

A bi-monthly publication of the Sacramento Blues Society



BLUE NOTES!

NOV-DEC
2022
ISSUE 43
VOL. 6



President's Column

By Sally Katen



As we approach the annual December SBS Membership meeting/party/celebration to be held on December 11, 2022, I would like to address SBS membership.

Membership is the life blood of any non-profit organization, and the Sacramento Blues Society is no exception. We count on you, our members, to keep the SBS alive and vital. Your membership fees are instrumentally important in funding our programs like Blues in the Schools (BITS), the Gene Chambers Emergency Fund, the Mick Martin Student Fund and beginning this year, the eagerly anticipated Charlie Baty Scholarship Fund at Sacramento State.

We thank you for your continuing support. We know you stick with us because you believe in our mission and what we accomplish. Included in the benefits of membership, we currently offer our bi-monthly newsletter, the Blue Notes, our annual Holiday Membership event, and SBS discounts to numerous blues-related shows and events. Of course we'd love to do more for our members. And with your help, maybe someday soon we can.

If you have friends or know someone who loves the blues and/or enjoys live music, help us promote the mission of the Sacramento Blues Society by encouraging them to become members. The more members we have, the bigger and more frequent the events we can provide. We all benefit. If you see us out and about, introduce your friends to us so we can share the warmth and friendliness of our membership. We really are a family...the Sacramento Blues Society Family, and all are welcome.

We wish you Happy Holidays and look forward to seeing you in 2023!

Blues In The Schools (BITS) Update

by Rick Snyder, BITS Chairman

Believe it or not, we have been very, very busy. Our first in-person elementary school assembly was on July 7th at John Reith Elementary. Red's Blues was the band hired and Beth Reid-Grigsby did a good job presenting. We did two presentations and the kids seemed to enjoy it.

Our next in-person presentation was for the Natomas Homeschool Association at the Crossing Church. Mick Martin, Kyle Rowland, Jimmy Pailer, Pete Philips, and AJ Joyce were the musicians and



2021 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 - Sally Katen

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, 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

2022 Board of Directors

Sally Katen, President

Barbara Katen, Vice President

Secretary - Jim Coats

Renee Erickson Sullivan,
Treasurer

Rex Smith, Parliamentarian

Cari Chenkin

Rick Snyder

Barbara Ray

Lynette Shumway

Sacramento Blues Society Publications

Blue Notes, Bi-Monthly Newsletter -

Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley, Co-Editors

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Rick Snyder; Jan's Jams - Jan Kelley

Website: www.sacblues.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sacblues/

Twitter: @SacBluesSociety

did an excellent job. We did four presentations throughout the day to four different groups of students. The head of the alliance sent us very positive feedback.

Our upcoming presentations are:

November 7th – Taylor Street School – Dawn, friend of Mick Martin's, was able to get Any Given Child funding and has stated they would like to schedule two more assemblies.

November 15th – Cordova Meadows Elementary School – Two presentations, musicians TBD.

January 26th, 2023 – Franklin Elementary School – Two presentations, musicians TBD.

We have a BITS fundraiser coming up on November 4th at the Sofia. It started as a Blind Lemon Peel show, but they reached out and asked if we would like to do a BITS fundraiser as well, which we agreed to do. Kyle Rowland is our music director and Chris Castle will be on keyboards, Amaya Levels on drums and vocals, Zack Waters on guitar, plus two other students from West Sacramento.



Blind Lemon Peel Brings "Not Yer Father's Blues"

By Rick Snyder

A Benefit for Sacramento Blues in the Schools & The John Lee Hooker Foundation

Two years ago, progressive blues artist Blind Lemon Peel arrived in Sacramento determined to make a splash in his new home. The alter-ego of blues shouter/songwriter David Dot Hale, BL, has been at the forefront of progressive blues communities in New York and Los Angeles for more than 40 years before arriving with big dreams about bringing his standard of cool to the Sacramento Delta.

Blind Lemon Peel now brings their unique mashup of trad-blues and art-house cabaret to The Sofia on November 4, 2022 Doors: 5pm Music: 5:30pm-8:30pm \$17,\$23-\$28

TIX: <https://bstreettheatre.org/music/blind-lemon-peel-live-in-sacramento/>.

There is a lot about a BLP show that is absolutely traditional — the crisp arrangements, the top-flight musicianship, the dope red hat — but what separates Dot Hale's lemon-fresh approach is its elaborate presentation focus. When he hits the stage, his transformation into a brawny-voiced blues shouter in the same tradition as his heroes, Big Joe Turner, Howlin' Wolf, Captain Beefheart, and Frank Zappa, is utter and complete. Watching BLP in performance is like a Master class in both the development and deconstruction of blues music.

The show has been designated a fundraiser to further celebrate the

evening, benefiting Sacramento's "Blues in the Schools" program and The John Lee Hooker Foundation. As longtime advocates of blues education and enrichment, Dot Hale and his manager are pleased to recognize SBS & JLHF's commitment to the community by supporting, educating, and helping young blues musicians learn the history, values, and fundamentals of traditional blues.

BLP's All-Star lineup features some of NorCal's best, including Steve Dunne-music director from Oakland's renowned Cold Blood, Rich Forman on the keys, SBS Hall of Fame member AJ Joyce on bass & Grammy winner Jeff Minnie weather on the skins, a first-rate two-piece horn section-Danny Sandoval & Dave Johnson (Mick Martin's Big Blues Band). The band tears it up with a wide selection of feels, tempos, keys, and lyric content. It's a welcome splash of color that perfectly accentuates the area's lively blues community.

Extraordinary guests lending their talents to the cause include the remarkable Zach Waters Band, headlining SBS' eponymous BITS graduate; Kyle Rowland, a master of the Mississippi Saxophone (harmonica) and longtime advocate & contributor to the Blues in the Schools program, and local sax phenom Danny Sandoval and His Amigos. Plus, our local Godfather of the Blues, Mick Martin, whose commitment to Blues in the Schools is legendary.

Sacramento's favorite son and musical sensation, Kyle Rowland, will serve as music director for the BITS portion of the evening's entertainment. Rowland has been a teacher and mentor with the Blues in the Schools program for many years. Also sharing the stage are BITS graduate and consummate guitar virtuoso Zach Waters, 20-year-old Amaya Levels, a proud graduate of SBS' BITS program and one of the most multifaceted artists on the local scene, and fellow BITS graduate and keyboard whiz Chris Castles, as well as BITS grads from West Campus, Landon Gonzales and Vincent Pantages, now attending Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA.

There will be silent auctions featuring a Martin 000XE Auditorium acoustic-electric guitar and other items too cool for school, with all proceeds going to BITS & JLHF.

Tickets are available now at <https://bstreettheatre.org/music/blind-lemon-peel-live-in-sacramento/>.

When you DREAM BIG, sometimes the most AMAZING THINGS CAN HAPPEN!

For more information, digital assets, or interview arrangements, please contact Mindy Giles, Sacramento Blues Society, mingiles@gmail.com.

It's Election Time!

As mandated by our bylaws, the Sacramento Blues Society will hold its Annual Membership Meeting December 11, concurrently with our Holiday Party. This is the time we conduct any business requiring a vote from our overall membership. We will be voting to fill openings on our Board of Directors.

The Elections Committee will mail ballots to all SBS members in November, and ballots must be received by mail NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 11, 2022 to be counted. Ballots have the SBS address right on them, and all you need is an envelope and stamp.

If you plan to attend the Holiday Party, you may also BRING your completed ballot to the party and deposit it into the ballot box that will be there. All votes, whether mailed or dropped off, will be counted at the party, and the newly elected Board Members will be introduced to the membership at the end of the party.

There are seven BOD positions to fill. Each of those candidates

has submitted a brief statement for your consideration. Please take a moment to read them over, and when you receive your ballot, please VOTE!

SBS Board of Directors Candidate Statements

Barbara Katen - I began my SBS journey by first accepting an appointment to the Board of Directors in 2014. Subsequently I served 4 ½ years as Secretary, a year as Parliamentarian and for the past two years, as Vice-President. I also currently serve on the Events, Hall of Fame, Newsletter and IBC Committees. I would be honored to continue serving our beloved Blues Community by receiving your support for another term as SBS Director. Thank you for your consideration.



Cari Chenkin - I'm a current Board member, and a Past President, with the experience necessary to contribute to the Board and the well-being of the Sacramento Blues Society. As a musician, blues lover and current *Blue Notes* newsletter editor, I believe my experience and skills will be a valuable addition to the plans and projects that the Sacramento Blues Society wants to implement. I currently serve on the Blue Sunday and Election committees. Additionally, with the addition of some BOD members who are new to the Board, I want to provide continuity and serve as a guide and mentor to them as they join us.



Julio Covington - My name is Julio Covington. I have been involved with Sacramento bluerock Scene since 1969. I have been a SBS member since 2020. I started my volunteering experience in January 2022, and will continue as long as SBS needs me. It is a gift to be a part of SBS and know the many musicians I've met through the years. It would be an honor to represent SBS and receive your support for the Board of Directors position.



Lynette Shumway - I was introduced to "the blues" by Earl Withycombe in 2014. We have been dance partners ever since and are now husband and wife. Upon retirement, I sought to devote time to the worthy cause of the Sacramento Blues Society. I have been serving on the board for the last year as the Merchandise Chairperson and have reorganized



our sales display and inventory. I would very much like to continue in this capacity.

Marcel Smith - I became acquainted with the SBS in the late 1980s when I was with the Soul Prophets. It was at this time I was introduced to the thriving blues community in the Sacramento region along with meeting the very talented (legendary) artists, promoters and producers. Over the years, I have been honored to perform for the SBS. I also (with the Soul Prophets) recorded Little Johnny Taylor's Part Time Love for the SBS CD compilation Sacramento Blues. This CD featured many of SBS alumni such as, Johnny Heartsman, Arbes Williams and Johnny Knox, to name a few. In 2016, I had the honor of being inducted into the SBS Hall of Fame. This is a highlight of my musical journey. Since 2018, I have been a member with the SBS Hall of Fame Committee. It is indeed my pleasure to serve the



Sacramento community with the SBS as we work towards growing interest in the blues, honoring our local blues culture and preserving our local blues for generations to come.

Rex Smith - Hello SBS members. It's election time again and I hope every single member of this organization takes the time to vote for the members that are running for election or re-election to the SBS Board of Directors. Please take the time to fill out your Ballot when you get it and VOTE, VOTE, VOTE.



I am a long-time member of SBS and was first elected to the Board two years ago. I have been the Board's Parliamentarian, making sure the Board follows the organization's bylaws and providing my interpretation of the bylaws and policies of SBS when asked to do so by the Board. During my two years on the SBS Board I have attending the monthly meetings, wrote a couple of CD reviews for *Blue Notes*, rewrote a couple of the bylaws and issued several opinions for the Board clarifying the SBS bylaws and policies...among other things.

Before I was elected to the SBS Board of Directors I practiced law in Sacramento for over 30 years, was on the Board of the HOA where I live and am currently on the Club Committee of my HOA. The Sacramento Blues Society is one of the oldest blues societies in the country. Our bi-monthly newsletter, *Blue Notes*, is one of the best such publications in the US. My fellow Directors and Committee Members are the most dedicated, devoted and hard-working folks I have ever had the pleasure to work with. I hope you will re-elect me to the SBS Board of Directors so I can continue making a contribution to this great organization.

Sally Katen - I joined the Sacramento Blues Society in 2006 at which time I joined the Board of Directors and held the position of Secretary for four consecutive years. In addition, in 2010, I took over the SBS Hall of Fame Committee which I continue to head to this day. I held the position of President since 2020, 2021 and I am currently the 2022 SBS



President. I am also a member of the SBS Events Committee and I am currently responsible for the ordering of SBS Merchandise and providing Volunteers for Events. I would appreciate your support so I can continue serving the Sacramento Blues Society, an organization near and dear to my heart.

Update on Little Charlie Scholarship at Sacramento State College of Music

By Barbara Ray

Sacramento Blues Society is preparing to submit our first contribution to CSUS and the College of Music for the Scholarship in the name of Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholarship due in December 2022. The scholarship was developed May 16th 2022 with the help of Tess Dyer, Gift Officer of the College of Arts and Letters at CSUS and the Sacramento Blues Society.

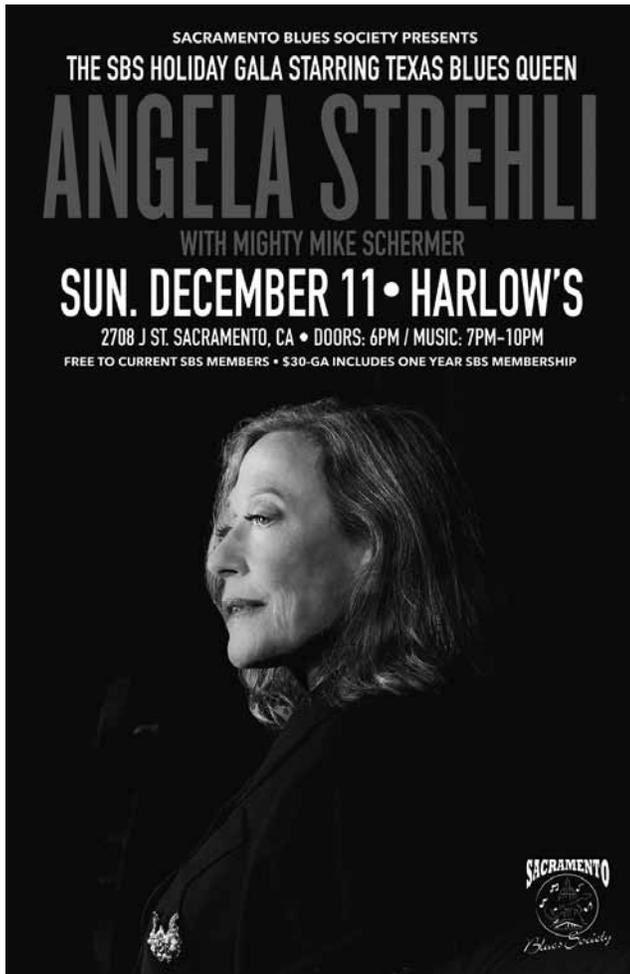
The purpose of this scholarship is to honor Charlie Baty for his commitment and support of the Sacramento Blues Society and the Blues in Schools program. It is intended to support students in continuing their education at CUSU in the College of Music for the preservation of blues music.

Please feel free to support the Blues in Schools program by the attending upcoming concert of Blind Lemon Peel Nov 4th, at the Sofia, 2700 Capital at 5:50 Tickets start at \$23.00-\$28.00, and proceeds go to support the Blues in Schools program . More concerts

Little Charlie Scholarship Update, Con't. from P. 4

and fundraising for the Scholarship are in the works and will be announced soon.

Please feel free to go the Sacramento Blues Society and contribute to the Little Charlie scholarship any time.



SBS Holiday Gala Celebration and Annual Meeting - It's ON!

By Mindy Giles, Events Committee Chairwoman

We've got "Texas Blues Queen" Angela Strehli and her all-star band coming to our year-end holiday gala this year. The Sacramento Blues Society 2022 Annual Membership Gala is Sunday, Dec. 11!

The Sacramento Blues Society Presents:

"Texas Blues Queen" Angela Strehli and her all-star band

2022 Annual Membership Gala

Sunday, Dec. 11

Harlow's

2708 J St. Sacramento, CA

7pm-10pm

FREE: Current SBS Members with membership card

\$30-General Admission (includes a one-year membership to the Sacramento Blues Society)

"... full of fervour and a shit ton of cool. Strehli graces us with her presence like the expert she is, reminding the young guns just who brought the game to the table in the first place... Strehli makes effortless work of songs made famous by Elmore James, Chuck Berry, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Otis Clay and the late Stevie

Ray Vaughan, cementing her own place as a true genius of the genre." – Holler

It is also a record release party for *Ace of Blues*, her first new album in 17 years!! Her band is an eight-piece band with Mighty Mike Schermer as her guitarist and musical director. Her new rhythm section is Timm Walker on bass (Elvin Bishop bassist) and William Allums, Jr. on drums (you might also know them as the tough section that holds down The Zydeco Flames), and she has a three-piece horn section. Here's a bit about her new record, *Ace of Blues*.

Angela Strehli returns with *Ace of Blues* on November 18th via Antone's/New West Records. The 12-song set is her first album in over 17 years and was co-produced by Strehli & her husband Bob Brown.

For over five decades, the 76-year-old Strehli's voice has coursed through the genre akin to blood through a heart. Her influence can be felt in the legacy of Antone's — the iconic Austin blues club she helped found with the late Clifford Antone and where she performed & became friends with the likes of Muddy Waters, Albert King, Otis Rush, Jimmy Reed, and countless others.

Ace of Blues pays tribute to the artists who inspired her throughout her career and features renditions of songs made famous by Elmore James, Chuck Berry, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Otis Clay and more. It concludes with "SRV," a beautiful and personal tribute to the late Stevie Ray Vaughan. As the only original on *Ace of Blues*, the song celebrates their friendship, creative connection, and musical bond with one of the most heartfelt, hypnotic, and hard-hitting performances on the record.

Buddy Guy calls *Ace of Blues*, "Tough, soulful, and sexy. My kind of blues", while Bonnie Raitt says, "Always a fan, I'm so glad Angela's back with a new album, putting her soulful take on this collection that pays tribute to her old blues friends." Charlie Musselwhite says, "Angela has just kept getting better. She truly loves and 'gets' real deal blues and what it means. It's great to see her share her blues with us all" while Maria Muldaur offers, "Her lifelong devotion to the blues is fully realized here! This is an absolute, must-have album for any blues lover."

Since this event is FREE for members, it'll be "first-come, first-served" and no RSVP is needed. For those who are not yet members, tickets are available through the Harlow's website, www.harlows.com at \$30 each.

This will be a year-end soul-lifting finale to another year. Renew your membership, bring a friend to join. Cocktails, food, vote for the new SBS Board members, buy your raffle tickets. Dress up, dress down. Wear your boots! We are all in this together. Yes, there will be a dance floor!

International Blues Challenge 2024

by Renee Erickson Sullivan

We're going to Memphis in 2024! After over two years of quarantining, isolating, and literally fearing for our lives in the beginning of the pandemic, things are finally settling into some kind of normalcy. The International Blues Challenge (IBC) represents the Blues Foundation's worldwide search for those Blues Bands and Solo/Duo Blues Acts ready to perform on the international stage, yet just needing that extra big break. The competition takes place in Memphis in January of 2024. We'll be getting started planning early in 2023, with our competition to take place in summer 2023, so keep your eye out for updates!

CD Review

John Nemeth - May Be The Last Time

Nola Blue Records

By Doug Pringle

What do you get when you put together an all-star band to record a CD? In this reviewer's opinion, you get an upbeat thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile set of great music!



Nemeth is a virtuoso on harp and vocals. Elvin Bishop displays his mastery of the guitar as does Bob Walsh who also plays

keyboards. Add Kid Andersen on a variety of bass guitars and Willy Jordan on drums with Alabama Mike adding his voice to the group vocals and the result is blues at its best. The set includes some of Bishop's best and Nemeth's too. Great renditions of the Wilson Pickett hit, "I Found a Love" and Hank Ballard's, "Sexy Ways" take you on a pleasant stroll down memory lane.

The title of John Nemeth's newest album tells a lot about the reason for this album. Because of an upcoming operation on his jaw that may prevent him from singing and playing harmonica in the future, he gathered these renowned musicians to join him at the Greaseland studios for this great album engineered by Kid Andersen. The result is perhaps the best blues album any of us will hear this year, making it potentially a bittersweet release that we should enjoy while we have it.

That was in May just after Nemeth was diagnosed with an aggressive tumor in his lower jaw that required immediate and very specialized surgery, including a bone graft to regenerate the bone in his jaw that had to be removed. Early indications show that the bone is regenerating. So, hopefully, this will not be the last time.



Blue Sunday Update

by Cari Chenkin

Photos by Steve Martarano

Our August band was Gloria T. & the Master Groovers. They put on a great show, and impressed Torch Club owner Marina Teixeira, who spoke with Gloria about future Torch Club bookings. This is great, because this is exactly one of the results we hoped for from the Blue Sunday program to benefit our member bands.

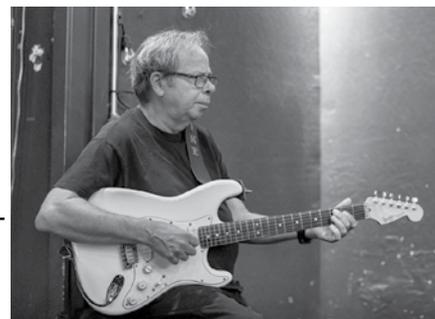


Gloria fronted a tight, soulful band consisting of guitar, keys, drums and bass, played by SBS Hall of Famer member A.J. Joyce. The band opened their sets with instrumentals, then brought up Gloria, who thrilled and captivated the audience with her soulful and impassioned vocals. Some of the tunes they played included the classic Etta James hit "At Last", "Don't Want No Man", "Blues Is My Business", Stevie Wonder's "Higher Ground", "Stormy Monday",



The Temptations' "My Girl", a couple of Bill Withers songs, "Ain't No Sunshine" and "Keep on Using Me" among others. The band ended their performance with a great rendition

of Eric Clapton's "Old Love".



We had no Blue Sunday show in September, due to our Hall of Fame event, but picked back up in October with a Halloween show featuring The Dave Segal Band. That show occurred too late to include review in



this issue of Blue Notes, so we'll cover it in our next issue.

Our November Blue Sunday will take place on November 27, and features the Papa Day Blues Band, a project of

HOF member Ken Van Crumphaut (aka "Obie Dee" or "OBD"), and we'll close out 2022's Blue Sunday series with a holiday show on December 18 with local favorites The Hucklebucks.

We are continuing our Blue Sunday shows in 2023, and member bands who've not yet played one are welcome to apply to perform.

THE TORCH CLUB LIVE

NOVEMBER

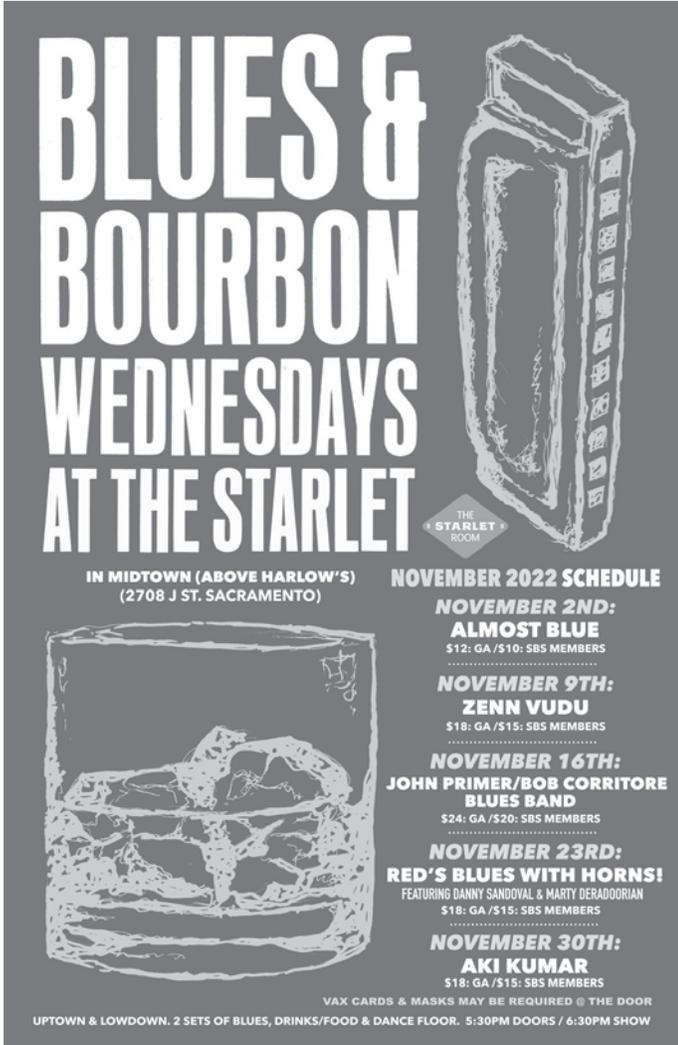
- 5TH: AKI KUMAR 9-12 PM
- 17TH: DANNY SANDOVAL BAND 9-12 PM
- 26TH: DARYL ROWLAND 6-8 PM
- STACIE EAKES & THE SUPERFREAKS 9-12 PM
- 27TH: SBS BLUE SUNDAY W/PAPA DAY BLUES 4-7 PM

DECEMBER

- 10TH: REDS BLUES 6-8 PM
- DEKE DIKERSON 9-12 PM
- 16TH: LEW FRATIS & JIMMY PAILER 6-8 PM
- ELVIS CANTU 9-12 PM
- 17TH: DANIEL CASTRO 9-12 PM
- 18TH: SBS BLUE SUNDAY WITH THE HUCKLEBUCKS 4-7 PM
- 23RD: DARYL ROWLAND 6-8PM

www.torchclub.net

Contact me, Cari, to secure your date! We're looking at booking our first quarter Sundays which will be January 29, February 26 and March 26, 2023.



BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET

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

THE STARLET ROOM

NOVEMBER 2022 SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2ND:
ALMOST BLUE
\$12: GA / \$10: SBS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 9TH:
ZENN VUDU
\$18: GA / \$15: SBS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 16TH:
JOHN PRIMER/BOB CORRITORE BLUES BAND
\$24: GA / \$20: SBS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 23RD:
RED'S BLUES WITH HORNS!
FEATURING DANNY SANDOVAL & MARTY DERADOORIAN
\$18: GA / \$15: SBS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 30TH:
AKI KUMAR
\$18: GA / \$15: SBS MEMBERS

VAX CARDS & MASKS MAY BE REQUIRED @ THE DOOR

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

13th Annual Blues By The River At Swabbie's *By Jan Kelley*

Another good time for the books at Swabbie's, thanks to TcKing Productions bringin' out some great blues!

Starting off promptly at noon, Tommy King introduced A. C. Myles, who came out rockin' hard!



This young man knows his way quite well on the guitar and vocals, giving a good blend of rock prowess mixed in with some more mellow blues throughout his set.

The first part of his set, A. C. played all original tunes, displaying his talents with songwriting and using the slide. Playing tunes such

as "Too Dark to Cross", "Livin' A Lie", and the hard rockin' "Broke Baby Alibi", which 16 y/o Justin Walter joined in on to duel with A.C. That was a hot number that highlighted Justin's talent for all to enjoy! He joined the Delgado Brothers later. A. C. continued on with other songs he'd penned and a few covers that had people up and dancin' to the beat.

Talk about dancing! One of the best 'party bands' around to dance to, in my opinion, is the Delgado Brothers. Coming from SoCal, it's always a delight to have them entertain us, and do they ever! These 2016 IBC Best Band winners gave it their all once again! Fantastic on the lead guitar is Joey Delgado, 2016 recipient of the IBC Albert King Guitar Award. Bass player Bob Delgado, Steve Delgado on vocals and drums; and long-time keyboardist David Kelly, comprise the rest of this East L.A. band.

For over 35 years, they have played their own brand of blues, Latin blues, roots, soul and reggae as a family and have been featured at many festivals and concerts as well as stories in magazines. Starting their set with some hard driving blues, Joey soon had the crowd on their feet while Steve sang the songs throughout their show. One of this girl's favorites by Steve was a slow-moving song titled "If I Don't Get Home" that featured Joey on lead guitar.

It was a well-balanced show that allowed each of them to solo at times; brother Bob showcased his expertise on bass while keyboardist Dave Kelley soared with the Latin blues sound they excel at, and altogether a tight-knit band, well worth seeing.



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Thank you for your support!

Another SBS Hall Of Fame Ceremony To Be Remembered! *By Bo Ely*

Photos by Bob Hakins

The Sacramento Blues Society's 2022 Hall of Fame Awards Show at Harlow's was incredible from start to finish, honoring this year's well-deserved inductees. The 2022 inductees were Chris Fraire, Chris Martinez, John Noxon, Leigh Lunetta, and Zot, in recognition of their contribution to the preservation and promotion of the blues in the Sacramento area for twenty

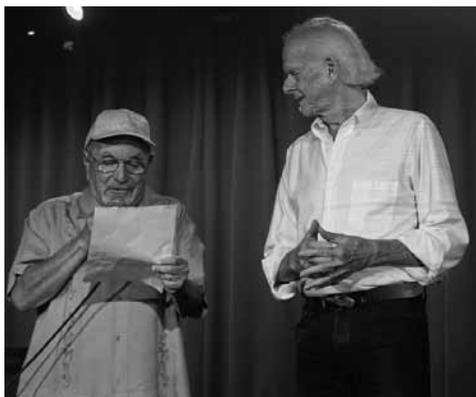


plus years.

Before the induction ceremony a really special, well-produced live musical Blues Revue encompassing the growth and all the elements of the blues leading up to the blues that

we enjoy today, was presented, and the audience loved it!

Then the fans and inductees moved to the Torch Club for the Hall of Fame Showcase with past and present Hall Of Fame inductees performing! A wonderful way to end



a week! A BIG THANK YOU to everyone that made this day possible and congratulations to all the inductees!



Audience Comments on Blues Revue, as Performed at the HOF Ceremony

Watching *Blues Revue* -- a Musical from the audience was an amazing experience. Each and every one of the featured performers seized the moment. What we did together had never been done before in quite that way. It was a history of the blues from a geographical perspective; performed by people ideally suited for their "roles." Comments from



members of the audience were all positive. No one quite expected what happened onstage and the word is that they were impressed and entertained.

From Pinkie's character-driven delivery on the first number to



Marcel's fearless leadership on the final song, there were highs in each and every segment. As this is

not a review, I won't mention what those all were. The singers and musicians know what they did, as did the audience. Overall, it was joyous to see each moment of reaching for excellence, pushing artistic boundaries, and achieving personal bests. The teamwork was an added bonus. I can't wait to see Friedhelm Rosenau's video and relive those moments.



The unsung heroes of the show were Chanty Barnhardt, our stage manager, Pat Altenburg (call her "the glue," she held EVERYTHING together) and Barbara Morgan, our "stage mother" (pun intended). I hope you know how much we appreciated you three. Gerry



Simpson was nothing short of powerful as the narrator, speaking Nan Mahon's words with dignity and conviction while putting up with distracting bar conversation until he finally had to scold the loudmouths -- and I say, good for him! Sally Katen, Mindy Giles, Wayne Smith, Earl Withycombe, Lynette Shumway, Bill VanHouten, Kirsti Rauser, the crew at Harlow's (especially AJ Johnson and John Taylor)

-- and the list goes on. As the showbiz axiom goes, you ain't seen nothing yet! ~ **Mick Martin**

This production was absolutely fantastic! With so many of our favorite local talent, it was both entertaining and educational. Hats off to the creative directors and the crew for preforming the stage direction. I was very impressed that as the narrator was walking



us through the history of the blues, our local artists were so perfectly suited in style to perform music samplings of the genre described. As the Merchandise Chairperson, sitting at the merchandise table, I am a very visible and accessible board member. And for the last two events, several people have come to tell me how much they enjoyed the show. Two have even mentioned that they noticed the

program being filmed and they hope the recording will be shared with the Blues In the Schools program as it is such a good representation of the evolution of the blues. I wholeheartedly agree. Thank you to all involved in such a fine production!!! ~ **Lynette Shumway**



The response of the audience to *The Blues Revue* was music to my ears. Singers and musicians were giving their all to an audience that enjoyed every word and note -- the crowd was not shy in expressing their appreciation. ~ **Pat Altenburg**

Kudos for the outstanding production presented at the HOF ceremony. This year bringing in the talent of scriptwriter Nan Mahon and Musical Director Mick Martin to put together an outstanding produc-

tion of the history of the blues was genius! Oh, my goodness, the blues talent that was instrumental in presenting this review was amazing. Also, Bob Cosman's moving tribute of the Gone But Not Forgotten brought tears to my eyes. And the 2022 Inductees... WOW! Each so very



deserving of the recognition. Sally knocked it out of the park with an outstanding induction event and ceremony. My thanks to

all involved. I had a blast! ~ **Barbara Katen**





Hotter Than A Jalapeno's Armpit

An Evening with Tab Benoit by Barbara Katen



September 6, 2022, is a date that I will forever remember. In case there is anyone I haven't told yet, YES, I finally got my picture taken with Tab Benoit. Yippee, yahoo and hallelujah!

Let me tell you about the show before I get to the juicy stuff (the "I got close to Tab" part). The sold-out show at the Sofia was opened by the amazing JD Simo Trio. JD, now living in Nashville, is a master on the guitar. Sometimes opening acts are merely tolerated in anticipation of the headliner. Well, JD wasn't

that act. He was amazing. Promoting his new CD *Mind Control*, he did not disappoint. I found out that he performed all the major guitar work in Baz Luhrmann's recent hit movie *ELVIS*. A brief intermission had many in the audience heading to the lobby to purchase a JD Simo CD and have it autographed. Yeah, I was impressed with JD, which says a lot, since I was there for Tab.

Tab and his bandmates, long time bass player, Corey Duplechin, and drummer (my bad, I cannot recall his name) came onstage to a standing ovation, which made him smile as he commented about how hot it was in Sacramento and that it was about to get hotter inside the venue. And it did.

"Medicine", "Night Train", and his take on the Buffalo Springfield ditty "For What It's Worth", are just a sample of the songs which kept us hooting, hollering, and applauding. Between the music and his funny and witty repartee between songs, he kept the audience's attention throughout the show. He kept blowing the audience kisses and from my front row seat, I yelled out "Bring that on over here to me!" to which I swear, he grinned upon hearing. Now, I've been to see Tab every chance I could, and even though he didn't sing a couple of my faves such as "Shelter Me" or "I Put a Spell on You", it was one of the finest shows I've ever attended. And for Tab's encore, JD Simo came back out with the band and between Tab & JD's dueling guitars treated the audience to one of the best and most intense ovations I've ever witnessed.



After the show, Sally Katen and Mindy Giles and I trekked out behind the venue to see if we could talk with Tab. We found him standing by his bus smoking a cigar and drinking a little something-something (dare I guess Courvoisier?) out of a black plastic cup. Thank goodness for Mindy, who could talk music biz and mutual acquaintances with Tab, or I would have been standing there staring at him open-mouthed and gob-smacked. But I got that picture with him that I've wanted for years. Sally and Mindy got pictures too but I'm writing this article, so you get to see mine!

September 6, 2022, was one of the hottest days in Sacramento's history, made hotter by spending a fabulous evening with Tab. I'm still walking on air...bucket list item checked!

A Casual Conversation with David Dot Hale (Blind Lemon Peel) *By Barbara Katzen*

Relatively new to the Sacramento blues scene but making a huge impact, Blind Lemon Peel will be headlining a special Sacramento Blues Society Blues in the Schools presentation on November 4th at The Sofia. David Dot Hale is the man behind Blind Lemon Peel. Read on to learn a bit about this talented and gracious man.



Blue Notes (BN): Why the Blues?

David Dot Hale (DDH): When I was eight years old, a baby-sitter named Neal Weiss would come over on Saturday nights when my parents were out. We'd go down in the basement and he'd play "race records" (as they were called in the day) for us. The first record I ever heard at eight years old was Ray Charles' "Hit the Road Jack". I WENT TOTALLY GONZO. Every week Neal would come over with records by Muddy Waters, Howlin'



Wolf, Lightnin' Hopkins and Blind Lemon Jefferson. Heck, without Blind Lemon Jefferson there would be no Blind Lemon Peel! Neal introduced me to the evolution of roots music, and ever since then I was hooked!

BN: What was your inspiration and how did you get your start in music?

DDH: My family says that I have blues in my blood. My dad won a philharmonic scholarship back in the 1930s as a jazz drummer. Later he was a professional sax player and a band leader in the big Catskills (NY) hotels and toured the globe playing on cruise ships. My Uncle Ernest played clarinet in the Jimmy Dorsey Band. My cousin Art played keys with Brownie McGee and Sonny Terry. My cousin Ron played with Lonnie Johnson, Josh White, Gary Davis, Bukka White, Taj Mahal, and they all crashed over at his place when they came to LA.

BN: Who were your biggest musical influences and who influences you now?

DDH: My first big blues hero, and arguably the progenitor of my style, is John Lee Hooker. John moved blues in a new direction by dialing down the existing blues structures and shining a light with his phrasing and vocal timbre. John, RL Burnside, Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Junior Kimbrough all gave rise to my own particular approach. The music of Captain Beefheart is another influence on my music. I love the Captain's voice, how that almost guttural bark and growl adds an angularity to his storytelling. And I'd also include Frank Zappa. And songwriters like Randy Newman and Tom Waits and my strongest secondary influence, Dr. John. You can hear a lot of Mac in what I do.

BN: What has your journey been like during the past two years playing gigs and staying connected musically?

DDH: Since we moved here right before the pandemic, I started from scratch. I used my time during the quarantine to reach out to local musicians, blues influencers, and took a thoughtful approach on how to integrate into the Sacramento blues scene once things started moving again. I was incredibly lucky to hook up with three of Sacramento's elite musicians during the shutdown (Steve Dunne,

Larry Davis, and Dana Moret). They helped me form the foundation of what has now morphed into what my wife calls "the best version of Blind Lemon Peel" she's heard. Anyone who has heard our current lineup, with Danny Sandoval on sax, AJ Joyce on bass, Dave Johnson on trumpet, Rich Forman on keys, Jeff Minnieweather on drums, Ashwut Rodriguez playing lead, and Tessie Sell on vocals, will tell you this band is INSANE.

BN: Did you have any mentors or heroes?

DDH: Absolutely! I owe my voice to Richard Crooks. Richard was a serious cat in the New York music scene is his day. He played drums on Bob Dylan's "Blood on the Tracks" and toured for years with Dr. John who said of him, "none of them New Orleans moth****ers play as good as Richard Crooks." Richard helped me develop the confidence in my singing and performing to be able to become Blind Lemon Peel. His advice to me was sagacious, "F**k covers... You just sing your songs the way you wrote 'em." Everything else I owe to Bobby "Hurricane" Spencer. Bobby is a legendary LA tenor sax player and genuine "Living Legend," so designated by the JazZabration Living Legend Foundation, the City Council of Los Angeles, the California State Senate, and the Beverly Hills NAACP. Bobby cut his teeth in the Chitlin' Circuit of the Bay Area, playing with Johnny Talbot and De Thangs, Marvin Holmes and the Uptights, Sonny Rhodes, JJ Bad Boy Jones and Jimmy McCracklin. His star is on the Walk on Fame in his hometown of Oakland. He is my mentor, musical conscience, confidante, inspiration, and hero. Like a gale force musical storm, Bobby will blow you away.

BN: What is your biggest thrill as a musician?

DDH: Getting up on stage to perform songs I've written, nurtured, and brought to life, there's simply nothing like it for me.

BN: How and why did you end up in Sacramento?

DDH: My wife is a partner in a law firm, and we moved here so she could help establish a Sacramento market for her firm. We've come to really love it here!

BN: What are your thoughts on the local blues scene?

DDH: I'm living in the right city at the right time. I've never met a more welcoming community of musicians and fans who embraced me with such open arms. I tell my LA and East Coast musician friends that Sacramento is primed to be the "new Chicago". Of course, the Sacramento Blues Society and their unwavering devotion, hard work, and enthusiasm for blues music is literally the most supportive group I've had the privilege to be associated with. With all the remarkable local talent here, like all the folks who performed at September's Hall of Fame show, Sacramento has the potential to be the next great blues mecca.

BN: From where did you draw the persona of Blind Lemon Peel?

DDH: I've been performing as Blind Lemon Peel for over 40 years. I was always drawn to larger-than-life personalities like Cab Calloway, James Brown, Frank Zappa... Performance personas have existed since the beginning of music and I like to believe that when I transform into Blind Lemon Peel, my character is equally rich, thought-provoking, and musically rewarding as my inspirations. Blind Lemon Peel is a blues singer, but I will never in a million years sound like my heroes Big Joe Turner and BB King. The default setting of my voice is a rough-and-ready blues barker whose ultimate icon is Howlin' Wolf.

BN: What has been the highlight of your career so far?

DDH: Without question, it's my upcoming show at the Sofia on No-

Casual Conversation w. David Dot Hale, Con't. from P. 11

ember 4th! On our first weekend in Sacramento three years ago, my wife and I saw Mick Martin's Big Blues Band at the Sofia. Not only was Mick's band terrific, but the room was one of the best-sounding rooms I've been in. Halfway through the show I told my wife, "One of these days, I'm going to play here." The Sofia show is 100% my dream come true gig.

BN: Describe yourself as a musician in one sentence.

DDH: Rich Forman calls me "the Lenny Bruce of the blues". I like that.

BN: Are there musicians that you would like to play with?

DDH: I'd like to play with everyone in town. The Placerville folks, TJ Furtado, and his crowd. Andy Santana. Katie Knipp. The Anthony Paule Orchestra. Dean Chance, Clint Reis, Megan Spurlock, Portia Njoku, and I put together a do-dah band during the pandemic that I would love to continue developing. I've talked with Marcel Smith about collaborating on a gospel project with the Sons of the Soul Revivers. I heard Bob Jones at the SBS Hall of Fame and then again at the Crawfish & Catfish Festival and would love to do something with them. Last but not least, I would love to connect with Jazz Mafia out of Oakland. I keep trying to get people to hook me up with Adam Theis! Adam, if you're reading this, call me!

BN: Who is the one person you would most like to meet (that you haven't already)?

DDH: One of these days I hope to meet Rick Estrin. I have so much admiration for his songwriting.

BN: I heard you worked in advertising for a big NYC firm in and that you were one of the first to bring rock and blues into TV and radio ads. Can you confirm and elaborate a bit?

DDH: Yes, in the early days, I was lucky enough to support my blues habit with a day job writing commercials at one of NY's largest ad agencies. My boss knew how much I loved music, so he put me on the Burger King account which was very music-driven. This enabled me to create ads with such talent as Ashford & Simpson, the Brecker Brothers, Marc Cohn, The Rascals, The Pointer Sisters, and others. Given my musical background, musicians found me easier to deal with than traditional agency folks. My first advertising award was for a TV commercial I wrote and produced with Chubby Checker for Right Guard Lime Deodorant Stick. Over the years I worked with Lou Reed, Steve Ray Vaughn, The Del Fuegos and Ry Cooder on Miller Beer. I wrote and produced Burger King commercials for John Lee Hooker, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, The Neville Brothers, Don Was, Tone Loc and too many others to name...

BN: I also heard that you have some history with famous author James Patterson, and you might be a character in one of his books. Truth or fiction?

DDH: True. Jim was my boss at J. Walter Thompson, and he gave me my first big break in advertising. We are still good friends. If you read his recent autobiography, I'm on page 179.

BN: What would you consider your greatest extravagance?

DDH: Eating at The Kitchen. We've been there twice. I'd go there for my last supper if I could!

BN: When, what and where were you happiest?

DDH: Right here, right now. I am living my best life in Sacramento.

BN: What do you consider your greatest achievement, personally and musically?

DDH: Being honored at the Barbara Morrison Performing Art Center in Los Angeles this past November 2021 for my contribution to the blues. That one still blows my mind!

BN: What is your idea of perfect happiness?

DDH: Having found the woman (my wife!) I've looked for forever.

BN: What is your biggest regret?

DDH: That I don't sing like Otis Redding.

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

DDH: Best advice I ever got in my life was from my dad's best friend when I was 17. He said, "Always be a pro, not a semi-pro."

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

DDH: Ray Charles, Mozart, Prince, James Brown. It may not be deep, but man would it swing!

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

DDH: I wish my Sacramento friends could have heard Bobby Spencer play before his stroke.

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BN: Favorite Album of all time?

DDH: Ray Charles, *Genius & Soul*, boxed set

BN: Favorite quote?

DDH: "Everything communicates". (Gary Langstaff)

BN: Favorite Movie?

DDH: *Annie Hall*, *Putney Swope*

BN: Favorite Food?

DDH: French. But maybe Italian. But maybe French.

BN: Favorite Book?

DDH: *The Power Broker* (Robert Caro), *The Civil War: A Narrative* (Shelby Foote), *Yellow Back Radio Broke Down* (Ishmael Reed)

BN: Favorite drink?

DDH: Big French Bordeaux, but I'm happy to drink airplane wine.

BN: Favorite guilty pleasure?

DDH: ZZ Top

BN: Favorite leisure activity?

DDH: Cleveland Browns football

BN: Favorite City?

DDH: New Orleans. I got married in New Orleans during Mardi Gras in 2015. I've had so many great memories made there.

BN: Cat or Dog?

DDH: Dogs. We have three.

BN: One thing you can't live without?

DDH: My wife's baked mac 'n cheese. Dean Chance will back me up.

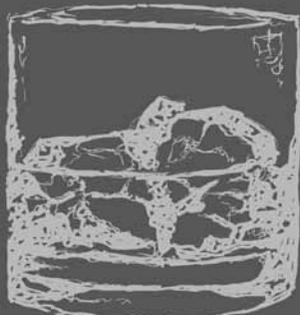
BN: What poster, if any, did you have on your wall growing up?

DDH: Jim Brown. Humphrey Bogart. Billie Holiday.

Thank you David! Learn more at: blindlemonpeel.com.

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The 11th Annual Blues & Bones Festival September 24, 2022 - Angels Camp, CA

By Rick Snyder

Photos by Bob Cosman

Calaveras County, home to celebrated jumping frogs and the Blues and Bones Festival. We could not have had a better day. The sun

was shining, little wind, the sweet smell of BBQ wafting through the air, and music, music, music. When I got there to load in, the crowd was



already starting to queue up around the entrance waiting for the best (or perhaps the shadiest) spots. When the Kyle Rowland band hit the stage, there was a good-sized crowd.

Rowland does not fail to meet the high expectations of this blues-hungry crowd. He stays true to the roots of the blues, performing a variety of Chicago blues, swampy Texas blues, and West Coast blues, with a bit of funk thrown in for good measure. With a voice that goes from smooth as polished steel to a gut-grabbing growl, he also has a love affair with the harmonica, ongoing since he was 10. Rowland does not stop at vocals and harmonica. He also straps on his vintage harmony guitar and wows you with his licks. And it shows with Kenny Marquese, an SBS Hall of Fame member, on

guitar. Pete Philis, sitting in for the first time with the band on drums



and Mike Phillips is on bass. All are part of the machine that brings the traditional blues from the stage to your ear.

Next up were Jeremy Norris and the Blues Cartel. Jeremy handles the guitar and vocals, with Peter Hackett on drums and Chip Yeager on bass. These guys are a three-piece modern blues band that plays original tunes low down and dirty and throws in the funk. A Blues and Bones staple, they were well received by the crowd. Tasty licks by Jeremy filled the air. Clean, tasteful riffs by Peter Hackett on the drums were a solid backbone along with Chip Yeager's bass.

Jeremy can deliver lyrics smooth as silk and then chomp down on them like a New York skull crusher chomping on a cigar. Slow blues that oozes into the audience like a fine mist easing onto the moors to wrap itself around you. If you like funk, Jeremy's got it. These guys are the real deal.



Tia Carrol took the stage late in the afternoon. Her upbeat roots-influenced more traditional blues were interspersed with a great patter



with the audience. She's a blues shouter with a voice so pleasing to the ears that it's like butter but not literally butter in your ears. She did some very extraordinary renditions of "In a Cold Sweat", some Sam and Dave, and some great funk tunes. She knows how to draw in the audience.

This was all interspersed with some tasty originals.

Tia brought back protest songs by singing against domestic violence. She has a solid rhythm section, guitar and keys that knew just how much and not too much. The audience was awed when she did the Clarence Carter tune "Slip Away". When she sang, "Try a Little Tenderness", she reached down into the depths of your soul and held your heart in her hands. She even did "One Way Out", featuring the best drum solo up to that time in the show.

Then we had our headliner Eric Gales! Gales started playing the guitar at age four. His older siblings, Eugene and Manuel (Little Jimmy King), taught him songs and licks in the style of Jimi Hendrix, Albert King, B.B. King, and others when he was young.

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Blues & Bones, Con't. from P. 13



Eric started his show by proclaiming that he was a dope addict for 30 years and did everything he could to try and kill himself during that time. He told the audience that he is now six years clean and sober, to a round of cheers. He reached out to the audience and said that it doesn't always have to be the way it was, that each person in the audience either knows somebody or has a

family member or friend going through the same trauma.

This is high-energy blues rock. The band consisted of a drummer, a percussionist, a keyboard player, a bass, and Eric on guitar. Their original material is clearly rooted in traditional blues but takes a 21st-century turn, and absent are the extended, drawn-out solos characteristic to some rock'n'roll bands. Eric is a masterful guitar player whose lyrics are tasteful and clean. His songs tell a story, not just repeated verses and refrains. He explores the dark side



of the blues. Gales is a left-handed guitar player using the upside-down Strat favored by Jimi Hendrix. Eric's drummer slams the skins most pleas-

ingly while his percussionist, his wife, provides a slamming, driving backbeat. Eric played the audience like a fine Stradivarius, drawing them in and moving them like a swell on the ocean.

One of the standout players in the band (I say that because they all stand out) is the keyboard player, who did some killer jazzy licks while Eric complemented him on guitar. Eric is a great progressive audio artist. Keyboards and guitar seemed to channel John McLaughlin during one song. This group of artists genuinely seemed to enjoy what they did. This is not a bunch of hired guns to support Eric. These musicians are a band.

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