



BLUE NOTES!

A bi-monthly publication of the SACRAMENTO BLUES SOCIETY

NOV-DEC
2021
ISSUE 42
VOL. 6

Our NEW CD!

BACKLIN BUSINESS!

2021 SACRAMENTO BLUES SOCIETY MEMBER BANDS COMPILATION

SACRAMENTO
Blues Society
Since 1979

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE
RECIPIENT

President's Column

By Sally Katen



Wow, what a wild couple of months we have had! We had a scare when someone who had attended the Hall of Fame induction ceremony on September 26th, although vaccinated, later tested positive for COVID19. Fortunately, no attendees at the event contracted COVID. I have been in contact with everyone possible - most went for the COVID test or did the instant test, and everyone is fine. One of the musicians had tested positive three days after the event and confirmed he did not get it at the HOF, nor did he mingle with the crowd. When we were informed of this, we immediately sent an email blast informing members.

Speaking of the Hall of Fame ceremony, I want to congratulate everyone who was inducted and those who came to the event. The music was awesome, thanks to the Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra and the fantastic Marcel Smith! The inductees and their families were all there and everyone had a wonderful time.

We have had some enjoyable music events happening around Sacramento recently: "Blues & Bourbon" has returned to the Starlet Room, with enthusiastic attendance. The "Blues by the River" was a fun event and SBS was there. We started our "Blue Sundays" at the Torch Club, which is a new event occurring the last Sunday of every month, and which will feature our SBS member bands. Coming up November 28th - Todd Morgan & the Emblems and Red's Blues on December 19th, (the Torch Club will be closed 12/26.), If you are one of our member bands, and want to play one of these gigs, please submit your application at: <https://bit.ly/3j34DbW>. Not a member band yet? Grab the opportunity to display your talents on behalf of the SBS! Go to: sacblues.org/support-us/membership/

Rick Estrin and the Nightcats returned to the stage at the Sofia to a full house on October 2nd and gave such a lively performance that

you wanted to get on your feet and dance! D'Mar did his famous jump above his drums. Rick's personality and harmonica playing, along with Christoffer Lund (Kid) Andersen on guitar, plus Lorenzo Farrell on organ made you wish it would not end. What a great evening!

We are planning our upcoming Membership/Holiday Party to be held at Harlow's on December 12th. The music is going to be off the hook, and I hope you will attend. We will have our annual vote for Board Members and will raffle off the guitar signed by members of Papa Roach, along with other raffle items. I am collecting the raffle prizes and so encourage you to please donate if you can. I want to have an awesome raffle to close out 2021!!

2021 Committee Chairs

Blues in the Schools - Rick Snyder

Hall of Fame - Sally Katen

Events - Mindy Giles

Membership - Linda McShane

Sponsorships/Fundraising - Doug Pringle

Public Relations & Social Media - Mindy Giles

Volunteer Coordinator - Open

Big Day of Giving - Rick Snyder

Donor Gifts - Sally Katen

Blue Notes Newsletter - Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley

IBC Competition - Renee Erickson Sullivan

Webmaster - Mindy Giles

Board of Directors Development - Doug Pringle

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.

For more details, including meeting location, check: www.sacblues.org

2021 Board of Directors

Sally Katen, President

Barbara Katen, Vice President

Secretary - TBD

Renee Erickson Sullivan, Treasurer

Rex Smith, Parliamentarian

Cari Chenkin

Rick Snyder

Chris Clark

Dana Moret

Jim Coats

Sacramento Blues Society Publications

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With all that being said, the year is not over yet! Get out and enjoy some live music!

Bylaws Changes Need Your Vote!

By Rex Smith



The SBS Bylaws were most likely written in 1979 when the Sacramento Blues Society was founded. The world has kept changing but the Bylaws have not kept up with the times. Over the last several months the SBS Board of Directors has been hard at work hammering out a few desperately needed changes in the Bylaws. These changes will allow the Board of Directors to function better and more easily comply with the legal requirements mandated by state law.

SBS Members are invited to attend the Membership Holiday Gala on Sunday, December 12, 2021, where you will be entertained and will also have an opportunity to vote on the proposed changes to the SBS Bylaws.

The Board of Directors sincerely hopes all members will vote TO PASS these much-needed changes in the Bylaws. A summary is below. (The full text of the proposed changes to the Bylaws will be on the Ballot that you will receive in the mail before the Membership Holiday Gala.)

1. Qualifications of Directors. The existing Bylaws require members that want to be elected to the SBS Board of Directors to have attended six of the last eight Board Meetings. We have discovered that this does not work. We can't keep all Eleven Board seats filled with this unrealistic requirement. We propose reducing it to attending one Board meeting and being a SBS member for one year before being elected to the Board.

2. Emergency Meetings. Occasionally an issue must be quickly addressed and voted on by the Board of Directors in between our Monthly Meetings. The current Bylaw that allows for this is convoluted and unnecessarily complex, which makes compliance impractical. The newly proposed Bylaw that allows for Emergency Meetings under certain clearly defined conditions will streamline the entire process.

3. Process of Amending the Bylaws. The current Bylaws require a 75% "yes" vote of those members who attend a meeting for the purpose of voting on proposed Amendments to the Bylaws. The Board feels that a two-thirds majority or 66% is more appropriate.

Please note that this only applies to Amendments to the Bylaws. The Board is not changing the 75% vote threshold required for Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation.

Please Support Live Music and Venues!

A Message from the Editor

Although things aren't completely "back to normal" following the massive pandemic shutdown, we are fortunate to be able to go out to enjoy food, drinks, and live music once again. But things are different, due to current COVID protocols, and our restaurants, music venues and musicians are still struggling to make ends meet. Staff shortages, supply shortages, smaller occupancy capacities and higher prices remain challenges facing our entertainment industry.

The SBS, in support of our member bands and venues, urges all our members and fellow blues lovers to please be patient and compassionate, and get out there to patronize these establishments so

they can continue to bring us the music we love. Go to a live show, pay the cover charge, and tip the bands when you can! Support live music!

Blues In The Schools (BITS) Update

by Rick Snyder, BITS Chairman



Wow, talk about a roller coaster. Masks, vax cards, isolation, social distance... In speaking with the teachers involved in the BITS Afterschool Program, it looks like we will be doing the program via Zoom, at least until we are not. Hopefully, since students are not tethered to their computer screens all day for school, we can garner enough interest to make a dent this year.

We now have a list of school principals and music teachers throughout California. We intend to market the videos we made last year for our auditorium programs throughout California. Yes, we are moving beyond the borders of the greater Sacramento area, and our goal is to instill a love and understanding of the musical genre known as the blues as far and wide as possible.

The BITS Committee is working with the John Lee Hooker Foundation to produce two Home Again shows, one in the Bay area and one in the greater Sacramento area. The show we co-produce in the Bay area will feature their local Blues in the School students and a Sacramento area band or two. Conversely, the show in the Sacramento area will feature our local Blues in the School students and a Bay area band or two.

We want to give a massive shout out to the folks who have donated and continue to donate to Sacramento Blues in the Schools:

John Noxon ~ master of the Hammond organ who has given and continues to give us Hammond organs, Leslie speakers, and many other pieces of gear.

Tommy King ~ whose gal Judie Tyson and her dearly departed brother, Steve Claus, donated enough guitar parts to construct two electric guitars.

Marcia Alexander~ Whose dear friend, Tim Crouch, asked her to donate a beautiful electric acoustic guitar to BITS after he passed.

Roger Patterson ~ Whose tireless efforts to raise donations for BITS over the years have helped sustain our program.

We are looking forward to the coming year and all the promise it holds.

SBS Board of Directors & Bylaws Change Election

Our Election Day is December 12, 2021

As mandated by our bylaws, the Sacramento Blues Society will hold its Annual Membership Meeting December 12, 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, and we'll also vote on some proposed Bylaws changes.

The Elections Committee will mail ballots to all SBS members at the beginning of November, and **ballots must be received by mail NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 12, 2021 to be counted.** Ballots have the SBS address right on them, and all you need is an envelope and stamp.

Election, Con't. from P. 3

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 is a total of four BOD positions to fill, and there are three members running for election. (There is also an option to "write in" a candidate on the ballot.) 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!

Renee Erickson Sullivan

Hi SBS Members! My name is Renee Erickson Sullivan, and I am running for another term on your Board of Directors. I have served on the SBS Board of Directors since 2014. I currently serve as your Treasurer. However, during my tenure on the Board, I have also served as President, Vice President, Events Committee Chair, Merchandise Manager, and Volunteer Coordinator. I believe that the Board of Directors exists to protect the interest of our Society and its membership and that communication with our membership is key to making that happen. I am asking for your vote again this year. Thank you!



Rick Snyder

Thanks for voting me in as a member of the Board of Directors for the Sacramento Blues Society in 2019. As my term is up at the end of the year I thought I would give you the opportunity to utilize my services for another two years. In my tenure thus far, I have been the Chairman then Co-Chairman of the Blues in the School Committee. We have created an

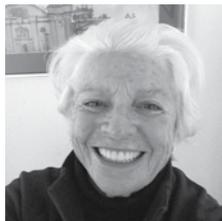
alliance with the John Lee Hooker Foundation, co-presented a live streaming tribute/fundraiser featuring local and touring bands, we presented a Blues in the School Showcase, we have raised money through donations, we have been the recipient of many wonderful donations for the Blues in the Schools program, to name a few of the opportunities Blues in the School have offered the community.

I am currently the editor of Rico's Blues News; a publication both loved and hated by many. Our goal with Rico's Blues News is to bring together the blues communities in Washington, Oregon and California. If successful it will provide the opportunity to share resources, promotion and musical talent.

I am also the curator of the Museum of the Strange and Unusual. We have a large collection of artifacts never before seen by man nor beast. Vote for me and get the whole package!

Barbara Ray

I am a supporter of SBS. I have a small business Music and Art Sacramento and have been organizing events for bands in local home and non-profit setting for over five years. I have been an active member of SBS for about four years and have volunteered at several events .



Music & Arts Sacramento is in the business of making music events fun and successful. I would be happy to assist SBS with marketing,

development, and/or the promotion of events for both private and public audiences. I have developed several events with other third party organizations. I would be happy to serve on the membership committee. Thanks

Sponsors And Member Bands Lead The Way

Please Renew for 2022!

By Doug Pringle



As 2022 approaches and we all get back to live performances of the music we love, the renewed support of our member bands and sponsors is more important than ever. By renewing your sponsorship or your band membership you do far more than lead the way in supporting our mission to preserve and promote blues music. Your leadership inspires our members to join you in support of our mission and programs and you will be supporting Sacramento's premier organization which acts as the ambassador for the blues.

You help support our programs, from The Sacramento Blues Hall of Fame Inductions to grassroots assistance for musicians in need via The Gene Chambers Musicians Crisis Fund. You will be there on the front lines with us as we help young musicians develop their blues skills in our Blues In The Schools Program. You help aid students who exhibit proclivity for music in the acquisition of musical instruments, equipment, special education or mentoring in an effort to foster their interest and abilities in blues music via the Mick Martin Student Fund.

We look forward to working with you in 2022.

BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET

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

NOVEMBER 2021 SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 3RD:
LISA PHENIX BAND
\$12: GA / \$10: SBS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 10TH:
PROXY MOON
\$12: GA / \$10: SBS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 17TH:
LUCKY LOSERS
(RAY AREA SA 2021 INDEPENDENT BLUES AWARDS WINNERS)
6PM - 8:30PM
\$15: GA / \$12: SBS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 24TH:
TBA

VAX CARDS & MASKS REQUIRED @ THE DOOR

UPTOWN & LOWDOWN, 2 SETS OF BLUES, DRINKS/FOOD & DANCE FLOOR. 5:30PM DOORS / 6:30PM SHOW
COMING IN DECEMBER: BIG CHIEFS, HOWELDEVINE, MICK MARTIN BB, "CATFISH" COPELAND

SBS Successfully Launches New "Blue Sundays" Showcase!

By Dana Moret

As the crowd shuffled into the Torch Club on Sunday, August 29th, the air of caution being out and about in the world was still fresh in the minds of the attendees, but quickly dissipated once everyone got settled in and heard Val and her band winding up the finishing touches of their sound check. One by one, two by two, blues fans from longtime members to new-to-the-scene prospects showed their support at the door and on the dance floor as the band kicked off the first of the Blues Society's "Blue Sundays" events at the legendary blues club. (We didn't have a Blue Sundays show on September 26, as that was our Hall of Fame Induction and afterparty.)

Approved by the SBS Board of Directors in an effort to preserve and promote the blues, the "Blue Sundays" program was established as a monthly event presented by the SBS to further its mission by actively engaging its member bands and supporting its sponsor venues, to help rebuild our local blues scene and bring life back to the musical community.

Val Starr and her Blues Rocket were the perfect act to launch the series, charming the room with her upbeat, optimistic take on the blues. The band navigated the vibe of the room with song after song that reminded all in attendance that the blues is alive and well in Sacramento! A big thanks to the band for helping make this initial showcase memorable.

"Blue Sundays" at the Torch Club are a great way to come support the local member acts moving forward. Bands from our membership have been selected to showcase monthly at the famed club, with acts being secured all the way through March of 2022! Catch Todd Morgan & the Emblems on November 28, and Red's Blues on December 19!

If you are a member band and would like to be considered for this series, please visit our website at sacblues.org for details on how to submit your act. Here's a link to the simple application form: <https://bit.ly/3pgzh5t>.

For all you blues lovers out there, there is a whole lot of blues talent among our members. It will be our pleasure to show you just how much.

SBS Guitar Raffle Continues

Back before the full brunt of the COVID pandemic was felt, in the May-June 2020 issue of the *Blue Notes*, we announced plans to raffle off a special and unique guitar. SBS member Craig Christensen donated his Charvel electric guitar, signed by all the members of the Papa Roach band.

Well, you know what happened – everything shut down, and there were no live events where we could display the guitar and sell raffle tickets. So it's been sleeping in its case, patiently waiting for the day when, like Sleeping Beauty, it would awaken and dazzle us with its glory.

That time has come and we've been selling Guitar Raffle tickets at every SBS event. Tick-



ets are \$5 each, or five tickets for \$20.

Be sure to come by the table and take a look at it at our "Blue Sundays" events at the Torch Club and at "Blues and Bourbon", every Wednesday night at the Starlet Room.

We'll sell tickets through the rest of the year and if we sell enough raffle tickets by then, we'll draw the winning ticket at our Annual Membership Meeting/Holiday Party on December 12.

Proceeds from this raffle will be split between our Blues in the Schools fund and the SBS general funds. So, save up those \$5 bills - all it takes is just ONE lucky ticket, and that guitar could be yours!

2021 Membership Meeting/Holiday Party SAVE THIS DATE! Sunday, December 12! with "Holiday Blues Belles"

By Mindy Giles

We are planning a year-end warm, wacky, soul-lifting finale to another tough year. In the spirit of rebuilding our local scene after this past year, we're putting together an all-star cast of member musicians/bands from each of our programs and bringing in a very famous & beautiful DIVA for our finale. We are not "putting on a show in the barn", but Judy & Micky are our spirit guides.



The event is:

"Holiday Blues Belles", Sunday, December 12,
Harlow's, 2708 J St., Sacramento, CA 95816

4pm-Doors

Still FREE to current members, \$30 - GA.

Advance tix: www.harlows.com

This crackin' holiday show will roll on until 8pm+. 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, be your bad self! We are all in this together.

Vax cards and (glittery!) masks are part of the deal.

SBS Merchandise Restocked & Ready Just in Time for the Holiday Season!

We have restocked and increased our inventory, and we now have more baseball hats, new women's black long-sleeved tees, our warm and cozy SBS hoodies, SBS masks and lapel pins.

This is a small order and the next time we order will be for spring, so send some suggestions to Sally at bluesfortheure@hotmail.com. about what colors you like - pastels, pinks, or blues? Reds, more blacks, etc. We're also open to suggestions for more items you'd like to have to show your support for the SBS!



A Dazzling Afternoon of Emotional Rescue with **BACK IN BUSINESS!**

By Mindy Giles

SBS Events Chair/CD Producer/2021 Hall of Fame Member

Photos by Steve Martarano, Mindy Giles & Cari Chenkin



What does a frustrated Blues Society do in a world-wide pandemic that revealed itself in a sudden March 2020 whiplash lockdown – a pandemic whose tentacles are still holding on at the end of 2021? We rolled up our sleeves and made a record, featuring sixteen member

blues bands, bravely titled **BACK IN BUSINESS!**

Our committee (me, Sally Katen, Barbara Katen, Dana Moret) meetings started in January, 2021. The call went out to all member artists/bands in early March, tracks were submitted by mid-May, art/packaging design, and programming took place in June, mixing, mastering and manufacturing in July--- and then, like a Monarch making a perfect two point landing on a milkweed, the CDs winged their way from New Jersey and landed in sunny Sacramento in mid-August, exactly in time for the afternoon CD release and celebration concert on Saturday, Aug.21.



SBS Board members and Blues In The Schools (BITS) co-chairs, Rick Snyder and Jeff Herzog tag teamed as enthusiastic emcees, advised members on the current activities of their committee, and directed folks to the SBS merchandise/CD table... and the gazebo bar.

BITS protégé and emerging young guitar star, Justin Walter may not yet have a driver's license, but at age 15, he clearly knows how to drive a band. His trio (Chris Greany, drums,vocals; Ray Manina, bass,vocals) blazed on their set. Walter already understands dynam-



Outdoors under the new giant circus tent festooned with tangerine and teal balloons (the album cover colors) on the pillowy Great Lawn at The Dante Club (2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.) was an appreciated choice for the nearly two hundred blues music fans, and even though we had two huge swamp coolers, the 84-degree temperature (unheard of in August!!) kept us comfortable.

The music however, was on fire, a real emotional rescue.

Val Starr, John Ellis and band (Val Starr, John Ellis and Frankie Munz) gave us a one song surprise - their perfectly pandemic love



song, "So Easy Isolatin' With You" before they had to head out of town for another gig.

Chanteuse piano/slide guitarist Katie Knipp and her band (Zack Proteau, bass; Neil Campisano, drums; Chris Martinez, guitar) are supporting her new Billboard Blues

charting EP, *The Well* (released in February, 2021) in an exuberant way. She can howl and purr in her originals--"some songs lean towards jazz, some towards Americana, but it's all blues at the core." Sacramento bluesman/educator/mentor/legend Mick Martin is a fan and he joined in as special guest.

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BITS protégé and emerging young guitar star, Justin Walter may not yet have a driver's license, but at age 15, he clearly knows how to drive a band. His trio (Chris Greany, drums,vocals; Ray Manina, bass,vocals) blazed on their set. Walter already understands dynam-

ics and when not to play, crucial musical knowledge that so many players two and three times his age never seem to grasp. We all see a strong future for him!

Red's Blues, led by Beth-Reid Grigsby and her nationally known, award-winning bassist husband (and SBS HOF member) RW Grigsby, are a stellar singer-songwriting team and know their way around a Jimmy Reed shuffle, a thumpin' rockabilly tune and a smoky ballad, all of which they performed and are on their newest 2020 release, *Broke Down in the Fast Lane*. They were joined by fellow SBS Hall of Fame bandmates, guitarist Doug Crumpacker, drummer Tim Wilbur, plus piano man Sid Morris.



The perfect afternoon (with a full happy dance floor) carried on with singer/multi-instrumentalist Kyle Rowland and his players (fellow multi-instrumentalist Todd Morgan, this day on fabulous drums, HOF guitarist Kenny Marchese and fellow HOF member R.W. Grigsby on bass, and very special guest, dazzling get-down-on-your knees gospel and blues singer and HOF member, Marcel Smith.)

Kyle, also a BITS (and Mick Martin) protégé since age 10, is a full-bore exciting entertainer now at age 27. His lifelong deep blues mission has allowed him to be mentored by some of the icons of modern blues - James Cotton, Lazy Lester, and our own Rick Estrin to name just three.



This lovely day really showed off just some of the depth and breadth of Sacramento's blues knowledge and talent, spanning styles and generations. With the invaluable production help of Liz Walker, SBS board members and volunteers, this CD release celebration

event brought us all back together - and was exactly what we wanted to share and promote in our CD, **BACK IN BUSINESS!**



Editor's Note: This CD is a project initiative to fund various SBS programs [e.g., The Gene Chambers Musicians Crisis Fund, The Mick Martin Student Fund] and to promote our members in the local musical community by providing a platform for their music to be heard.



A Virgin Big Blues Bender Experience

By Barbara Katen

If you can picture a kid in a candy store, that would be me at the 2021 Big Blues Bender! I mean, who do I go see? How do I choose? So many choices! This musical adventure started last year when my cousin Sally and I originally booked the 2020 Bender (postponed due to COVID), so we eagerly



awaited the rescheduled event in 2021 and were thrilled when we heard the Bender was a "go"! Yes, we were disappointed over the late date cancellation of Delbert McClinton and Buddy Guy, but in all honesty, as long as the "Mayor of Benderville," Tab Benoit, was still going to be there...so was I!

Arriving in Vegas the day before the Bender was to start, Sally and I checked into the Westgate Hotel, the official home (their first year) of the 2021 Bender, where we met up with fellow SBS member, MariLu Onweller. After checking in with the Bender, the three of us proudly represented the Sacramento Blues Society wearing our SBS face masks.

The following day started with the Baller Welcome Party with Tab Benoit. Woohoo! We met up with another fellow SBS member, Liz Walker, who joined us in the Cabaret for this intimate show put on by Tab. Oh look, there's Johnny Sansone! Up close and personal when Tab performs is always





where I want to be, and I got my wish at the Welcome Party (heavy sigh). This is when I just knew... this is going to be so much fun!

There were four stages at the Bender - the Cabaret, the Ballroom, the Pool Stage, and International Theater. There was always something going on, and on several occasions conflicting times for shows Sally or I wanted to attend. I saw so many of my favorites in one location: Tab Benoit, Sugaray Rayford Band, Albert Castiglia, Jimmy Hall, Hector Anchondo, Victor Wainwright, John Nemeth,

Jason Ricci, Carolyn Wonderland, Terrie Odabi, Chris Cain, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, King Solomon Hicks, and so many, many more, I could go on and on.

What I found so fun about the Blues Bender was just running into so many of these artists in the Casino. I found all of them so friendly and ready to chat. On Sunday, we went to Church with a Gospel show in the Ballroom with SugaRay Rayford



& Friends. This show was emotionally moving and so appreciated by this old gal.

I must give huge props to AJ Gross and his lovely wife, Laurie, for putting on this spectacular event. The Bender Staff was awesome, professional, and friendly. I left the 2021 Bender definitely thinking I would return. I mean, how many places is it possible to see Tab Benoit four times in as many days!

The 2022 Big Blues Bender will



be held next September at the Westgate again. It appears the hotel (formerly the International Hotel and was known for many years as the Las Vegas Hilton...home of Elvis Presley's many Las Vegas shows) is currently under renovation. The hotel staff was fabulous, but we had a series of problems with our room, culminating with us having our room changed three times. While frustrating



and time-consuming to keep moving about the hotel, the key issues were finally resolved. And yes, I would return to the Westgate again. This won't be my last Bender! I'll be back!!!

BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET

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

DECEMBER 2021 SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 1ST: **BIG CHIEFS**
\$12: GA / \$10: SBS MEMBERS

DECEMBER 8TH: **HOWELDEVINE**
(BAY AREA SHACK-SHAMIN')
\$15: GA / \$12: SBS MEMBERS

DECEMBER 15TH: **MICK MARTIN'S BIG BLUES BAND**
(DOWNSTAIRS IN HARLOW'S) \$24: GA / \$20: SBS MEMBERS

DECEMBER 22ND: TBA

DECEMBER 29TH: **RAY "CATFISH" COPELAND BAND**
\$12: GA / \$10: SBS MEMBERS

VAX CARDS & MASKS REQUIRED @ THE DOOR

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

CD Review

Alligator Records 50 Years of Genuine 'Houserockin' Music

(Alligator Records)

By Gregg Jamnetski

STEAL OF THE MILLENNIA

Editor's Note: This is Part I of a Four Part Review

A very distinctive album, a producer's labor of love - the kind of production that's reminiscent of a Smithsonian archival recording.

Comments on a few of the cuts on CD #1 (1970-1990)

Hound Dog Taylor (1915-1975) from *Hound Dog Taylor & The House Rockers* (1971)

"Give Me Back My Wig"

Love. Gotta love it - that's the best sentiment in reaction to this first cut on CD #1. The music is joyous, in your face, intimate and immediately pulls the listener into all that's special and wonderful about the kind of blues that makes you feel good. This song is straight out of a grungy South Side Chicago bar in a run-down neighborhood that would give all but Blues devotees doubts about entering.

Taylor played on a "cheap Japanese guitar," according to Bruce Iglauer, the founder and inspiration behind Alligator Records. Taylor was accompanied by Brewer Phillips's bass and Ted Harvey on



drums. The threesome was a tight trio punctuated by Taylor's shrill voice and gritty sound. Maybe Taylor's own words are the best endorsement of his style, especially so for this cut: "When I die, they'll say, 'he couldn't play shit, but he sure made it sound good!'"

Koko Taylor (1928-2009) from *The Earthshaker* (1978)
"I'm a Woman"

Stand aside! Koko Taylor, 'Queen of the Blues', has something to say and she will be heard. "I'm a Woman", which Taylor wrote and made a signature song in her shows, starts with a loud raspy plea, "Ohhh, yeah..." a plaintive guitar responds with a 3-note emphasis: high note and two down tones. Once again Taylor asserts, "Ohhh, yeah..." this time with a bit more modulation but the guitarist will have none of that. His 3-note response re-emphasizes her brusque intro but then Taylor reassures the listener that, "Everything, everything, everything gonna be alrighiiii" and this time the guitarist responds with a multi-note expression. There's a pause and then the hammer comes down, guitar, bass and drums sequence a set of down notes that pretty much mandates the listener to move with the beat.

With that Taylor tells her story. At the age of 12, her momma tells her she's got to sing the blues. Koko Taylor has a rough, almost raspy voice in this cut. There's declaration in her song approach, not finesse. The lyrics demand that she be seen, be heard, be given presence. It's more than a blues piece, it's a song that asserts a right to be respected. In my opinion, the inclusion of this seminal song, this re-mastered, long-gone blues masterpiece by a bewitching singer-songwriter justifies the cost of the album. It's a bracing, definitive expression of what this incomparable artist was all about.

Fenton Robinson (1935-1997) from *Somebody Loan Me a Dime* (1974) "Somebody Loan Me a Dime".

Fenton Robinson had a smooth and nuanced vocal style and was an accomplished guitarist. There was controversy about the authorship of his song "Somebody Loan Me a Dime". As currently reported (Wikipedia, Encyclopedia of the Blues), it is now rightfully attributed to Robinson. He wrote it, he recorded it in 1967, but even now misattribution acknowledges other artists as author. A freak Chicago snowstorm caused a region-wide shut down that delayed his record label's nationwide release of the album which allowed others to claim author attribution. Boz Scaggs recorded it in 1969 and falsely got attribution rights to the song and its royalties.

A lawsuit followed and Robinson did eventually reclaim ownership and royalties, but how much money he lost and what the attribution delays did to him getting the public attention he deserved will never be known. Alligator Records owner Iglauer reports that Robinson never did receive that acknowledgement. The Encyclopedia of the Blues states that "Somebody Loan Me a Dime" is one of the most covered songs in the blues repertoire of past and current artists.

The song starts with a rapid drum beat, a quick tempo guitar intro followed by piano support. The drums stay prominent throughout the intro. Robinson, in plaintive but compelling vocals, starts off - "somebody loan me a dime, I need to call my old time used to be." He is lonely and regretful and he wishes he could have his old lover back to ease his aching mind. The lyrics are simple and aren't a departure from the classic themes found in Blues songs but it's Robinson's sophisticated and nuanced singing that melds melody, instrumentation, and the lyrics into such a blues essential.

In the next Blue Notes:: Artists and Music on CD #2 of Album

Preserving and Promoting the Blues

By Doug Pringle

Information Courtesy of Wikipedia

The Chicago Blues

Chicago blues is a form of blues music developed in Chicago, Illinois. It is based on earlier blues idioms, such as Delta blues, but performed in an urban style.



Urban blues evolved from classic blues following the migration of African Americans from the south to the industrial cities of the north, such as Chicago. Big Bill Broonzy and Muddy Waters joined that migration, like many others, escaping the harsh southern Jim Crow laws. Bruce Iglauer, founder of Alligator Records, stated that "Chicago blues is the music of the industrial city and has an industrial sense about it." Chicago blues is based on the sound of the electric guitar and the harmonica, with the harmonica played through a PA system or guitar amplifier, both heavily amplified and often to the point of distortion, and a rhythm section of drums and bass with piano depending on the song or performer.

Urban blues started in Chicago and St. Louis, as music created by part-time musicians playing as street musicians, at rent parties, and other events in the black community. For example, bottleneck guitarist Kokomo Arnold was a steelworker and had a moonshine business that was far more profitable than his music.

An early incubator for Chicago blues was the open-air market on Maxwell Street, one of the largest open-air markets in the nation. Residents of the black community would frequent it to buy and sell just about anything. It was a natural location for blues musicians to perform, earn tips, and jam with other musicians. The standard path for blues musicians was to start out as street musicians and at house parties and eventually make their way to blues clubs.

What drove the blues to international influence was the promotion of record companies such as Paramount Records, RCA Victor, and Columbia Records. Through such record companies Chicago blues became a commercial enterprise. The new style of music eventually reached Europe and the United Kingdom. In the 1960s, young British musicians were highly influenced by Chicago blues resulting in the British blues movement.

According to Christgau's *Record Guide: Rock Albums of the Seventies* (1981), Chicago blues saw its best documentation during the 1970s thanks in part to Alligator Records and its owner Bruce Iglauer, described by Robert Christgau as a "folkie Leonard Chess".

Chicago blues was one of the most significant influences on early rock music. Chuck Berry originally signed with Chess Records—one of the most significant Chicago blues record labels. Berry met and was influenced by Muddy Waters in Chicago and Waters suggested he audition for Chess. Willie Dixon and other blues musicians played on some of Berry's early records. In the UK in the early 1960s, the Rolling Stones, the Yardbirds, and the Animals were heavily influenced by Chicago blues artists. At the same time, American artists, such as the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, John P. Hammond, and Charlie Musselwhite performed in the style of Chicago blues. Later, Cream, Rory Gallagher, and the Allman Brothers Band also pursued their own interpretations of Chicago blues songs and helped popularize blues rock.

The importance of Chicago blues cannot be overstated and its impact is one of the reasons we preserve and promote blues music!

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

September 26, 2021

Harlow's Nightclub, Sacramento, California

By (Hall of Fame Member) Jan Kelley
 Photos by Steve Martarano

The Hall of Fame honorees are chosen each year in recognition of their contributions to the preservation and promotion of the blues in Sacramento for at least 20 years. The 2021 HOF induction ceremony welcomed eight new members this year, rather than the usual four or



five, due to not having an induction in 2020 because of the pandemic. This year brings it to a total 60 members!

Harlow's Night Club was the place to be that fine Sunday afternoon, as the crowd

gathered anxiously outside waiting for the doors to open. Sally Katen stepped back from being the usual host this year because she was an inductee! Sally has been the driving force behind this event, developing it into a fine gala event since its beginning in 2008.

Liz Walker welcomed everyone, and Sally proceeded to thank everyone in attendance and then introduced Rick Snyder, the Blues In The Schools (BITS) chairperson. Rick explained the BITS program and how it has influenced so many students over the years in this region. Mick Martin (HOF 2010) explained the Gene Chambers Musicians Crisis Fund and the newly implemented Mick Martin Student Fund, then Sally talked about the HOF and its existence since 2008.



The "Gone But Not Forgotten" segment, which was produced and developed by Bob Cosman was then presented on video by Pat Attenburg.

The incredibly special guest artist performing at the afternoon ceremony was The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra featuring Marcel Smith (HOF 2016), a local favorite soul man who always performs



to the highest standards. This performance happened to be only the second time they have performed together since the pandemic, and they did not disap-



point! Many dancers were on their feet with this fine band playing and Marcel singing his heart out!

Raffle prizes were announced by Bobbie Armstrong and Liz Walker, then the highlight of the event...the

induction ceremony! All new inductees are presented by another HOF member from previous years. The 2021 honorees are: Paris Clayton, who was inducted by Rat-A-Tat Pat



Balcom (2013); Mindy Giles, inducted by Ray "Catfish" Copeland (2012); Sally Katen, inducted by Marina Texeira (2012) and Jan Kelley (2014); Greg Roberts, inducted by Andy Santana (2018); Charles Washington, inducted by Jan Kelley (2014); Ronnie James Weber, inducted by

Doug Crumacker (2016); and James Winegan, inducted by Ray "Catfish" Copeland (2012).

Bobby "Blues" Ray chose to be inducted later





at the Torch Club. Congratulations to all! All HOF members then gathered for a photo shoot to capture this fantastic event.

As in previous years, the after-event showcase then followed

at the Torch Club from 6 pm - 8 pm, where all HOF members who were present performed an impressive jam!

The newest pictures were then placed with the pictures of the



previous HOF winners on the south wall of the Torch Club where the SBS Hall of Fame Wall is located.

Full bios of all inductees are on the SBS website: <https://www.sacblues.org/hall-of-fame.html>.



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A Casual Conversation with King Solomon Hicks

By Barbara Katen

Photos by Laura Carbone

At the Big Blues Bender in September, Sacramento Blues buddy MariLu Onweller walked over and introduced me to a handsome, soft spoken young man and said he was agreeable to being interviewed for my Blue Notes "Casual Conversation With" column.



This young man turned out to be the amazing King Solomon Hicks, winner of the 2021 Blues Music Award for Best Emerging Artist for his album *Harlem*. He blew everyone at the Blues Bender away and I was delighted to get the opportunity to interview him.

Blue Notes (BN) What was your inspiration and how did you get your start in music?

King Solomon Hicks (KSH) My parents' eclectic music collection inspired me so much growing up. My mom would play Nina Simone

to Nas to B.B.King. I got my start playing the jam sessions in Harlem when I was thirteen.

BN: Who are your biggest musical influences?

KSH: The three kings!! (BB, Albert & Freddy) and I listen to a lot of Peter Green.

BN: How and why did you first pick up the guitar?

KSH: I'll never forget when I was six and my parents took me to Manny's Guitar shop on 48th street for the first time and they let me try a guitar. The six strings have been calling my name ever since.



BN: What was your first guitar? Did you name it?

KSH: An Ibanez Artcore was my first electric guitar and the only thing I called her was mine! (haha)

BN: What has your journey been like during the pandemic playing gigs, releasing CD's, and becoming a well-known and respected musician?

KSH: I've been fortunate to do some playing in the NY Tri-state area and with some such a dark time this past year it's been fun bringing music to the people uplifting their spirits!

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

KSH: Being on stage with Joe Bonamassa, Eric Gales, Ruthie Foster, and Chris Cain.

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

SH: I would enjoy meeting Buddy Guy!

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

KSH: I take the stylings of Robert Cray and mix it with the raw blues power of Albert King.

BN: What words or phrases do you most overuse?

KSH: "Now, it's time for my favorite song!!" (who's doesn't say that! haha)



BN: What are you most excited about in your life right now?

KSH: If everything goes right, I'll be on the same festival as John Fogerty and Peter Frampton in the Netherlands 2022,

which was scheduled for 2020 but the pandemic happened. I'm also looking forward to opening for Samantha Fish in December!

BN: If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

KSH: I'd change how much I love Italian food. It's hard not to gain pounds when you can eat Penne ala vodka all day.

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

KSH: Having my trio invited to play on the Kiss cruise. People still freak out when I tell them!

BN: What is your most treasured possession?

KSH: My movie collection.

BN: Who are your heroes in real life?

KSH: A musician out of New Jersey called Junior Mack is a guitar hero of mine!



King Solomon Hicks, con't. from P. 12

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

KSH: Keep on trucking!

BN: I saw you perform at the 2021 Big Blues Bender and was blown away. Can you tell us about your BBB experience? What was the highlight for you? Was it as much fun for you as it appeared?

KSH: My favorite thing about the Big Blues Bender is hearing all the great bands in the same casino and being able to walk to a blackjack table and have a drink with one of them. It's inspiring seeing the people I admire play live (Chris Cain, Carolyn Wonderland, Albert Castiglia, Terrie Odabi) and for them to be so down to earth.

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

BN: Favorite album of all time?

KSH: *Burglar* by Freddy King.

BN: Favorite quote?

KSH: "I hope bad luck follows you wherever you go...and never catches up."

BN: Favorite TV show:

KSH: *Columbo* (Peter Falk is the man).

BN: Favorite Movie?

KSH: *The Deer Hunter*.

BN: Favorite Food?

KSH: Fish and Chips.

BN: Favorite Book?

KSH: *The Miracle of Dunkirk*.

BN: Favorite Drink?

KSH: Buffalo Trace.

BN: Favorite guilty pleasure?

KSH: Memphis style BBQ.

BN: Favorite leisure activity?

KSH: Waking around Manhattan.

BN: Favorite City?

KSH: New Orleans.

BN: Pet Peeve?

KSH: I'm listening to a band, and someone's talking through the guitar solo.

BN: Cat or Dog?

KSH: Dog (beagle).

BN: Weirdest place you've ever been?

KSH: The Village In NYC.

BN: One thing you can't live without?

KSH: Can't live without my music collection.

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

KSH: I've always had a Jimi Hendrix poster on my wall

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



KSH: I'd invite Janis Joplin, Muddy Waters, Don Rickles & Tina Turner. Not only would the music be rocking, but that would be the funniest dinner party ever!

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

KSH: I'd snap my fingers and make housing affordable globally. The word homelessness would not exist.

For more information on King Solomon Hicks, please visit his website at: <https://kingsolomonhicks.com>

Volunteers Needed *By Sally Katen*

Now that we're "Back in Business" (haha, see the reference to our CD?!) we are back to having events. We've already started back up, and thanks go out to the SBS members who have already started volunteering!

Due to the current COVID restrictions, we will be placing volunteers only at venues which ask for proof of vaccination or negative COVID test. We hope you understand and can appreciate our efforts to safely enjoy live music.

Currently, there are two recurring volunteer positions which we need to fill:

"Blues and Bourbon" - Every Wednesday night at the Starlet Room above Harlow's, from 5:30pm – 9:30pm. This requires someone who can help get the merchandise up and down the stairs and make a commitment of at least a month at a time. Volunteers receive free admittance and training on selling SBS membership and merchandise.

"Blue Sundays" - The last Sunday of each month at the Torch Club, from 4 – 7pm.

We have several volunteers already that will help out at our Membership/Christmas Party 12/12/21 at Harlow's, but we can always use more! Contact Sally at bluesforthechore@hotmail.com to volunteer and help support your Blues Society!

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Tim Noxon Rockin' Blues Band

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