

Preserving and Promoting the Blues in the Pacific NW

A bi-monthly publication of the Cascade Blues Association | cascadebluesassociation.org

bluesnotes



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Tevis Hodge Jr.

Photo by Debra Penk



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Muddy Awards Highlight Local Stars

See Page 2



Muddy Awards Highlight Local Stars

Congratulations to the winners!

Photos by Debra Penk

The blues music community came out on January 28th to honor local musicians, venues and events that were the best of the northwest in 2023.

Held at the Alberta Abbey in Portland, it was a night to come together for music, accolades and remembrances of music members we have lost.

The event started with a beautiful song sung by Arietta Ward and accompanied by Steve Kerin on piano and names of those who passed away in 2023 read aloud by CBA president Rae Gordon.

The night was finished with a set by The Revival Brothers.

Presenters

- Arietta Ward
- Andy and Julie Strange
- Tevis Hodge Jr



Congratulations to the Winners



Terry Currier & Pat McDougall



Sonny Hess
Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

- Jesse Samel
- Lloyd Jones
- Norman Sylvester
- Sonny Hess & Lisa Mann

- Robbie Laws
- Joey Scruggs
- Tracey Turner-Pain
- James Patrick Hurley

- Marlena Masterson
- Peter Dammann

Music by

- Arietta Ward and Stevin Kerin
- Robbie Laws, Marty Hennifer and Timmer Blakely
- Tevis Hodge Jr
- Jesse Samel, Cary Samsel and Timmer Blakely
- Norman Sylvester Band
- Sonny Hess, Lisa Mann and Kelly Pierce
- The Revival Brothers

Blues Notes is a publication of the Cascade Blues Association

Help us promote and preserve the lyrical emotion and sultry sounds of blues music in Portland, become a member! Visit <http://cascadibluesassociation.org> today!

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Norman Sylvester Band

Muddy Award Winners

Contemporary

Blues Act: Ben Rice & the PDX Hustle.
BenRiceLive.com

Lloyd Jones R & B

Act: Norman Sylvester Band. NormanSylvester.com

Traditional Blues

Act: Tevis Hodge Jr.
TevisHodgeJr.com

New Act: Kivett Bednar Band. KivettBednar.com

Regional Act: Ben Rice & the PDX Hustle.
BenRiceLive.com

"Duffy Bishop"
Female Vocalist: Rae Gordon. RaeGordon.com

"Jimi Bott" Drums:
Brian Foxworth

"Curtis Salgado"
Male Vocalist: Johnny Wheels (John Kennicott)
JohnnyWheelsBand.com

"Robbie Laws"
Electric Guitar: Alan Hager. Facebook.com/alan.hager.1

**"Terry Robb" Acoustic
Guitar:** Tevis Hodge Jr.
TevisHodgeJr.com

Keyboard: Steve Kerin.
SteveKerin.com

Harmonica: Johnny Wheels (John Kennicott)
JohnnyWheelsBand.com

Horns: Soul Survivor - Chris Mercer & Joe-Mack McCarthy

Venue: The Blue Diamond.
BlueDiamondPDX.net

Bass: Calen Uhlig. ▶



A great start to 2024

Blues by You!

Dear Blues Lovers,

It has already been a great music year so far and spring and summer will be no exception!

The year started off with the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee. This is the renowned competition that brings music acts from around the world to the famed Beale Street. It was an incredible experience not only for the music acts that were sponsored by the Cascade Blues Association, but for everybody else that tagged along with their favorite hometown musical heroes.

The music acts won the opportunity to be sent to the IBC by winning the local Journey to Memphis contest and winning the finals at the Waterfront Blues Festival on

July 4th last year. The acts that represented our great part of the north-west were the Kivett Bednar Band and the TJ Wong & Alec Donn duo. You can see them locally at venues around the Portland metro area.

If you know of a local music act that is ready for the world stage and would love the chance to be involved in the Journey to Memphis competition, please send them my way.

I took my band in 2017 and won 3rd in the competition and it changed my life forever - it could change theirs too. And, we will be with you every step of the way cheering you on in Memphis and back home.

Your Partner in the Blues,

Rae Gordon
(CBA President)

► **NW Recording:**
Pat McDougall - In
the Key of Sorry.
PatMcDougall.com

Photographer: Debra
Penk. Instagram.com/
penkster1

Dance Ambassador:
William Crowe

NW Event (tie):
Peninsula Rhythm
& Blues Festival.
PeninsulaBluesFest.org

AND

NW Women Rhythm &
Blues Holiday Show.
NWWomenBlues.com

**Performance of the
Year.** The Revival
Brothers Band at
Mekong Bistro.
RevivalBrothersBand.com

The Hurley Award:
Robin Gibson

**The 'Back What You
Believe In' Award:**
Shelley Garrett

**Lifetime Achievement
Award:** Sonny Hess.
SonnyHess.com

Thank You to
this year's Muddy
Committee members &
volunteers! Including
but not limited to
Ken Johnson, Susan
Johnson, Terry Currier,
Joey Scruggs, Rae
Gordon, Timmer
Blakely, Mike Day,
Mike Todd, Paula
Bunion, Cristina Walker,
Randi Empting, John
Mears, Andrea Stellar,
Dave Spacek, Rebecca
Rutledge, Jim "Coach"
Hurley, Andrew
Matthews, David Jack
Jester, Bobbi P, and
extreme gratitude to
Betsy Clayton



Tevis Hodge Jr Receives Award
from Andy & Julie Strange



Calen Uhlig's Family
Receives Award



Super volunteer Michelle Pyzer
and Treasurer Mike Day



Jonny "Wheels" Kennicott
Wins Two Awards



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The Blues Bash I

FREE: All Ages OK -
Public Welcome

When: 2nd Tuesday,
7:00 - 9:30pm

Where: Aurora Borealis,
(16708 Aurora Ave. N. Shoreline)

The Blues Bash II

No Cover: 21+

When: 4th Tues, 7:00 - 9:30pm

Where: CCR Sport & Entertainment,
(215 Cypress Ave. Snohomish)



Our Washington
Blues Partner

PO Box 70604
Seattle, WA 98127

www.wablues.org

Weekly Blues Jams

Monday

- Catfish Lou's, Beaverton w/Dave Fleschner (youth friendly)
- White Eagle, Portland w/Chad Rupp

Wednesday

- Jack's Tap Room, Portland, Wed w/Eric Rabe & Toby Worthington

Thursday

- Celebrities Parkway Grill, Fairview w/Eric Rabe, Eric Savage
- The Lair, Milwaukie w/Chad Rupp

- Tigardville Station, Tigard w/Dan Hess

Sundays

- Blue Diamond, Portland w/Kevin Selfe
- Montavilla Station, Portland w/Scott Steele and Kirk Bryant
- Trails End Saloon, Oregon City w/Jason Thomas

Information subject to change and may not be complete. Please confirm with the venue directly. Send your jam to president @cascadeblues.org

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Journey to Memphis winners will inspire new acts this year

Back to Beale Street

This last January brought musicians from around the world to the famed Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee. They were there for the International Blues Challenge, an annual event put on by the Blues Foundation that brings together musicians, fans, friends and family to a week of blues competition, networking and incredible experiences that has the chance to change their lives and careers forever. These music acts compete in their own hometowns around the world including such places as Italy, France, Germany, Canada and throughout the United States.

The Portland area had their own local contest to send acts to Memphis. The Journey to Memphis competition finals were held at the Waterfront Blues Festival on July 4, 2023 and a band and a duo act won the chance to represent the northwest. The Kivett Bednar Band and TJ Wong & Alec Donn performed at the IBC, with the band going to the semi-finals. The IBC has been known to help launch successful

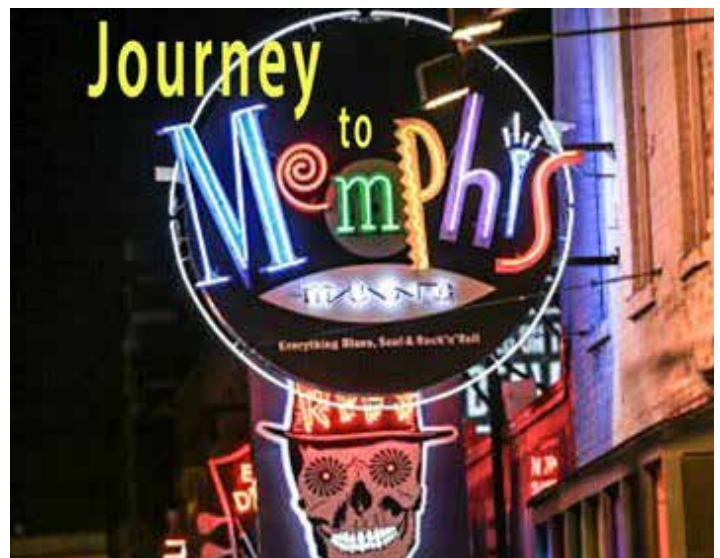


TJ Wong / Alec Donn

blues careers and in the case of our local acts, that is no exception. While there, they made new fans from around the world and made connections for future festival dates. We know we will be seeing great things from these talented musicians in the future. Other notable musicians who have been involved in these renowned competition include, but are not limited to including former Portland resident Fiona Boyes along with Susan Tedesch, iEden Brent, Michael Burks, Tommy Castro, Sean Costello, Albert Cummings, Døvydas, Larry Garner, Zac Harmon, Homemade Jamz Blues Band, HowellDevine, Richard Johnston, Julian Fauth, Super Chikan, Susan Tedeschi, Southern Avenue, and Watermelon Slim.



Kivett Bednar Band



Interested in competing in the upcoming Journey to Memphis?

Contact J2M@cascadeblues.org

The Cascade Blues Association is now working on this year's Journey to Memphis Contest with competition dates in May to be announced soon and finals to be held at the Waterfront Blues Festival Thursday July 4th, 2024.



Please check CascadeBluesAssociation.org or the Cascade Blues Association facebook page at Facebook.com/cascade-bluesassociation.

Artichoke Bandstand

Featured blues and more.

March 3: Lloyd Jones "First Friday" guest Hank Shreve

March 10: Mark Shark Musician, composer, and multi-instrumentalist

March 15: Terry Robb One of our finest acoustic guitarists today!

March 23: Dean Mueller & Pete Kartsounes

Join us for an intimate evening filled with original tunes

March 30: Woodlander Former members of Wheatfield

April 5: Lloyd Jones "First Friday" guest Norman Sylvester

April 12: Jane Doe "The duo of the times!"

Classes & Workshops

Did you know that Artichoke has classes and workshops? Intermediate Blues Guitar with Anne Weiss, Songwriting classes with Matt Meighan & Ken Gaines, Jug Band with Arlo Leach and more. Check all classes on our website.

Artichoke Music: 2007 SE Powell Blvd, Portland, OR 97020 | 503-232-8845

ArtichokeMusic.org



Jane Doe



Hank Shreve

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© Cathy Rankin

Tune in to These New Tunes

Music Review

Hello BluesNotes Readers, and welcome to the rebirth of our new music list. In each edition of BluesNotes, we'll catalog all the new music we receive and add a brief review on those recordings of special merit.

If you come across any new recording you'd like to see on the list, drop us a line at BluesNotes@cascadeblues.org.

Arlen Roth and Jerry Jemmott: Super Soul Session. Blue Heart Records

Guitarist Arlen Roth and Bassist Jerry Jemmott, both renowned session players, have assembled an impressive list of musicians, including keyboardist Bruce

Katz and drummer Chris Parker, for this groove-infused collection of cover tunes; it doesn't disappoint. Roth and Jemmott picked an wide-ranging selection of tunes—from "Chain of Fools," to "The Weight" to "(Your Love Keep Lifting Me) Higher and Higher"—and they manage to breathe life into every one of these songs, not an easy accomplishment with such well-known warhorses. In fact, their version of "Drift Away," outshines Dobie Gray's original—to my ears anyway. This album's a treat and an absolute hoot. Highly Recommended.

Mike Guldin: the Franklin Sessions. Blue Heart Records

The Name Droppers: Blue Diamonds. Horizon Music Group

Steve Howell: Gallery of Echoes. Out of the Past Music

It's a tough assignment nowadays to find a new recording that offers an authentic musical experience, but Steve Howell's new record does the trick. From Blind Willie McTell's "Statesboro Blues," to Rev. Gary Davis's "Twelve Gates to the City," to Blind Lemon Jefferson's "Easy Rider Blues," Howell's sublime finger-picking guitar style and calloused, world-weary voice instills all these well-known tunes with an emotional vitality that's rarely heard today—Howell's version of the traditional tune "All My Friends are Gone" is simply glorious. I must admit that this album, shorn of any pretension or posturing, fits precisely into my prejudice for honest

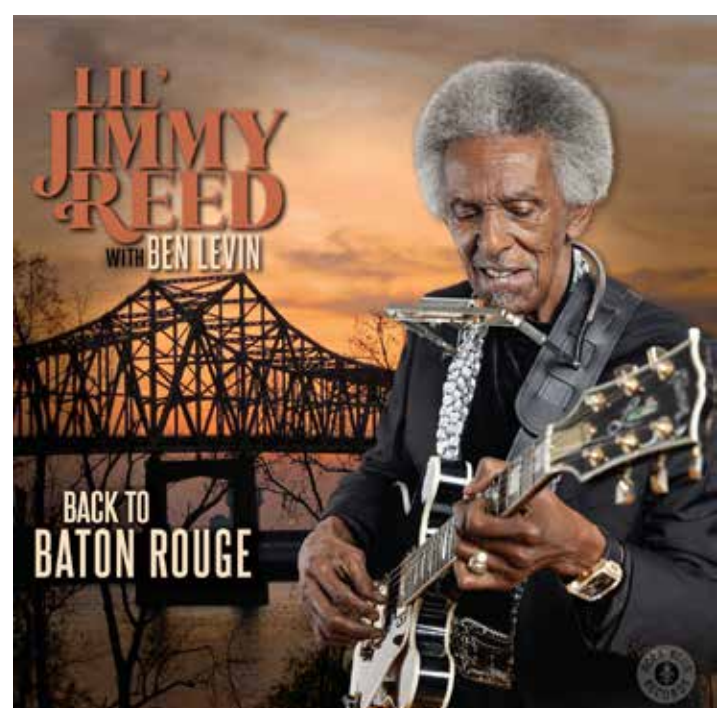
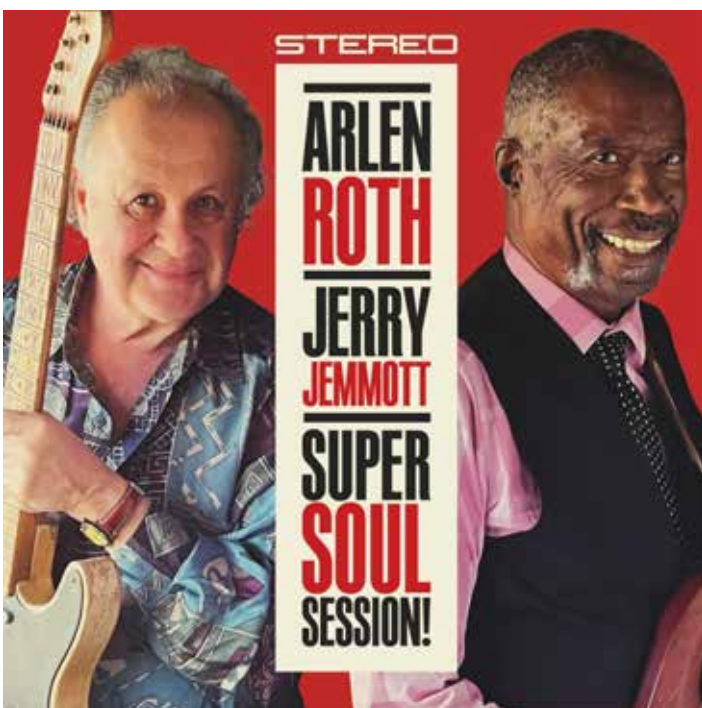
Americana music; I'm a dead sucker for this stuff. Highly Recommended.

Little G. Weevil: If I May. Gee Wee Productions

Any album that includes a tune called "Spy Balloon Blues" deserves a shout out, and it helps if it's a terrific song too. Hungarian-born guitarist Little G. Weevil's new album constantly delights with its collection of tight, spooky blues.

Frank L. Goldwasser (Paris Slim): Who Needs This Mess!?!?. Cross Cut Records

This record contains a real treat: an epic 2014 performance of Elmore James's "Bleeding Heart" at our own Waterfront Blues Festival. But there's much more here to recommend than just that one cut. French



by Randy Murphy

native Goldwasser—or, if you prefer, “Paris Slim”—has put together a winning assortment of tunes, but the highlight is certainly the title tune “Who Needs This Mess!?!?” where Sugarray Rayford, Charlie Musselwhite, Kirk Fletcher, and Jim Pugh join in for a gritty good time.

Gráinne Duffy: *Dirt Woman Blues*. Blue Heart Records

This appealing and eclectic recording, the fifth from Ireland’s soulful Gráinne Duffy, mixes solid, bottom-heavy blues rock with a healthy dose of Celtic mysticism and a dash of the Delta. And with the tune, “What’s It Gonna Be” there’s even a terrific side trip to Southern California (circa 1978) that would’ve slid comfortably into

anyone’s 8-track back in the day. Highly Recommended.

Lil’ Jimmy Reed with Ben Levin: *Back to Baton Rouge*. Nola Blue Records

85-year-old Lil’ Jimmy Reed has joined up with pianist Ben Levin for a superb assortment of original tunes and covers. Here Reed and his compadres pay tribute to a wide selection of classic blues and R&B—including Elmore James, Slim Harpo, and a splendid rendition of Chuck Berry’s “In the Wee Wee Hours”—along with the music of Reed’s native Louisiana.

Mike Bourne Band: *Cruisin’ Kansas City*. Blue Heart Records

This is not the recording to play when the in-laws stop by for Sunday brunch. This

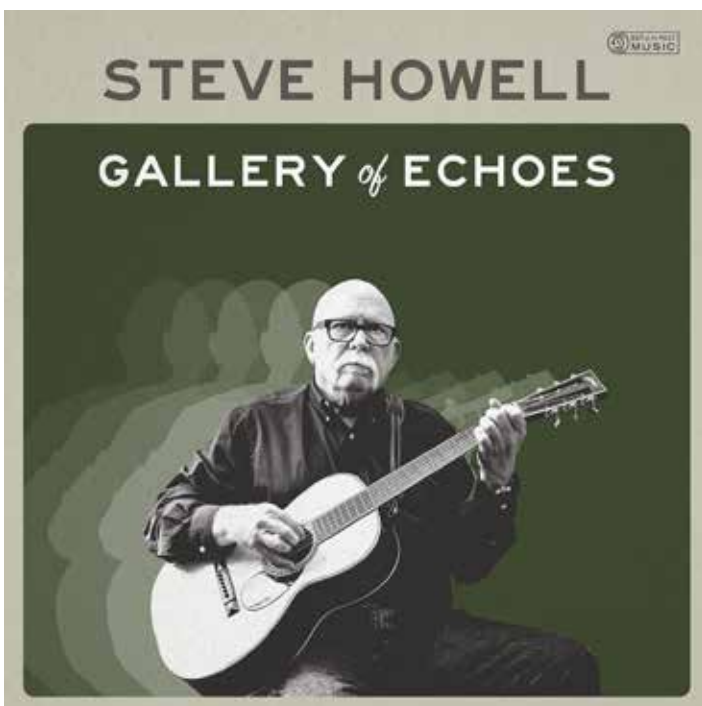
is kick-in-the-bum, crack-on-the-jaw, fire-breathing, Kansas City blues, and it’s a real keeper. Turn it up—the neighbors will thank you.

Reverend Freakchild: *Songs of Beauty for Ashes of Realization*. Treated and Released Records

Perhaps it’s the obvious echoes of the Grateful Dead, its unique tack to the blues or just the sheer cheek of the tunes, but this appealing treasury of music latches on and refuses to let go. Is it blues? Sure, I suppose so—at least in spots, but that’s probably not the right question. Here you’ll find funk, straight-ahead rock, country, trippy psychedelia, delta blues; you name it—and it’s nothing if not fun. The band’s killer too. Highly Recommended.

Don’t miss out on these other great albums

- **Joanne Broh Band:** *Head Full of Trouble*. Double Y Records.
- **Joel Astley:** *Seattle to Greaseland*. Blue Heart Records
- **Lady J. Huston:** *Groove Me Baby*. Earwig Music
- **Mark Cameron:** *Nasty Business*. Blue Heart Records
- **Sandy Carroll:** *Love on It*. Blue Heart Records
- **Skyla Burrell:** *Broken 45’s*. Independent
- **Tim Woods:** *For You*. Tim Woods Music
- **Willie J. Campbell:** *Be Cool*. Blue Heart Records



The African-American Postwar Folk Tradition

By J.F. Walsh Jr.

The Origin of the Blues (part 6)

Postwar freedom meant no overseer for ex-slaves, but it also meant no guaranteed food, shelter, and clothing. After several years of economic confusion, a system of sharecropping was devised, whereby a family worked a plot and split the crop with the owner. Unfair terms and unfair laws usually resulted in the sharecropper's getting deeper in debt with each crop.

Field songs changed from group songs to individual field hollers and moans. These were rough-textured, melismatic, and keening, with upward breaks into the falsetto range. They voiced anger, despair, weariness, and, sometimes, hope or humor. Solo work songs were paced by mule driving, chopping trees, splitting wood, churning, and weaving. In places, groups of families gathered to shuck corn or party with music and song. Levee workers, railroad track crews, and prison work gangs sang group songs resembling the call-and-response songs of slavery.



Post Civil War Sharecrop Workers



"Old Black Joe"
1860



Balladeer Acoustic
Guitar, 1860

Religious songs included songs for church, baptisms, and funerals. In city barbershops, black barbers and customers created a close harmony style later known as "barbershop quartet." And harmonicas and fiddles imitated trains, hounds, and human words. Folk ballads appeared, too, such as "John Henry."

Most important, a new family of songs appeared

sometime in the 1880s: the proto-blues. They began with "bad man" songs, such as "Stagger Lee" and "Bully of the Town." They were often 12 bars long, used I-IV-I-V chord progressions (ex., C-F-C-G) of various sorts, and sometimes used the same last line in each verse. In the 1890s, these songs evolved into the "Frankie and Johnny"/"Boll Weevil" family with these chords:

I Frankie and Johnny were lovers,[X] O, Lordy, how they could love;[X] They IV I Swore to be true to each other,[X] As true as the stars up above; He was her V IIV I V Man,[X] [X] but he done her wrong ([X] [X] [X] [turnaround])

([X] represents a strong beat without words.) Chords and phrasing varied from place to place, but the essentials were, again, 12 bars, a basic I-IV-I-V chord pattern, and, often, a last line used as a repeated refrain. As we'll see next time, a blues vocal style and the 12-bar blues pattern emerged when the style of the hollers plus a call-and-response between the singer and a guitar melded with the "Frankie and Johnny-"/"Boll Weevil" family's structure.

**Next time (part 7):
The 12-bar Blues
Emerges**



J.F. Walsh, Jr. is a music historian and ex-New York streetfighter. Questions? Email him at Vito-JW51@gmail.com

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Billy D & The Hoodoos



Johnny Wheels and
The Swamp Donkeys



Chad Rupp and
the Sugar Roots



NW Women
Rhythm & Blues

NW Women Rhythm & Blues



Daniel Castro



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