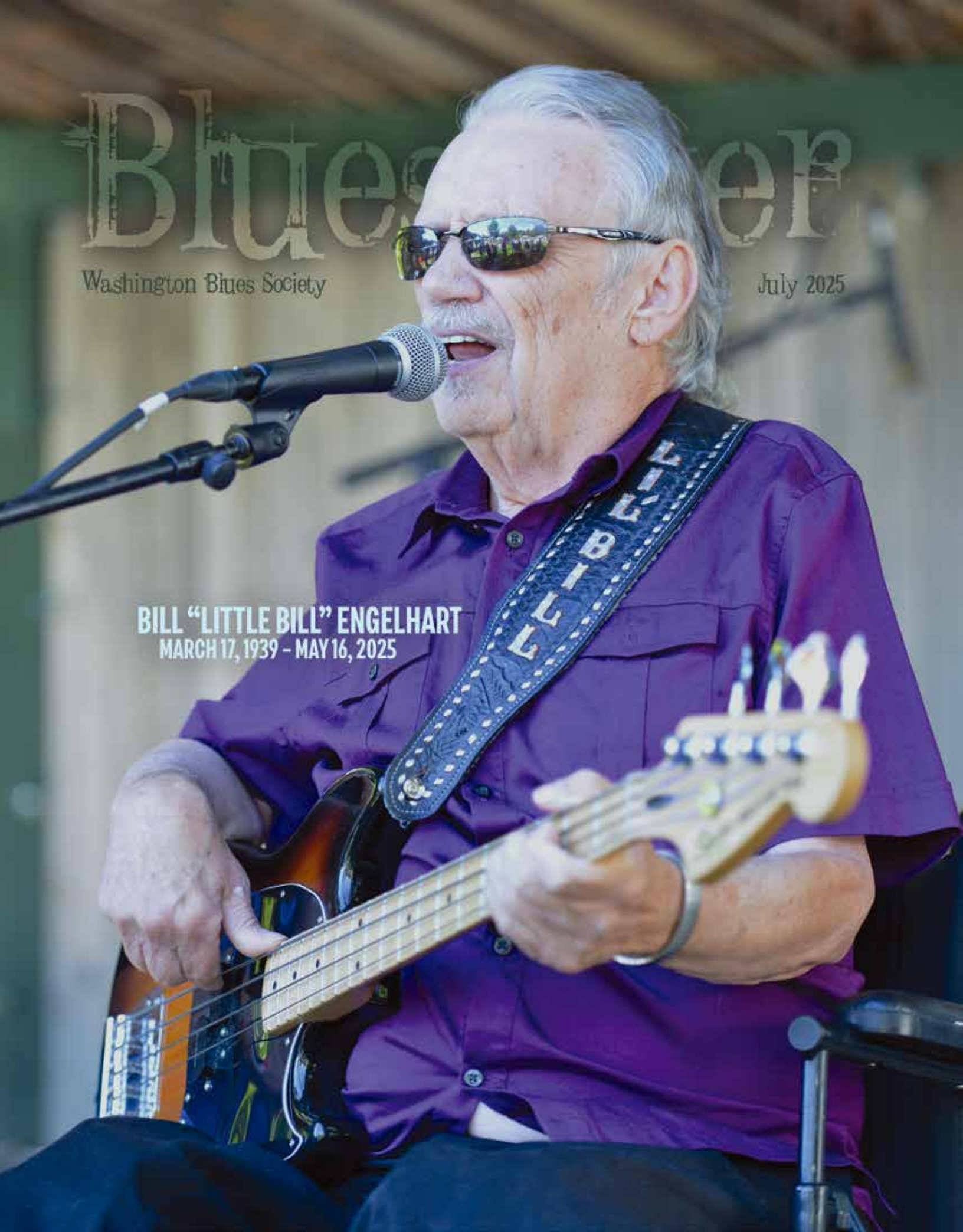


Blues

Washington Blues Society

July 2025

BILL "LITTLE BILL" ENGELHART
MARCH 17, 1939 - MAY 16, 2025



Letter from the Editor Emeritus

Hi Bluesletter Readers!

On the first Thursday of June during the production of this issue, I joined Editor Polly O'Keary and her long-time mentor and friend in journalism Howard Voland (former editor of the *Monroe Monitor*) and Polly's husband Tommy Cook in historic Thomson Hall on the University of Washington campus as she defended her doctoral dissertation.

It was a pretty important day for Polly.

The calendar told me it was this magazine's deadline of the 5th of the month. More importantly for Polly, this meeting in an ornate, Gothic building was the culmination of 10 years' of work toward a Ph.D. from the School of Communication at one of the nation's most prestigious academic institutions. I had started an advanced degree at the University of Washington in the 1980s, but being a full-time student was incompatible with my work schedule and other responsibilities.

Her dissertation committee asked several probing questions, and offered a number of suggestions for improvement to her dissertation. With each conversation in that small classroom, dissertation committee members seemed to welcome Polly's clarifications on many fine points from her work. Through it all, Polly took each question with aplomb and grace (not unlike the way she works through sets as a bandleader of Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method when they play small blues clubs or perform at some of the nation's largest blues festivals).

As the meeting wound down, I thought just how lucky I was to "be in the room when it happened." I simply could not imagine sticking with a research project for 10 straight years. Looking back at my brief time in graduate school in Seattle University, two years going to night school was a real "brain burner" for me.

However, defending a doctoral dissertation is arguably the holy grail for students who work toward a terminal degree (shorthand for what Polly recently called "a life of the mind" in this space).

As I left Thomson Hall, I felt Polly had done her absolute, level best. I also knew, that once her committee reviewed her revisions, that she would then be known as Dr. Polly Straub-Cook in her post-graduate life. That said, I hope she lands on her feet in the job market in a position that takes full advantage of her considerable intellect (that shone brightly that first Thursday on campus in Seattle).

Several days later at this year's Best of the Blues Awards at the APEX Events Center in Everett, I accepted Polly's "BB Award" in the Best Writer category, and after I thanked the audience on her behalf, I was heartened by the applause she received.

Again, as I walked to the back of the elegant, turn-of-the 20th century ballroom in Everett, I thought just how lucky I was to "be in the room where the 2025 Best of the Blues Awards happened."

I'd like to close my Letter from the Editor Emeritus by congratulating

2 Books by NW Legend Little Bill

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Polly O'Keary for achieving a long-held, and hard-won, dream.

How many touring blues artists scale the heights of academia like this? She's in pretty rarified air (in my opinion).

The next time you see Polly O'Keary leading her Rhythm Method at a blues show this summer, would you please congratulate Dr. Polly for me for two achievements: 1) For graduating with a Ph.D., and 2) For this year's Best of the Blues Award as Best Blues Writer?

I was very lucky to have been "in the room where it happened." Each time. At Seattle's Thomson Hall on the University of Washington campus and at the APEX Events Center in historic downtown Everett.

Until next month, go out see live blues (and bring a friend!).



Eric Steiner, Editor Emeritus
Washington Blues Society Bluesletter
Member, Board of Directors, The Blues Foundation (2010-2013)



This month, the Bluesletter honors the legacy of a true Pacific Northwest musical legend, “Little Bill” Engelhart. With remembrances from long-time Blue Note Billy Stapleton, friend and Blues Vespers host Rev. Dave Brown, and insights from fellow blues legend Patti Allen and fellow bass player Polly O’Keary, we remember a one-of-a-kind original. The issue also celebrates Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle’s new live CD, celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Seattle Parks Foundation, welcomes blues back to Music on the Square in University Place, and offers a diverse array of live blues music in the South Sound and beyond with this month’s preview from LTD Presents (Eric Steiner).

Above: Little Bill Engelhart & Billy Stapleton at the 2015 North Bend Blues Walk (Photo by Paul Brown)

Cover: Little Bill Engelhart (Photo by Paul Brown) Cover design and layout by Sean Donovan of Gator Boy Productions, www.gatorboyproductions.com)

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THANKS TO OUR 2025 STREET TEAM

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

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



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A New Live CD from Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle!

"I went back in 2015 with Lucy Hammond and got to the finals again and received Best Guitar Player..."

By Kirk Anderson

I wanted to share with *Bluesletter* readers a recent conversation I had with Portland bluesman Ben Rice. We talked about his history as a two-time finalist at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, a couple of sadly memorable moments during COVID, and his new CD, *Live featuring Jimi Bott* (Ben Rice Music).

The following brief conversation includes Ben's perspective as an artist, my short review of his CD, and I hope it piques readers' interest in this road-tested, award-winning Rose City bluesman.

Washington Blues Society (WBS): "I wanted to do this review/interview because I met you at the Highway 99 All-Stars gig last January but I hadn't put your disc in until last month (April). It's a great record! Would you please describe the songs on this CD in the context of your career so far?"

Ben Rice: "Sure! Coming out of COVID, I wanted to explore new songs. Tough thing to do as fans up to that time are wanting to hear what they already love. Starting around 2022-23, a mentor asked me if he thought my music would be great with horns and keyboards and asked me to write songs with horn arrangements and organ."

"So, I brought back some older tunes with the newer arrangements. Got together in the Fall of 2023 with Dave Mills who did the horn arrangements for Curtis Salgado, Soul Vaccination, and his own band. It was great to see another arrangement style differing from my schooling."

"'Trouble' started as a jam session at a small club in Newberg, Oregon, southwest of Portland, my hometown. It was kind of a gritty, small, dimly lit bar. The owners just loved music. As I'd perform on stage, I would notice the patrons as they walk by living their life. Sometimes people watching inspires."

"'The Dirt Road Home' from 2019 was nominated for three Blues Music Awards.

2014 was my first time in Memphis in January as a Cascade Blues Association International Blues Challenge representative and our band got to the finals. I went back in 2015 with Lucy Hammond and got to the finals again and received best guitar player in the Solo/Duo category. I then went back as judge and then back again as personal liaison for the Competition. Everyone is there because they love the music. I wanted to give back to other musicians as I had been helped by other experienced people like Tony Fredrickson. Great experiences."

"'Even On a Good Day' was written during COVID. We were down in Florida when cancellations started and had a three-day drive home."

"My partner was an ER nurse in Portland and as I asked how were things at home. She'd say, "Fine! Be safe. Don't hurry." There was so much grief. Then the last verse was inspired about my dad losing his best friend. Sure, things may be tough, but nobody makes this journey on their own."

WBS: "What is your connection to Billy Blues in Vancouver, Washington? I see you recorded the record there and you do regular Tuesday night gigs there."

BR: "Billy Blue's – great venue. We started out just trying out songs and arrangements in front of people. Coming out of COVID, Bill gave a portion of sales and raffled off money to local musicians. Bill is a huge supporter of the community both musicians and others. Bill is like, "How do I help?" I asked Bill about a slower night where we can just try out stuff and hone others."

WBS: "Can you tell me about your acoustic guitar? A National Steel? Watching you play that acoustic guitar, especially the "Over the Rainbow" tease opening "Key to the Highway." Amazing!"

BR: "That's a Republic all-metal resophonic guitar that I purchased from Franck Goldwasser back in 2010. That sticker on it makes it look like a National. It's good mojo at this point. "



Ben Rice (Photo by Kathy Rankin)

WBS: "What about that Fender Telecaster? Sounds great and it looks so unique."

BR: "Yes, Fender Telecaster body made by friends in Eugene, Oregon. I've had it since 2010. Circa Guitars was just a thought at the time. Tele body because it has the most surface area, inspired by Lemmy (Kilmister of Motorhead). They lent it to me as I had a six-week tour and would show it off."

"The CNC artist that did the carving, Brian, passed away and Jason his partner asked for the guitar back to show Brian's family what he did. It was my number one, but I couldn't keep it at this point. After a few months, I talked to Jason again and had an opportunity to buy it back. They all knew it would be in good hands."

WBS: "*Live Featuring Jimi Bott* features 11 songs with differing tempos and arrangements. Toe tapping, dance inducing, fresh, and good time songs. The added horns and organ doesn't change the Ben Rice sound that everyone loves. Check out the new CD, a gig near you, or at Billy Blues!

Honoring the 25th Anniversary of the Seattle Parks Foundation

Live music continues with Pop-Up Concerts in the Park in July & August

By Rick J. Bowen

For 25 years, the Seattle Parks Foundation has partnered with communities to champion thriving and equitable parks and public spaces. Community is at the center of everything that the foundation does, and it is proud to present local musicians throughout this summer series.

A diverse lineup of regional talent will take the stage at each Pop-Up Concert in the Park in July and August to celebrate local communities that surround each park, from the Magnuson Park Amphitheater in Northeast Seattle to the Kubota Garden Terrace Overlook in South Seattle, and other beautiful Seattle Parks spaces in-between.

The series is free, open to the public, and

all are welcome. The performances will run from 6:30 PM – 8 PM. Please add these exciting Pop-Up Concerts in the Park to your summer calendars!

- 7/9 REPOSADO at the Seward Park Amphitheater, 5900 Lake Washington Boulevard South
- 7/16 El Guanaco at the Be'er Sheva Park Cultural Stage, 8650 – 55th Avenue South
- 7/23 The Whags at the Magnuson Park Amphitheater, 6344 NE 74th Street
- 8/6 Elnah Jordan at the Kubota Garden Terrace Overlook, 9817 – 55th Avenue South
- 8/20 The Residency Showcase at the Volunteer Park Amphitheater,

1139-1157 Volunteer Park Road

- 8/27 The Jaws of Brooklyn on the Waterfront Stage, 1401 Alaskan Way

Each concert will feature opening sets by artists in The Residency program, a collaboration between Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Arts Corps and MoPOP. This program was created as a response to the gap in access to high-quality, experiential arts education for low-income youth and has quickly become the preeminent training ground for the next generation of artists poised to leave a lasting mark on Seattle's music industry.

Blues Returns to Music on the Square in University Place

"... ranging from jazz, salsa and Brazilian to bluegrass, but the blues is always well represented."

By Mark Hurwitz

This year, the Washington Blues Society honored the City of University Place "Music on the Square" concert series with a nomination a Best of the Blues Award in the Best Non-Festival Event category. The music featured in the series is eclectic, ranging from jazz, salsa and Brazilian to bluegrass, but the blues is always well represented. Billy Stoops and the Dirt Angels, the Stacy Jones Band, the Rafael Tranquilino Band, Little Bill and Rod Cook, the T-Town Aces, and Jerry Miller are just a few of the well-known blues acts who have played at Music on the Square.

The free concerts begin on July 9th and run for eight consecutive Wednesdays from 6 PM to 8 PM in the square in front of University Place City Hall, 3609 Market Place West, off Bridgeport Way. Each week, there's a different food truck, and food and refreshments are available from the restaurants around the square with seating and tables for dining nearby.

King Kom Beaux' Cajun-inspired swampy



Billy Stoops & The Dirt Angels at Music on the Square in University Place (Photo Courtesy of Mark Hurwitz)

blues and boogie kicks off the 2025 calendar, a past representative of Washington in at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Other blues highlights include the Mark Dufresne Band, fronted by the man for whom the Washington Blues Society named its Best Male Vocalist Award, and the U.S. concert debut of Finnish guitar star Ville Leppanen.

The Curran Apple Orchard's summer concerts also feature the blues with multiple BB Award-winning Joel Astley Band,

will play from 6:30 PM-8 PM on Joel's 50th birthday on July 31st! Curran Apple Orchard is at 3920 Grandview Drive West in University Place.

Here's the Music on the Square 2025 calendar (as of press time the Curran Apple Orchard schedule was still in process).

- 7/23 Bobby Medina & Culture Shock
- 7/30 Mark Dufresne Band
- 8/6 Ville Leppanen Band
- 8/13 Ranger & the Re-arrangers
- 8/20 Jazz Overhaul (feat. Darrelle Holden)
- 8/27 Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek

Carrie's Corner

A great selection of blues jams here in our Pacific Northwest!

By Carrie Parduhn

This month, let's talk about the Best Blues Jams in our Pacific Northwest nominated by members of the Washington Blues Society for the 2025 Best of the Blues Award in the Blues Jam category.

Blues society members (that's you!) nominated Tommy Wall's Sunday Night Blues Jam at Lucky 7 Bar & Grill, the Unbound Blues Jam at Madison Avenue Pub, and the 192 Blues Jam with The Groove Tramps at 192 Brewing.

I hope you got your vote in for your favorite Blues Jam category.

This year, the blues society hosted the Best of the Blues Awards for the first time at APEX Everett on July 8. Winner of the Best Blues Jam was the Unbound Blues Jam at the Madison Avenue Pub! Nominees were:

Tommy Wall's Sunday Night Blues Jam at

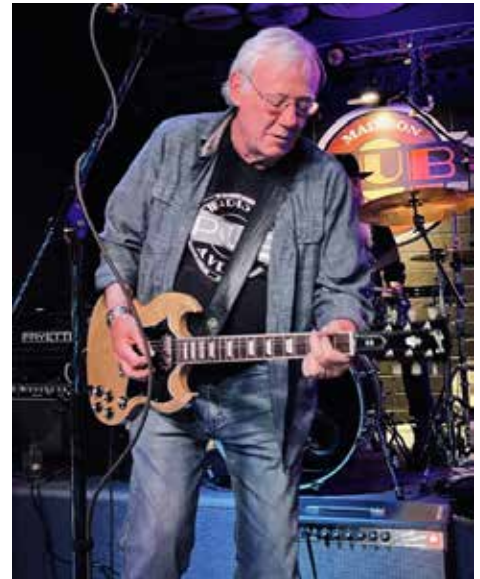
the Lucky 7 Bar & Grill presents a featured guest to jam with Tommy Wall on bass, Rick Riday on keyboards, and Andrew Cloutier on drums.

The Unbound Blues Jam features Rick J. Bowen on drums, Paul Quilty on bass, Kevin Sutton on guitar, and Willow Stone on harmonica. They promote weekly Wednesday night jams with a featured artist.

The 192 Blues Jam with The Groove Tramps at 192 Brewing features Joseph Barton (with his unique style on guitar), Tracy Wilkinson on bass, and Rick Jacobson on drums. These fine musicians also feature a weekly artist to join in on the fun.

Summer days and summer fun with a blues jam of your choice!

See you there, wammer jammers!



Dave Albert, a familiar face at Puget Sound jam sessions, turns in a performance at the Unbound Blues Jam. (Photo by Carrie Parduhn)

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Around the South Sound & Beyond with LTD Presents

"July in the South Sound and Beyond has a lot to offer with outdoor and indoor concerts...."

By Tanya Lee Hodel

We are lucky here in the South Sound that many of the cities in Pierce and Kitsap County love a good outdoor concert, and July has quite a few that feature blues, R&B, and soul artists this year. Here's a few that might get you packing your picnic basket and festival chair.

The Uptown Summer Concert Series in Gig Harbor at 4711 Pt Fosdick Drive has Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek on Thursday the 17th from 6 – 8PM. This ongoing concert series is a favorite with many Gig Harbor residents, and they put on a great, family friendly party.

Wednesdays in July has Music on the Square at University Place at 3609 Market Place West features Billy Barner's Cajun-spiced King Kom Beaux on the 9th, United by Music on the 16th and the championship harmonica stylings of Mark DuFresne with slide guitar master Billy Stapleton's Mark DuFresne Band on the 30th. Music is from 6 – 8PM, parking is plentiful, and the City of University Place provides chairs and tables for attendees.

Thursday, July 31st has the Joel Astley Band performing at Curran Orchard located at 3920 Grandview Drive West in University Place starting at 6:30PM. We have heard this will be a rockin' 50th Birthday Party for harmonica and vocalist extraordinaire, Joel Astley, so head to The Orchard to celebrate this milestone with him and the band.

The Old Town Concert Series off North 30th Street at Old Town Park will be starting again in July on Wednesday nights from 6 – 8PM. As of press time, the schedule is in process (but, in past years, the talent has been top notch, grab your beach blanket and chairs for this fun weekly event).

Need a break from all this outdoor activity? Wednesday nights at The Spar continue with funky jazz bands starting with July 2nd and with the Farrell, Hudson & Friends Band at 7PM. This special event is shaping up to be a fun party with surprise guests. The



Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek
(Artist Courtesy Photo)

old school R&B group, King Dre performs on the 9th and multiple award-winning Jazz Overhaul takes over the annex on the 16th. On the 23rd, the Kevan Carter Band will be there with their smooth R&B take on classics blended with excellent original tunes. Funky Jazz Wednesdays at The Spar run from 7 – 10PM.

The long running, Sunday Blues at The Spar, features the Joel Astley Band on the 6th, The Silvers on the 13th, Annie Eastwood's All-Stars featuring Billy Stapleton on the 20th and the on 27th is Doug Skoog's Blues Redemption.

LTD Presents is bringing 2025 Blues Music Award winning Band of the Year, Rick Estrin & The Nightcats, to the Pacific Northwest for three shows. On the 17th the band will be at the Historic Blue Mouse Theatre in the Proctor District of Tacoma. The Blue Mouse Theatre has just finished an interior facelift with new seats and updated ADA section for added accessibility for all. On the 18th, the band plays The Triple Door and, on the 19th, The Nightcats play The Palindrome at Eaglemount Winery and Cidery on 1893 S Jacob Miller Road.

The Airport Tavern on South Tacoma Way hosts Carolyn Wonderland with her brand of what *Living Blues Magazine* calls "joyous, exuberant blues...guitar wizardry and warm, soaring vocals," on the 19th at 7PM. Carolyn's a member of the prestigious Austin Music Hall of Fame and has been nominated for three Blues Music Awards. This Alligator Records artist will wow you with her fiery



Carolyn Wonderland
(Photo Courtesy Alligator Records)

guitar work!

The Billy Shew Band plays Rock the Dock Pub & Grill in Tacoma on the 12th and the on 19th is Heather Jones & The Groovemasters.

Kimball Coffeehouse will host Mark Riley Trio on July 11th. Mark Riley won "Best Acoustic Guitar" in 1998 and 1999 at the Washington Blues Society Awards. Joining Mark will be Howard Hooper on bass and Russ Kammerer on drums. Don't miss this rare and special performance from one of our local legends.

July has a lot to offer around the South Sound and Beyond with fantastic award-winning artists performing at fun outdoor and indoor venues all month long. Whether you prefer mid-week or weekend concerts there's plenty to do.

See you at the show!



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Remembering a Pacific Northwest Legend

"He got so much joy out of sharing his music with people" - Patti Allen

By Wyatt Stubblefield, University of Washington

The Pacific Northwest music scene has lost one of its most beloved figures with the passing of Bill Engelhart, known to fans as "Little Bill," who passed away at age 86. Engelhart had an extraordinary 63-year musical journey that helped shape the sound and spirit of blues and rock music in Washington state.

Born in 1939, Bill Engelhart was just a teenager when he founded Little Bill and the Bluenotes in 1958 in Tacoma. Little Bill and the Bluenotes were one of Tacoma's first rock n' roll bands. This groundbreaking band would become a cornerstone of the Pacific Northwest's emerging music scene, and they even earned a top-100 hit with their song, "I Love an Angel."

The young musicians did not simply play music, but were trailblazers with a do-it-yourself spirit that would inspire countless bands to follow. They booked performances at local venues and made posters. When Tacoma's city council banned rock-and-roll dances within city limits, the band found the Little Gem, a hamburger hut just outside the city line, where people came to hear them

play.

During his long career, Bill has garnered countless awards and left behind a substantial body of work that documented both his own musical evolution and the changing sound of Pacific Northwest blues.

Beyond his musical accomplishments, those who knew Little Bill remembered him as a man with a generous spirit and countless stories. Engelhart was not just talented, he had an understanding that blues and rock-and-roll were not just entertaining, but were a way of connecting with people across generations.

Patti Allen, a gifted vocalist and friend who worked with Engelhart for about five years shared her heartfelt insights and experiences with the legendary musician.

"Bill always respected the musicians that worked with him." Allen said. "He was a good leader."

Outside of performing, Allen said Little Bill was true to himself and confident. Allen said that Engelhart could sing anything, but was never full of himself, and he loved to make people happy with by sharing his talents.

"He wasn't arrogant or didn't think he was better than anybody or anything like that." Allen said. "He used his gift... and being crippled didn't stop him from being great. He got so much joy out of sharing his music with people."

Washington Bluesletter editor and long time area performer Polly O'Keary said that she remembered Little Bill as a staunch champion of the underdog.

"He noticed young musicians just breaking in, or musicians who were from non-traditional backgrounds, and he elevated them," she said. "He came out to some of my shows before just about anyone else did. And he was a huge supporter of Nicole Fornier when she was one of the few women around playing lead guitar."

Engelhart also published two memoirs throughout his career. He published "Next Stop, Bakersfield" in 1999 and "So Anyway..." in 2005. Both of Engelhart's books can be found on Amazon.com.

Little Bill Engelhart's passing represents the end of an era, but his influence on Pacific Northwest music will endure.

(Continued on Page 12)



Above: Rev. Dave Brown, Rod Cook & Little Bill (Photo by ML Sutton).

Right: Patti Allen, Rod Cook, Chris Leighton, Little Bill & Bily Stapleton (Photo by Blues Boss)



That was Little Bill. He Killed 'em.

"Bill patiently taught me music theory and difficult songs that completely changed the way I played."

By Billy Stapleton

It is with great sadness that I write of the passing of my dear friend and musical mentor Little Bill Engelhart. Bill passed away last night. An absolute musical pioneer whose career started in 1956 with one of the first rock and roll bands to emerge from Tacoma.

His 1959 gold record of "I Love and Angel," tours with the Ventures, his beloved Blue-Notes, and the unbelievable number of gigs he would play per year have long ago cemented his place in the pantheon of Pacific Northwest musicians.

Jazz, blues, rock, soul, rhythm and blues, ballads, Latin... Little Bill played it all.

I was lucky enough to play with Little Bill and the BlueNotes for 25 years. Bill patiently taught me music theory and difficult songs that completely changed the way I played.

His wealth of "Little Bill Stories" resulted in two published books. His many CDs feature a wonderful mix of different musicians. Little Bill's bands featured horn sections, acoustic trios, four-piece live bands, and bands big, small and in between.

Bill populated his bands with the best players he could find and was always proud of the musicians he performed with. There will never be another...

One night in the 1980s, Tommy Morgan, Dick Powell, Little Bill and I played the legendary New Orleans in Pioneer Square. The room was packed to the rafters with col-

Legend

(Continued from Page 12)

He showed that success is not just measured in chart positions or record sales, but in the lives touched, the barriers broken, and the communities built through music. Engelhart helped write the soundtrack to the Pacific Northwest's musical soul, ensuring that his influence will be felt for generations to come..

lege kids out for a night on the town. They watched as we lifted Little Bill in his wheelchair up onto the stage.

"We're gonna ruin this old man!" yelled a young voice from the crowd as we started our set.

Two hours later, after a non-stop set of soul, rock and blues, the band and the crowd were drenched in sweat.

I then noticed a line of college kids standing across the front of the stage. They stood and looked up at the band, bowed repeatedly, and chanted loudly "We are not worthy... we are not worthy!"

That was Little Bill. He killed 'em.



Center Middle: Buck England, Rev. Dave Brown, Little Bill & Rod Cook at Blues Vespers (Photo by ML Sutton)

Center Left: Little Bill on His 80th Birthday! (Photo by Blues Boss)

Top: Little Bill (Painting by Cheryl King)

Above: Jan & Tony Englehart and Little Bill: "Does anybody know what time it is at Blues Vespers?" (Photo by ML Sutton)

Save the Date: July 13th
Memorial Honoring Bill Engelhart
The Spanish Ballroom at McMenamin's Elks
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Family, friends & fans of Little Bill
welcome! Details TBA

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 7/9 Diego Romero
 7/16 Jim McLaughlin, Erik Scott, Angelo Ortiz
 7/23 Nick Mardon
 7/30 Christi Michelle & CD Woodbury

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 7/4 No music - Happy 4th of July!
 7/11 The Encounters
 7/18 Lori Hardman Band
 7/25 Cloud Cover

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 Kevin Sutton with special guest 7/3
 Stacy Jones with special guest
 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31

Red Hot Saturdays 7:30-11:30
 7/5 the Coverups
 7/12 Gin Creek
 7/19 King Kom Beaux
 7/26 Taylor John Hardin Band



“And the life he lived gave joy to many. Not just his music...”

“... have a sacred duty to remember those who have died. We will remember and celebrate the gift of Bill’s life.”

By Rev. Dave Brown

In her poem, “When Death Comes,” Mary Oliver writes “I don’t want to simply have visited this world.”

Bill didn’t simply visit this world, he lived fully in it. And the life he lived gave joy to many. Not just his music, but his stories and his love for family and friends.

I wrote extensively about Bill for the *Bluesletter* when he retired. He was a product of Tacoma, honored by the City Council and the School Board. My favorite memories, apart from the over 40 Blues Vespers he played (every December with the Big Band and every July with the Trio), is of his regular Monday night gigs at The Swiss in Tacoma back in the day with the Bluenotes, which featured Mark Riley, Rod Cook, Billy Stapleton, Tommy Morgan or Buck England. It was fabulous as were his gigs at The Spar in Tacoma.

Bill and I were friends for a long time. He always teased me about being a Reverend in a bar. I wasn’t sure if I passed the “Bill Test” until Bill invited me to help him celebrate his and Jan’s 40th wedding anniversary with a “reaffirmation” of their wedding vows at the New Orleans in Pioneer Square.

I’ll close by sharing what Bill told me in an interview when he retired.

“I was a working musician for 60 years,” said Little Bill. “During that time, I was somehow able to accomplish more than I ever thought I could. I never let having polio stop me from following my dreams...I retired in December...to tell the truth sometimes I do miss being Little Bill. He and I had one hell of a great ride for many years!!!”

Yes, you did Bill!

I believe we the living have a sacred duty to remember those who have died.

We will remember and celebrate the gift of Bill’s life.



Top: Lee Oskar & Little Bill (Photo by Blues Boss)
Middle: Dick Powell & Little Bill
Above: Pacific Northwest Rock Royalty
(Photo by ML Sutton)

For Bill Engelhart: Thanksgiving, May 18, 2025

By Rev. Dave Brown

It seems to happen a lot these days.
We wake up and read that another
fellow traveler has left this world.

It comes with being a certain age, I guess.
You would think we’d get used to it
but we never do, we never do.

Parting is not a sweet sorrow.
You miss those who have said good-bye
The sweetness of memory never fully erases
the pain.

This time it’s Little Bill, so special, he gave
so much joy.
Those who heard his music smiled. You miss
his voice.
His bass no longer finds a groove.

His stories now live in our memories.
No one will ever sing, “I Love an Angel”
like him with such love in his heart.

We say goodbye again and again
never to be the same. Grateful yes, thankful,
to be sure, yet the weight of grief remains.

It happens more often these days,
to those of us of a certain age.
We say goodbye, tears fall.

We wipe our eyes,
remember in silence
and are thankful

that when the sun
rises in the morning
we get to see it.

The Story Behind the Cover: Little Bill

By Cheryl King (Little Bill Photo by Cindy King)

As a classic rock and roll fan I must admit to a bit of naiveté in the blues and jazz world of music. So when I first heard about Little Bill Engelhart I had no idea who it was. For nearly three years I have been sweating it out in step aerobics class with his wife Jan and if it weren't for my art I might still be in the dark about Little Bill. I am an oil painter living in a suburb of Seattle and last July embarked on what was at first an exercise but has evolved into what I refer to as my FACE Project.

I paint 12x12 portraits of people and then pose them holding the painting in place of their face, naming them quirky, irreverent or just plain fun titles. It is the reverse of the carnival idea where you pop your head through a hole for a crazy photo op. My intention is to playfully make fun of who we are as Americans. Really we just need to lighten up a bit and laugh more these days!

My enthusiasm for this project overflowed into aerobics class one morning and I learned that Jan's husband is a renowned jazz and blues bassist (my naiveté still in full bloom). Through her I invited him to participate and he graciously accepted. The first time I met Bill was when I arrived at his house on March 1st with my paints and easel in tow. We set up in the living room where a large north facing window provided the most perfect light an artist can ask for.

Painting these portraits is a dream for me since I am a people person and most of the time artists paint in solitude. I love these moments with my models and think of them as friendly chats.

With this project I get to meet new people and unite with friends all while being entertained with great stories.

With Little Bill it was no exception! As I squinted, measured, slathered and daubed, Bill spoke of his life. He told of how he was afflicted with polio at age 10, learned the guitar as a teen and began his journey to legend. He regaled me with tales of the road and tidbits of his life. I learned how he met his wife of 48 years, Jan and of their two children and four grandchildren they adore.

For me these conversations are more than just entertainment. They are the blood that courses through the paint, the emotion that lights the eyes and the passion that brings the FACE alive. Songwriters, singers, musicians understand what I saying. Without the stories and its underlying sentiment, a painting would fall flat, a song would lose its voice.

When I went to see Little Bill and the Bluenotes perform locally a week later, I finally saw the light. What a delight it was to listen to the magic that sparked from his fingers and flowed through his lyrics! I really had to pinch myself.

The final aspect of my project came a few days following his performance. It is what I call "The Photo Op" when I pose the person holding the painting in place of their face. Before meeting Bill I had the idea of naming his photo "The Genuine Guitar Hero", but then I found out that Bill is famous among his family and friends for his penchant for hats.

He has a prodigious collection of dapper hats! With Bill's agreement we stacked his hats in mounds around him and he cradled his Fender in his lap.



It made the perfect set up for our new title "The Harmonious Hoarder of Hats."

Bill is also known for wearing sunglasses. I gave him the choice on whether to paint him with or without his signature eyewear and I'm glad he chose without so we could see the gentle and authentic nature of the man through his eyes.

Little Bill is the real deal: a true American legend not only because of his music and all he has contributed to the industry, but because he is a genuine and generous sweetheart of a man!



Preview: August 16th for Mercedes Nicole's CD Release Party

"A memorable evening at Seattle's Black & Tan Hall."

Courtesy of the Washington Blues Society

The Washington Blues Society is proud to sponsor a CD release party for Mercedes Nicole's newest CD *Too High a Price to Pay* on Saturday, August 16th from 8-10:30 PM at Seattle's Black & Tan Hall.

Join Mercedes Nicole for an evening of great live blues with a stellar, award-winning band. She's touring to showcase her new album *Too High a Price to Pay*. Joining her on stage will be Rod Cook on electric and slide guitar, Scotty Harris on electric bass, Chris Leighton on drums, and Willie Straub on electric guitar. Reviews describe Mercedes as soulful, sizzling, and provocative, and one reviewer considers her voice as "One of those voices that wraps around you like a warm summer rain, and at times pierce your heart."

Join us for happy hour from 5-7 PM and dinner throughout the night, featuring food by Chef Tay. Check out the menu at blackandtanhall.com/menu.



Above: Mercedes Nicole on the Cover & She's Ready to Sing! (Photos Courtesy of the Artist)

Help Us Build a Better Bluesletter

Continued reminders about formatting for current & prospective contributors

By Eric Steiner

During the preparation of this month's issue, Polly and I received too many contributions we couldn't use as the contributor sent material incompatible with our printer's specs (they're on page four of each issue).

The best way to get published in the *Bluesletter* is to submit a story or photo as an attachment on or before the deadline of the 5th of the month for the following month's issue.

If you rely solely on only your phone, I'll save you the trouble: Please don't! Instead, create a free email account, visit a local library to access word processing or photo editing software, and make final changes before saving your file with a unique title and simply sent it to editor@wabluessociety.org!

Images are bit more complicated because our printer, Pacific Publishing, uses high resolution press formatting for all images.

That's CMYK (shorthand for Cyan-Magenta-Yellow-Key Color, or Black). It's not the traditional primary colors of red, blue, and green (RGB images or social media and other screens). CMYK, as I understand it, taps into a broader color palette than RGB and reflects the four-color printing process.

Social media images tend to be low resolution, and traditional print media requires that all images be formatted using the CYMK four-color process at high resolutions at 300 dots per inch+.

We receive hundreds of images annually from social media: While they look good online, they're not suitable for traditional, "old-school" print media.

Polly and I, and our editor@wabluessociety.org group email address, still receive far too many images incorrectly formatted to our printer's specs. We also received several great stories embedded in email we could not use (please review our printer's specs on page 4).

Please help Polly and me build a better *Bluesletter*!

Finally, Polly and I have talked about pushing up our monthly deadline to the 30th of the month in the hopes that we will get editorial copy we can use by the 5th in the hopes of changing current and potential contributors' behavior regarding our monthly deadline. We're working through our all volunteer Bluesletter Committee to make positive changes to the way we produce our magazine and look forward to sharing the committee's work in a future issue.

Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2025 BB Awards!

Mark Dufresne Male Vocalist

Joel Astley

Kathi McDonald Blues Female Vocalist

Diane Forsyth

Patti Allen Blues Performer

Lady A

Electric Blues Guitar

Anthony Estrada

Slide Blues Guitar

Billy Stapleton

Acoustic Blues Guitar

Kevin Sutton

Blues Bass

Robert Baker

Chris Leighton Blues Drummer

Don Montana

Paul Green Blues Harmonica

Joel Astley

Blues Piano/Keyboard

Billy Reed

Blues Horn

Lonnie Williams

Blues Instrumentalist Other

Angelo Ortiz

Best Blues Band

Joel Astley Band

Best Little Bill & The Blue Notes

Traditional Blues Act

Stevie & The Blue Flames

Best Solo/Duo

Blue Healers

Best New Blues Act

Taylor Hardin Blues Band

Blues Song Writer

John Stephan

Washington Blues Recording

Stacy Jones Family Christmas

Best Blues Club

Madison Avenue Pub

Best Blues Jam

Unbound Blues Jam at Madison Avenue Pub

Blues Writer

Polly O'Keary

Blues Image (Photo/Video)

Gordy Mitchell

Best Blues Graphic

Gordy Mitchell

Best Blues DJ

John Kessler

Best Regional Blues Festival

Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival

Community Blues Festival

WBS Blues Bash

Keeping The Blues Alive

Billy Stoops

Blues Hall of Fame - Band

Jeff & the Jet City Flyers

Blues Hall of Fame - Individual

Steve Bailey

Lifetime Achievement

Steve Bailey

Blue to the Bone

Robert Giles

Marisue Richards Thomas



Top:

Diane Forsythe took home the Kathi McDonald Blues Female Vocalist Award, as well as Best Solo/Duo for her duo The Blue Healers (Photo by Clancy Dunnigan)

Bottom:

Joel Astley took home the Mark Dufresne Male Vocalist Awards, as well as the Paul Green Blues Harmonica Award and the Best Blues Band Award (Photo by Debra Penk)



Blues On the Road in the Middle of Blues Festival Season!

Welcome *Tab Benoit, Rick Estrin & The Nightcats, Ruthie Foster, Stanley Clarke & many more!*

By Eric Steiner

This month's Blues on the Road preview has a number of exciting live blues shows from nationally touring artists visiting the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia's Lower Mainland. Several artists are also playing the award-winning Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival mid-month in Washington's scenic Methow Valley, and I wanted to invite readers to consider seeing artists who perform at Winthrop in other venues across our region.

I'm also excited to preview the 8th annual Ft. Langley Jazz & Arts Festival in British Columbia from July 24-27th, which has a very special Cool Blues Show! While this festival was news to me, I was pleasantly surprised at the way the festival presents live music and the arts for a great long weekend.

Tab Benoit



In addition to his show at the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival, Tab Benoit's return to the Pacific Northwest is a week-long regional residency that takes him from Idaho, Oregon and Washington. On the 16th, see Tab at the Egyptian Theatre in Boise, followed by a show the next night at the Bing Crosby Theatre in Spokane before the band heads to the Methow Valley for the Winthrop festival. On the 23rd, welcome Tab back to

Seattle at the Seattle Theatre Group's Neptune Theatre, and bid him a fond farewell from our region on the 24th at the Aladdin in Portland. (Photo of Tab Benoit by Jean Frank Photography).

Rick Estrin & The Nightcats



This month, the award-winning Rick Estrin & The Nightcats return to the Evergreen State with shows at the Blue Mouse Theatre in Tacoma on the 17th, the Triple Door in Seattle on the 18th, and the Palindrome at the Eaglemount Winery in Port Townsend on the 19th. For me, this blues band always puts on show-stopping sets thanks to one of the blues' most entertaining and soulful frontmen in Rick Estrin. (Photo of Kid Andersen and Rick Estrin by Mike McNett).

Ruthie Foster



Please welcome Ruthie Foster back to our region this month and congratulate her for winning the 2025 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Blues Album, *Mileage* (Sun Records). This was her 10th studio album, and since she released it last year, Austin's famed Paramount Theatre honored her with a star outside this historic venue. She's only the sixth artist to receive this honor,

including Delbert McClinton, Jerry Jeff Walker and Lyle Lovett. On the 17th, she'll play the 46th annual Harrison Festival of the Arts at Harrison Hot Springs, BC, before shows on the 23rd at Seattle's Jazz Alley, the 24th at Portland's Alberta Rose Theatre, and on the 25th at Eugene's John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts. (Photo of Ruthie Foster Courtesy of Crystal Henderson & Dawn Kamerling of The Press House).

Stanley Clarke



Fresh from this year's Love Supreme Music Festival in the United Kingdom, Stanley Clarke returns to Seattle's Jazz Alley for five shows beginning on July 25th. I find it hard to fathom that his classic *School Days* LP on Epic was released the year I graduated from high school in the 70s, and the 8-minute title cut remains a master class in funk. (Photo of Stanley Clarke Courtesy of Jazz Alley).

Greg Adams & East Bay Soul



On the 15th and 16th, quintessential "East Bay Grease" returns to Seattle's Jazz Alley courtesy of Greg Adams & East Bay Soul. After Seattle, the band returns to the venerable East Bay venue, Yoshi's, and with so many quick nonstops between the Pacific Northwest and Bay Area airports, Yoshi's would make for a great road trip! (Photo of Greg Adams & East Bay Soul Courtesy of Jazz Alley).

Robert Randolph

Prior to his Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival show, Robert Randolph plays Portland's Aladdin Theatre on the 17th and Seattle's Nectar Lounge on the 18th. He'll likely play songs from his new Sun Records CD, *Preacher's Kids*, released late last month.

Brandon Issak



One of my favorite North American musicians is gigging more than most this month north of the border. On the 6th, Brandon Isaak plays the Chemainus Music Festival with The Mood Swings and on the 8th, he plays solo at 39 Days of July in Duncan before returning to Duncan with The Mood Swings on the 13th. The Saints of Swing will join Brandon at the Ft. Langley Jazz and Arts Festival on the 25th, and wherever you see him, it'll be well worth the trip! I first discovered him decades ago when he was part of The Twisters, a great blues and roots band from British Columbia's Lower Mainland. Tragically, the band lost its drummer 20 years ago en route to a show in Prince George, and I'm pleased that Brandon has kept making blues and roots music. (Photo of Brandon Isaak in vest playing guitar at the 2018 White Rock Blues Society tribute to Jason Buie, RIP) (Photo by Eric Steiner)

Ft. Langley Jazz & Arts Festival

The 8th annual Fort Langley Jazz & Arts Festival is back from July 24-27, 2025, transforming the charming streets of Fort Langley into a vibrant hub of world-class jazz, art, and Indigenous culture. The

majority of the events are free, but one ticketed afternoon piqued my interest. This year's Cool Blues Show on Friday, July 25th.

The line-up features Bywater Call, a seven-piece roots and blues band from Toronto who have received multiple Independent Blues and Maple Blues Award nominations, including Entertainer, Electric Act, and Best Female Vocalist of 2024. After Langley, Bywater Call heads to the Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival in nearby Salmon Arm.

Jimmy Rogers' son, bluesman Jimmy D. Lane, is steeped naturally in Chicago blues, and will bring his own unique take on the blues. He's played with a "who's who" of blues stars for decades. Next month, Jimmy D. Lane's playing the Big Sky Blues Festival in Noxon, MT.

Robert Connelly Farr has a host of award nominations, including New Artist of the Year and Songwriter of the Year at Canada's Maple Blues Awards, and with longtime drummer Jay Bundy Johnson, the Robert Connelly Farr Duo will turn Ft. Langley Community Park into Bentonia before Brandon Isaak and His Saints of Swing take the stage.

Steve Marriner is one of Canada's most accomplished bluesmen as he's won seven Maple Blues Awards for Harmonica Player of the Year along with Acoustic Act of the Year (2022) and Male Vocalist of the Year (2009). Initially best known for his early work with MonkeyJunk, he's been a mainstay of Harry Manx' and Colin Linden's bands. Steve Marriner and Local Electric will be one of the many bright spots at this year's Ft. Langley festival as will Angelique Francis.

This month, after multi-instrumentalist Angelique Francis plays Winthrop, she's at the Dream Cafe in Penticton on the 22nd prior to her set at Ft. Langley's Cool Blues Show on the 25th. She was on our May cover, and many blues fans have told me it's one of our most memorable ever! I'm sure her shows this summer will be exciting, too!

It's Here! 2025 Acoustic Blues at Centrum

From July 28th through August 3rd, the 32nd Acoustic Blues Workshop will captivate participants and musicians alike for an unparalleled opportunity to experience live blues in small group, workshop and concert settings. Jontavious Willis returns as Artistic Director, and this year's faculty reads like a "who's who" of traditional acoustic blues. Space prevents me from listing each outstanding musician, and I am absolutely thrilled that the following blues musicians will be in Port Townsend this year: Eden Brent, Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes, Lightnin' Malcolm, Seattle's own Benjamin Hunter, Jason Ricci, and Alvin Youngblood Hart. The Washington Blues Society has enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial with Centrum, and I look forward to the 32nd edition of this exceptional blues opportunity.

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July Live Blues Music Calendar

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

JULY 1

Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend: Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.
Waterfront Park, Poulsbo: Summer Nights at the Bay concerts 6 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Barela Brothers 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Acoustic Alchemy 7:30 p.m.
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

JULY 2

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.
Ten-01, Everett: Bruce Govan 6 p.m.
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Acoustic Alchemy 7:30 p.m.
Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.

JULY 3

Quilcene Lantern, Quilcene: TARBOO Olympic Peninsula Music Fest 3 p.m.
Tim's Tavern, White Center: Dusty 45's 6 p.m.
Cellar Cat, Kingston: Annie Eastwood All Stars 63 p.m.
Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Central Saloon, Seattle: Nick Mardon 7 p.m.
Miller's Carnation: Dusty 45's 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Acoustic Alchemy 7:30PM
Hidden Hall, Seattle: Deal 8 p.m.
Royal Room, Seattle: Jon Stephan Band and the Blue Healers 7:30 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Ryan T Higgins Project 8 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.

JULY 4

Quilcene Lantern, Quilcene: TARBOO Olympic Peninsula Music Fest 12 p.m.
Tom McCall Park, Portland, OR: Waterfront Blues Festival 1 p.m.
La Conner Marina, La Conner: Mama Dirty Skirt and North Sound Soul 5 p.m.
The Keg and I, Chimacum: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 6 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: All Stars and No Stipes 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

JULY 5

Quilcene Lantern, Quilcene: TARBOO Olympic Peninsula Music Fest 12 p.m.

Tom McCall Park, Portland, OR: Waterfront Blues Festival 1 p.m.
Woodin Creek Plaza, Woodinville: World Music Showcase 5:30 p.m.
Th Repp, Snohomish: Eastwood and Stevens Duo 6 p.m.
Legion Park, Arlington: Chris Eger Band 6 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Rainbow City Orchestra 7 p.m.
Chang Thai, North Bend: Lonnie Williams and Then N Now 7 p.m.
Chateau Ste Michelle, Woodinville: Pink Martini 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: The Cover Ups 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Acoustic Alchemy 7:30 p.m.
Rockfish, Anacortes: The Unknowns 7:30 PM
Arcadian Public House, Conway: 8 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano: Engage 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: John Stephan Band 8 p.m.

JULY 6

Gilky Square, La Conner: Lost at Last 1 p.m.
Woodin Creek Plaza, Woodinville: Patio Music Series 4 p.m.
Boundary Bay Brewing, Bellingham: Jazz in the Taproom w Scott Ranney 6 p.m.
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 p.m.
Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Acoustic Alchemy 7:30 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

JULY 7

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 p.m.
Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 p.m.
Owl n Thistle, Seattle: Aquilizer 9 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: La Luz 10 p.m.

JULY 8

Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend: Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.
Waterfront Park, Poulsbo: Summer Nights at the Bay concerts 6 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Blues Bash w Diego Romero and Di and the Blue Hearts 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Reji Marc 7 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano: Jimmy Wright 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Leo Kottke 7:30 p.m.
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

JULY 9

Skyline Tower, Bellevue: Birch Periera and the Gin Joints 12 p.m.

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.
Mill Creek Town Center, Mill Creek: Summer Concerts 6 p.m.
Seafarers Park, Anacortes: Rock the Dock Summer Concerts 6 p.m.
Ten-01, Everett: Bruce Govan 6 p.m.
Sparrow, Kirkland: Annie & Billy 6 p.m.
Market Square, University Place: King Kom Beaux 6 p.m.
Seward Park, Seattle: Reposado 6:30 p.m.
Steel Lake Park, Federal Way: Stacy Jones Band 6:30 p.m.
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Zetasonic 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Leo Kottke 7:30 p.m.
Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.

JULY 10

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: D'Vonne Lewis three 12 p.m.
Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood and Friends 6 p.m.
West Seattle Junction, Seattle: West Seattle SummerFest 5 p.m.
Club Tolt, Carnation: Brodie Nation Music Fest 5 p.m.
Everett Marina, Everett: Nite Wave 5 p.m.
Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood and Friends 6 p.m.
Volunteer Park, Seattle: The Paper Boys w Stacy Jones Band 6 p.m.
Tim's Tavern, White Center: Dusty 45's 6 p.m.
Riverwalk Plaza, Mount Vernon: The Enthusiasts 6 p.m.
Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.
Historic Shell Station, Issaquah: Gas Station Blues 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Nearly Dan 7:30PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: 8 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.

JULY 11

Bellevue Square, Bellevue: Adrain Xavier 12 p.m.
Club Tolt, Carnation: Brodie Nation Music Fest 2PM
West Seattle Junction, Seattle: West Seattle SummerFest 5 p.m.
Gilbert Cellars, Yakima: Miller Campbell 5 p.m.
Seafarers Park, Anacortes: Rock the Dock Summer Concerts 6 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Big Mischief Little Big Band 7 p.m.
Cockrell Farms, Puyallup: Octopus Ballet 7 p.m.

Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: Mark Riley Trio 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Nearly Dan 7:30 p.m.
Arcadian Public House, Conway: Joe Day 8 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Palooka 8 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: The Encounters 8 p.m.
Pub 282 Camano: Annie Eastwood All Stars 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Blue Healers 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

JULY 12

Our Lady of the Lake School, Seattle: Wedgwood Arts Festival 10AM
Quincy Square, Bremerton: Quincy Square Grand Opening Festival 12 p.m.
West Seattle Junction, Seattle: West Seattle SummerFest 12 p.m.
Club Tolt, Carnation: Brodie Nation Music Fest 2PM
Old Stove Brewing, Seattle: Sheri and Jo Mama 5 p.m.
Rail Road Park, Snoqualmie: Nick Mardon 5 p.m.
Woodin Creek Plaza, Woodinville: World Music Showcase 5:30 p.m.
Boxley's, North Bend: Haystack Music Fest 6 p.m.
Legion Park, Arlington: Johnny Green 6 p.m.
Five Rights Brewing, Marysville WA, Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 6:30 PM
The Repp, Snohomish: Norris and Nicely 6:30 p.m.
Silver Dollar Bar, Whitebird ID: Polly O'Keary and the Rhythm Method 6:30 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano: Naughty Blokes 7 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Stickshift Annie w Kimball and the Fugitives 7 p.m.
BITS, Mukilteo: Blue Healers 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Nearly Dan 7:30 p.m.
Arcadian Public House, Conway: Souled Out 8 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Rumor 6. 8 p.m.
Rock The Dock, Tacoma: Billy Shew 8 p.m.
Arcadian Public House, Conway: 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Joe Cook Blues Band 8 p.m.

JULY 13

Our Lady of the Lake School, Seattle: Wedgwood Arts Festival 10AM
Gilky Square, La Conner: The Walrus 1 p.m.
Club Tolt, Carnation: Brodie Nation Music Fest 2PM
Woodin Creek Plaza, Woodinville: Patio Music Series 4 p.m.
Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma: Little Bill memorial 4 p.m.
Live at Andre's, Nine Mile Falls: Curley Taylor and Zydeco Trouble 5 p.m.
Pier 62, Seattle: Silversun Pickups 5 p.m.

Quincy Square, Bremerton: Eugene Jones 5 p.m.
Boundary Bay Brewing, Bellingham: Jazz in the Taproom w Scott Ranney 6 p.m.
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 p.m.
Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Nearly Dan 7:30 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

JULY 14

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 p.m.
Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 p.m.
Owl n Thistle, Seattle: Aquilizer 9 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: La Luz 10 p.m.

JULY 15

Kirkland Urban Plaza, Kirkland: Summer Concert Series 4 p.m.
Edmonds Summer Concerts, Edmonds: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 4 p.m..
Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend: Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.
Waterfront Park, Poulsbo: Summer Nights at the Bay concerts 6 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Unbound 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Greg Adams and East Bay Soul 7:30 p.m.
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

JULY 16

Symetra Center, Bellevue: Ian Ayers and Jesse T 12 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.
Mill Creek Town Center, Mill Creek: Summer Concerts 6 p.m.
Seafarers Park, Anacortes: Janie Cribbs and the T Rust Band 6 p.m.
Ten-01, Everett: Bruce Govan 6 p.m.
Seafarers Park, Anacortes: Rock the Dock Summer Concerts 6 p.m.
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Jazz Punishments Big Band 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Greg Adams and East Bay Soul 7:30 p.m.
Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.

JULY 17

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: The New Triumph 12 p.m.
Terrace Creek Park, Mount Lake Terrace: Stacy Jones Band 4:30 p.m.
Everett Marina, Everett: Santa Poco 5 p.m.

Volunteer Park, Seattle: Sara Gazarek 6 p.m.
Tim's Tavern, White Center: Dusty 45's 6 p.m.
Riverwalk Plaza, Mount Vernon: Mama Dirty Skirt 6 p.m.
Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Tim Lerch Wayne Bliss Duo 7 p.m.
Brewminatti, Prosser: Carolyn Wonderland 7 p.m.
Chateau Ste. Michelle, Woodinville: Dwight Yoakum and The Mavericks 7 p.m.
Blue Frog Studios, White Rock B.C.: Rick Estrin and the Nightcats 7 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano: Chris Eger 7 p.m.
Historic Shell Station, Issaquah: Gas Station Blues 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Simpatico 7:30PM
Nectar Lounge, Seattle, Cool Cool Cool (aka Turkuaz) w/ i///u, 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Stevie and the Blue Flames 8 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.

JULY 18

Bellevue Square, Bellevue: Aaron Crawford 12 p.m.
Blues Ranch, Winthrop: Winthrop R&B Festival 4 p.m.
Seafarers Park, Anacortes: Rock the Dock Summer Concerts 6 p.m.
192 Brewing, Kenmore: Guitar Slim Jr 7 p.m.
Blue Frog Studios, White Rock B.C.: Crystal Shawanda 7 p.m.
Triple Door, Seattle: Rick Estrin and the Night Cats 7 p.m.
Pub 282, Camano: Chill Devil 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Simpatico 7:30 p.m.
Arcadian Public House, Conway: Joel Astley 8 p.m.
JP's Barrom, Renton: Cory Wilds 8 p.m.
Getaway Tavern, Mount Lake Terrace: Stacy Jones Band 8 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Lori Hardman Band 8 p.m.
Nectar, Seattle: Robert Randolph 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Lonnie Williams 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

JULY 19

Blues Ranch, Winthrop: Winthrop R&B Festival 12 p.m.
Main Street, North Bend: North Bend Block Part 12 p.m.
WIT Cellars, Woodinville: Annie & Billy 5 p.m.
Woodin Creek Plaza, Woodinville: World Music Showcase 5:30 p.m.

July Live Blues Music Calendar (cont'd)

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

Legion Park, Arlington: Stilly River Lockdown 6 p.m.

Dusty Cellars, Camano: McPage and Powell 6 p.m.

Airport Tavern, Tacoma: Carolyn Wonderland 7 p.m.

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

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Camile Bloom 7 p.m.

Palindrome, Port Townsend: Rick Estrin and the Nightcats 7 p.m.

Bing Crosby Theater, Spokane: Tab Benoit 7:30 p.m.

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: King Kom Beaux 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Simpatico 7:30 p.m.

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Blues Velvet Groove 8 p.m.

Arcadian Public House, Conway: Stacy Jones and Nick Vigarino 8 p.m.

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Trouble at Home 8 p.m.

Rock The Dock, Tacoma: Heather Jones and the Groove masters 8 p.m.

JULY 20

Blues Ranch, Winthrop: Winthrop R&B Festival 12 p.m.

Gilky Square, La Conner: Billy Appleton 1 p.m.

Woodin Creek Plaza, Woodinville: Patio Music Series 4 p.m.

Boundary Bay Brewing, Bellingham: Jazz in the Taproom w Scott Ranney 6 p.m.

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

Spar, Tacoma: Annie Eastwood All Stars 7 p.m.

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Simpatico 7:30 p.m.

Seamonster, Seattle: Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

JULY 21

SMadison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 p.m.

The Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 p.m.

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

Owl n Thistle, Seattle: Aquilizer 9 p.m.

Seamonster, Seattle: La Luz 10 p.m.

JULY 22

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

Waterfront Park, Poulsbo: Summer Nights at the Bay concerts 6 p.m.

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: McPage and Powell 7 p.m.

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Ruthie Foster 7:30 p.m.

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

Seamonster, Seattle: Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

JULY 23

The Eight, Bellevue: New Age Flamenco 12 p.m.

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

Mill Creek Town Center, Mill Creek: Summer Concerts 6 p.m.

Seafarers Park, Anacortes: Rock the Dock Summer Concerts 6 p.m.

Ten-01, Everett: Bruce Govan 6 p.m.

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Ruthie Foster 7:30 p.m.

Neptune, Seattle Tab Benoit 7:30 p.m.

Triple Door, Seattle: Ruthie Foster 7:30 p.m.

Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.

JULY 24

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: Fern Spores 12 p.m.

Fort Langley Community Park, Langley B.C: Fort Langley Jazz and Arts Festival 4 p.m.

Everett Marina, Everett: Little Lies 5 p.m.

Cockrell Farms, Puyallup: Billy Stoops & Dirt Angel 5 p.m.

Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood and Friends 6 p.m.

Riverwalk Plaza, Mount Vernon: Chris Eger Band 6 p.m.

Tim's Tavern, White Center: Dusty 45's 6 p.m.

Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.

Historic Shell Station, Issaquah: Gas Station Blues 7 p.m.

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.

The Cove, Olympia: The Mistaken 7 p.m.

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Stanely Clark 7:30PM

North City Bistro, Shoreline: The Jump Monkeys 7:30 p.m.

Hidden Hall, Seattle: Salmon Berries 8 p.m.

Pono Ranch, Seattle: True Romans 8 p.m.

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Polly O'Keary and the Rhythm Method 8 p.m.

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

JULY 25

Seattle Center, Seattle: Bite Of Seattle 10AM

Fort Langley Community Park, Langley B.C: Fort Langley Jazz and Arts Festival 4 p.m.

Salmon Arm B.C: Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival 4 p.m.

Wallace ID: Wallace Music Festival 4 p.m.

Unity Park, Ellensburg: Ellensburg Music Festival 5 p.m.

Seafarers Park, Anacortes: Rock the Dock Summer Concerts 6 p.m.

Casting Iron, Enumclaw: Cory Wilds 6 p.m.

The Garage, Bremerton: King Kom Beaux 6 p.m.

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Rod Cook and Toast 8 p.m.

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: The B Sides 7 p.m.

Pub 282, Camano: Groove Doctors 7 p.m.

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Stanley Clark 7:30 p.m.

Arcadian Public House: Jammin' Afternoon 8 p.m.

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Brohamm 8 p.m.

Hidden Hall, Seattle: Skerik & McTuff 8 p.m.

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Cloud Cover 8 p.m.

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

Seamonster, Seattle: Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

Ten-01, Everett: Stacy Jones Band 8 p.m.

Special thanks to our funders:
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Preserving & Promoting Blues Music



as a part of our

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

JULY 26

Seattle Center, Seattle: Bite Of Seattle 10AM
Fort Langley Community Park, Langley B.C.: Fort Langley Jazz and Arts Festival 12 p.m.
Salmon Arm B.C.: Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival 12 p.m.
Liberty Park, Renton: Renton River Days 12 p.m.
Unity Park, Ellensburg: Ellensburg Music Festival 3 p.m.
Wallace ID: Wallace Music Festival 12 p.m.
Johnson Farm, Anderson Island: Mark Dufresne Band & Blue Healers 5 p.m.
Woodin Creek Plaza, Woodinville: World Music Showcase 5:30 p.m.
Legion Park, Arlington: Harvey Creek 6 p.m.
Pub 282 Camano: Rock Radio 7 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Seattle Jazz Network 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Taylor Hardin Band 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Stanley Clark 7:30 p.m.
Arcadian Public House, Conway: Mojo Cannon 8 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Danny Godinez 8 p.m.
Rock The Dock, Tacoma: Kimball and the Fugitives w Annie Eastwood 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Jeff and the Jet City Fliers 8 p.m.

JULY 27

Unity Park, Ellensburg: Ellensburg Music Festival 10AM
Farmer's Market, Mercer Island: Powerhouse 11AM
Fort Langley Community Park, Langley B.C.: Fort Langley Jazz and Arts Festival 12 p.m.
Liberty Park, Renton: Renton River Days 12 p.m.
Salmon Arm B.C.: Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival 12 p.m.
Gilky Square, La Conner: Herding Cats 1 p.m.
Woodin Creek Plaza, Woodinville: Patio Music Series 4 p.m.

Boundary Bay Brewing, Bellingham: Jazz in the Taproom w Scott Ranney 6 p.m.
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 p.m.
Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Stanely Clark 7:30 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

JULY 28

Marymoore Park, Redmond: Iggy Pop 6 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 p.m.
Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 p.m.
Owl n Thistle, Seattle: Aquilizer 9 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: La Luz 10 p.m.

JULY 29

Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend: Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.
Marymoore Park, Redmond: Melissa Etheridge and the Indigo Girls 6 p.m.
Waterfront Park, Poulsbo: Summer Nights at the Bay Concerts w Stacy Jones Band 6 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Blue Healers 7 p.m.
Ten -01, Everett: Blues 101 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Randy Brecker and Charged Particles 7:30 p.m.
Billy Blues Bar and Grill, Vancouver: Ben Rice and the Hustle 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Joe Doria Presents 10 p.m.

JULY 30

Symetra Center, Bellevue: Brittany Collins 12 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Shape Shifter 4:30 p.m.
Redmond City Hall, Redmond: Stonesy 5:30 p.m.
Clover Island, Richland: Coyote Kings 6 p.m.
Marymoore Park, Redmond: Melissa Etheridge and the Indigo Girls 6 p.m.
Mill Creek Town Center, Mill Creek: Summer Concerts 6 p.m.

Ten-01, Everett: Bruce Govan 6 p.m.
Seafarers Park, Anacortes: Rock the Dock Summer Concerts 6 p.m.
Windjammer Park, Oak Harbor: Baby Cakes 6 p.m.
Market Square, University Place: Mark DuFresne Band 6 p.m.
CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Kelley Johnson 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Randy Brecker and Charged Particles 7:30 p.m.
Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Jazzy Wednesdays 7 p.m.

JULY 31

Bellevue Connection Plaza, Bellevue: Alma Vilegas 12 p.m.
Cockrell Farms, Puyallup: Sweet Kiss Monna 5 p.m.
The Confluence, Calgary AB: Calgary International Blues Festival 5 p.m.
Everett Marina, Everett: Moxie 5 p.m.
Riverwalk Plaza, Mount Vernon: Eden 6 p.m.
Volunteer park, Seattle: LeRoy Bell and Dance Church 6 p.m.
Tim's Tavern, White Center: Dusty 45's 6 p.m.
Riverstone Park, Coeur D'Alene ID: Alison Williams 6:30 p.m.
Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Madsion Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.
Historic Shell Station, Issaquah: Gas Station Blues 7 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Jaspar Lepak & Avery Hill 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Con Funk Shun 7:30PM
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Salmon Dan 8 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.





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