

May 2026

# Photoletop



**WINTHROP PREVIEW**

**BONNIE RAITT  
BACK TO STATE**

**DICK POWELL'S  
LEGACY**

# Letter from the Editor



Hello Blues Lovers-

A couple of months ago, someone asked me how I decide what should go in the Bluesletter. A big part of the answer is that I want to include things that other people want to write! But every month, the other writers and I have a one-hour Zoom meeting where we try to be deliberate and plan what to cover.

Those decisions are based in part on a “news values” theory I used to teach in my UW journalism classes. There are seven major news values, and I remember them by the acronym TIPPSCC.

The core logic of TIPPSCC is that the values, or “news pegs,” as they are often called, all address the question: “Why do I want to read this, and why do I want to read this now?” I’m going to share them here because I hope they will help our readers suggest stories or draw attention to their own musical projects or those of others.

**Timeliness:** If you love an artist and want to call attention to them, look for something recent you or we can write about (the last couple of months or so). Did they win an award, release a video, go on tour, open for someone, play locally for the first time and blow everyone away, host a fundraiser, try a new house party format, celebrate a 20th anniversary as a band or venue? Is there a new radio show, venue, festival, etc? Also, who is playing at upcoming festivals? What’s on for the holidays, Juneteenth, Christmas, etc., when they roll around?

**Impact:** Is something happening that could impact the people who read the magazine, or the people they read about? Canadians travel to the US less now. How does that affect festivals? Gas prices are horrendous; what does that mean for touring artists?

**Prominence:** Sometimes things are noteworthy because they involve some highly prominent fixture of the Washington blues scene, whether a festival, venue, promoter, artist, DJ, etc. We have, sadly, had a bunch of stories lately about prominent musicians who have died, for instance.

**Proximity:** Things that are awesome that happen in Oregon are interesting, but we’ll seldom cover them. They need to be in Washington. We do cover out-of-state events, but usually only if local artists are involved, such as the IBCs.

**Strangeness:** I once won a news-writing award in the “News of the Weird” category for a story about a pregnant cow that fell into the Skykomish River, floated seven miles, and was found peacefully grazing on a downstream farm. This is the class “man bites dog” scenario—a dog biting a man isn’t a story, but a man biting a dog is! A local luthier making a guitar isn’t necessarily a news story, but one who makes a guitar out of a piece of wood from a Washington festival stage is (and may well be a story soon!).

**Conflict:** This one is tricky but important. Conflict within a community can be very damaging, and sometimes writers have a role to play in helping communities process conflict. For instance, there is in the blues scene an ongoing rift over what blues music is, which meant John Kessler’s show Nu Blues, hosted as it is by a locally produced (proximity) and nationally popular (prominence) radio show, was noteworthy for offering a new terminology for distinguishing between older and newer forms of the genre.

**Concurrence:** What are the big things happening in the news? Do they tie to things that concern us? COVID sure did. If there is a disaster, are there benefit concerts? During the summer of 2020, the Black Lives Matter movement inspired us to think about the implications of the history of blues music, and that got us going on cool stories like the new Black and Tan club, Juneteenth events, and inclusion of gospel music in our coverage.

Then, sometimes things are interesting just because. I did a story a while back called “Three guitarists you should know about” to call attention to people who seemed to be a little too unsung after interesting or distinguished careers. Dana, one of our writers, is getting ready to do a series on under-noted stalwarts, like rhythm section players who often don’t get much attention. We also plan a story on local radio DJs and podcasters that don’t get enough attention.

PR people think about these news values all day long. They will organize events just to create news pegs (flash mobs back in the day, for example). If you are your own PR guy, think about things you could point out to us. Did your band’s guitar player just discover a long-lost twin (strangeness), get to sit in with Buddy Guy (prominence), set up a benefit concert for flood victims (timeliness and impact), or do a day job giving immigrants legal assistance (concurrence)? I used to tell my students that if they really wanted to write about someone or something, and they were creative, there is always a news peg. I hope this helps you find one!

Cheers-

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Polly O'Keary".

Polly O’Keary, Editor



# In This Issue...



## Inside...

The month, we look ahead to the lineup at the 2026 Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival, Washington's largest and longest running blues festival.

Billy Stapleton, who worked with recently departed blues institution Dick Powell, shares memories of life on the road with Powell, in and out of Little Bill and the Bluenotes, and fills people in on a few things they might not have known about the multi-instrumental artist.

Son Jack Jr. says hello from London, and gives us the lowdown on where to go to hear great music should we be so fortunate as to get to travel across the pond.

Bonnie Raitt will tour this summer and will play four shows in the Evergreen State. Our writer Kirk Anderson has the details. John Henry Kuhlmann revisits a rare vinyl gem with an intriguing Seattle history. And as ever, Eric Steiner highlights some of the national touring acts set to perform in the state this month.

And Blues Vespers pastor and poet David Brown remembers photographer Dan Hill, as we look back at a cover celebrating the talented artist's Best Blues Photograph Award in 2021.

Above: Winthrop's long beloved blues rock trio Too Slim and the Taildraggers returns to the festival the night of July 19. Image courtesy the artist and Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival.

Cover: Southern Avenue, one of blues music's most successful and innovative acts, will appear at Winthrop. Image by Rory Doyle.

Cover design: Sean Donovan, Gatorboyproductions.com

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## Washington Blues Society Board Meeting

Every second Thursday of the month

**NEXT: THURSDAY, May 14**

**5 p.m.**

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**THE WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY BLUESLETTER APRIL 2026 -  
Volume XXXVII Number V**

**PUBLISHER**

Washington Blues Society - [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org)

**EDITOR**

Polly O'Keary ([editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org))

**PRINTER**

Pacific Publishing Company  
([www.pacificpublishingcompany.com](http://www.pacificpublishingcompany.com))

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Eric Steiner, Kirk Anderson, John Henry Kuhlmann, Sean Donovan, Polly O'Keary

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Gladys Jones, Eric Steiner, Mike McNett

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Ad Reservations 5 p.m. on 5/30 to  
[editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org)  
Calendar 5 p.m. on 5/10 online.  
Please submit @ [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org)  
Editorial 5 p.m. on 5/1 to [editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org)  
Camera-Ready Ad Art 5 p.m. on 5/5 to [editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org)

**Please Note: If we receive enough editorial copy before the 30th, or camera-ready ads before the 5th, space may be filled, and material may be saved for a future issue. Please send ALL contributions early!**

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Secretary, Dana Lupinacci	<a href="mailto:secretary@wablues.org">secretary@wablues.org</a>
Editor, Polly O'Keary	<a href="mailto:editor@wablues.org">editor@wablues.org</a>
Music Director, Angelo Ortiz	<a href="mailto:music@wablues.org">music@wablues.org</a>
Membership, Mary McPage	<a href="mailto:membership@wablues.org">membership@wablues.org</a>

**2026 DIRECTORS**

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Advertising, Open	<a href="mailto:advertising@wablues.org">advertising@wablues.org</a>
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Merchandise, Open	<a href="mailto:merchandise@wablues.org">merchandise@wablues.org</a>
Seattle Peace Concerts, Sara St. John	

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Webmaster Emeritus, The Sheriff	<a href="mailto:webmaster@wablues.org">webmaster@wablues.org</a>
Washington Blues Society Logo, Phil Chestnut	<a href="mailto:philustr8r@gmail.com">philustr8r@gmail.com</a>
Editor Emeritus, Eric Steiner	<a href="mailto:ericsteiner@wablues.org">ericsteiner@wablues.org</a>

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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](http://www.wablues.org). The Washington Blues Society received the Keeping the Blues Alive Award from The Blues Foundation in 2009.



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SEATTLE, WA 98127**

# Vintage Vinyl Vault: Gems from the archive

*Furry Lewis and Bukka White: A match made in....Seattle?*

By John Henry Kuhlmann

Seattle blues radio (KRAB) DJ Bob West met Bukka White and Furry Lewis at a dinner, got an invitation to visit Furry in Memphis, brought an Ampex tape recorder, helped Bukka get his Gibson out of hock, and recorded them both over a week — then issued the sessions as ASP 1. Very informal: a living room, a single mic, friends around. Two old friends playing for each other — brothers in blues.

This album is one of my most prized possessions. 50+ years ago, technology was crude; not so the music — this record holds some very complex and compelling blues. Furry was 70, Bukka over 60; both still strong, vibrant players, both part of the 1960s Folk Blues Revival. For bona fides: Bukka was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame; Furry opened twice for the Rolling Stones.

**Side One** is all Bukka White — raw vocals, on Furry's big Gibson, solid loud strumming, slick slide. "Please, Ma'm" is a great rambling story. "Little Woman's Bed" is deep blues, sounds like two guitars, great descending licks, always pushing the resolve to the last moment.

"Hambone Blues" highlights Bukka's deep vocals, with Furry yelling: "Ah play it, Mr. Bukka White, play a great long time for Furry Lewis."

"Bukka's Goodtime Swing" sounds like blues rock — "she rocks to the left, she rocks to the right, keep on rockin' till the broad daylight" — here it's "keep on drinking." Rich strumming, with that mix of chords

and melody.

Then Bukka switches to his National Steel — unmistakable. "Grey Haired Woman": finger pickin' good, strumming and slap-sliding the strings. "Hello, Central, give me 49" — who knew a phone call could be so dramatic. The liner notes call his vocals virile and brutal; you can tell this isn't a social call. A strong, confident Delta/Memphis blues legend.

**Side Two** is all Furry Lewis, and still stuns me after 40 years, there is a propulsive drive on every tune.

"John Henry" (hey, that's my name!) introduces his complex fingerpicking immediately. At the end he says: "Sometimes it just tech you" — indeed.

"I Don't Want No Skinny Woman" features Furry's three-part guitar work: bass line, strumming rhythm, slide melody, and someone playing a drum beat on a guitar body. His not-so-casual "I wait for Mr. Charlie" at the end leaves you wondering about his life as a Black musician.

"Mama's Fish" opens with a shoutout: "I'm playing to one certain family... in Seattle Washington... I'm gonna play for mama (Sylvia Graf)" — starts with a reference to being served fish on a NW visit, ends as not-so-subtle innuendo.

Here's where it gets really interesting. The next two songs expand in complexity — bass line, rhythm chords, and melody, like Martin Taylor but Delta/Memphis blues: pedal-tone bass on the low string, fingerpicked rhythm, and slide melody.

"Lay My Burden Down" is very strong.



Furry Lewis and Bukka White at home with friends - ASP 1 - ASP Records - ca. 1968 - Liner notes by Mike Duffy

Mid-tune, Furry hits an obviously wrong chord — one of the album's highlights - that makes the tune immensely human. At the end, Bukka's compliment: "Good enough, good enough."

"Kassie Jones" may be the most propulsive tune I've ever heard — just ahead of Costello's "Beyond Belief." Seven or eight verses, subtly accelerating over five minutes until it's driving down the track. A perfect progression for a train song.

The final track: "A Message From Furry" is just two words: "Thank you."

Reviewer's Notes: The vinyl is available, but expensive. The reissue, on CD as Arcola 1001, has 30 additional minutes of songs and conversation, plus written context from Bob West, and is available from Jack Cook: phantomofsoul@comcast.net.

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# In Memoriam

Five years and one month ago, talented photographer Dan Hill celebrated a BB Award win on the cover of the Bluesletter



Dan passed away and a celebration of life was held at The Spar in Tacoma April 12. We honor his contribution to the blues community and this publication, and we extend our condolences to his loved ones.

# Giving Thanks for Dan Hill

Poet and Pastor Dave Brown remembers Dan Hill in word and verse

By Dave Brown

Dan was a friend; I will miss him. He was a remarkable man. We shared so much, not just music and love for this community but a concern for the world and the future we are leaving the next generation. He was, indeed, a good man. He lived his life as fully as he was able until the end. He would want us to remember, to listen and maybe not talk too much when the band is playing and to do what we can do to love life and make the world a better, kinder place. Life is short: be quick to love and make haste to be kind.

Pastor Dave Brown- Blues Vespers



## Thanksgiving

It seems to happen a lot these days.

I wake up and find out that another fellow traveler has left this world.

It comes with being a certain age, I guess.

You would think I'd get used to it but I never do, I never do.

Parting is not a sweet sorrow.

The sweetness of memory sustains but never erases the pain.

You walk into the Spar or Dawsons and look at the corner

of the bar and he's not there.

No longer can you catch his eye,

and share a smile filled with friendly affection.

His camera is gone too; no new Dan photographs.

Those photos that captured a performer's heart, the music's soul

and the crowd's delight. Great images that seem to radiate

the joy of people dancing and great performers playing.

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.

-Pastor Dave Brown

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# Bonnie Raitt: A Blues Icon Returns to Washington State

*The revered blueswoman to make four (!) appearances in state this summer*

By Kirk Anderson

Bonnie Raitt's return to Washington State in 2026 marks another milestone in a career defined by soulful authenticity, technical mastery, and a deep commitment to American roots music. With multiple Washington dates—including a major appearance at the Gorge Amphitheatre as part of Brandi Carlile's *Echoes Through the Canyon* weekend—fans across the region will have rare opportunities to experience one of the most influential musicians of the last halfcentury.

## A Lifelong Musical Journey

Born in 1949 in Burbank, California, Bonnie Raitt emerged in the early 1970s as a slideguitar prodigy with a voice that could move effortlessly between grit and tenderness. She released her selftitled debut album in 1971, launching a career that blended blues, rock, folk, and country into a sound unmistakably her own.

Throughout the 1970s and 80s, Raitt became known not only for her musicianship but also for her collaborative spirit. She was a frequent session player and worked with artists such as Warren Zevon, Little Feat, Jackson Browne, the Pointer Sisters, John Prine, and Leon Russell—relationships that helped shape her stylistic versatility and cemented her reputation as a musician's musician.

Her commercial breakthrough arrived with *Nick of Time* (1989), followed by *Luck of the Draw* (1991) and *Longing in Their Hearts* (1994), albums that brought her multiple Grammy Awards and global recognition. Even in recent years, she continues to earn top honors, including a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award (2021) and a Kennedy Center Honor (2024).

## Influence Across Generations and Genres

Bonnie Raitt's influence extends far beyond her own recordings. Her slideguitar technique—fluid, expressive, and deeply rooted in Delta blues—has inspired countless musicians across genders and

genres. While women guitarists often cite her as a trailblazer who broke barriers in a maledominated field, her impact on male musicians is equally significant. Her collaborations with artists like John Prine and Leon Russell reflect a mutual respect grounded in musical integrity and emotional honesty.

Raitt's ability to interpret songs with profound emotional depth has also shaped the work of singersongwriters across the Americana, folk, and blues landscapes. Her performances demonstrate that technical mastery and vulnerability can coexist—a lesson embraced by many contemporary artists who view her as a model of longevity, authenticity, and artistic courage.

## Washington State Tour Dates: A Highlight of 2026

Washington blues fans will have several opportunities to see Raitt live during her 2026 North American tour. Her schedule includes multiple stops across the state, each offering a unique setting to experience her signature blend of blues and roots music.

### Spokane – May 28, 2026

Raitt opens her Washington run at the Fox Theater in Spokane. This performance marks the official start of her 2026 West Coast tour.

### The Gorge Amphitheatre – May 30, 2026

One of the most anticipated events of the year, Raitt will join Brandi Carlile's *Echoes Through the Canyon* weekend at the Gorge Amphitheatre in George, Washington. The lineup includes Brandi Carlile, Bonnie Raitt, and Sara Bareilles, creating a multigenre celebration of powerhouse vocalists and songwriters.

### Port Townsend – June 12, 2026

Raitt will perform at the Centrum Benefit Concert & Gala in Port Townsend, a special event that reflects her longstanding support for arts and community organizations.

### Bellingham – June 13, 2026

Fans in northern Washington can catch her



Photo by Susan Weiland. Courtesy of the Artist.

at the Mount Baker Theatre in Bellingham, another soldout stop on her tour.

These Washington dates are part of a broader tour that spans the U.S. West Coast and Canada, celebrating her 55 years in music.

## A Legacy Still Growing

Even after more than five decades on stage, Bonnie Raitt continues to evolve artistically. Her 2022 album *Just Like That...* earned multiple Grammy Awards and reaffirmed her relevance in a rapidly changing musical landscape. Her 2026 tour reflects both a celebration of her past and a commitment to staying present, engaged, and creatively vibrant.

For Washington blues fans, her upcoming performances offer more than just concerts—they are opportunities to witness a living legend whose artistry has shaped American music. Whether she's delivering a searing slideguitar solo, interpreting a ballad with heartbreaking nuance, or sharing the stage with fellow icons at the Gorge, Bonnie Raitt remains a force of nature.

As she prepares to howl into the canyon alongside Brandi Carlile and Sara Bareilles, one thing is certain: Bonnie Raitt's influence—on musicians, audiences, and the blues tradition itself—continues to resonate as powerfully as ever.



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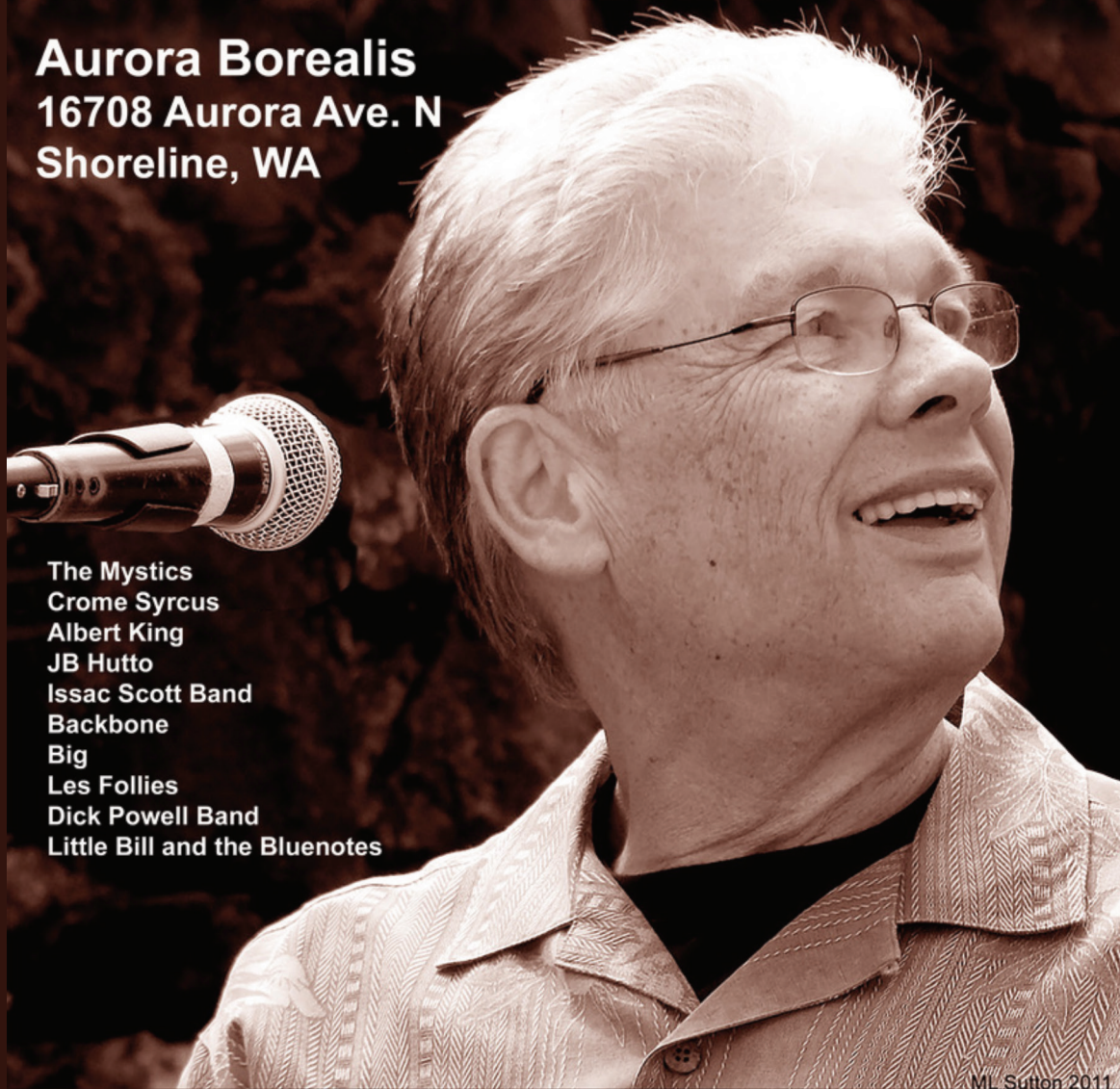
# Dick Powell

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# Sweet Tea: Billy Stapleton tells tales of Dick Powell

*Rooms at the Chelsea Hotel, dating Janis (yes, that one), and learning harp from James Cotton*

By Billy Stapleton

When I auditioned for the guitar spot in Little Bill and the Bluenotes I remember Little Bill telling me he'd send me "the short list" of songs for the nights I'd be auditioning. There was over 80 tunes listed in that email! Quite an eye opener. "Short list" indeed. I knew way ahead of time that the legendary Little Bill liked to play a wide variety of music and was a notorious task master. It was clear I'd have to really knuckle down and woodshed to earn my spot.

I could have just glossed it over and played parts that were just close enough but the challenge to play the "real way" the Bluenotes wanted me to was formidable.

I spent many many nights in front of the TV running over the set lists repeatedly to memorize the nearly 300 songs Bill would pull out of his hat without warning on a gig

The keyboard player, harmonica player and second vocalist in the Bluenotes was Dick Powell. When I say Dick played keys and harp, I mean to tell you he played *both at once*, not just parts to the songs but *soloing!* Simultaneously, on both instruments! I was blown away, as were the audiences we performed for. Rounding out the band was the great Tom Morgan on drums. I was standing in the middle of some truly tall talent.

Those men were incredibly kind to me and unbelievably generous with their time and knowledge. The band's wives, Jan Engelhart, Patty Powell and Edie Morgan, were all

super nice to me as well. All three of them are truly great, strong, women. Many thanks, it is a privilege to know you ladies.

Dick Powell and I started driving to gigs together. In those days Bill booked around 140 nights year. We played all over heck and gone. Dick and I quickly became the best of friends. We shared the same sense of humor and musical tastes. We were funny guys. Dick was always clowning on stage, he loved performing and we had a great time playing together. His "musical humor" was filled with Chico Marx piano tricks, sayings he'd learned from Muddy Waters and James Cotton along with vocal and harp gymnastics. I absolutely reveled in being accepted by these incredibly talented elder statesmen and being friends with them.

When we drove together Dick would tell me fabulous tales of traveling all over the US and Europe. How Albert King fired his keyboard player and asked Dick to fill in that same night. Albert loved him and when he'd bawl out the band he'd take Dick aside and tell him he had to yell at them but not to pay any attention because Dick played perfectly as far as Albert was concerned.

In the early '70s, when Dick asked James Cotton to teach him how to play the harmonica, James agreed but told him, "You're gonna need one of these." With a wide grin, he handed Dick a harmonica he had in his shirt pocket. Dick's impeccable harp style was indeed learned directly from the great James Cotton. They were pals.

As famous as Little Bill was, Dick Powell

had his own following as well. Seldom did we play that someone didn't request his "Walkin' Blues" or "Sweet Home Chicago."

I spent a lot of time learning exactly what guitar parts Dick and Bill wanted me to play. Dick was very particular about what he wanted and I made sure I backed him up to the very best of my ability. There were all sorts of little timing cues, signature licks, breaks, etc. to memorize. I wanted the band to be as tight as possible and so did Dick.

Dick had projects of his own outside the Bluenotes. He told me when his one-time band Crome Syrcus wrote and performed "Astarte" for the Joffrey Ballet, that celebrities that couldn't get tickets to the sold out shows would be placed in the orchestra pit with the band. Steve McQueen, Jack Palance, to name a few, were in that number.

In the '60s the Syrcus rented rooms at the infamous Chelsea Hotel in New York. The Dead, Big Brother and a raft of writers, poets, songwriters all kept rooms there. Some of Dick's pals at the Chelsea? Author William Burroughs and song writer poet Leonard Cohen.

And, speaking of Big Brother, Dick Powell once took Janis Joplin on a date to see Julian Bream at the Greek Theater!

I thought you might like to hear a few stories you might not have heard before about my dear friend. Dick and I played together for nearly 25 years. I truly loved the man like a brother and treasure the time we had together.



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**SEAN McDONALD** ☮ **GARRET T. WILLIE**

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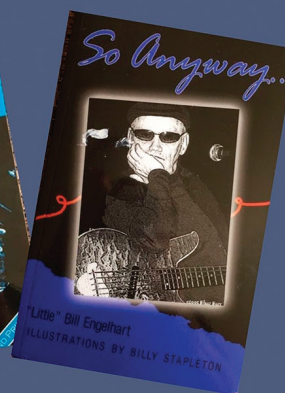
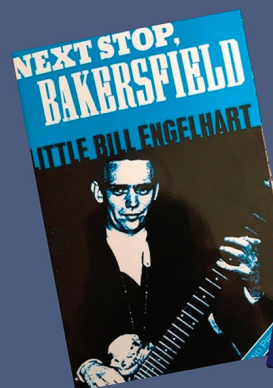
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Red Hot Saturdays 7-11

5/1 One Island Drop  
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5/22 Jimi Lee's Allstars  
5/29 J P Falcon Band



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# Blues on the Road: May Previews

Including some pretty notable Pacific Northwest artists this month...

By Eric Steiner

This month's Blues on the Road differs slightly from my usual approach alerting readers to shows that I would enjoy in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia's Lower Mainland. I'm including two Seattle-area artists for the first time, Ann Wilson and the Paula Boggs Band, due to their very special shows that promise to offer unique and unforgettable evenings of arts and music. I'm biased for two reasons. As a teenager, Heart LPs were in heavy rotation in my college dorm room, and when I learned of Paula Boggs' unique work history before embracing the life of a full-time musician, I wanted to share my enthusiasm with fellow Washington Blues Society members.

**Curtis Salgado**



Last April, 13-time Blues Music Award winner Curtis Salgado recorded "Legacy Rewind: Live in '25" at Seattle's Triple Door with a 15-piece band for his debut on the Nola Blue label. He starts the month on May 1 at Portland's Alberta Rose Theatre before a homecoming at the Triple Door with a CD release party on May 14. Later in the month, Curtis will close the Spring Blues, Americana & Country Festival on the Main Stage at Sunbanks in Electric City in May 17. Don't miss these opportunities to experience "Legacy Rewind: Live in '25" in concert, which is a remarkable, career-

spanning retrospective of a true soul blues icon who hails from the Pacific Northwest. (Photo by Eric Steiner).

**Ann Wilson: "In My Voice"**



After a premiere at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles early in the month, legendary Pacific Northwest vocalist Ann Wilson screens a new documentary with filmmaker Barbara Hall on May 11 at Seattle's Neptune Theatre followed by Vancouver's Rio Theatre the next night. The music of Heart was the soundtrack of many rock and roll fans "of a certain age" and each of these evenings offer a rare opportunity to learn directly from the singer and filmmaker. The Seattle Theatre Group's show kicks off a national tour for Wilson, who pioneered live streaming with Microsoft early in the Internet age with The Love Mongers over 25 years ago. During that simulcast, the Wilson sisters joked and "thanked all our fans over in Yemen." (Documentary Title Card Downloaded by Eric Steiner)

**The California Honeydrops**



After dates in Montana and Idaho, the Oakland-based, soulful California Honeydrops bring their East Bay soul to Tacoma's Airport Tavern on May 13, followed by Spokane's Knitting Factory the next night, and shows at Bozeman's Elm, Salt Lake City's Commonwealth Room, and Portland's Melody Events Center. When I

gave former Advertising Director Malcolm "Yard Dog" Kennedy the Honeydrops' "Soul Tub" CD in 2008, he went out and built his own homemade bass tub! This summer, they'll kick off their "Wild & Free" tour at the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival on July 18 (when I'll celebrate the "Golden Anniversary" of when I turned 18 during our nation's bicentennial in Philadelphia and the other Washington). (Artist Courtesy Photo)

**Stanley Clarke**



This year, I can't believe that one of my favorite LPs I discovered at Illinois State University as a college DJ is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. When I first heard the eight minute title tune, I was transfixed by this young bass player's fourth LP. In addition to winning a number of Grammy Awards for the Stanley Clarke Band, he worked with Chick Corea and Lenny White in the groundbreaking Return to Forever band, which garnered Grammy (and Latin Grammy) awards for "Forever," in the Best Jazz Instrumental Album category in 2012. Catch Stanley Clarke from May 14-17 at his six-show run at Seattle's Jazz Alley before he returns to France! (Photo of Stanley Clarke Courtesy of Jazz Alley).

**The Paula Boggs Band w/ Whitney Monge**

Regular readers will likely remember that I try to reserve previews in my Blues on the Road column for nationally touring artists, and for this month, I'm making an exception for a Seattle-based band led by a singer-songwriter who I consider has a surprising and exceptionally diverse history. She has been a pioneer not only musically, but at day jobs that would give the most courageous among us pause. After an Army career that included airborne service, she was a White House staff attorney on the Iran-Contra Legal Task Force (while I served

# Blues on the Road: May

Selected touring acts headed to the Evergreen State this month



on the ground as an NCO on the Honduran Nicaraguan border in 1988). She's been a VP at Starbucks and Dell Computer, and since 2007, led the Paula Boggs Band, and has earned well deserved acclaim for her Americana, roots and blues records. On May 21, welcome the Paula Boggs Band with Whitney Monge to the Triple Door (and I hope they'll play songs she recorded with Dom "The American Songster" Flemons from her "Janus" CD). Paula returns to Northwest Folklife on the 25<sup>th</sup> at Seattle Center, too! (CD Cover Image Downloaded by Eric Steiner)

## Canned Heat



Sixty years ago, two blues historians named their band "Canned Heat" after a Tommy Johnson song recorded in 1928, and since then, the band has kept on keepin' on through

multiple line-ups, 40 albums and 120 tours, and legendary festivals like Woodstock and Monterey Pop. Catch co-founding drummer Fito de la Parra and bassist Larry "The Mole" Taylor, with guitarist JP Paulus and multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Dale Spaulding on May 28 at Seattle's Triple Door and the the Historic Everett Theatre the next night. I'm looking forward to Fito's book, "Living the Blues" about Canned Heat's exploits on and off the road! (Photo Courtesy of Skip Taylor).

## The Black Keys

This year, the Black Keys, featuring Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney, celebrate 25 years as a groundbreaking roots, blues and Americana duo. This month, they play McMenamins Edgefield Ampitheatre on May 27 with Fai Laci opening followed by two nights on May 29 and 30 at the Seattle Theatre Group's Remlinger Farms in Carnation for dring up to Vancouver's Rogers Arena on May 31 with Jeremie Albino opening the show.

## An Apology...

Last month, I included Paul Thorn, one of my favorite singer-songwriters, and his return to the Pacific Northwest. This month, I wish I included two shows at Seattle's Triple Door with two other outstanding double bills of exceptionally good singer songwriters each night. On May 7, go see Patty Larkin and Lucy Kaplansky, and on May 29, go see Eliza Gilkyson! Each of these singer-songwriters are masters of their craft, and they remind me of other talented troubadours like the late Joe Ely, fellow Texan James McMurtry (who's coming back to the Tractor Tavern this summer!), Paul Thorn, or Richard Thompson.



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# Where It All Comes Together

*A look ahead at the Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival 2026*

For nearly four decades, the Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival has held a unique place in the Pacific Northwest blues community.

Set along the Methow River just outside of town, it's not just a place to see music — it's a place where music unfolds in real time. Artists connect with each other and with the audience, and by the end of the weekend, everyone feels part of it.

That spirit is at the heart of the 2026 lineup.

Blues remains the foundation of the Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival — not as a single genre, but as a living tradition that continues to evolve. It's heard in the phrasing of a guitar, the weight of a lyric, the way a band locks into a groove. And it runs through every artist on this year's bill.

That lineage is especially clear in artists like Sue Foley, whose mastery of the blues guitar tradition continues to set a standard for both technique and storytelling. It's there in Sean "Mack" McDonald, whose playing channels a deep understanding of the form while bringing a fresh, contemporary edge. And it's present in Too Slim & the Taildraggers, longtime Northwest favorites whose connection to the festival spans years and whose sound remains rooted in the raw, driving energy of electric blues.

But the blues has never stood still. It has always absorbed, influenced, and intertwined with other forms — and that broader musical family is central to the Winthrop experience.

Artists like Southern Avenue and Mike Farris & the Fortunate Few bring the unmistakable influence of gospel and Southern soul, building toward the festival's Sunday Gospel Summit. For many, that moment is more than a performance — it's a communal experience that reflects the deep spiritual roots shared across blues and gospel traditions.

The groove-driven side of that lineage



Above, Canadian blues guitarist, singer, and songwriter Sue Foley brings decades of blues mastery to the lineup. : Credit Mark Abernathy. Below: The Rumble, ft. Chief Joseph Boudreaux Jr. showcase Grammy-nominated new Orleans Mardi Gras Indian funk. Image courtesy of the artists. Opposite page, top right: Kevin Russell, frontman of the Austin-based supergroups Shinyribs, contributes Texas blues, New Orleans R&B-funk and horn-driven Memphis soul. Image by Wyatt McSpadden. Lower left: Kim Field and the Perfet Gentlemen, a Puget Sound group led by a harmonic legend, brings local flavor to the festival. Image courtesy of the artists.



## Where It All Comes Together

*A look ahead at the Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival 2026, continued*

comes through in artists like The California Honeydrops, whose improvisational approach makes every set a one-of-a-kind experience, and Shinyribs, whose genre-blending sound pulls from blues, funk, and roots rock with equal ease. The Rumble featuring Chief Joseph Boudreaux Jr. carries forward the cultural traditions of the Mardi Gras Indians, bringing a powerful New Orleans perspective that connects rhythm, history, and identity.

At the same time, a new generation of artists is shaping how these traditions move forward.

Bywater Call and Ariel Posen represent a level of musicianship and songwriting that resonates across the blues and roots world, bridging audiences and styles with a sound that feels both contemporary and deeply grounded. Jeremie Albino brings a raw, expressive vocal style that draws from classic influences while carving out something distinctly his own.

Alongside them are emerging voices gaining attention within the blues community. Harrell “Young Rell” Davenport, just 19 years old, is already making waves with

a style that reflects both deep study and natural instinct — a young artist carrying the tradition forward in real time. Sean “Mack” McDonald continues to earn recognition for his playing and songwriting, while Garrett T. Willie brings a powerful Indigenous voice that adds another important dimension to the evolving conversation around the genre.

For the festival, this balance — between established artists, emerging voices, and regional connections — is intentional.

The Pacific Northwest has always been an essential part of the festival’s identity. Artists like The Dusty 45s bring a high-energy blend of swing, rock, and rhythm & blues that has long resonated with Winthrop audiences, while Kim Field & the Perfect Gentlemen showcase a level of musicianship rooted in decades of experience across blues and jazz traditions.

This year also marks the long-awaited return of Jo Miller & Her Burly Roughnecks to the Methow Valley—a special moment for the community and a first for the festival. Jo’s super-swingin’, hillbilly jump sound—drawing from honky-tonk, western swing, and early rhythm & blues—feels right at



home here, while promising a high-energy set that will have the whole valley moving.

And then there is one of the festival’s most beloved traditions: the Methow Juke Joint Allstars. After the main stage closes each night, the music continues in the beer garden. What begins as a set quickly evolves into something more fluid — a gathering place where artists from across the lineup sit in, collaborate, and push the music in new directions. For many musicians, it’s a highlight of the weekend. For audiences, it offers something rare: a chance to witness music being created in the moment, without pretense or structure — just players responding to each other, listening, and building something together. It’s a reminder that music brings people.

The Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival is produced by the Winthrop Music Association, a nonprofit dedicated to building community through music. More than 150 volunteers help bring the festival to life each year, creating an experience that feels both welcoming and deeply connected.

The Methow Valley provides more than a

*Continued on page 22*



# May 2026 Live Blues Music Calendar

Submit calendar information to [wablues.org/events/washington-blues-societys-events](http://wablues.org/events/washington-blues-societys-events)

## MAY 1

**JC & the Blue Tones:** Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park 7 p.m.  
**Tad Robinson Band:** Fair Trade, Olympia 7 p.m.  
**Double Time:** Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Annie Eastwood All Stars:** Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor 7 p.m.  
**Danny Seraphine's Chicago Legacy:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Mojo Cannon:** Aurora Borealis, Shoreline 8 p.m.  
**Clave Gringa Quintet:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 8 p.m.  
**One Island Drop:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 8 p.m.  
**Alicie Healey & Wes Weddell:** Mermaid Lounge, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Burn Band:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Panda Conspiracy:** Seamonster, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Funky 2 Death:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.  
**Martin Ross & Bake's Place All Stars:** Bake's Place, Bellevue 8 p.m.

## MAY 2

**Michael Benson Band:** Bake's Place, Bellevue 6 p.m.  
**Rod Cook:** The Repp, Snohomish 6:30 p.m.  
**Zach Michaud:** At Large Brewing, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Robbie Dee:** Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park 7 p.m.  
**Monamor:** Seamonster, Seattle 7 p.m.  
**Reposado:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.  
**Chill Deville:** Pub 282, Camano 7 p.m.  
**Cyrus & Ron:** Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Danny Seraphine's Chicago Legacy:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Criminal Squirrel Orchestra:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7:30 p.m.  
**Stephanie Porter:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 8 p.m.  
**Aftershock:** The Hangar, Mukilteo 8 p.m.  
**Joel Astley Band:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Dana Osborne Band:** Old Edison, Edison 8 p.m.

## MAY 3

**Eric Link:** Quarter Deck, Des Moines 3 p.m.  
**Best of the Blues Awards:** Apex, Everett 4 p.m.  
**Pacific Twang:** Old Edison, Edison 5:30 p.m.  
**Somda Massa:** Royal Room, Seattle 6 p.m.  
**Sunday Blues:** The Spar, Tacoma 7 p.m.  
**Peabo's Sunday Music Revue:** Peabo's, Mill Creek 7 p.m.  
**Danny Seraphine's Chicago Legacy:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Herding Cats:** The Lime, Kirkland 9 p.m.  
**Ron Weinstein Trio:** Seamonster, Seattle 9 p.m.

## MAY 4

**Stillhouse Junkies:** Royal Room, Seattle 7 p.m.  
**Nate Omdal:** Royal Room, Seattle 9 p.m.  
**Blue Monday:** El Sid, Everett 7 p.m.  
**MaD BoJo:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Andy Coe Band:** Blue Moon, Seattle 9 p.m.  
**Aqualizer:** Owl N' Thistle, Seattle 9 p.m.  
**La Luz (Latin Funk Afrobeat):** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.  
**MAY 5**  
**Tuesday Jazz with Jonathan Doyle & Friends:** Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend 5 p.m.  
**Johnnie O:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Adam Lee Morgan Jazz Orchestra:** Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma 7 p.m.  
**Martin Taylor and Bruce Forman:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Ben Rice and the Hustle:** Billy Blues, Vancouver 8 p.m.  
**Joe Doria:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 6

**Funky Jazz Wednesdays:** The Spar, Tacoma 6 p.m.  
**Eastwood & Stapleton:** Sparrow, Kirkland 6 p.m.  
**Henderson Haas:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.  
**Usual Suspects:** CCR, Snohomish 7 p.m.  
**Martin Taylor and Bruce Forman:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Cascadia Big Band:** Royal Room, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Art Table Sessions:** Art Table, Seattle 9:30 p.m.  
**Weinstein Wednesday:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 7

**Acoustic Happy Hour with Stacy, Eric & Rick:** Wheel House, Everett 5 p.m.  
**The Dusty 45s:** Tim's Tavern, White Center 6 p.m.  
**Marina Alberto Trio:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.  
**Blues Ambassadors MRF Benefit Show:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Zach Michaud:** Farmstrong Brewing, Mount Vernon 7 p.m.  
**Midnight Bourbon with Joel Astley:** Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma 7 p.m.  
**Spyro Gyra:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**NW Women's Blues Jam:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Danny Godinez Presents:** Owl N' Thistle, Seattle 9 p.m.

## MAY 8

**In Cameo:** Quarter Deck, Des Moines 6 p.m.  
**Midnight Snack:** Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park 7 p.m.

**Murl's Lucky Love Band:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.  
**Mr. Roxy:** Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Hot Damn Scandal:** Blue Frog, White Rock, B.C. 7 p.m.  
**Rock Radio:** Pub 282, Camano 7 p.m.  
**Spyro Gyra:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Moxie:** Aurora Borealis, Shoreline 8 p.m.  
**Mark Dufresne:** Bake's Place, Bellevue 8 p.m.  
**3 Trick Pony:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 8 p.m.  
**Alicia Healey & Wes Weddell:** Mermaid Lounge, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Wanderers By Trade:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Funky 2 Death:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 9

**Ray Skjelbred Trio:** Royal Room, Seattle 3 p.m.  
**Dakota Neuman:** Bertelsen Winery, Mount Vernon 5 p.m.  
**The Mudsharks:** Remlinger Farms, Carnation 6 p.m.  
**Northwest Swing:** Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park 7 p.m.  
**Ryan Higgins Band:** At Large Brewing, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Woods Creek Band:** Pub 282, Camano 7 p.m.  
**Willetts Flying A:** Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Spyro Gyra:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**John Stepan Band:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7:30 p.m.  
**Blue Velvet Groove:** Aurora Borealis, Shoreline 8 p.m.  
**The Davanos:** The Hangar, Mukilteo 8 p.m.  
**Powerhouse:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Baby Cakes:** Old Edison, Edison 8 p.m.

## MAY 10

**Curtis Roy Moore:** Quarter Deck, Des Moines 3 p.m.  
**Red Dress:** Seamonster, Seattle 4 p.m.  
**Ron Weinstein Trio:** Seamonster, Seattle 9 p.m.  
**Ron Bailey and the Tangents:** Old Edison, Edison 5:30 p.m.  
**Mason Marcus Turner:** Little Red Hen, Seattle 5 p.m.  
**Peabo's Sunday Music Revue:** Peabo's, Mill Creek 7 p.m.  
**Sue Nixon & Bake's Place All Stars:** Bake's Place, Bellevue 7 p.m.  
**Spyro Gyra:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Herding Cats:** The Lime, Kirkland 9 p.m.

## MAY 11

**Blue Monday:** El Sid, Everett 7 p.m.  
**MaD BoJo:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Andy Coe Band:** Blue Moon, Seattle 9 p.m.  
**Aqualizer:** Owl N' Thistle, Seattle 9 p.m.

# May 2026 Live Blues Music Calendar

*Continued from previous page*

**La Luz:** A social gathering of Latin Funk Afrobeat, Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 12

**Tuesday Jazz with Jonathan Doyle & Friends:** Bishop Block Bottle Shop & Garden, Port Townsend 5 p.m.

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

**Sutton Pitman:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.

**Vincent Ingala:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

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

**Joe Doria Trio:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 13

**Funky Jazz Wednesdays:** The Spar, Tacoma 6 p.m.

**Dis Chord:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.

**Usual Suspects:** CCR, Snohomish 7 p.m.

**Vincent Ingala:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Jazz Underground:** Royal Room, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Art Table Sessions:** Art Table, Seattle 9:30 p.m.

## MAY 14

**Lake Chelan Wine and Jazz Fest:** Chelan 4:30 p.m.

**Sunbanks Music Festival:** Electric City 5 p.m.

**Acoustic Happy Hour with Kevin, Keith & Rick:** Wheel House, Everett 5 p.m.

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

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

**J. Chang and the Lover Boys:** Farmstrong Brewing, Mount Vernon 6 p.m.

**Salt Luck:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.

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

**Stanley Clarke:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Curtis Salgado:** Triple Door, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Kavita Shah Quintet:** Royal Room, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

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

**Danny Godinez Presents:** Owl N' Thistle, Seattle 9 p.m.

**Paige Sandusky Band:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 15

**Lake Chelan Wine and Jazz Fest:** Chelan 12:30 p.m.

**Sheryl Wiser:** Royal Room, Seattle 4 p.m.

**Sunbanks Music Festival:** Electric City 5 p.m.

**Pat Riff:** Quarter Deck, Des Moines 6 p.m.

**Greenwood Music Collective:** Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park 7 p.m.

**Powerhouse:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.

**2old2B Famous:** Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett 7 p.m.

**Randy Jager:** Old Edison, Edison 7 p.m.

**Stanley Clarke:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Massy Ferguson:** Bake's Place, Bellevue 8 p.m.

**Nick Mardon:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 8 p.m.

**Billy Shew and the Soul Providers:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.

**Funky 2 Death:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 16

**Lake Chelan Wine and Jazz Fest:** Chelan 12:30 p.m.

**Sunbanks Music Festival:** Electric City 1 p.m.

**Bake's Place:** Bellevue 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

**Certified Blues:** At Large Brewing, Everett 7 p.m.

**Spring Fling with Marianna:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.

**Commander Mojo and the Horns of Discontent:** Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park 7 p.m.

**Souled Out:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.

**The McCarters:** Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett 7 p.m.

**Jimmy Wright:** Pub 282, Camano 7 p.m.

**Stanley Clarke:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

## MAY 17

**Sunbanks Music Festival:** Electric City 1 p.m.

**Dick Powell Celebration of Life:** Aurora Borealis, Shoreline 1 p.m.

**Good Vibes Trio:** Quarter Deck, Des Moines 3 p.m.

**The Bow Diddlers:** Old Edison, Edison 5:30 p.m.

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

**T Town Aces:** The Spar, Tacoma 7 p.m.

**Joel Astley Band and Stacy Jones Band:** Hidden Hall, Seattle 7 p.m.

**Stanley Clarke:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Herding Cats:** The Lime, Kirkland 9 p.m.

**Randy Weeks:** Seamonster, Seattle 5 p.m.

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

## MAY 18

**Blue Monday:** El Sid, Everett 7 p.m.

**MaD BoJo:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.

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

**Aqualizer:** Owl N' Thistle, Seattle 9 p.m.

**La Luz a social gathering of Latin Funk Afrobeat:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 19

**Tuesday Jazz with Jonathan Doyle & Friends:** Bottle Shop, Port Townsend 5 p.m.

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

**PR Plus:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.

**Jovino Santos Neto:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Foleada:** Seamonster, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

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

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

## MAY 20

**Funky Jazz Wednesdays:** The Spar, Tacoma 6 p.m.

**Rebecca Jaymes:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.

**Usual Suspects:** CCR, Snohomish 7 p.m.

**Jovino Santos Neto:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Art Table Sessions:** Art Table, Seattle 9:30 p.m.

## MAY 21

**Acoustic Happy Hour with Joe, Ryan & Rick:** Wheel House, Everett 5 p.m.

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

**Chris Eger:** Pub 282, Camano 7 p.m.

**Blood Sweat & Tears:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**How Now Brown Cow:** Seamonster, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Paula Boggs Band with Whitney Monge:** Triple Door, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Stevie and the Blue Flames:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.

**Danny Godinez Presents:** Owl N' Thistle, Seattle 9 p.m.

## MAY 22

**Northwest Folklife Festival:** Seattle Center 12 p.m.

**Larry Murante:** Quarter Deck, Des Moines 6 p.m.

**Lisa Fox Group:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.

**Ezekiel's Bones:** Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park 7 p.m.

**Mark Dufresne:** Kimball Coffeehouse, Gig Harbor 7 p.m.

**Rewind:** Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett 7 p.m.

**Blood Sweat & Tears:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Mia Borders:** Royal Room, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**One Island Drop:** Aurora Borealis, Shoreline 8 p.m.

**Jimmy Lee's All Stars:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 8 p.m.

**Darelle Holden:** Bake's Place, Bellevue 8:30 p.m.

## MAY 23

**Northwest Folklife Festival:** Seattle Center 12 p.m.

**Norris & Nicely:** The Repp, Snohomish 6:30 p.m.

**Kimball and the Fugitives:** At Large Brewing, Everett 7 p.m.

**Nick Vigarino's Meantown Blues:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.

**Two Scoops Combo:** Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park 7 p.m.

**Category 7:** Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett 7 p.m.

**Moon Pie Ramblers:** Pub 282, Camano 7 p.m.

**Blood Sweat & Tears:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.

**Ryan Higgins Band:** Rock Fish, Anacortes 7:30 p.m.

**Red House:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.

**The Naughty Blokes:** Old Edison, Edison 8 p.m.

**Chicago Transit Experience:** Bake's Place, Bellevue 8:30 p.m.

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# May 2026 Live Blues Music Calendar

Continued from pg. 22

## MAY 24

**Northwest Folklife Festival:** Seattle Center 12 p.m.  
**Gage Band:** Quarter Deck, Des Moines 3 p.m.  
**Randy Weeks and the Silent Treatment:** Seamonster, Seattle 4 p.m.  
**Ron Weinstein Trio:** Seamonster, Seattle 9 p.m.  
**The Walrus:** Old Edison, Edison 5:30 p.m.  
**Peabo's Sunday Music Revue:** Peabo's, Mill Creek 7 p.m.  
**Powerhouse:** The Spar, Tacoma 7 p.m.  
**Blood Sweat & Tears:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Wanderers By Trade:** Royal Room, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Doctorfunk:** Hidden Hall, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Herding Cats:** The Lime, Kirkland 9 p.m.

## MAY 25

**Northwest Folklife Festival:** Seattle Center 12 p.m.  
**Blue Monday:** El Sid, Everett 7 p.m.  
**MaD BoJo:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Andy Coe Band:** Blue Moon, Seattle 9 p.m.  
**Aqualizer:** Owl N Thistle, Seattle 9 p.m.  
**La Luz:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 26

**Tuesday Jazz with Jonathan Doyle & Friends:** Bishop Block Bottle Shop, Port Townsend 5 p.m.  
**Bruce Govan:** The Ten-01, Everett 6 p.m.  
**Bob Dylan Birthday Fest:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Garfield Jazz Ensemble:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Joe Doria:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.  
**Ben Rice and the Hustle:** Billy Blues, Vancouver 8 p.m.

## MAY 27

**Funky Jazz Wednesdays:** The Spar, Tacoma 6 p.m.  
**No Regrets:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.  
**Usual Suspects:** CCR, Snohomish 7 p.m.  
**Edmonds Woodway Jazz Band:** Jazz Alley, Seattle

7:30 p.m.

**Art Table Sessions:** Art Table, Seattle 9:30 p.m.

## MAY 28

**Acoustic Happy Hour with Alex, Jimmy & Rick:** Wheel House, Everett 5 p.m.  
**Annie Eastwood and Friends:** Bad Alberts, Seattle 6 p.m.  
**Singer Songwriter Showcase:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Monty Alexander:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Canned Heat:** Triple Door, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Hillman City Sway:** Black N Tan Hall, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Salmon Dan:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Marshall Tucker Band:** Tulalip Casino, Tulalip 8 p.m.  
**Danny Godinez Presents:** Owl N Thistle, Seattle 9 p.m.

## MAY 29

**Brandi Carlile with Indigo Girls:** The Gorge, Quincy 5 p.m.  
**Honk Fest West:** Georgetown, Seattle 6 p.m.  
**Kage Dallas:** Quarter Deck, Des Moines 6 p.m.  
**The Black Keys:** Remlinger Farms, Carnation 6:30 p.m.  
**Rod Cook and Toast:** Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park 7 p.m.  
**Canned Heat with Big Brother and the Holding Company:** Everett Theater, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Deano's Motel:** Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Monty Alexander:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Mark Dufresne:** Pub 282, Camano 7:30 p.m.  
**Nite Wave:** Aurora Borealis, Shoreline 8 p.m.  
**Jazz Overhaul:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 8 p.m.  
**Seattle House Rockers:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**JP Falcon Band:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 8 p.m.  
**Umami:** Bake's Place, Bellevue 8:30 p.m.  
**Funky 2 Death:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 30

**Honk Fest West:** Columbia City, Seattle 12 p.m.  
**Brandi Carlile with Bonnie Raitt:** The Gorge, Quincy 5 p.m.  
**Annie Eastwood All Star Band:** Cellar Cat, Kingston 6 p.m.  
**The Black Keys:** Remlinger Farms, Carnation 6:30 p.m.  
**Tony Abreu's Devilish Swing:** Triple Door, Seattle 7 p.m.  
**Cascade Big Band:** Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park 7 p.m.  
**McPage and Powell:** North City Bistro, Shoreline 7 p.m.  
**Christie Michelle and her Hired Guns:** Madison Ave Pub, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Cheyenne Rae:** Port Gardener Bay Winery, Everett 7 p.m.  
**Monty Alexander:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Justified Band:** Royal Room, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Ryan Higgins Band:** Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle 8 p.m.  
**Criminal Squirrel Orchestra:** 5x5 Bistro, Mukilteo 8 p.m.  
**Mama Dirty Skirt:** Old Edison, Edison 8 p.m.  
**Outer Orbit:** Seamonster, Seattle 10 p.m.

## MAY 31

**Honk Fest West:** Pratt Park, Seattle 12 p.m.  
**Brandi Carlile with Sheryl Crow:** The Gorge, Quincy 5 p.m.  
**Fricken Chickasee:** Old Edison, Edison 5:30 p.m.  
**Peabo's Sunday Music Revue:** Peabo's, Mill Creek 7 p.m.  
**Sunday Blues:** The Spar, Tacoma 7 p.m.  
**Monty Alexander:** Jazz Alley, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**The Horsenecks:** Royal Room, Seattle 7:30 p.m.  
**Ron Weinstein Trio:** Seamonster, Seattle 9 p.m.  
**Herding Cats:** The Lime, Kirkland 9 p.m.

## Where It All Comes Together

*A look ahead at the Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival 2026*

*Continued from page 19*

backdrop — it shapes the experience. The pace is different. The setting invites people to stay awhile, to listen more closely, to engage not just with the music but with each other. Over the years, Winthrop has remained intentionally intimate. It's what brings audiences back year after year. And it's what allows moments to happen that can't be planned — the kind that define a weekend long after the final set ends.

The 2026 lineup reflects all of this. For three days each July, it all comes together on the banks of the Methow River.

And for those who make the trip, it's a reminder of why this music — and this community — continues to matter.

Join the best little fest July 17-19, 2026.

[winthropbluesfestival.com](http://winthropbluesfestival.com)



# Live from London: Notes from a Washington Blues Exile

*"... music is going great and I'm keeping very busy with The Too Bad Jims."*

By Son Jack, Jr.

I want to start off by thanking Editor Dr. Polly O'Keary for welcoming me back to the pages of the Bluesletter. Soon after I moved to Seattle in 1997, I sent articles on blues history to Editor Emeritus Eric Steiner. Last month, Eric sent me a piece of Bluesletter history: An electronic copy of the review of my second CD, "When the Devil Calls," by Broke & Hungry Records President Jeff Konkel from the April 2008 issue. That was a very happy day for me then, and now.

Over the years, I've appreciated the way the magazine has grown from newsprint to a full-color, classy publication. I also appreciate that they still let me lower the editorial tone with the occasional contribution.

I thought I'd start with some insider info for any of you who might be swinging through London this summer and hoping to catch some live blues. London has a gazillion places with live music but only a small fraction offer blues. An even smaller fraction know what blues is.

So, I'm proud to present the very first edition of SJJ's "Discerning Blues Lover's Guide to London."

You've probably heard of London's big blues tourist magnet – "Ain't Nothin' But" in Soho. Definitely worth a visit with live music seven nights a week and generally free before 8:30 PM. The club presents a mix of seasoned blues veterans and up and comers in a chill atmosphere that is every bit as authentic as any blues bar in the US.

However, if you feel a little bit more adventurous and want to go a little off the beaten path to where London "locals" go, then you should check out the Mall Tavern in Notting Hill, which is free Thursdays to Sundays. In East London, What's Cookin' offers live blues on Wednesdays and Saturdays in Leytonstone, and in North London, the Boogaloo hosts a Gospel brunch with live music on Sundays in Highgate, and in South London, the Effra Hall Tavern has jazz and blues four nights a week. You'll generally



Son Jack, Jr. (left) and British bluesman Little Victor trade licks. Son Jack, Jr., was a stalwart of the Pacific Northwest blues scene until relocating to England. Photo by Kenny Mathieson

find the deepest of authentic blues at these places. This is not an exhaustive list and there are other places, but it's a solid starting point. Happy hunting, and please drop me a line if you're coming over!

On a personal level, music is going great and I have to say that working so closely with Little Victor the past couple of years has been like a PhD in Blues. On that note, I'm keeping very busy with The Too Bad Jims, and notably, we played two nights opening for Fantastic Negrito at the January Blues Festival in London which went incredibly well, and in March we opened for Alvin Youngblood Hart's Muscle Theory at London's iconic 100 Club. We did our first European dates last year in the Netherlands, and this year takes us to tours in Germany, Switzerland and Holland on top of a full UK gig schedule. I also am planning to return to the Pacific Northwest for the Acoustic Blues Workshop at Centrum in Port Townsend later this summer and it would be great to reconnect with Bluesletter readers.

Just before the New Year we were floored to

win Album of Year by Blues Lounge Radio show listeners (beating Buddy Guy by two points!), and the album was finally released on vinyl in March on JukeJoint500 Records.

In addition to playing the Aurora Borealis in Shoreline, the Rockfish Grill in Anacortes, the Main Stage and the Musiquarium Lounge at Seattle's Triple Door, I have many fond memories of hacking South on I-5 to play the various Tacoma clubs in South Puget Sound. Jazzbones will always be special as it's where Michael Wilde and I won the regional International Blues Challenge in 2008 and got to go to Memphis to proudly represent. I was especially happy to see Pitman and Sutton make the finals this year and for Jonathan to win the best Harmonica award. Keep it up, WA!

That's it for this month, so until the next time, blues on!



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