



The South Sound Blues Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the blues as an American art form on behalf of its performers and fans through education, community and performance.

The SSBA is an Active Affiliate of



since 2005

Greetings South Sound Blues Association Current and Past Members

The Eighth Annual Gray Sky Blues Music Festival

The 8th Annual Gray Sky Blues Music Festival starts on Saturday, April 11th, 2015 immediately following the Tacoma Daffodil Grand Floral Parade (NOON) in downtown Tacoma, and will feature some of the finest blues musicians to be found west of the Mississippi. Venues in downtown Tacoma include the Harmon Brewery, The Swiss Pub and more. An "After Festival Party" is planned at the B Sharp Coffee House in Opera Alley starting at 8:00 PM. Everyone is welcome!!!

Change is in the air! The South Sound Blues Association Annual Meeting and Election will be happening on Friday, March 13, from 6:30 - 7:15 pm at Uncle Thurm's Finger Licken Chicken and Ribs, 3709 S. G Street, Tacoma and we are hoping you will be able to attend! I'm inviting those of you who have let your memberships lapse, as well as our fabulous "regulars," in the hope that you will renew your commitment to our organization's efforts to keep the blues alive in your own neighborhood.

We have six positions on the board up for election this year, three of which are currently held by myself, Aaron Bakalar (who does our newsletter) and Ron Hall (membership/calendar). These are board positions, not officers. The board itself elects the officers (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer) and only half of the board is elected each year, each for a two-year term. If you are interested in becoming part of the leadership of this organization, now's your chance and this is the time! WE NEED YOU and your good ideas. Board members are expected to attend our monthly board meetings, which usually happen on the first Tuesday of each month. We need people who love blues music and are willing to help support the SSBA mission:

"to preserve the blues as an American art form on behalf of its performers and fans through education, community, and performance."

Following the election and a short presentation/discussion about the future of the organization, we will celebrate by enjoying Shelly Ely's fabulous new band - SASS - Shelly on vocals, Steve Barlett on bass, Andre Thomas on drums, and Steve Merriman on guitar. Lots of blues, with harmonies, solid musicianship, and creative interpretations of many rock, soul, and blues classics. Their version of the Pointer Sisters song, "Bet You



This year's headliner is **TEDDY LEE HOOKER** from Long Beach, California. Teddy Lee is recognized as one of the top blues performers in the country. He will be performing at the Swiss Pub, 6:00 – 7:30 PM. To date, these are the scheduled performers:

- King Kom Beaux, Little Bill and the Bluenotes, Blues County Sherriff, Jerry Miller Band, Emily Gardner Band, CD Woodbury Band, Maia Santell and House Blend and the Dean Reichert Band**

For more information please visit www.southsoundblues.com and www.tacomaevents.com.

The Prez says ...



Change is in the air! That's the theme, as we have been inviting folks to our March MOB (Members on Board) event at Uncle Thurm's Finger Licken Chicken and Ribs on Friday, March 13. See page 1 for details. It's going to be

lots of fun - I just got word that one of the raffle prizes will be tickets to the Savoy Brown show at Jazzbones! It's our official Annual Meeting and Election, too - an opportunity for our members to select the leaders of this organization and have a voice in direction we take in 2015.

The SSBA was founded almost 10 years ago out of the perceived need for South Sound musicians and fans to send our own representatives to compete at the International Blues Challenge. At that time, the Cascade Blues Society in Portland was the only blues society in the Pacific Northwest participating in the yearly event. Over the years, the South Sound Blues Association has developed a reputation at the NATIONAL level for the quality of our competitions and the musicians whom we have sent to Memphis every year. We're kind of famous, actually.

Things have changed, however. This year there were five societies sending bands and solo/duo acts from Washington and Oregon. Given the time and energy it takes to host the competitions and the fundraisers that support the winning musicians' trip, is the Back to Beale Street project still a worthy use of our resources? Should we take a year off? Bottom line, is this still something our members support? If you have an opinion, now's the time to speak up.

We have been working hard this year to make sure that getting a band to Memphis is not our only focus. That's why the MOB was created. Our goal has been to have something for our members every month. The event might be one of the competitions or a fundraiser ... OR a local show in a local club with some kind of discount or special benefit for SSBA members. So at least half of our get-togethers our members GET something (great blues music, a discount, free raffles, a party!), while the other half we ask for member support (fundraisers, competitions).

There are other benefits of being an SSBA member besides sending a top-notch band to Memphis every year. The newsletter and calendar are ALMOST only available to members, with a grand total of 60 printed and distributed as a courtesy at about five venues in Tacoma. Members always get theirs FIRST! Anyone can submit an article of general interest to our fabulous editor, Aaron Bakalar, but only member musicians and bands can write a personal message about their up-coming shows and tours for publication in the newsletter. Our website and Facebook page are public, of course, and a major recruitment tool for the SSBA, thanks to web wrangler, Ricki Peto, but there are guidelines in place that favor members as far as what goes on those sites. MEMBERS FIRST! The big benefit, of course, is being a card-carrying supporter of local blues. We're a great community! We had almost 60 people volunteer in various capacities this year - we do it because we love it!

Hey, Blues Fans! Wondering why you should join the SSBA? For a \$20 yearly individual membership fee, you will receive:

- * A regularly produced copy of this newsletter
- * Monthly calendar of South Sound blues events
- * The opportunity to submit articles & music reviews
- * Special event email blasts
- * Event and merchandise discounts
- * A vote on important association matters
- * The satisfaction of knowing you're a part of the South Sound Blues community AND MORE!

South Sound Blues Association Membership Application

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: Home/Work/Cell _____
 Email _____

NOTE: If you want to receive your newsletter and special events information by email, the SSBA does not give out email or membership information.

- _____ Student/Senior Membership \$10/year
- _____ Individual Membership \$20/year (Email News)
- _____ Individual Membership \$30/year (Snail Mail News)**
- _____ Family Membership \$30/year
- _____ Band Membership \$50/year
- _____ Lifetime Individual Membership \$200 (one-time fee)
- _____ Lifetime Family Membership \$300 (one-time fee)
- _____ Corporate Membership \$TBD/year
- _____ Venue Membership \$TBD/year
- _____ Additional Donation

Occupation _____
 Volunteer Skills _____
 Musicians — Instrument(s) _____
 Interested in a Committee Position? _____

Please make checks payable to:
 South Sound Blues Association
 P.O. Box 26303, Federal Way, WA 98093-3303

Have questions?
 Call Gary at (253) 230-6851, or visit our Website:
www.southsoundblues.com

** The additional \$10 charge for Individual Snail Mail Memberships is required to cover the costs of providing hard-copy printing and delivery of the Association Newsletter and the monthly Calendar of Events.

SSBA Newsletter Advertising Rates

Full Page: \$60 Half Page: \$35 Back Half Page: \$45
 Quarter Page: \$20 Sixth Page: \$12 Business Card: \$8

Ad discount policy: 20%/12-month advance; 15/6; 10/3

Text: Word '97-03 (.doc), text (.txt) or rich text (.rtf)

Graphics: 300 dpi / jpg, gif, tif or pdf formats

Deadline: 20th of every month

Maia Santell and House Blend: A Prelude to Spring!

We're gearing up for a new season, featuring some of our favorite haunts, events and venues!

On Sunday, March 15th we're back at Johnny's Dock on the Tacoma waterfront, for an evening of jazz, blues and a dash of Motown, with Steve Luceno on upright bass, Jeff Ziontz on guitar and Tim Malland on drums. Then, on March 21st we return to an exciting, classy dance venue in Auburn, called Pacific Northwest Dance. We look forward to the luxury of performing all styles of music at this delightful event, which includes a complimentary dance lesson by a Northwest favorite, instructor Rick Gossard.



Last month we had a blast at The Swiss on Presidents' Day, as we welcomed back our friend Josh Violette as special guest guitarist. The place was packed with adoring fans and dancers, and we rocked the house with a mix of Chicago blues, Texas shuffles, jump blues, swing, soul and rhythm and blues. As an added note, The Swiss will be changing their weekly Monday Night Blues to Wednesday Night Blues, starting this month. We hope to return to this great venue sometime during the late spring.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 11th, as I sing the blues with House Blend at the eighth annual Gray Sky Blues Festival. On this special day, my band performs at The Swiss at 2:30 PM, including Ted Dortch on sax, Jeff Ziontz on guitar, Derick Polk on bass, Mike Slivka on drums and special guests Jumpin' Josh Violette on guitar and Julie Powers on vocals. (For details and full line-up, see www.TacomaEvents.com.) The Gray Sky Blues Festival is one of my favorite Northwest events, produced and presented by the Tacoma Events Commission and sponsored by the South Sound Blues Association. This year's headliner at the festival is blues guitarist and songwriter Teddy Lee Hooker, from Long Beach, California.

Wow! I first heard a recording of this phenomenal musician at his performance at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee, in 2008. He came to town and performed at the Gray Sky Blues Festival that same year, and when he was touring, the following year, I had the honor of featuring him as my special guest at the Muckleshoot Casino and at Johnny's Dock Restaurant. I have been listening to Teddy Lee for seven years, and I never get enough of him. His chops and his versatility are incomparable. Check out the lyrics on some of his original, slow blues numbers. They are not only creative, they are highly entertaining, and his Chicago blues, his shuffles and his jump blues material is inspiring! Teddy Lee Hooker performs at the Gray Sky Blues Festival at 6 PM at The Swiss, and then again that evening at the after-festival party at Tacoma's B Sharp Coffee House, as special guest of the Dean Reichert Band. I will be sitting in with Reichert's band and Teddy Lee, belting the blues on a few numbers. This will be a day to remember!

For details and more performances, see our website at www.MaiaSantell.com.

Keep Swingin' the Blues,
Maia Santell and the boys in the band!

Patti Allen

March 6th (Friday) – Patti Allen, “Zolton,” and Tim Haines will be singing blues, jazz and ballads at B Sharp in Tacoma. It all begins at 8 pm, \$5.00 cover.



March 26 (Thursday) – Continuing the legacy of rich blues talent and progressive musicianship, Monster Road is proud to present Patti Allen, a Blues Lifetime Achievement Award winner, as lead vocalist and front-runner. Patti burns serious R&B rubber on Monster Road!

Monster Road is made up of elite local musicians who love to tear it up. Patti Allen has performed and/or recorded with: Duke Ellington, B.B. King, Lou Rawls, Little Bill and the Bluenotes, Randy Oxford Band, Dave Lewis Trio, Don Ells Orchestra and many other international & regional artists. Allen was the first female recipient of the Washington Blues Society's Lifetime Achievement Award.

For more information about Patti Allen:

<http://ThePattiAllen.Com>

(Continued from page 1)

Got A chick on the Side,” is very special. I think I heard some Stephen Stills stuff in there, too. Shelly and the band make it all sound like the blues. She's just got that husky blues voice. Yay! SSBA members will have a special reserved area in the venue and be treated to one of their fabulous desserts, free of chargemmm, pudding, pie and all sorts of goodies. No cover. Just fun! ...and a little business.

Let's fill up the place, folks! Thurm's is as close as you can get to a Juke Joint in our neighborhood - just right for a blues celebration! And if you are interested in joining the Board of Directors, email me and I'll put you on the ballot. We'll take last-minute volunteers, too - there will be space on the ballot for the names of people who make the decision that night - we'll have a display with names of people who want to be considered as a write-in. This should be a pleasant mix of fun and (absolutely necessary) business. Please join us!

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In Other Blues News ...

The Rose City Kings wrote to let us know that their band has reformed after their reunion performance at the 2014 Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival. They're looking forward to playing venues and festivals throughout the Pacific Northwest again, the first show being at the Highway 99 Blues Club in Seattle on March 28.

One of our favorite Eastside festivals, Untapped Blues & Brews (May 8, 9), has released the names of a couple of their headliners this year: Too Slim and the Taildraggers and Taj Mahal. We'll have more about the festival itself as the date draws closer, but I want to alert our members to some tough news about Too Slim – the man is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Since 1986, Tim "Too Slim" Langford has been lead singer, guitarist, and main creative force behind Too Slim & the Taildraggers. Originally from Spokane, Washington, both Langford and the band have won many awards and accolades over the years including Best Band, Best Guitarist, Best Album, and Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Awards from The Washington Blues Society, The Cascade Blues Society, and The Inland Empire Blues Society. In 2012, Too Slim relocated from Seattle to Nashville, Tennessee, but he always seems to make it back our way come festival season.



A **giveforward** fundraiser has been set up for him if you'd like to help with what we know is an expensive treatment, one that will be successful, we hope. Simply go to **giveforward.com**, type "Tim Too slim Langford" in the "find fundraiser" box and you'll be directed to the site where you can donate. You'll see that the original goal has already been met, but with about three months left for the fundraiser and many more months of treatment and recovery, your help is still important.

It's Festival Time!

We know of two great blues festivals happening on the Eastside this month – the Walla Walla Guitar Festival March 13th and 14th and the Coeur d'Alene Blues Festival (minutes past Spokane) on March 27, 28 and 29.

The 2015 Coyote Kings Invitational WALLA WALLA GUITAR FESTIVAL takes place in beautiful downtown Walla Walla and features 15 top Blues & Roots bands from all over the Northwest, playing around town in various inside venues. The bands include:

Robin Barrett & Coyote Kings w/Big Monti Amundson
The Strange Tones
The Rafael Tranquilino Band
The Rae Gordon Band
The Randy Oxford Band
Kevin Selfe & The Tornadoes
Junkyard Jane
The Jesse Weston Band
Chris Lord & Cheatin' River
The Wasteland Kings
Rock Blythe & Two Faced Johnny

The Campbell Davis Band
Dan Faller & The Working Poor
Winston, Amundson, & Stoops
All-star Jam hosted by Clint Carter, Vaughn Jensen and Tuck Foster!

The C'oeur d'Alene Blues Festival is held at the C'oeur d'Alene resort and features a cruise on Lake C'oeur d'Alene and Dock Party Friday night, the main shows in the convention center on Saturday, and a Gospel brunch on Sunday. The line-up includes:

Billy D & The Hoodoos
LeRoy Bell & His Only Friends
Lisa Mann
Selwyn Birchwood
Charlie Butts & The Filter Tops
Cary Fly Band
Robb Boatsman & Rampage
Truck Mills
Kenny Andrews

What a great start for festival season! If YOU have a favorite festival you'd like to review or preview, WRITE IT UP! We welcome submissions from our members!

From The Booth

Here it is March and as some of you may have heard by now, and for those who haven't, I have decided to take a break from the Board of Directors and my post as merchandise director with the coming of board elections at the upcoming general membership meeting. It's been a fantastic 8 eight years of serving on the BOD with the most dedicated of blues fans. This doesn't mean I'm giving up the blues and going into hiding. I will still be volunteering for events and even packing the booth up to a few far-off festivals over the summer. I do admit I'm having a bit of a hard time coming to grasp with the thought of not seeing all wonderful people I've met and catching the finest blues acts out there as often as I have had the pleasure of in the past.

Of course, this all comes with a great opportunity for anybody who loves the blues, enjoys meeting the finest of people and artists and would love to have the opportunity to attend more blues festivals. If this sounds like a deal you wouldn't want to pass up, don't be afraid to put your name on the ballot for the Board elections. And if you would like more details, please shoot me an e-mail at signguy@nventure.com and I'll fill you in.

Also note that the Gray Sky Blues Music Festival is coming up on Saturday, April 11th and of course we'll have the booth set up at both the Swiss and the Harmon. We can always use some volunteers to help with the booths and a few other duties that day.

Until later...and keep on keepin' the blues alive!

Mike Brooks,
Vice-President and Merchandising Director

Blues Festival Review: Boquete Jazz and Blues Festival, Boquete, Panama

There are two things I really love about blues festivals. The first is that they are all very much the same, and the second – I bet you can guess- is that they're all very different. Even if your experience with festivals is confined to Washington State or the Pacific Northwest region, you are aware of and probably treasure the differences. We have our hot and dry festivals and our green and grassy festivals. We have our city festivals and ones that are out in the middle of (it seems) nowhere. Every festival has its regulars, be they staff, volunteers, or audience members - all of them adding to the flavor of the event. There'll be festival-goers who proudly deck themselves in uber-Western gear or city casual, festival-chic, or - in the case of one of my favorites - barely any clothes at all. And the music! Every festival creates its own line-up and, it seems, every festival has its unique style and traditions. Certain festivals always feature a youth band. Some specialize in showcasing a headliner from the rock 'n roll past. Some include zydeco in the line-up and others slip in a little jazz or rock. Perusing the Blues Festival Guide, there is no lack of festivals that feature bands or artists that I want to see, performing in a locale I'd like to visit.

That was the case when I had the opportunity to attend the Boquete Jazz and Blues Festival in Chiriqui, Panama, near the border of Costa Rica. The line-up included Li'l Ed, Shakura S'Aida, Leon Blue and Deanna Bogart – every one an important blues headliner - paired with some players and bands that would be new to me. And Panama! Yes, I said Panama – a good 14 hours of air travel to Panama City (which rivals any other city I've visited for tall buildings, traffic and daredevil drivers) and a daylong ride from Panama City on the Party Bus to the festival site.

The festival is situated in the highlands near Volcan Baru, at about 4,000 ft., in the picturesque village of Boquete, a popular landing place for many "ex-pats" from the U.S. and Canada, as well as native Panamanians. In its ninth year, the festival itself is staged in an adobe-style amphitheater that's part of a resort area called El Valle Escondido. February is mid-summer in Panama, and the flowers and exotic plants were breathtaking – a point of pride for the townspeople, who also host a 10-day flower festival in January. My friends and I stayed in Boquete, with three of us sharing a spotless one-bedroom apartment with kitchenette for right around \$500 total for six days. That was for all of us! Living was easy and cheap. We walked to the Sugar and Spice bakery almost every morning for coffee and breakfast, which never cost more than \$5 for the caffeine and a giant freshly baked muffin, empanada or breakfast burrito, and we found other great, inexpensive restaurants and cafés all over town. I shopped in local stores (see diet coke note, below) and learned to mark the time by the church bells.

Boquete is definitely a destination in itself, so we enjoyed having time to explore and take advantage of some of activities offered for visitors to the area. Having arrived late on Wednesday, we actually missed a couple of pre-fest events (the Garden Party and the Parade), but we found the jam that night (five-minute walk) and bounced around to the blues, as presented by Andy Egert, internationally-lauded guitarist from Switzerland. What a great introduction to some of the artists we'd see at the festival! As the evening progressed, Deanna

Bogart and Leon Blue joined Andy. We didn't last to the end – rumor has it that Leon kept it going until five in the morning! I think he was running on Las Vegas (his home) time.

In the days leading up to the festival itself, my friends enjoyed a zip-line tour through the rainforest on the volcano - while I searched the town for diet-coke, bananas and wine- and we all enjoyed a fascinating tour of a local coffee plantation. The hands-on part of the tour included lots of tasting and one special person (that's me!) got to be the tostadora de café that day, so we each took home a pound of Jane's special Luna Roast. Thursday evening, we walked across the bridge over the Rio Caldera to the town community theater to attend a concert by John Carney, Panamanian-born classic and jazz guitarist, and Leon Blue,

legendary blues piano man. Leon was Albert Collins' sideman and a force all on his own, with a huge repertoire of blues tunes which he sometimes transitions together into one seamless song. He gets my vote for Most Energetic – at age 83, he was everywhere, always dressed to kill. John Carney frequently plays in Coronado, where my friends live, and is often accompanied by a spectacular Brazilian vocalist named Carla K., who joined him for a couple of songs. It was a great concert, and the wine was free!

Friday night's jam was hosted by Shakura S'Aida and Li'l Ed and was my first opportunity to see the festival site – Valle Escondido Resort & Spa. Check out the resort's website - it's paradise, really, and a beautiful place to visit. Staying there is a \$250 a night proposition, however, and some rooms are already sold out for next year. I checked. In town worked fine for us. The jam included ALL of the festival headliners, which meant the music was a delightful mix of blues and Latin jazz and salsa. There was a moment when Shakura S'Aida and Deanna Bogart scat-sang behind Li'l Ed, with Leon Blue on piano. I remember thinking, "This was worth the whole trip!" It is unusual for a festival to have so many headliners at jams BEFORE their shows, but it seemed that artists actually warmed to each other AND the audience as the week progressed. And the fans most certainly got to know the musicians. Talk about community! I think I kissed Deanna Bogart at some point. Maybe a little too much wine.

Saturday was the first day of the actual festival, in the colorfully landscaped amphitheater that is part of the resort. Shuttles ran back and forth all day from the square in town to the festival, so getting there was quite easy. Local craftsman and artisans set up their wares along the walkway into the festival, and I picked up a t-shirt and commemorative tile, as festival souvenirs. The seating consisted of deep steps of



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adobe-style cement, with a grassy border behind each one. And the festival provided seat cushions! So, feet on the grass, butt on a cushion, sitting up right – quite comfortable. There was a large, grassy area at the top of the stairs, where there were food and drink vendors and room to lay down and soak up



the sun, as well as restaurant quality entrees and desserts near the stage. At 4,000 ft. the weather at this time of year is in the 70's, a welcome change for my friends

who traveled with me from Coronado near the Pacific Ocean, where it's typically in the 90's. I, of course, enjoyed the warmth and putting on sunscreen for the first time in 2015.

The music was wonderful. Having spent much of the week jamming in various venues with various musicians, it was clear that the headliners were ready to show off their A-game. John Carney played with his band, Gato Maximo, and vocalist Carla K. inspired the dancers to get out there and rumba at high noon. Deanna Bogart followed, giving us an original-laden set, alternating between playing piano, sax, and singing. She played some blues and some jazz, including a very cool version of Bye, Bye Blackbird. I'm still investigating who her guitarist was – he's not listed on her website and he also backed up Li'l Ed the next day. Clearly a utility player, and golly - he was great.

Yelba and Latin Fire- out of Houston, Texas – were energetic and fun. Nicaraguan-born Yelba sang (and sometimes played guitar), with her very tight band harmonizing and executing some pretty complex arrangements of Latin jazz and salsa. Truly the star of her own show, Yelba is a masterful bandleader and performer – sophisticated, yet warm and engaging. When Andy Egert joined the band for a medley of Santana songs, I still couldn't take my eyes off her. People who don't know their merengue from a bachata got up to move and groove to this band.

The blues, however, belonged to Shakura that day. Powerful vocals, soulful delivery, and the ability to reach out to the audience to share the emotion of the songs – Shakura and her band delivered the goods, and it was all good. Shakura knows how to use humor to draw the audience close to her, chiding us for missing the rehearsal (at 9:30 that morning, she said) for her song, "That Ain't Right," when we were supposed to chant those words with fists raised on her cue. And she warned, "I don't want to see any smiles on those faces. This is a blues song." Hers was the only CD I bought at the festival – a two discs album titled, "Time." I don't think she's ever performed in our area, and that's a shame. What a show she makes!



By the last day of the festival, we were all good friends. Shakura sat next to one of my roommates for the show, and

Yelba danced with the crowd in front of the stage. There was a palpable feeling of community, which broadened quite intentionally to the townspeople of Boquete, with the inclusion of the Rigoberto Coba Big Band, made up of musicians studying at the university in nearby David, playing jazz standards. Between acts, the local children's theater group performed a couple of numbers from their latest production – Grease – with appropriate choreography to match. The audience expanded that day to include the children and their families and even some of vendors outside the gate. It all just seemed to fit, and I know that festival promoters will agree that it's essential to have the support of the local community.

The final two acts reflected the joy we were all sharing, with Li'l Ed and the Imperials throwing out all kinds of fun. At some point, Leon Blue joined in, then Deanna Bogart. She and Ed walked up the steps - he on guitar and she on sax - each on opposite sides of the amphitheater, meeting in the middle of the crowd to trade licks. I was about one foot away and almost swooned with excitement, diminished only slightly by the crush of photographers who hotfooted over to capture the moment. Then Shakura came out of the audience to join Ed and Deanna for the grand finale – WOW.



Malamanya – a Latin band from Minneapolis of all places – closed out the festival with their blend of traditional Cuban, Latin American, and Caribbean music – and everybody danced. In my mind's eye (and on the Boquete J&B Fest website), I can still see the crowd – young, old, musician, fan, tourist, local - celebrating together. For as exotic as Boquete is, what impressed me were the similarities I found between this festival and blues festivals wherever I go - the music, of course, but also the level of musicianship, the respect the fans have for the musicians and each other, and that sense of community that shows us we're all in this together. That was and is what gives me the confidence to visit other far-away blues festivals. I know they'll all be the same ... AND delightfully different.

Jane Henderson

Photo of Shakura by Bruce Tohill
All others (and The Prez says photo) by Bernie Verhoeven

The Blues Hall of Fame

This year the Blues Foundation will be inducting three new members to the Blues Hall of Fame in a ceremony to take place May 8, in conjunction with the grand opening of the new Blues Hall of Fame in Memphis, Tennessee. And the three new members of the Blues Hall of Fame are (drum roll please) ... Little Richard, Tommy Brown and Eric Clapton. Here's the lowdown on each of them, from the Blues Foundation website.

Little Richard joins an elite group of Blues Hall of Fame icons, including Fats Domino, Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley, who built rock 'n' roll from a foundation in the blues. Richard's earliest recordings were in the blues vein and he continued to employ a blues format, often accelerated to a frenzied tempo, on many of his sessions. By bandleader Johnny Otis' recollections from witnessing his first "beautiful, bizarre and exotic" Little Richard performance, Richard exclaimed, "This is Little Richard, the King of the Blues! And the Queen, too!" Gospel was also a profound force in Little Richard's life and music, and at times during his career he left the rock 'n' roll stage to study, preach and sing the gospel, only to return to the secular side. He eventually maintained a mission in both worlds, handing out religious tracts at his rock concerts.



Born December 5, 1932, in Macon, Georgia, Richard Wayne Penniman stunned audiences even in his adolescent days performing with minstrel shows. As he described himself, "I was very effeminate. I was very frisky. I was *loud*." He honed his appearance and stage act under the influence of gay blues/R&B artists Billy Wright and S.Q. Reeder (Esquerita). He recorded blues for RCA Victor in 1951-52 and Peacock in 1953 but only with Specialty did he transfer his wild flamboyance to wax, beginning with the bombshell *Tutti Frutti* in 1955. His lives shows were still more frantic, to the point that even his films could inspire riots among teenaged fanatics. The list of performers he inspired is endless, from James Brown to the Beatles to Jimi Hendrix, who was once the guitarist in Richard's band. Even since his hitmaking days have been over, he has remained a charismatic celebrity. Once "The King of the Blues," he has since anointed himself "The Originator, the Emancipator and the Architect of Rock 'n' Roll."

Tommy Brown, hailed during the 1950s as "one of the most dynamic entertainers in show business," has spent most of the past four decades out of the performing spotlight, but his resume of vintage records, onstage theatrics and a 21st century career revival have brought him long overdue recognition among current blues aficionados. Brown was a friend of fellow Georgia singer and 2015 Blues Hall of Fame inductee Little Richard when both were starting out, and he remembers letting Richard sleep in his station wagon when times were tough. A young James Brown picked up cues for his fabled stage show from both of them.

Brown was born in Atlanta on May 27, 1931, and began performing as a dancer when he was in the first grade. He also worked as a drummer before he



became a stand-up singer. But he did much more than stand, as the Atlanta Daily World reported in 1953: "... he jumped off the stage, fell prostrate on the floor, got up, banged his head on the wall then fell down on his knees and wailed the blues." Brown began recording in 1950 and sang (and sobbed) on the No. 1 R&B hit *Weepin' and Cryin'* with the Griffin Brothers in 1951. The song evolved from a real life experience, when he broke down while singing onstage as he saw his fiancée walk in with another man. Humor was an important part of his show, however, and in the 1960s he began performing and recording as a comedian. After stays in St. Louis, Chicago (where he teamed on shows with Otis Clay), and New York, Brown settled back in Atlanta in 1977 to run the Landmark West Personal Care Center, a business his mother had founded. After fans sought him out to interview him and book him on festivals in the U.S. and Europe, he began traveling and recording again in the new millennium. His Classic Tommy Brown CD, on his own Chittlin' Circuit label, reintroduced listeners to the rocking, crying and shouting blues he waxed on labels such as Savoy, King, United and Imperial. "I'm looking to retire at 103," he says, "and take up a new profession -- teach people how to love."

Eric Clapton has been tapped for Blues Hall of Fame induction not only for his many achievements during a long and successful career but also for his role as a popularizer who has brought the blues to audiences far more widespread than those reached by the original bluesmen whose music inspired him. Clapton has consistently included blues material on albums that have registered in the upper echelons of the pop music charts. In the process Clapton has not only brought new listeners into the blues fold but has generated royalties for the blues legends whose songs he has covered--royalties often well in excess of those the bluesmen earned from their own recordings.



The first British musician inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame, Clapton was born in Ripley, Surrey, on March 30, 1945. He identified with the power and uplifting spirit of the blues from his early days as a guitarist, and amidst forays into other genres has always remained a blues devotee. At the age of 18, as a member of the Yardbirds, he played guitar on a Sonny Boy Williamson LP, and soon did sessions with bluesmen Otis Spann and Champion Jack Dupree, not to mention the influential work he did with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, Cream and Blind Faith.

In between his many subsequent albums and world tours, he played on Howlin' Wolf's *London Sessions* and recorded with several of his early guitar heroes, including B.B. King, Freddie King, Buddy Guy, Chuck Berry, John Lee Hooker and Otis Rush. Clapton topped the *Billboard* charts with an album of blues standards, *From the Cradle*, in 1994, and with the blues-laden *Unplugged* album in 1992, and hit the top ten with his Robert Johnson tribute, *Me and Mr. Johnson* in 2004 and his collaboration with B.B. King, *Riding With the King*, in 2000. Clapton's battle with drug and alcohol addiction led him to found the Crossroads Centre rehab facility in Antigua in 1998. His Crossroads Guitar Festival is both a showcase for many of the world's leading guitarists and a fundraiser for the Crossroads Centre.

Calendar Legend

502	502 Downtown: 253-572-9074 - T	MAN	Manchester Pub: 360-871-2205 - PO
7CE	7 Cedars Casino: 360-683-7777 - Sq	MAR	Marine View Presbyterian Church: 253-927-0557 - T
ALD	Alderbrook Resort: 360-898-2200 - U	MAX	Maxwell's: 253-683-4115 - T
AMY	Amy's on the Bay: 360-876-1445 - PO	MED	Medicine Creek Winery: 360-701-6284 - OI
ART	The Art House Cafe: 253-212-2011 - T	MID	Midtown Grill: 253-862-3767 - BL
AVA	The Avalon Ballroom - T	MUC	Muckleshoot Casino: 253-804-4444 - A
B#	B Sharp Coffee House - T	N9N	Bar N9NE: 360-797-1999 - PA
BLE	Blend Wine Shop: 253-884-9688 - L	NIK	Nikki's Restaurant & Lounge: 253-236-5623 - Co
BRD	Broadway Center:	NOR	Northern Pacific Coffee: 253-537-8338 - Pk
BRO	Brother Don's Bar & Grill: 360-377-8442 - B	NWH	Northwest Harley: 360-705-8515 - La
BUD	Bud's in Milton: 253-952-7665 - M	OAS	Oasis Bar and Grill: 360-582-3143 - Sq
CAS	Casey's Grill: 253-236-4137 - K	O'CA	O'Callahan's Pub & Grill: 253-884-9766 - L
CEN	Central Ave. Pub: 253-520-7749 - K	OPA	Opal Lounge: 253-473-2600 - T
CHA	Charlie's Sports Bar & Grill: 360-786-8181 - OI	OSC	Oscar's Restaurant & Lounge: 253-548-2419 - ST
CIT	City Hall Saloon and Eatery: 360-886-0569 - E	PER	Harvey's Performance Grill: 253-939-9851 - A
CLI	The Cliff House: 253-927-0400 - T	POL	Spar Pole Pub: 360-893-8937 - OI
CLU	Clubhouse Sports Bar: 253-277-0500 - K	PON	Pony Keg Grill: 253-395-8022 - K
DAV	Dave's of Milton: 253-926-8707 - M	PTE	Port Townsend Elks: 360-385-0317 - PT
DAW	Dawson's: 253-476-1421 - ST	RBA	R Bar: 360-797-1274 - PA
DES	Destination Harley Davidson: 253-922-3700 - T	RED	Red Wind Casino: 360-412-5000 - OI
DOG	Red Dog Saloon: 360-876-1018 - PO	REN	Rendezvous Wine & Brew: 360-825-9463 - E
DRA	Draft Choice Sports Bar & Grill: 253-735-1715 - A	REY	Reyna's Mexican Rest.: 253-538-2368 - T
EME	Emerald Queen: 253-594-7777 - T	RHY	Rhythm & Rye: 360-705-0760 - OI
FLO	The Flotation Device: 253-857-3897 - GH	ROB	Robin Hood Restaurant & Pub: 360-898-4400 - U
FOR	Forza Coffee Company: 253-565-4935 - T	ROC	Rock the Dock: 253-272-5004 - T
GIG	The Gig Spot: 253-853-4188 - GH	ROY	Royal Lounge: 360-705-0760 - OI
HAF	Halftime Sports Saloon: 253-853-1456 - GH	SAL	Salty's Redondo Beach: 253-946-0636 - DM
HAR	Harmon: 253-383-2739 - T	SAM	Sam's Sports Bar: 253-277-0485 - K
HIG	High Tide Tavern: 360-876-2248 - PO	SCO	Scotch and Vine: 206-592-2139 - DM
HUB	Hub Restaurant: 253-853-1585 - GH	SCT	Scotty's Pub and Grub: 253-268-0246 - P
JAZ	Jazzbones: 253-396-9169 - T	SEE	Seeders Steak and Brew: 360-802-6685 - E
JER	Jersey's Sports Bar: 253-874-5336 - FW	SLA	Slaughter County Brewing Co.: 360-329-2340 - PO
JOH	Johnny's Dock: 253-627-3186 - T	SMO	Smoke and Cedar: 253-343-6090 - T
JRS	JR's Hideaway: 360-275-4547 - Be	SPA	Spar: 253-627-8215 - OT
JUC	Junction Roadhouse: 360-452-9880 - PA	STO	Stonegate: 253-473-2255 - ST
JUN	Junction Sports Bar and Grill: 360-273-7586 - Ce	STU	Studio 6 Ballroom: 253-905-5301 - T
LAK	Lakewood Starbucks: 253-984-0898 - Lk NEW!	SUM	Summit Pub: 253-536-1588 - P
LIT	Little Creek Casino: 1-800-667-7711 - Sh	SWI	Swiss: 253-572-2821 - T
LOU	Louie G's: 253-926-9600 - F	TAC	Tacoma Cabana: 253-222-4184 - T
LUC	Lucky Dog Casino: 360-877-5656 - Sh	TDC	Tacoma Dance Club - T
		TRE	Treos Café: 253-301-0478 - T
		TRI	Triple Play Sports Bar: 253-752-2800 - T
		TWI	Twin Lakes Country Club: 253-838-0432 - FW
		UNC	Uncle Thurm's BBQ: 253-475-1881 - T
		UPS	Upstage Bistro: 360-385-2216 - PT
		URB	Urban Onion: 360-943-9242 - OI
		USA	Uncle Sam's: 253-507-7808 - Sp
		VES	Immanuel Presbyterian Church: 253-627-8371 - T
		WIN	Windmill Bistro: 253-826-7897 - Su

CITIES

A - Auburn	OI - Olympia
B - Bremerton	Or - Orting
Be - Belfair	OT - Old Tacoma
BL - Bonney Lake	P - Puyallup
Ce - Centralia	Pk - Parkland
Co - Covington	PA - Port Angeles
DM - Des Moines	PO - Port Orchard
E - Enumclaw	PT - Port Townsend
F - Fife	Sh - Shelton
FW - Federal Way	Sp - Spanaway
GH - Gig Harbor	Sq - Sequim
K - Kent	Su - Sumner
L - Lakebay	ST - South Tacoma
La - Lacey	T - Tacoma
Lk - Lakewood	U - Union
M - Milton	

Live Music Fans - Take Note!

All calendar information is the best we have at the time we go to print. It is always advisable to call the specific venues to confirm the date and time for all acts, as changes to schedules are frequent.

The South Sound Blues Association
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I hope to see you all at Uncle Thurm's in a couple of weeks, and please know that you are always welcome at our monthly board meetings as well. I need advance notice if you want to be on the agenda, but in general we welcome member input about most of the topics we discuss. So come and put in your 2-cents or more!

Still crazy with the Blues,

Jane Henderson
Madam President
South Sound Blues Association
jhendersonwa@earthlink.net