

SACRAMENTO

A bi-monthly publication of the Sacramento Blues Society



Blues Society

BLUE NOTES!

JULY-AUG
2023
ISSUE 44
VOL. 4



B.B. KING'S
CORPANY STORE

Blues ALLEY



President's Column

By Sally Katen



This year is sure flying by, it is already July! In April, May and June, we brought you some great music. In April, it was the BDOG event with the BITS showcase. In May we had our first IBC competition in years, with Kyle Rowland now heading to Memphis in early 2024 to represent us (let's hear it for Kyle!). In June, we held our 4th Annual Johnny Guitar Knox Pro Jam as a fundraiser for our Hall of Fame event in September, and we were thrilled with how many of you came out to honor and remember Johnny and support the HOF.

And speaking of our Hall of Fame, we had our HOF Committee meeting in June, where we nominated and chose this year's Inductees to the Sacramento Blues Society Hall of Fame! It is with great pleasure that we announce our Hall of Fame Class of 2023: (drum roll please...)

- Angel Reyes
- Beth Reid-Grigsby
- Frank Dupree
- Jeffrey Hughson
- Pinkie Rideau

The HOF Induction Ceremony will be an awesome event held on September 24 at Harlow's from 1 pm – 5 pm with an HOF All-Star Showcase immediately following at the Torch Club from 6 pm to 8 pm. The HOF means a lot to us, as it is our way of honoring our amazing local musicians and blues supporters who have contributed so much to the blues music scene, not only locally, but in many instances, nationally.

Watch for more information on the event, including information on the exciting entertainment to be provided (I know, but am sworn to

secrecy for now!). I hope you will join us on September 24 for this event. Along with our Membership Gala in December, the HOF is really one of the stellar events we are excited to provide for our blues family every year.

As a side note, with the help of Marina Teixeira, we were able to add some really nice lighting to shine on our HOF Members' photos at the Torch Club, and as of this year, we will have 70 HOF inductees' photos on the Torch Club Wall!

Also, I would be remiss if I didn't tell how thrilled and excited we are about the awesome, exciting, spectacular shows we are presenting in July and August. Brace yourself to enjoy a Zydeco party at Harlow's on July 23 with one of the brightest living Zydeco stars,

2022 Committee Chairs

Blues in the Schools - Rick Snyder

Hall of Fame - Sally Katen

Events - Mindy Giles

Membership - Linda McShane

Sponsorships/Fundraising - Barbara Ray

Public Relations & Social Media - Mindy Giles

Volunteer Coordinator - Lynette Shumway

Big Day of Giving - Rick Snyder

Merchandise - Lynette Shumway

Blue Notes Newsletter - Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley

IBC Competition - Renee Erickson Sullivan

Webmaster - Mindy Giles

Board of Directors Development - Open

Help keep the blues alive - Contact a Chair or Board Member to volunteer for the Board or a Committee!

The Sacramento Blues Society (SBS) is one of the oldest blues societies in California, founded in 1979. SBS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to preserve and promote blues music as an art form. SBS has kept the blues tradition alive in the Sacramento area by promoting the local blues music scene, bringing internationally renowned artists to the region, educating students with "Blues in the Schools", acknowledging our local blues artists, providing a Musicians' Crisis Fund and publishing the **Blue Notes** six times a year. SBS is an affiliate member of The Blues Foundation (which honored us with a 2015 Keeping the Blues Alive Award) which provides educational opportunities for young people with The Blues Foundation's "Blues in The Schools" Program.

Board of Directors Meetings - 2nd Tuesday of each Month, 7:00 p.m.

All SBS Members in good standing are invited to attend.

Meetings are held via Zoom; to request an invitation, email: president@sacblues.org

2023 Board of Directors

Sally Katen, President
Barbara Katen, Vice President
Jim Coats, Secretary
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Cari Chenkin
Rick Snyder
Lynette Shumway
Julio Covington
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President's Message, Con't. from P. 2

Terrance Simien! Tickets are on sale now and you better bring your dancing shoes because THIS is going to be one of those shows! When I say PARTY, I mean it!

On August 24 (that's right, I'm not finished!) we are bringing you the amazing Bernard Allison (see our interview with him this issue) which is another "no-miss show".

Let me tell you, it has been a real coup getting both these amazing artists (huge SBS thank you to our very own Mindy Giles). It's important that you attend and support the outstanding talent we strive to bring home to you; to continue to provide these top-notch shows, we need your attendance and support to keep it up.

Now, let's have a great rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you out and about supporting THE BLUES!

Blues and Bones Festival Returns to Angels Camp on September 23, 2023

Courtesy of Ron Roubidoux, Festival Co-Host

Get ready for a day filled with smokin' hot blues and mouth-watering BBQ at the Blues and Bones Festival on September 23, 2023. This annual festival is back for its 12th year, bringing together the best in Blues music and BBQ cuisine.

The festival will take place at the Calaveras Fairgrounds, with gates opening at 10:30 AM for VIP ticket holders and 11:00 AM for General Admission. Attendees can expect a lineup of talented blues artists from around the country, with performances from The Blood

Brothers (Albert Castiglia and Mike Zito), the Laurie Morvan Band, The



Blues Cartel featuring Jeremy Norris and the Evan Thomas Band. In addition to the music, there will be a variety of food and BBQ vendors offering up their finest slow-cooked meats, sides, and sauces for attendees to enjoy, as well as number of craft vendors.

"We are thrilled to bring the Blues and Bones Festival back to Angels Camp for another year," said festival originator Walt Duval. "This event has become a staple of the Angels Camp community, and we're excited to once again showcase the best in blues music and BBQ cuisine."

Tickets for the Blues and Bones BBQ Festival are on sale now. Children under 12 are free with a paying adult. Members of the Sacramento Blues Society are offered \$10 off either a VIP or GA ticket using promo code Sacblues at checkout when purchasing tickets from the Blues and Bones website. VIP tickets include a 30-minute early entrance allowing VIP ticket holders access to area with prime viewing of the stage, a festival poster and festival koozie.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.bluesandbones.com. Follow us on Facebook for updates and behind-the-scenes content leading up to the festival.

Pets of the SBS Compiled by Mindy Giles

In lieu of a calendar of all of us (since we are not all buff firefighters!), it occurred to me that photos of our nearest and dearest pals might put a smile on our BN readers' faces. This most likely will evolve into an ongoing featurette in future issues.

From: AJ (GM, Harlow's & The Starlet Room)

Name: Banjo Muttsflufsky

Breed: 100% Purebred American Mutt Terrier

Age: Timeless (14 human years)

Personality Trait: Can sneeze, high five and dance on command. Not usually at the same time.

Favorite Blues Musician: Banjo tells me he really likes John

Nemeth—particularly the song "Kool Aid Pickle." He's also a big fan of Zen VuDu, Chrissy O'Dell

and Aki Kumar. As a person who's seen a lot of "Blues & Bourbon" shows at Harlow's, I'd have to say that I think he's got pretty good taste. Banjo has begged me to stop trying to learn how to play the harmonica I got for Christmas, as he finds the sounds I make on it particularly terrifying. He recommended I leave that up to Mick Martin and Kyle Rowland. Banjo instead wishes I would learn to play the sax like Danny Sandoval.



From: Rick Snyder (SBS Board Member, BITS Chairperson)

Arlo (named after Arlo Guthrie) is a mixed breed Australian Shepherd rescued from the no kill

shelter in Lathrop when he was 8 weeks old. Tippy (whose full name is Tippy Canoe) is a mixed breed Labrador rescued from the no kill shelter in Lathrop when she was 6 weeks old. They were rescued a month apart and have always been with each other.

Their favorite artist is KK Martin, a fourth-generation talented singer/songwriter/guitarist/musician/arranger/producer/engineer/all-around entertainer born in West Monroe, Louisiana. If you're not familiar with KK, he's got an excellent blues "resume". Highlights include at age 16 landing a brief stint with Albert Collins, being a founding member of the band A La Carte, recording and played with Donald (Duck) Dunn, It's a Beautiful Day, Eric Burden, Booker T, Rick Derringer, Lester Chambers, Andy Johns, The Chambers Brothers, and Shark Island. He shared stages with, Journey, Van Halen, Motley Crue, Black Oak Arkansas, Blondie, UFO, Johnny Winters, Mike Campbell, (of the Heartbreakers) Glenn Campbell, and The Busboys, to name just a few. K.K. Martin is a musician's musician who "delivers polished material via its basic components - a man, a guitar, and a microphone".

Pets of the SBS, Con't. from P. 3

From: Liz Walker (SBS Events Committee member)

Mojo is a rescue who has brightened my life for the last six years. He likes to bark at cows and horses on TV and is down with "The King" (BB that is).



From Barbara Katen (SBS Vice President)

Daisy, one of three Chihuahuas, thinks she's the boss of everything. Being the youngest and smallest, she is definitely spoiled. Daisy enjoys trips to the Wine Country

to see her Dogparents (canine Godparents). Her hobbies include barking at everything and staring contests through the glass door with the feral cats that show up for breakfast every morning.

Daisy is a cheese gourmand and is also fond of Brussels sprouts.

Daisy loves the blues and her personal favorites songs are "I Want My Dog to Live Longer" by Curtis Salgado and "My Dog Riley" by Victor Wainwright.



From Mindy Giles (SBS Events Chairperson and Publicist)

Husband Greg and I built a "catio" off the back porch after we saw an article in *The New Yorker*. There

Fetch, our beautiful fluffy calico princess (six years old) can regularly join us in a late night cocktail and music (blues, jazz, classical) with kibble on the side. Thanks to



SBS President Sally

Katen's Baby Mama, we have VERY recently adopted a wacky brother-sister team. **Tina** (for Tina Turner) is the little feisty Siamese, and **Bunty** (a Scottish term of endearment) is her rambunctious coal black brother. In retrospect, I should have named them "Rollin' and Tumblin'."

From Julio Covington (SBS Board Member, all-star volunteer, BITS souvenir jewelry designer)

I've had this guy since 1982. I hope he counts!! "**The Red Rooster**"—also known as "Little Red Rooster"—has attained classic status in the blues repertoire. The song is credited to Willie Dixon, but the rooster—a symbol of male sexual potency—strutted his stuff in the blues long before Dixon and Wolf recorded it in 1961. Charlie Patton, Howlin' Wolf's mentor and running buddy in the 1920s, released his "Banty Rooster Blues" in 1929.

"The Red Rooster"/ "Little Red Rooster" has been covered by such disparate artists as Sam Cooke, the Grateful Dead, the Jesus and



Mary Chain, and Bryan Adams. The best-known cover, though, is by the Rolling Stones, recorded in 1964 at Chess Records in Chicago, in homage to Wolf and Dixon. The Stones closely follow Wolf's original, with Brian Jones on slide guitar and Mick Jagger turning in a nuanced vocal with an undertone of sexual menace (not bad for a 21-year-old English boy).

BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET

IN MIDTOWN (ABOVE HARLOW'S) (2708 J ST. SACRAMENTO)

JULY 2023 SCHEDULE

JULY 5TH:
NO SHOW - HAPPY AFTER 4TH!

JULY 12TH:
MARK HUMMEL
W/ SPECIAL GUEST, LEGENDARY GUITARIST
JUNIOR WATSON
\$22: GA / \$20: SBS MEMBERS

JULY 19TH:
TERRY HANCK BAND
\$18: GA / \$16: SBS MEMBERS

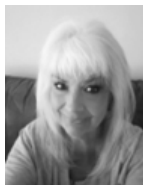
JULY 26TH:
HOWELDEVINE
\$16: GA / \$14: SBS MEMBERS

UPTOWN & LOWDOWN. 2 SETS OF BLUES, DRINKS/FOOD & DANCE FLOOR. 5:30PM DOORS / 6:30PM SHOW

What's on your Playlist?

By Barbara Katen

Hey folks, if you don't send your top five playlist songs to me at bkaten2@gmail.com, and put Top 5 Songs in the subject line, I will slowly work my way through the SBS membership and contact you! So don't be surprised when you get an email or call from me (you can run but you can't hide). And I know it's difficult to limit your songs to only five, there's so much incredible music, but space is limited. Five people, five songs. So, come on, what do you say? Send me an email and let me know what's on your playlist! Please!



Playlist, Con't. from P. 4

Laurel Coppess

- "San Ho Zay" – Freddie King
- "Heads Up" – Freddie King
- "Boom Boom" – John Lee Hooker

Cari Chenkin

- "Down Home Blues" – ZZ Hill
- "Crosscut Saw" – Albert King
- "Hideaway" – Freddie King
- "Mama, He Treats Your Daughter Mean" – Ruth Brown
- "Sugar in My Bowl" – Bessie Smith, Nina Simone

Jan Kelley

- "It Hurts Me Too" – Kenny Neal
- "Ring of Fire" – Ruthie Foster
- "The Door Was Always Open" – Keb Mo
- "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay" – Otis Redding
- "My Heart Bleeds Blue" – Deborah Coleman
- "Heartbreaker" – Mick Martin

Marcel Smith

- "A Change is Gonna Come" – Sam Cooke
- "Still Called the Blues" – Johnnie Taylor
- "Mr. Sexy Man" – Nellie Tiger Travis
- "Don't Hurt No More" – Buddy Ace
- "Hole in the Wall" – Mel Walters

Bob Cosman

- "The Blues Keep Falling" – James Cotton
- "Broken Promises" – Michael Burks
- "What Kind of Woman is This?" – Buddy Guy
- "Saint Gabriel" – Marcia Ball
- "My Jug and I" – Otis Rush

6th Annual Spring Blues Fling!

Swabbie's on the River, April 29,

2023 By Jan Kelley Photos by Cari Chenkin



It was another fine day at Swabbie's on the River with ideal weather and a great lineup of blues artists. Brought to us by TcKing Productions, this event featured Andy Santana & the West Coast Playboys, 'Mighty' Mike Schermer, and Daniel Castro.



Andy Santana on harmonica and vocals started the day off in grand fashion



along with Stephen Kimball on guitar, Sid Morris on keys, Steve Ehrmann on bass, and Paul Revelli on drums. This fabulous band behind Andy re-



mained on stage (minus Stephen Kimball) to back both Mike Schermer and



then Daniel Castro. It's always a fun time when



these particular fellas get together to show off their chops while having fun doing it. The audience reaps the reward!

Andy was hitting many of the old blues masters' songs this day, with the likes of Jr. Wells' "Things I Do," Albert Collins' "Honey

Hush", and "Scratch My Back" from Slim Harpo, along with many more great standards. Andy can sure play a mean harp!

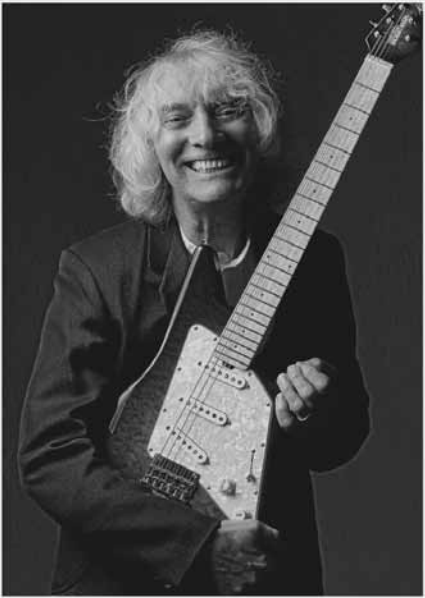
Up next - "Mighty" Mike Schermer with his boyish grin, distinctive twang in his voice & mighty guitar playing! The crowd showed their love for Mike and the songs he played! Some familiar ones to me

SWELL PRODUCTIONS & THE SOFIA PRESENT

ALBERT LEE

WITH VICKY LEE & BOB WOODS

"The ultimate virtuoso! His skill is extraordinary and he's gifted on just about every level!"
- ERIC CLAPTON



SATURDAY, JULY 8 • THE SOFIA

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were "Ain't That the Way Love Goes," "Castin' My Spell," which brought up Andy Santana again on harp, including "Take My Hand," while finishing with "Hide-away."

Daniel Castro continuously amazes me, no

matter how many times I've seen him perform! His wizardry on the fret dazzles me at times and his voice is pretty great too! He favored us with many of his songs from his CDs: like "Johnny Nitro," and "Maureena," from his album



Desperate Rain. One of my favorites from his album *Live at the Saloon* included his long rendition of "Cross Cut Saw." The surprise of the day was Daniel's wife, Julie Friend, who sang some pretty tasty tunes on her own. Great couple, great sets, great show!

For the grand finale, every one of these talented musicians returned to the stage for a pro jam that left the crowd yelling for more.

Watch for announcements of this fall's upcoming Blues show in October at Swabbie's!

Woo-Hoo, It's All About the IBC!

As our President Sally Katen mentioned, this year marks the return of the SBS to participation in the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge, after an absence of years! Following are a review of our IBC Competition, information on upcoming IBC fundraisers and a solicitation for those SBS members who might be interested in attending the event.

And Then There was One: SBS International Blues Challenge Review

By Laurel Coppess

Photos by Paul Luscher

The International Blues Challenge (IBC), Sacramento version, took place on Sunday afternoon, May 21, 2023. Held at the newly renovated and reopened concert venue The Boardwalk in Orangevale, the audience of 80 to 100 people enjoyed an ohana experience, seated at tables made from repurposed surfboards and surrounded by island-inspired décor. Paper umbrellas were nearly ubiquitous drink garnishes, while a food menu featuring Hawaiian and Polyne-

sian-style comestibles completed the island vibe. While the venue was decidedly tropical, by contrast the music performed by the entrants was of a different flavor, ranging all the way from energetic blues rock to gospel-tinged acoustic.



With the original number of four contest entrants having dwindled to two by show time, it was decided by the powers that be to have those two remaining acts compete head-to-head for the chance to

represent the Sacramento Blues Society at the IBC competition in Memphis and to earn the \$1,000 in sponsorship money to be used for that purpose.

First to take the stage



was the Angel Reyes Band. A four-piece group consisting of guitarist-vocalists Angel Reyes and Tim Barnes, backed by the driving rhythms of Dwayne O'Neal on

bass and Pat Balcom (aka Rat-a-tat Pat) on drums, they hit it hard from the get-go. Following the rules set by the IBC, they were given a maximum allotted time of 20 minutes in which they were expected to perform five to six songs, with higher scoring potential available for original material



as compared to tunes written, recorded, or performed by others. Surrounded by fog machines and stage lighting effects, the band delivered a vigorous performance which the audience rewarded by clapping enthusiastically at the conclusion of each song. With the exception of announcing the titles of their songs, plus a single interlude necessitated by the need to tune a guitar, the band kept spoken communication to a minimum, preferring to let their instru-

ments and song vocals do the talking. Following this strategy, they deftly delivered a high-energy set within their allotted time frame.

Kyle Rowland, then took the stage as the remaining competitor. Performing as a solo act in which he played both guitar and harmonica as well



as the vocals, Kyle delivered a heartfelt, off-the-cuff performance that included several of his own originals. Playing a resonator guitar and at times using a slide, he deftly transitioned between blowing harmonica and rendering vocals. Taking much more of a conversational style than the previous group, Kyle gave the background stories on his originals as well as inviting

the audience to participate in singing along on some of his tunes.

At the conclusion of Kyle's performance, Liz Walker, SBS member and event emcee, took the stage to entertain and enlighten the crowd about the selection



process while the judges awarded their final points and tabulated their scores. After a short, suspenseful period during which the crowd anxiously awaited the results, Liz's

announcement that Kyle Rowland would be our SBS representative was greeted with tremendous applause.

The IBC competition will take place on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee January 20 - 24, 2024.

Reached by phone after the competition, Kyle stated that while he

was looking forward to seeing friends both old and new in Memphis and eating some really good barbeque, his biggest goal by far was to go beyond the potential for individual accolades to ensure that other areas of the country, and in fact the entire world, were clued in to the fact that there is a thriving blues scene here in Sacramento, California.

Congratulations and best of luck in Memphis, Kyle Rowland!

Memphis or Bust!

By Liz Walker

Sac Blues had a fantastic day May 21 when picking our representative to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Plenty of folks were on hand to cheer on The Angel Reyes Band and Kyle Rowland. The judges used the provided criteria and made their choice clear - Kyle Rowland was the winner.

Have you ever been to the IBC? It's a great time. Hundreds of bands and musicians from all around the world gather together to play and celebrate the blues. There's plenty to see and do all around Memphis.

Stay tuned for opportunities to support Kyle in his efforts to get to Beale St. There will be some fundraiser shows and a gofundme link to use to make your donation easy to do.

We're all very proud of the musician and young man that Kyle has become and have great faith he'll do well in the IBC. Hope you join us January 16th in Memphis, TN.

Heading to Memphis!

Wanna join us in support of Kyle Rowland in the 2024 International Blues Challenge? No commitment at this time, just gauging interest in a travel group. Contact Liz Walker: lizwalker53@yahoo.com.



BITS Showcase May 4, 2023 Woodlake Lounge, Sacramento

by Rick Snyder, BITS Chairman

Photos by Mindy Giles

Wow, talk about a beautiful setting for our 2023 Showcase! The Woodlake Lounge was precisely that: an outdoor patio with a large cement stage and adult and not-so-adult libations were available at the booth on the deck. If you walked to the front patio a short distance away, hot dogs and hamburgers were available at a reasonable cost. Reasonable because each one was a meal in itself!



Lew Fratis, our artist-in-residence at West Campus High School, did a fantastic job teaching the kids in his group how to work together as a band and utilize unusual instruments to play the blues. The band called themselves "The Blue

Akoyas," apparently named after a well-known Japanese pearl. Lew Fratis stepped in as their bass player and lead singer. Jonathan Ramirez Santiago and Morgan Ly handled the guitar duties.



Sunli Yang tickled the ivories, and Tien Nguyen played the Dan Trang (a Vietnamese Zither). The Blue Akoyas were ecstatic about



being on stage in front of a live audience, and their set reflected the excitement. The set list consisted of various traditional Bblues songs and one Vietnamese folk song played on the Dan Trang. The audience loved these guys, and the feeling was

mutual.

Next up was the Ryder Green Band consisting of Ryder Green on guitar and vocals, Nathaniel Chung as half the rhythm section on the five-string bass, and Myles Silveria doing double duty as the second half of the



rhythm section on the drums. It was a killer set of Ryder's originals with a few well-known blues tunes thrown in for good measure. One of the set's highlights was Ryder inviting Pinkie Rideau to come up and sing a song with the band. The other highlight was Sergio



Zazueta (a BITS alumni) being called to the stage to swap licks with Ryder. Talk about some tasty riffs!

Closing the show was our BITS Alumni Band including Steve

Boettner, former music teacher at Rosemont High School and a long-time BITS Artist in Residence and supporter. Amaya Levels was the singer for the band. She celebrated her birthday with us (she turned 21 and partook in some



adult beverages to celebrate), and as a Steve Boettner/BITS alumna, she's the President of the BITS Alumni Association. She owned the stage during the band's performance! Sergio Zazueta handled

the guitar and is absolutely amazing. Another BITS Alumnus and current student at the university, Sergio captivated the audience with his playing. The rhythm section consisted of Myles Silveria on drums and AJ Joyce on the bass. With only two rehearsals playing together, these two were the rhythm guys I would want in my band if I ever got past my stage fright and formed a band.



Our Showcase is always presented in conjunction with Big Day of Giving (BDGG). This year's Big Dog event raised a couple thousand dollars for BITS and the Sacramento Blues Society.

So, although we did have a little inclement weather, it did not keep the true believers from attending and having a great time. If you weren't there,

we missed you. If you were there, thanks for your support! Whether you were there or not, if you contributed, thanks for helping us to Keep the "Blues Fire" burning for blues lovers and soon-to-be blues lovers in the greater Sacramento area!



Fantastic Negrito at Harlow's

By Barbara Katen

This three-time Grammy winner for Best Contemporary Blues album (2017, 2019 & 2021) who hails from Oakland, blew me away! I've long wanted to see him perform but never had the opportunity until May 9, when he performed at Harlow's Night Club in Sacramento. WOW. WOW. WOW. I'm hooked!

Negrto called the three shows pulled together quickly (Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Sacramento) "emergency shows" to get experience with his band as Bruce Springsteen had recently asked him to be the opening act on Springsteen's European tour. And man, he is more than ready! He might very well outshine Springsteen. Seriously, he's that damn good.

Once Negrto hit the stage, he delivered songs from his previous four records as well as his most recent, *White Jesus Black Problems*, a



concept album released in 2022. Inspired by a search into his ancestry, he discovered that his seventh generation grandmother was a Scottish-indentured servant who entered into common law marriage with an African-American enslaved man, in open defiance of the racist laws of 1750s colonial Virginia. Heavy music content about standing up to inhuman-

ity and brutality with love as your only weapon. Genius. This man is a genius.

Negrto stayed on stage for several hours and the performance was riveting. No encore but what was there left for him to sing or say? He had said and done it all.

After leaving the stage he hurried over to his merch table to smile, converse and sign autographs for the many fans in attendance. He took a few minutes to talk with yours truly, and I was enthralled. Yeah, I would have run away with him after his performance if he'd asked me to! It's ok to laugh, I did when I realized what I was thinking. If you missed this show...well, you missed a great one. An absolutely FANTASTIC show by FANTASTIC NEGRITO.

"Blue Sunday" Update

by Cari Chenkin

April's band was The Evan Thomas Band, and May's band was The Bobby Young Project. Please see their reviews below.



June's "Blue Sunday", which featured The NJR Trio occurred on June 25, too late for review publication in this issue; look for it in the September-October issue. The Dave Earl Band will star in July's "Blue Sunday", and on deck for the August date are the Bill Mylar Blues Band. See you at the Torch on the last Sunday of each month!

April 30, 2023 - The Evan Thomas Band

By Cari Chenkin

Photos by Mindy Giles, Julio Covington & Cari Chenkin

For Blue Sunday on April 30 at the Torch Club, we presented the Evan Thomas Blues Band. What a show they put on! They dished out solid sets of great blues that had the crowd on their feet dancing from start of show to the last notes of the final song.

Consisting of Evan Thomas on guitar and bass, George Franklin on bass, Wally Schnalle on drums and Noel Catura on sax, the band covered a number of blues classics, as well as some fine original songs.

Opening the show with a rousing version of the Louis Jordan classic "Let the Good Times Roll", the good times did indeed roll. Other notable tunes included "Red House", "Empty Arms", a



great funky version of "Walkin' the Dog" (Rufus Thomas would have been proud!) and "The Thrill Is Gone".

The second set started off with "Born



Under a Bad Sign" and went on to engage the crowd with more, including "9 Fatties & a Pinner" and "Little Wing".

We had a good-sized crowd who all appreciated the band's repertoire and sound, and everyone had smiles on their faces – including the band!



May 28, 2023 - The Bobby Young Project
By Julio Covington

Watching these performers perform is like a lesson in American blues/rock/soul history. (Bobby Young is a teacher in Oakland, CA). They teach you humility while showing you how it's done (Playing live music that is).

The father-son duo fronts a group of musicians who love to play their stuff. They'll make you put away that cell phone and find some

space on the dancing floor... if you're fast enough!! Band members included: Bobby Young - guitar/vocals; Nick Young – guitar; Latrosse Harris - drums/vocals; Gig Anderson – keyboards; Edgar San Gabriel - bass

It was a special occasion for me, as I was celebrating a birthday a few days earlier on May 25. Turns out it was the same birthday day for Bobby Young, and since we



are both of Native American-African descent it was fun to show off the Native American fringe jacket that was lonely in the closet. Also, his surprise birthday serenade for me and a female guest was also for Bobby Young! What an excellent time!!

It was The Bobby Young Project's first time at the fabulous Torch Club on Sacramento Blues Society's Blue Sunday (the last Sunday of every month) and they were very excited to play here. IT WILL NOT BE THE LAST!

THE TORCH CLUB

JULY

THU 6TH - THE NTH POWER 9PM
SAT 15TH - COFFIS BROTHERS 9PM
WED 19TH - MICHAEL BAKER & THE MIDNIGHT OIL 8:30PM
FRI 21ST - LEW FRATIS & JIMMY PAILER 6PM
SUN 30TH SBS BLUES SUNDAY WITH THE DAVE EARL BAND 4-7

AUGUST

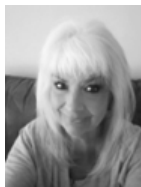
THU 3RD - REED TURCHI 9PM
SAT 5TH DANNY SANDOVAL & HIS AMIGOS 9PM
WED 9TH - THE DELTAZ 8:30
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FRI 25TH - SISTER SPEAK 9PM
SUN 27TH - SBS BLUES SUNDAY W/BILL MYLAR BLUES BAND 4-7
THU 31ST - DANNY SANDOVAL & HIS AMIGOS 9PM

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A Casual Conversation with Bernard

Allison by Barbara Katen

Just imagine my delight when Bernard Allison agreed to be interviewed for the *Blue Notes* ahead of his upcoming Sacramento Blues Society appearance at Harlow's on August 24! Actually, delight is an understatement. Ecstatic would be more accurate. And I would be remiss if I didn't give credit to Mindy Giles for not only securing Bernard for the August show but also for hooking me up with Bernard so I could ask for the interview. Before reading on, let me just say this Bernard Allison is "da bomb", tickets for the show are on sale now and you really don't want to miss this opportunity to see him LIVE. OK, and away we go!



Blue Notes (BN): Your father, Luther Allison, was an important figure in Chicago blues. Sometimes a son or daughter will choose not to follow in a parent's footsteps. What drew you to playing music?

Bernard Allison (BA): My dad actually didn't want me to follow in his footsteps. He didn't want me to go through the struggles he had. But I wanted to accept the challenge and play music like my dad.

BN: Who other than your father, was a career role model in your youth?

BA: Koko Taylor. I credit her for teaching me how to back up someone, as well as teaching me life on the road.

BN: What was it like being around colorful figures such as Muddy Waters, Albert King, Hound Dog Taylor, and Bobby Rush as a youngster? Any stories you can share?

BA: Bobby Rush is my godfather! He and my mom grew up together in Mississippi. He played bass guitar in my dad's band in the 60s. He also introduced my parents! My dad was very focused on the music and Bobby told my mom "The only way to get his attention is to take his guitar," which she did, and he had to go to her house to get it back. So that's where it all began for my parents.

BN: How did Johnny Winter and Stevie Ray Vaughan impact your musical approach?

BA: Both Stevie & Johnny were like family and good friends of my dad. Johnny taught me how to play open tuning slide guitar and Stevie taught me to not try copying others. For example, "If you like Albert King, find yourself within rather than copy him".

BN: What was it like being in Koko Taylor's band? What did she teach you, if anything, about being a performer? What exactly does the job of being a bandleader entail?

BA: I basically answered that previously. Being a bandleader consists of rehearsing the band, creating arrangements to the liking of the main artist.

BN: You've forged your own musical style over the years. Did you have any specific goals in mind as you built your approach?

BA: I just had the mindset to progress as a guitarist & vocalist learning from the roots. And with age they both become more mature with time.

BN: A favorite early track by you is your version of "Voodoo Chile." How did you manage to make a song closely identified with Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan sound so uniquely your own?

BA: I actually thought it was an SRV song. LOL. I never really listened to Hendrix prior to Stevie. I asked him how he came up with the song and he replied "That's not my song. It's a Jimi Hendrix song. I just play it how I feel it." So, I also play it how I feel it.

BN: Tell us about how you crafted songs for your latest album *Highs and Lows* and about your ongoing relationship with producer Jim Gaines.

BA: I do all my arrangements with my multitrack recorder at home. I put down a bass line, guitar line, keyboard parts, and click track, leaving the spots open for vocals. Then my bassist will come and listen to my bass line and puts his feel and ideas to the track. Jim Gaines is family, and he had a great relationship with my dad. We work very well together. It's pretty special and relaxed working with him.

BN: Your album *Highs and Lows*, recorded in 2022, was nominated for a Blues Music Award for Best Blues Rock Album. Are there any plans to get back into the studio soon?

BA: For the moment we have other projects coming this fall and next year. So, we will wait for our next studio album. But I have plenty of songs in the can when the time comes to record.

BN: It's obvious music fans love your playing. You've said you try to avoid overplaying on your recordings. What do you mean exactly?

BA: On my latest release *Highs and Lows* I really wanted to focus on good lyrics and arrangements. There's plenty of guitar on the album. I played what was needed to support each track. Performing live is different, I can stretch out and play a lot more. We try to make a show out of our live performances. I like to take the listeners on a dynamic roller coaster ride. LOL.

BN: Of all the cities in Europe, why Paris and when did you decide to make it home?

BA: My dad was living in Paris. He invited me to come over and record his live albums *Live in Berlin* and *More from Berlin*. During the rehearsals he realized how much I had advanced making arrangements and my guitar playing, etc. So, he asked me to stay and become his band leader. Which led me to stay and tour with him from 1989 -1992. After that I started my own group and began to record and tour under the name The Bernard Allison Group.

BN: How does it feel to be back touring in the U.S.?

BA: It's always good to play in our own country when the opportunity comes. Being a dominant European touring artist doesn't always allow us to perform consistently in the USA. And the success of my last three releases has drawn a lot of attention across the world. So, my management and agents search for the best options for my group.

BN: What would you consider the highlight of your career so far?

BA: I'd have to say playing with my dad for the first time at the Chicago Blues Festival at Navy Pier when I was 12 years old. A dream came true on stage with my dad.

BN: What kept you busy and how did you cope during the height of the Covid pandemic when audiences stayed home?

BA: I basically had the time to create *Highs & Lows* and get some much-needed down time as well.

BN: What do you think you would be doing if you weren't a musician?

BA: I most likely would have continued playing basketball. Other than that, I'd turn to professional bass fishing.

BN: How would you describe yourself as a musician in one sentence?

BA: A very open-minded, well-trained musician.

Casual Conversation w. Bernard Allison, Con't. from P. 11

BN: What would you consider to be your greatest extravagance?

BA: Moving to Europe in 1989 and playing with my dad prior to starting my own career

BN: What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?

BA: Being the winner of two Independent Blues Awards for my *Songs from The Road* album, for Best Male Blues Artist & Best Live Recording.

BN: When and where were you happiest and what is your idea of perfect happiness?

BA: I'm pretty happy at the moment living in St Paul, Minnesota. Very relaxed & stress free.

BN: If you have a life motto, what is it?

BA: "Leave Your Ego-Play the Music-Love the People!" Luther Allison, the Allison way.

BN: If you were going to have a dinner party and could invite any four guests (living or dead), who would you invite and why?

BA: Bobby Rush, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Johnny Winter, Koko Taylor. They're all family and shaped me to where I am today musically.

BN: If you could snap your fingers and change anything in the world, what would it be?

BA: Racism & the war going on in Ukraine.

BN: Favorite Album of all time?

BA: *Luther Allison Live in Paris*

BN: Favorite Quote?

BA: "Leave Your Ego-Play the Music-Love the People!"

BN: Favorite Movie?

BA: *Scarface*

BN: Favorite Food?

BA: Seafood

BN: Favorite Book?

BA: *A Pit Boss Wood Pellet Grill & Smoker Cookbook*

BN: Favorite Drink?

BA: Sweet Tea

BN: Favorite guilty pleasure?

BA: Playing *Call of Duty*

BN: Favorite leisure activity?

BA: Fishing

BN: Favorite City?

BA: Hamburg, Germany

BN: Biggest Pet Peeve?

BA: Someone slurping when drinking

BN: Cat or Dog?

BA: Dog

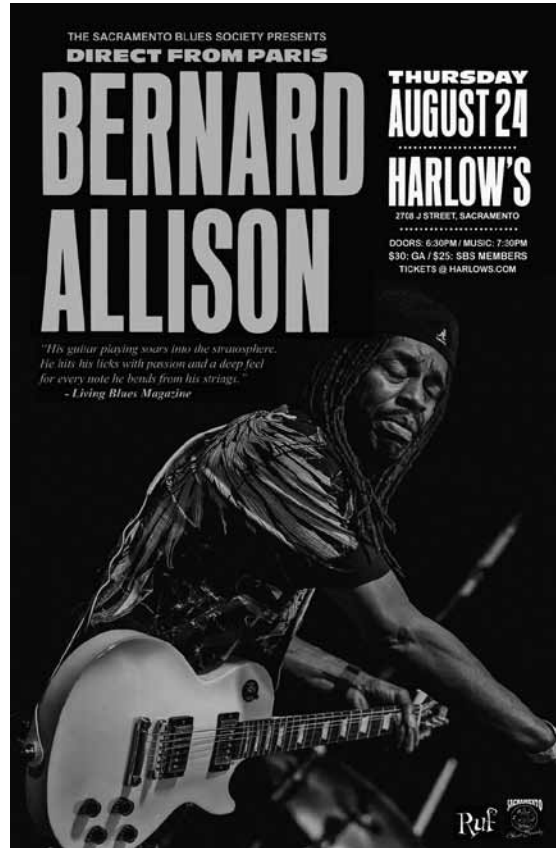
BN: One thing you can't live without?

BA: My Guitar

BN: What poster, if any, did you have on your wall growing up?

BA: *Luther Allison Live in Paris* Tour Poster

For information on Bernard Allison, please visit <https://bernardallison.com>. And get your tickets NOW to see him LIVE at Harlow's on August 24!



Peace, Love and Zydeco! *By Mindy Giles*

We are psyched to make our official announcement of a brand new JUST BOOKED event: "**Louisiana Zydeco/Soul Dance Party!**" with Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience is Sunday, July 23!* At Harlow's, 2708 J. St./Sacramento; Doors: 6pm; Music: 7pm

We will have a big dance floor, which means limited seating! 100 seats. So-- if you want a guaranteed seat, buy in advance soon. On the ticket detail page, this is called "Standard Seating." Cost is \$30. If you want to get in to dance and do not need a guaranteed seat, the SBS member discounted price is \$25. Get this discount with code: SACBLUES5. Tickets: <https://www.harlows.com/event/louisiana-zydeco-soul-dance-party-with-terrance-simien-and-the-zydeco-experience/harlows/sacramento-california/>

You might know Terrance from headlining at the New Orleans JazzFest every year...or from Paul Simon's legendary 1986 *Graceland* record, or his cool performance in the 1986 Detective/romance movie "*The Big Easy*", with Dennis Quaid, Ellen Barkin and Solomon Burke! There is so much more to him... read on from his official bio:

"For over 40 years, two-time GRAMMY award winning, 8th generation Louisiana Creole, Terrance Simien has been shattering the myths and often misinformation, about what his traditional Zydeco roots



Peace, Love & Zydeco, Con't. from P. 12

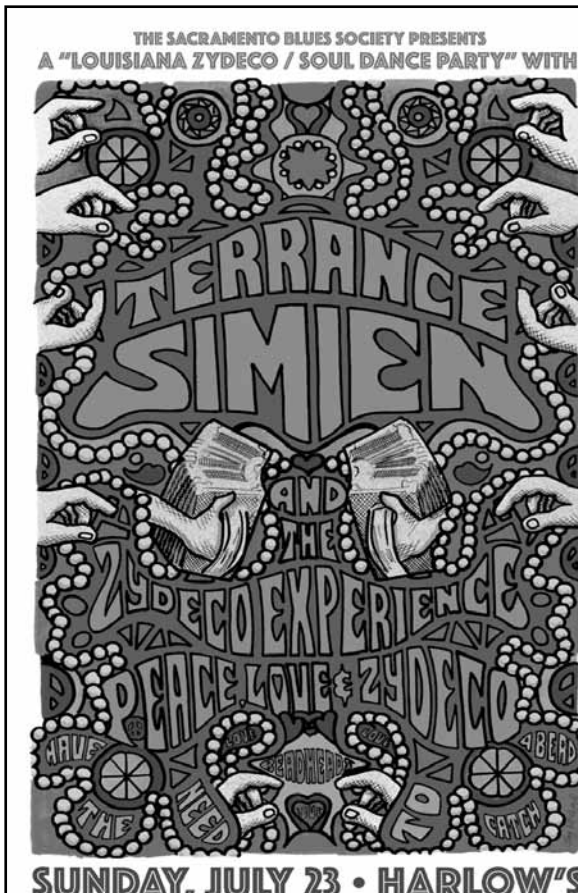
music is. It is American roots music, born of the black and mixed race French-speaking Creoles of South Louisiana. It's exhilarating and as complex and diverse as the Creoles. It's also more than just one rhythm and one tempo. Sure, it's about dancing; "less dancing please", said no-one ever! But, it's also about grooving in place and dancing freely.

It's definitely about the vocal performance as well. Terrance's lead vocals and the stunning three-part harmonies of he, Danny and Stan – are proof positive that vocal performances matter – a lot!

Zydeco is dynamic and evolving – remaining relevant to allow its artists to express themselves within their genre without constraints. The late Dr. John, Terrance's friend/hero, once told him "If the music ain't changin, it's dyin."

Simien has become one of the most respected and accomplished artists in American roots music today. He and his band mates have performed over 10,000 concerts and toured millions of miles to over 45 countries during their eventful career. Their music has been placed in multiple theatre release films, including a Disney film, and TV and radio commercials. They've shared studio and stage with legends the Meters, Art Neville, Los Lobos, Marcia Ball, the late Robert Palmer and Dave Matthews Band, to name a few. They've been cultural ambassadors for their country since the mid 1980s as part of the U.S. State Department's ongoing cultural diplomacy tours. They performed in Ukraine twice with the U.S. Embassy in Kiev and toured Russia for two weeks in 2015.

In 2023, Simien celebrates 40 years as a full-time professional touring and recording artist." [*This SBS concert is just 10 days after a zydeco dance party from another great name in Louisiana music royalty. C.J. Chenier & His Red-Hot Louisiana Band is at Harlow's on Thursday, July 13!]



Halo Rider Review

May 31 "Blues & Bourbon Wednesdays" @ The Starlet Room

By Julio Covington & Mindy Giles



Halo Rider was an experience in a live electronic violin environment I've never seen in person. I've always loved Celtic violin (Celtic Woman) and this was not your grandparents' violin music!!! I was, as they say, BLOWN AWAY!

Halo Rider is: Markus James, vocals, cigar box guitar, slide guitar and banjo; Anne Harris, violin, vocals; Willy Jordan,

drums, percussion. The energy and audience interaction were a historical event. Why, you may ask?? Halo Rider's first appearance in Northern Cali. Yep, Mindy Giles, aka Swell Productions educating Sactown like no one else!!

Here's what Mindy told me: "I've known Markus for over 16 years after seeing an amazing 2005



documentary he produced about his trips to Mali, **Timbuktab**. That cross-cultural collaboration of his blues-influenced originals and the original root of the blues from the West African musicians he met and traveled with was trance-inducing, mystical for me. You can hear the direct line of Ali Farka Toure and John Lee Hooker and Hill Country blues all mixed in together. I'm so glad he and Anne Harris met each other- she embodies that same evocative, cinematic world/blues spirit. Hearing them create, with drummer Willy Jordan, is enveloping yourself in a spiritual "halo" for a few hours. But the sound and feeling resonate much longer!"

SBS volunteers "tailgating" with pride all night long. (Thank you for the invitation to be there, Ms.Mindy Giles). Harlow's/Starlet management and staff are like family! SBS members/volunteers are part of the foundation of bringing live music to Sacramento. And kudos to the blues community of Sactown, my new family!!

Halo Rider's genuine appreciation for the audience was heartfelt - they love their fans! Thank you for the time to talk and meet you all! Their debut record is coming out early next year, and Mindy says she will have them back for a release party!

I'm on the mailing list, are you?? (www.halorider.com)

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2023 Blues Music Awards Winners!

Last issue, we published the list of nominees for the 2023 Blues Music Awards. Here are the winners! Congratulations to all!

Award	Winner
Acoustic Album	<i>Mississippi Son</i> , Charlie Musselwhite
Acoustic Artist	Doug MacLeod
Album of the Year	<i>The Blues Don't Lie</i> , Buddy Guy
B.B. King Entertainer of the Year	Tommy Castro
Band of the Year	Tedeschi Trucks Band
Best Emerging Artist Album	<i>Who Is He?</i> , Dylan Triplett
Blues Rock Album	<i>I Got Love</i> , Albert Castiglia
Blues Rock Artist	Albert Castiglia
Contemporary Blues Album	<i>The Blues Don't Lie</i> , Buddy Guy
Contemporary Blues Female Artist	Ruthie Foster
Contemporary Blues Male Artist	Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
Instrumentalist, Bass	Danielle Nicole
Instrumentalist, Drums	Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith
Instrumentalist, Guitar	Laura Chavez
Instrumentalist, Harmonica	John Nemeth
Instrumentalist, Horn	Deanna Bogart
Instrumentalist, Piano (Pinetop Perkins Award)	Anthony Geraci

Award	Winner
Instrumentalist, Vocals	Shemekia Copeland
Song of the Year	"The Blues Don't Lie", Tom Hambridge, Writer
Soul Blues Album	<i>In Too Deep</i> , Sugaray Rayford
Soul Blues Female Artist	Thornetta Davis
Soul Blues Male Artist	Curtis Salgado
Traditional Blues Album	<i>May Be the Last Time</i> , John Nemeth
Traditional Blues Female Artist (Koko Taylor Award)	Sue Foley
Traditional Blues Male Artist	John Primer

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www.anthonypaule.com

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http://www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Earl

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www.blindlemonpeel.com

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www.bobbyyoungproject.com

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www.carmenrattiband.com/

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chrissieodell@gmail.com

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https://www.facebook.com/darylrvrowland

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goatburglar@gmail.com

The Hucklebucks

www.thehucklebucks.com

Jeremy Norris & The Blues Cartel

www.dangerousblues.com

Julie & the Jukes

http://julieandthejukes.com

The Katie Knipp Band

katieknipp.com

The Luni Tones

info@rickreedpr.com

The Mick Martin Big Blues Band

www.reverbNation.com/mick-martinsbigbluesband

The Midtown Creepers

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Nedra & Julio NJR Music

www.njrmusic.com

The Neon Moon Band

www.neonmoon.band

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www.oldbluesdude.com

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https://pinkie-rideau-1.ueniweb.com

The Ray "Catfish" Copeland Band

www.raycatfishcopeland.com

Red's Blues

www.redsbluesband.com

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www.rickestrin.com

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https://roosterrockandroll.com

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www.kylerowlandblues.com

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toddmorganmusic.com

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out to "The Sacramento Blues Society" to SBS, PO Box 60580, Sacramento, CA 95860-0580. We need your continued support. When you renew your membership, why not add an additional contribution? Every little bit helps!

Fund Raiser for Mike Zito's Wife Laura

Sad news from guitarist Mike Zito - his wife Laura is going into hospice care after battling pancreatic cancer, and Mike will take a hiatus from touring to spend time with her. Friends have established a GoFundMe page for Laura Zito, which you can access via Mike's band Facebook page, if you want to and are able to help the family during this difficult time.



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