

Bluesletter

Washington Blues Society

January 2025



SPECIAL UPDATE

BLACK & TAN HALL

BLUES ON THE ROAD IS BACK

MEMPHIS BOUND!

BRIAN BUTLER & THE JOEL ASTLEY BAND

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

My brother Kevin [Sutton, the multiple award-winning Washington guitarist, singer and songwriter whose many recognitions include winning the International Blues Challenge with his trio Wired! in 2012] and I grew up at a time when everything you needed to know was on the cover of an album. The Rolling Stones introduced us to Muddy Waters. Janis Joplin introduced us to Big Mama Thornton. It was all right there.

At some point Kevin wanted a guitar so I got him one. At some point he wanted a band so I got him one. Shortly after high school I travelled to Chicago to see Muddy Waters and it was on.

Since then I have worked as a guitar tech, sound man, band manager, producer, and club owner.

I've held contracts with Sony Music Columbia, ClearChannel, Live Nation, and Ticketmaster.

Kevin and I produced a Blues Series in St. Louis where we worked with many of the greats of our time, including BB King, Buddy Guy, Gatmouth Brown, Pinetop Perkins, and Hubert Sumlin, to name a few.

As President and corporate manager of the Washington Blues Society, I hope to work with all of you to advance our stated mission to preserve and promote the blues.

Willie Dixon said "The blues are the roots and the other musics are the fruits. It's better keeping the roots alive, because it means better fruits from now on. The blues are the roots of all American music."

Charles Casey Sutton, President
Washington Blues Society



KMRE 88.3 FM

"BLUESLAND"
Thursday 7 - 9 PM (PST)

Leo Schumaker

Disc Jockey/Producer
805.766.0999

leosbluesland@yahoo.com



Podcast on Facebook at:
LeosBluesland.

2 Books by NW
Legend Little Bill

\$25 per or 2 for \$40



LITTLEBILL1959@COMCAST.NET

Special thanks to our funders:

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



CULTURE



WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION



**Tax Deductible Contributions are
Always In Tune!**

Contact treasurer@wabluessociety.org



This month's Bluesletter features the Washington Blues Society's 2025 International Blues Challenge representatives on the cover: The Joel Astley Band and solo guitarist Brian Butler. Best of luck on Beale Street in Memphis at the world's largest gathering of blues acts. The issue also welcomes first time contributors Selene Guadalupe Rodriguez and Naomi Ishisaka for their update on the opening of Seattle's Black and Tan Hall. We featured Ben Hunter's cover story about the dreams and plans behind this new community and cultural resource in our October 2020 issue, and it's one of the many reasons to celebrate the blues in the new year. The issue also includes first time contributor Morgan Gilkeson on her reflections on the 500th Mo' Jam of the Seattle Drum School at Seattle's Nectar Lounge, and the electronic version includes South Sound Blues Association President Susie Campbell's inaugural article on an important and new resource for musicians, the Seattle Musicians Access to Sustainable Healthcare (SMASH). Finally, please don't forget to turn in the 2025 Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") nomination ballot on page 31 of this issue to a board member no later than Tuesday, January 14th at our blues bash featuring the Blue 55 Trio and Leah Tussing with Jim Barnes. (Eric Steiner)

Above: Murph & Keith Scott at the Salmon Bay Eagles in Seattle's historic Ballard neighborhood. Happy 35 years of blues to the Salmon Bay Eagles (Photo courtesy of Keith Scott)

Cover: Joseph Barton, Brian Butler, Don Montana, Joel Astley & Tracy Wilkinson (Photo by Danno Mac)

In This Issue...

BLUES RIFFS

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

BLUES NEWS, REVIEWS & FEATURES

- 6 Highway 99 All Stars Return to Jazz Alley
- 8 View From the Stage: Salmon Bay Eagles
- 9 John Kessler's Best of the Blues 2024
- 10 Blues on the Road: Shows Coming to Town
- 14 Black and Tan Hall: An Update
- 16 Around the Sound with LTD Presents
- 17 Reflections on 500 Mo'Jams at Nectar
- 18 Blues CD Reviews
- 20 Duffy Bishop at the Salmon Bay Eagles' 35th
- 21 Congratulations to 2025 KBA Recipients
- 26 SMASH: A New Resource for Musicians
- 30 Department of Corrections

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY STUFF!

- 4 2025 Blues Society Officers & Directors
- 20 Membership Form
- 22 January Live Music Calendar
- 24 Blues Jams & Open Mic Listings
- 28 Updated Blues Talent Guide
- 31 2025 Best of the Blues Nomination Ballot

THE WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY BLUESLETTER
JANUARY 2025 - Volume XXXVI, Number I

PUBLISHER

Washington Blues Society - www.wablues.org

EDITOR

Polly O'Keary (editor@wablues.org)

PRINTER

Pacific Publishing Company
(www.pacificpublishingcompany.com)

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tanya Lee Hodel, Eric Steiner, Kirk Anderson, Rick J. Bowen,
John Kessler, Judy Abernathy, Keith Scott, Susie Campbell, Casey Sutton,
Morgan Gilkeson, John Kessler, Selena Guadalupe Rodriguez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Eric Steiner, Keith Scott, Morgan Gilkeson, Laura Carbone,
Larry Star, Mike McNett, Paul Brown, Naomi Ishisaka, Danno Mac

FEBRUARY BLUESLETTER DEADLINES

Ad Reservations	5 PM on 1/5 to editor@wablues.org
Calendar	5 PM on 12/10 online. Please submit @ www.wablues.org
Editorial	5 PM on 1/5 to editor@wablues.org
Camera-Ready Ad Art	5 PM on 1/12 to editor@wablues.org

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

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

Please do not send photos as RGB images. Please only send high resolution, CMYK, print-ready images. Please title photos with a unique file name, and please remove any watermark or branding information from all photos. Do not send low-resolution, social media photos or collages.

CAMERA-READY AD SPECS & COSTS

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

BLUESLETTER ADVERTISING DISCOUNTS

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



2025 OFFICERS

President, Casey Sutton	president@wablues.org
Vice President, Kevin Young	vicepres@wablues.org
Secretary, Marisue Thomas	secretary@wablues.org
Treasurer, Ray Kurth	treasurer@wablues.org
Editor, Polly O'Keary	editor@wablues.org
Editor Emeritus, Eric Steiner	eric@wablues.org

2025 DIRECTORS

Music Director, Rick J. Bowen	music@wablues.org
Membership, Ray Kurth	membership@wablues.org
Education, Mary McPage	education@wablues.org
IT Director, Open	IT@wablues.org
Volunteers, Jeannie "Whoopiekitty" Baker	volunteers@wablues.org
Merchandise, Tony Frederickson	merchandise@wablues.org
Advertising, Open	advertising@wablues.org
Seattle Peace Concerts Director	caseysutton@wablues.org

THANKS TO OUR 2024 STREET TEAM

(NOTE: UNDER RECONSTRUCTION MORE DETAILS IN A FUTURE ISSUE)

SPECIAL THANKS

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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



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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Here comes a new year, and with it, new leadership at the Washington Blues Society. Tony Fredrickson has served us as president so capably and reliably for so long that he seems like an institution, and Rick Bowen has done the same as vice president. Fortunately, they remain involved in other capacities and have only turned over the most high-profile of their volunteer positions to new people.

Next month, I plan to include a full-length feature story on our new president, Casey Sutton, and our new vice president, Kevin Young. Casey and I met for a long lunch a few weeks ago and discussed the future of the Blues Society and the Bluesletter and I am excited about his creative energy and enthusiasm, as well as his considerable skill set. He's done great work helping the Peace Concert project, and I am optimistic about our future as an active, responsible, and important blues society with our new leadership.

I also chatted with Kevin Young, our new vice president, when he recently showed up at one of my band's gigs. I look forward to getting to know him more as I work on a story about the Blues Society's new officers for next month.

An update on my status as editor: I thank the WBS membership for electing me to serve as editor again this year. Last year I wrote that I would continue sharing the position with Eric Steiner until my doctoral dissertation is finished. That project took an interesting turn when the University of Washington asked me to commit to a full year of teaching during the 2024-2025 school year. I was glad to take the job, but my position is that of a student professor, meaning that if I defended my dissertation before the end of the school year, I would lose my student status and become ineligible for my job.

That means I must remain enrolled through June and will likely defend my dissertation in May. I certainly have more time to finish now, which makes it tempting to take on many things I've been putting off, such as assuming the entire role of editor. But I really, really like working with Eric Steiner. His experience and enthusiasm

are at once reassuring and enjoyable. We are a good team. For now, we'll carry on as we are. Once again, I thank Eric for his astonishing generosity of spirit and his epic commitment to service. I also think I should finish the dissertation before taking on too much extra stuff. It's been a long haul, and I am more than ready to be done with grad school, although I have loved it immensely.

I also thank all of the officers, directors, and volunteers with this society. It's a big commitment but a rewarding one. Together, we will honor and further the tradition of blues music in this beautiful state.

Happy New Year!

Polly O'Keary, Editor
Washington Blues Society Bluesletter



Bob Corritore is back with the Highway 99 All Stars

The Highway 99 All Stars play Seattle's Jazz Alley on January 21st & 22nd!

By Kirk Anderson

Seattle has a long history of being an incubator for jazz and the blues. Entertainment in Seattle mirrored the rest of the United States in that it was racially segregated. According to HistoryLink.org, in the 1930s to 1950s, Seattle's music district was Jackson Street. Jackson Street provided employment for black musicians of the area. Uptown was reserved for the entertainment establishments that served the majority white population.

As time moved on, Seattle seemed to become a place where musicians such as Quincy Jones, Ray Charles and later Jimi Hendrix used the Jackson Street area to learn and press each other forward in their music. The music fans of all walks of Seattle found themselves at home in these clubs as the music became part of their lives and again provided a common binder for their relationships.

As recently at the 2000s, the Seattle music scene coalesced at Pioneer Square. Again, time passed and fads changed. *The Seattle Times* lamented in a 2008 article about the "Seattle Dead Clubs club." The clubs had again grown to become a pocket of the city where friendships and more formed and grew. Tastes changed and time slowly eroded the fan bases.

Steve Sarkowski and Ed Maloney co-owned the Highway 99 Blues Club on Alaskan Way, near the Seattle Great Wheel. The club opened in 2004 and was dedicated to the blues. The Blues Foundation honored the Highway 99 Blues Club with a Keeping the Blues Alive Award in 2017 during International Blues Challenge week. The final show at the Highway 99 Blues Club was on December 31, 2018. The venue's closing performance was by Tim Langford's legendary trio Too Slim and the Tail Draggers. Coincidentally, they were also the band that opened Highway 99 Blues Club in 2004. Langford's support of the Highway 99 Blues Club was consistent

for the 15 years of its existence as is his support of the blues/rock community since the first days of Too Slim and the Tail Draggers back in 1986.

Langford's thoughts echo what so many in the Puget Sound area and Pacific Northwest felt about this venue.

"When Highway 99 opened up, it gave blues musicians a home in downtown Seattle," he said. "I loved the club and was heartbroken to see it go. I know the Seattle area musicians were grateful to have the Highway 99 Club as a place to gather and share the music they love."

The musicians that became the common thread throughout those special years were the Highway 99 All Stars. Sarkowski shared that the Highway 99 All Stars were put together within six months of the club opening. He wanted a vehicle that would allow a rotating line-up of local and touring musicians who had created their individual magic in the club. It was a way to come together to make one-off collaborations that would eventually become known as "epic." Many of you have experienced the Highway 99 All Stars which has included over 50 players over the decades including our editor, Polly O' Keary.

After the club closed, a fateful discussion between Sarkowsky and his friend and booker at The Triple Door, Scott Giampino, led to the Highway 99 All-Stars first gig, post Highway 99 Blues Club, at The Triple Door.

"I think what Steve and his partner Ed Maloney were doing at Highway 99 was incredibly important and impactful for not only the Blues community, but for the complete fabric of Seattle," recalled Giampino. "Their care level and dedication paid dividends to all involved and many not involved."

KNKX stepped in and helped make the next three years' Highway 99 All Stars gigs at Jazz Alley become an annual event. We



Bob Corritore, Billy Boy Arnold & Lazy Lester at the Blues Hall of Fame in 2012 (Photo by Eric Steiner)

are looking forward to the 2025 gigs on January 21 and 22, 2025.

I encourage you to take advantage of the Bluesletter archives at www.wablues.org to go back to December, 2021 and February, 2022 and review the musician line-up coverage of these first gigs at Jazz Alley as well as the teams that have made up the Highway 99 All Stars over these past four years.

It has been pointed out to me that we haven't had much coverage of Bob Corritore, one of Highway 99 All Stars, in these pages. So, here we go.

Corritore shared with us when he was 12 years old he heard Muddy Waters on the radio. By the time he was 13 he had a harmonica and was listening to the radio and records trying to emulate the sound that grabbed him.

Corritore's heroes were not only playing the clubs, but also community gathering events. His story reminds me a little of Mike Bloomfield because Corritore would also solicit tips on playing from these practicing giants. They saw how genuine he was and the work he was putting into the craft. They often obliged.

Corritore soon became friend with James "Tail Dragger" Jones. Corritore met him the day after Howlin' Wolf died, January 10, 1976 at the 1815 Club on west side of Chicago. There was an informal impromptu gathering to pay respect. Corritore and



(Highway 99 All Stars Jeff Conlin, Bob Corritore & Robin Moxey at Jazz Alley (Photo by Mike McNett)

Taildragger became friends and that grew. Tail Dragger was respectful, kind, and loyal. They recorded and toured around the world together.

"The blues meant so much to Tail Dragger that when we got together to play he would set up the songs in such a way that you just really had to 'lay it down,' said Corritore. "Tail Dragger couldn't play the blues anyway but all the way on and if you were on the stage with him that's where you went, too."

Tail Dragger got his moniker from Howlin' Wolf because he had a bad habit of arriving

to their gigs late. Tail Dragger's debut release *Crawlin' Kingsnake* was released in 1996. Although Corritore moved down to Phoenix in 1981, he and Tail Dragger maintained a strong relationship. In 2012 Tail Dragger and Corritore co-released a record and DVD named *Friends in the Blues*.

Tail Dragger passed in 2023.

Phoenix is 1,700 miles from Chicago. The friendships Corritore had from Chicago enticed his friends to either visit or outright move to Phoenix. First, Louisiana Red came down and partnered with Corritore

to gig around the southwest. Corritore had to share his knowledge of the blues. He started a radio program called "Lowdown Blues" back in 1984.

This history-based blues radio show runs five hours and has been continuously airing on Sunday nights for 40 years.

If Corritore includes newer music, it has to be firmly rooted in the older tradition. This includes not just the blues from Chicago, Mississippi and Texas but the R&B sounds, bluesy side of gospel, Zydeco and boogie woogie and soul. All are part of the blues family. You can find Corritore's "Lowdown Blues" show on KJZZ which is on the dial in Phoenix and surrounding cities or at KJZZ.org. 6-11pm MST live every Sunday. In 2007, The Blues Foundation honored "Lowdown Blues" with a Keeping the Blues Alive Award in the Public Radio category.

In 1991 Corritore opened The Rhythm Room club in Phoenix which gave him the chance to invite so many of his Chicago friends through the southwest. Bob had many of these legends in recording sessions that were later released commercially. The Rhythm Room is still open. Check out a gig, or some gigs there the next time you are in Phoenix.

Both 2022 and 2023 were the most prolific years for Corritore as he released four records each year.

(Continued on Page 19)

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
 AFFILIATES

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

Local Food - Local Beer - Made Here

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

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

View from the Stage: Salmon Bay Eagles

"He was able to get a great mix and we promptly opened the show..."

By Keith Scott

Seattle's oldest running blues club has the authentication and character that is needed to set the mood for a great night of blues. I was really looking forward to my return performance this trip especially because I had asked the super talented guitarist Michael Powers to join me as well as the West Coast's up and coming blues star Joel Astley on harmonica.

In addition, my good friend, guitarist J.P. "Falcon" Grady came down from Bellingham along with Dave Tondi on sax to really give the show a boost. When I pulled up to the Salmon Bay Eagles that night with my friend Dave Myers, I saw my first Seattle rat run out on the road to add to the blues experience.

Judy Abernathy is the new manager at the Salmon Bay Eagles and is a real music fan. Her partner Dan runs the sound and was a former member of the legendary Moby Grape band with the late Jerry Miller. He was able to get a great mix and we promptly opened the show at 8 PM with a good crowd building and bartender Murphy pouring the libations. She had put out a buffet, but only Joel sampled the interesting array of culinary options.

We did a mix of blues standards and Joel sang his blues chart-topping tune "Kharma."

Michael Powers pulled out some great classics and treated us to a variety of synthesized sounds. Falcon laid down some originals and Dave lit the show up with his soulful sax. My good friend Bob Anderson showed up with an entourage. Bob originally brought me to Seattle many years ago and I always enjoy reconnecting with him.

Joel's band members Joe Martin and Tracy added some extra bass and guitar. It all worked and we played three hours with hardly a break.

Michael closed the show with a rocking version of the Rolling Stones' "Miss You," with



From left to right: Joel Astley, Keith Scott, JP Falcon Grady, Michael Powers, and Dave Tondi at the Salmon Bay Eagles. (Photo Courtesy of Keith Scott)



Falcon singing and Joel doing his best Sugar Blue harmonica licks.

Before I knew it, the clock struck 11 PM. Boy, time does fly when you're having a ball.

I was heading to Canada in the AM so we said good night and I headed back to my friend's house in Fremont.



Left: Michael Powers
Above: Dave Tondi & Guest
(Photos courtesy of Keith Scott)

Until the next time, thank you Seattle Salmon Bay Eagles!

Best of the Blues in 2024

KNKX All Blues Host John Kessler shares his favorite releases from 2024

By John Kessler

It's become a tradition: Every December I round up what I feel to be the most memorable songs of the year. It's always hard to narrow it down to just a few, and there were many great releases in 2024.

The good news is that although blues music has been with us for over 100 years, the genre is alive and well and still contains universal truths for the modern world.

Cedric Burnside — “Hill Country Love”
Album: *Hill Country Love*

As the grandson of R.L. Burnside, Cedric Burnside is the heir to a powerful legacy of North Mississippi, or Hill Country blues. Generally speaking, Hill Country blues is more rhythmic and repetitive than Mississippi Delta blues, making it more closely aligned with the African music that is the genesis of all American blues. This track has an effortless, bouncy feel, that doesn't sound calculated or rehearsed.

Gary Clark Jr. — “What About the Children” feat. Stevie Wonder
Album: *JPEG Raw*

An unflinching look at the struggles of African American communities, and a powerful call for reckoning with the seemingly un-fixable problems of raising a family in 21st century America. Gary Clark, Jr. has been becoming steadily more political with his music, and of course Stevie Wonder has a long history of songwriting that addresses inequality and justice, for example “Living for the City” or “Higher Ground.”

Lizz Wright — “Sweet Feeling”
Album: *Shadow*

While Lizz Wright draws upon most forms of Americana, this love song leans heavily in a gospel direction. Gospel is natural for her, as she was musical director of the small Georgia church where her father was pastor. This song is a remake of soul singer Candi Staton's 1969 track, and is released on Wright's own record label, Blues and Greens,



which aims to support artists beyond the traditional, establishment music system.

Joanne Shaw Taylor — “Heavy Soul”
Album: *Heavy Soul*

A tough and driving soul/blues track that creates a suitable moody atmosphere for this lament. Since she began her career as a teenager, Joanne Shaw Taylor has evolved into an adept songwriter and has learned to focus her considerable guitar chops into easily digestible pieces.

Colin James — “Protection” feat. Lucinda Williams
Album: *Into the Sun*

A double dose of Americana goodness has one of Canada's best known bluesmen joining forces with Nashville icon Lucinda Williams for a remake of her 2014 song. Colin James' effortless guitar soloing supports the moody vibe without dominating, and their voices blend perfectly.

Sonny Gullage — “Go Be Free”
Album: *Go Be Free*

This is the debut of the year from young Louisiana singer/songwriter/keyboardist Sonny Gullage. He came to national attention as a contestant on the 2022 season of American Idol. Propelled by the drums

of his producer Tom Hambridge (known for his collaborations with Buddy Guy and Susan Tedeschi) and with a powerful vocal counterpoint, this song has an unstoppable anthem-like effect that will have you bouncing along to the beat.

Shemekia Copeland — “Down on Bended Knee”
Album: *Blame It On Eve*

With one of the most powerful voices in modern blues, Shemekia Copeland's intensity is closely matched by the burning guitar of producer Will Kimbrough. This song was written by her father, Johnny Copeland, and features a “greasy” 6/8 time signature with a massive groove.

Fantastic Negrito — “Son of a Broken Man”
Album: *Son of a Broken Man*

Fantastic Negrito is one of the most progressive and edgy modern blues players, and has recently won three Grammy awards for Contemporary Blues Album. Overall this release is more contemplative and introspective than his earlier work, with less grandstanding and more pure emotion. As he told *The Christian Science Monitor*, the album is an open letter to his deceased father, and is part of his effort towards

(Continued on Page 19)

Previews: January 2025 Blues on the Road

Great live music in the Evergreen State & Lower Mainland this month!

By Eric Steiner

In looking for live music shows for this column, I learned that many museums offer free admission the first Thursday of every month. The first Thursday of 2025 is January 2nd, and institutions like the Seattle Arts Museum, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society's Log House Museum, Ballard's Nordic Museum, Tukwila's Museum of Flight, Seattle's Henry Art Gallery, and the Burke Museum at the University of Washington offer no-cost admissions. This is an exceptional, low-cost opportunity to learn something new!



Richard Bona & The Asante Trio

On the 7th and 8th, Jazz Alley welcomes Grammy-winning bassist Richard Bona back to Seattle with the Asante Trio. The trio has also included pianist Jesus Pupo and percussionist Harvel Nakundi, and each show blends jazz, Afro-Cuban, Haitian and world music. Bona has toured, composed, and recorded with the Herbie Hancock, Harry Belafonte, Quincy Jones, Chick Corea, Mike Stern, Pat Metheny, Chucho Valdes, and more. (Photo Courtesy of Jazz Alley).



The Highway 99 All Stars featuring Bob Corritore

Celebrate the return of Seattle's Highway 99 All Stars to Jazz Alley on the 21st and



22nd. The line-up features three Blues Music Award winners in harmonica player Bob Corritore, bassist Lisa Mann and guitarist Ben Rice, in addition to Playing for Change guitarist Robin Moxey, and two Northwest Blues All Stars in drummer Steve Sarkowsky and keyboard player Jeff Conlin. Please seek frequent contributor Kirk Anderson's preview in this issue! (Photo of Jeff Conlin, Bob Corritore & Robin Moxey by Mike McNett, Bob Corritore Artist Courtesy Photo).

Gregory Alan Isakov

Colorado-based troubadour Gregory Alan Isakov plays the Pacific Northwest on the 24th at the Mt. Baker Theatre in Bellingham, the Center for the Performing Arts in Olympia on the 25th and the McDonald Theatre in Eugene, Oregon on the 27th. On this tour, he will play critically acclaimed songs from his sixth album, *Apaloosa Bones*. Isakov also runs Starling Farm, a six acre organic farm near Boulder, Colorado and supports local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) cooperatives. Washington state has nearly 300 CSA outlets that link farmers, fisherman and food producers directly to consumers at the local level.

David Gogo

The Fraser Valley Blues Society welcomes David Gogo to the Eagles Hall in Abbotsford,

British Columbia on the 25th. Abbotsford is less than five miles from the Sumas USA/Canada border crossing and David will play songs from his latest CD, *Yeah* (Cordova Bay Records) recorded with Steve Marriner (MonkeyJunk), Jimmy Bowskill (Blue Rodeo) and Gary Craig (Bruce Cockburn) at Bowskill's Gararska Recording Company in Coburg, Ontario.



A Songwriter Circle

On the 28th, Seattle's Tractor Tavern presents A Songwriter Circle featuring Sheryl Wiser, Ben Hunter, Reese Tanimura, Reggie Garret, & Erika Lundahl. Ben Hunter's blues-roots duo, Ben Hunter and Joe Seamons, took 1st place at the 2016 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, and since then, Ben has served on the Seattle Music Commission, co-founded the Hillman City Collaboratory and the Black & Tan Hall. He currently serves as the Artistic Director at Northwest Folklife, and co-chairs the Columbia Hillman Arts & Culture District. (Photo of Ben Hunter by Paul Brown).

Steve Poltz

The following night, the Tractor Tavern

hosts the Road to Sawtooth Valley Gathering Presents: An Evening with Steve Poltz. Responding to Bob Lefsetz' review of a recent Steve Poltz show in the Lefsetz Letter, former Mercury Records executive, and Worldwide Entertainment Group President Dave Lory, typed that we should "Go see Steve Poltz live and you will be transfixed by his talent and keep coming to his live shows." After the Tractor, Steve plays McMenamins in Portland, Tsunami Books in Eugene, and the Belfry in Sisters. I've long been impressed by the company Steve has kept over the years, such as Gary Nicholson, John Prine (RIP), and Richard Thompson.

Mindi Abair 2025 Wine & Jazz Tour

Mindi Abair returns to Seattle's Jazz Alley on January 31st through February 2nd for her 2025 Wine and Jazz Tour before she sails on the back-to-back cruises on Chris Botti at Sea 2025 and the first week of the Smooth

Jazz cruise aboard the Celebrity Cruise Line departing from Ft. Lauderdale. Mindy's latest CD, I Can't Wait for Christmas, celebrates the holidays with many holiday classics, was released this past November

Planning Ahead: February & March

The second Poulsbo Blues and Jazz festival is on February 21st and 22nd. LTD Presents will feature Kyle Rowland, Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle, Kid Andersen's Greaseland All-Stars featuring Lisa Andersen, and the Chambers DesLauriers Band featuring Annika Chambers.

The Brubeck Brothers Quartet play Seattle's Jazz Alley on February 4th and 5th, and Jazz Alley welcomes Chicago bluesman Ronnie Baker Brooks on the 25th & 26th.

Joe Bonamassa kicks off his 2025 national tour at Seattle's Climate Pledge Arena on February 16th before sailing on the 10th



Keeping the Blues Alive at Sea cruise departing Miami on March 21st for five nights. (Photo of Joe Bonamassa Artist Courtesy).

On March 1st, Colin James plays the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver followed by the Royal Theatre in Victoria on the 3rd. On the 8th, he'll play the Mount Baker Theatre in Bellingham.



Dimitriou's Jazz Alley

SEATTLE'S JAZZ CLUB

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

January 2025 SHOWS

Nearly Dan 2 - 5

Richard Bona 7 - 8

Peter White 9 - 12

Pearl Django 14

Chris Botti w Veronica Swift 15 - 19

Highway 99 All Stars 21 - 22

Lee Ritenour and Dave Grusin 23 - 26

Frank Vignola and Pasquale Grasso 28 - 29

Mindi Abair 30 - Feb 2







2033 6th Avenue
Seattle WA 98101

Phone (206) 441-9729
jazzalley@jazzalley.com
JAZZALLEY.COM









"BLUESLAND"

Thursday 7 - 9 PM (PST)

Leo Schumaker

Disc Jockey/Producer
805.766.0999
leosbluesland@yahoo.com

KMRE 88.3 FM



Podcast on Facebook at:
LeosBluesland.

Saturday
The LARGE Show
 Chris Cain
 Sammy Eubanks
 Coyote Kings w/Tiph
 Lionel Young

Friday
Opening
Concert
 Albert Castiglia

Saturday
The Guitar
Crawl

Multiple
venues in
Downtown
Walla Walla!

Sunday
Jazz At
The Fest

Friday
Kick-off
Party

Sunday
Gospel
Brunch
 Rae Gordon

Saturday
Tarwater
Allstar Jam



Featuring...

Chris Cain
Albert Castiglia
Lionel Young - Sammy Eubanks
Coyote Kings w/Tiph - Diego Romero
Rae Gordon - Bennett Matteo Band
Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method
Kevin Selfe & The Tornados - Gary Winston
Mike Agidius - Vaughn Jensen - Mike Mendoza
Wasteland Kings - Sum People - Stereo Bird
NW Songwriter Experience: Cory Peterson, Scotty Wilson,
Ty Lane, Randy Woody, Aaron "Dog Bite" Harris
and many more TBA!

21 and over

Hotel/Fest packages
Music, food, beverages
Gonna be a LARGE time!

January Blues Society
member special! 5% off
select tickets. Promo
code: COYOTELUVS

Tickets
& info
here



<https://wallawallaguitarfestival.com>

venues
 Marcus Whitman Ballroom - VFW Post 992 - WW Eagles
 AK's Mercado - House of Smith - Grandma's Kitchen
 Henry Earl Estates - T-Post Tavern - Plumb Cellars



THE WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY AND LEE OSKAR HARMONICAS PRESENTS

For the Love of
MUSICIANS

February 16th
5pm

Benefit for the
**MUSICIANS
RELIEF
FUND**

Historic Everett Theater
2911 Colby Ave, Everett,
WA 98201



more info at
wablues.org/home-2/musicians-relief-fund

Black & Tan Hall: An Update

New music venue revives an historic Seattle cultural and musical sanctuary.

By Selene Guadalupe Rodriguez

During the early 20th century, in Harlem, New York, a vibrant cultural space emerged that was known as a Black and Tan Hall. These were desegregated venues where people could mingle to enjoy music, food, and dancing across color lines.

For 46 years, Seattle had its own Black and Tan hall called the Alhambra Cabaret on 12th and Jackson, founded by local entrepreneur Harry Legg.

in Seattle for the next 58 years. But that achanged in October with the grand opening of Black and Tan Hall in Seward Park.

“It is the revival of a tradition that was once vital to the Black community,” said Seattle political activist Charles Johnson.

“There was no club like it, it was all we had during such a difficult time,” he said.

Traveling people of color, upon arriving in a new town, would often immediately ask locals for directions to the city’s black and tan.

“These clubs were a safe space to many minorities at the time where you could not be any different than what society wanted you to be,” said Washington resident and activist Autumn Taylor.

The project to create a Seattle’s new Black and Tan Hall, which grew to include 47 ownership partners, was years in the making. Community members initiated the idea in 2016 when a century-old building in the Hillman City neighborhood became available for rent.

Founding partners Rodney Herold, chef Tarik Abdullah, and musician and historian Benjamin Hunter were joined by dozens of other community leaders and volunteers in bringing the venue through the years-long, complex legal procedures involved with renovating and repurposing the building into a resturant and performance space.

The group perservered, motivated by a vision



Black & Tan Hall partner and Anchor Producer, Sadiqua Iman, performs during a fundraiser at Seattle’s new Black and Tan Hall. Credit: Naomi Ishisaka.

of a place run for locals by locals that would support the local economy, serving excellent food with local ingredients, and presenting the arts and culture of the region’s residents.

Since opening the autumn, Black and Tan Hall has made good on that vision.

The venue hosts a variety of events each week, one of the most popular being a blues dance class. Other recent acts have included Yambambo, an 11-piece Latin group; Christina & The Zamlers with Shpilkis, a band specializing in Jewish klezmer music, and a review of local R&B artists.

The venue is already building a solid patronage of people who love the variety of entertainment and the wood-walled Low Down Ballroom with its generous stage.

“This is the first time I have been to Black and Tan Hall and I enjoyed my time there,” said Seattle resident Ricky Duran, on a recent evening. “These events have so much energy to them and have such an old-timey feel.”

The people who work at the venue also enjoy

the experience, including Black and Tan Hall chef Tay Proctor-Mills.

“I get to see a lot of different live music and meet people from different walks of life that I probably never would talk to outside of our space,” he said.

Proctor-Mills, also known locally as “Chef P,” has helped the venue achieve its goals of providing excellent cuisine and beverages.

The short menu includes southern fare such as jerk shrimp and grits with Proctor-Mills’ own sauce, vegetarin friendly options such as jackfruit sliders, and soul food classics like chicken wings. A creative drink menu includes a number of booze-free alternatives, including a “no-jito” with fresh mint and lime.

According to the company website, the menus are intended to serve “craft and culture” and to highlight “Black craftsmanship.”

Although laws no longer force people into racial segregation, all too often people self-

(Continued on Page. 26)

(Continued from Page 14)

segregate into community spaces that are familiar and feel safe, according to founders.

They hope the the Black and Tan Hall will be a place in which all feel comfortable to be in community.

Success in that regard will depend on more than just diverse audiences occupying the same space, though, some caution. There is an unfortunate history of integrated spaces being absorbed by wealthier patrons who haven't understood the full significance of those spaces to minorities.

"Black Americans are always having to share our safe spaces to be seen as nice or progressive," said Seattle activist Victor Everest. "It's exhausting."

For the Black and Tan Hall to be faithful to the tradition of the black and tan club in



American history, it must never lose sight of its roots, he said.

"It is important to have someone in charge who knows what it is like to be Black in America," said Everest.

So far, the workers at the Rainier Avenue Black and Tan Hall say it has been going well.

"What I like best about working at Black & Tan Hall are the different cultures and people who use our space for their community events and shows," said Proctor-Mills.

Currently, the Black and Tan Hall is open evenings Thursday through Sunday. For more information about events, the menu, or the venue's history visit www.blackandtanhall.com.

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

Mondays 7 till 9-ish
Mad Bojo

Wednesday Unbound Blues Jam
7 till 10-ish

1/1 No jam, Happy New Year!
1/8 Mark Riley 1/15 Steven Taylor
1/22 Taylor John Hardin 1/29 Reji Marc

NEW! Rockin' Fridays 8-12

1/3 True Romans 1/10 Billy Appleton Band
1/17 Souled Out 1/24 One Island Drop
1/31 Dana Osborn Band

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

Tuesday Night Dinner Show 7-9

1/7 Barela Brothers 1/14 Monkey Fight
1/21 Unbound 1/28 Brian Butler

Thursday Night 7-9
Singer-Songwriter Showcase
Kevin Sutton with special guest 1/2
Stacy Jones with special guest
1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30

Red Hot Saturdays 7:30-11:30

1/4 JP Falcon Band
1/11 Powerhouse
1/18 King Kom Beaux
1/25 Seattle Houserockers

Around the South Sound and Beyond with LTD Presents

Warm Up to These Great January Shows!

By Tanya Lee Hodel

LTD Presents is taking a much-deserved break from a very busy 2024 schedule this January but rest assured that we are still hard at work behind the scenes putting together a stellar line up for 2025. For instance, on Saturday, February 22nd, we are hosting The Sons of Norway Stage at the second Annual Poulsbo Blues & Jazz Festival. Tickets for Friday, February 21 are sold out and Saturday tickets are selling fast for this incredible tour-de-force festival that boasts five venues and 20 bands performing throughout the day in beautiful Poulsbo. We are excited to bring to our stage Kyle Rowland, Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle, Kid Andersen's Greaseland All-Stars featuring Lisa Andersen, and The Chambers DesLauriers Band featuring Annika Chambers. You can head to <https://poulsborotary.org/poulsbo-blues-jazz/> for more information and ticket link. Also, sign up for our free monthly email newsletter and keep up with us as we announce our 2025 schedule. www.ltdpresentslive.com

The Spar Tavern, Old Town Tacoma's home of the blues, starts out the new year on Sunday, January 5 featuring The Blue Healers with guest drummer, David Hudson. Diane and Don Forsyth are multiple WBS Best of the Blues Award Winners and fantastic performers. Don't miss this first show of 2025 and the Sunday Blues at The Spar concert series. Other great performances this month include the John Stephan Band on Sunday February 12, Michele D'Amour & The Love Dealers on Sunday, Feb. 19, and the Dana Lupinacci Band on Sunday, Jan. 26. Saturday, Jan. 18 brings back former Highway 99 Blues Club house band The Trailer Park Kings with their '70s cover tunes you forgot you knew. It's always a big party at The Spar! All shows listed start at 7 p.m.

The South Sound Blues Association's Tuesday Blues Showcase at Purdy's Public House in Sumner will host the John Stephan Band on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. SSBA Board Members will be in attendance, so take a minute to meet some of these fine folks and



find out more about what's happening in the South Sound. Also, head to southsoundblues.org for monthly jam listings. Billy Shew, Bill Barner and Tim Hall all host great jams around the area every week.

Kimball Coffeehouse in Gig Harbor has the T-Town Aces on Friday, Jan. 17 and the debut of The True Romans to the Kimball Stage on Friday, Jan. 24. It will be a blast to hear these two veteran bands throw down at the best place to be in Gig Harbor on a Friday night! Doors at 6 p.m. and music starts at 7 p.m. Beer and wine available and dancing is encouraged. Check out their calendar at www.kimballcoffeehouse.com for more information and other events.

Do you need the funk? Well, Oly Funk Fest has it January 31 through February 2 at the Capitol Theatre and Olympia Ballroom. This festival is chockful of amazing artists and energetic performers. You can check out the line up and grab your passes to this event at olyfunkfest.com

Grab your big jacket and stocking cap and don't let the January cold keep you from getting out and experiencing some sizzling events happening in the South Sound and beyond. You'll be glad you did!



Top: Kid & Lisa Andersen (Photo by Laura Carbone)

Middle: The T-Town Aces (Artist Courtesy Photo)

Bottom: The True Romans (Artist Courtesy Photo)

Mo' Jam Seattle Celebrates Milestone of 500+ Episodes!

Reflections on 11 years of Monday night magic at Seattle's Nectar Lounge

By Morgan Gilkeson

Let me share how Mo' Jam really began. Before the Purple Hue visions, before understanding blood flow and brain duality, I simply knew that I felt most comfortable and creative when drumming in basements with new friends, making up new songs together.

That pure joy of spontaneous creation in safe, cozy spaces - where judgment and pressure didn't exist - was where I found my truest expression as a drummer. I never imagined those basement jam sessions would become an all-inclusive platform for unifying human consciousness through music.

The "Jam" in Mo' Jam represents the blood flowing through our veins. When we play familiar songs or read music, our blood carries divided energy from heart to brain - like America split into red and blue. But during those three Purple Hue visions in 2008, 2009, and 2013, I glimpsed how that comfortable basement-jam feeling could actually unify this flow. Just four months after that final vision, on December 16th, 2013, Mo' Jam was born, though I had no idea then what it would become.

During the last vision, I thought I was about to conduct a concert that would end world hunger and homelessness. Everyone was waiting for me to play drums, as if thanking me for creating it, believing this concert would somehow save the world. Then they turned out the lights, and I realized I was in the psychiatric unit for the third time with the same vision. But four years after creating Mo' Jam, something extraordinary happened.

In 2017, that same Purple Hue appeared again, darker but unmistakable, shooting from the Mo' Jam stage as an infra purple beam spreading faster than light through time itself. Finally, I understood what those original visions were showing me.

With my fiancé, Jambassador Davy, by my side, for 15 years we've created something



Running the Mo' Jam at the Nectar Lounge (Author Courtesy Photo).

remarkable. Each time I write your name on our signup board, you're entering a field where the heart's purple energy flows undivided. By recreating that basement-jam comfort - stripping away familiar songs and predetermined bandmates - Mo' Jam taps into the pure purple unity that exists before our brains split it into duality.

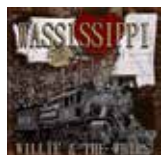
Through 500 episodes and 5,000 performances, I've seen five million plus beats of this purple energy of unity, the energy of my psychosis I step into every Monday without being triggered. Playing with new people each time maintains this unity consciousness, as our structured spontaneity lets us access what's usually hidden by our brain's tendency to separate everything into known patterns.

In November of 2024, we celebrated not

just a milestone, but the evolution of basement-jam comfort into a theory of human consciousness: When we remove what we think we know about music and create that safe, judgment-free space I first found in basements, we can unite the very blood flow that usually divides between heart and brain. Each beat contributes to this field of unity consciousness, preserving reality through pure creativity. Whether you're new to Mo' Jam or have been with us since the beginning, you are part of this ongoing exploration of how comfort creates consciousness unity.

Editor's Note: Mo' Jam is presented every Monday night at Seattle's Nectar Lounge. Special thanks to first-time contributor, Mo (Morgan Gilkeson) Chief Reality Preservation Officer and Keeper of the Purple Hue Guardian of Creative Consciousness.

CD Review



*Willie and the Whips
Wassissippi*

The title “Wassissippi,” of the third album from Seattle sho’nuff-a-blues-band Willie and the Whips is a play on words alluding to their version of Mississippi Hill country and Delta blues but the nine-track collection is much, much more. Recorded at Studio Litho in Seattle, the sessions include guest spots

from vocalists Rhea Rolfe and Amy Sassenberg, guitarists Ari Joshua and Jose Simonet and a horn section featuring BB Award winners Ron Hendee and Mike Marinig along with Sam Morrison and Kevin Palladini. The quartet kick off the set with a run down of Jr. Kimbrough’s “Lord have Mercy On Me,” fleshing out the Fat Possum classic with horns and a gospel chorus. A standard version of oft-covered “Coal Black Mattie” is followed by the meandering slow blues “The Witch.” Kevin Bean leads the Whips through a Haight Ashbury-inspired romp “The

Sleepy Hour Blues” and rips greasy blues harp on the jaunty cover of “Hi-Heel Sneakers,” and the train beat thrill ride “Old No. 7.” Will Morgan demonstrates his range on the soft ballad “Good As I Been To You” and the country stomp “Aint Gonna Fall.” The gents trade inspiration on the finale “Come Get Your Blues, delivering their straight forward mission statement.

-Rick J Bowen

Best of the Blues in 2024 (Continued)

KNKX All Blues Host John Kessler shares his favorite releases from 2024

(Continued from Page 9)

healing their fractured relationship. Further, it is his way of making peace with his own son.

Songhoy Blues — “Issa”

Album: *Heritage*

From the country of Mali in West Africa, Songhoy Blues represent the sound of African “desert blues.” While they may be singing in Songhai, the power of their blues translates easily. “Issa” means “river” in their language and the song is a plea to respect the river and keep it clean for the benefit of all who depend on it. They are one of the modern groups that connect the dots between African and American blues.

Ruthie Foster — “Heartshine”

Album: *Mileage*

Ruthie Foster has one of the most identifiable voices in modern blues, seamlessly blending virtually all forms of Americana, with a strong unifying gospel feel. She has the ability to write complex songs that nonetheless are relatable and easy to sing along with.

Eric Bibb — “Roll on Buddy”

Album: *In the Real World*

Eric Bibb has developed a style of acoustic guitar playing that has become his signature sound. His folk-blues guitar picking, is offset by psychedelic production that features lush background vocals, African flutes, and layers of percussion.



About John Kessler:

A professional bassist for over 20 years, John has been at KNKX since 1999 where he hosts All Blues on Saturday and Sunday nights. He was previously a senior producer of BirdNote for 19 years, and the primary recording engineer for hundreds of KNKX Studio Sessions.

Above: Photo by Paul Brown. Right: Congratulations to the 2024 B.B. Award for Best Blues DJ, Photo Courtesy of John Kessler



Bob Corritore is back with the Highway 99 All Stars, Cont'd

The Highway 99 All Stars play Seattle's Jazz Alley on January 21 & 22

(Continued from Page 7)

Last year, Corritore has again earned another Blues Blast Award for Best Traditional Blues Album. This one was particularly special as many efforts came full circle. The record is his fourth with John Primer, *Crawlin' Kingsnake*. This album pays homage to Tail Dragger Jones' 1996 release of the same name.

"The formula was to start the tape and let it go," said Corritore. "Find the best 'A' team of players in the language of 1968 Muddy Waters band."

By "A" team, Corritore means Bob Stroger on bass, Jimi "Primetime" Smith on second guitar and vocals, Anthony Geraci on keyboards and Wes Starr on drums and

percussion. Smith was recently inducted into the Chicago Blues Hall of Fame and earned a Grammy nomination."

Corritore shared the supporting tour with John and kept us involved by way of his social media.

"John live is a firecracker," said Corritore. "His music pours out of him every night. Seen him across the US and Europe and I know his principles, his work ethic and humanity. He's there to do a great job every night."

When asked about up and coming young players that he's excited about, Corritore immediately referenced Young Rell. They had worked together on a Pinetop Perkins annual fundraiser. He's a guitar player and

singer. Corritore said that Jontavious Willis and Marquis Knox also are bringing a renaissance for the older style.

Corritore closed by asking that you all come and join him and the Highway 99 All Stars at Jazz Alley on January 21, 22 or both. Come enjoy yourselves.

This Highway 99 All Stars show features three Blues Music Award winners in harmonica player Bob Corritore, bassist Lisa Mann and guitarist Ben Rice, in addition to Playing for Change guitarist Robin Moxey and Northwest Blues All Stars drummer Steve Sarkowsky and keyboard player Jeff Conlin.

Salmon Bay Eagles Celebrates 35th Anniversary!

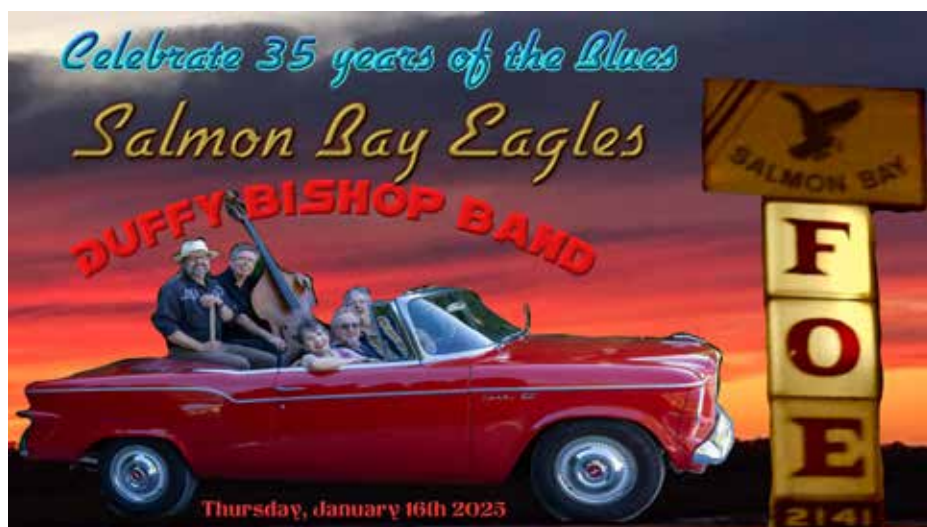
Save the date: January 16th for the fabulous Duffy Bishop

By Judy Abernathy

Join us down at Salmon Bay Eagles in Seattle's historic Ballard neighborhood on January 16, 2025, in celebrating our 35th Anniversary of keeping the blues alive, featuring the fabulous Duffy Bishop. With a career spanning five decades and two centuries, Duffy Bishop is a force of nature.

Duffy has performed in festivals, theaters and nightclubs across the country and around the world. She has opened for artists such as Etta James, Lou Rawls, REO Speedwagon, Little Feat, Chicago, Bobby Bland, The Neville Brothers, and Roy Orbison, to name a few. Musical theater is also a passion of Duffy's, having starred in professional productions of "Rocky Horror Show" (as Dr. Frank-N-Furter), "Janis" (as Janis Joplin) and the tent show "Teatro ZinZanni" in Seattle and San Francisco.

Having spent much time in her beloved Pacific Northwest, Duffy is in the Halls of Fame in the Washington Blues Society, the Cascade Blues Association and the Oregon Music Hall of Fame. Duffy Bishop will be performing with her Pacific Northwest band featuring Chris Carlson on guitar,



Keith Lowe on bass, Bruce Laven on keys (all veterans of Duffy and the Rhythm Dogs), and Kelly Van Camp on drums (a perfect fit with the Dogs!)

Tickets are \$20, available at Salmon Bay Eagles or through www.brownpapertickets.com.

If not sold out, \$25 at the door.

Hope to see you there!



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

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

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PERKS!

Receive monthly Bluesletter in your mailbox*

Monthly All-Ages Blues Bash email notices

Member discounts for BB Awards and Holiday Party

10% off purchases at Silver Platters (any location)

10% discount at the Westport Inn (Westport, WA)

\$1 off the cover and 25% off food at the Raging River Saloon (Fall City, WA)

\$5 off the show admission for Friday 9:30 shows at Jazz Alley†

And more! For the complete, most up-to-date list of membership benefits, visit wablues.org



PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT ARE APPLICABLE. THANKS!

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

Name _____

2nd Name (couple) _____

Band Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

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

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

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

☐ PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Congratulations to the 2025 KBA Award Recipients

The Blues Foundation introduces the 2025 Keeping the Blues Alive Award Recipients

Courtesy of The Blues Foundation

The Blues Foundation preserves blues heritage, celebrates blues recording and performance, expand worldwide awareness of the blues, and ensures the future of this uniquely American art form. The following is a brief introduction to each recipient.

Blues Blast Magazine

Blues Blast Magazine has been a dedicated voice for the blues community, delivering weekly content to over 46,000 subscribers worldwide—all for free. With a legacy spanning nearly two decades, it has become an indispensable resource for blues fans, offering a wealth of music reviews, artist interviews, and stunning photography. The magazine's founder and publisher, Bob Kieser, has actively supported the blues since 1998. He began his journey as newsletter editor and webmaster with the River City Blues Society in Peoria, IL. In 2003, Bob was elected president of RCBS, during which he launched two new festivals: the Winter Blues Fest in 2004 and the Luther Allison Memorial Blues Fest in 2005.

In 2007, Bob launched a weekly digital newsletter called *Illinois Blues Blast* with just 1,000 email subscribers. A year later, the publication rebranded as *Blues Blast Magazine* and expanded its reach to a global audience. That same year, Bob introduced the Annual Blues Blast Music Awards. Originally hosted at Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago, the BBMA's are now in their 17th year and have grown into the largest fan-based blues awards, with up to 12,000 fans from across the globe voting annually. *Blues Blast Magazine* continues to uphold its commitment to promoting blues music and culture, providing a platform where fans and artists can connect, celebrate, and keep the blues alive.

The Cincy Blues Society

Based in Cincinnati, OH, the Cincy Blues Society recently celebrated its 34th anniversary, marking over three decades



of dedication to promoting blues music locally and nationally. The Cincy Blues Fest, the Society's longest-running program, launched in 1992. In 1999, the Society introduced the Blues in the Schools program, educating thousands of children about blues history and performance. Additionally, the program mentors young musicians in the BITS Band, which performs annually at the Cincy BluesFest and the Cincy Blues Challenge and has represented the region at the Youth Showcase in Memphis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society pivoted to host four virtual blues festivals on Facebook and YouTube, raising funds for local musicians affected by venue closures.

Finally, the Cincy Blues Society honors Cincinnati's first- and second-generation blues musicians with its Blue Ball Award of Lifetime Achievement, celebrating icons like Pigmeat Jarrett, Big Joe Duskin, Albert Washington, Sweet Alice Hoskins, and Philip Paul. This tribute ensures these trailblazers receive the recognition they deserve while they are still with us.

Jefferson Street Sound Museum (Lorenzo Washington)

Nashville holds a treasure trove of R&B history, much of which has only recently come to light. From 1935 to 1965, Nashville stood at the forefront of Black American music, with Jefferson Street serving as its vibrant hub. Spanning 30 blocks, Jefferson Street was lined with legendary clubs such as Club Baron, the New Era Club (where Etta James recorded her iconic live album *Rocks the House* in 1963), the Del Morocco, and the Black Diamond. These venues came alive every weekend with performances from 7 p.m. until the early hours, hosting national icons like Count Basie, Ray Charles, Ike & Tina Turner, B.B. King, Otis Redding, and James Brown, alongside Nashville's own stars, including Gene Allison, Charles "Wigg" Walker, Johnny Jones, and a young Jimi Hendrix.

Nashville's influence extended beyond live performances. In 1946, WLAC Radio became the first major station to broadcast R&B records, breaking Jim Crow barriers and reaching 28 states and three Canadian provinces. This platform brought Black music to a mainstream audience for the first time. By 1964, Nashville also became home to *Night Train*, the first syndicated R&B television show, filmed at WLAC-TV. This precursor to *Soul Train* showcased both local and national acts, cementing Nashville's role in music history.

For the past 23 years, the Jefferson Street Sound Museum has worked tirelessly to preserve this rich musical legacy. The museum is the passion project of Lorenzo Washington, who felt called to create a "temple" honoring African American Music in downtown Nashville. The Jefferson Street Sound Museum stands as a testament to Lorenzo's dedication and a living archive of a musical legacy that shaped not just a city but an entire genre.

(Continued on page 25)

January 2025 Live Blues Music Calendar!

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

JANUARY 1

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: McPage and Powell Band 8 PM

JANUARY 2

Flight Path, Burien: Billy Joe's Roadhouse 6 PM
Madsion Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Nearly Dan 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Jeff Herzog & the Jet City Flyers 8 PM
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 PM

JANUARY 3

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Nearly Dan 7:30 PM
Miller's Carnation: Stacy Jones Band 8 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: True Romans 8 PM
Tony V's, Everett: Dusty 45s w Swagerlies 8 PM

JANUARY 4

The Repp, Snohomish: Norris & Nicley 6:30 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Stickshift Anne w Kimball and the Fugitives 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Nearly Dan 7:30 PM
Pub 282, Camano: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 7:30 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: JP Falcon Band 7:30 PM
Rockfish, Anacortes: Silver Tongued Devils 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Seattle House Rockers 8 PM
Eagles Club, Snohomish: Double Shot 8 PM

JANUARY 5

Royal Room, Seattle: Viperpad w The Wednesday Club 7 PM
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 PM
Spar, Tacoma: Blue Healers w/guest drummer David Hudson 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Nearly Dan 7:30 PM
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 PM

JANUARY 6

Royal Room, Seattle: New Music Mondays: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM
Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM
Owl n Thistle, Seattle: Aquilizer 9 PM

JANUARY 7

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Barela Brothers 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Richard Bona 7:30 PM
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 PM

JANUARY 8

Royal Room, Seattle: Matt Shervin 7:30 PM
The Spar, Tacoma: Jazz Overhaul 6 PM
Rockfish, Anacortes: Tod Kimbro 6 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Richard Bona 7:30 PM

JANUARY 9

Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood and Friends 6 PM
Flight Path, Burien: Billy Joe's Roadhouse 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Peter White 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Blue Healers 8 PM
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 PM

JANUARY 10

SeaTac North Terminal, Sea Tac: Eric Madis 11:30 AM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Rod Cook and Toast 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Peter White 7:30 PM
Royal Room, Seattle: Moxie 8 PM
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Clave Gringa 8 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Billy Appleton Band 8 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Tim Turner Band 8 PM
Conway Muse, Conway: Lost at Last w Shady 8 PM

JANUARY 11

Eagle Haven Winery, Sedro Woolley: Lykins-Adams Duo 6 PM
Blues Frog Studios, White Rock B.C.: Johnny A 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Peter White 7:30 PM
Triple Door, Seattle: Ranger and the Re-arrangers and the Hot Club of Troy 7:30 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Powerhouse 7:30 PM
Rockfish, Anacortes: Wayne Hayton 7:30 PM

JANUARY 12

Spar, Tacoma: John Stephan Band 7 PM
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Peter White 7:30 PM

JANUARY 13

Angel of the Winds, Arlington: Fat Fridays 11 AM
Royal Room, Seattle: New Music Mondays: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM
Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM
Owl n Thistle, Seattle: Aquilizer 9 PM

JANUARY 14

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Monkey Fight 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Pearl Django 7:30 PM
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 PM

JANUARY 15

Spar, Tacoma: King Dre 6 PM
Rockfish, Anacortes: Don Bird and Children of the Blues 6 PM
Royal Room, Seattle: South Hudson Music Project and KNKX Present: Piano Starts Here The Music of Nina Simone/Dorothy Donegan 7:30 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Chris Botti 7:30 PM

JANUARY 16

Flight Path, Burien: Billy Joe's Roadhouse 6 PM
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Voices of the Strings 7 PM
Madsion Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Chris Botti 7:30 PM
Central Saloon, Seattle: Jesse James and the MOB (Album Release) (Opener: Mason Turner) (Guests: Jack Gravalis, Nick Mardon), 8 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Duffy Bishop Band 8 PM
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 PM

JANUARY 17

Royal Room, Seattle: Blake Lewis & The Staxx Brothers 6:30 PM
Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: T-Town Aces 7 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Mike Faast 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Chris Botti 7:30 PM
Pub 282, Camano: 7:30 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Souled Out 8 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Billy Stapleton's Powerhouse 8 PM
Conway Muse, Conway: Jammin' Afternoon 8 PM

JANUARY 18

Dusty Strings, Seattle: Eric Madis' Blues Fingerpicking Workshop 11 AM
Tastebuds, Wenatchee: Jesse James 6 PM
Royal Room, Seattle: Chimestone and Medicine Hat: Benefit Show for Make-A-Wish AK and WA 7 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek 7 PM
The Spar, Tacoma: Trailer Park Kings 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Chris Botti 7:30 PM
The Rockfish, Anacortes: John Stephan Band 7:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: King Kom Beaux 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Criminal Squirrel Orchestra 8 PM
Eagles Club, Snohomish: Motown Cowboys 8 PM
Conway Muse, Conway: Petunia and the Vipers 8 PM

JANUARY 19

Conway Muse, Conway : Duffy Bishop Band 3PM
Spar, Tacoma: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 7 PM
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Chris Botti 7:30 PM

JANUARY 20

Royal Room, Seattle: South Hudson Music Project Presents: Painting the Town Red, A MLK Day tribute to the music of Billie Holiday 7:30 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM
Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM
Owl n Thistle, Seattle: Aquilizer 9 PM

JANUARY 21

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Unbound 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Highway 99 All Stars 7:30 PM
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 PM

JANUARY 22

Spar, Tacoma: Velocity 6 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM
Rockfish, Anacortes: Fidalgo Swing 6 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Highway 99 All Stars 7:30 PM

JANUARY 23

Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annies Eastwood and Friends w Billy Stapleton 6 PM
Flight Path, Burien: Billy Joe's Roadhouse 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lee Ritenour and Dave Grusin 7:30 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Stevie and the Blue Flames 8 PM
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 PM

JANUARY 24

Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: True Romans 7 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Fabulous Orchids 7 PM
Sheridan Market, Lake Forest Park: Jesse James and the MOB, 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lee Ritenour and Dave Grusin 7:30 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: One Island Drop 8 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Dana Lupinacci Band 8 PM
El Capitan's, Bellingham: Phoenix in Furs 8 PM

JANUARY 25

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Pacifica Big Band 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lee Ritenour and Dave Grusin 7:30 PM
Rockfish, Anacortes: Randy Weeks 7:30 PM
Royal Room, Seattle: Sheila Kay: A Black Voice Crying Out Video Premier Party 8 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Seattle House Rockers 8 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Willet's Flying A 8 PM
Eagles Club, Snohomish: Joel Astley 8 PM
Conway Muse, Conway : Steve Aliment & Annie O'Neill plus American Flats 8 PM

JANUARY 26

Crossroads, Bellevue: Brian Butler 12:30 PM
The Spar, Tacoma: Dana Lupinacci Band 7 PM
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lee Ritenour and Dave Grusin 7:30 PM

JANUARY 27

Royal Room, Seattle: New Music Mondays: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 PM
Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 PM
Owl n Thistle, Seattle: Aquilizer 9 PM

JANUARY 28

Alberta Rose Theater, Portland OR: CBA Muddy Awards 4 PM
Sea Monster, Seattle: Annie's Eastwood Band 5 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Brian Butler 7 PM
Purdy's Sumner: John Stephan Band 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Frank Vignola and Pasquale Grasso 7:30 PM
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 PM

JANUARY 29

Spar, Tacoma: Brian Kirk Quartet 6 PM
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Frank Vignola and Pasquale Grasso 7:30 PM

JANUARY 30

Flight Path, Burien: Billy Joe's Roadhouse 6 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Mindi Abair 7:30 PM
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 PM

JANUARY 31

Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: 7 PM
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Boogie Boulevard 7 PM
Blues Frog Studios, White Rock B.C: Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson and sGaanaGwa 7 PM
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Mindi Abair 7:30 PM
Royal Room, Seattle: Steve Aliment & Annie O'Neill Santa Poco 8 PM
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Guitar Gil 8 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Dana Osborne Band 8 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Annie Eastwood All Stars 8 PM

Updated Blues Jams & Open Mic Listings

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

SUNDAY

192 Brewing, Kenmore: 192 Blues Jam with The Groove Tramps 3-7 PM, All Ages Welcome
Bullhead Saloon, Four Lakes: Open Mic/Jam 5PM
Collector's Choice Restaurant (CCR), Snohomish: Acoustic Open Mic 7PM
Couth Buzzard Cafe, Seattle: Jazz Jam 2PM Every other Sunday
Darrell's Tavern, Shoreline: Jazz Jam 7-10PM
Dawson's, Tacoma: Tim Hall Band Jam 7-11 PM
The Boom Boom Room at the Point Casino, Kingston: Duff's Rockin' Jam 7-10PM
Lucky 7 Bar & Grill, Kirkland: Tommy Wall Sunday Blues Jam 7PM
Brother Don's, Bremerton: Jam w/Joe Faker Band 4-8 PM, All Ages
The Loft Pub, Victoria B.C.: Open Jam 3-7 PM

MONDAY

Nectar Lounge, Seattle: Mo Jam Mondays 7:30 PM -Midnight
Seamonster Lounge, Seattle: LUZ Jam 9 PM -1 AM
Badger Mountain Brewery, Wenatchee: North Central Washington Blues Jam (1st, 3rd & 5th Mondays) 6-9 PM
Riverside Pub, Wenatchee: North Central Washington Blues Jam (2nd & 4th Mondays) 7-10 PM
Emerald of Siam, Richland: Open Mic/Band Showcase Hosted by Barefoot Randy/Dirty River Entertainment 8 PM (All Ages Until 10:45 PM)
Headworks Brewery, Enumclaw: Open Mic 6 PM
New Moon Craft Tavern, Port Angeles: Jazz Jam (1st Monday) 6:30-9 PM

TUESDAY

Brother Don's, Bremerton: Jam with Tim Hall Band 7-10 PM, All Ages
Café Racer, Seattle – Open Mic 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7 PM
El Sarape Cantina, Shelton: Open Mic (1st Tuesday 6-8 PM)
Engels Pub, Edmonds: Open Mic w/Dano Mac 8pm
Burien Eagles, Burien: Jam w/Billy Shew 7-11 PM

Dreadknott Brewery, Monroe: Open Mic 6-10 PM
Grape & Grain, Everett: Acoustic Open Mic 5:30-8:30PM
Green's Corner, Bellingham: Trace Resideux Jam (1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6-8PM)
Allegra Ziffle's Monthly Old-Time Fiddle Jam (2nd Tuesdays 6:30- 8:30PM)
The Hidden Door, Shoreline: Open Mic 7PM
Zeeks Pizza, Bellingham: 1st Tuesday Open Stage 6-9PM

WEDNESDAY

A Stir, Seattle: Open Mic 10 PM
Black Dog Arts Cafe, Snoqualmie: All-Ages Open Mic 7PM
Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle: Open Mic 8-11 PM
Couth Buzzard Cafe, Seattle: Open Mic 7:30-10 PM
Darrell's Tavern, Shoreline: Open Mic 8:30-11 PM
The Hidden Door, Shoreline: Open Jam 7 PM
Jules Mae's Saloon, Seattle: Jazz Open Mic 7 PM
Lake City Pub, Lake Wood: Open Mic 7 PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Unbound Blues Jam 7-10PM
Miller's, Carnation: Open Mic (Last Wednesday 6 PM)
Mirkwood Public House, Arlington: Open Mic & Jam w/Host Jacob Doss 7 PM, All Ages
Peace Of Mind Brewing, Lynnwood: Open Mic 7-9 PM, All Ages
Gordon & Purdy's Pub, Sumner: Outlaw Blues Jam with Boogie Chillin' 7-11 PM
Skylark Café, West Seattle: Open Mic 8-11 PM
Tim's Tavern, White Center/Seattle: Open Mic 6:30-11 PM, All Ages Until 10 PM
Brickhouse, Vancouver WA : Open Mic 7 PM
The Loft Pub, Victoria B.C.: Open Jam 6- 9 PM
The Valley, Tacoma: Jam w The Valley's House Band Mr. Fantasy 7-10 PM

THURSDAY

192 Brewing Company, Kenmore: Open Mic 7-10 PM

Bent Bine Brew Co. Belfair: Open Mic 6-9 PM
Brother Barrel, Seattle: Jazz Jam/Open Mic 7 PM All Ages
Bushell & Barrel Cider house, Poulsbo: Open Mic 6-9 PM
Chan's Red Dragon, Spokane: Jam Night 7 PM
Cruisers, Post Falls ID: Open Mic/Jam Night 6-10 PM
Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Open Mic 6:30-9:30 PM
Dawson's, Tacoma: Blues Jam w/Billy the Pocket 7-11 PM
Flight Path, Burien: Open Mic Jam Night 8:30 PM
Kimball Coffee House, Gig Harbor: All Ages Open Mic 5:30-8 PM
Maltby Pizza, Maltby: Open Mic 6 PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Blues Jam (Last Thursday) 8-11 PM
Soul Food Coffee House, Redmond: Open Jazz Night 6-8 PM
The New Moon Craft Tavern, Port Angeles: Blues Jam 7 PM
The Spot, West Seattle: Blues Night 6 PM
The Loft Pub, Victoria B.C.: Open Jam 7-11 PM
The Valley, Tacoma: Open Mic Hosted by Elizabeth Ashbrook 8 PM
Thirsty Badger, Lynden : Open Mic 7-11 PM
Three Bull Brewing, Snohomish: Open Mic 6-9 PM
The Realm Venue, Tacoma: Jam w/Billy Shew 8 PM

FRIDAY

Bryant Corner Cafe, Seattle: Open Mic 6:30 PM
Kana Winery, Yakima: Open Mic 7-10 PM

SATURDAY

Flying Pig, Everett: Open Mic (1st Saturday 9 PM)
The Spot, West Seattle: Open Mic 6 PM
The Hidden Door, Shoreline: Open Mic 7 PM
Kiss the Sky Books, Sultan: Open Mic 7 PM
Soul Food Coffee House, Redmond: Community Open Mic Night (1st Saturday 6 PM)



Congratulations to the 2025 KBA Award Recipients

The Blues Foundation introduces the 2025 Keeping the Blues Alive Award Recipients

(Continued from Page 21)

Little Steven's Blues School

The Blues Foundation proudly recognizes Little Steven's Blues School for its exceptional contributions to blues music education through its longstanding partnership with the Notodden Blues Festival in Norway. Established in 1989 as the Notodden Blues Festival Blues Seminar, it stands among the oldest blues education programs for youth. The program has helped launch the careers of renowned Norwegian musicians who have become professional touring blues artists and musicians.

Since 2015, Little Steven's involvement has created collaborations with the Pinetop Perkins Foundation and the European Blues Union. In 2024, Little Steven's Blues School was featured in the documentary "Blues Town Rising," which explores how blues music can drive cultural and community renewal. By inspiring young musicians to engage with and perform blues music, the school plays a critical role in preserving and advancing the blues tradition in Norway. This program continues to be a beacon for blues education, proving that music can transcend borders and build vibrant communities.

The Rhythm Room

This year marks the 33rd anniversary of the Rhythm Room, a cornerstone of the blues community in Phoenix, Arizona. Over the past three decades, the Rhythm Room has hosted thousands of performances by blues artists and has become a vital hub for the genre. In a city as large as Phoenix—the fifth largest in the U.S.—it remains the only venue offering weekly blues performances, making its role indispensable to the local music scene.

Owned and operated by blues musician and advocate Bob Corritore, the Rhythm Room has faced numerous challenges in its mission to keep blues music alive in

the Southwest. At a time when many blues venues are shutting their doors Corritore's dedication and personal sacrifices have ensured that the Rhythm Room remains a sanctuary for blues fans and musicians alike. The Rhythm Room's importance extends beyond its role as a live music venue ever since.

Charlie Hussey

Charlie Hussey, a devoted blues advocate from Ireland, has spent decades championing the genre through radio, photography, writing, and promotion. Charlie's persistent requests for blues music on Dublin radio earned him a spot on a jazz program, where he began curating and discussing blues records. In 1992, 103.2 Dublin City FM launched, and Charlie debuted his now-iconic radio show, *The Blues Train*, which has aired every Sunday night for two hours ever since. This show is one of Europe's longest-running blues programs, showcasing a mix of Irish and international blues artists across all styles.

Over the years, Charlie has interviewed blues legends such as Luther Allison, Honeyboy Edwards, Buddy Guy, Janiva Magness, John Mayall, and Johnny Winter. Charlie's contributions extend beyond the airwaves: In 2008, he secured funding to produce a six-part radio documentary, *Where the Blues Began*, delving into the roots of blues music. *The Blues Train* has twice been nominated as Best Radio Show for the European Blues Awards. In 2020, the European Blues Union honored Charlie with the Blues Behind the Scenes Award for Media for his work on *The Blues Train*.

Big Ed's Blues Jam

Big Ed's Blues Jam, founded in 1994 by dedicated blues enthusiasts Christine Santelli, Ed Sullivan, and Matt Mousseau, has been a cornerstone of the NJ/NYC music scene for over thirty years. Since its inception, this vibrant jam session has occurred every Monday night, providing a consistent and lively platform for blues

musicians and fans alike. For the first 17 years, Big Ed's Blues Jam was held at the legendary Scotland Yard in New Jersey. After brief periods at various venues across New Jersey and New York, the jam found its permanent home in 2012 at The Red Lion, where it continues to thrive. Renowned as a welcoming gathering spot for the New York blues community, Big Ed's Blues Jam attracts visitors from around the world. Its international reputation is highlighted by the presence of musicians and fans from Australia, France, Japan, and many other countries, who regularly join the band, bringing diverse styles and talents to each session. The jam fosters a nurturing and encouraging environment for musicians of all ages and skill levels. Whether young or seasoned, participants are supported and respected, gaining invaluable experience in stage presence, ensemble playing, and public performance. This supportive atmosphere has been instrumental in the development of many young professionals, including Grammy-nominated producer and performer Dave Gross and Nashville-based educator, bassist, and author Ryan Madora, known for "Bass Players To Know" and contributions to *Bass Player Magazine* and *No Treble*.

At the heart of Big Ed's Blues Jam is its core house band, comprised of New York Blues Hall of Fame inductees and seasoned touring and recording professionals. With its stellar reputation, Big Ed's Blues Jam is preferred by touring and recording musicians in New York City.

Editor's Note: The 2025 Keeping the Blues Alive Award luncheon will be held during International Blues Challenge Week on Friday, January 10th in Memphis. In addition to featuring a prestigious blues music competition, the week offers seminars, showcases, master classes, film screenings, networking events, book signings, and receptions for blues societies, fans, and professionals. For more information, visit www.blues.org!

SMASH: A New Resource for Musicians

"After the concert, I looked into SMASH and found that it was a perfect fit for me..."

By Susie Campbell

Editor's Note: We are pleased to welcome South Sound Blues Association President Susie Campbell to these pages! This article is an informative article to a new resource for musicians, Seattle Musicians Access to Sustainable Healthcare (SMASH).

When I moved to the Gig Harbor area in 2016, I discovered a vibrant music scene and community. Over the years, I have enjoyed getting to know many of the local bands and their members. These men and women often work a day job in addition to their night and weekend gigs, making them some of the hardest working people I know. Music is definitely a labor of love and, unfortunately, not especially well-paid. Many working musicians find themselves un/under insured for their medical and dental needs.

In my desire to be a supporter of our local music community, I became a member of SSBA, a KNKX sustaining member, and a donor/supporter of SMASH.

I learned about SMASH last November when I attended a KNKX Connects event at the Blue Mouse Theater in Tacoma. Stephanie Anne Johnson and Jeff Fielder performed. In addition to being a performing musician, Stephanie is the host of The Grooveyard program on KNKX, a mix of soul, jazz and blues, at 1 PM on Saturdays. During the show, Stephanie and Jeff talked about SMASH and the services it provides to musicians, including themselves. After the concert, I looked into SMASH and found that it was a perfect fit for me to combine philanthropy with my love of music. I then became a supporter and donor. What surprises me is how few people in the South Sound have heard of SMASH. I've been spreading the word.

For this article, I spoke with Stephanie Johnson about their experience with SMASH. Asked how they heard about SMASH, they replied that they were asked to perform at the 2021 annual SMASH benefit concert held at the Moore theater.

It had an impressive lineup of local and international touring musicians, including Dave Matthews, and Chad Smith (Red Hot Chili Peppers), and many others. After that, they attended an informational meeting and was impressed at the number of popular Seattle musicians in the crowd who were affiliated with SMASH. This is what "tipped the scales" for them and prompted them to become a member.

Stephanie received help in acquiring professional ear protection. These specialty devices can cost thousands of dollars. From start to finish, Stephanie felt treated "like a person. Some people think that being a working musician isn't a viable field of work. Being treated like a human being is very important. I feel good working with the SMASH people."

Like most working musicians, Stephanie wears multiple hats to make ends meet. In addition to performing and hosting The Grooveyard at KNKX, they do Sunday singing at affirming churches in the area and earn income from sales of music and memberships to their Patreon account. In this way they can "pay the rent and get my teeth cleaned. I am pretty blessed to be a professional musician."

I also reached out to SMASH with a few questions (Special thanks to Nikki Barron and Karina Kaiwi for their informative replies).

SC: "Who started SMASH and why?"

SMASH: "Ian Moore, a long-time touring and recording artist originally from Austin, TX, considered himself lucky that his music career had allowed him to provide for his family. Like many musicians, money was often tight, causing his access to healthcare to take a backseat to expenses like rent and food. However, while living in Austin, Moore had access to a safety net called the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM). This resource allowed him to focus on his life and career without sacrificing his health. When he moved to Vashon Island, he no



longer qualified for HAAM and discovered nothing like it in the region. In 2016, he teamed up with Jacqueline Ryall, a long-time friend, music supporter, attorney, and Gates Foundation employee, to figure out how to bring something similar to the Pacific Northwest. They became the founding members of SMASH and recruited a dedicated group of music and nonprofit industry professionals, community leaders, and friends to make it a reality."

SC: "SMASH was originally intended to serve Seattle musicians, hence Seattle Musicians Access to Sustainable Healthcare. Now that you serve musicians in King, Snohomish, Pierce, Mason, Kitsap, and Thurston counties, why don't you call it MASH?"

SMASH: "The name change to "MASH" seems obvious, but when we decided to increase our service area, we opted to keep "SMASH" because it's more than just geography—it's about the spirit of Seattle's music scene. Ask any local musician; our music scene is more than simply a scene; it's a community. So, the "S" serves as a reminder of that."

SC: "Free health care?! What's the catch?"

SMASH: "Actually, there is one catch—musicians have to keep making great music! It's free to be a member of SMASH, and musicians can still qualify even if they have insurance. Our goal is to lower barriers to access to healthcare services as much as possible. A big part of that is alleviating musicians' stress when it comes to paying for services. Some services have a small co-pay; for example, custom earplugs have a \$25 fee for members, which was

implemented to help motivate members to pick them up after their appointments. Shout out to our financial supporters, and awesome providers who donate their time. We couldn't provide these services without them."

SC: "The South Sound has a vibrant music community including many talented musicians and bands, and a loyal fanbase. How is SMASH working to expand into this area?"

SMASH: "SMASH recognizes the incredible talent and tight-knit music community in the South Sound, and we're committed to expanding our reach there. We're doing this by partnering with providers in the South Sound; shout out to Dr. Kunal, who is providing dental services to our members in Puyallup! We've got big plans to continue outreach to providers in

the area to increase access to more services in the South Sound. Also, many of our services are not geographically constricted. For example, our mental health program has a telehealth option, and an option for us to pay their preferred mental health provider directly. If we don't have a provider in an easy-to-access location for members, we can support musicians with transportation costs to get to Seattle. However, it's uncommon that we can't find something that works for members close to home."

SMASH membership includes access to:

- Annual primary care visit and associated labs,
- Mental healthcare,
- Preventative and acute dental care,
- Hearing screenings and ear protection,

- Eye exams with glasses,
- Physical therapy,
- Substance use disorder treatment, and
- Healthcare/health insurance navigation.

For musicians who need help with the cost of healthcare, I encourage you to become a member of SMASH. The member application is free, easy, and confidential. For more information about eligibility, click here: <https://www.smashseattle.org/join>. Email: SMASH@SMASHSeattle.org, Phone: (206) 495.1285, Address: PO Box 60204 Seattle, WA 98160

If you are looking for a nonprofit organization to support, please consider becoming a donor, or provider. Let's help our musicians stay healthy so they can do what they love, and we can love what they do.



**Tax Deductible Contributions are
Always In Tune!**
Contact treasurer@wabluess.org

**Jesse James and the MOB
ALBUM RELEASE**

**January 16, 2025
CENTRAL SALOON**

**Featuring: Mason Turner
and other special guests**

**Tickets: \$10 Advance / \$15 Door
LPs, CDs, T-Shirts, Stickers - available for purchase**

January Blues Bash



Blue 55 Trio

&

Leah Tussing w Jim Barnes

January 14th Aurora Borealis, Shoreline

7pm

All Ages Welcome - Free



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
Billy Stoops & The Dirt Angels 253.304.1266
Black River Blues 206.396.1563
Blackjack Kerouac 206.697.8428
Blackstone Players 425.327.0018
Blue 55 206.216.0554
Blue Healers 206.940.9128
Blues on Tap 206.618.6210
Blues Playground 425.359.3755
Blues Redemption 253.253.921.7506
Blues Sheriff 206.979.0666
Blues To Do Monthly 206.328.0662
Blues with Benefits 206.459.3278
Bobby Holland & The Breadline 425.681.5644
Boneyard Preachers 206.755.0766 or 206.547.1772
Bobby Patterson & the Two Tones 509.869.0350.
Brian Butler Band 206.450.1262
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 Menteer and The Beaten Path 425.280.7392
Jeremy Serwer 520.275.9444
Jesse Weston 425.610.0933
Jill Newman Band 206.390.2623
James Brunner 509.457.0762
Jim Barnes 425.343.6996
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 253.219.4070

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 253.219.4070
 Leanne Trevalyan & Octopus Ballet 253.219.4070
 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. Noftsgar 425.238.3664
 Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 206.588.1924
 Mark Riley 253.307.3475
 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 Nicely 425.239.3876 or 425.359.3755
 Randy Norris & The Full Degree 425.239.3876
 Randy Oxford Band 253.973.9024
 Raven Humphres 425.308.3752
 The Rece Jay Band (253) 350-9137
 Red House 425.377.8097
 Reggie Miles 360.793.9577
 Reji Marc (206) 486-0386
 Richard Allen & The Louisiana Experience 206.369.8114
 Richard Evans 206.799.4856
 Right Hand Drive 206.496.2419
 RJ Knapp & Honey Robin Band 206.612.9145
 Rob 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
 Spencer Jarrett 510.495.4755
 Stacy Jones 206.992.3285
 Star Drums & Lady Keys 206.522.2779
 Steve Bailey & The Blue Flames 206.779.7466
 Steve Cooley & Dangerfields 253.203.8267
 Steve Peterson 206.799-8196
 Steven J. Lefebvre 509.972.2683 or 509.654.3075
 Stickshift Annie Eastwood 206.941.9186
 Studio Rob 425.870.7683
 Susan Renee "La Roca Soul" Sims 206.920.6776

Suze Sims 206.920.6776

T

TJ Read 206.380.6638
 Tamys Hoffman Band 406.570-2303
 Teri Derr Band 425.985.9420
 Terraplane Band (425)870-5018
 Terry Hartness 425.931.5755
 The 509s 509.423.0032
 The Bret Welty Band 208.703.2097
 The EveryLeaf Band 425.369.4588
 The Fabulous MoJo Kings 206.412.9503
 The Fat Fridays 360.220.2222
 The Grayhounds 206.751.7644
 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 Bokes 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

Department of Corrections

A few things we're working on behind the scenes (and screens) to improve the Bluesletter.

By Eric Steiner

The following is a list of select errors or omissions in the December 2024 *Bluesletter*, with suggestions on moving forward to fewer errors in Blues Year 2025.

On turn-in day for the December issue, the 2025 newest version of the Adobe In Design program would not let me export the file to a PDF. That's a serious dealbreaker. If I can't save the Adobe In Design file into this format, we don't have a magazine. I flashed back to US Army Basic Combat Training at Ft. Dix, New Jersey in 1984: "Go or no go" was the drill sergeant's mantra about hitting targets on the rifle range, sleeping in past reveille, or moving on to the next stage of the 9 week transformation from civilian to soldier in boot camp.

No PDF = No go.

I kept getting error messages about "fatal faults on page 21."

These weren't "ordinary" faults. Each one shut down progress to get the electronic file transferred to Pacific Publishing.

Why does the program use the term "fatal faults?" No one is going to die sitting at a MacBook Air laptop prepping this magazine for print. Adobe probably just wants to get my attention. Like "Go or no go."

I rebuilt page 21 at least 12 times from scratch, and each time, either the program crashed or it would not let me create a file our printer could use. To rebuild the page, I deleted the four images (two photos and two graphics) and two text boxes (headlines & story) and reinserted them. After two hours of getting nowhere, I called our printer and she "talked me down from the ledge calmly and professionally." We even laughed after I finally got it right. Due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday, our turn-in date was six days earlier than normal (and I had just unpacked from my first blues cruise). Christina of Pacific Publishing asked me to save the file as an IDML type, which reverts the document

back to an earlier version, CS4. It really worked!

Also, I dropped Bluesland DJ Leo Schumaker's 3-month business card ad, and since then, I've double checked that it landed in the January issue. As of our January deadline, we have yet to secure a volunteer Advertising Director, and I hope that the newly elected Washington Blues Society leadership will find one. It will certainly lessen the workload that Editor Polly O'Keary and I share.

There were about 15 other formatting improvements I would have made in the December issue, including adding the logo of the National Blues Museum to the report on Shemekia Copeland's return to that blues destination in St. Louis and removing all hyphens from each page using the Adobe In Design auto-format options. That's a personal preference (or pique) with me: I always find chopped-up words distracting from the author's message in any printed publication. I also would have done a better job formatting photo captions and inserted more photos to my review of my first Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise. I would have also improved the 2025 Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") initial nomination ballot on page 31 to better align the Little Bill & The Blue Notes award name.

I would have also double-checked the list of performers listed in Rick Bowen's enthusiastic review of *2nd Gear*, the latest CD from HotRod.Red. The review stated that the "great, sultry sax work" was by Jeff Kashiwa on "The Devil Has Arrived." Polly, Rick and I received an email from *Bluesletter* contributor (and former cover subject) Steve Pearse, who acknowledged Jeff's "wonderful work on 'Stop Houndin' My Girl.'" Steve played those riffs on "The Devil Has Arrived" on his 1962 Buescher Super 400 tenor saxophone in the studio with HotRod.Red's Larry Star in his studio.

The legendary Johnny Hodges, a mainstay in



Above: Steve Pearse in the Studio
(Photo by Larry Star)

the Duke Ellington Orchestra, played the same horn. According to The Saxophone Corner blog, in his eulogy of Hodges, the Duke said "Never the world's most highly animated showman or greatest stage personality, but a tone so beautiful it sometimes brought tears to the eyes—this was Johnny Hodges. This *is* Johnny Hodges. Our band will never sound the same."

Steve Pearse plays with the Graceland Station Backing Band, Robbie Dee Elvis, and LocoMotion (a Whidbey Island-based band that plays original jazz and blues, plus covers of tunes from the Great American Song Book).

In addition to an Advertising Director, the Washington Blues Society would benefit from volunteers to fact check CD reviews and articles. In 2025, Editor Polly O'Keary and I will be working with new Washington Blues Society elected leadership to improve the look, and layout of this publication.

2025 Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") Nomination Ballot

All nomination ballots must be received no later than Tuesday, January 14, 2025



2025 Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues "BB Awards" Nomination Ballot

All nomination ballots must be received at our PO Box or by a Board member no later than Tuesday, January 14, 2025 (January Blues Bash).

Please nominate one nominee in each category. For more information, please refer to the article in this issue about three renamed categories, the Kathi McDonald Female Vocalist Award, the Patti Allen Blues Performer Award, and the Blues Image Award, and the December 2019 Bluesletter article online at www.wablues.org.

Mark DuFresne Male Vocalist	_____
Kathi McDonald Female Vocalist	_____
Electric Blues Guitar	_____
Slide Blues Guitar	_____
Acoustic Blues Guitar	_____
Blues Bass	_____
Chris Leighton Blues Drummer	_____
Paul Green Blues Harmonica	_____
Blues Piano/Keyboard	_____
Blues Horn	_____
Blues Instrumentalist - Other	_____
Best Band	_____
Best Little Bill	_____
& The Blue Notes Traditional Act	_____
Best Solo/Duo	_____
Best New Blues Act	_____
Patti Allen Blues Performer	_____
Blues Songwriter	_____
Washington Blues Recording	_____
Best Blues Club	_____
Best Blues Jam	_____
Blues Writer	_____
Blues Image	_____
Best Blues Graphic	_____
Best Blues DJ	_____
Keeping the Blues Alive	_____
Blues Hall of Fame (Individual)	_____
Regional Blues Festival	_____
Community Blues Festival/Event	_____
Lifetime Achievement	_____
Non-Festival Blues Event	_____

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



P.O. Box 70604
Seattle, WA 98127

Change Service Requested



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

LEE OSKAR

"She Said Mahalo"
The new album
from Lee Oskar

Available Now

She Said Mahalo

Streaming on:

Lee Oskar

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

Dreams We Share .com