE
SINCE 2005


www.southsoundblues.org

Alison Joy Williams



How You Look At Things

The Galactic Agency presents
2024 WA Blues Society Challenge finalist
Alison Joy Williams'
new release
How You Look At Things
Available for presale now on all platforms
use code <https://orcd.co/ajwtwylat>
also available at
AlisonJoyWilliams.com



Carrie's Corner

Celebrating volunteers

By Carrie Parduhn

In last month's article I mentioned about getting immersed in Seattle's blues community and to help make music happen. This is something you can do not only as a fan. Volunteering is another way of getting involved with the blues culture. You may feel passionate about writing, reviewing a new recording of music and/or capturing your favorite artist with your photography skills.

Many volunteer opportunities are now open with the Washington Blues Society. We have a list in the Bluesletter and on the website <https://wasblues.org>. We are a non-profit organization continuing to exist, thrive, and grow through volunteerism.

Currently the WBS is looking for volunteers to help at our various music events. A volunteer director is needed to organize and schedule volunteer activities. It's important

for every musical event to be successful, and volunteers play a large role. We also need a merchandise director to help sell merchandise at events. An Advertising Director is also needed to help with finding advertisers for the Bluesletter. Get to know the musicians, make new friends, and feel good about keeping the blues alive! Here are a few pictures of volunteers helping the WBS judge the contestants competing to represent Washington in Memphis this winter.



Far left: Robert Giles served as the emcee of the International Blues Challenge July 27 at the Aurora Borealis in Shoreline. Right, Susan Dodd, AKA The Duchess, kept time during the contest. Above, left to right: Judges Chester Dennis Jones, Timmer Blakely, and Chadd Rupp scored the competitors.

Summertime (Is Over) Blues

Oh yes there is a cure for those summertime blues! I know, because I found it at three local music festivals this summer, listening to my favorite Washington bands.

At Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival, held from July 18-20, I enjoyed The Joel Astley Band, my favorite local band. I considered them a headliner at the Blues Ranch.

The Peninsula Blues Festival was held from August 15-16. Our local headliner there at Ocean Park was Polly O'Keary and the Rhythm Method.

The Kitsap Blues Music Festival held from August 29-31, where the headliner for me was the James Howard Band.

Now what am I going to do? There ain't no cure for the summertime (is over) blues!



Above: The Joel Astley Band turns in a stirring set at the Blues Ranch in Winthrop July 19. Right: James Howard plays at the Kitsap Blues Festival in Bremerton the last weekend of August. All photos this page by Carrie Parduhn.



Election Season: Board Nominations Now Open

Please nominate candidates for your 2026 Washington Blues Society Board of Directors

By Marisue Thomas

It's nomination time already? What happened to spring and summer?

It's nomination time! Every November, Washington Blues Society members have an opportunity to nominate members to serve on the Board of Directors. Paper nominations must be turned in no later than the November Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline, on November 11, 2025, online nominations must be submitted before midnight on November 11, 2025. Nominations are only valid if you are a current member of the Washington Blues Society.

Official voting takes place during December based on the slate of candidates nominated at, or before, the first November Blues Bash that is held at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Aurora Borealis. Votes are only valid if you are a current member of the Washington Blues Society.

There are five elected positions of the Washington Blues Society. These descriptions align with the organization's official Bylaws and any registration documentation on file with the State of Washington or the Internal Revenue Service. The Washington Blues Society is a nonprofit organization under IRS Section 501(c)3.

President: The position of President is the public face of the Washington Blues Society. The President is the official signatory of the Washington Blues Society on all official documents, including any financial commitments, grants and contracts, and agreements between the Washington Blues Society and any festival or special event. Our past Presidents have had the ability to manage multiple, and often competing priorities in an environment that is often challenging and fast-paced.

Vice President: The position of Vice President supports the President and often acts in place of the President when he or she is engaged in official Washington Blues Society business. Each Vice President has

brought specific skill sets to the Washington Blues Society Board of Directors. Our Vice Presidents have had the ability to be flexible in an environment filled with uncertainty and stress.

Secretary: The Secretary keeps and maintains minutes of Washington Blues Society Board of Directors meetings. The Secretary also provides a written agenda and helps run the board meeting in an organized fashion, keeping ongoing notes from one board meeting to board meeting on tabled issues and upcoming events. Key to the success of every Secretary is the ability to quickly document discussions and Board of Directors' votes during regularly scheduled board meetings.

Treasurer: The position of Treasurer includes responsibilities above and beyond keeping track of Washington Blues Society finances. The Washington Blues Society Treasurer can not only balance the financial records of the Washington Blues Society, but also has the ability to forecast the needs of festival-related expenses like insurance and state-required permits.

Bluesletter Editor: The Washington Blues Society editor needs the ability to produce a printed, color, 24-page magazine in the Adobe In Design program.

The elected Board of Directors appoints Washington Blues Society volunteer directors in the following positions.

Advertising Director: The Advertising Director is responsible for selling advertising in the printed Bluesletter magazine and on the Washington Blues Society website. The Advertising Director will have the ability to solicit ads, format them according to our printer's requirements and maintain positive relationships with current and former advertisers.

Education Director: The Education Director position is being updated. The Washington Blues Society has some new funding opportunities to develop a new education program. The program

will include guidance from established Blues Foundation programs, blues music instructors and the WBS Pass the Torch program to further promote blues music education and to ensure students have positive interactive experiences to learn the history and culture of blues music.

IT Director: The IT Director will be responsible for maintaining the Washington Blues Society Website.

Media Director: The Media and Online Director will be responsible for social media announcements and maintaining the Washington Blues Society content on Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms.

Membership Director: The Membership Director maintains the database of Washington Blues Society members and informs members about their membership expiration and renewal dates.

Merchandise Director: The Merchandise Director duties include setting up the Washington Blues Society booth at festivals and events and keeping an inventory of all blues society merchandise for sale.

Music Director: The Music Director recruits both paid and volunteer musicians throughout the year to play at fundraising events, the holiday party, twice monthly Washington Blues Society Blues Bashes, and other sponsored shows.

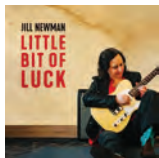
Seattle Peace Concerts Director: The Seattle Peace Concerts director works directly with new and established producers of the Seattle Peace Concerts that were established in 1981 and have their own specific guidelines.

Volunteer Director: The Volunteer Director obtains competent volunteers for blues society activities, including Blues Bashes, festivals, and special events.

For a list of the 2025 elected Board and nominated directors, please see page 4.

CD Reviews

Two new CDs from Jill Newman and Fran Drew & The Lucky Strikes!



Jill Newman
Little Bit of Luck
(Self-Released)

Jill Newman's third album, "Little Bit of Luck," was recorded at Seattle's iconic Studio Litho, home to sessions from such local luminaries as Pearl Jam and Dave Matthews. The record delivers nine original roots and blues tunes that highlight Jill's versatile lead and slide guitar work, soulful vocals, and honest, well-crafted songwriting. The lone cover is a heartfelt rendition of "Love Has No Pride," which Bonnie Raitt first recorded in 1972. The title track kicks things off with a swing-worthy groove, harmonica riffs, and lyrics that celebrate love over material things. "Lost Without You" offers a catchy hook anyone in a relationship will recognize, while "Lay My Worries Down" brings a funky, optimistic turn with Joe Doria on keys. "Not Gonna Change My Mind" slows things down with a steady rock edge, and "Someone Like You" lands as a heartfelt ballad reminiscent of John Prine. Jill's playful side shines on "Yellow Dog Shuffle," a tribute to her pup Lucy, where her guitar work intertwines with some standout keyboard playing by Chris Gustin. The album weaves a tapestry of Jill's reflections on hardship, isolation, and renewal. Hopeful yet vulnerable, "Little Bit of Luck" resonates with authenticity while showcasing Jill's guitar chops and the contributions of a stellar backing band featuring Patrick McDanel on

bass; Kelly Van Camp on drums, harmonica and backing vocals; Scott Smith on acoustic and rhythm guitar, and a host of guest artists. Jill is currently touring in support of "Little Bit of Luck," so catch her live if you can, and experience these songs where they truly come alive. Michele D'Amour McDanel.



Fran Drew & The Lucky Strikes
Trial By Fire
(Shakey Buddha)

One of my favorite blues discoveries of 2025 has been the Connecticut Blues Society's "Best Self-Produced CD" winner of 2024, Fran Drew & the Lucky Strikes' "Trial By Fire." Vocalist Fran Drew leads guitarists Gene Donaldson and Steve Isherwood, and an exceptionally good engine room of Max "Ce La Vie" Samson on bass and Dennis Cotton on the drums as The Lucky Strikes. The CD features 12 songs that include some of my favorite blues covers. Fran's smoldering take on "Breaking Up Somebody's Home" matches the sass of "You Can Have My Husband," and the band absolutely nails "Roll With Me Henry, written by a 17 year old Etta James responding to Hank Ballard's ribald (not by today's standards, but certainly in the context of the 50s) "Work With Me, Annie." Whenever I find a new band like Fran Drew & The Lucky Strikes, I look for the company that it keeps. I was particularly impressed with the players on

this excellent CD. Fran & Co. have attracted many world-class players, such as 2022 International Blues Challenge finalist guitarist Richiman, sax players "Sax" Gordon Beadle and Matt Parker, guitarist Brandt Taylor, and keyboardist Jeff Jousfi.

These 12 tracks are a party in a CD case, particularly for historic songs that too few bands (my opinion) reinvent, like "Flamin' Mamie," "Rock Me Baby," and "Chauffer Blues." I liked Sarah Cadman's fanciful design of the CD sleeve, because it reminded me of the matchbooks that I collected in the 60s from my parents' visits to places like Jack Dempsey's Broadway Restaurant in New York City's legendary Brill Building or Chicago's fabled Italian Village in the Loop. I'm sure that's decidedly "politically incorrect" for 2025, but I sure treasured those trinkets as a boy. On this CD, I enjoyed each of the 12 covers even more. I highly recommend "Trial By Fire" from a very talented band from The Constitution State. Eric Steiner

Reviewer's Note: "Trial By Fire" by Fran Drew & The Lucky Strikes was nominated for a Best New Artist Album Award in the 2025 Blues Blast Awards, and their song "Neighbor, Neighbor," is a finalist in the Unsigned Only Music Awards, and I wish the band the best of luck in these important blues music recognition opportunities.



WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

BLUES BASH

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025 - 7PM

MARK RILEY



ALL AGES WELCOME!

JOE COOK BAND

\$10
DONATION
RECOMMENDED



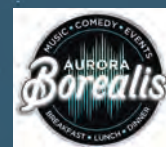
AURORA BOREALIS

16708 AURORA AVENUE NORTH, SHORELINE, WA 98133

WWW.WABLUES.ORG |



WASHINGTONBLUESOCIETY



The Highway 99 All-Stars at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley in Seattle

The All-Stars closed each night with very special versions of the blues classic "Key to the Highway."

By Nealie, Kevin & Kirk Anderson

The Highway 99 All-Stars are an amazing band because each band member is a successful performer in his or her own right. The Highway 99 All-Stars are not a regular band, but every time they play together, they are incredibly cohesive.

They support one another, and when it's time for each one to step up and take the lead, each All-Star plays an unexpected solo that not only reflects their experience with their other projects, but also stays true to boundaries of a Highway 99 All-Stars' show. We would never have guessed that they had not been playing together for a long, long time.

As we remember the two shows at Seattle's Jazz Alley this past August, our mind's eye starts off by seeing each musician on stage as individuals (left to right in Gordy Mitchell's photo on the next page): Bob Corritore on harmonica, Robin Moxey on guitar on vocals, Jeff Conlin on keyboards, Steve Sarkowsky on drums (the "Head Instigator," as his partner in the former Highway 99 Blues Club, Ed Maloney, called him), Lisa Mann (sitting as she recovers from a serious leg injury) on bass and vocals, and Ben Rice on guitar and vocals. These first-call blues artists start the show, and then magically morph into the cohesive Highway 99 All-Stars.

A Mandolin, Harmonica & Surprise Entrance

Robin Moxey opened each show with a familiar tune on mandolin, but interpreted it in a different way. "Hey, Hey, What Can I Do," the B side of "Immigrant Song" from Led Zeppelin's 1970 LP, "CODA." Opening with a mandolin? Yup, we felt this was going to be a special night! Then, we heard a harmonica. But, no one on the stage was playing harmonica. It was Bob Corritore, but he wasn't on stage. He was in the audience with a wireless mic, and walked to the stage as the band joined in.

Robin brought Allen Toussaint's "Brickyard Blues" front and center on a song steeped in New Orleans as Jeff recreated the famous keyboard lines with the band bringing the rhythm. Robin's distinctive voice, providing the swing that we all know, as Robin also encouraged the audience to sing along on the chorus. We all felt a part of the performance.

Robin also began a classic Robert Johnson song, by way of Cream and Eric Clapton (and now, Playing For Change), "Crossroads." Robin explained that the Playing For Change team brought musicians, producers and recording engineers to Clarksdale, Mississippi and to important blues sites in the Mississippi Delta to recreate that Delta blues sound. The Highway 99 All-Stars imbued "Crossroads" with the passion of Robert Johnson's original and brought past recordings and videos to life right in front of us!

Trading Riffs & Paying Tribute

"Riding with the King," originally on John Hiatt's sixth album, and brought to international fame in 2000 with a Grammy Award for Best Traditional Blues by B.B. King and Eric Clapton, was familiar to the audience. Robin and Ben recreated that same magic, sometimes facing each other so they could riff off what the other was playing, while at other times playing back-to-back. Their ears and souls took over.

Bob's harmonica was the perfect complement to Ben's lead guitar and vocals as Ben offered his original song "Good Lord Bad Lord." Bob brought a new dimension to an already great tune.

Then, Lisa called out her love for Jimmy Reed with "You Don't Have To Go." As the band laid down the groove and Bob opened out-front on harmonica, Lisa followed with powerful vocals. We watched and listened as Bob and Ben took the song to a new level as the rest of the band maintained the groove, watching the interaction and smiling throughout the song.

On "Quarter to Twelve," Bob took the lead, and Ben and Robin stepped back to rhythm and walked over to watch Bob as he played perfect harmonica licks. This tune was a standard for Little Walter (Bob's hero). Little Walter revolutionized harmonica playing by amplifying the sound, and in doing so, elevated the harmonica to its rightful place as a blues lead instrument.

Lisa sang and played the iconic bass lines from "I Would Rather Go Blind." She made her mark by making the vocals her own while the band watched with smiles and left plenty of room for Jeff's soulful keyboard solo. Steve played a short solo while the rest of the band supported his drumming as he had supported their playing. Their excitement playing these songs was so apparent in the All-Stars' body language and facial gestures that ranged from extreme concentration to full face smiles.

Crafting the Setlist

Well ahead of the gigs, the All-Stars corresponded with each other to suggest songs that they love and songs that would be a fit for these Jazz Alley shows and the musicians themselves. They worked collaboratively to pare the set list down to the 90+ minutes until a final list of songs is finished. They don't just get on stage and play after that.

Sure, they know those songs that they suggested, but then the others have to pull from their experience to not only learn or relearn the other musician's suggested tunes. They have to think of how their part will interplay with the other musicians' styles and how they fit into that song. With a suggested setlist set, each All-Star prepared by listening to recordings of the other musicians playing their suggested songs, so they can figure out how they could contribute to the song. With five of the six All-Stars playing across the USA shortly before the Jazz Alley shows, we felt this was quite a musical achievement.

Then, they get together for rehearsal. Sometimes, what seemed like the right setlist



Above: Bob Corritore on harmonica, Robin Moxey on guitar on vocals, Jeff Conlin on keyboards, Steve Sarkowsky on drums, Lisa Mann (sitting as she recovers from a serious leg injury) on bass and vocals, and Ben Rice on guitar and vocals. (Photo by Gordy Mitchell) Top Right: Ben Rice & Ed Maloney (Author Photo).



Ben noted how much Ed Maloney, one of the Highway 99 Blues Club partners, always asked Ben to play his version of “Key to the Highway.”

or the right order on paper doesn’t always translate to how the songs feel once the musicians get together to practice. However, each All-Star knew that the setlist the band refi ed in rehearsal that holds the continuity of the event for the audience.

As with the All-Stars’ shows in January, the fi st night in August is a little loose as they work out the interplay between each musician, and we found this even more exciting because we saw the musicians put on a fantastic performance as they further came together as a cohesive group.

The second night featured a more polished performance as they had more time to play together and put their own individual musical worlds into the Highway 99 All-Star world. Th s is why we went to both shows!

As the set moved through the second night, we noticed that the All-Stars realized that this was the end of another fantastic happening at Seattle’s Jazz Alley, and the tunes became second nature as they take more chances based on another night of shared experiences. It’s not unlike how life

is for all of us.

Giving Ben Rice the Keys to the Highway 99 Blues Club

The All-Stars closed each night with very special versions of the blues classic “Key to the Highway.” The tune from Charlie Seger in 1940 was further popularized by Big Bill Broonzy the following year, followed by Little Walter in the late 1950s, and catapulted into the everyday music vernacular by Eric Clapton with Derek and the Dominos. Each night, Ben makes this tune his own, and the band automatically knew that each rendition was very special.

On Ben’s polished, all-metal Republic Resophonic acoustic guitar, the unexpected strains of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” from “The Wizard of Oz” caught everyone’s attention and then Ben steered the song into “Key to the Highway.”

Unique to these shows, Ben shared the story of his long-time ties to Seattle’s Highway 99 Blues Club and talked about his many performances there.

At the end of the second show, Ben recalled the last night of the Highway 99 Blues Club. Th s destination blues club opened its doors in 2004, won a number of local and regional awards, and a prestigious Keeping the Blues Alive Award from The Blues Foundation.

Ed had asked Ben to play “Key to the Highway” on its last night, New Year’s Eve in 2018. At Jazz Alley on the second night, Ed also said that Ben should get the keys to the Highway 99 Blues Club.

Ed then came out of the audience and presented Ben a key ring with the keys to the (sadly) shuttered Highway 99 Blues Club.

The Magic of the Expected & Unexpected

That’s the beauty of a Highway 99 All-Stars show. You get the familiar songs, lovingly interpreted, but also several surprises: A mandolin opener, a harmonica player sneaking in from the audience, an “Over the Rainbow” morphing into a classic blues song. You not only get musicians who are masters as individual artists, but who come together as a cohesive unit with generosity, curiosity, and joy.

That’s why, whenever and wherever the Highway 99 All-Stars play, we’ll be there for each night!

Preserving & Promoting Blues Music



as a part of our
Cultural Heritage and Tradition

www.rainydayblues.org

a 501c3 non-profit organization



"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



Providing musical instruments to public school students in need

We accept lovingly used musical instruments and donations to repair them.



www.Music4Life.org
info@Music4Life.org

Special thanks to our funders:

Washington State Arts Commission and the
National Endowment for the Arts & 4Culture,
the cultural funding agency for King County,
Washington



CULTURE



WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

arts.gov

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

BLUES BASH

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025 - 7PM

MARK RILEY



ALL AGES WELCOME!

JOE COOK BAND



\$10
DONATION
RECOMMENDED



AURORA BOREALIS

16708 AURORA AVENUE NORTH, SHORELINE, WA 98133

WWW.WABLUES.ORG | [f WASHINGTONBLUESOCIETY](https://www.facebook.com/WASHINGTONBLUESOCIETY)



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

October 2025 SHOWS

- 1- Goldings Bernstein Stewart Trio
- 2-5 Gerald Albright
- 7-8 Molly Miller Trio
- 9-12 Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- 14-15 New York Voices
- 16-19 Cory Henry and the Funk Apostles
- 21-22 Tatiana Eve-Marie and the Avalon Jazz Band
- 23-26 Arturo Sandoval
- 28-29 Braxton Cook
- 30-31 Elvin Bishop Big Fun Trio with Cedric Burnside

2033 5th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121
Phone (206) 441-9729
jazzalley@jazzalley.com
JAZZALLEY.COM



Bobby Inocente is playing the blues (Cont'd)

Bremerton veteran of Apollo Theater and Philly Soul's legendary MFSB band reflects on star-studded career

(Continued from Page 7)

attention, even radio play, although some of the music was explicit enough to get one Seattle DJ fired for playing it. The band only lasted four years, but in 1999, a music magazine did a feature story on gay country artists, including Lavender Country. That article renewed interest in the band, and interest surged again after someone posted some of the music on YouTube, where it gained enough of a cult following to attract a record label to re-release the album in 2014. In 2019, Haggerty was included in the Ken Burns documentary mini-series "Country Music."

Meanwhile, Bobby shared a house with Haggerty for a couple of years while going through a divorce. While cohabitating, the two discussed reviving the Lavender Country project.

"He sort of put me in charge of the music," Bobby said. "A lot of his songs had to be musically updated."

In 2022, Lavender Country, including original keyboardist Robert Hammerstrom, released that band's second album, 50 years after the first. The song, though, got coverage from Rolling Stone Magazine as well as dozens of other media outlets in the Pacific Northwest and around the country. When Haggerty died of stroke complications later the same year, he was mourned as a pioneer of gay country.

Back to the Blues with Lolo Marie

Today, Bobby is still beginning new projects, while occasionally revisiting old ones, as when he appeared with Smokey Robinson at the Emerald Queen Casino at a recent performance.

On a warm early autumn afternoon, seated with a guitar in the home studio of his long-time friend and collaborator, Robert Hammerstrom, Bobby was working on a blues recording with Lolo Marie, a Bremerton woman with a prestigious entertainment history.

Originally focused on theater, Lolo won a full scholarship to the Julliard School as

a young woman. While she learned a lot, including singing, dancing, and art, she found it an oppressive experience in some ways.

"It didn't want anyone telling me how to do what I do," she said. "And the closer I got to the culmination, the more I saw how unhappy people were."

At Julliard, many students learned that they were never going to be as good as they had hoped they would be, Lolo said.

"Pain reverberated off the walls there," she said. So when she broke bones in both her feet from the stresses of dance, she left the school without regret. In the following years, she sang blues in Denver with the Johnny Long Blues Band, who frequently hosted slide guitar legend Homesick James when the blues artists traveled down from Chicago.

"He was a mentor to Johnny and me," Lolo said.

She herself went on to be a mentor, teaching performance arts to troubled youth in Southern California. Over time, she ventured into various branches of the arts before settling into singing as her primary mode of artistic expression. But she wasn't sure she would ever do it seriously again.

Then, after moving to Bremerton, Lolo met bassist Sandra Lopez at an open mic run by Tacoma blues and rock singer Aury Moore, and Sandra introduced Lolo to people in the local music scene.

Lolo and Bobby became good friends after meeting at an open mic in Milton, and for a time, Lolo sang with Lavender Country.

Now she is working with some of the region's top talent to release music of her own, and she is back to doing the music that suits her best.

"I'm still doing blues," Lolo said. "Blues is my home."

Bobby, although primarily an R&B musician, is no stranger to blues, even

since moving to the Pacific Northwest. He worked for a while with Jimi Hendrix tribute artist Randy Hansen and has also recently worked with Tacoma blues artist Lori Hardman.

Currently, Lolo and Bobby are working on a song that Bobby wrote, called "Army of Love," that he describes as a song about oppression.

Although Bobby's career has taken him through many genres of music, the projects he chooses all have one thing in common, he said.

"If I like the sound, and the music," he said, "I put my whole heart into it."



REMINDER: NOVEMBER BLUESLETTER DEADLINES

Ad Reservations
5 p.m. on 9/30 to
editor@wablues.org

Calendar
5 p.m. on 10/10 online
www.wablues.org

Editorial
5 p.m. on 10/1 to
editor@wablues.org

Camera-Ready Ad Art
5 p.m. on 10/5 to
editor@wablues.org
advertising@wablues.org

Blues on the Road

Welcome nationally-touring artists to the Pacific Northwest & British Columbia's Lower Mainland!

By Eric Steiner

This month's Blues on the Road preview includes several singer-songwriters returning to our region, and I'd like to think that they were inspired by long-time contributor Michele D'Amour McDanel, whose profile of blues singer songwriter Jimmy D. Lane is in this issue. In addition to featuring a select number of singer songwriters, the preview also includes Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio (with special guest Cedric Burnside), and Professor Molly Miller.



Molly Miller Trio

On October 4, the Molly Miller Trio plays Strum, a unique guitar store ("four paws & a wall of guitars") on Stark in Portland, followed by a master class the next day. The shop hosts many live shows, and on December 12th, Kim Field and The Perfect Gentleman play Strum. At work, Molly is Dr. Miller, as she is a Professor of Studio Guitar at the University of Southern California, where she earned a Doctorate in Musical Arts in 2016. (Photo Courtesy of Strum).

On October 7 and 8, Dimitriou's Jazz Alley welcomes the debut of Los Angeles, California native, guitarist/songwriter, Dr. Molly Miller (Jason Mraz, Zayn, Black Eyed Peas) and Andre de Santanna on bass and Tamir Barzilay on drums. The Washington Blues Society is pleased to support these shows along with KBCS 91.3 and KNKX.

Booker T. Jones

The legendary MG, Booker T. Jones, returns to the Pacific Northwest this month for



some pretty special shows that showcase his pioneering work with Stax Records in Memphis. His 2019 memoir, "Time is Tight: My Life Note for Note" is a must-read for fans of classic American soul music and R & B, and on October 2, Jones plays the Mount Baker Theatre Bellingham followed by four shows at Seattle's Triple Door on October 3 and 4. I hope that he includes songs from his youth, such as "(Sittin' on) the Dock of the Bay," "Time is Tight" and "I've Been Loving You Too Long." (Photo Courtesy of Booker T. Jones Website).



Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

This year marks the 32nd anniversary of Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's remarkable arrival onto the music scene, and this month, the band plays six shows at Seattle's Jazz Alley from the October 9-12. Since its formation in the early 90s in California, the band has toured virtually nonstop, performs over 150 shows a year, and has produced a sizable catalog of recorded music, with sales of over 2M albums to date. Early on, during their legendary residency at the Derby nightclub in Los Angeles, they reminded the world, in the midst of the grunge era no less, that it was still cool to swing. The band, co-founded by singer Scotty Morris and drummer Kurt Sodergren, was at the forefront of the swing revival of that time, blending a vibrant fusion

of the classic American sounds of jazz, swing, and Dixieland, with the energy and spirit of contemporary culture. The band's original core line-up includes Scotty Morris (lead vocals and guitar), Kurt Sodergren (drums), Dirk Shumaker (double bass and vocals), Andy Rowley (baritone saxophone and vocals), Glen "The Kid" Marhevka (trumpet), Karl Hunter (saxophones and clarinet) and Joshua Levy (piano and arranger). (Photo Courtesy of Jazz Alley).



Martin Sexton

Martin Sexton brings his 2025 Abbey Road Show to the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia's Lower Mainland this month, starting at Capilano University in North Vancouver, B.C., on October 7. CapU is not far from the renovated Shipyards District, one of British Columbia's newest destination locations featuring hotels, markets, art shops and sculptures honoring the area's maritime legacy. On the October 8, Martin plays the Seattle Theatre Group's Neptune Theatre, followed by Spokane's Knitting Factory on October 10 and Boise's Olympic Venue on October 11. The Abbey Road Show set features the Beatles' 17-song LP, plus eight or 10 Martin Sexton originals. (Photo Courtesy of Martin Sexton Website).

Keith Scott

Last month, Keith Scott wrote about his first tour of Japan in these pages. This month, he's playing in one of the most picturesque areas of British Columbia along the Skeena River amidst the Coast Mountain Range. On the October 9, he'll bring his unique brand of Chicago blues to Cappuccino's Coffee House in Prince Rupert, followed by the Bulkley



Valley Brewery in Smithers on the 10th, then two shows in Terrace: first at the Blue Fin Sushi Bar in Terrace on October 11 followed the Sherwood Mountain Brewhouse on October 12. Next month, Keith will return to the 7 Cedars in Sequim on the 7th and 8th followed by Seattle's Salmon Bay Eagles on November 9. That Sunday show is already on my November blues calendar, and as of press time, I'm exploring lodging options at 7 Cedars! (Photo of Keith Scott & Bluesletter Contributor Kirk Anderson Courtesy of Keith Scott).



Alejandro Escovedo

Alejandro Escovedo, one of most respected Americana and roots songwriters returns to our region this month, beginning with shows at Seattle's Tractor Tavern on the 9th and the Vashon Island Center for the Arts on the October 10, followed by the Star

Theatre in Portland, Oregon, on October 11. Escovedo is a member of the Austin City Limits Hall of Fame and Texas Heritage Songwriters Hall of Fame, has recorded with Joe Ely, Wayne Kramer, Peter Buck, Kurt Bloch and Scott McCaughey, and offers up memorable experiences from 40+ years on the road. (Photo of Alejandro Escovedo by Nancy Rankin Escovedo).



Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio (w/sp. guest Cedric Burnside)


From October 30 through November 2, Dimitriou's Jazz Alley welcomes legendary Rock & Roll and Blues Hall of Famer Elvin Bishop back to Seattle with his Big Fun Trio. Bob Welsh on keys and Willy Jordan on vocals and Cajon join Elvin for four nights and six shows. Cedric Burnside will join the trio as a special guest! Burnside is a Grammy-winning blues guitarist/singer/drummer and is one of the more popular bluesmen who focus on traditional Hill Country blues. Produced by the legendary "Boo" Mitchell at his father's Royal Studios

in Memphis, Cedric's "I Be Trying" won the 2022 Grammy Award for Best Traditional Blues Album. (Photo of Elvin Bishop at the Chicago Blues Festival by Eric Steiner and photo of Cedric Burnside Courtesy of Cedric Burnside Website).

Hot November Tickets

Next month, Seattle's Jazz Alley is hosting two must-see shows featuring two legendary American musical acts. From November 6-9, the Tower of Power returns to celebrate 57 years of funk and soul and these dates are the only opportunities Bluesletter readers will have to see "East Bay Grease" live. From November 21-30, Jazz Alley will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Taj Mahal in an expanded residency over the Thanksgiving Day holiday. See Kirk Anderson's feature interview with this Grammy winning legend, and plan to catch Taj live!

**MUSICIANS
RELIEF
FUND**



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

**Contribute to this
important fund today!**

Contact us at treasurer@wabluess.org

October 2025 Live Blues Music Calendar

Our www.wablues.org calendar is the most current & contact the venue for start time + additional details

OCTOBER 1

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.
The Spar, Tacoma: Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Rebecca Jaymes 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Larry Goldings, Peter Bernstein & Bill Stewart Organ Trio 7:30 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Ken Reid Band 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Blowout Heavies Brass Band 7:30 p.m., Weinstein Wednesday 10 p.m.

OCTOBER 2

Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Cellar Cat, Kingston: Annie Eastwood Trio 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Blue Ambassadors 7 p.m.
Mount Baker Theater, Bellingham: Booker T Jones 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Gerald Albright G Funk Tribute to James Brown featuring Leon Timbo 7:30 p.m.
The Triple Door, Seattle: Greta Matassa 7:30 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Seattle Women's Jam Band 8 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.
Owl 'N Thistle, Seattle: Danny Godinez Presents 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 3

The Triple Door, Seattle: Booker T Jones 6 p.m.
Baba Yaga, Seattle: Jembaa Groove 7 p.m.
Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Flightline 7 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Angela Petrucci 7 p.m.
Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: Eric's Maine Connection 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Gerald Albright G Funk Tribute to James Brown featuring Leon Timbo 7:30 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Haus of Sound 8 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Outside the Lines 8 p.m.
Pub 282 Camano Island: Powerhouse 7 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Lonnie Williams Band 8 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Short Cutz 9 p.m.
Lime, Kirkland: Eden 9:30 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Extra Think 8 p.m. Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

OCTOBER 4

The Triple Door, Seattle: Booker T Jones 6 p.m.
Boxley's, North Bend: North Bend Blues Walk 6 p.m.
Lincoln Theater, Mount Vernon: Burnin' in Mount Vernon VIII - featuring The Heatherlys and the Chris Eger Band 6 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mojo Cannon 7 p.m.

Pub 282, Camano Island: Stacy Jones Band 7 p.m.
Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Denny and Jeff's 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Gerald Albright G Funk Tribute to James Brown featuring Leon Timbo 7:30 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Youfourc 7 pm
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Doctor Funk 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Mark Riley Trio 8 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Nikki and the Fast Times 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 5

Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue w Reji Marc 7 p.m.
The Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Gerald Albright G Funk Tribute to James Brown featuring Leon Timbo 7:30 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Randy Weeks 4 p.m., Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 6

El Sid, Everett: Blues Ambassadors 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 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.

OCTOBER 7

Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend: Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Spare Hearts 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Molly Miller Trio 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 7:30 p.m. Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

OCTOBER 8

Lincoln Square, Bellevue: Bellevue Jazz & Blues Music Series 3p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.
The Spar, Tacoma: Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: pH Factor Big Band 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Molly Miller Trio 7:30 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: George Grissom 8 p.m.
Neptune, Seattle: Martin Sexton 8p.m.

OCTOBER 9

SeaTac North Terminal, SeaTac: Eric Madis 12 p.m.
Lincoln Square, Bellevue: Bellevue Jazz & Blues

Music Series 3p.m.
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.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy 7:30 p.m.
5th Avenue Theater, Seattle: Lucinda Williams 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.

OCTOBER 10

Waterfront Park, Port Angeles: Dungeness Crab Festival 12 p.m.
Lincoln Square, Bellevue: Bellevue Jazz & Blues Music Series 4p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Ray Skjelbred and the Yeti Chasers 7 p.m.
Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: Mark Dufresne Band 7 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano Island: Sheri Greimes 7 p.m.
Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Willett's Flying A 7 p.m.
Admiral Theater, Bremerton: Phat Cat Swinger 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy 7:30 p.m.
Vino Bella, Issaquah: Eden 7:30 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Stacy Jones Birthday Harmonica Blowout 8 p.m.
Bake's Place, Bellevue: Birch Periera and the Gin Joints 8 p.m.
Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland: Joan Osborne 8 p.m.
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue: Lee Oskar and Friends 8 p.m.
Nectar, Seattle: Robert Walter, Stanton Moore, Skerik, Andy Coe 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: Vududes 8 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Tim Turner Band 9 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

OCTOBER 11

Waterfront Park, Port Angeles: Dungeness Crab Festival 12 p.m.
Maple Hall, La Connor: Brew on the Slough 5 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 7 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano Island: Rock Radio 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy 7:30 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: 7:30 pm
Rockfish, nacortes: Ryan T Higgins Band 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 11 (CONT'D)

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Eden 8 p.m.
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue: Dee Daniels 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Powerhouse 8 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: The Encounters 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 12

Waterfront Park, Port Angeles: Dungeness Crab Festival 12 p.m.
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue: Bellevue Jazz Music Series 12 p.m.
Johnny's Dock, Tacoma: Mia Santell 5 p.m.
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue w Lolo and Bobby 7 p.m.
The Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy 7:30 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Randy Weeks 4 p.m., Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 13

El Sid, Everett: Blues Ambassadors 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 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.

OCTOBER 14

Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend: Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Blues Bash with Mark Riley & the Joe Cook Blues Band 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Dangerous Curves 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: New York Voices 7:30 p.m.
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

OCTOBER 15

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.
The Spar, Tacoma: Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Roadside Attraction 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: New York Voices 7:30 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Sheri and Jo Moma 8p.m.

OCTOBER 16

Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriters Showcase 7 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Blue Cashmere 7 p.m.

Pub 282, Camano: Robbie Dee's Tribute To Elvis 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Cory Henry and the Funk Apostles 7:30 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Joel Astley Band 8 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.
Owl and Thistle, Seattle: Danny Godinez Presents 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 17

Olympia Farmers Market, Olympia: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 11 a.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Macadams Party Band 7 p.m.
Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Trish Schimmel 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Cory Henry and the Funk Apostles 7:30 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Joan Penney 7:30 p.m.
El Capitan's, Bellingham: Cassandra May and James 8 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: After 4 Band 8 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano Island: Stage Hogs 7 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Ron Bailey and the Tangents 8 p.m.
Bake's Place, Bellevue: Michael Benson Band 8 p.m.
The Brick, Roslyn: Powerhouse 9 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Supertonix 9 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Phoebe Katis 8 p.m. Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

OCTOBER 18

Dusty Strings, Seattle: Delta Blues Slide Guitar Workshop 11 a.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Rod Cook and Toast 7 p.m.
Eight Ball Café, Everett: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: The Cover Up 7 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano Island: False Sense of Security 7 p.m.
Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Tim Koss Quartet 7 p.m.
Sound 2 Summit, Snohomish: Eden 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Cory Henry and the Funk Apostles 7:30 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: 7:30 pm
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Harmonious Funk 8 p.m.
Basil Bistro, Lynnwood: Stacy Jones Band 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: PNW Guitar Showcase 8 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Roy and the Renegades 9p.m.
Sea Monster, Seattle: Caety Sagoian Band 10 p.m.

OCTOBER 19

Johnny's Dock, Tacoma: Blues Redemption 5 p.m.
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue w Polly O'Keary 7 p.m.
The Spar, Tacoma: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Cory Henry and the Funk Apostles 7:30 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Marriott Brothers 4 p.m., Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 20

El Sid, Everett: Blues Ambassadors 7p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 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.

OCTOBER 21

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: Tatiana Eva-Maria and the Avalon Jazz Band 7:30 p.m.
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

OCTOBER 22

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.
The Spar, Tacoma: Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Portage Bay Big Band 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Tatiana Eva-Maria and the Avalon Jazz Band 7:30 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: The Go 2's 8p.m.

OCTOBER 23

Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood and Friends 6 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Singer Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano: Chris Eger Band 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Arturo Sandoval 7:30 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: McPage & Powell 8 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.
Owl 'N Thistle, Seattle: Danny Godinez Presents 9 p.m.

(Continued on Page 22)

October 2025 Live Blues Music Calendar (Continued)

Our www.wablues.org calendar is the most current & contact the venue for start time + additional details

OCTOBER 24

Olalla Vinyard, Olalla: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 6 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Fricken Chickase 7 p.m.
Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: The Guise 7 p.m.
Admiral Theater, Bremerton: Leonid & Friends 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Arturo Sandoval 7:30 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Blue Velvet Groove 8 p.m.
El Capitan's, Bellingham: Cassandra May and James 8 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Cloud Cover 8 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano Island: Rock Martens 7 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Quicknine 8 p.m.
Bake's Place, Bellevue: Brian James 8 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Lounge Vultures 9 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Battlestar Kalakala 8 p.m., Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

OCTOBER 25

Grape and Grain, Everett: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 7 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: North Seattle Jazz Orchestra 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: 22 Pines 7 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano Island: Jimmy Wright 7 p.m.
Rockfish, nacortes: Powerhouse 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Arturo Sandoval 7:30 p.m.
Old Edison Inn, Edison: Stacy Jones Band 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Tumbling Dice 8 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: After 4 Band 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 26

Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 p.m.
The Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Arturo Sandoval 7:30 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Randy Weeks 4 p.m., Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 27

Angel of the Winds, Arlington: Fat Fridays 11a.m.
El Sid, Everett: Blues Ambassadors 7p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 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.

OCTOBER 28

Central Market Place, Sea Tac Airport: Eric Madis 12:30p.m.
Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend: Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Trischimmel & Co 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Braxton Cook 7:30 p.m.
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

OCTOBER 29

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.
The Spar, Tacoma: Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Emerald City Jazz Orchestra 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Braxton Cook 7:30 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Nicholas Russell 8p.m.

OCTOBER 30

5 Rights Brewing, Marysville: Stilly River Lockdown 6:30 p.m.
Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio with special guest Cedric Burnside 7:30 p.m.



Welcome Cedric Burnside back to the Pacific Northwest as he's a special guest with Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio at Jazz Alley this month!
 (Photo by Eric Steiner)

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Salmon Dan 8 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.
Owl 'N Thistle, Seattle: Danny Godinez Presents 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 31

Sheridan Market & Roadhouse, Lake Forest Park: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 6 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio with special guest Cedric Burnside 7:30 p.m.
Johnny's Dock, Tacoma: Bobby Hoffman 7 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Souled Out 8 p.m.
El Capitan's, Bellingham: Cassandra May and James 8 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano Island: Billy Appleton Band 7 p.m.
Nectar, Seattle: New Mastersounds 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: All Stars and No Stripes 8 p.m.
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Graceland Manila 9p.m.
Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle: Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

Special thanks to our funders:

Washington State Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts & 4Culture, the cultural funding agency for King County, Washington



It's Nomination Time!

Please nominate candidates for your 2026 Washington Blues Society Board of Directors

All Washington Blues Society members are invited and encouraged to participate in the nomination process of elected board members who will serve a one-year term beginning on January 1, 2026.

Paper nominations must be turned in no later than the November Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline, Washington, on November 11, 2025, and all online nominations must be submitted before Midnight on November 11, 2025. Nominations are only valid if you are current member of the Washington Blues Society.

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Bluesletter Editor

Madison Ave Pub

Mondays 7 till 9-ish
Mad Bojo

Wednesday Unbound Blues Jam
7 till 10-ish

10/1 Patrice Collet & Chester Dennis Jones
10/8 Billy Appleton 10/15 Leo Bootes
10/22 Justin Kausal Hayes
10/29 Jolene Gayle & Ryan T. Higgins

Rockin' Fridays 8-12

10/3 Outside The Lines
10/10 One Island Drop
10/17 After 4 Band
10/24 Cloud Cover
10/31 Happy Halloween! music TBA

Sunday Night Karaoke presented by
Rob Bramblett Entertainment

Have  with friends sing  your favorites 

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

Tuesday Night Dinner Show 7-9

10/7 Spare Hearts 10/14 Dangerous Curves
10/21 Unbound 10/28 Trischimmel & Co.

Thursday's Music

10/2 WA Blues Society's Blues Ambassadors
First Thursday every month!

Singer-Songwriter Showcase
Stacy Jones with special guest
10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30

Red Hot Saturdays 7:30-11:30

10/4 Mojo Cannon
10/11 Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers
10/18 the Cover Up 10/25 22 Pines





P.O. Box 70604
Seattle, WA 98127

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

Change Service Requested



KEEPING THE
BLUES
-ALIVE-

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:

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

Lee Oskar

Dreams We Share.com