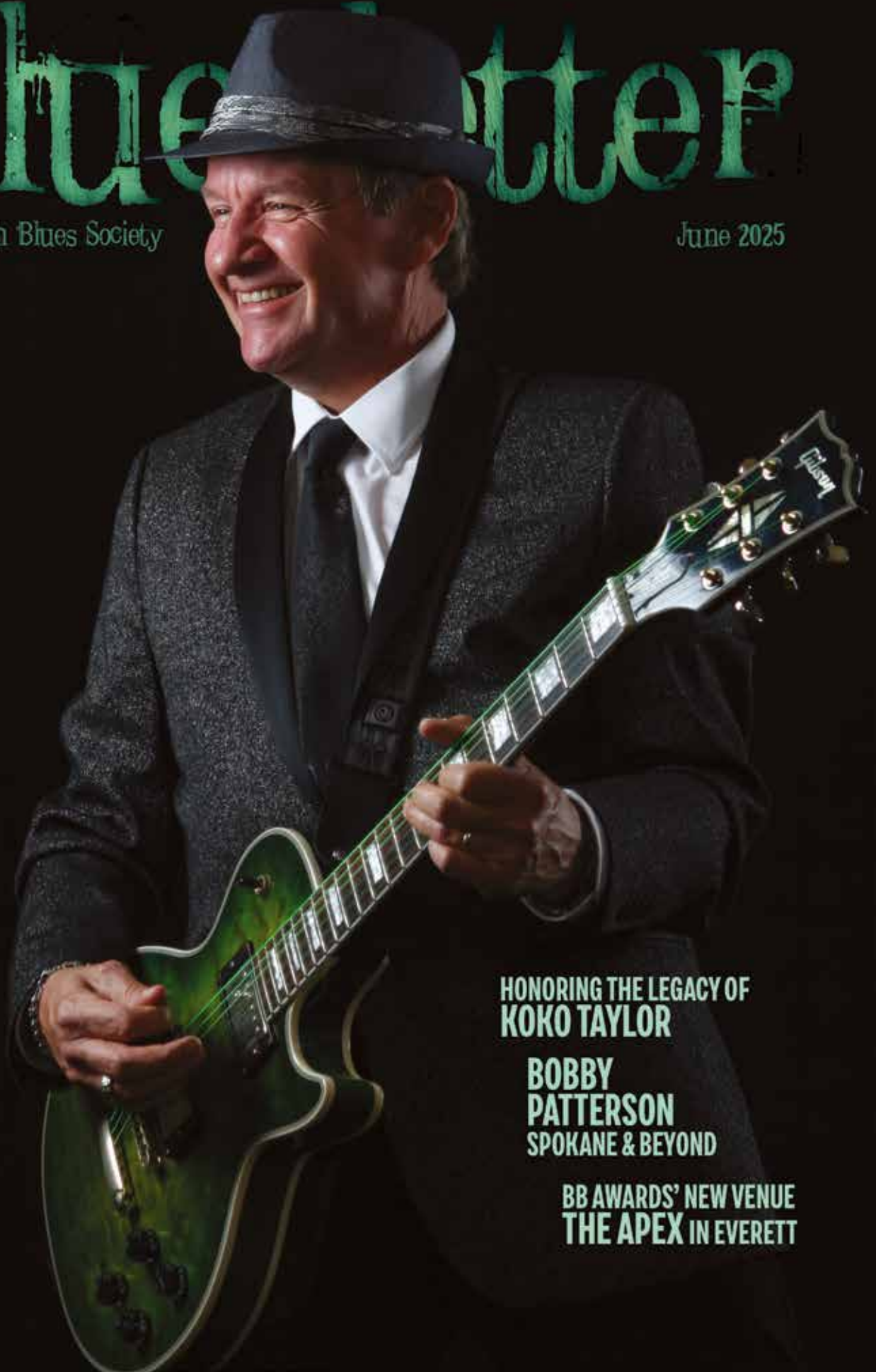


Blues Matter

Washington Blues Society

June 2025



**HONORING THE LEGACY OF
KOKO TAYLOR**

**BOBBY
PATTERSON**
SPOKANE & BEYOND

**BB AWARDS' NEW VENUE
THE APEX IN EVERETT**

Letter from the Editor



Hello Blues Fans-

I have had a good month. After 11 years of graduate school, five of which were spent working on a master's and six of which were spent working on a PhD, I have submitted my dissertation. On June 5, I will defend it. Then I will make any revisions the committee wants and get those turned in by June 13. Then I am Dr. P!

Those who are not close followers of the Letter From the Editor may not know that this is relevant to the doings of the Bluesletter, but it will result in some changes that have been a long time coming.

Former WBS president Tony Frederickson prevailed upon me to take the role of editor over two years ago. It wasn't the first time he'd mentioned it, and I'd always been interested. I have a journalism degree and a decade of experience as a newspaper editor. It sounded like a good use of my skills, and I had some ideas I wanted to try out.

But I knew better than to take on anything while involved in the grueling grind of a PhD. I tried to pass, but Tony was persistent. Eric Steiner had been running the Bluesletter for over 20 years, and he was clean worn out. I knew there were only the slimmest of chances I could make it work, but I agreed to a meeting with Eric.

He told me he usually spent about 40 hours per month on the publication. I nearly excused myself right then. I bluntly said I didn't have 40 hours a month to spare or anything even close to it. I explained that I was finishing a terminal degree and that it had to come first. So Eric decided to stay and help until I finished the degree. It took longer than either of us expected, but he stuck it out.

This whole time, he's been answering editor emails, planning the page layouts, and working with writers. He's been doing a lot more than I have. Part of that was because I didn't know how to use the publishing software InDesign, a powerful Adobe product that is an industry standard in publishing. But Eric showed me the basics, and Sean Donovan, who now does our amazing covers, taught me more. YouTube did the rest. As I have learned, I've taken over more and more of the actual layout and design of the issues. A couple of months ago, I did my first one unaided while Eric was on a cruise.

Now, I can finally relieve Eric of the bulk of the responsibility of getting this publication out each month. I'm going to try out some of my ideas, and I'm eager to hear yours, too. Eric likes doing layout, and he says he'll stick around to help with that, just for fun. I'm glad of it.

I will make a small confession at this point. I went to grad school so I could tour. When I quit working as a backup bass player for touring bands and started my trio, I wanted a way to keep touring without living out of a car in this expensive region. Grad school let me earn a journalism instructor, and it gave me my summers off. It's worked well. And don't get me wrong, I loved grad school. A decade living

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the life of the mind was a gigantic, massive privilege.

Now I need to find a job. I will bust my tail until I find either a remote job or a teaching job on the West Coast, ideally in the Pacific Northwest. I'm worried I might wind up out of state, which would throw the editorship back into chaos, but we all knew that was a risk when I came on board. I didn't come all this way just to surrender to a merciless day gig that means my touring life is over, though. Nor do I want to live anywhere else. These are dark days for those looking for work at major universities, but I don't care, I'll work at any community college that will have me. Cross your fingers for me!

Because music, as always, comes first. Thank you all for your patience while I finished this incredibly long project.

Cheers!

Polly O'Keary

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

Polly O'Keary, Editor
Washington Blues Society Bluesletter Editor



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This issue honors the legacy of Koko Taylor, whom we lost 16 years ago this month, with Rocky Nelson's remembrance of her final public performance. We're finally correcting what I consider my most significant Bluesletter oversight from 2009. This issue also welcomes Spokane bluesman Bobby Patterson on his first-ever cover, plus coverage of this year's Blues Music Awards and Blues Hall of Fame inductees. Tanya Lee Hodel gives us a reason to explore live blues this month in South Puget Sound with her monthly column, too. Welcome University of Washington intern Wyatt Stubblefield to these pages with a statewide Juneteenth update, and Mark Hurwitz has a preview of the 32nd Gorge Blues & Brews Festival in Skamania, Washington. Blues on the Road returns with the "Summertime Blues," and Carrie's Corner celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Madison Pub and checks in with fans planning their blues summers! I'll close this intro paragraph with one of my favorite quotes from award-winning bluesman Rafael Tranquilino as I think it's fitting: "Blues On!" (Eric Steiner)

Above: The Bobby Patterson Band - See article in this issue! Left to Right: Tom Brewster on bass & backing vocals, Charles Swanson on sax, Bobby Patterson on guitar & lead vocals, Ken Danielson on drums & backing vocals & Dave Goering on keyboards (Photo by Rhonda Patterson)

Cover: Bobby Patterson of The Bobby Patterson Band (Photo by Andy Mcalpin) Cover design and layout by Sean Donovan of Gator Boy Productions, www.gatorboyproductions.com)

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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!

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

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

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½ pg horizontal	\$210	\$264	116.66 x 187.3
back ½ pg horizontal	\$312	\$390	116.66 x 187.3
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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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Bobby Patterson: From Spokane & Beyond

Welcome Bobby Patterson back to the Bluesletter with a new CD!

By Eric Steiner

The following is a brief email exchange between me and Bobby Patterson, Spokane's long-time, award-winning bluesman. Special thanks to drummer Ken Danielson for connecting us virtually during the production of the June issue!

ES: "I really enjoyed your set at last year's Washington Blues Society International Blues Challenge finals in Conway last summer. You brought a whole new band from the trio that played at the 2022 International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Would you please introduce your bandmates to our readers?"

BP: "The current lineup on the new album is myself on guitar and lead vocal; Ken Danielson drums and vocals; Tom Brewster bass and vocals; David Goering on keys; and Charles Swanson sax percussion and vocals."

BP: "I listened to the new record, *Bobby Patterson 5*, and recommend it highly in this issue. You've really upped your production values on this CD. I've enjoyed many of your earlier CDs ever since I first saw you play "Illustrated Man" at the Mt. Baker Rhythm

and Blues Festival or aboard the blues barge at the Coeur d'Alene Blues Festival many years ago. How is the new CD different from prior Bobby Patterson Band or CDs from The Fat Tones?"

BP: "The previous albums were mostly three piece with big guitar and big vocals, now it's truly a five piece show band with BIG EVERYTHING!"

ES: "Yes, and it really shows through on the new CD. The pandemic and the economy have hit live music with an unprecedented "one-two punch." Many musicians have stopped playing, and some of my favorite live music venues live on only in my memory or on the Internet. The region's blues festivals have also significantly changed. How have you adapted to this unpredictable, new reality as a blues artist?"

BP: "It's been really, really hard to watch the regional blues festivals go away, seemingly one right after another. My best example is Mt Baker Rhythm & Blues Festival. I played there 15 years in a row! This summer, we will be doing Big Sky Blues Festival over in Noxon, Montana on August 2nd at 8 PM,

Pigout in the Park in Spokane on August 29th at 8:30 PM and the Panhandle Blues Festival in Priest River, Idaho on September 6th at 8pm

ES: "I understand that you're essentially a snowbird in Yuma, Arizona for a couple of months early in the year. I'm planning a trip to the Southwest next winter and learned that you play places like the High Tanks Brewing Company and other venues. What attracts you to Yuma? I'd appreciate tips on where to see live music there."

BP: "Long story about how I ended up in Yuma. I wrote a song about it, "Blue Trailer Blues." I've been bringing original and classic blues and rock and roll to the desert for several years now and having officially turned 65, I'm fitting right in! I'm a regular at popular Arizona venues like High Tanks Brewing in Wellton and Wheezy's Bar & Grill in Fortuna Foothills. I took the band to the Desert Bar in Parker, Arizona and the Fountain of Youth in Niland, California, the Yuma Blues Festival, and put on shows in Quartzite, Arizona and the Way Point Saloon in Ramona, California. Fun in the sun!"

CD Spotlight: Bobby Patterson 5

Welcome Bobby Patterson back to the Bluesletter with a new CD!



Bobby Patterson Band
BPB5
(Self-Released)

The Bobby Patterson Band's new CD, *Bobby Patterson Band 5* (or *BPB5*), features 15 originals recorded by Jimmy Hill at his award-winning Amplified Wax Studios in Spokane. The CD opens with the big band sound of "Don't Think Twice" followed by the upbeat "A Lot to Learn," deftly punctuated by Charles Swanson's horn. The jazz-inflected "Landlord" floats on Dave Goering's keyboards, and the contemplative, slow blues of "Ain't Nothing Left" takes full advantage of Bobby's textbook "stadium

style" solos that were the highlight of many Mt. Baker festivals. The engine room of Ken Danielson on drums and Tom Brewster on bass play as if they are telepathic. There's a lot to like on *BPB5*: My favorites are the instrumental "Matter of Time" and the story of Bobby's winter home, "Blue Trailer Blues." I keep coming back to "Blue Trailer Blues" and "Ain't Nothing Left" for Bobby's solos as they float away and return. *BPB5* is a departure from Bobby's other bands (The Fat Tones or Bobby & The Two Tones, which represented the Washington Blues Society at the 2022 International Blues Challenge in Memphis after 2-year COVID break). While I've enjoyed each of Bobby Patterson's other acts, I like the full sound of this five-piece band and recommend *BPB5*. Eric Steiner



Charles Swanson & Bobby Patterson
(Artist Courtesy Photo)

Juneteenth Celebrations Return to Washington

See our guide to events with music around the state

By Wyatt Stubblefield, University of Washington intern

As Juneteenth approaches, communities across Washington are preparing for a vibrant week of events highlighting African American history, culture, and music. Juneteenth, a federal holiday established on June 17, 2021, celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. More specifically, it celebrates the announcement of freedom to enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865.

Here are several of the state's planned Juneteenth celebrations that incorporate blues music, R&B, and/or other African American genres to honor the musical legacy forged in struggle and resilience. These events were compiled at press time, May 10, when many festivals are still finalizing details.

Tacoma: In Tacoma, the largest Juneteenth festival in Washington, Juneteenth: A Road to Economic Freedom, will return to Stewart Heights Park from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, June 19. The event, organized by WayOut Kids, drew more than 8,000 attendees in 2023, according to Parks Tacoma, and features musical performances, youth activities, and the Miss Juneteenth Pageant. This year's artists will include Grammy-winning gospel artist Fred Hammond, R&B band Soul for Real, and gospel singer Crystal Aikin.

Seattle: The Songs of Black Folk: Music of Resistance & Hope will be hosted at McCaw Hall of the Seattle Center at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 22. The performances showcase the triumph of enslaved African Americans and the music born from the struggles they endured. The music invites audience members to experience Black culture through spiritual blues, gospel, jazz, R&B, and hip-hop genres. You can visit the Songs of Black Folk website for more information, including the list of performers and ticket prices.

Rainier Beach: The 24th annual Atlantic Street Center Juneteenth Celebration will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June

18, at Rainier Beach Community Center. The event celebrates African American culture with performances, free food, cultural showcases, and much more.

Seattle: The Africatown Juneteenth Celebration, part of the Summer of Soul series, will be held from 12 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 19, at Jimi Hendrix Park in Seattle's Central District. Organizers describe the event as a celebration of Black resilience, community, and history.

Seattle: On Saturday, June 21, the ninth annual "It Takes a Village" festival, hosted by the African American Leadership Forum of Seattle, will occur from 1 to 6 p.m. at Othello Park. The free event includes live music, local food vendors, and activities for family and friends.

Vancouver: Juneteenth in Vancouver is a music-forward celebration. This year, the city's artists include Wamba, playing the music of Ghana as well as traditional music from Africa and the world such as Afrobeat, Afrojazz, Latin, Funk, Calypso, Salsa, Afro-Cuban, Reggae, Soca, Samba, funk, soul, highlife, juju, mbalax and more. Also on the lineup is Jujuba, a "funky, danceable stylum of Nigerian Afrobeat and Juju music." This 10-piece act includes the Nigerian drummer Nojeem Lasisi, on the world's most respected players of the talking drum.

Tri-Cities: Vibe Bingo, anyone? The Tri-Cities is holding one of the more creative events of the year. Although it does not include live music, it looks like a lot of fun. The Tri-Cities Diversity and Inclusion Council will hold a lively 21 and over bingo session Saturday, June 28, at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Pasco from 7-10 p.m. The way it works, according to the Vibe Bingo website, is that songs replace the traditional bingo letters and numbers. Contestants mark songs off their bingo cards as each is played. The organizers say to expect old school and new school R&B and Hip Hop. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, include a bingo card and marker, and the funds go to support scholarships.



Tacoma's own J'Nai Bridges, a world renowned mezzo soprano, returns to the Puget Sound to appear in *The Songs of Black Folks: Music of Resistance and Hope*, which will include spiritual blues, gospel, jazz, R&B, and hip-hop genres. Photo by Dario Acosta, courtesy the artist.

In the works at press time:

Here is more information about events that were still in the works at press time:

Bellingham: Bellingham's festival returns in a new location this year, Saturday, June 21 from 2-6 PM. Last year's event was well attended, with music and a lot of events. Watch #miraculouseventz on Instagram to stay informed.

Spokane: Last year, Juneteenth events went on all week in Spokane, including at least two with live music. The Carl Maxey Center is once again organizing an event for Spokane. Learn more at carlmaxeycenter.org/juneteenth.

Congratulations to the 2025 Blues Music Award Winners

Honoring the nominees & celebrating the winners at the Renasant Convention Center in Memphis on May 8th!

Album of the Year

Blame It On Eve, Shemekia Copeland

Fine By Me, Curtis Salgado
Hill Country Love, Cedric Burnside
Person of Interest, Billy Price
What Are You Waiting For?, Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra featuring Willy Jordan

B.B. King Entertainer

Duke Robillard
Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman)
Rick Estrin
Shemekia Copeland
Sugaray Rayford

Band of the Year

Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra
John Nemeth and the Blue Dreamers
Nick Moss Band
Rick Estrin and the Nightcats
Southern Avenue

Best Emerging Artist Album

8000 Miles to the Crossroads, Prakash Slim
Carry On, Destini Rawls
Drifter, Jovin Webb
Go Be Free, Sonny Gullage
Revelation, Piper & The Hard Times

Blues Rock Album

About Time, Dennis Jones
Broken, Walter Trout
Life is Hard, Mike Zito
Righteous Souls, Albert Castiglia
Struck Down, The Fabulous Thunderbirds

Blues Rock Artist

Albert Castiglia
Mike Zito
Tab Benoit
Tommy Castro
Walter Trou

Contemporary Blues Album

Blame It On Eve, Shemekia Copeland
Blues In My DNA, Ronnie Baker Brooks
Do It My Own Way, Vanessa Collier
Good Intentions Gone Bad, Chris Cain
The Hits Keep Coming, Rick Estrin & the Nightcats

Contemporary Blues Female Artist

Beth Hart
Carolyn Wonderland
Danielle Nicole
Ruthie Foster
Vanessa Collier

Contemporary Blues Male Artist

Chris Cain
Johnny Sansone
Mike Zito
Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman)
Ronnie Baker Brooks

Instrumentalist – Bass

Benny Turner
Bob Stroger
Jerry Jemmott
Michael "Mudcat" Ward
Rodrigo Mantovani

Acoustic Album

Naked Truth, Tinsley Ellis
One Guitar Woman, Sue Foley
Raw Blues 2, Doug Macleod
The Legend of Sugarbelly, Guy Davis
Things Done Changed, Jerron Paxton

Acoustic Artist

Doug MacLeod
Eric Bibb
Guy Davis
Keb' Mo'
Kevin Burt

Instrumentalist – Drums

Chris Peet
Derrick D'Mar Martin
June Core
Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith
Tony Braunagel

Instrumentalist – Guitar

Chris Cain
Christoffer "Kid" Andersen
Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
Eric Gales
Ronnie Baker Brooks

Instrumentalist – Harmonica

Billy Branch
Bob Corritore
Kim Wilson
Mark Hummel
Rick Estrin

Instrumentalist – Horn

Jimmy Carpenter
Doug James
Deanna Bogart
Trombone Shorty
Vanessa Collier

Instrumentalist – Pinetop

Perkins Piano Player
Anthony Geraci
Ben Levin
Bruce Katz
Eden Brent
Mitch Woods

Instrumentalist – Vocals

Beth Hart
Billy Price
Curtis Salgado
Danielle Nicole
Ruthie Foster

Song of the Year

"Blues For My Dad," performed and written by Chris Cain
"Blues In My DNA," performed and written by Ronnie Baker Brooks
"Mama, I love you," performed by Albert Castiglia and written by Albert Castiglia, Kevin Burt, & Jerry Jemmott
"Tough Mother," performed by Shemekia Copeland and written by John Hahn & Will Kimbrough
"Mother Watch the World Go By," performed by Eden Brent and written by Bob Dowell & Eden Brent

Soul Blues Album

Fine By Me, Curtis Salgado
Human Decency, Sugaray Rayford
Person of Interest, Billy Price
REVIVAL, Kat Riggins & her Blues Revival
What Are You Waiting For?, Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra featuring Willy Jordan

Soul Blues Female Artist

Annika Chambers
Candice Ivory
Kat Riggins
Thornetta Davis
Vaneese Thomas

Soul Blues Male Artist

Alabama Mike
Billy Price
Curtis Salgado
Johnny Rawls
William Bell

Traditional Blues Album

Crawlin' 'Kingsnake, John Primer & Bob Corritore
Getaway Blues, Eden Brent
Happy Hour, Mitch Woods
Hill Country Love, Cedric Burnside
Roll With Me, Duke Robillard

Koko Taylor Award (Traditional Blues Female Artist)

Diunna Greenleaf
Eden Brent
Rhiannon Giddens
Sue Foley
Teeney Tucker

Traditional Blues Male Artist

Cedric Burnside
Duke Robillard
Jimmie Vaughan
John Primer
Jontavious Willis

Around the South Sound & Beyond with LTD Presents

"June in the South Sound is busting out with great events to start your summer off right"

By Tanya Lee Hodel

June in the South Sound is busting out with great events to start your summer off right.

June starts off strong at The Spar in Old Town Tacoma with Rod Cook & Toast on Sunday, June 1. Rod is a veteran of the blues scene and always puts on a good show. Newly formed Di & The Blue Hearts with Diane Forsyth is a not-to-be missed debut at Sunday Blues at The Spar on June 8. Diane and Don Forsyth are multiple Washington Blues Society Award winners and Internal Blues Challenge Semi-Finalists. The band features Guy Quintino on bass and Jonathan Pittman on harmonica on June 22. Cory Wilds Band and Jeff & The Jet City Players take The Spar by storm June 29. Music starts at 7 p.m..

David Hudson's King Grand funky jazz quartet play The Spar June 18 with Rafael Tranquilino on guitar, Brady Kish on bass, Angelo Guerrero on saxophone and Jeff Conlin on keys. This band has played to SRO audiences the past few times they've performed at The Spar. Don't miss this inventive and engaging group. Funky Jazz Wednesdays shift the shows at The Spar shifts from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. from the June 18 until mid-September. Visit www.thespar.com for more information.

In Lakewood, Zesty's Steakhouse at 9905 Bridgeport Way SW (a former Black Angus) features guitar genius Michael Powers June 6. Michael's blend of instrumental jazz, blues and soul create a great atmosphere to dance and sway to. The Tim Hall Band will rock the house on the 27th and we've heard tell that he's also starting to host a regular jam. See Zesty's calendar for more details. Music typically starts at 8 p.m. Visit Zestycajungrill.com to learn more.

The blues is alive and thriving in Gig Harbor thanks to Kimball Coffeehouse in association with the South Sound Blues Association. This month, the association will sponsor in part the legendary Steve Bailey (Stevie) &



Stevie & The Blue Flames
(Artist Courtesy Photo)

Society award-winning Joel Astley Band on the 13th, and the Trailer Park Kings on the 27th. Friday Night Music at the coffeehouse is also proud to present multiple blues society award-winning favorite, Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method, on the 20th. Doors open at 6 p.m. and music starts at 7 p.m.

The Queen Street Gang with Rick Estrin & The Nightcats' keyboardist, Lorenzo Farrell, returns to Tacoma's cider and great music, Cider & Cedar, on June 12. Lorenzo is joined by Zak Stoldt (John Stephan Band) on drum and this month, Osama Afifi plays bass. Music starts at 6 p.m. For more information, visit ciderandcedar.com/

Blues Vespers, the long running blues series hosted by Pastor Dave Brown, presents Annie Eastwood's All-Stars with Billy Stapleton June 8 at 5 p.m. at the Fox Island United Church of Christ on 6th Avenue on Fox Island. Attendees are also encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to support a local food bank.

The Spanish Ballroom at McMenamin's

Elks Temple in Tacoma hosts the newly reformed Kim Archer Band on June 27 at



Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method
(Artist Courtesy Photo)

7 p.m. From McMenamin's: "After a soulful season lighting up Puerto Vallarta, Kim Archer returns home to take the stage at one of the city's most iconic venues, the Spanish Ballroom." Kim's new band plays the Maritime Gig Fest in Gig Harbor on the main stage on the 7th at 3:30 p.m.

Heads up! In July, LTD Presents will bring multiple Blues Music Award winning and internationally known Rick Estrin & The Nightcats to the South Sound for two limited ticket events. First off, Rick and the band will play the Historic Blue Mouse Theatre in Tacoma on Thursday, July 17th at 7 p.m. On Saturday, July 19th, they will go to the Eaglemount Winery in Port Townsend to play The Palindrome from 7-9 p.m. More information about these exclusive shows is at LTD Presents. Rick Estrin and The Nightcats will play Seattle's Triple Door on Friday, July 18.

By the time this issue reaches Washington Blues Society member's mailboxes, June will be in full swing with lots of fantastic bands performing all around the South Sound and beyond.

Come join us for a show!

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Honoring Koko Taylor: The Queen of the Blues

"Everyone was really impressed, including all of Koko's family and friends. So well done."

By Rocky Nelson

Last month, Editor Emeritus Eric Steiner asked me for a remembrance of Koko Taylor's last public performance at the 30th Blues Music Awards on May 7th, 2009, before her passing on June 3rd, and how a Washington Blues Society member wrote a eulogy read at her funeral. It was pretty hard work to resurrect this article accurately from memory and archived emails, but I think it's fitting to honor Koko Taylor's memory this month 16 years after she left us. (www.kokotaylor.com)

No one said the blues was easy.

In 2008, after more than a year in very dangerous parts of Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, I received a new assignment to Bagram Air Field from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Bagram was the home of the Armed Forces Network radio station that broadcast to the troops in the field.

I visited the station and asked why they didn't play any blues over the air. Station staff asked me if I was interested in developing, producing, and hosting an "All Blues" radio show on Freedom Radio, and in 2008, I did. I named it the "Blues Power Hour," and it became a weekly, one-hour blues radio program.

Unbeknownst to me, the "Blues Power Hour" attracted the attention of the Blues Foundation, first-call blues musicians, and legendary blues music producers. At Bagram, I worked long 12-hour night shifts seven days a week, but still found the time to devote to the blues.

I played songs by Koko Taylor, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, B. B. King, Shemekia Copeland, Janiva Magness, Steve Miller, Curtis Salgado, Joe Bonamassa, the Stones and standards from major and minor blues labels. The show's intro riff was from "Blues Power," written by Eric Clapton and Leon Russell. It was fun, but also very hard work to produce a radio show, and have it authorized, script by script, by US Air Force

censors.

In 2009, Eric asked me to attend the Blues Music Awards in Memphis. I enlisted station manager, TSgt Deidre Hines, in charge of my show while on leave. I then put together commemorative flags and certificates to be flown for special blues music supporters to distribute. It was just a small thing that I could do for the blues with the support of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Command (not knowing the effect it would have later). I bought flags at the PX, filled forms to identify each recipient, and then drove them to Wing Command.

Upon arrival at the Memphis airport before the Blues Music Awards, several music producers met me and drove me to my hotel. After our meet and greet, we headed south to see the sights as I had a flag to deliver to the Ground Zero blues club in Clarksdale. It was my first trip to the Delta down Highway 49, via Oxford, with a stop at the Tallahatchie Bridge that Bobby Gentry made famous in "Ode to Billy Joe." At Ground Zero, I presented a flag and certificate to the late co-owner Bill Luckett with Watermelon Slim's band on stage. It hit a chord with not only my hosts, but others as well. (<https://www.groundzerobluesclub.com/>)

I was floored by the reactions I received via email. Staggered.

"I wanted to write a quick message of support," wrote NorthernBlues Records' founder Fred Litwin. "It was terrific meeting you in Memphis, and it was inspiring to see you present an American flag to the Blues Foundation and to the Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale. You moved everybody with your words and actions. Bringing the blues to the troops through your radio show is important work. The blues can be incredibly uplifting, and I am sure the troops appreciate hearing something so American and so emotional."

"I'd like to formally thank you on behalf of blues fans everywhere for all your efforts to promote the blues on your "Blues Power



Koko Taylor accepting her 29th Blues Music Award, Traditional Female Artist of the Year
(Photo by Rocky Nelson)

Hour," wrote John Hahn (songwriter and manager of Shemekia Copeland). "You and Armed Forces Network Afghanistan are not only bringing that dream to life but are introducing our brave young men and women to a true American art form (blues music) which they can all be proud of. I just wanted to express to you how exciting it is for us to know that you are bringing the blues to our troops in Afghanistan with your radio show." (www.shemekiacopeland.com).

"Blues is the quintessential American music," emailed Alligator Records' founder Bruce Iglauer. "It is born from suffering, but the message of blues is a triumph over adversity. It's about dealing with pain and reality, and about having the confidence in yourself to speak out about your fears and thereby make them manageable. That's called empowerment. What could be more appropriate for our troops, operating under severe conditions, than this music of power and hope?"



A rose in bloom on base in Bagram ...
(Photo by Rocky Nelson)

I was extremely humbled by these sentiments from the people who bring us the blues. I vowed to fly more flags for blues people I had just met in Memphis when I returned to Afghanistan.

At the awards, I was treated to a front row center seat at the feet of Grammy Award winning "Queen of the Blues", Koko Taylor. After being honored as the Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year, she did a smoking recital of her famous "Wang Dang Doodle" and brought the house down. At the time, we didn't know it would be her final, public performance. It was a fabulous 30th BMA and an exciting list of performers.

I returned back to my work in Afghanistan.

And then it happened.

On June 3rd, Bruce Iglauer sent me this message: "Koko Taylor, RIP." I announced it on my show dedicated to her.

I was shocked because her flag was in the air at that time.

After work, I headed to the 455th and asked if they could send the flag and certificate ASAP to Bruce in Chicago. We were a day ahead of Chicago time and they got right on it! I knew her funeral was imminent, so I started up a

quick conversation with Bruce to send him a remembrance and the flag.

I then went to work on my script.

Finishing up, I emailed it to Bruce and picture of a rose in bloom on base in the form of a sympathy card.

"I think I have something short and sweet enough that tells the story of her significance even if the flag does not arrive on time," I emailed Bruce on June 7th. "It is generically suitable enough that speaks to her family and the family of the blues for private or public announcement. I hope it speaks of what Koko meant to many in life. Good luck my friend and thank you for passing this on and being there for her family."

"Bruce, flag has been mailed APO and now on a flight to Germany then New York direct to Chicago," I wrote Bruce on June 8th. "It is priority and will take 5-7 days."

"The flag didn't get here," replied Bruce on June 12th en route to the funeral. "I'm arranging for someone to read the script anyway, with a slight explanation."

Here is the eulogy I sent to Bruce for Koko's family (not knowing it would be read at the funeral).

"To the Family of Koko Taylor and the Family of the Blues.

On June 3rd 2009, an American flag was flown with distinction on a special mission over Afghanistan. On or about the time of her passing, it was flown in honor of the life of the Queen of Chicago Blues, Koko Taylor.

Over the airwaves in Afghanistan, her music has fallen on the ears of many persons from many countries. This flag represents all of the people here and from all over the world that this American blues icon has touched with her life and love of music. As a great American, Koko has enhanced our country's heritage and has helped countless others enrich their lives.

From her gospel roots in Memphis, Tennessee, to her throne as the Queen of Chicago Blues, Koko's heart traveled a path of love through music. With gratitude to Willie Dixon for discovering her, insisting that she record and Bruce Iglauer for taking her music to the top, Koko shared her gift with a growing audience. Overcoming life's trials, she rose to the pinnacle of her profession. Her last, spirited performance in Memphis was a crowning glory to a life that began so humbly nearby. It gave witness to all in attendance that this woman was, is and shall ever be the Queen of Chicago Blues.

May her contributions to America's music live forever in her spirit."

"Just walked in the door from trip to Chicago and Koko's funeral," wrote John Hahn. "Your script was read by a woman on the altar to universal applause and approval. Everyone was really impressed including all Koko's family and friends. So well done. Shemekia performed a gospel song at the services."

Needless to say, I was honored and grateful at the same time.

The triangular-folded flag arrived just after the funeral. Bruce then gave it to Koko's family, and I appreciated that they accepted this gift in such a solemn moment.

"I heard from the woman who works at the flag certificate shop on base here, Danielle," I wrote to Bruce, thanking him for his help. "She told me that you wrote her and let her know my flag arrived. I'm glad you finally got it. Thanks for helping her out with some kind words, too. Hope Koko's family enjoys my gift and I appreciate you delivering it to them."

I will never forget Koko Taylor's final performance in Memphis, nor any of the great people I have met on my blues journey.

No one said the blues was easy.

Koko Taylor, Rest in Peace. (September 28, 1928 – June 3, 2009)

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Stacy Jones with special guest
6/12, 6/19, 6/26

Red Hot Saturdays 7:30-11:30

6/7 Vinyl Haze & the Grayhounds
6/14 Mark DuFresne Band
6/21 the Footstomps
6/28 Stoned America






Carrie's Corner: Fans Make Summer Plans, Madison Pub turns 25

Highlighting people who make Washington's blues community amazing!

By Carrie Purduhn

Festival Bound!



Judy Kuhlman, left, and Jeff Johnson, above, are familiar faces at northwest festivals. Photos by Carrie Purduhn

Judy Kuhlman

I asked blues fan Judy Kuhlman what musical adventures she was going to enjoy this summer. She has definite plans to attend the Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival located at the Blues Ranch on the Methow River in the resort town of Winthrop, Washington. Judy is looking forward to three days of live music from July 18 through the 20th.

"Are you camping?" I asked. She replied, "Oh no, I will be comfortable and enjoying the nice air conditioning in my reserved hotel room!" Judy and her friends also enjoy picnicking & hiking in Darrington, Washington.

Stop and say hello to Judy whenever you see her at the various live music venues in the NW.

Jeff Johnson

Jeff Johnson got his summer off to a great start! He shared with me about going to Sun Banks Music Festival May 15-18. He was taking his camper and planned to enjoy over 15 bands featuring blues, Americana, and country music against the backdrop of Banks Lake near Grand Coulee Dam at beautiful Sunbanks Lake Resort in Electric City, Washington.

Say hello to Jeff when you're out and about. He's a big supporter of live music in our area. He's a nice guy. Jeff also volunteers for the Washington Blues Society.

The Madison Avenue Pub Turns 25

Earlier this spring, the Madison Avenue Pub in Everett, multiple winner of the BB Award for Best Blues Club, celebrated turning 25. Many BB Award winners and nominees came out to celebrate.

Making Music at the Madison



Above: Stacy Jones, left, and Mike Marinig, join up on the keys at the Madison Avenue's 25 birthday celebration March 31.

Below: CD Woodbury, many-time winner of the Washington Blues Society BB Award for Best Blues Guitar, turns in a performance at the Madison's event. Photos by Carrie Purduhn.



The Blues Hall of Fame: Class of 2025

Congratulations to performers, Individuals (Business, Production, Media, & Academic) & Recordings

By Eric Steiner (with content from The Blues Foundation)

I've always considered the week around the Blues Music Awards to be one of the most exciting opportunities to experience blues music apart from International Blues Challenge week in Memphis.

This year, the Blues Hall of Fame celebrated its 10th anniversary during the first week of May, and I fondly remember working behind the scenes as a member of the Board of Directors of The Blues Foundation to help make former Executive Director Jay Sieleman's (and many, many others) dreams a brick and mortar reality. The Blues Foundation had a virtual Hall of Fame since 1980, and I was fortunate to play a small part alongside fellow board members in raising money and awareness for a blues destination that has been recognized as a Blue Star Museum by Department of Defense and museums across America, offering free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve.

In addition to Blues Music Award and Blues Hall of Fame signature festivities, this week featured a screening of Robert Mugge's latest film, *Deep Roots: The Art and Music of Bill Steber*. Bill's photo of Bobby Rush was on the February 2022 cover of this magazine to welcome him back to the Pacific Northwest. The week also included Big Llou's 10th annual Hall of Fame Jam, a Recording Academy Panel Session, and HART Fund Musician Health screenings.

I strongly encourage readers to plan to attend the Blues Music Awards in Memphis. In my opinion, there's no other blues experience like it. I've typed in these pages before: If you work for wages or receive public benefits, set aside \$25 a month, and one day, you'll be on Beale Street. It's the same strategy I used to get me on my first Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise last year: It took a while, but I'm glad I did.

Congratulations to this year's Blues Hall of

Fame inductees.

Performers

Bob Stroger, still actively touring at the age of 94, is reaping the rewards for his decades of laying the foundation for countless blues bands. No performer has ever been inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame at an older age. He was also the 2024 recipient of the Blues Music Award for Instrumentalist – Bass, the fifth time he had earned the honor. The night after The Blues Foundation inducted him into the Hall of Fame, Bob Stroger received his sixth Blues Music Award for Instrumentalist – Bass.

William Bell, best known for his pioneering work at Stax Records in Memphis, has kept that honored legacy alive during his long career as soulful singer, songwriter, producer and label owner. Bell's music has also encompassed gospel, doo-wop, jazz, R&B, blues, reggae, funk, disco and collaborations with rappers, and in recent years he has been a perennial contender in the soul blues categories of the Blues Music Awards.

Blind Willie Johnson never recorded the blues, but the Texas guitar evangelist's music has enraptured a multitude of blues fans and musicians for nearly a century. His genre has come to be called "holy blues" for its similarities to the blues format, its intensity and the superb slide guitar technique.

Henry Townsend, a key contributor to the St. Louis blues sound of the pre-World War era, enjoyed one of the longest careers in blues history. He recorded in every decade from the 1920s through the 2000s and was preparing to perform at a festival when he died on September 24, 2006, at the age of 96.

Jessie Mae Hemphill cut a unique and colorful figure as queen of the North Mississippi Hill Country blues scene. A three-time winner as traditional female blues artist of the year in the 1987, 1988 and 1994 W.C. Handy Blues Awards (later renamed the Blues Music Awards), Hemphill came from a long line of musicians dating back to her great-grandfather Dock Hemphill and



Bob Stroger at Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale, Mississippi
(Photo by Eric Steiner)

including her parents and aunts as well as her grandfather, Sid Hemphill, who recorded for Alan Lomax and Lewis Jones in 1942.

Individuals – Business, Production, Media, & Academic

Bob Geddins produced a treasure trove of records that defined the down-home blues and gospel sounds of the San Francisco/Oakland area in the post-World War II years. While West Coast blues is often associated with smoother, polished urban styles, Geddins' most memorable records often were raw excursions into desolation and gloom—"Tin Pan Alley" by Roy Hawkins being a prime example.

Classic of Blues Literature



**Woman with Guitar:
Memphis Minnie's Blues
by Beth and Paul Garon
(1992)**

Paul and Beth Garon saluted Memphis Minnie's iconic status as a premier blues artist and symbolic feminist figure in the initial publication of "Woman With Guitar: Memphis Minnie's Blues" in 1992 by Da

(Continued on Page 23)

Festival Preview: Gorge Blues & Brews

"For this headlining show, Lloyd will be backed his dynamic six-piece horn-driven band."

By Mark Hurwitz

The Gorge Blues and Brews Festival, one of the nation's longest running blues festivals, returns for its 32nd year this month on the 20th and 21st. The festival is held at the picturesque Skamania County Fairgrounds, along the banks of the Colombia River, in Stevenson, Washington. This iconic celebration of the blues features two days of music, plus beer, wine, and spirits from regional craft breweries and distilleries. Food trucks and snack vendors will be on hand to feed hungry blues fans.

The 21+ event kicks off on Friday night with music from 6PM to 10PM. Saturday features a full day of bands from 2PM to 10PM. The festival uses two side-by-side stages, so music is continuous with no down time during band changeovers.

Tickets and Camping

Tickets are \$10 for Friday, \$20 for Saturday, or \$25 for a two-day pass. Each ticket includes a souvenir glass. Tickets can be purchased online on the Ticket Tomato website (www.tickettomato.com) or at the festival on the day of the event. Campsites, either electric or non-electric, can be reserved at the fairgrounds through the Skamania County Events and Recreation Office. Telephone (509) 427-3980 or email parks@co.skamania.wa.us.

Festival Line-Up

The festival will again feature an eclectic

mix of blues styles from some of the Pacific Northwest's leading talent. Friday kicks off at 6 PM with the Tevis Hodge Jr. Blues Trio, bringing a fresh twist to classic blues. Tevis has won Muddy Awards from the Cascade Blues Society as "Best New Artist" and "Best Acoustic Guitar." The Friday line-up also features the New Iberians, who blend blues with zydeco, followed by the special for this event collaboration of Michael Osborne and Daniel Castro, both of whom lead their own Portland area bands.

The Blues Healers get things going on Saturday at 2PM. This husband-wife duo reached the semifinals of the International Blues Challenge in Memphis last year and also received the Washington Blues Society BB Award for "Best Solo/Duo." Other Saturday highlights include the sizzling guitar of Sunny "Smokin" Hess, the Lightning in a Bottle Records Revue, featuring an all-star line-up of recording artists from the Vancouver, Washington-based label, and the real-deal blues of the T-Town Aces, fronted by former Roomful of Blues vocalist Mark Dufresne. The Washington Blues Society has named it's "Best Male Vocalist Award" after Dufresne. As the sun goes down, the Bayou Boyz will take the stage and play authentic swampy, New Orleans inflected blues and R&B.

Closing out the weekend is Pacific Northwest musical icon Lloyd Jones, whose career as singer, songwriter, guitarist, and band leader spans 30+ years and multiple national and



Lloyd Jones: "Have Mercy!" (Artist Photo)

international tours. For this headlining show, Lloyd will be backed his dynamic six-piece horn-driven band.

Here's the full line-up and schedule of this year's Gorge Blues & Brews Festival:

Friday, June 20

- 6PM Tevis Hodge Jr. Blues Trio
- 7PM New Iberians
- 8PM Michael Osborn-Daniel Casto Band
- 9PM Big River Blues Band

Saturday, June 21

- 2PM Blue Healers
- 3PM Billy D & The Hoodoos
- 4PM Heather Jones & The Groovemasters
- 5PM Lightning in a Bottle Records Revue
- 6PM Sunny "Smokin" Hess Band
- 7PM T Town Aces
- 8PM Bayou Boyz
- 9PM Lloyd Jones Band

Best of the Blues Awards: Sunday, June 8th

Mark your calendar as we celebrate our annual awards show's debut at historic APEX Everett!

By Eric Steiner

The biggest blues bash of the year is back! Join us for the 2025 Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues ("BB Awards"). I'm thrilled that our new blues society leadership has found a new venue for our annual awards show at APEX Everett.

This year's BB Awards will be held on Sunday, June 8th, at APEX Everett, 1611 Everett

Avenue in downtown Everett. As with past BB Awards, the star-studded event will also be broadcast on YouTube and Facebook. Washington Blues Society Blues society receive an email with a promol code for a discounted ticket, and each ticket includes a meal catered by Carolina BBQ!

The APEX Art and Culture Center building opened in the 1920s by the Knights of Columbus and served as Everett's first

community center that included a gym, pool, and multipurpose room. It's since been updated with a new restaurant and performance spaces, and the Washington Blues Society looks forward to celebrating musicians, artists, events and venues nominated by blues society members in 30 award categories.

For more information, please visit www.wablues.org

CD Reviews

Blues you can use from Keith Scott, Jesse James & The MOB & Andrew Duncanson!



Keith Scott & the Electric Blues Junkies
One Nation Under the Blues
(Dreamday Music)

Today's blues monster Keith Scott received his first guitar at 14. At the University of Florida, he saw Muddy Waters. Impressed by Muddy and his band, Keith headed up to Chicago to form his own blues band—and develop his own singing and playing style. Inspired by blues royalty (Junior Wells, Eddie Taylor, BB King, Aretha & Ella), Scott honed his craft and grew his voice with the support of Chicago bluesman Hip Linkchain, who picked him up as backup guitar player in the early 80s. Hip then pushed Keith to the front of the stage as a lead singer. Since then, Keith has performed regularly at Chicago-area clubs, especially the House of Blues. This album features 15 originals that display Scott's impressive range as a front man, from sweet ballads to plaintive confessions, and evocative anthems and driving musical exhortations to make this messy, often dangerous world a better one. Yes, a melancholy response to the disaster that was COVID, but also an eclectic, enthusiastic romp through the wide range of the blues! Scott kicks off his 10th CD with the hard driving "Bring It Back," and his expressive, often plaintive voice and perfect timing typify this and every cut on this album. It's not a wail, nor a whine—just a strong, confident bluesman telling his truths ("Hey, little girl, I like what you're puttin' down ... Hey little baby, you know I got trouble"). Crisp guitar solos in the Chicago blues tradition and tight instrumentation fill out "Bring It Back" with bassman Adam Arling's solid groove and Marvin Jackson's driving drums. The upbeat, harmonica-driven "Muscatine" is a kind of jokey paean to the simple joys of infatuation. "Prettiest little girl I ever did see... Muscatine, down in Alabama doin' her thing, shakin' back down on the scene, down by the river, Muscatine, Muscatine,

shake it all night." Keith's confident, nearly hypnotic voice here is perfect for telling this story, making us want to learn even more about the mysterious Muscatine and her pull on all who might encounter or just imagine her in the here and now! Finally, in "One Nation Under the Blues," Scott confirms my sense that the blues, and Chicago blues in particular, (with its pulsing beat, engaging chord progressions, powerful vocals and just-right instrumental backing), still works wonders. When he reminds listeners that "the times get so hard man, I don't know what to do. Make my decision, do what you choose. Got to try to be one nation under the blues," Keith Scott delivers music's power to comfort us all. As he states in the liner notes, "I feel very fortunate to be able to put out a new selection of material inspired by the COVID pandemic. I call it turning a world downturn into a positive experience." Can't ask for much more than that, can we? Steve Pearse



Jesse James and the MOB
Checking the Mic
(Self-Released)

Northwest upstarts Jesse James and the MOB blur all the lines between blues, country, funk and soul on the fun loving new album *Checking the Mic* released on vinyl this past January. The trio of James on guitar and vocals, Giordan Montero on bass and vocals with drummer Max Figarsky rip through six new original tunes kicking off with the New Orleans influenced title song with its slinky silliness. James get a touch more serious on "Somehow Somewhere," and its gentle country swing. Jesse then shows off his love for the Telecaster during the frenzied modern blues "Who Was the Iceman." The gritty "Walking the Cup" works the familiar theme of struggling with sobriety that has plagued many a blues man. The quirky "The Pedestrian" shows off James' chicken pickin'

skills and the trio's nimble interaction. The closer, "Dreamt You Were There," is a sentimental love song delivered on a modern hip hop influenced soundscape. This CD is an ambitious offering from one of the talented young guitar-slingers of the Pacific Northwest. Rick J. Bowen.



Andrew Duncanson
California Trap
(Run It Back Records)

If you are a fan of 70's soul, and classic R&B singers like Marvin Gaye, Bill Withers, and Al Green, you owe it to yourself to check out the latest album from Andrew Duncanson. The longtime front man of Illinois' Kilborn Alley Blues Band journeyed to San Jose and collaborated with Kid Anderson and his all-stars at Greaseland Studios to record 13 new tracks. Chief among the A-list session players is Michael Peloquin who wrote, arranged the horn charts, and played the sax and harmonica parts. Peloquin also contributed a sublime new, original, "What Kind Of Man." Duncanson's songs are fueled by his gritty baritone and soulful songwriter sensibilities to turn a phrase in new and interesting ways on standout tracks such as "Relearning to Climb," "Town Saint," and the evocative title tune. Of course, with Anderson at the production helm, the sound is going to be big and full of special performances from the players involved. This heady dose of horn driven soul blues needs to make it onto your playlist. Rick J. Bowen.



Previews: Summertime Blues On the Road

Welcome Albert Lee, Trombone Shorty, Ana Popovic, James McMurtry & more this month!

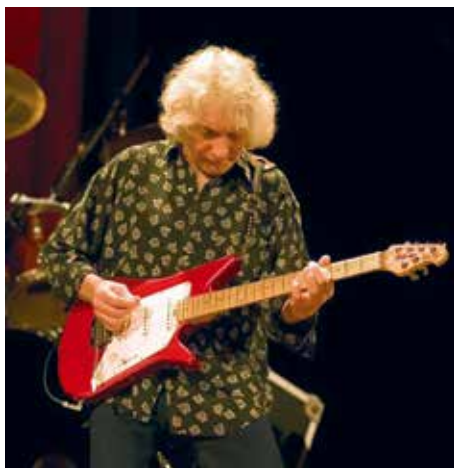
Every June, I think of the song “Summertime Blues.”

The original was a two-minute rockabilly hit released by Eddie Cochran three days after I was born in 1958, and I first discovered it ten years later listening to top 40, Chicago AM radio from the American band Blue Cheer.

“Summertime Blues” is on the list of Rolling Stones’ top 100 rock and roll songs of all time, and this month, I’d like to think that the Washington Blues Society has an antidote for the summertime blues.

We’ve got festival season beginning in full swing this month, and I encourage readers to check out Mark Hurwitz’ excellent preview of one of America’s longest running blues festival, the Gorge Blues & Brews Festival in Skamania, Washington, later this month. In this month’s Blues on the Road, I’ve included what I consider several interesting suggestions for live shows to prevent any case of the “Summertime Blues.”

Albert Lee



On the 7th, Albert Lee plays Seattle’s Tractor Tavern. Few musicians share the history of this 2002 Grammy winner: He’s played with The Crickets, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page and has effortlessly weaved back and forth from country to blues for decades. (Artist Courtesy Photo).

Marcus Miller



Dimitriou’s Jazz Alley presents 2X Grammy-winning bass virtuoso Marcus Miller presenting material from his vast catalog of songs spanning his 43-year career and tunes from his Grammy nominated release *Laid Black* during his four night/six show run. Show times Thursday and Sunday at 7:30 PM. Show times Friday and Saturday at 7:30 PM and 9:30 PM. Doors open at 6 PM Thursday and 5:30 PM Friday - Sunday. This show is supported by KNKX. (Photo Courtesy of Jazz Alley).

Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue



We have two opportunities to experience an exceptional tour featuring headliners Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue with opening acts JJ Grey & Mofro & Dumpstaphunk. On the 14th, this powerhouse of a bill plays Chateau Ste. Michelle in Woodinville, and on the 15th, the Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights. Since 2010, Trombone Shorty has released five chart-topping studio albums (his most recent being 2022’s *Lifted* on Blue Note). I’m particularly impressed that the Sesame Street Gala honored Shorty with his own Muppet and that he launched the Trombone Shorty Foundation to support youth music education. He’s received the prestigious

Caldecott Honor for his first children’s book, and launched a cultural exchange with Cuba through the Trombone Shorty and the Gia Maione Prima foundations. (Photo by Justen Williams).

James McMurtry



On the 19th and 20th, James McMurtry returns to Seattle’s Tractor Tavern before playing The District Bar in Spokane on the 21st. He was one of my first interviews when I wrote for *Cosmik Debris* magazine 25 years ago. Since then, I’ve always appreciated his twisted songwriting. The title song on his latest CD, *The Black Dog and Wandering Boy* (New West) is inspired by “two of my father’s regular hallucinations toward the end of his life.” I trust that the late Larry McMurtry is awfully proud of his son. Check out other dates in Idaho, Oregon and Montana at <https://www.jamesmcmurtry.com/> (Photo by Mary Keating-Bruton).

Rhiannon Giddens & The Old Time Revue



Rhiannon Giddens & The Old-Time Revue play the Seattle Theatre Group’s Moore

Theatre on the 23rd. The Revue includes Carolina Chocolate Drops collaborator Justin Robinson, multi-instrumentalist Dirk Powell, bassist Jason Sypher, guitarist Amelia Powell, and bones player and rapper Demeanor. After Seattle, they'll play the prestigious Summer Stage in New York's Central Park on the 25th. (Photo by Karen Cox).

The Bill Frisell Trio



Jazz Alley welcomes Seattle's Bill Frisell with Thomas Morgan and Rudy Royston from the 19th-22nd before they play the Church House in Bellingham on the 23rd and the Vancouver International Jazz Festival on the 24th. In addition to his 2002 Grammy award, he's been nominated for six others. The Jazz Journalists Association the DownBeat Critics Poll have named him "Guitarist of the Year" multiple times and he's been honored with a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award as "as one of America's 21 most vital and productive performing artists." (Photo of Thomas Morgan, Bill Frisell & Rudy Royston by Monica Frisell).

Ana Popovic

Ana Popovic returns to the Pacific Northwest for two special shows at Seattle's Triple Door on the 24th and 25th. This year, she's celebrating 25 years as a touring musician and credits her 2023 CD, *Power* (artisteXclusive) for her recovery from breast cancer: "...needless to say, this record brought my spirit the salvation it needed, and ultimately, the music and my '64 Fender Stratocaster saved my life. I'm convinced now more than ever that guitars CAN save



lives." (Photo by Adam Zegarmistrz Glagla).

Corey Harris



On the 26th, Corey Harris plays the Blue Shore Financial Center for the Performing Arts at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival. In 2007 when he was 38 years old, Harris received a \$500K grant from the MacArthur Foundation (a "genius grant") for "Leading a revival of Mississippi Delta blues by infusing traditional styles with influences from jazz, reggae gospel, and African and Caribbean folk styles." (Photo Courtesy of the MacArthur Foundation).

Early Warning: 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, but I was absolutely thrilled that the following blues musicians will be in Port Townsend this year: Eden Brent, Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes, Lightnin' Malcolm, Benjamin Hunter, Jason Ricco, 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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June 2025 Live Blues Music Calendar

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

JUNE 1

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: The Miracles 7:30 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

JUNE 2

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.

JUNE 3

Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend: Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Sirsy 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Simon Phillips Protocol 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.

JUNE 4

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: Simon Phillips Protocol 7:30 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Phil & Angela Benoit 7:30 p.m.
BITS, Mukilteo: Sirsy 7:30 p.m.
Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Jazz Wednesdays 7 p.m.

JUNE 5

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Frank Kohl 4:30 p.m.
Seattle art museum, Seattle: Josephine Howell 6 p.m.
Bad Albert's, Seattle: Miles From Chicago 6 p.m.
Flight Path, Burien: Billy Joe's Roadhouse 6 p.m.
Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Central Saloon, Seattle: Nick Mardon 7 p.m.
Madsion Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.
Melody Lynne, Redmond: Kimball and the Fugitive 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Monty Alexander Trio 7:30 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Women's Rockin' Blues 8 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.

JUNE 6

The Royal Room, Seattle: Joe Casalini Trio 4 p.m.
Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: Steve Bailey and the Blue Flames 7 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Swing Bringers 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Monty Alexander Trio 7:30 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Lisa Fox Group 7:30 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Eden 8 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Tumbling Dice 8 p.m.
Pub 282 Camano: Joe Cook Blues Band 8 p.m.
Millers, Carnation: Kate Dinsmore and Annie J 8 p.m.
Ramble Tumble, Bellingham: 22 Pines 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Singularity 8 p.m.
Siren's, Port Townsend: Sirsy 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

JUNE 7

Downtown Edmonds: Edmonds Jazz Walk 6 p.m.
Boundary Bay Brewery, Bellingham: North Sound Soul 7 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Harmatones 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Vinyl Haze & The Greyhounds 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Monty Alexander Trio 7:30 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Prom Date Mixtape 8 p.m.
The Mill, Milton: Lumberjax 8 p.m.
Arcadian Public House, Conway: Mark Dufresne 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Criminal Squirrel Orchestra 8 p.m.
Tracyton Pub, Bremerton: DRACU 8 p.m.

JUNE 8

Skagit Valley Farmers Market, Mount Vernon: Norris and Nicely 1130AM
Gilky Square, La Conner: Cool Water Seattle 1 p.m.
Apex, Everett: Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues awards 4 p.m.
Alberta Rose Theater, Portland: Benefit for Cascade Blues Association 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: Monty Alexander Trio 7:30 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

JUNE 9

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.

JUNE 10

Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend: Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: WBS Blues Bash w Seattle House Rockers and John Brake 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Douglas Band 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Morgan James 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.

JUNE 11

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.
Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Jazz Wednesdays 7 p.m.
The Mill, Milton: Sirsy 7 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: North Sound Jazz 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Morgan James 7:30 p.m.
Triple Door, Seattle: Dust Bowl Revival 7:30 p.m.

JUNE 12

Jim Sprick Community Park, Naches: Chinook Fest 6 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Frank Kohl 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood and Friends 6 p.m.
Flight Path, Burien: Billy Joe's Roadhouse 6 p.m.
Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle: Elvis Costello & The Imposters with Charlie Sexton 6 p.m.
Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Madsion Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Marcus Miller 7:30 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Di and the Blue Hearts 8 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.

JUNE 13

Jim Sprick Community Park, Naches: Chinook Fest 12 p.m.
Smokesmith BBQ, Sandpoint: Yotes 5:30 p.m.
Bookwalter Wines, Richland: Stephanie Steel and The New Normal | Bourbon and Bellows 6 p.m.

Real Art Tacoma, Tacoma: Taylor Hardin Band 6 p.m.
Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: Joel Astley Band 7 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Maggie Laird 7 p.m.
Sheridan Market, Bothel: Kimball and the Fugitives 7 p.m.
Kulshan Trackside, Bellingham: North Sound Soul 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Marcus Miller 7:30 p.m.
Historic Everett Theater, Everett: Lee Oskar and Friends 7:30 p.m.
Union Hill Cider, Wenatchee: Sirsy 7:30 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: After 4 Band 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Trouble at Home & Big Fun Trio 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

JUNE 14

Francis Anderson Center, Edmonds: Edmonds Arts Fest 12 p.m.
Jim Sprick Community Park, Naches: Chinook Fest 1 p.m.
Watershed Pub, Seattle: 12 p.m.
Meeker Days, Puyallup: 12pm
Live at Andre's, Nine Mile Falls: Dustbowl Revival 5 p.m.
Chateau Ste. Michelle, Woodinville: Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue with JJ Grey & Mofro and Dumpstaphunk 6 p.m.
Smokesmith BBQ, Sandpoint: 6 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: 85th street big band 7 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: YouFouric 7 p.m.
Melody Lynne, Redmond: Kimball and the Fugitives w Annie Eastwood 7 p.m.
Triple Door, Seattle: Blue Street Voices 7:30 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mark DuFresne Band 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Marcus Miller 7:30 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Moxie 8 p.m.
Emerald of Siam, Richland: Sirsy 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Ron Bailey and the Tangents 8 p.m.

JUNE 15

Francis Anderson Center, Edmonds: Edmonds Arts Fest 12 p.m.
Gilky Square, La Conner: Ally Paige 1 p.m.
Jim Sprick Community Park, Naches: Chinook Fest 1 p.m.
Boundary Bay Brewing, Bellingham: Jazz in the Taproom w Scott Ranney 6 p.m.
Oxford Saloon, Snohomish: 22 Pines 6 p.m.
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 p.m.
Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues 7 p.m.

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Marcus Miller 7:30 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

JUNE 16

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 p.m.
Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 9 p.m.
Owl n Thistle, Seattle: Aquilizer 9 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: La Luz 10 p.m.

JUNE 17

Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend: Jazz w Jonathan Doyle & Friends 5 p.m.
Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Azalee's Overdrive 6:30 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Unbound 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Dave Holland 7:30 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Jazz Police Big Band 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.

JUNE 18

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.
The Mill, Milton: Tyler McGinnis 7 p.m.
Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Jazz Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Dave Holland 7:30 p.m.

JUNE 19

Darrington Rodeo, Darrington: Cascadia NW Arts and Music Festival 1 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Frank Kohl 4:30 p.m.
Flight Path, Burien: Billy Joe's Roadhouse 6 p.m.
Black & Tan, Seattle: Live Lounge 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Songwriter Showcase 7 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Divas of Soul: A Juneteenth Celebration 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Bill Frisell Trio 7:30 p.m.
Triple Door, Seattle: Curtis Stigers 7:30 p.m.
Snapdragon, Vashon: Steve Itterly and Friends 8 p.m.

JUNE 20

Darrington Rodeo, Darrington: Cascadia NW Arts and Music Festival 1 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Joe Casalini Trio 4 p.m.
Skamania County Fairgrounds, Stevenson: Gorge Blues & Brews Festival 5 p.m.
Silver Dollard Bar, White Bird ID: Coyote Kings 6:30 p.m.
Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: Polly O'Keary and the Rhythm Method 7 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Cascade

Big Band 7 p.m.
Chateau Ste. Michelle, Woodinville: Earth Wind & Fire 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Bill Frisell Trio 7:30 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Kiki Valera & Son Cubano 7:30 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Faultline 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Rod Cook and Toast 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

JUNE 21

Smokiam Park, Soap Lake: Soap Lake Food and Folk festival
Skamania County Fairgrounds, Stevenson: Gorge Blues & Brews Festival 12 p.m.
Darrington Rodeo, Darrington: Cascadia NW Arts and Music Festival 1 p.m.
McMillin Farm and Brewhouse, Orting: Blues at the Barn Festival 2 p.m.
Farmstrong Brewing, Mount Vernon: Solstice Party w Benny Sidelinger 6 p.m.
Chateau Ste. Michelle, Woodinville: Earth Wind & Fire 7 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Folichon Cajun Band 7 p.m.
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Footstompers 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Bill Frisell Trio 7:30 p.m.
Royal Room, Seattle: Solid Gold Seattle 7:30 p.m.
Jazzbones, Tacoma: Chicago Transit Experience 8 p.m.
The Mill, Milton: Slainte 8 p.m.
Arcadian Public House, Conway: Joe Cook Blues Band 8 p.m.
Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Tumbling Dice 8 p.m.
North City Bistro, Shoreline: Duet Marianna 7:30 PM

JUNE 22

Gilky Square, La Conner: Bro Hamm 1 p.m.
Boundary Bay Brewing, Bellingham: Jazz in the Taproom w Scott Ranney 6 p.m.
Marymoor Amphitheater, Redmond: Little Feat and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band 6:30 p.m.
Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 p.m.
Spar, Tacoma: Sunday Blues 7 p.m.
Jazz Alley, Seattle: Bill Frisell Trio 7:30 p.m.
Showbox Sodo, Seattle: Valerie June 8 p.m.
Seamonster, Seattle: Ron Weinstein Trio 9 p.m.

JUNE 23

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Mad Bojo 7 p.m.
Moore Theater, Seattle: Rhiannon Giddens and the Old Time Revue 7:30 p.m.
The Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 p.m.

(Continued on Page 22)

June 2025 Live Blues Music Calendar (cont'd)

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

JUNE 23 (CONT'D)

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

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

Seamonster, Seattle: La Luz 10 p.m.

JUNE 24

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

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Tom Jones and Friends 7 p.m.

Ten-O1, Everett: Blues 101 7 p.m.

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

Triple Door, Seattle: Ana Popovic 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.

JUNE 25

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

Ten-O1, Everett: Bruce Govan 6 p.m.

CCR, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 p.m.

The Mill, Milton: Walker Sherman 7:30Pm

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

Triple Door, Seattle: Ana Popovic 7:30 p.m.

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

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Emerald City Jazz Orchestra 8 p.m.

JUNE 26

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Frank Kohl 4:30 p.m.

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

Flight Path, Burien: Billy Joe's Roadhouse 6 p.m.

Woodland park zoo, Seattle: Gillian Welch and David Rawlings 6 p.m.

Elizabeth Park, Bellingham: North Sound Soul 6 p.m.

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

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

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Eliane Elias 7:30 p.m.

Royal Room, Seattle: Critical Mass Big Band 7:30 p.m.

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

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Salmon Dan 8 p.m.

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

JUNE 27

Washington State Fair Event Center Beer Garden, Puyallup: Taste Northwest 12 p.m.

Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor: Trailer Park Kings 7 p.m.

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 7 p.m.

Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett: Blue Healers 7 p.m.

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Eliane Elias 7:30 p.m.

Jazzbones, Tacoma: Igor and the Red Elvises 8 p.m.

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: One Island Drop 8 p.m.

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: BluSky 8 p.m.

Seamonster, Seattle: Funky2 Death 10 p.m.

JUNE 28

Washington State Fair Event Center Beer Garden, Puyallup: Taste Northwest 12 p.m.

King Street Plaza, Seattle: Lady A - Road to One Seattle Soul 4 p.m.

Triple Door, Seattle: Paris Chansons 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Bookwalter Wines, Richland: Joe Brooks Quartet | Jeff Kashiwa 6 p.m.

Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park: Centerpiece 7 p.m.

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Donna Ray 8 p.m.

Remlinger Farms, Carnation: Lyle Lovett and his large Band 7 p.m.

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stoned America 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Eliane Elias 7:30 p.m.

Royal Room, Seattle: Love Markets & Jed Zeplin

7:30 p.m.

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Radio Rewind 8 p.m.

The Mill, Milton: Champagne Sunday 8 p.m.

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek 8 p.m.

JUNE 29

Washington State Fair Event Center Beer Garden, Puyallup: Taste Northwest 12 p.m.

Gilky Square, La Conner: Mojo Cannon 1 p.m.

The Grange, Duvall: Buddy Do Wrong and the Ne'er do wells 5:30 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: Eliane Elias 7:30 p.m.

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

JUNE 30

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.



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



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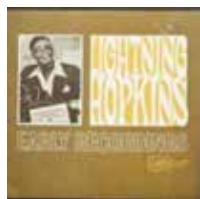
The Blues Hall of Fame: Class of 2025 (continued)

Congratulations to performers, Individuals (Business, Production, Media, & Academic) & Recordings

(Continued from Page 15)

Capo Press. A revised edition from City Lights Books in 2014 added considerably to the chapters on her life and career that begin the book, with a foreword by Jim O'Neal and more detailed appendices and documentation based largely on various contributors' online research into sources not available in 1992.

Classic of Blues Recording – Album



Lightnin' Hopkins:
Gold Star Sessions
(Arhoolie CD, 1990-91, orig. released on Arhoolie LPs as *Early Recordings*, 1963, and *Early Recordings Vol 2*, 1971)

Classics of Blues Recording – Singles



Bessie Smith:
"Nobody Knows You When You're Down And Out"
(Columbia, 1933)



Sylvester Weaver:
"Guitar Rag"
(Okeh, 1923)



Irma Thomas: *"Don't Mess With My Man"*
(Ron, 1959)



B.B. King: *"Why I Sing The Blues"* (ABC BluesWay, 1969)



Blind Lemon Jefferson: *"See That My Grave's Kept Clean"* (Paramount, 1927)



Irma Thomas at the 2006 Sisters of Royalty Show Sponsored by Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Chicago's House of Blues
(Photo by Eric Steiner)



Help Us Build a Better Bluesletter

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 an article published in the *Bluesletter* is to submit a story as an attachment in Microsoft Word on or before the deadline of the 5th of the month for the following month's issue.

Images are bit more complicated because our partners in printing, Pacific Publishing, use standard 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, perfect for social media and other screen-based media). CMYK, as I understand it, taps into a broader color palette than RGB and reflects a traditional four-color printing process.

Images from social media 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.

During the production of this issue, Polly and I (plus our editor@wabluessociety.org email address) received too many images incorrectly formatted to our printer's specs.

It's critical that writers send in material as attachments and not embedded in emails on or before the 5th of the month. We cannot use photos "taken on the run" by cell phone without specific titles instead of using phone-supplied numerical identifiers or not formatting in high resolution).

In closing: Please: Help Polly and me build a better *Bluesletter*!



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