

Bluesletter

Washington Blues Society

August 2024

**PREVIEW: 1ST ANNUAL
KITSAP BLUES
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**WELCOME BACK
SON JACK, JR!**

**THE RHAPSODY PROJECT
EXPANDS TO VIRGINIA**



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Blues Fans,

It's been one heck of a summer for me so far! I literally have been on the run all in of July and see no sign of slowing down yet. The Washington Blues Society's International Blues Challenge finals open up this month out at the Conway Muse on Sunday,

August 4th! It will be a great day of live music and we have a nice little surprise for everyone who comes!

This event also includes our annual summer Washington Blues Society picnic, and we will be cooking up a ton of burgers and hot dogs for everyone that shows up! Be sure to bring a side dish to share! This is going to be a great day at the Conway Muse, and I can assure you that there will be lots of dancing! Don't miss this annual Washington Blues Society party!

The award-winning Poverty Bay Blues and Brews Festival will also be a good time this month! This year's lineup of blueswomen is one of more creative lineups the festival has had, and I think all will be pleased with the entertainment there! Plus, so many beers to sample! The team behind this event always do a great job featuring a lot of up-and-coming local breweries! Fair warning: The event has sold out the last few years, so please be sure to come early!

Be sure to check out all the news, reviews and previews in this month's issue. I'm grateful for Son Jack, Jr's observations on his return to the Pacific Northwest this Summer, Rocky Nelson's preview of the 1st Annual Kitsap Blues Music Festival that adds a great event to our annual blues festival calendar, and frequent contributor and promoter Bud Monaco's remembrance of Casey Jones, a legendary drummer from Chicagoland. I also enjoy Judy Abernathy's article on the Salmon Bay Eagles and the preview of the remaining Gas Station Blues shows in downtown Issaquah.

We've received so much solid blues content in this issue that we've temporarily sidelined the print Membership Form, Open Mic and Blues Jam Guide, and Venue Guide (they're all online at www.wablues.org!)

The Washington Blues Society will be at many live blues events this month. So, be sure to stop by and say "Hi" at the booth!

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

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Above: Mark Riley at Aurora Borealis in Shoreline (Photo by Gordy Mitchell)

Cover: Danielle Nicole (Artist Courtesy Photo). Cover photo design by Sean Donovan (Gatorboy Productions)

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Hello blues lovers!

School may be out for the summer, but that hasn't prevented one of my best students from the School of Journalism at the University of Washington from presenting an article for the Bluesletter. Josh Hill was a reluctant journalist at best during the spring quarter. The long-haired, black-clad young writer has a future in mind that does not involve the high-stress tasks that confront journalists, including reaching out to perfect strangers, asking for interviews, and navigating the social and professional tensions associated with public affairs reporting. Josh would prefer to do social media work or graphics behind the scenes.

I understand that. Journalism is so stressful that there is a legend that the Arizona Sun once had an account with an alcoholism rehab center for its reporters. But Josh turned out to be so talented as a reporter that I found myself reluctant to resign myself to a world in which the reticent student did not publish work.

Then, when students were assigned to write about a local nonprofit, Josh picked the Rhapsody Project. Of course, I got quite excited. We at the Bluesletter follow that organization, devoted as it is to heritage music, with great interest. I'm glad to share Josh's story on the organization's recent expansion into Richmond, Virginia, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoyed seeing it come to pass.

As this issue makes its way into venues and mailboxes, my trio and I will spend the month of August on tour, traveling all the way to Florida and back up the Gulf Coast to Texas. We already returned from a jaunt that took us to the Rocky Mountain states and on to Arizona so that we could appear at the Portland Waterfront and at the Winthrop music festivals before heading out again.

When we head back out, we are going to be talking up some of the artists we met at the festivals. We shared the stage this year at Portland with two acts that were new to us, and you need to know about both of them. The first is Gemini Dragon, a New Orleans duo made up of a phenomenal singer named Gemini and her blazing guitarist Christian. They are doing cutting edge blues and roots music that sounds like what might happen if Tina Turner had joined the White Stripes. It's exciting and creative and also incredibly catchy.

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The second act is Portland's Miss Vee. For one thing, she knows how to make an appearance. When she showed up backstage I thought, wow, that lady looks amazing. She had on a rainbow-sequined tunic that caught the sun like a prism and a mass of shiny braids in a beautiful turquoise wrap. Then I realized that was her day clothes. When she came out on stage, she was wearing a full-on turquoise ball gown with wide Disney princess skirts and aqua chiffon over the shoulder. It was like seeing Aretha Franklin rock up at Madison Square Garden.

The look goes perfectly with her style. One of her new originals, called "Six Days a Week," is such an infectious soul banger I'm still hearing it in my sleep a week later. She is a pro, too. We were backing her on stage and we learned one of her songs in the wrong key. The original was in F and we'd missed an email in which she'd asked for it in Bb. That's about as far from the correct key as you can get, but she sang the daylights out of it, wrong key and all.

Oddly, the same thing happened to me on the same stage nearly 20 years ago. I was with a group of Washington Blues Society award winners that played Waterfront, and a song I sing in D got played in G. That is a nightmare, let me tell you, but I did my best. I guarantee it was nowhere near as good as Miss Vee's F version of a Bb song. I'm still dying over that, but she was as gracious as could be. Classy, elegant, and talented. I'm looking forward to hearing more from her, and we are working to get her up to Seattle for a show. Stay tuned!

Cheers!

Polly O'Keary, Editor
Washington Blues Society Bluesletter



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Great Shows @ Seattle's Lower Woodland Park & Gas Works Park

Enjoy free, live music this month at the Seattle Peace Concerts courtesy of Culture Yard & Mary McPage!

By Farhad Tyabji & Mary McPage

August 4th at Lower Woodland Park

Enjoy a full day of Dub Music - passionately curated and amplified on a hand-built Reggae Sound-System - at the Dub in the Trees Peace Concert at Woodland Park. No matter the temperature, this will be the coolest enclave to hear world-entrancing dub music outside.

Produced by Culture Yard Productions in collaboration with Kibo HiFi, Seattle's foremost sound-system crew designed to deliver finely tuned bass frequencies that make hairlines tingle, and bodies groove. Come enjoy strictly-vinyl roots reggae selections from the Ital Counselor, who does wonders to keep folks engaged, unified, and educated on Dub music culture. This was beautiful last year, and we're looking forward to it again Sunday August 4th, from Noon-6PM.



August 18th at Gas Works Park

Electric blues and slide guitarist Jill Newman is a fierce guitarist, able to squeeze out a raw emotional solo, and with the technical skills to play a smoking lead solo.



Whitewing is a collaboration of musicians united by a common vision of bringing love and joy to the world through music with dedication to playing from the heart. This Western Washington based group brings energy to both well-known and hidden gems, traditional blues as well as blues-influenced R&B, soul, and funk covers.



Top: Jill Newman (Photo Artist Courtesy)

Above: Andie Whitewing (Photo by Travis Wetherbee)

Mary Ellen Lykins & the CC Adams Band. There's no mistaking the voice; Mary Ellen has power and grit that gives you chills. Thwarting the conventional, this band thrives on passion and unique arrangements, energy and excitement!



Annie Eastwood & Her All-Star Band. The hardest working lady in the Northwest, Annie Eastwood leads her dynamic All-Star Band through Rhythm and Blues, Rock and Roll, Jazz, Swing, Soul, Latin and Torch Songs. This is a super versatile band that will entertain you.



Top: Mary Ellen Lykins & The CC Adams Band (Photo Artist Courtesy)

Above: Annie Eastwood & Her All Star Band (Photo Artist Courtesy)

Phoenix in Furs: A New Residency for a New Duo

See this new Pacific Northwest duo on the 4th Friday of each month in Bellingham!

By Rick J. Bowen

Phoenix in Furs is a blistering musical celebration of rebirth, rising from the embers of the past lives of two unique individuals, Casaundra May and James Cox. With musical roots four miles off Highway 61 on Dry Bayou Road, South of Rolling Fork in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, Casaundra and James explore numerous genres with a theatrical flair and a commanding sound that beckons you deeper into their world. Kokomo Arnold and Amy Winehouse collaborated with Tom Waits, Muddy Waters, and Meg and Jack White, raising good times from the ashes of the bad.

Casaundra May lives her life with the same passion and intensity that she brings to the stage. Having lived across the Skagit Valley for most of her life, she channels great jazz and blues singers from the Golden Age of

music. But, Casaundra's been through some stuff. The all-nighters, passionate fighters, and deals that came undone, reborn in a voice, irrepressible, and nostalgic for a time that never was. Occasionally scandalous, eternally entertaining, Casaundra dominates her space and carries the room with her charm and a sound at once unique yet familiar and exciting.

Having grown up on the shores of the Mississippi River listening to the trains during the final days of the Rock Island Line, James Cox kicked around on the guitar for a long time but never did anything with it. When he finally got serious, he was too old to get good, but here he is.

Join Phoenix in Furs for their new official residency at El Capitan's in Bellingham on the fourth Friday of each month. If you or someone you know are interested



in showing your talents to a fun and supportive audience, please reach out to the group or send them to the show. The duo are seeking fire breathers, burlesque dancers, magicians, glass swallowers, drag aficionados, or anyone who want to offer something that would entertain an audience for a few minutes, this is your chance at your 15+ minutes of fame. (Artist Courtesy Photo).

August Blues Bash Series

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Sunday July 28th – Volunteer Park

Roots of Folk, Rock, and Blues - Produced by Sara St. John
SaraBand, The Blue Healers, Jack & Tina Experience, Dublin Abbey,
Mister Canoe, Jim Page & Katy Keenan, Seattle Hand Drummers

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Sun, Aug 4th – Lower Woodland Park ^{Picnic Shelter #6}

Dub in the Trees Soundsystem Session - Produced by Culture Yard
Kibo HiFi, Ital Counselor, Culture Yard Sound

Sun, Aug 18th – Gas Works Park

Goddess Blues [All Female Fronted Bands] - Produced by Mary McPage
Jill Newman Band, Whitewing, CC Adams featuring Mary Ellen Lykins,
Annie Eastwood and her Allstars

Sun, Sept 8th – Volunteer Park

Classic Rock, Americana, & Grateful Dead - Produced by Damon Thompson
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Preview: 1st Annual Kitsap Blues Music Festival

"We put together a line-up of touring blues artists and amazing, up and coming regional artists..."

By Rocky Nelson

Recently, I met with Nate Murphy, Operations Director for Bremerton's Admiral Theatre, to learn about the 2024 1st Annual Kitsap Blues Music Festival during Labor Day weekend at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds that he's helping to manage. During his normal daily functions, he talked to me about the upcoming blues festival from his office at the Admiral Theatre in beautiful downtown Bremerton. He talked me through one of the finest, live blues festival line-ups that I've seen lately and the support around it. Nate struck me as being honest and straightforward in the four hours I spent with him for this preview. His passion, vision and intent for this blues music event impressed me of its forthcoming overall success.

"The Kitsap County Fair has been a highlight of the summer for 100+ years, and Bremerton's Admiral Theatre has presented live blues for 30+ years, including Samantha Fish, Keb' Mo', Taj Mahal, Coco Montoya, and Colin James. It was just a natural step forward by the Admiral theatre, the Kitsap Fair and Stampede Association to launch a new annual event," said Nate enthusiastically.

Nate talked about the wealth of experience within the Admiral Theatre, Kitsap County Fair and Stampede Association that those principals will bring to the 1st Annual Kitsap Blues Music Festival. "This is where the decades of live music and event experience between the Admiral Theatre, the Kitsap Fair and Stampede Association comes into play," he said with pride.

"The Admiral attracts 50,000+ patrons a year, and the Kitsap County Fair attracts 80,000+ people a year. While our preparation is on par with the fair, which is happening the week before the Kitsap Blues Music Festival, expected attendance will be a small fraction of the fair crowd. This is by design, especially for this first year."

I asked him about concerns for safety and security plus amenities and comforts to expect for that weekend.

"The experience is everything," he quickly

responded. "From arrival and tickets, multiple safety and first aid stations, food and beverage vendors and availability of water, hand-washing stations, rest rooms, showers (for campers), it's all covered! It has the combination of live music, great food and beverage options, RV and tent camping, and time outdoors to catch up with friends and family in a fun, safe environment." The Washington Blues Society will have a booth for swag, membership information, and sell artist merch.

"Selecting the lineup for this year's festival was a true collaborative effort between the Admiral Theatre Executive Director Brian Johnson, Fair and Stampede team Jeff Nilsen, Jamie Jensen and others," said Nate. "Since each group books entertainment for the Admiral Theatre and the Kitsap Fair, they have existing relationships with top agents and artists to get the best artists on stage."

"We put together a line-up of touring blues artists and amazing up and coming regional artists, including Samantha Fish, Joanne Shaw Taylor, Curtis Salgado, Tommy Castro and The Painkillers, Jontavious Willis, Jackie Venson, Tinsley Ellis, Too Slim and The Taildraggers, and many more. We have 20 world-class artists over the long Labor Day weekend," said Nate.

I'm glad to see Everett, Washington's hometown hero, a champion of Eugene, Oregon, and harp and vocal icon (according to National Public Radio), Curtis Salgado, on the lineup. Curtis has been honored by many Blues Music Awards at The Blues Foundation, recently took home another "Best Soul Blues Artist" pyramid in Memphis. On the heels of the Alligator Records critically acclaimed efforts, *Beautiful Lowdown*, *Damage Control*, and *Rough Cut*, Curtis is at the top of his game. Alligator Records founder Bruce Iglauer added Curtis in 2012 to the label.

"With Curtis Salgado, Tommy Castro, Too Slim, Tinsley Ellis and my local favorite Nick Vigarino, that's a ton of testosterone on stage. You have two of the most accomplished blueswomen, along with such

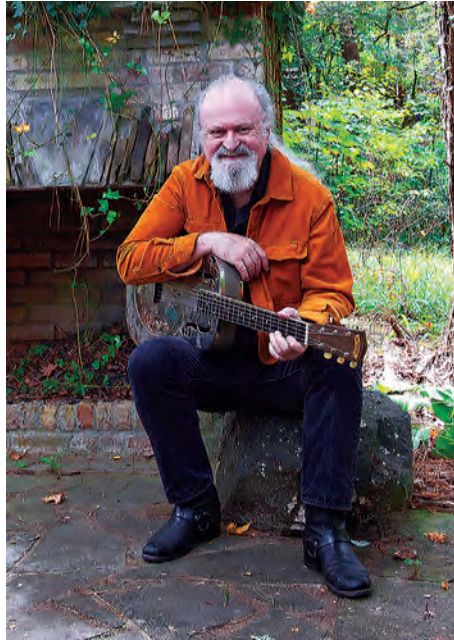
(Continued on Page 12)



Top: Samantha Fish
(Photo by Reliant Talent Agency)
2nd: Joanne Shaw Taylor (Artist Courtesy)
3rd: Jackie Venson (Photo by Ismael Quintanilla)
4th: Anni Piper (Artist Courtesy)



Top: Kara Hesse
(Photo by the Raincity Collective)
2nd: Jontavious Willis
(Photo by the Mint Talent Group)
3rd: Front St. Revue (Artist Courtesy)
4th: Rafael Tranquilino (Artist Courtesy)



Top: Tinsley Ellis (Photo by Mark West)
2nd: Tim Hall (Courtesy Tim Hall Band)
Above: Curtis Salgado (Photo by Bob Hakins)



Top: Nick Vigarino (Photo by Dave Corry)
2nd: Tim "Too Slim" Langford
(Photo by Mike McNett)
Above: CD Woodbury (Artist Courtesy)

Preview: 1st Annual Kitsap Blues Music Festival (continued)

"I look forward to seeing the festival's two leading femme fatales: Joanne Shaw Taylor & Samantha Fish."

(Continued from Page 10)

talented regional artists on the same bill. Your co-headliners are well-known, high-octane women," I asked. "Do you think they can hold their own with the guys?"

"High-octane is right. Simply put, the ladies make this festival," Nate said. "In addition to headliners Samantha Fish and Joanne Shaw Taylor, we added Jackie Venson from Austin, and regional artists the Stacy Jones Band, Anni Piper, and Kara Hesse. We wanted to work with Joanne Shaw Taylor for years, and coming off her recent work with Joe Bonamassa, the stars aligned, and we're thrilled to have her headline the main stage on Saturday night. We welcomed Samantha Fish to the Admiral Theatre for a sold out show last year and she blew the roof off the place. Samantha headlines on Sunday night. The schedule for this 1st year is packed with world-class blues talent over the Labor Day weekend, and the blues men and blues women are scheduled to give fans an opportunity to see each artist on both stages with little overlap."

Friday night, August 30th, starts off at Noon with gates opening to campers and vendors. Ticket sales begin at 6 PM and music starts at 7 PM with regional artists the Front Street Revue, Kara Hesse, and Rafael Tranquilino.

Saturday, August 31st, the main stage begins at 2 PM with Tinsley Ellis, Jackie Venson, Tommy Castro and The Painkillers, and Joanne Shaw Taylor headlining. The field stage across the street features Anni Piper, Joel Astley, and Kenny James Miller Band.

On Sunday, September 1st, the mainstage features Too Slim and The Taildraggers, Jontavious Willis, Curtis Salgado, and Samantha Fish beginning at 2 PM. The field stage across the street features the James Howard Band, CD Woodbury, the Tim Hall Band, the Stacy Jones Band, and Nick Vigarino's Meantown Blues.

Personally, I look forward to seeing the festival's two leading femme fatales: Joanne Shaw Taylor and Samantha Fish.

Joanne Shaw Taylor was born in England, and at age 16 was discovered by Dave Stewart

of the Eurythmics. Her CD, *Diamonds in the Dirt*, reached #8 on the Billboard top Blues Album chart. She won Best Female Vocalist at the British Blues Awards in 2010. Her 2021 CD, *The Blues Album*, released on Joe Bonamassa's Keeping the Blues Alive Records, hit #1.

Samantha Fish played a sold-out show at the Admiral Theatre last year. This Kansas City native played the Crossroads Festival in 2023 at Eric Clapton's request. She's garnered a number of awards, including a 2017 Best Album Blues Blast Award for *Chills & Fever*, and a 2018 Blues Music Award in the Best Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year category. She's received 22 "Best of" honors, from 2016 to 2022 in the Independent Blues Awards hosted by <https://www.makingascene.org/>.

Coming off a successful highlight to Slash's recent SERPENT tour, the Rolling Stones asked Samantha to open for them on the last North American stop on their *Hackney Diamonds* tour in Missouri on July 21st. She'll be playing at the Thunder Ridge Nature Arena in Ridgedale in heart of the Ozarks. She previously opened for the Stones at the New Orleans Jazz Festival earlier this year. Her manager at Thunderbird Management, Reuben Williams, continues to keep this crowd pleaser very busy.

For more information, please visit kitsapblues.com and the Admiral Theatre Box Office at 360.373.6743. Nate will post an FAQ doc online with details on camping, etc. Readers may also email Nate at nate@admiraltheatre.org.

As I left Nate's office in the historic Admiral Theatre in Bremerton, he expressed heartfelt thanks to the Washington Blues Society for this first-ever partnership featuring such a stellar lineup at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds during the 2024 Labor Day Weekend.



Top: Tommy Castro & The Painkillers (Artist Courtesy)

2nd: Kenny James Miller Band (Photo from ReverbNation)

3rd: Joel Astley (Artist Courtesy)

4th: Stacy Jones Band (Photo by Gladys Jones)

5th: James Howard Band (Photo by Clancy Dunagin)

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21 AND OVER EVENT

Welcome Danielle Nicole to the Pacific Northwest!

"...these dates provide opportunities to see one of the most talented blueswomen touring North America today!"

By Eric Steiner

I first saw Danielle Schnebelen in the mid-2000s when I volunteered for The Blues Foundation at the International Blues Challenge and the Blues Music Awards, and just knew that this young Kansas City-based bassist and her brothers Nick and Kris had that "special something" as the Trampled Under Foot power trio. One of my favorite memories of that era was seeing this band play at the legendary Knuckleheads blues club in their home town. In 2008, the family band won the International Blues Challenge, and at the 2014 Blues Music Awards, Trampled Under Foot's *Badlands*, won the Contemporary Blues Album of the Year statuette. At the same ceremony, Danielle Schnebelen won the Best Instrumentalist Bass award.

She struck out on her own as Danielle Nicole in 2015 with *Wolf Den*, and her second CD, *Cry No More* followed in 2018, and the record was nominated for a Grammy in the contemporary blues category and debuted at #1 in the Billboard Blues Charts (it also boasts of 10 million+ Spotify streams!).

In 2019, Danielle Nicole returned to the Blues Awards stage to receive awards as a solo artist in the Contemporary Blues Female Artist and Bass Instrumentalist categories.

This month, Danielle Nicole is touring in Washington, Oregon, Utah and Montana on the strength of her latest CD, *The Love You Bleed* (Concord). The new album was produced by Tony Braunagel (Taj Mahal, Eric Burdon, Robert Cray) and co-produced by Nicole, with John Porter (B.B. King,

Buddy Guy, Bryan Ferry) mixing. The tight knit quartet on the songs features Danielle on bass guitar and vocals; Brandon Miller (electric, acoustic, pedal steel, mandolin, and 12-string guitar); Damon Parker (keyboards); Go-Go Ray (drums); and Stevie Blacke (violin and cello).

This month, welcome the Danielle Nicole Band to Portland's McMenamin's Mission Theatre on the 6th, Seattle's Triple Door on the 7th, Salt Lake City's State Room on the 9th, and Cheyenne's Lincoln Cheyenne on the 10th. This band doesn't play the Western US very often, and these dates provide opportunities to see one of the most talented blueswomen touring North America today!

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Blues News from the Inland Empire Blues Society

Great live blues at Thursday Night Boogie, Bloody Mary Sundays Blues Jam & 1st Blues Bash in Plummer, Idaho

By Alison Williams

The Inland Empire Blues Society is busy this summer with live blues music around Spokane and Northern Idaho.

The monthly Inland Empire Blues Society's Thursday Night Boogie at The Black Diamond in Spokane Valley had the talented and energetic Jason Perry entertaining the audience in June.

July saw the Blues Kangaroos, Eric Vogel and Ben Johnson laying down some blues with a bit of funk and rock blended in for an eclectic night of music.

In August, the Inland Empire Blues Society will bring some awesome ladies singing the blues with Hurricane Ruth and Lisa Mann.

The Inland Empire Blues Society jams belong to Bloody Mary Sundays. June's jam was

held at the Black Diamond with host band Jay Snow and the Tonekeepers. In July, the venue was The Junkyard in Spokane Valley hosted by the Sidemen Group. Look for another great jam in August at the Junkyard hosted by the New Revelators.

This month, the Inland Empire Blues Society will be busy with its first annual Blues Bash at Bobbi's Bar in Plummer, Idaho.

The festival runs from the 2nd through the 4th. The event features the Rae Gordon Band, the Lake City Blues Band, Bluesletter cover artist Meghan Sullivan, National Remedy, Perry Roper, and the Vaughn Jensen Band.

For more information and tickets for this event go to www.InlandEmpireBlues.com. Keep up with all the blues music going on in the Inland Empire Blues world by following us on Facebook at Facebook.com/ieblues



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Tuesday Night Dinner Show 7-9
 8/6 AJ Fullerton 8/13 Blue Healers
 8/20 Unbound 8/27 Cousin Antoine

Mondays 7 till 9-ish
Mad Bojo

Wednesday Unbound Blues Jam 7-10
 8/7 Sheri Roberts Greimes & Marc Lagen
 8/14 Danny Godinez 8/21 Kyle Rowland
 & Kevin Sutton 8/28 Jesse James

Thursday Night 7-9
Singer-Songwriter Showcase
 Kevin Sutton with special guest 8/1
 Stacy Jones with special guest
 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29

NEW! Rockin' Fridays 8-12
 8/2 Hot Rodsters 8/9 Sugar Push
 8/16 Billy Appleton Band
 8/23 Faultline 8/30 no music

Red Hot Saturdays 7:30-11:30
 8/3 Jesse James and the M.O.B.
 8/10 Seattle Houserockers
 8/17 Daniel Castro & Friends
 8/24 Gin Creek 8/31 no music

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

The Washington Blues Society Blues Challenge Finals Are Here

Join us on Sunday, August 4th at the Conway Muse for an exciting day of music!

By Kirk Anderson

And the bands that the Washington Blues Society is sending to The Blues Foundation's 40th annual International Blues Challenge on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee on January 7-11, 2025 are...

Well, you are going to have to come up to the Conway Muse in Conway, Washington on Sunday August 4th starting at high noon to find out! The winners have not been announced because so far this summer of 2024, Washington state judges so far have only picked the semi-final rounds winners that will advance to the finals at Conway Muse.

Conway Muse is a gathering place for musicians and fans as its name derives from Greek religion and mythology as the nine goddesses who have been considered the source of the knowledge embodied in poetry, lyric and songs. These days, a muse is a person, female or male, who serves as an artist's inspiration.

Surely, you've heard of the Conway Muse? Winner of several awards from Skagit Publishing People's Choice awards, Cascadia Weekly Best of Skagit awards as well as King 5 Best of Western Washington's Top 5 Best Live Music Venues, this venue is only 55 miles north of Seattle in a converted 1915 Norwegian dairy barn. Formerly a glass shop, antique shop and auction barn, Elfa Gisla and Tom Richardson purchased the building and lovingly have given us the

Conway Muse.

Come on out and support the finalists and help us inspire these musicians and vocalists until the judges pick one finalist in the solo/duo category and one other in the band category. You will see the six best bands and solo-duo artists in the state of Washington put on their best sets as each act seeks to compete with the nation's best musicians on fabled Beale Street in Memphis!

How did we get here? Here are the winners of the blues society's local blues challenges:

Spokane @ The Unkyard on May 26th

Alison Joy Williams & Indigo Edge (Band)

The Heavy T Left Ones (Solo/Duo)

Shoreline @ Aurora Borealis June 9th

The Joel Astley Band (Band)

Sheri Roberts Greimes & Marc Lagen (Solo/Duo)

Sumner @ Purdy's Pub June 23rd

James Howard Band (Band)

Two Train Running (Solo/Duo)

Where are we going? One of these bands and one of the solo/duo winners will be going Memphis as Washington State's representative for the International Blues Challenge which is the Blues Foundation's signature event that turns all of Beale Street into a five-day big blues venue for more than 260 blues acts from around the world. Wednesday and Thursday at the Beale Street clubs will be the quarter-final rounds followed by the semi-finals on Friday culminating with

the finalists performing at Memphis' historic Orpheum Theater on Saturday.

I caught up with Washington Blues Society President Tony Fredrickson and asked him what advice he gives to the Washington representatives while they are in Memphis. Tony said he suggests that they network, network, network as you never know who you're talking to. There are so many national and international blues and music industry's architects that come to the International Blues Challenge to check up and coming acts of the future. There are so many bands to befriend and either help (or be helped) during this week-long series of blues events and into their future.

I asked Tony, what keeps him and the Washington Blues Society volunteers going gig after gig.

"I believe in the process as I've seen it change lives," said Tony.

Come on down to Conway Muse on Sunday August 4th from noon until finish to help inspire your favorites. There is a \$10 donation cover charge which is used to help fund the winners' trips to Memphis so the artists can concentrate on bringing another winner back to Washington.

Please join the Washington Blues Society for this event, which will include the blues society's annual blues picnic with a special show by the Mark DuFresne Band following the competition!



AUGUST 2024

1. Slippery Pig Brewery
3. Conway Muse Blues Fest
8. Buckley Summer Concerts
10. Sound To Summit Brewery
13. North City Jazz Walk
24. Poverty Bay Blues and Brews
24. Muckleshoot Casino
29. Gas Station Blues
- Sept 1. Kitsap Blues Festival

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Around the South Sound with LTD Presents

It's going to be a blues-hot August!

By Tanya Lee Hodel

This summer in the South Sound was jam-packed with great live music, and to quote Rick Estrin, "The Hits Keep Coming." Ranging from Tacoma to Poulsbo and all points in-between, there's been stellar shows featuring national artists as well as local stars. August is chock full of super performances.

Sunday, August 25th brings back the 4th Annual Tacoma Dock Street Blues & Jazz Festival to West of the Waterway. This year, LTD Presents have secured a lineup of fine musicians from all over the country as well as some local favorites. The energetic Earshot Award Winning Band, Jazz Overhaul, is opening with the Rafael Tranquilino Band coming on next with their compelling brand of rocking blues. We have the powerhouse of Andy Stokes, King Louie & Renato Caranto following with a set of funky/smooth tunes. The festival finishes up with two sensational artists hailing from California, harmonica genius Kyle Rowland from Sacramento, and our headliner, California's Queen of the Blues & Soul, Tia Carroll & her Pacific Northwest Band.

New this year, we have secured a second stage inside West of the Waterway where Washington Blues Society award-winning artists The Blue Healers and John "Greyhound" Maxwell will perform in between main stage acts. The festival opens at Noon with music starting at 1 PM.

As in past years, the festival is free to the public, but there are a limited number of VIP Packages available. Go to www.LTDPresentsLIVE.com for the ticket link. VIP Packages include a designated VIP Area, a festival t-shirt, two drink tickets and one food ticket. The 4th Annual Dock Street Blues & Jazz Festival is sponsored by KNKX Radio, The Spar Tavern, Kat McNeill and Lance Bowman, and the South Sound Blues Association.

On Sunday, August 18th at 7 PM, LTD Presents brings the fourth in their Spotlight

Series to The Spar. This show Castro Band to the South Sound area. Los Angeles-area artist Daniel Castro was heavily influenced by the blues greats Albert King, B.B. King, and Albert Collins. After cutting his teeth in South Central L.A. blues clubs with "Mighty Mouth" Delmar Evans, who worked with the Johnny Otis Show, Castro backed other artists from Otis' band, including Pee Wee Crayton and Little Esther Phillips. He also recorded and toured with other artists, including legendary Small Faces singer-bassist Ronnie Lane.

Wednesday, August 21st at The Spar features The Bennett/Matteo Band at 7pm. This is a special DHudson Productions event.

Sunday Blues at The Spar this August has the wonderful Kim & Brian Band bringing their 'honest blues & rock show to Old Town Tacoma on August 4th at 7 PM. Get there early for the best seat. The Lucky Losers are slated for Sunday, August 11th, and head to the free 4th Annual Tacoma Dock Street Blues & Jazz Festival at West of the Waterway for all the blues you can use and more on Sunday, August 25th from 12 PM to 7 PM. Sunday Blues at The Spar is canceled that night in honor of the festival.

There are lots of great music offerings in Gig Harbor at the Kimball Coffeehouse. On Friday, August 2nd Kimball's is excited to present the CD Woodbury Trio from 7-9 PM. Friday, August 16th is the return of The Mark DuFresne Band featuring Billy Stapleton. August 23rd features Leanne Trevelyan's full band version of Octopus Ballet, and The Soulful 88s rock the house on August 30th. Doors open at 6 PM. Kimball Coffeehouse fills up fast, so get there early! Check the website at kimballcoffeehouse.com for more information and details about upcoming shows.

August 7th in University Place has Washington Blues Society award winner Mark Hurwitz with Gin Creek performing for Music on the Square at 3609 Market Place. Music starts at 6 PM. This is a family



Tia Carroll
(Photo by Bob Hakins)



Jazz Overhaul in the KNKX studio
(Artist Courtesy Photo)

friendly, fun event put on by the town of University Place. There are quite a few great musical performances happening over the month of August, so it's worth a glance at www.cityofup.com to check out all that's happening.

The South Sound Blues Association is supporting many fine local artists like The Soulful 88s on Thursday, August 1st at the Curran Apple Orchard at 6:30 PM at 3920 Grandview Drive West in University Place. You can find all those goings on at www.southsoundblues.org

Washington Rhapsody Project Expands into Virginia

"I know that this music can bring people together," said Watkins. "There's no judgment in the music."

By Josh Hill

American music has a murky history. Rhapsody is creating ways to talk about it.

Musician Ben Hunter could have never imagined that Joe Seamons, the flannel-clad man his roommate dragged home from a music festival more than a decade ago, would become his best friend.

However, after over a decade of performing and educating together, the two have built one of Washington's most important music heritage programs and are poised to expand it beyond the Pacific Northwest into Richmond, Virginia.

Though their stories couldn't be more different—Hunter is African-born and classically trained while Seamons grew up in rural Oregon listening to folk music—the friends bonded over a shared love of American roots music. Seamons, born and raised in a small town with a rich logging history, began his musical journey at an early age through the folk music performances of family friends. He quickly developed an interest in the art form and its historical roots.

"Through that curiosity and deep love of Black American music, I just started to try to educate myself," said Seamons.

Hunter, who said he was raised as "something of a nomad," was born in the small nation of Lesotho in southern Africa and has moved between Arizona, Washington, and Zimbabwe throughout his life.

Having been raised as a classical violinist, he identifies his early ear for music as a primary catalyst for his appreciation for multiculturalism.

"It's not just about the music. It's the food, it's the art, it's the dance, it's the poetry. It's all these things that the culture surrounds," said Hunter. "This is one of the reasons that Joe and I connected so well."

Hunter said that part of what drew him and

Seamons into a friendship was the ways in which their experiences differed.

"We were both fascinated by the differences in our lives," he said.

Shortly after meeting, the two started co-billing shows in Seattle and Portland with each of their bands. That musical cooperation grew, however, following their visit to a local acoustic blues festival.

As they entered the gates, the two were greeted with a veritable feast of the senses; jam sessions grooved through the night, and the halls were flooded with the very community that served as the lifeblood of the music they both loved.

"We experienced a very similar, profound connection to what was happening," said Hunter.

Inspired by American blues and mentored by Piedmont blues harmonica master Phil Wiggins, they formed a musical duo and began performing and teaching the blues, integrating their collective knowledge of American music and history into their endeavors.

That included the troubled racial history that informed blues, folk, and other traditional American musical genres. For instance, as Seamons researched the roots of the music that had surrounded him as a youth, he learned about the troubled past of his own home state's legacy. "That led me to learn that Oregon is a uniquely racist state," he said. "I was 30 years old before I learned that fact."

European settlers in Oregon in the mid-19th century sought to make the state a whites-only enclave, forbidding Black people from owning land and entering into legal contracts. This led many Black settlers to homestead just across the Columbia River in Washington, and led to a lack of diversity that lingers in Portland to the present era.

Driven by a desire to address the political

contexts in which American music evolved, Hunter and Seamons founded The Rhapsody Project, a non-profit devoted to preserving the cultural heritage of blues and roots music ethically and responsibly. The two built a curriculum that sought to teach personal heritage alongside music through the lens of anti-racism.

This is the crux of Rhapsody's goal: teaching music in a way that actively identifies and challenges racism in America's past in order to change the behaviors and assumptions that perpetuate prejudice.

"Understanding one's own intersectionality, or the ways that various aspects of identity inform one's sense of self, is an essential stepping stone toward acknowledging the role identity plays in personal and artistic expression," Seamons said.

"We believe anti-racist work starts with yourself," said Seamons. "It means understanding yourself as a person of culture and understanding your relationship to not just your ethnic identities, but the layers of your heritage that connect to the land you're raised on."

Founded in 2013, Rhapsody has since evolved into a multi-focus nonprofit bolstered by the dedication of local musicians who work within various programs to teach and enrich Seattle musicians of all ages and backgrounds. Though providing a safe space for musical expression, they have fostered a community of open-minded creatives working to lower the barriers between culture and art.

"The intention was to give our students the music education that we wished we had had," said Seamons. "We were playing a lot of American roots music at the time, and really wanted to impart that music to young people and help them understand that they have a lineage as Americans that goes back in a beautiful way."

It isn't just about teaching history, though.

"We're talking compassion, we're talking

empathy, we're talking observation, we're talking patience, we're talking ensemble," said Hunter. "All of these things that really are our lessons and how we interact as people are paired in the ways that we produce or consume art, if we open ourselves up to the intersectionality of it all." Hunter, who has since assumed the role of art director for Seattle's massive annual Northwest Folklife Festival, continues working to foster the links between heritage and culture through festivals and other musical and cultural gatherings. At these events, students of Rhapsody regularly join hundreds of artists and thousands of patrons of the arts to perform and experience the fullness of the culture.

Now, one of the musicians who has helped carry out the Rhapsody mission plans to export the successful initiative to the very heart of the South from which many forms of American music were born. Guitarist and Rhapsody educator Justin Golden worked to found a chapter of the Rhapsody Project in his home state of Virginia, set to open this summer in the capital city of Richmond.

Keanya Watkins, president of the River City Blues Society of Richmond, expressed her excitement for the program. She grew up listening to the same blues music her grandparents were raised with, and when she got involved in the business end of the music business, her elders were surprised and pleased.

"I never picked a lick of cotton in my life. I don't know anything about how Muddy Waters lived," she said. "I remember telling [my grandmother] I manage a blues band, and she just sort of stared at me. Then maybe a year later, somebody that she knew came to hear the band play. When I walked in the house, she said, 'You didn't tell me that your band played Muddy Waters!' After that, it just opened so much more conversation for me."

Watkins got involved in Richmond's River City Blues Society and maintained the organization's "Blues in the Schools" curriculum for years, but expressed concerns that it was inefficient in reaching multicultural youth.

Rhapsody aims to fill that gap, and Watkins believes local youths are ready for the message.

"Young people really want to have an outlet to be able to tell their story," said Watkins. "Children come to River City Blues Society events, they're dancing, they're having a great time. Young kids are really hip to this music."

Now, Rhapsody is seeking volunteers in the Richmond area to bring the harmony of diversity to their music. While musicians are warmly welcomed, being one isn't necessary to enrich Rhapsody's purpose. They are seeking students and donors of all ages to assist in furthering their anti-racist efforts.



Rhapsody in Richmond Founder Justin Golden (Photo by Joey Wharton)

"I know that this music can bring people together," said Watkins. "There's no judgment in the music."

To learn more visit <https://therhapsodyproject.org/richmond/>.

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August 2024 Live Blues Music Calendar!

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

AUGUST 1

Fort Worden, Port Townsend: Centrum Blues Workshop 11 AM

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: Aaron Crawford 12 PM

Hotel Bellwether, Bellingham: Mid Life Crisis and the Alimony Horns 6 PM

Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo: Stacy Jones Band 6 PM

Maple Valley Summer Concerts, Maple Valley: Kim and Brian 6 PM

Tim's Tavern, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM

Black n Tan, Seattle: New Orleans Speakeasy Night 6 PM

Gas Station Blues, Issaquah: John Del Toro Richardson 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: ConFunkShun 7:30 PM

AUGUST 2

Fort Worden, Port Townsend: Centrum Blues Workshop 11 AM

Bobbi's Bar, Plummer ID: Inland Empire Blues Bash 5 PM

Salish Sea Taproom, Edmonds: True Romans 6 PM

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

Kimball Coffee House, Gig Harbor: CD Woodbury 7 PM

Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Rewind 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: ConFunkShun 7:30 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Seattle House Rockers 8 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Hot Rodsters 8 PM

Conor Byrne, Seattle: Moondoggies 9 PM

AUGUST 3

Olympia Farmers Market, Olympia: Linda Carol and Retro Gruve 11 AM

Fort Worden, Port Townsend: Centrum Blues Workshop 11 AM

Bobbi's Bar, Plummer ID: Inland Empire Blues Bash 12 PM

Dusty Cellars, Camano: McPage and Powell 3 PM

North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene, ID: Alison Joy Williams and Indigo Edge 3 PM

Salish Sea Taproom, Edmonds: Red House 6 PM

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

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Portage Bay Big Band 7 PM

Ashford County Park, Ashford: Rainier Music Festival 12 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Conway Blues Festival 6 PM

Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Greg Murat 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: ConFunkShun 7:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Jesse James 7:30 PM

Pub 282, Camano: Sheri Roberts Griemes and Jo Mama 8 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Stevie and the Blue Flames 8 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Billy Appleton Band 8 PM

Conor Byrne, Seattle: Moondoggies 9 PM

Brown Lantern, Anacortes: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 9 PM

AUGUST 4

Conway Muse, Conway: International Blues Challenge Finals and Blues Picnic 12 PM

Woodland Park, Seattle: Seattle Peace Concert 12 PM

Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Elias Kauhane 2 PM

Miller's, Carnation: On Bird Street 6 PM

Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Kim and Brian 7 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: ConFunkShun 7:30 PM

AUGUST 5

Angel of the Winds, Arlington: The Fat Fridays 11 AM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM

Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

August 6

Spring District, Bellevue: Great American Trainwreck 12 PM

Quil Ceda Creek, Tulalip: Midnight Hour 6 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: A.J. Fullerton 7 PM

Mission Theater, Portland: Danielle Nicole 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Stanley Jordon 7:30 PM

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

AUGUST 7

Skyline Tower, Bellevue: Duende Libre 12 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 6 PM

Market Square, University Place: Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek 6 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Stanley Jordon 7:30 PM

Triple Door, Seattle: Daniel Nicole 7:30 PM

Owl N Thistle, Seattle: Billy Joe & the Dusty 45s 8 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: McPage and Powell 8 PM

AUGUST 8

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: Rafael Tranquilino 12 PM

Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo: Nanaimo Blues Festival 3 PM

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

Tim's Tavern, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM

Hotel Bellwether, Bellingham: The Atlantics 6 PM

Buckley Youth Center, Buckley: Stacy Jones Band 6 PM

Black Diamon, Spokane: Second Thursday Boogie with Lisa Mann & Hurricane Ruth 6:30 PM

Gas Station Blues, Issaquah: Christi Michelle 7 PM

Wit Cellars, Proser: Ian Moore with Diego Romero 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: John Pizzarelli 7:30 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Mark DuFresne Band 8 PM

Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 PM

AUGUST 9

Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo: Nanaimo Blues Festival 12 PM

Riverfront Park, Libby MT: Riverfront Blues Festival 5 PM

PT Anchor, Port Townsend: Jonas Myers 6 PM

Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Foot stompers 6 PM

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

Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Larry Byers 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: John Pizzarelli 7:30 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Joe Cook Blues Band 8 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Sugar Push 8 PM

Pub 282, Camano: CC Adams Band 8 PM

Bake's Place, Bellevue: Annie Eastwood Allstar Band 9 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Davanos 8 PM

AUGUST 10

Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo: Nanaimo Blues Festival 12 PM

Riverfront Park, Libby MT: Riverfront Blues Festival 12 PM

Si View Park, North Bend: Festival at Mt Si 12 PM

Dusty Strings, Seattle: Bottleneck Blues Guitar Workshop 12:30 PM

Slim's Last Chance Saloon, Seattle: Hillbilly Headbangers Ball 2 PM

Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Pilchuck Boyz 6 PM

Bailey's, Clinton: Money Fight 6:30 PM

Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Sheri and Da Boyz 7 PM

Sound To Summit, Snohomish: Stacy Jones Band 7 PM

Blues Frog Studios, White Rock B.C.: Nigel Mack and the Blues Attack 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: John Pizzarelli 7:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Seattle House Rockers 7:30 PM

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Doctor Funk 8 PM
Conway Muse , Conway: Christy McWilson 8 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Full Spectrum 8 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Kimball and the Fugitives 8 PM
Tractor Tavern, Seattle: Ian Moore w/Gravel Road 8 PM

AUGUST 11

Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo: Nanaimo Blues Festival 12 PM
Si View Park, North Bend: Festival at Mt Si 12 PM
Skagit Valley Farmers Markey, Mt Vernon: Norris and Nicely 12 PM
Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Blue Healers 6 PM
Miller's, Carnation: On Bird Street 6 PM
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Ari Hest 7 PM
Spar Tavern, Tacoma: The Lucky Losers 7 PM
Peabo's. Mill Creek: Peabo's Sunday Revue 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: John Pizzarelli 7:30 PM

AUGUST 12

Fort Worden, Port Townsend: Rhiannon Giddens 5 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM
Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

AUGUST 13

Spring District, Bellevue: Elias Kauhane 12 PM
Quil Cedar Creek, Tulalip: Chris Eger Band 6 PM
Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline: North City Jazz Walk 6 PM
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w A.J Fullerton and Monkey Fight 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Walt Wagner 7:30 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Blue Healers 7:30 PM
Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver: Ben Rice & the Hustle 8 PM

AUGUST 14

Key Center, Bellevue: New Age Flamenco 12 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 6 PM
Market Square, University Place: Billy Stoops and Dirt Angel 6 PM
Chateau Ste Michele, Woodinville: Gary Clark Jr 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Four Tops 7:30 PM
Owl N Thistle, Seattle: Billy Joe & the Dusty 45s 8 PM

AUGUST 15

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: Ian Ayers &

Jesse T 12 PM
Bellwether Hotel, Bellingham: North Sound Soul 6 PM
Cottage Lake Park, Cottage Lake: Annie Eastwood All-Star Band 6 PM
Tim's Tavern, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM
Gas Station Blues, Issaquah: Eden Moody 7 PM
Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma: Tim Sherman's Blues Guitar Showcase w/Tom Boyle and Eric Rice 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Four Tops 7:30 PM
Rockfish rill, Anacortes: Too Slim and the Taildraggers 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Blue Healers 8 PM
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 PM

AUGUST 16

Whidbey Island Fairgrounds, Langley: Little Big Fest 3 PM
Whitehorse Amphitheater , Darrington: Rock The Mountain 11 AM
Rainier Base Camp , Ashford: Billy Stoops and Dirt Angel 5 PM
Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Summer Music Fest 6 PM
Burlington Visitor Center, Burlington: Fat Fridays 6 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Guitar Gil Quintet 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Four Tops 7:30 PM
Whistler Olympic Plaza, Whistler B.C.: Colin James 7:30 PM
Triple Door, Seattle: Eilen Jewell 7:30 PM
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Souled Out 8 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Billy Appleton Band 8 PM
Conway Muse, Conway: Under the Puddle 8 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle : Ron Bailey and the Tangents 8 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Engage 8 PM

AUGUST 17

Whidbey Island Fairgrounds, Langley: Little Big Fest 10 AM
South Kitsap Little League, Olalla : Olalla Americana Music Festival 10:30 AM
Whitehorse Amphitheater , Darrington: Rock The Mountain 11 AM
Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Summer Music Fest 2 PM
Burlington Green Park, Kent: Cajun Fest 2 PM
Urban Elk, Tacoma: Billy Stoops and Dirt Angel 4 PM
Salish Sea Taphouse, Edmonds: Joel Astley 6:30 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Big Mischief Lil' Big band 7 PM
Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Tim Koss 7 PM

Brewminatti, Prosser: Eilen Jewell 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Four Tops 7:30 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Daniel Castro 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Jeff He zog and the Jett City Players 8 PM
Saints and Scholars Pub, Snoqualmie: Nick Mardon 8 PM
CCR, Snohomish: The Pioneer Squares 8 PM

AUGUST 18

Whidbey Island Fairgrounds, Langley: Little Big Fest 10 AM
Whitehorse Amphitheater, Darrington: Rock the Mountain 11 AM
Central Terminal, SeaTac Airport: Eric Madis 11:30 AM
Gas Works Park, Seattle: Seattle Peace Concert 12 PM
Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Summer Music Fest 1 PM
Miller's, Carnation: On Bird Street 6 PM
Peabo's. Mill Creek: Peabo's Sunday Revue 7 PM
Blue Frog Studios, White Rock B.C.: Angelique Francis 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Four Tops 7:30 PM

AUGUST 19

Boundary Bay Brewing, Bellingham: Joel Astley 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM
Chateau Ste Michelle, Woodinville: John Fogerty w/ George Thorgood & The Destroyers 7 PM
Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

AUGUST 20

Quil Ceda Creek, Tulalip: Annie Eastwood Allstar band 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett:
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Jovino Santo 7:30 PM
Billy Blues Bar, Vancouver: Ben Rice & the Hustle 8 PM

AUGUST 21

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 6 PM
Market Square, University Place: Chris Eger Band 6 PM
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Roadside Attraction Big Band 7:30 PM
Owl N Thistle, Seattle: Billy Joe & the Dusty 45s 8 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Jovino Santo 7:30 PM
Triple Door, Seattle: Too Slim and the Taildraggers 7:30 PM
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Sheri and Jo Mama 8 PM

(Continued on Page 23)

Gas Station Blues Continues Stellar Performances in August

Notable international blues artists play the historic Shell gas station in downtown Issaquah!

Courtesy of the Downtown Issaquah Association

This summer, the Downtown Issaquah Association and the Washington Blues Society celebrate and resume their hot music summer partnership, Gas Station Blues, for its 10th year.

Eric Clapton describes the blues as his inspiration and relief in the trials of life. Visitors come to Gas Station Blues to experience a joyful family-and alfresco-friendly annual favorite with artsy vibes in Centennial Park in Downtown Issaquah's Creative District.

"Come early and picnic on the grass or enjoy one of the fantastic art galleries or restaurants along Front Street before the show, or get takeout for the full al fresco experience," said Downtown Issaquah Association President Christina Bruning. "Bring a chair and blanket and enjoy the summer night's blues."

The Downtown Issaquah Association and the Washington Blues Society will continue to host live music through August 22nd from 7 to 9 p.m. The artists are internationally renowned and draw crowds from throughout Washington. The blues society and the City of Issaquah are dedicated to preserving music and maintaining culture and history.

"The Washington Blues Society helped bring blues to the Shell Station ten years ago because of our love for the genre and for small towns bursting with cultural life," said blues society President Tony Frederickson. "Gas Station Blues has been around for a decade because of the Downtown Issaquah Association's leadership and heart."

What to Know

Concerts are free and suitable for all ages.

Wine, beer, and other food & beverages available for purchase from local restaurants.

Location: 232 Front Street North.

Parking: Available along Front Street or behind businesses.

This month's Shows

8/1: John Del Toro Richardson. John Del Toro Richardson grew up around Houston, and you can hear it in every note he sings and plays. You can also hear the Latin music that is his birthright, growing up among family mariachi bands and broadening into country and R&B in neighborhood jams. He has won several awards for guitar and vocals, and his album with mandolinist Rich DelGrosso *Time Slips By* became a top album in 2011. John's CD *Wild Ride* showcased his formidable guitar playing and powerful vocals and propelled him to international acclaim.

8/8: Christi Michelle. Born and raised in the Seattle area, Christi Michelle, respected widely for musical and multiple other talents, is "living the life of an "Archetype Woman of Love and Power." The powerhouse vocalist, songwriter, actor, comedian, producer, and performer has spent her career in the frenetic life of show business. Her art is infused with personal narratives on life, love, survival, heartache, and joy that is the essence of blues. Whether performing solo with a cigar box guitar and suitcase kick drum, in an ensemble, or fronting a rock band, Christi commands the entire room with emotional vocals evocative of Adele, Janis Joplin and Tiny Turner.

8/15: Eden Moody. Born into the notorious Children of God cult, Eden Moody discovered that "you can't break free from a prison you don't know you're in." Now an award-winning speaker and singer-songwriter, Eden combines speaking with performing her own original live music to deliver keynote concerts. Eden engages her audience with a dynamic transformation experience weaving fascinating stories, uplifting original songs and powerful takeaways that not only inspire and entertain, but also convey deep insights and leave a lasting impact.

8/22: Brian Butler. Pacific Northwest native Brian Butler is internationally acclaimed

for his bold blues music and original songs. His is a gifted storyteller who backs his expressive vocals with dynamic guitar and harmonica. Brian's captivating songs touch on adventure in New Orleans ("*Second Line Beat*"), love in a winter storm ("*When the Wind Blows*"), nature's fate ("*Snow River*"), a trip to the old neighborhood ("*Holly Lane*"), and the loss of a friend ("*The News About Billy*").

8/29: Stacy Jones. Stacy Jones is a Gas Station Blues regular and favorite. The singer-songwriter is a multi-instrumentalist who delivers high-energy roots rock, blues and Americana. She is no stranger to success, having been nominated multiple times for Best of the Blues awards in songwriting, performance, harmonica, and guitar. She and her band have won the Washington Blues Society Best Band Award five consecutive years since 2018, and more than 12 other Washington Blues Society awards, including Best Female Vocalist, Blues Harmonica, Songwriter, Drummer, and Bass. She has also won "Best Of" awards for releases like *Love is Everywhere*, *Whiskey, Wine and Water*, and the song "*Can't Do Nothin' Right*."



Gas Station Blues
Thursday Nights 7-9pm

John Del Toro Richardson - August 1st
Christi Michelle - August 8th
Eden Moody - August 15th
Brian Butler - August 22nd
Stacy Jones - August 29th

Historic Shell Station
232 Front Street N, Issaquah, WA98027
FREE

Logos for Downtown Issaquah Association, Culture, ArtsWA, and Blues Society.

August 2024 Live Blues Music Calendar! (Continued)

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

(Continued from Page 21)

AUGUST 22

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

Tim's Tavern, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM

Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo: John Primer 6 PM

Gas Station Blues, Issaquah: Brian Butler 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Herb Alpert 7:30 PM

Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: CT Thompson 8 PM

AUGUST 23

Fort Worden, Port Townsend: Jubilee Love Festival 4 PM

Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Dogtones 6 PM

Boulevard Park, Bellingham: North Sound Soul 6 PM

Burlington Visitor Center, Burlington: Mary Ellen and CC Adams Band 6 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Loose Heels 7 PM

Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Blue Healers 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Herb Alpert 7:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Faultline 8 PM

El Capitan's, Bellingham: Cassaundra May and James 8 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Joe Day 8 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Red House 8 PM

CCR, Snohomish: On Common Ground 8 PM

AUGUST 24

Des Moines beach Park, Des Moines: Poverty Bay Blues and Brews Festival 11 AM

Thornton Rd Park, Ferndale: Mt Baker Peace Festival 12 PM

Fort Worden, Port Townsend: Jubilee Love Festival 4 PM

Remlinger Farms, Carnation: Buddy Guy with Christone "Kingfish" Ingram 5 PM

Muckleshoot Casino, Auburn: Stacy Jones Band 6 PM

Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Sugar Push 6 PM

Route 2 Taproom, Monroe: Eric Madis 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Herb Alpert 7:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Gin Creek 7:30 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Joel Astley Band 8 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Cheri Adams Band 8 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Short Cutz 8 PM

AUGUST 25

Confluence Park, Issaquah: Confluence Music Fest 12 PM

Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Justin Kausal Hayes 2 PM

Sea Monster, Seattle: Annie Eastwood and Kimball and the Fugitives 4 PM

Miller's, Carnation: On Bird Street 6 PM

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Herb Alpert 7:30 PM

AUGUST 26

The TK, Puyallup: Billy Stoops 5 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM

Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM

AUGUST 27

Quil Ceda Creek, Tulalip: Sheri and Jo Mama 6 PM

Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland: Charlie Musslewhite 7 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w Blue Healers 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Seattle Rep Jazz Orchestra 7:30 PM

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

AUGUST 28

Howard St Park, Spokane: Pig Out In The Park 12 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 6 PM

Market Square, Univ. Place: King Kom Beaux 6 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Seattle Rep Jazz Orchestra 7:30 PM

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Emerald City Jazz Orchestra 8 PM

Owl N Thistle, Seattle: Billy Joe & the Dusty 45s 8 PM

AUGUST 29

Howard St Park, Spokane: Pig Out In The Park 12 PM

Evergreen State Fair, Monroe: Sheri and Jo Mama 5 PM

Tim's Tavern, Seattle: Dusty 45's 6 PM

Bellwether Hotel, Bellingham: Cascadia Groove 6 PM

Gas Station Blues, Issaquah: Stacy Jones 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Keiko Matsui 7:30 PM

Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 PM

AUGUST 30

Ocean Shores Convention Center, Ocean Shores: Arts and Crafts Festival 10 AM

Seattle Center, Seattle: Bumbershoot 12 PM

Pioneer Way Park, Oak Harbor: Oak Harbor Music Fest : 12 PM

Ebey Island, Everett: Freedom Fest 12 PM

Howard St Park, Spokane: Pig Out In The Park 12 PM

Kitsap Fairgrounds, Bremerton: Kitsap Blues Festival w/ The Front Street Revue, Kara Hesse & Rafael Tranquilino 7 PM

Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Lumberjax 6 PM

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

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Center Play 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Keiko Matsui 7:30 PM

Rockfish Grill, Anacortes: Howard Levy 7:30 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Dana Lupinacci 8 PM

CCR, Snohomish: Alex Briton 8 PM

AUGUST 31

Ocean Shores Convention Center, Ocean Shores: Arts and Crafts Festival 10 AM

Seattle Center, Seattle: Bumbershoot 12 PM

Pioneer Way Park, Oak Harbor: Oak Harbor Music Fest : 12 PM

Kitsap Fairgrounds, Bremerton: Kitsap Blues Festival Tinsley Ellis, Jackie Venson, Tommy Castro & The Painkillers, Joanne Shaw Taylor (Main Stage), Anni Piper, Joel Astley, The Kenny James Miller Band (Field Stage) 2 PM

Ebey Island, Everett: Freedom Fest 12 PM

Howard St Park, Spokane: Pig Out In The Park 12 PM

Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom, Edmonds: Lyric Thief 6 PM

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Wiretappers 7 PM

Royal Room, Seattle: Staycation Festival 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Keiko Matsui 7:30 PM

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: BroHamm 8 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Tim Turner 8 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Full Color Dream 8 PM

CCR, Snohomish: The Vandals 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 1

Kitsap Fairgrounds, Bremerton: Too Slim & The Taildraggers, Jontavious Willis, Curtis Salgado, Samantha Fish (Main Stage), James Howard Band, CD Woodbury, The Tim Hall Band, The Stacy Jones Band, Nick Vigarino's Meantown Blues (Field Stage) 2 PM

Pioneer Way Park, Oak Harbor: Oak Harbor Music Fest : 12 PM

Howard St Park, Spokane: Pig Out In The Park 12 PM

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

The Point Casino, Kingston: Duff's Rockin' Jam 7 PM

The Royal Room, Seattle: The Staycation Music Festival 7PM

Miller's, Carnation: On Bird Street 6 PM

The Lime, Kirkland: Herding Cats 9 PM

Owl & Thistle Pub, Seattle: Pat Riff 9 PM

The Bullhead Saloon, Four Lakes: Open Mic/Jam (Partial Listing for September 1st)

Preview: Poverty Bay Blues & Brews in Des Moines

This year's theme: Women Who Rock the Blues!

Courtesy of Poverty Bay Blues & Brews

For the 15th year in a row, on Saturday August 24th, people from Western Washington and beyond will flock to the shores of Puget Sound at the Des Moines Beach Park to savor tasty licks of mind-blowing blues music by some of the most renowned musicians of the region. This year's theme is "Women Who Rock the Blues," and features the following four award winning bands:

Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method: 11:30 AM to 1 PM (Doors open 11 AM)

The Stacy Jones Band: 1:30 PM to 3 PM

The Laurie Morvan Band: 3:30 PM to 5 PM

Lady A: 5:30 PM to 7 PM

While these extraordinary performers play live blues music, festival patrons can enjoy a wide sampling of suds from local micro-brewery masters in a fundraiser aimed at providing children in the Highline School District with musical instruments.

The event benefits the Highline Music4Life Program. A majority of the net proceeds are donated to this program and other community projects thanks to the efforts of the Des Moines/Normandy Park Rotary Club and community volunteers.

"This is a 21-and-over-event, which attracted nearly 1,800 blues and beer lovers last year, and this year's event promises to draw an even bigger crowd," said Blues and Brews Festival committee chair and Des Moines/Normandy Park Rotarian Brian Snure.

"The response to this annual fund raiser has been inspiring," he added. "A lazy summer

day on the shores of Puget Sound, drinking good beer and listening to the blues seems like a good way to support music education in our schools."

This year's Poverty Bay Blues & Brews Fest attendees can enjoy micro-breweries, cider, wine and specially concocted cocktails by local Rotarians. Food service will be provided by local restaurants at the event as well.

"On behalf of the Rotary Club of Des Moines/Normandy Park," said Smure. "I would like to thank all of those who have supported this civic event in the past and invite those who have yet to attend the Poverty Bay Blues & Brews Festival. Tickets can be purchased pre-event are \$50 and tickets at the door are \$55. Designated driver tickets are available for \$25. This is a pet free festival. Attendees will receive six tokens and as a complimentary tasting glass with a purchase of a ticket. Additional tokens can be purchased to sample more beverages

The prime beneficiary of this annual event is the Highline Music4Life Program.

"The value of providing musical instruments for students of low income families in the Highline School District is critical during these hard economic times," said David Endicott, President/CEO of Music4Life.

"We find that many families cannot afford to rent a musical instrument for their kids."

Music4Life has provided 800+ musical instruments to students in the school district



Clockwise: Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method (Photo by Rocky Allen), Lady A (Photo by Anita White), The Laurie Morvan Band (Photo by Marilyn Stringer), The Stacy Jones Band (Photo by Gladys Jones),

to-date, thanks in part to the generosity of blues fans who attend the Poverty Bay Blues and Brews Festival each and every year.

"The annual Des Moines/Normandy Park Blues & Brews Festival is a primary way for us to raise funds in support of the Highline Schools program," said David. "It also happens to be at an event that's a heck of a lot of fun to attend."

To purchase advanced tickets and more information, go to www.drinktomusic.org. The Rotary Club of Des Moines/Normandy Park encourages attendees to drink responsibly. We hope to see you on August 24th and please remember this event is **For the Kids!**

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

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

The Blues Foundation
AFFILIATE

Bluesletter Q & A:

Q: Where's Our Jam, Venue & Open Mic Guides & Membership Form?

A: Both are online at www.wablues.org.

Listings: We need a volunteer to double check that the print listing of 73 different jams/open mics listed in 29 locations in three US states and one Canadian province are still open!

<https://wablues.org/music-listings/blues-jams-open-mic/>
Email editor@wablues.org to sign up for this opportunity today!

Membership Form: <https://wablues.org/about/membership/>

Thank You for Such an Exceptional Warm Welcome!

"I grew up in London, but Seattle had been my home for 23 years, so leaving was bittersweet in the extreme."

By Son Jack, Jr.

It's amazing how much life can change in just four short years. During the height of the pandemic in 2020, we left Seattle to start a new life back in England armed only with hopes and dreams. There was no master plan, other than finding a new home, and figuring out how to build a new life. No biggie. I grew up in London, but Seattle had been my home for 23 years, so leaving was bittersweet in the extreme. We had a lovely home there and many great friends; I didn't leave because I was unhappy. I left to be closer to family and childhood friends, none of whom are getting any younger. The timing was also key for my daughter's education to get her there in time to start high school. It was a wrench that we have felt virtually every day since, which is why it was so exciting to make our first return trip back to the Seattle area this summer.

Before I get into all that, a few words on the British blues scene. In short, it is very different than I imagined. It's dominated by blues rock which perhaps isn't surprising given the number of blues rockers this small island has generated. I had expected more of a base for the kind of stripped down, "authentic" blues that associated with the folk revival of the 60s. Like everywhere else, the audience for this kind of blues attracts older listeners and it's getting smaller by the year. There's no shortage of good players in that vein, though, and I do my best to get out and see them when I can. There are lots of good blues clubs around the country so if you ever visit and want some pointers, hit me up.

On the music front, I'm personally on a mission to evangelize what I like to call "spit and sawdust, juke joint blues" with a younger (18-40) audience and have a new band, The Too Bad Jims, that includes the immensely talented Little Victor, and Nick Simonon on drums (yes, brother to Paul of the Clash). So far people seem to really dig it, and after only a handful of gigs, we're getting a lot of festival and club bookings. We're releasing our debut album in the Fall and those

of you that know me won't be surprised to hear that it's a tribute to RL Burnside. Victor knew RL and his family very well, and toured with him extensively back in the day, so there's a certain poignancy about this, too. The album aims to recreate the vibe of a field recording and was recorded straight as a studio performance with no overdubs. If you like your blues tidy, polished and highly produced, this probably ain't your bag. I'm also breaking out on my own again as a solo artist and have played some cool places, such as London's iconic 100 Club. A new solo album is in the works for 2025, and I recorded the first couple of songs for it in Memphis with Charlie Musselwhite recently. After a long drought, I've also started songwriting and it feels great to have my mojo back.

When planning the Seattle trip, I was really surprised, and more than a little touched, that folks remembered me and were willing to have me play. It may seem silly, but I thought I'd be long forgotten, so this was pretty heartwarming. The first few days back in Seattle felt really weird, as it was like I belonged, but I didn't, and it was really only after the first show that I got my head straight.

That first show was at the Madison where I last played eight years ago. Paul, Willow and Rob were even more amazing than I remembered and their kindness and generosity shines like a beacon. I don't know what the usual turnout is like, but it felt like a big one on that night, and it was so cool to meet up with so many old friends who'd made the trek. I played a few solo songs to start and then Rick Bowen, Paul Quilty and Bill Davis joined me to kick things up several notches. It was a blast and a real honor to play with those guys.

A few days later I played at the Washington Blues Society Blues Bash at Aurora Borealis and it was over the moon that the Mark Riley Trio was also playing. I hadn't seen Mark in many years, and it was reassuring to see him on his feet and cracking jokes as usual. For this one, Joel Astley joined me and knocked it out of the park. This was the first time we



Son Jack, Jr. & Joel Astley at Aurora Borealis
(Photo by Gordy Mitchell)

played together, but when he stepped on stage he slotted right in as though we'd been doing this for decades. This was another stellar night with so many friends I hadn't seen in a very long time. For extra bonus points, it was grand to catch up with Rob Moitoza and Russ Kammerer, too.

To close out, this was an important trip for many reasons, and made entirely memorable by reconnecting with old friends. I won't try to name everyone I got to speak with (you know who you are!) but I would like to call out a few folks that deserve a special mention:

Rick Bowen: Without you, neither of these gigs would have happened. You continue to totally rock and have my deepest gratitude.

Kevin Sutton: What an amazingly generous man you are. Thank you for lending me your top-notch guitars and amps for BOTH shows.

Paul Quilty & Willow Stone: Thank you for your professionalism, kindness and for making me feel so welcome at the Madison

Bill Davis: So great to finally share a stage with you after all these years. You totally killed it.

Joel Astley: Dude, your reputation is 100% deserved. Let's please do it again someday.

Seattle blues folks, I love ya, and hope to be back again sometime next year!

A Drummer's Story: Casey Jones, Chicago's Blues Engineer

"Casey's drum performances, on stage, live and on Albert's albums, attracted attention worldwide."

By Bud Monaco

"Good Evening, Chicago blues fans, Welcome to Sopro Music's Annual Thanksgiving Chicago All Star Blues Revue. Wait. Do you hear that? I hear that train a-coming! It's rollin' down the track. It's the IC, the old Illinois Central! It's star time! Hey, ladies and gentleman, I said it's star time! Please welcome to the stage, the original Chi-Town boogie man, the crowd pleaser, Chicago's very own blues engineer, Casey Jones!"

This was one the ways I introduced legendary drummer Casey Jones to the stage during the inaugural Sopro Music's Annual Thanksgiving Blues Revue, back in 1984, and other live music events that I produced around Chicagoland for the next 38 years.

I first met Casey when he and local harmonica treasure Jody Noa, blues guitarist nonpareil Lefty Dizz, and nationally renowned Bill McFarland and The Chicago Horns played at a rock and roll concert I promoted. They commandeered the stage, joined the rock band, and absolutely blues'd and rocked the full house with their powerful brand of 4/4 Chicago-style jump blues.

Over the years, Casey Jones grew into one of the most respected and highlighted performers on any stage he graced. For over six decades, he played on many Sopro Music's Blues Revue concerts and other events throughout Chicagoland and across North America.

I began my incredible blues promotion career through Sopro Productions by introducing Casey Jones that night, and it's a career that I hold near and dear to my heart until I reach my End of Days.

Casey Jones was born on July 26, 1939, in Nitta Yuma, Mississippi, and raised in nearby Greenville. In 1956, Casey relocated to Chicago where his sister and her husband bought him his first drum kit. He quickly became an accomplished and sought after drummer, and recorded with the iconic bluesman, "The Master of the Telecaster,"

Albert Collins, on Albert's *Frostbite* and *Ice Pickin'* albums, and played live with Albert and the Icebreakers for 6+ years.

Casey's drum performances, on stage, live and on Albert's albums, attracted attention worldwide, Johnny Winter hired Casey to record on his *Serious Business*, *Guitar Slinger*, *True to the Blues*, and *The Johnny Winter Story* LPs. These sessions put Casey on the top of the bill as one of the blues music world's most highly acclaimed, and in-demand, drummers.

During his lifetime, Casey Jones was known in the business of the blues as a "first call" drummer. You can't get any better billing than that. In the 2017 Chicago Sun-Times' obituary honoring Casey Jones, Bruce Iglauer, founder of Chicago's Alligator Records, called Mr. Jones "one of the great blues drummers of his generation." During the 1960s, Casey's drumming caught the attention of some of the greatest blues' performers of all-time. The list of blues artists who hired him would fill a "Who's Who" of the blues, with musicians like Earl Hooker, McKinley Mitchell, Muddy Waters, Lou Rawls, Otis Rush, Eddie 'The Chief' Clearwater, Valerie Wellington, Johnny Littlejohn, A.C. Reed, Freddy King, Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry, Koko Taylor, Mighty Joe Young, Reggie Boyd, and Rickey Allen.

When Casey performed and recorded with blues artists like Albert Collins, he began to focus on his unique vocal talent and form his own band. As a front man, Casey became the consummate performer who consistently entertained his audiences, and communicated with them with his classic wit, charm, style, and grace that ingratiated him each and every blues fan who experienced his live shows.

With relentless drive and a desire to become the best in the business, Casey's live shows consisted of an array of hit songs by the greatest bluesmen (and his sets often included several original songs, too).

In 1983, Casey recorded and released his first album, *Still Kickin'* on his own Airwax label, followed in 1987 by *Solid Blue* released on Rooster Blues. From 1993 to 1995, he released *The Crowd Pleaser*, and *I-94 On My Way To Chicago* on Airwax.

On his four Airwax releases, Casey, performed lead vocals and drum tracks, and enlisted some of Chicago's most popular blues musicians, including Maurice Vaughan on guitar, Billy Branch on harmonica, Allen Bates on piano and organ, Greg Rzab on bass, Johnny B. Gaydon on bass, Jonathan McDonald on guitar, Jerry Barry on bass, Bill McFarland on trombone, Jerry Wilson on tenor saxophone, Paul Howard on trumpet, Robert Covington on guitar, and L.B. Blue and A.C. Reed on background vocals.

Flamboyant on-stage with his indomitable persona, Casey always dressed to the nines in high fashion. Offstage, he was, truly humble and grateful for each blues fan who attended his shows.

During Casey's live performances, he spoke to his audiences and they hung on every word.

"This next song, one of the classic golden oldies' and a top 10 hit, *Stand By Me*, was written, recorded, and performed by the late, great Ben E. King, "said Casey. "Ben made a million bucks with it. But tonight, I'm gonna perform it for you for free."

In 1961, he married the love of his life, Bernice, as they raised their family in Chicago's Morgan Park neighborhood. They lived together happily and with unconditional love for over five decades.

Sadly, we lost a great bluesman when Casey Jones reached his End of Days on May 3, 2017. This year, he would have celebrated his 85th birthday. Casey Jones left behind a legacy of endearing and brilliant music that will carry on and I am proud to have called him a close friend.



Editor Emeritus' Note: 19 years ago, I experienced my first Sopro Music's Annual Blues Music Revue in Blue(s) Island, Illinois. Casey Jones was the featured bandleader at this show. Bud Monaco introduced me to Casey Jones, who graciously recalled his time in the studio with blues legends, and before I knew it, he was back up on stage leading his band through another great set of Chicago blues. I still have that red Airwax Blues business card he gave me, and will always remember that Sopro Blues Production! Eric Steiner

Left: Man at Work: Casey Jones on the Bandstand
(Photo by Sopro Productions)

Blues Society Membership Benefits & Ticket Giveaways

How do we select winners of free tickets that may be available to blues society members?

By Rick J. Bowen

The all-volunteer team here at Washington Blues Society is always on the lookout for new benefits and opportunities to pass along to the membership.

With the recent surge of inflation and competition, many local venues have asked us to promote their shows and events by offering complimentary tickets to Washington Blues Society members.

With recent improvements in our membership management system, we've created dynamic email blasts to run ticket giveaway promotions that go directly to members as an exclusive benefit.

Several folks have asked how the winners are chosen. We use a simple, online random number generator to pick the winning en-

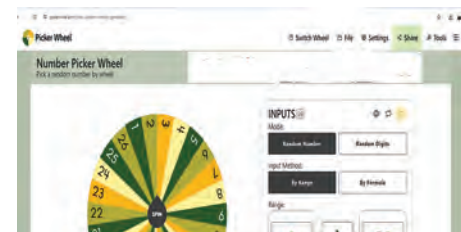
try from the group or email response. The number generator ensures that winners are selected through a "luck of the draw," impartial prize award process.

The Washington Blues Society will continue to offer door prize raffle at the Blues Bashes and other events when prizes are available, but the benefit of becoming a member ensures that you have a higher chance of winning via these exclusive offers sent out via e-mail blasts.

Washington Blues Society members still can enjoy discounts on tickets at Jazz Alley (and more).

For the past 30 years, the price of a single Washington Blues Society membership hasn't changed. It's still only \$25! We hope that more blues fans will recognize the value

of a Washington Blues Society membership and join in on the fun!



Screen Shot of Random Number Generator
(Photo by Rick J. Bowen)

Blues Talent Guide

Send updates, additions & corrections to editor@wablues.org by the 10th!

\$

Scratch Daddy (425) 210-1925

#

13 RABBIT 206.849.5311
44th Street Blues Band 206.714.5180 or
206.775.2762

A

A.H.L. 206.935.4592
Al Earick Band 253.278.0330
Albritten McClain & Bridge of Souls 206.650.8254
Alice Stuart & the Formerlys 360.753.8949
Alison Joy Williams & Indigo Edge 615.512.8665
AlleyKatz 425.273.4172
ALTAI BAND goldenguitarman777@gmail.com
Amigos Nobles 425.268.7064
Andrew Norsworthy andrewnorsworthy@yahoo.com
Andy Koch's Badd Dog Blues (formerly Badd Dog
Blues Society) 360.739.6397
Annette Taborn 206.306.3398
Annieville Blues 206.994.9413
Author Unknown 206.355.5952

B

Baby Cakes 206.818.0588
Baby Gramps Trio 425.483.2835
Back Porch Blues 425.299.0468
Backwoods Still 425.330.0702
Badd Dog Blues Society 360.733.7464
Barry Torrence 253.226.1103
Bay Street Blues Band 360.731.1975
B.E.S.T. Band 206.817.1663
Bill Brown & The Kingbees 206.276.6600
Bill Ray Drums 760 803 1686
Billy Barner 253.732.0618
Billy Shew Band 253.514.3637
Billy Stapleton 425.478.2113
Black River Blues 206.396.1563
Blackjack Kerouac 206.697.8428
Blackstone Players 425.327.0018
Blue 55 206.216.0554
Blue Healers 206.940.9128
Blues on Tap 206.618.6210
Blues Playground 425.359.3755
Blues Redemption 253.253.921.7506
Blues Sheriff 206.979.0666
Blues To Do Monthly 206.328.0662
Blues with Benefits 206.459.327
Bobby Holland & The Breadline 425.681.5644
Boneyard Preachers 206.755.0766 or 206.547.1772
Bobby Patterson & the Two Tones 509.869.0350.

Brian Butler Band 206.450.1262
Brian Hurst 360.708.1653
Brian Lee & The Orbiters 206.390.2408
Bruce Govan 206.817.1663
Bruce Koenigsberg / Fabulous Roof Shakers
425.766.7253
Bruce Ransom 206.618.6210
Bump Kitchen 253.223.4333 or 360.259.1545

C

C.D. Woodbury Band 425.502.1917
CC Adams Band 360.395.8540
Charles White Revue 425.327.0018
Charlie Butts & The Filtertips 509.655.1071
Charlie Saibel 360.357.8553
Chester Dennis Jones 253.797.8937
Children Of The Blues 818.292.2541
Chris Eger Band 360.770.7929
Chris Lord 425.334.5053
Chris Stevens' Surf Monkeys 206.236.0412
Christi Michelle Weiss 425.667.0428
Coyote Blues 360.420.2535
Craig Parrish/Margaret Wilder Band 360.380.2250
Crooked Mile Blues Band 425.238.8548
Curtis Hammond Band 206.696.6134
Cyndi Moring and Lucile Street 206.849.8471

D

Daddy Treetops 206.601.1769
Dan & the Dynos 206.225.9684
Dana Lupinacci Band 206.383.1814
Dave Albert 425.269-3665
Dave Townsend (Midnight Hour) 425.238.4039
David Hudson / Satellite 425.630.5276
Dennis "Juxtamuse" Hacker 509.264.7879
Dick Powell Band 425.742.4108
Don Bird 818.292.2541
Doug McGrew 206.679.2655
Doug Skoog 253.921.7506
Dudley Taft 513.713.6800

E

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

F

Fat Cat 425.487.6139
Filé Gumbo 425.788.2776

G

Gary Frazier 206.851.1169
Gordy Mitchell 425.275.6520
Greenwood Music Collective 646.915.2221
Greg Roberts 206.473.0659
Groove Tramps 720.232.9664
Guilded Lily Band 915.222.6401
Gunnar Roads 360.828.1210

H

Hambone Blues Band 360.458.5659
Hambone Wilson 360.739.7740
Heather & the Nearly Homeless Blues Band
425.576.5673
High Note Group 206.214.7977
Hot Mess Duo 206.214.7977
Hot Wired Rhythm Band 206.790.9935
Hungry Dogs 425.299.6435

J

Jack Cook & Phantoms of Soul 206.517.5294
James Howard 206.250.7494
James King & the Southsiders 206.715.6511
Janie Cribbs & the T.Rust Band 360.331.6485
JD Hobson 206.235.3234
Jeffery Alan Olsen & the Blues Choo Train
425.345.5399
Jeff "Drummerboy" Hayes 206.909.6366
Jeff & The Jet City Fliers 206.818.0701
Jeff enteer and The Beaten Path 425.280.7392
Jeremy Serwer 520.275.9444
Jesse Weston 425.610.0933
Jill Newman Band 206.390.2623
James Brunner 509.457.0762
Jim Caroompas (Rumpus) 925.212.7760
Jim McLaughlin 425.737.4277
Jim Nardo Blues Band 360.779.4300
Jimmy Free's Friends 206.546.3733
Joanne Broh Band 541.228.7812
Joe Blue & the Roof Shakers 425.766.7253
Joe Cook Blues Band 206.547.1772
Joe Guimond 509.423.0032
Joe Morgan 206.769.8579
Joel Astley 206.214.7977
John "Scooch" Cugno's Delta 88 Revival
360.352.3735
John "Greyhound" Maxwell 360.685.6006
John Stephan Band 206.214.7781
John Stephanus 206.459.3278
Jolene Gayle 509.433.4944
JP Hennessy 425.273.4932

Julia Francis & the Secrets of Soul 206.618.4919
Julie Duke Band 206.459.0860
Junkyard Jane 253.238.7908

K

K. G. Jackson & The Shakers 360.896.4175
Keith Nordquist 253.639.3206
Keith Scott 773.213.3239
Kenny James Miller Band 406.253.7439
Kevin & Casey Sutton 314.479.0752
Kid Quagmire 206.412.8212
Kim Archer Band 253.298.5961
Kim Field & The Mighty Titans of Tone 206.295.8306
Kimball Conant & The Fugitives 206.938.6096
King Kom Beaux 253.732.0618
Kosta Panidis (Kosta la Vista) 509.991.7623

L

La Roca Boom 206.920.6776
Lady "A" & The Baby Blues Funk Band 425.518.9100
Larry Hill 206.696.1789
Leanne Trevalyan 253.238.7908
Lee Oskar & Friends 425.258.3585
Leo Muller 206.300.6802
Linda Carroll & Retro Gruve 253.606.1500.
Linda Lee & the Pickups Band 206.295. 8895
Little Bill & the Bluenotes 425.774.7503
Lori Hardman Band 425.218.5341
Lucille Street cynmoring@gmail.com

M

Madison Ave Blues Revue MAD BOJO 425-422-5062
Maia Santell & House Blend 253.983.7071
Margret Wilder Band (360) 380-2250
Mark A. Noftsger 425.238.3664
Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 206.588.1924
Mark Riley 206.313.7849
Marty Vadalabene 206.914.3026
Mary Ellen Lykins Band 360.395.8540
Mary McPage 206.850.4849
Max Campbell 425.218.5603
Melany Peterson 760.662.8130
Michael "Papa Bax" Baxter 425.478.1365
Michael Wilde 425.672.3206 or 206.200.3363
Michal Miller Band 253.222.2538
Michelle D'Amour & The Love Dealers 425.761.3033
Midnight Hour 425.330.5373
Mike Haley 509.393.5838
Miles from Chicago 206.440.8016
Miles Harris 360.708.2166
Mitch Pumpian 206.276.9737
Monster Road Band (253) 797-9503
Moon Daddy Band 425.923.9081
Mule Kick 216.225.1277

N

New Rhythmatics 425.299.3028
Nick Vigarino 360.387.0374
Nick Mardon Trio 425.208-6616
Nancy Veltkamp 915.222.6401
Norm Bellas & the Funkstars 206.722.6551

P

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

R

Rafael Tranquilino Band 312.953.7808
Randy Norris & Jeff icely 425.239.3876 or 425.359.3755
Randy Norris & The Full Degree 425.239.3876
Randy Oxford Band 253.973.9024
Raven Humphres 425.308.3752
The Rece Jay Band (253) 350-9137
Red House 425.377.8097
Reggie Miles 360.793.9577
Reji Marc (206) 486-0386
Richard Allen & The Louisiana Experience 206.369.8114
Richard Evans 206.799.4856
Right Hand Drive 206.496.2419
RJ Knapp & Honey Robin Band 206.612.9145
Rob Cooper 778.875.6512
Rob Moitoza 206.401.2856
Robert Baker 425.870.7683
Robert Patterson 509.869.0350
Robert and Randolph Duo 509.216.0944
Rod Cook & Toast 206.878.7910
Roger Rogers Band 206.255.6427
Ron Hendee 425.280.3994
Ron van der Veen 206.849.5311
Roxlide 360.881.0003
Russ Kammerer 206.551.0152
Rusty Williams 206.282.0877

S

Sammy Eubanks 509.879.0340
Scott E. Lind 206.789.8002
Scott Mallard 206.261.4669
Scotty FM and the BroadCasters 206.261.4669
Scotty Harris 206.683.9476
Shadow Creek Project 360.826.4068
Sheri Roberts Greimes 425.220.6474
Smokin' J's 425.746.8186
Son Jack Jr. 425.591.3034
Spencer Jarrett 510.495.4755
Stacy Jones 206.992.3285

Star Drums & Lady Keys 206.522.2779
Steve Bailey & The Blue Flames 206.779.7466
Steve Cooley & Dangerfields 253.203.8267
Steve Peterson 206.799-8196
Steven J. Lefebvre 509.972.2683 or 509.654.3075
Stickshift Annie Eastwood 206.941.9186
Studio Rob 425.870.7683
Susan Renee "La Roca Soul" Sims 206.920.6776
Suze Sims 206.920.6776

T

TJ Read 206.380.6638
Tamys Hoffman Band 406.570-230
Terraplane Band (425)870-5018
Terry Hartness 425.931.5755
The 509s 509.423.0032
The Bret Welty Band 208.703.2097
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The Fat Fridays 360.220.2222
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The Jason Lane Band 778.875.6512
The Jelly Rollers 206.617.2384
The Mongrels 509.307.0517 or 509.654.3075
The Nate Burch Band 425.457.3506
The Naughty Blokes 360.393.9619
The Pat Stilwell Band 503.481.6823
The Rece Jay Band 253.350.9137
The RooTsters (Acoustic Duo) 206.890.6176
The Soulful 88s/Billy Spaulding 206.310.4153
The Spinoffs/Dawnzella Gearhart 206. 718.1591
The VuDudes 206.999.0729
The Wired Band 206.852.3412
The Wulf Tones 206.367.6186 or 206.604.2829
Tim Hall Band 253.857.8652
Tim Turner Band 206.271.5384
Tommy Wall 206.914.9413
Town Hall Brawl 206.940.9128
Two Scoops Combo 206.933.9566
Two Trains Runnin' 206.225.9684

U

Unbound 425.231.0565
Under the Puddle 425-512-3153

V

Virginia Klemens Band 206.632.6130

W

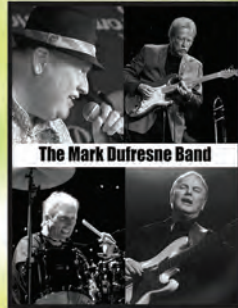
West Coast Women's Blues Revue 206.940.2589
Whitewing 360.393-1687
Willie B Blues Band 206.451.9060
Willie & The Whips 206.781.0444

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Sunbanks Blues Festival September 5-8, 2024

Curley Taylor & Zydeco Trouble
Too Slim & the Taildraggers
Johnny Wheels & the Swamp Donkeys
Rich Layton & Tough Town

Karen Lovely	Tyron Benoit
Left Hand Smoke	Octopus Ballet
Bennett Matteo Band	Wasteland Kings
Nico Wayne Toussaint	Kim and Brian Band
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GIMME SHELTER (ROLLING STONES)
PIPER'S RUSH (RUSH)
MONSTER ROAD (RETRO SOUL)
INVINCIBLE (PAT BENATAR)
STRANGELY ALRIGHT (ORIGINAL ROCK)
REVIVAL BROTHERS BAND (ALLMAN BROTHERS)
SAVANNAH WOODS TRIO (ORIGINAL ROCK)
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Why the Salmon Bay Eagles?

"... have provided a place for blues musicians to express their talents for the last 30 plus years."

By Judy Abernathy, Secretary and Music Manager, Salmon Bay Eagles

Some would say it is a dive bar. Most might say it is a landmark, a place to meet friends and make new ones, listen to good music and just have a good time.

To share a little history, the Fraternal Order of Eagles was founded on February 6, 1898. The organization was formed by six theater owners in Seattle Washington.

It was originally called "The Order of Good Things." Early meetings were held on local theater stages, and after taking care of business, attendees rolled out a keg of beer and enjoyed social time (that is why our bar area is called the social room).

At Salmon Bay Eagles, in beautiful downtown Ballard, we have strived to continue this good time tradition and have provided a place for blues musicians to express their talents for the last 30 plus years.

Though we are officially a private club, our doors are open to the public. Being a membership/non-profit, we have special arrangements with the Washington State Liquor Board. What does that mean to you? If you are not a member, you may purchase a \$5, two-week temporary membership to walk in the door, enjoy fabulous music and drinks at reduced non-profit prices. Or, for the low price of \$40, become a member and enjoy all the benefits of being a Salmon Bay Eagle for a full year. Imagine that, no cover for live

music three nights a week!

The Salmon Bay Eagles offers its friendly (if snug) stage and house PA monthly to seasoned and aspiring jammers each last Thursday of the month. Salmon Dan's Jam features Dan Abernethy on guitar and vocals, Marty Vadalabene on drums, Walter White on bass, and jam organizer Billy Reed on keys (who will sign you in and make sure you have a great time when you sit in - very important).

Also, this summer, Cheri Adams, internationally known solo artist and all round talent brings her troupe of musicians with Beth Wulf on keys, Patty Mey on bass, and Kathie Flood on drums to present the "Women's Rockin' Blues Jam" each first Thursday of the month through October. Each of these jams are proven winners, hosted by veteran performers and Eagles members, and not to be missed!

The Salmon Bay Eagles hosts live music Thursday through Saturday and we have some great entertainment scheduled in August: The Mark Dufresne Band, Stevie & The Blue Flames, Joe Cook Blues Band, Jeff Herzog & the Jet City Flyers, Red House, and Dana Lupinacci, among others.

Dinners are provided most nights, prepared by our crack team of volunteer chefs. You can look forward to Murphy's specials, Judy's seafood, and on occasion, a special appearance by Marcia, (aka Mama, aka "the Kitchen Wench). Proceeds go to charity, so

when you buy one of their meals, you will satisfy both your taste buds and your hunger to serve the greater community. Find details on either the Washington Blues Society calendar or check us out at: www.salmonbaeagles.com.

In addition, August 17th, we have our annual Motorcycle Charity Poker Run. Like to ride? Details of this event at can be found at: sbe-2141motorcyclecharitypokerrun.com

In conclusion, my wanna-be interviewer of a husband posed to me this question: "Why do I love the Salmon Bay Eagles?"

"What's not to love?" I replied. "Long hours, little or no pay, weekly arguments (ah, er, "trustee and board meetings"), tedious paperwork, budget juggling and yes - one of the friendliest, most generous, and kind-hearted collection of blues enthusiasts to be found deep in the big funky heart of historic Ballard."



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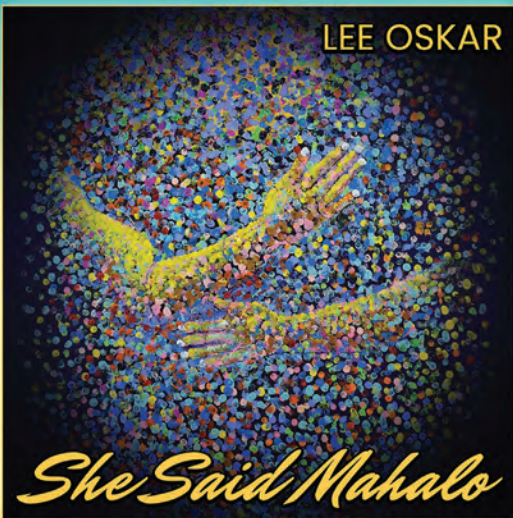
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