

#### President's Column

By Barbara Katen

Hi ya'll. First, let me introduce myself. Some of you may know me as Sally Katen's cousin, from manning the SBS table at blues shows, or by the reviews, articles, and columns I have written for the *Blue Notes*.



For those of you who don't, let me introduce myself. I am a bluesloving dogaholic who considers Tab Benoit my imaginary boyfriend (yeah, I tell everyone that). I've been a member of SBS for over a decade and have served on the Board of Directors equally as long and have also held the positions of Secretary and Vice-President.

During this time, I have made many friends, who I now consider family within the SBS membership. You may have heard the saying, "As you get older, friends become the family you choose for yourself." Yep, that's the SBS to me.

When I accepted the nomination for 2024 SBS President, I could not imagine the scope of work ahead for us in this special year as we celebrate the Sacramento Blues Society's 45th Anniversary. As I delve deeper into the "meat and potatoes" of the organization, I see that there is much to be done but also much for us to celebrate in our efforts to help keep the blues alive.

I ask for your patience, and your continued support as we (the SBS Officers and BOD) work to continue the legacy of the Sacramento Blues Society for another 45 years!

# SBS Board of Directors Elects 2024 Slate of Officers

At our January meeting, your SBS Board of Directors held its election of 2024's slate of Officers. Congratulations to your 2024 SBS Board of Directors' Officers:

President: Barbara Katen

Vice President: Renee Erickson Sullivan

Secretary: Shirley McCoy

Treasurer: Not yet filled - more about that later!

Parliamentarian: Rex Smith

# Correction from Jan/Feb issue: The Valerie Jean Anderson Volunteer Award

In the article, the recipients were listed incorrectly. The following is the corrected version:

Recipients:

2016 - Valerie Jean Anderson (posthumously) (Con't. on P. 3)

#### 2024 Committee Chairs

Hall of Fame - Sally Katen

**Events** - Mindy Giles

**Membership** - Linda McShane

Sponsorships/Fundraising - Open

Public Relations & Social Media - Mindy Giles

**Volunteer Coordinator** - Lynette Shumway

Blues in the Schools, 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

#### 2024 Board of Directors

Sally Katen

Barbara Katen

Renee Erickson Sullivan

Rex Smith

Cari Chenkin

Rick Snyder

Lynette Shumway

Julio Covington

Marcel Smith

Shirley McCoy

#### **Sacramento Blues Society Publications**

Blue Notes, Bi-Monthly Newsletter - Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley, Co-Editors

Layout - Cari Chenkin

Cover Design: Bob Cosman

Cover Photo - Bob Cosman

Printing & Mailing by: Premier Print & Mail
Blues Notes Ad Rates:

www.sacblues.org/advertising-rates

Weekly e-newsletter: Jan's Jams - Jan Kelley

Website: www.sacblues.org

Facebook: facebook.com/sacblues/

Instagram: instagram.com/sacramentobluessociety/ Twitter: @SacBluesSociety

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VJ Anderson Award Correction, Con't. from P. 2

2017 - Cynthia Jaynes

2018 - Daniel Hernandez

2019 - David Alcock

2020 - Due to COVID, no award given

2021 - Liz Walker & Bobbie Armstrong

2022 - Cari Chenkin

2023 - Linda McShane



While we elected our 2024 slate of officers at our January meeting, nobody was able to volunteer to be our Treasurer. According to our Bylaws, we must have a Treasurer, so we are actively looking to recruit a volunteer. The position requires someone with financial savvy and a solid bookkeeping or accounting background to effectively handle Treasurer duties.

If you have experience in bookkeeping/accounting and would like to serve on the Sacramento Blues Society's Board of Directors as our new Treasurer, we would like to hear from you, the sooner the better!

SBS recently hired an accounting firm to handle the bookkeeping and tax filing duties, as well as the monthly accounting statements, but there are numerous other fun and challenging duties the Treasurer does on a weekly and monthly basis. The initial commitment is for a period of one year, and includes monthly attendance at our Board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

We have a terrific Board and would like to fill the open seat on the Board of Directors with a motivated member of the Blues Society. If you meet our criteria and are interested, please contact us with your qualifications. The outgoing Treasurer and other Board Members will be available to help you learn the various aspects of this Board position and ensure you will be successful.

Anyone interested, please contact the Board President, Barbara Katen by email at bkaten2@gmail.com. Someone PLEASE volunteer, we need you! Thank you.

#### Blues in the Schools Update Igniting Musical Passions in Young Hearts

By Rick Snyder, BITS Head Honcho In the bustling heart of the greater Sacramento area, a melodious wave is set to sweep through the schools, bringing with it the soulful

echoes of the blues. The *Blues in the Schools* (BITS) program is gearing up for its inaugural assembly at the end of February, marking the beginning of an exciting journey into the world of music for students in grades K-8. This initiative is spearheaded by the Sacramento Blues Society (SBS), as BITS is more than just an educational program—it's a journey into the heart of music itself.

Rick Snyder, the BITS Chair, extends an open invitation to all SBS member bands passionate about sharing the richness of blues

music with young minds. This call to action is not just for bands to perform but to ignite a spark of creativity and love for music in the students of the greater Sacramento area. Bands interested in making a meaningful difference in the lives of these young learners can reach out to Rick at rick@leftcoastentertainment.com to become a part of this noble cause.

The program's reach extends beyond the elementary and middle schools; a high school has already been set for an Artist-in-Residence after-school program. This initiative promises to bring the experience and wisdom of seasoned musicians directly to students, offering them a unique opportunity to learn from the best in the field. Efforts are currently underway to broaden this opportunity, aiming to envelop more schools in the warm embrace of blues music.

As spring blossoms in May, the BITS Showcase is poised to take center stage, with numerous venues vying for the privilege to host this much-anticipated event. This showcase will not only celebrate the students' musical journey but also pay homage to the timeless tradition of blues music, allowing young musicians to share their newfound passion with a wider audience.

The success of the BITS program could not have been possible without the generous support of its benefactors. Over the past two years, donations of instruments, gear, and funds have poured in, each contributing to the program's mission. The Jerry Banks family, Judy Tyson and Tommy King in memory of Steve King, Lee Oskar, Kala Ukuleles, Jan Kelley, Patrick Armstrong, and the friends and family of Tim Crouch are just a few of the generous hearts who have played a pivotal role in bringing BITS to life. John Noxon, Roger Patterson, Steve Boettner, John Ellis, Mark Miller, The Porteus Foundation, Jeff Herzog, Campbell Ingram, Rik Pomares, and countless others have also lent their support, showcasing the community's collective commitment to nurturing the future of blues music.

The BITS initiative stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of blues music and its ability to inspire, educate, and transform. As we look forward to the unfolding of this program, we are reminded of the power of music to bring people together, to educate, and to enrich the human experience. Long may the blues live on, echoing through the halls of schools and into the hearts of students, fostering a new generation of musicians and music lovers alike.

To everyone who has contributed to BITS in any capacity: your generosity fuels this journey, ensuring that the legacy of blues music continues to thrive and inspire. Together, we are harmonizing education with the soul of blues, one note, one child, and one school at a time. Long Live the Blues!

## What's on your Playlist?

By Barbara Katen

I never tire of finding out what favorites are on our fellow Blues lovers playlists. And if you are interested in sharing your faves with us, please send your top five songs to me at bkaten2@gmail. com. Be sure and put "What's on My Playlist" in the subject line. I promise if you don't offer them up voluntarily, at some point you will receive a text, email, or call from me as I'm working my way through our membership list! Thank you to the following SBS members for sharing their favorites with us:

Marina Texiera
"Head Over Heels" – Tears for Fears
"I'd Rather Go Blind" – Etta James
"Angel from Montgomery" – Bonnie Raitt

Playlist, Con't. from P. 3

"Sailing" – Christopher Cross "Outstanding" – The Gap Band

Lucy Kataoka

"I Need your Love in My Life" - Coco Montoya

"Hellbound Train" - Savoy Brown

"Thing Called Love" - Bonnie Raitt

"Dixie Chicken" - Little Feat

"Whipping Post" - Allman Brothers

Frank Munz

"In Memory of Elizabeth Reed" - Allman Brothers

"Learn to Treat Me Right" - Fabulous Thunderbirds

"Help Me" - Sonny Boy Williams

"Pawnshop Bound" - William Clarke

"Nine Below Zero" - Muddy Waters

Shirley McCoy

"Telephone Angel" - Son Seals

"You Didn't Think About That" - Coco Montoya

"Bad News is Coming" - Luther Allison

"Cut You Loose" - GA-20

"Catfish" – Rory Gallagher

Tony Runge

"Loan Me a Dime" - Boz Scaggs

"Calling All Cows "- Elvin Bishop

"Not the Only One" - Bonnie Raitt

"Little Sister" - Ry Cooder

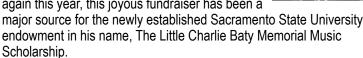
"Bad Love" - Luther Allison

\*Bonus Track: "Baby, Please Don't Go" - Aerosmith

#### **Little Charlie Celebration Concert**

By Mindy Giles, SBS Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholarship Committee Director

Anticipation is growing for the 3rd Annual Little Charlie Baty Celebration Concert here in Sacramento on Thursday, March 28. This has become a destination event for worlewide fans of both Charlie and Rick Estrin & The Nightcats, cofounders of the band. At Harlow's (2708 J. St.) again this year, this joyous fundraiser has been a



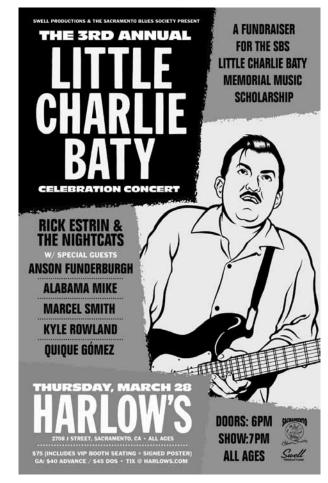
As of press time, there are very limited GA tickets left. VIP seating sold out last December. There may be some standing room only tickets at the door, day of show.

Joining the beloved, multi-award winning Nightcats (Rick Estrin, Kid Andersen, Lorenzo Farrell and D'Mar) again this year will be Texas guitar legend, Anson Funderburgh, a very close friend of Baty's. The contemporary blues/soul singer/storyteller Alabama Mike (just nominated for two 2024 Blues Music Awards), and soul/blues powerhouse shouter/crooner and SBS Hall of Fame member, Marcel Smith will also join. Kyle Rowland has just returned from his lauded semi-final appearance at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis and fellow harpman/singer Quique Gomez from Spain rounds out the stunning group of special guests.

Special collectable merchandise, including an autographed 11 x 17 cardstock poster will be available for sale.

New this year will be a Little Charlie Baty Archives display, a small

sampling of the substantial Little Charlie Baty Collection, a permanent archive at the downtown Sacramento Public Library. Compiled and curated by Devin Miller, the collection contains a selection of photographs, flyers, and handbills, blues music publications, personal and professional correspondence, posters, band calendars, itineraries, newspaper clippings, and recordings documenting the life and career of our music hero.



## Support the SBS Hall of Fame

By Sally Katen, Hall of Fame Committee Chair

For my birthday this year, I'm asking for donations to The Sacramento Blues Society Hall of Fame. I've chosen this nonprofit because their mission means a lot to me, and I hope you'll consider contributing as a way to celebrate with me. Every little bit will help me reach my goal of \$1500. I've included information about The Sacramento Blues Society below.



The mission of the Sacramento Blues Society is to preserve, promote & provide blues music to the Sacramento, CA region. The mission of its *Blues In The Schools* program is to create opportunities for each student to come into confident possession of their innate talents. The mission of its Hall of Fame is to honor those who came before us and those who are still keeping the blues alive! Each year the Sacramento Blues Society receives nominations of those people in the Sacramento area who have been either a Performer (musician/vocalist) or Non-Performer (supporter of the blues) for 20 or more years, who are deserving of recognition.

This year's events for the Hall of Fame will be:

Facebook – Sally's Birthday – Go Fund Me – Monies to benefit the

Hall of Fame, Con't. from P. 4

SBS HOF. Sally's Birthday donations will run from February 15 through March 15.

June 23, 2024 – Johnny "Guitar" Knox Jam with HOF Members & Guest, The Torch Club

September 29, 2024 – SBS Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Harlow's



# SBS Musicians - Call Out for Radio Interviews!

By Shirley McCoy

Radio station KZFR in Chico is offering musicians an opportunity for a live interview on the show *Studio 416*, which airs on Saturdays from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Interviews of the bands are conducted along with live performances at the



studio whenever possible. The focus is on blues music, but they are open to any genre.

Interested in being on? A telephone interview can first be arranged and then if you can make it to the studio in Chico, you will be invited to play live on the fourth Saturday of the month. Previous musicians interviewed are Val Starr and John E., Angel Reyes and Tim Barnes, and Kyle Rowland.

To participate in this exciting opportunity, contact shirley@kzfr.org. Archives of all of our shows, including *Studio 416*, can be found at www.kzfr.org.

Please support any and all local community radio stations!





## In Memoriam

Harvey "Guitar Mac" MacKnally

#### By Jan Kelley

On Saturday, December 30, 2023, Sacramento and the blues community lost blues legend Harvey "Guitar Mac" MacKnally, who succumbed to a battle with cancer. Mac was born on March 20, 1946 in Cotton Plant, Arkansas and moved to the South Bay Area in 1968, later settling in Sacramento.

Known for his pure Mississippi Delta Blues style and often wearing long, colorful feathers in his hat, Mac struck a chord within the hearts and souls of fans who enjoyed his singing and playing guitar. He also had a wit about him which wasn't often displayed during his performances but brought smiles to those who caught it.

Mac played every year in the popular Sacramento Blues Festival from 1983 to its end in 1993, and was a consistent performer at the King Biscuit Blues Festival in Arkansas. As a solo performer, he was often a "fill-in" between acts or an opening act.

Some remembrances from friends and fellow musicians:

"Guitar Mac was a staple of the Sacramento blues scene for over 50 years. He was an integral part of the Sacramento Blues Festival and worked with its founder, Phil Givant, on the "Blues with Phil" radio show. He gave many aspiring blues musicians their first gig as members of his band, He's left an indelible legacy." -- Mick Martin

"Mac was my friend and through him I was able to play numerous blues festivals in northern California, New Mexico and Nevada. He was, as the saying goes, the "real deal." Rest in Power, Mac, you did good." – Angel Reyes

"I played drums for Mac intermittently for several years. I owe a great deal of gratitude to Mac for the opportunity to perform for thousands at blues and Juneteeth festivals, and for allowing me to play on his first three albums. There's a hole here in Sacramento that cannot be filled.— Scott Luwisch

"Because of Mac's influence, I went from a hard-core punk band to my roots music and it's the best thing I've ever done. He played a serious role in my Blues upbringing," – JC Smith aka Johnny Cosmik, KKUP FM

Mac received many prestigious awards throughout his career:

- 1990 presented the Key to the City (of Sacramento) by then Mayor Ann Rudin
- 1991 Blues DJ of the Year, Bay Area Blues Society
- 2002 Radio Producer of the Year, Access Sacramento
- 2006 West Coast Blues Society Hall of Fame Blues Band Leader of the Year
- 2009 West Coast Blues Society Hall of Fame Traditional Delta Style Blues Artist of the Year
- 2016 Sacramento Blues Society Hall of Fame

His legacy includes some 14 CDs. Mac was a good man who touched many lives, always in a positive and kindly manner. He was a man whose life can't be summed up in a few words, and who will be missed..

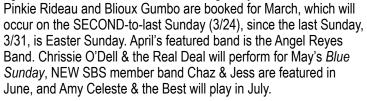
Guitar Mac's Memorial will be held on Sunday, March 24, 2024 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, at the VFW POST 4647, 3300 U, Street, Antelope, CA. Please join his family and friends for a celebration of life to include great blues performed by an all-star lineup of Northen California blues, R&B, and rock musicians. There is no admission charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

## **Blue Sunday Update**

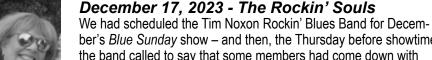
By Cari Chenkin

Photos by Cari Chenkin & Julio Covington

Our *Blue Sunday* program has really taken off in the last year – almost every band that has played has contacted me to ask when they can play again! I've booked the 2024 dates through July.



In this issue, I'm reviewing our December and January shows. Our February show, starring the Herald Sessions Trio, will have occurred too close to press time to include in this issue; look for it in the next one.



ber's *Blue Sunday* show – and then, the Thursday before showtime, the band called to say that some members had come down with COVID, and they had to cancel their performance. Oh no! Just three days to find a replacement band!

Fortunately, the very next day, I reached out to TJ Furtado of The

Rockin' Souls – who graciously agreed to step in at the last minute and play our December Blue Sunday gig. My heroes! I'm eternally grateful to them.

The band, consisting of TJ Furtado on bass, Zane Toberer on drums, Jay Cavileer on harmonica and Brandon McCullough on guitar, romped through three sets of good



time covers, from Carl Perkins' "Blue Suede Shoes" to Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues", to Delbert McClinton's "Every Time I Roll the Dice" to the "Stray Cat Strut".

All four band members contribute vocals to the mix, which adds depth and dimension to their performance and their strong musicianship and fun energy made for a very entertaining show.

Some of my favorites from their sets were the Buddy Miles anthem



"Them Changes", the Jimi Hendrix classics "Little Wing" and "Voodoo Child", the Rolling Stones' "Dead Flowers" and Tommy









Castro's "Nasty Habits". They ended their show with "Let the Good Times Roll" and when the Rockin' Souls play, that's exactly what happens!

# January 28, 2024 – The Carmen Ratti Band, Featuring Jill Dineen

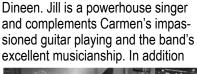
January's Blue Sunday performance was by the Carmen Ratti Band, featuring vocalist Jill Dineen. Fresh off their appearance at the IBC in Memphis, the band put on an excellent show and was well received by a decent crowd, despite the fact that that afternoon was the NFC Championship game, and the 49ers were playing.

Although they returned from their Memphis trip with head colds, the band were real troupers and worked their musical magic through

two long, killer sets.



They started out with an instrumental number, then covered Big Joe Turner's classic "Flip, Flop & Fly". Following that number, they brought out their vocalist Jill





to Carmen and Jill, the band featured Dave Mehrwein on



on bass and Ben Trumbo on drums.

They played a number of classic blues, and treated the crowd to their own very



creative arrangements of some of the songs. Their version of "Every Day I Have the Blues" started out in pure funk style, then switched up to a blistering shuffle in mid-song, switching back to funk mode to close out the number.

They also showcased some of their original songs, debuting one co-written by Carmen and Jill. Some of the original titles included "Make You Mine", "Not Feeling You", "Coming Down" and "Blessing in the Blues".

Other covers included "I Don't Need No Doctor", Dave Mason's "Feelin' All Right", Irma Thomas' "You Can Have My Husband", "Standin' on Shaky Ground" and "Blues Is My Business". They finished the show with a great rendition of "Goin' Down". If you missed the show due to the NFL playoffs, don't worry – you'll have a chance to see them when they play for a May 29 *Blues & Bourbon* show at the Starlet Room!

## SBS Returns to the International Blues Challenge

#### Congratulations to Semifinalist Kyle Rowland!

By Cari Chenkin

Photos by Bo Ely, Bobbie Armstrong, Sally Katen. Frank Munz & Liz Walker

After an absence of almost a decade, the Sacramento Blues Society was pleased to once again send one of our member musicians to Memphis to compete in the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge.



Photo by Bob Cosman

We started planning for our IBC competition at the beginning of 2023, and held our contest in the spring. We opened the competition to both bands and solo/duo artists, and when the voting was done, Kyle Rowland was the judges' choice. We raised money throughout the second half of 2023, and

were able to fund Kyle's trip.



Off he went to Memphis, along with a team of loyal SBS supporters, and in one of the coldest winters in the Southeast, he warmed the hearts and souls of the IBC audiences and judges, making it to the semifinal round of the competition! (Of course, we all thought he should have won it.) Please see Liz Walker's article below for details of the trip made by our enthusiastic Kyle supporters.

We're proud of Kyle and his showing in Memphis and know that he made a terrific impression on the

global blues community, as well as making many valuable music business contacts. We predict a bright musical career future for Kyle.

In case you didn't know, another SBS member band, the Carmen Ratti Band, Featuring Jill Dineen, also went to Memphis to compete in the IBC, representing our neighboring Golden Gate Blues Society. A brief account of their Memphis adventures follows this article and Liz Walker's article.

As this goes to press, our IBC Committee will be starting the planning for 2024's competition, to be held in Memphis in January of 2025. Stay tuned for details in future issues of the Blue Notes.

## **International Blues** Challenge 2024

By Liz Walker

Challenge was certainly the correct word for this year's IBC. Attendees found themselves slipping and sliding on sidewalks and streets, navigating broken





water pipes and flooded hotels. reduced to porta-potties due to citywide low water pressure, finding local restaurants and attractions closed, and trying to decide which incredible act to follow through the process. With temperatures in the teens and ice covering the streets, our brave SacTown contingent found solace in some very hot blues.

The competition was fierce when some of the best from around the

world came to Beale Street to show their stuff. Though our hometown blues man Kyle Rowland didn't make it through to the finals, he was a definite fan favorite. Lots of talk on the street, with people commenting



on his talent and stage performance. He had both his crowded venues singing about finding love and

salvation and smiling while doing so.

And speaking of crowded, I haven't been in a bar that



crowded in a VERY, very long time-packed to the rafters. Joe Waters (the winning solo act) was Kyle's competition throughout the quarter and semi finals. While we haven't seen the scoring sheets yet, I'm sure they were close.

There were some changes on Beale Street - Miss Polly's is gone and BB's was closed for renovations. The Peabody (Hotel) fountain and bar were under renovation as well,



but we got our chicken on at Gus's, ribs at Blues City Cafe, and Rum Boogie was popping.

The trip was a first for several in our group and though disappointed in not being able to visit some of the local attractions (closed due to weather issues,) we all managed to have a really good time. Kudos to Marie and Ernie Martinez - what troupers! And congratulations





again to Kyle, he definitely did us proud!









# Carmen Ratti Band, Featuring Jill Dineen and the IBC 2024 By Carmen Ratti

Firstly, we were told that it is called a "challenge" not a "contest" for a reason; our band would definitely be met with a few, along with every other band participating. Our friend was NOT wrong! From winning our division in CA to getting to Memphis during a historic weather event just to name a few. However, none of this kept us

from having the experience of a lifetime!

While we did not make the finals, we played our hearts out, received great feedback from a few incredible artists & met some wonderful



people along the way. Amazingly and most importantly, we were lucky enough to be joined by friends & family that decided to make the trip to Memphis to cheer us on. That truly made all the difference in the world to us! Nothing like being with people who love you when things don't go quite according to your plan.

Lastly, I will say that the people of Memphis could not have been nicer!! I'm sure that they were faced with many weather-related issues in their own homes that made life a challenge for them, but you wouldn't know it, they treated us all with smiles & the utmost hospitality! Thank you, Memphis!! We love you!

Looking forward to an exciting 2024 and recording our second CD.





### A Casual Conversation with Terrie Odabi

By Daryl Hawkins

Terrie Odabi, a tremendous talent hailing from Oakland, California, is making waves as a woman in the blues scene. Defying gender norms in the male-dominated industry, her soulful voice and captivating performances have solidified her place among blues elites. Seamlessly weaving jazz, gospel, and R&B influences into



her music with dedication and passion, Terrie Odabi's outstanding artistry has garnered her a well-deserved nomination for a Blues Music Award. This recognition not only acknowledges her exceptional contributions to the genre but also serves as a powerful reminder that women can excel in traditionally male-centered fields.

Representing Oakland's thriving music scene, Terrie Odabi's music carries the

essence of the city, blending gritty urban influences with soulful Blues rhythms. Her journey from Oakland to global recognition speaks volumes about her unwavering determination and paves the way for aspiring female artists in the blues world.

**Blue Notes (BN)** What was your inspiration, how did you get your start in music and why the blues?

**Terrie Odabi (TO)** I don't recall a starting point in music; it has always been a part of my life. I can trace it back to my family, where music was a focal point during gatherings. My cousins and I frequently performed, and those experiences led to private lessons.

Throughout school, I actively participated in the music program, taking part in talent shows and concerts. In high school, I engaged in performing arts programs through Oakland's parks and recreation, playing lead roles in various musical theater productions. It was during this time that Larry Batiste encouraged me to gig and get paid, around the age of 16. I studied voice from the age of 10 into my 20s, under the guidance of teachers like John Patton and Gwendolyn Brown. Additionally, I studied under Bill Bell at the College of

Alameda and Phil Reeder.

BN: Who are your biggest musical influences?

**TO:** In the early stages of my musical career, some local artists from the Oakland Bay Area had a profound impact on me. Singers like Brenda Vaughn, Rosie Gaines, Jackie Marshal, Fay Carol, and Lady Bianca were among my biggest influences. Their captivating performances in local venues made the dream of becoming a singer seem achievable, as I could watch them perform live and even engage in conversations with them. I had the privilege of singing background for Brenda Vaughn and Rosie Gaines. Despite being a bit young for the club scene, I managed to navigate it successfully due to my adept makeup skills and mature dressing.

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

**TO:** I'd be doing exactly what I did for the past 28 years, having recently retired from the Oakland Unified School District. For 27 of those years, I dedicated my efforts to special education. Interestingly, in fifth grade, an assessment accurately predicted my future path. I ranked extremely high in the categories of social.

BN: What were some of the first blues songs you learned?

**TO:** Oh, I don't know. I learned blues through osmosis. My parents played the blues in our home all the time. I can tell you one of the first blues songs I performed in a club was "Down Home Blues" by BB King

BN: What does the blues mean to you?

**TO**: As a Black woman, blues is an integral part of my legacy. In the month of February, officially designated as Black History Month, I acknowledge the significance, despite it being the shortest month of the year. Blues music stands as the United States' single greatest contribution to the world, spawning numerous genres created by African Americans that have resonated globally. While this reality may be overlooked in the United States, my travels to other parts of the world make me feel genuinely appreciated as a Black person for our musical contributions. There's a continued demand to witness Black music performed by Black artists. Blues music fills me with a sense of pride.

**BN**: What have you learned about yourself from music?

**TO:** I value my privacy and don't seek attention, but through my songwriting, I learned to express my innermost feelings and thoughts. I discovered that I am a music activist because I don't shy away from sensitive subject matter. Example: I have written songs titled "Gentrification Blues," "Love Trumps Hate." This year I will be releasing a song paying homage to many of the unhoused women I had the honor to work with while working as a Case Manager with the Oakland Unified School District. The title of the song is, "Doing Nothing Ain't Enough."

**BN:** Who are the blues musicians you would most like to meet (that you haven't already) and why?

**TO:** I would love to meet Mavis Staples. Her music is intelligent, fearless, loving and spiritual. She represents all that's good in music. Not to mention her voice is a force of nature and she is an icon.

**BN:** How has music changed your life?

**TO:** 90% of my friendships, and those who I cherish most in my life, I have met through music. Music has brought a lot of love into my life.

BN: How/where do you get inspiration for your songs?

Casual Conversation w. Terrie Odabi, Con't. from P. 10

**TO:** I've written songs inspired by my experiences working as a Case Manager. I write about love. I write music about experiences I've never had but have heard about. I write songs about things I imagined. I write songs about social justice, and I've also written songs about my spiritual faith. So, I guess the answer is my inspiration comes from anywhere and everywhere.

**BN:** What advice would you give to aspiring musicians thinking of pursuing a career in blues music?

**TO:** Don't get so caught up in the pursuit of success that you don't enjoy the journey. You will meet a lot of amazing people along the way and have so many incredible experiences, so always be in the moment.

**BN:** Who would you consider to be your mentors (musical or otherwise)?

**TO:** Unfortunately, I can't say I ever had a mentor. I've encountered people along the way that I have asked questions. Sometimes they have been answered but many times they have not. For the most part, no one has ever taken me under their wings to guide me.

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

**TO:** Finding a musical community that appreciates me and my music has been a huge blessing. I have never had a team or a label. I have always been an independent artist. However, I have been abundantly blessed with some incredible musical opportunities. My biggest dream was to perform abroad. To date I have performed in many parts of the world, including Brazil, Mexico and many parts of Europe. My band and I will be going to India next month for the first time, and I will also be performing at a festival in Morocco in September. I have been nominated seven times for a Blues Music Award including this year for "Female Soul Blues Artist of the Year". By the way, feel free to go to Blues.org to vote for me. You do have to become a member, which is \$25.00.

**BN:** What is your most treasured possession?

TO: I love my collection of big earrings.

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

**TO:** I believe that blessings that are for you are for you, and nobody can take them away. When you put good out into the world, good will come back to you. When you put bad out into the world bad things will come back to you.

**BN:** If you were to have a dinner party and could invite any four (4) people, living or dead, who would you invite and why?

**TO:** I would invite my daughter who passed away almost 2 years ago. I would like to invite my father, who passed away in 2011. And I would invite my Aunt Terrie, who I was named after and passed away in 1993. She invested in me by paying for my voice lessons for many years. Then I would invite my mother, because I'm sure she misses all of them as much as I do.

Now, just for fun, please answer these rapid-fire trivia questions

BN: Favorite album of all time?

TO: Songs In The Key of Life by Stevie Wonder

**BN:** Favorite Movie? **TO:** *The Color Purple* 

**BN:** Favorite Food?

TO: I love food so much it's hard to pick a favorite. I do have a ter-

rible sweet tooth.

**BN:** Favorite Book?

**TO:** The Color Purple

**BN:** Favorite city or place?

TO: Paris

**BN:** One thing you can't live without.

TO: My 'Navage.' I have terrible postnasal drip. I can't sing without

it.

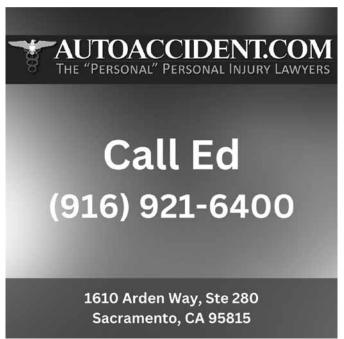
**BN:** What poster, if any, did you have on your wall growing up?

TO: The Pointer Sisters

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

**TO:** I would eliminate hatred, envy and guns.

For more information on Terrie Odabi please visit her website at: www.terrieodabi.com



# 2024 NAMM Show, Anaheim, CA Journey Out of the Heart of Darkness and Into the Heart of Innovation

By Rick Snyder, Editor & Chief Visionary Rico's Blues

Since 1978, I've attended the NAMM Show almost every year, each time with different goals in mind. Initially, it was all about the celebration - and quite the bash it turned out to be! Over time, my focus shifted towards securing endorsements for the



artists I managed. More recently, my attention has turned to my YouTube channel, Rico's Blues News. (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd8OelPO45g0jDEdC-CFxsw) During the show, I team up with my videographer to explore the event, engaging with exhibitors who catch our eye for interviews. This is exactly what we did at this year's show in late January.

The 2024 NAMM Show was a musical expedition, an exploration

into the heart of innovation that felt like stepping into a future where every chord, every beat, and every note played was a testament to progress. The air buzzed with anticipation, as enthusiasts and professionals alike navigated through a maze of the latest in music gear and technology, each booth and display offering a new story, a new possibility for the art of blues and beyond.



Among the first stops was the G7th Capos booth, where the blend of tradition and innovation was immediately evident. Here, versatility was the watchword, as these capos promised to revolutionize the way blues musicians approached their

craft. The ease of transitioning between tunings without the need to retune spoke directly to the fluid nature of blues music, embodying the genre's essence of soulful adaptability and creative spontaneity. Witnessing the capos in action, their ability to preserve the guitar's natural tone while ensuring clear, buzz-free notes underscored their indispensable value in both live performances and studio sessions. https://www.g7th.com/

The journey continued to the realm of rhythm, where Premier Drums unveiled their latest offerings. The deep, resonant sounds that emanated from these drums could only be described as the heartbeat of blues music. Each drum kit displayed was a testament to Premier's legacy of quality and versatility, capable



of capturing the expansive dynamic range demanded by blues music. From the subtle nuances of a brush stroke to the commanding presence of a rim shot, these drums were crafted to convey the emotional depth and improvisational spirit of the blues. The visual appeal of their classic designs added a layer of aesthetic pleasure to their sonic excellence, promising to enhance the stage presence of any blues ensemble.

https://www.premier-percussion.com/



Warwick Bass Guitars offered a tactile experience that was hard to move on from. Their renowned craftsmanship was evident in every curve and fret, with each model promising a distinct sonic personality that could enrich the blues soundscape. The warmth and richness of the Warwick bass tone, coupled with its seamless playability, offered a foundation upon which

blues music could thrive and evolve. The customization options on display promised an instrument that could be as unique as the musician wielding it, ensuring a perfect blend of style, comfort, and sound. The promise of durability and the flexibility of active and

passive electronics suggested these basses were not just instruments but lifelong companions on a musical journey. https://www.warwickbass.com/en/Home.html

The exploration of innovation in blues music would not be complete without delving into the world of sound capture, where Cloud Microphones presented their Cloudlifter series. These devices promised to elevate the quality of audio recording, offering clarity and warmth that could breathe life into any blues performance. The ability to enhance the dynamic range without introducing noise was a revelation, ensuring



that the soulful nuances of blues vocals and instruments were captured in their most authentic form. The versatility and ease of use of these microphones and preamps highlighted their potential as

invaluable tools for both the studio and live performances, promising to forge a deeper connection between the artist and their audience. https://www.cloudmicrophones.com/

Amid these discoveries, the Fret37 Acoustic S1 Attachable Guitar Stand and the Stage Ninja® Ninja Clamp Series Mounting System offered practical solutions with a touch of genius. The convenience of the Fret37 Stand, allowing musicians to seamlessly transition between playing and resting their instrument without skipping a beat, was a simple yet transformative innovation. Similarly, the Stage Ninja® Mounting System offered versatility and reliability, ensuring that microphones, cameras, and other devices could be positioned precisely and securely, enhancing both performance quality and audience engagement. https://www.stageninja.com/

https://fret37.com/



And that is only the beginning. We could not even begin to cover all 2,133 exhibitors that were at this year's NAMM Show.

The 2024 NAMM Show was more than an exhibition; it was a celebration of the future of music, a place where the bound-

aries between the traditional and the innovative blurred, and where the blues genre found new tools to express its timeless stories. Each booth, each product, and each demonstration was a testament to the enduring spirit of blues music, evolving yet rooted in its rich history. As I left the convention center, the sounds of the future of blues music echoed in my mind, a symphony of possibilities waiting to be explored.

# Congratulations to the International Blues Challenge's Top Selections for 2024!

The Blues Foundation announced the winners of their IBC.

**BAND DIVISION** 

Winner: Piper and The Hard Times

2nd Place Band: The Stephen Hull Experience 3rd Place Band: Mandalyn & The Hunters

SOLO/DUO DIVISION Winner: Joe Waters

2nd Place: Drum & Dye BEST GUITAR AWARD

Winner: Stephen Hull
MEMPHIS CIGAR BOX GUITAR AWARD (BEST SOLO/DUO

GUITARIST)
Winner: Bill Dye

LEE OSKAR HARMONICA AWARD (BEST HARMONICA PLAYER)

Winner: John Paul

BEST SELF-PRODUCED CD

Winner: Sister Lucille – Tell the World

#### **Get Your Blues Fix on the Radio!**

When you need a shot of the blues, and you're not going out to get it live, get it over the airwaves! See the list below of area radio blues shows for your enjoyment. Compiled courtesy of Mindy Giles.

Day	Times(PDT)	Station	Website	Dial	Blues/Roots Show	Host(s)	NOTES
Fridays	5pm-5:20pm	K-ZAP	k-zap.org	93.3FM	Rush Hour Blues	Various	Blues is part of the station format
Mondays	12pm-2:30 pm	KZFR	kzfr.org	90.1FM	Blues Bayou	Preston Powers	
Saturdays	10am-Noon	K-ZAP	k-zap.org	93.3FM	Mick Martin's Blues Party	Mick Martin	
Saturdays	6am-9am	KDVS-FM	kdvs.org	90.3FM	Buried Alive in the Blues	Big Dave	
Saturdays	7am-9am	KZFR	kzfr.org	90.1FM	Bon Matin!	Hondo	
Sundays	2pm-4pm	KVMR-FM	kvmr.org	89.5FM	Blues Spectrum	Various	
Sundays	4pm-6pm	KVMR-FM	kvmr.org	89.5FM	Blue Garage	Michael Axleman	1st & 3rd Sundays
Sundays	6pm-8pm	KDEE-FM	kdeefm.org	97.5FM	Sunday Blues Blend	Tim White	
Sundays	12am-2am	KVMR-FM	kvmr.org	89.5FM	Juke Joint	Russ Roy, Scott "Phil Harmonica" Hickman	
Sundays	12pm-2pm	KVMR-FM	kvmr.org	89.5FM	Hallelujah Hollaback	Meri St. Mary	Bi-weekly-SOUL/ GOSPEL
Sundays	12pm-2pm	KVMR-FM	kvmr.org	89.5FM	Freedom Highway	Various	Bi-weekly- FUNK/ GOSPEL/SOUL
Sundays	8pm-10pm	KDVS-FM	kdvs.org	90.3FM	Front Porch Blues	JD Esquire	
Thursdays	2pm-4pm	KVMR-FM	kvmr.org	89.5FM	Funky Grooves	Mystic Al	Bi-weekly, blues is part of the mix
Thursdays	2pm-4pm	KVMR-FM	kvmr.org	89.5FM	Sierra Soul Train	Husky LePew	Bi-weekly, blues is part of the4 mix
Thursdays	10pm-12am	KZFR	kzfr.org	90.1FM	Basically the Blues	Tom L., Papa John Miles	
Tuesdays	9pm-10pm	KDRT-FM	kdrt.org	95.7FM	Juke in the Back	Matt the Cat	http://www.jukeinthe- back.org/
Tuesdays	2pm-4pm	KVMR-FM	kvmr.org	89.5FM	So Many Roads	Thom Myers, Dr. Derek Washington	
Tuesdays	12am-2am	KVMR-FM	kvmr.org	89.5FM	Music for Grown Folks	Husky LePew	Bi-weekly, blues is part of the mix
Tuesdays	12pm-2pm	KVMR-FM	kvmr.org	89.5FM	Groove Cafe	David James	Bi-weekly, blues is part of the mix
Tuesdays	7:30pm- 10pm	KZFR	kzfr.org	90.1FM	Zephyr Soul Stew	Tim G.	2nd, 4th & 5th Tues- days
Wednes- days	10pm-12am	KZFR	kzfr.org	90.1FM	Creole Stomp	Hondo, Kyle, Bill & David	

## **More Photos from the IBC**









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# **Sacramento Blues Society Member Bands**

#### Need music for an event or an occasion? Hire an SBS Member Band! And buy their CDs!

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The William Mylar Band Zenn Vudu

www.mylarville.com



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Blue Notes is the official bi-monthly newsletter of the Sacramento Blues Society.

Editor: Cari Chenkin Send information for the newsletter to: editor@sacblues.org, or mail to Editor at the above address.

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