



Capital Blues Messenger

Celebrating the Blues in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia

January 2022

Volume 16, Issue 1

A New Year, A New Start for the DCBS

by John Neumann
DCBS President

The Board of the DC Blues Society wishes everyone a very happy year! The change of the calendar gives us the opportunity both to reflect on 2021 and look forward to 2022. The year that just concluded was one of triumph and tragedy.

Amidst the ongoing pandemic, the DC Blues Society began holding live events again in the Summer of 2021. In July, we held a free outdoor concert at the historic Fort Reno Park in Northwest DC featuring the legendary band, The Nighthawks. It was amazing to reconnect (and dance) in person with so many of the great people who make up our local blues scene. The Nighthawks sounded fantastic and everyone had a blast.

In August, the DCBS partnered with Amanda MacKaye and the Fort Reno Concert Series to feature the Linwood Taylor Band. Again, an amazing show with many blues fans in attendance.

In September, we tragically lost Pete Salisbury, our DC Blues Society president. Our hearts continue to go out to his wife Carol and their sons. Pete's service on the board and his tireless promotion of the blues will be greatly missed. In October we dedicated the 31st DC Blues Festival to Pete's memory. The free event was held on the Sunday of Columbus Day weekend at the fabulous Wunder Garten in DC's NoMa neighborhood for the third time. What a fantastic day of beer, dancing, and

live music featuring J.P. Reali, the Linwood Taylor Band, Robbin Kapsalis & Vintage #18, and blues phenomenon King Solomon Hicks closing out the show. Pete would have been proud.

Also in October we held the Battle of the Bands to determine who would represent the DC Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis in 2022. Congratulations to Carly Harvey's Kiss & Ride for winning the group competition

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January Happy Hour + Jam Cancelled

This is not the way we wanted to start a new year! Due to the ongoing spike in the Covid-19 Omicron variant in the DC area, we regret that we had to cancel our **First Sunday Blues Jam** scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 2 and the **Fourth Friday Happy Hour** scheduled for Jan. 28.

These decision were made to ensure the safety of our volunteers, guests and our community. We have also been informed that Post 41 has cancelled all live music performances for January.

At this time, Post 41 plans to resume live music performances in February. We are hopeful that the DCBS will be able to resume its **First Sunday Jam on Feb. 6**, followed by the **Fourth Friday Happy Hour on Feb. 25**. Mark your calendars and keep your fingers crossed!

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

The DC Blues Society board held its elections in early December, and we're happy to announce the new leadership team:

President — John Neumann

Vice President — Larry Spiwak

Secretary — Pat Bransford

Treasurer — Adam Oppenheim

Dorothy Hines will continue her valued service as a board member.

In addition, we are pleased to welcome two new members to the DCBS board: **Elliot Berke and Paloma Costa**.

Meet the board members on pages 4 and 5. Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in joining the board and/or volunteering for DCBS.

We look forward to working with you all in 2022!

NEW ADDRESS

The DCBS has a new mailing address. Please send all membership inquiries, dues, requests and communications to:

5335 Wisconsin Ave., NW ▲ Suite 440 ▲ Washington, DC 20015-2052

DCBS phone number: **202-617-2625**

DC BLUES SOCIETY

5335 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Suite 440
Washington, DC
20015-2052
202-617-2625



www.dcblues.org

The DC Blues Society (DCBS) was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to keeping the Blues alive through outreach and education. Its mission is to celebrate, preserve, and promote the Blues as an original American art form. DCBS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that depends on grants, membership, contributions, and volunteers to operate. The DC Blues Society is a proud affiliate of the Blues Foundation.

DCBS is governed by its Board of Directors. Only DCBS Officers and designated board members are authorized to speak, represent and make commitments on behalf of the organization.



The CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER is published monthly (unless otherwise noted) and sent by email to members. Back issues are available at www.dcblues.org.

DCBS members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, cartoons, reviews and suggestions to the newsletter. Please submit material via email to newsletter@dcblues.org. Listings from bands and venues should be sent to calendar@dcblues.org. Deadline for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Articles should be submitted in MSWord; logos and graphics should be in vector format (.eps or .ai); and photos should be in color in high resolution .jpg format.

DCBS Board Members

OFFICERS

President: John Neumann
president@dcblues.org

Vice President: Larry Spiwak
vp@dcblues.org

Secretary: Pat Bransford
secretary@dcblues.org

Treasurer: Adam Oppenheim
treasurer@dcblues.org

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Elliot Berke

Paloma Costa

Dorothy Hines

President Emeritus:

Felix McClairen

HONORARY DIRECTORS

John Cephas (1930–2009)

Chet Hines (1946–2016))

Felix McClairen

Sam'i Nuriddin

Barry Lee Pearson

Joseph Wilson (1938–2015)

Enjoy the Benefits and Fun of DCBS Membership

Members are key to the livelihood of the DCBS. Members' dues play an important part in helping DCBS fulfill its mission to promote the Blues and the Musicians who keep the music alive, exciting and accessible. Members receive many benefits for their nominal DCBS investment:

- ▲ Discounted rates on advance tickets to DCBS events
- ▲ Friendship of fellow Blues enthusiasts at DCBS's many events
- ▲ Monthly editions of THE CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER sent by email
- ▲ Priority notices of the latest scheduled area Blues concerts, events and news sent by email
- ▲ Eligibility to win free tickets to area Blues concerts and performances (e.g., City Winery, DC; JV's; The Hamilton and more)
- ▲ Opportunities to "get close to the action and the music" by volunteering at DCBS events
- ▲ Taking a supporting role in DCBS's Blues in the Community program, an outreach effort to educate and encourage the rich heritage of Blues music

Join or Renew Today!

Date _____ New Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Family email _____ Second Email _____

If family, list name(s) _____

Annual Dues*

- Student: \$15
(include copy of student ID)
- Individual: \$35 per year
\$60 two years
- Family: \$45
- Corporate: \$200

Volunteer

- Update Website
- Work shift at a show
(DCBS table, door, etc.)
- Promote shows
(Distribute fliers,
handbills, etc.)
- Raise funds
- Write reviews or take
photos for monthly
newsletter

*Contributions (not dues)
are tax deductible. Please
allow up to 6 weeks for
processing. DCBS accepts*



Return this form with
your check or credit card
information to:
DC Blues Society
5335 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20015-2052

*Becoming a DCBS member is quick and easy! Use the mail-in application on this page,
sign up at the DCBS table at any DCBS event or apply online at www.dcblues.org*

Plans for 2022, a Look Back at 2021

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and to Danny Garrett and Sam O'Hare for winning the solo/duo competition. We look forward to cheering them on at the IBC which has now been rescheduled for May.

July saw the return of DCBS's 4th Friday Happy Hour at the American Legion in Silver Spring. The Sol Roots Band played to a large crowd in July.

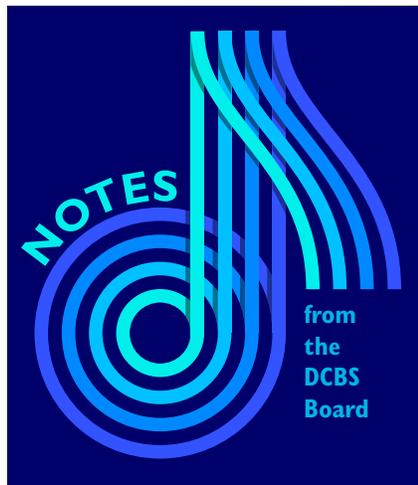
In subsequent months, Linwood Taylor, Fast Eddie and The Slowpokes, Bad Influence and the Carly Harvey Band rocked the house.

The First Sunday Blues Jam was held in December for the first time since the pandemic started. Again, it was great to see so many familiar faces after a long hiatus.

At the end of 2021, we added two new members to the DCBS Board: Elliot Berke and Paloma Costa. We welcome their volunteer service and look forward to their efforts on behalf of the DCBS. Meet the members of your DCBS Board on pages 4 and 5.

As we look to the year ahead in 2022, the DC Blues Society is planning an ambitious schedule of more outdoor shows in spring and summer. We also plan a special concert to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the founding of the DC Blues Society (which happened all the way back in 1987 if you can believe it!).

As for the monthly Jam and Happy Hour shows, we are cautiously optimistic that those will happen on a more regular schedule, subject to indoor Covid protocols.



Finally we want to thank everyone who graciously donated money to the DC Blues Society or renewed their membership over the past year. We are a small non-profit, and we wouldn't be able to do what we do without your generous support.

We wish everyone a prosperous, healthy, and happy New Year. See you on the dance floor soon!

Upcoming 4th Friday Blues Happy Hour

February 25:

FREE ADMISSION

Live music: 6:30 to 9:30 pm

American Legion Post 41

905 Sligo Ave.

Silver Spring, MD 20910

(Entrance on Fenton Street, adjacent to public parking garage)

Parking is free after 7 pm

Affordable food & cash bar available



New Dates for International Blues Challenge

The Blues Foundation is excited to announce the new dates for the International Blues Challenge: **May 6-9, 2022**

It will be a full week of blues this May in Memphis as we celebrate the Blues Music Award nominees and winners on Thursday, May 5 and are Back On Beale with IBC beginning Friday, May 6.

Friday, May 6: Quarterfinals Night 1

Saturday, May 7: Quarterfinals Night 2

Sunday, May 8: KBA Ceremony, Youth Showcases, and Semifinals

Monday, May 9: IBC Finals at The Orpheum

An updated IBC event schedule that includes workshops, panels, and showcases will be announced shortly. All previously purchased passes will be honored for the new dates.

We hope to see you in Memphis this May!

Meet Your DCBS Board of Directors: 2022 Officers



President: John Neumann

John Neumann has served on the Board of the DC Blues Society since 2017 and is honored to have been named its President in December 2021. John is a small business owner with a presence in the Washington, DC area. He has had a great affinity for the blues since picking up the guitar at age 14, particularly the deep acoustic blues of the Piedmont region and the Mississippi Delta. John enjoys blues traveling in the Deep South and exploring the urban juke joints of the big cities. Throughout the years, he has developed some great friendships with blues artists and fellow blues fans from around the world. John looks forward to working with his fellow DCBS board members to highlight the area's homegrown blues artists and keep the local scene thriving in the months and years to come.

Vice President: Larry Spiwak

Larry Spiwak is a third-generation Washingtonian and a long-standing member of the DCBS. Larry joined the DCBS Board in 2018 and was elected to Vice President in 2021. In addition to his Board responsibilities, Larry co-runs the very popular DCBS Monthly Jam. A lawyer by training, Larry brings more than 25 years of non-profit management experience to the DCBS. Larry is also an avid (and multi-instrumentalist) musician and has performed at many DCBS concerts, happy hours and fundraisers. Larry and his wife Lisa live in North Bethesda MD..



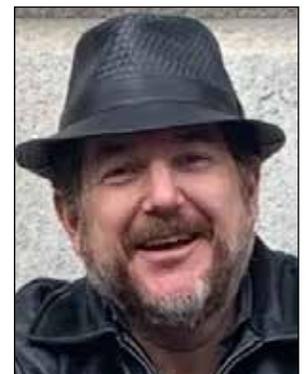
Secretary: Pat Bransford

Pat Bransford has been involved as a volunteer with DCBS since 2010, when she took on the role of Newsletter Editor. Pat continues to be involved in the newsletter but has been serving as Secretary on the DCBS Board since 2018. Since her 2008 retirement as an HR/Management Systems Director in the Federal government, Pat has volunteered many hours for DCBS; teaches senior exercise classes; enjoys spending time on the tennis court, hiking, and biking; and absolutely loves the camaraderie among the DCBS regulars and other blues enthusiasts who attend DCBS events.



Treasurer: Adam Oppenheim

Adam Oppenheim is a D.C. native who joined the DC Blues Society board in 2018. As Treasurer (and lawyer and former business owner), Adam has focused on standardizing DCBS business operations, including accounting, legal and administrative policies and procedures.



Adam discovered the blues as a teenager, helped by late-night WPMF radio and seeing legends like Louisiana Red at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. He began actively participating in the DC blues community more than a decade ago, at the weekly Piedmont Blues jams hosted by the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation, the DCBS jams, and performing as guitarist with DC Mudd at the IBC in Memphis and the DC Blues Festival.

Meet Your DCBS Directors: 2022 At-Large



Dorothy Himes

Dorothy Himes joined the DCBS Board in 2017. If you attended any DCBS events in recent years, you've seen her selling merchandise and memberships and serving as a key volunteer at all events.

Dorothy is a big blues fan. DCBS first got to know her when she accompanied her husband, bluesman Dr. S.O. Feelgood (Chet Himes), to DCBS events. Chet was often performing or doing the sound for DCBS. After Chet's death, Dorothy got involved as a DCBS volunteer. She traces her interest in the blues back to the 70's when she first began to listen to the music.

When she began going to blues events with Chet, she really developed an appreciation for the music and the blues community. Dorothy grew up in DC and graduated from Ballou Senior High School. She is retired from the Federal government.



Elliot S. Berke

Elliot S. Berke serves as Managing Partner of Berke Farah LLP. He has been named by Chambers USA as a "Nationwide Best Lawyer" and by Washingtonian as one of "Washington's Best Lawyers."

His diverse client base consists of federal and state elected and appointed officials, campaign committees, political parties, PACs, corporations, small businesses, trade associations, lobbying firms, public relations firms, nonprofits, artists, and musicians.

Elliot is also well versed in the intersection of law, politics and entertainment. He has been described as "DC's liaison to rock 'n roll" — providing counsel and helping to produce music-based charity events throughout the country. Elliot is a cum laude graduate of Wake Forest University and a graduate of the Emory University School of Law.



Paloma Costa

Paloma Costa is currently a real estate professional. Prior to becoming a realtor, she led a Stakeholder Engagement team for a telecommunications fund, and developed and implemented marketing and training to grow a Rural Health Care program to enable telemedicine applications at hospitals and clinics nationwide. She is originally from Brazil but DC has been her home for many years.

Paloma got involved with the DC Blues Society in 2019, when she helped DCBS volunteers organize and promote monthly Bourbon and Blues events in Georgetown. Paloma is also an active volunteer guide with the Musicians on Call program in DC. Musicians On Call is an organization that brings live and recorded music to the bedsides of patients in healthcare facilities.



The DCBS is proud to have **The Carly Harvey Band and Danny Garrett and Sam O'Hare** representing DCBS and competing in the 2022 IBC. **Danny and Sam, left, won the 2021 DCBS Solo/Duo Competition, and The Carly Harvey Band, right, took first place in the 2021 Battle of the Bands.**



A Sense of Normalcy on a Star-studded, Far-from-the-Norm Cruise

by Christine DeProperty

Taj Mahal, Keb' Mo', Doug MacLeod, Ruthie Foster, Tommy Castro, Deanna Bogart, Daryl Davis, Rev. Billy C Wirtz, Rev Peyton & His Big Damn Band, Vanessa Collier, Ronnie Baker Brooks – whew, those were just some of the performers on the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise (LRBC) #35, sailing from Fort Lauderdale from Nov. 6–13 and stopping at Half Moon Cay, Bahamas; Curacao; and Aruba.

Relishing the feeling of normalcy, I made it a point to see as many performers as I could and was never disappointed. Taj Mahal performed in a cape that covered his broken hand. Our own Daryl Davis combined his piano-playing prowess with music history and stories in the piano lounge.

Doug MacLeod was at his story-telling best in an on-shore concert on Half Moon Cay. Mike Zito and Tommy Castro hosted the bingaux game usually hosted by Tab Benoit after Tab had to cancel his cruise participation when Holland America changed the cruise date.

Hector Anchondo, winner of the of the 2020 IBC Solo/Duo, demonstrated why he beat out all the other entrants. Vanessa Collier continued her ascent as one of the premier Blues performers of the younger generation, as did Marquise Knox.



photo by Christine DeProperty
The 5 o'clock Somewhere Clock is a prominent fixture on the LRBC.

Covid Protocols were in place. Everyone had to provide proof of vaccination early on, then have a rapid test 48 hours prior to boarding. On the day of embarkation, we were all tested in the terminal. That's when Shemekia Copeland tested positive. She could not join us, but her band could and played her slots, with a little help

speechless for four minutes. If you've ever heard Rev. Billy, you know four minutes of silence is unheard of for him. It was enough to garner her the "You Shudda Been There" award at the LRBC Awards on the last day of the cruise.

In addition to the music, there were industry panels discussing today's



photo by Christine DeProperty
DC's own Daryl Davis held court in the piano lounge aboard the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise in November.

from Vanessa Collier, Paul Cerra and Ruthie Foster.

Sitting-in always happens on the cruise. Whether it was Jontavious Willis sitting in for a song with Mitch Woods in the piano bar, Mike Zito joining Tommy Castro, Marquise Knox and Doug MacLeod joining Jontavious for a couple of songs, or Choo Choo Charlie adding some harmonica for Daryl Davis, everyone had fun simply being able to play.

One sitting-in that I unfortunately missed was Eden Brent sitting in with Rev. Billy in the piano lounge and rendering him

challenging music business, B.B. King stories by Bill Wax, and Daryl Davis' recounting of his life's mission to deprogram Ku Klux Klan members (to date he has cured almost 200 of their hate). Rev Peyton and his wife Breezy provided a cooking demonstration that provided us with recipes and samples for creamed spinach, bacon-wrapped jalapenos, and blackened shrimp.

There was so much to do and see and hear that there didn't seem to be enough time for everything. I've already signed up for a future cruise, so I'll be able to do it all over again

2022 Keeping the Blues Alive Honorees

Each year, The Blues Foundation grants Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) awards to individuals and organizations/venues, etc. that have made significant contributions to the blues world. The awards will be presented at the Blues Music Awards ceremony and International Blues Challenge in May. The 2022 awardees are:

Big Blues Bender's HART Party

The Big Blues Bender is a four-day music festival held annually in Las Vegas. Each year, the opening night is a fundraiser supporting the HART (Handy Artist Relief Trust) Fund. The Bender graciously donates all of the door proceeds towards the HART Party, as well as donating items for auction.

In addition, many artists voluntarily donate their time to the cause because they have been recipients of HART Fund grants. To date, more than \$200,000 has been raised by the Bender. In addition to support of the HART Fund program, this party also reaches a broader audience to inform them of these artist relief efforts.



Can't Stop The Blues

"Can't Stop the Blues" (CSTB), was founded by Karen Gottheimer in March 2020. The CSTB virtual concert series, streamed on Facebook and YouTube, created a groundbreaking and desperately needed virtual space for the blues scene, during a time when live performances were halted due to COVID-19. Karen, with assistance from Judy Eliyas and a handful of other part-time volunteers, streamed more than eight shows each week for 13 months.

CSTB broadcast more than 450 performances, helping more than 350 blues artists generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in tip revenue and



merchandise sales from fans all over the world. At the same time, CSTB became a virtual community for more than 50,000 blues lovers and artists. All CSTB shows are archived and accessible on Facebook and YouTube for the foreseeable future, providing a historical document of how the blues world survived through a most challenging time.

Tom Claypool

Fashioning his adult life around giving back to the music community, Tom Claypool has followed music for most of his life. Going to concerts and events eventually led to him hosting a blues show on WEVL FM 89.9, a non-profit, public radio station based in Memphis. Tom has hosted on WEVL for 31 years, starting with blues, then Cajun and Zydeco.

For the past 17 years, Tom's focus has been tunes from the Crescent City with his show, "New Orleans Big Beat," that airs every Friday. Tom is no stranger to volunteering for The Blues Foundation; he's worked with the International Blues Challenge for more than 25 years, ranging from emcee to working in production; and 23 years on the Blues Music Awards production crew. For the past three decades, Tom has chosen to donate his time and talents to music organizations, music events, and public radio in order to give back to the community that first inspired him.



FitzGerald's Roadhouse

Since 1981, FitzGerald's Roadhouse in Chicago has been a champion for American roots music, including a constant flow of top-notch blues artists. In 2018, Bill FitzGerald put the club up for sale, but only to someone who would continue to support American roots music in all its forms, including blues. It took a few years for Bill to find the right buyer. Demonstrating the club's continued commitment to blues, the first annual Berwyn Blues Festival was held in September 2021.

For decades, the club has prided itself on a first-rate sound system and sound mixers, professional staging, artist hospitality, and a great atmosphere for patrons. If you ask any artist who has played the club, they'll tell you it's among their favorites. These days, the club insists on proof of vaccination or recent testing to protect artists and guests. Between the club's founder, Bill FitzGerald, and the current owner, Will Duncan, FitzGerald's has been a welcome home to blues artists for 40 years.



Fueling Musicians Program

Award-winning blues guitarist Joe Bonamassa founded the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation in 2011. The foundation aims to support arts and music education through grants, scholarships and donations to schools, colleges and nonprofit organizations. One of the most notable programs funded by the foundation is the FUELING MUSICIANS

2022 Keeping the Blues Alive Honorees

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initiative, designed to provide critically needed assistance to musicians whose income has been eliminated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since its inception in 2020, this initiative has raised more than \$500,000, distributing 300+ cash awards. FUELING MUSICIANS has attracted the attention and support of Gibson, Fender, Guitar Center, Ernie Ball Music Man and George Thorogood and the Destroyers. The foundation is not only recognized by the Internal Revenue Service but also accredited by the Florida Nonprofit Alliance and GuideStar, which has helped garner substantial donors and invaluable partners.



Jerry Mason

After a 22-year career in traditional radio, Jackson, Mississippi-based entrepreneur and promoter Jerry “Boogie” Mason built a network of traditional and new media connections via e-mail, print advertising and social media, to promote blues, Southern soul and other genres of music rooted in communities of color. His email blast, THE BOOGIE REPORT, continues to alert the world’s blues communities with up-to-date information on the latest recordings, tours, emerging artists, and cultural opportunities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through Mason Media Services, Jerry aggregates relevant material from various social media and local community websites to provide a forum for readers to exchange ideas, share information and remain connected to the arts community at large. Building on the success of THE BOOGIE REPORT, Jerry hosts the Southern Soul Video Network, The Blues Buffet Radio Program, and a digital daily newsletter. Jerry has served as Publicity

Chairman of the Central Mississippi Blues Society, advisory board member of the Jus’ Blues Foundation, member of the Board of Directors of The Blues Foundation, and Information Officer of Solomon D. Loche American Legion Post 501.

Phil Ranstrom

Phil Ranstrom is an American documentary filmmaker living in Chicago. He has been writing, producing, and directing documentaries since the 1980s. Among his credits is the Emmy Award-winning, feature-length documentary, CHEAT YOU FAIR: THE STORY OF MAXWELL STREET, narrated by actor Joe Mantegna. This epic film is told in three acts and details the rise and fall of Chicago’s Maxwell Street, the birthplace of electric, urban blues. For more than a decade, Ranstrom interviewed and recorded countless vendors, residents and blues artists to capture an oral history that had never been told.

CHEAT YOU FAIR stands today as the most comprehensive history of Maxwell Street in any medium. It features interviews from blues icons including Bo Diddley, Junior Wells, Hubert Sumlin, Buddy Guy, Charlie Musselwhite, John Primer and Uncle Johnnie Williams. Ranstrom continues to travel the world and document the blues. He’s currently working on HEAVENLY BIRDS that tells of his journey to Poland where he discovered what can only be described as “one of the greatest stories in blues and rock ’n’ roll history never told.”

Raúl de la Rosa

Raúl de la Rosa has been a broadcaster, journalist, and cultural promoter and curator of the blues since 1964. In 1978, he organized Mexico’s first blues festival to share the blues and its history with the Mexican people. Raul produced 11 blues festivals between 1978 and 2012, which were held in some of Mexico’s most prestigious venues. These festivals attracted an average of 10,000 to 30,000

attendees per event.

While the early festivals featured artists such as Willie Dixon, John Lee Hooker, Sunnyland Slim and Jimmy Rogers, Raúl ensured that the final seven festivals featured a greater number of Mexican artists. This generated significant public interest, as well as related workshops, conferences, and exhibitions, open to the public and to students of Mexico’s top-rated universities. In 2002, Raúl authored the first journalistic column about blues in a Mexican newspaper which continues to be published to this day. He has been a radio host and producer of POR LOS SENDEROS DEL BLUES (DOWN THE TRAIL OF BLUES) since 2005, where he continues to keep the blues alive in Mexico!



Jack Sullivan

For three decades, Jack Sullivan has used his skills in magazine circulation sales for various publishing houses including Time Inc., Wenner Media and Hearst to propel his passion for blues music. Jack continues to be an ambassador and trendsetter for the blues.

He has achieved national and international success as a magazine publisher, festival promoter and online music store marketer. His many highlights include co-founding the Bradenton Blues Festival and Camping With the Blues, launching Mojo Wax Media, publishing Blues Music Magazine and launching online stores Blues Music and All Music Styles. Just a few years ago, Jack and his wife Susan relocated to Memphis to open their office in the Home of the Blues.

Robbin Kapsalis & Vintage #18, Soul Shaker

by Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro

Soul Shaker is the second release for Robbin Kapsalis and Vintage #18. The band, who has been playing together for eight years now, consists of: Robbin on vocals; Bill Holter on guitar; Mark Chandler on Bass; Alex Culdell on drums and percussion; Ron Holloway on saxophone; and Thomas Williams and Vince McCool on trumpet. The album features 11 tracks of which seven are band originals.



Having emceed several shows that featured Robbin and the guys I can honestly say that this act is a force to be reckoned with; and from her custom made all white mic and stand, to her all white tasseled outfits, to the way her gyrations wildly toss those tassels around, Robbin simultaneously raises both the flair and energy bars to a new heights.

On the one-sheet that accompanied the album, Robbin claims that the band's goal was to "Bring that live energy we're known for to each and every song." That said, it wasn't very long into the disc's opening track, "Shake It Baby" (Blackmore/Guy), before that statement was validated. The track opens with Mark laying down some seriously deep bass grooves; Alex having no mercy on the drum kit; and Bill tearing off smokin' guitar riffs; basically it's a three-way musical slug fest. Then, shortly after the boss lady starts singing and howling the blues, Ron and Vince hit the ground with their horns running and yes, all hell is now breaking loose.

On a track titled "Boogaloo", the chorus line features Robbin sassily singing "I

Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro is Blues Editor at www.Mary4Music.com. This review is ©October 2021 and reprinted here with his permission. Mary4Music was the 2011 recipient of a Keeping the Blues Alive Award from The Blues Foundation. He can be reached at blewzzman@aol.com

want you, to show me how to boogaloo." Robbin Kapsalis does not need anyone to show her how to boogaloo or — for that matter— any other dance, as well. The song actually finds Robbin singing it to a dance floor full of movers and shakers and not only is she encouraging them to show her how they boogaloo, she and the guys are also providing them with the vehicle to do it.

"Living Large" (Deb Ryder) is one of the slower tracks. With Mark and Alex in a sweet rhythm groove and Bill's scorching slow licks, the song pretty much features Robbin putting on a vocals 101 class. Showing you don't need to be



song justice on this hybrid version. Hybrid in that she's got the steamy and jazzy thing going on with the vocals, Mark's bass lines sound as good as any jazz bassist, Alex's edgy drum work has a bit of a rock vibe and bending those strings defines Bill's



photo by John Quinter

Robbin Kapsalis & Vintage #18 at the 2021 DC Blues Festival.

a soprano to hit the high notes, Robbin, with that deep voice her family teased her about as a kid, showcases her absolutely fabulous range.

From very well known vocalists to local lounge acts, if you had a dollar for everyone who has ever sung "Fever" (Coolkey/Davenport), you'd be able to put a large dent in the national budget's deficit. The versions that heat my soul are the jazzy ones performed by a sultry sounding Sarah Vaughan or a Peggy Lee. Speaking of sultry singers, Robbin is indeed doing the

blues. The next time I see Robbin live, I am looking forward to hearing a smoker called "The Cannonball" (Williams). With the band in pedal-to-the-metal mode and the Robbin's attitude, I can't wait for the sizzling, visual effects. The disc closes with its second performance of "You Don't Deserve Me." It's officially called the "Extended Groove," but let me just say it's the twice as long, steroidal version of the first performance. Other tracks on "*Soul Shaker*" that will get more than your soul shakin' are: "Lost Souls," "Jukin'," "From The Hearts Of One" and "Silver Spoon."

JANUARY 2022 LIVE BLUES

- 1** Skyla Burrell Blues Band @ Monk's BBQ, Purcellville, VA ▲ Hard Swimmin' Fish @ The New Deal Café ▲ Wild Rice Band @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Patty Reese @ 8 Chains North Winery, Waterford, VA ▲ Charlie Owen & Pocket Change @ Hank Dietle's Tavern
- 2** Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-in Jam with Linwood Taylor @ JV's Restaurant ▲ Patty Reese @ Vanish Farmwoods Brewery, Leesburg ▲ Homeslice Organ Grinders @ Hank Dietle's Tavern
- 3** Wolf's Every Monday Blues Show @ Lahinch Tavern ▲ Monday Night Roots 'n Rock Open Mic @ Hank Dietle's Tavern
- 4** Timmy Shelley Band @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Holly Montgomery @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Patty Reese @ The Manor at Silo Falls, Brookeville ▲ Cookin' with Gas Blues Jam @ Hell's Bottom, Takoma Park VFW 350 ▲ Dan Hovey Happy Hour @ Hank Dietle's Tavern
- 5** Matt Kelley's Swangbang @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Bill Pappas Project @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Local Cream Songwriter Showcase @ Hank Dietle's Tavern
- 6** Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-in Jam with Linwood Taylor @ New Deal Café ▲ Chris Thomas King @ Blues Alley ▲ The Thrillbillys @ JV's ▲ Pete Kanaros & The High-Fliers @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Mike Kelley & Friends @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Goin' Goin' Gone @ Hank Dietle's Tavern
- 7** Chris Thomas King @ Blues Alley ▲ New Blue Soul @ The New Deal Café ▲ Holly Montgomery @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Gayle Harrold Band @ Main Stage Grille, Woodstock, MD
- 8** Chris Thomas King @ Blues Alley ▲ Slim Eddy @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ The Janus Project @ Lahinch Tavern
- 9** The Nighthawks @ Hershey's Restaurant ▲ Chris Thomas King @ Blues Alley ▲ Fair Dinkum @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point
- 10** Monday Night Roots 'n Rock Open Mic @ Hank Dietle's Tavern ▲ Wolf's Every Monday Blues Show @ Lahinch Tavern
- 11** Atomic Funk @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Holly Montgomery @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Patty Reese @ The Manor at Silo Falls, Brookeville ▲ Dan Hovey Happy Hour @ Hank Dietle's Tavern ▲ Jenny Langer & Cole Holland @ Monarque Club, Baltimore
- 12** Brother Bill & The Stimulus Package @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Bill Pappas Project @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria
- 13** Reggie Right Eye & the Missing Pieces @ Lahinch Tavern ▲ Sol Roots Show @ JV's Restaurant ▲ Mike Kelley & Friends @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Wolf's Every Monday Blues Show @ Lahinch Tavern ▲ The Grandsons @ Hank Dietle's Tavern ▲ The Thrillbillys @ Hell's Bottom, Takoma Park VFW 350
- 14** Reggie Right Eye & the Missing Pieces @ Hell's Bottom, Takoma Park VFW 350 ▲ Bad Influence Band @ Lahinch Tavern ▲ Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes @ The New Deal Café ▲ Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ JV's Restaurant ▲ Gabe Stillman Band @ Hank Dietle's Tavern ▲ Gayle Harrod Band @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Bobby Thompson Trio @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Dave Chappell, Steve Abshire & John Previti @ 49 West, Annapolis ▲ Daryl Davis Band @ Alden Theatre, McLean
- 15** Bad Influence Band @ Red's Table, Reston ▲ Linwood Taylor & Still Standing @ Lahinch Tavern ▲ The Nighthawks @ Old Bowie Town Grille ▲ Eye Witness Blues Band @ JV's Restaurant ▲ Nate Myers & The Aces @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Bill Pappas Project @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Skyla Burrell Blues Band @ Buckets Bar, Lusby ▲ Cadillac Jump Band @ Sonoma's, Columbia
- 16** The Nighthawks @ The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards, Hamilton, VA ▲ Esther Haynes & Keith Grimes @ Hank Dietle's Tavern ▲ Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-in Jam with Matt Kelley @ JV's Restaurant ▲ Sol Roots @ Jojo's Restaurant, Washington DC ▲ Charlie Owen & Pocket Change @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point
- 17** Wolf's Every Monday Blues Show @ Lahinch Tavern ▲ Monday Night Roots 'n Rock Open Mic @ Hank Dietle's Tavern

JANUARY 2022 LIVE BLUES (from previous page)

- 18 Holly Montgomery @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Patty Reese @ The Manor at Silo Falls, Brookeville ▲ Dan Hovey Happy Hour @ Hank Dietle's Tavern
- 19 Automatic Slim & His Sensational Band @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point
- 20 **Keb' Mo'** @ The Birchmere ▲ Linwood Taylor & Still Standing @ Babe's Boys Tavern, Waldorf ▲ Cadillac Jump Band @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Mike Kelley & Friends @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Patty Reese @ Anchor Bar, Frederick
- 21 **Keb' Mo'** @ The Birchmere ▲ Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes @ Fat Petes BBQ, Washington, DC ▲ Skyla Burrell Blues Band @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Fat Chance Band @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Sandra Dean Band @ Gentleman Jim's ▲ Patty Reese @ The Barns at Wolf Trap ▲ Linwood Taylor Band @ Old Bowie Town Grille
- 22 **Keb' Mo'** @ Rams Head OnStage, Annapolis ▲ **Vanessa Collier** @ The Hamilton Live ▲ **Masters of the Telecaster tribute to Roy Buchanan featuring GE Smith, Jim Weider & Dave Chappell** @ City Winery DC ▲ Ruben Montoya Band @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Shakin' Woods @ Red Horse Tavern, Middleburg ▲ Patty Reese @ The Barns at Wolf Trap ▲ Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone @ Crimson Whiskey Bar, DC ▲ Stone Cold Blues @ Simple Bar & Grill, DC
- 23 Patty Reese @ The Manor at Silo Falls, Brookeville ▲ Katie Henry Band @ Hank Dietle's Tavern
- 24 Monday Night Roots 'n Rock Open Mic @ Hank Dietle's Tavern ▲ Wolf's Every Monday Blues Show @ Lahinch Tavern
- 25 Fleet Street Blues Band @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Holly Montgomery @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Dan Hovey Happy Hour @ Hank Dietle's Tavern
- 26 Bill Pappas Project @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Mike Wescott Band @ Lahinch Tavern
- 27 Bobby Thompson Show @ JV's Restaurant ▲ Mike Kelley & Friends @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ The Thrillbillies @ Hank Dietle's Tavern
- 28 Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes @ Hershey's Restaurant ▲ Linwood Taylor Band @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Built 4 Comfort @ Hank Dietle's Tavern ▲ Shakin' Woods @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Dave Chappell Band @ Annapolis Smokehouse & Tavern
- 29 Reggie Right Eye & the Missing Pieces @ JV's Restaurant ▲ Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes @ Capitol Cider House, DC ▲ The Nighthawks @ Hank Dietle's Tavern ▲ Bad Influence Band @ Clyde's of Chevy Chase ▲ Shakin' Woods @ JV's ▲ Teletones @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Sonny Petrosky Trio @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria ▲ Skyla Burrell Blues Band @ Orioles Nest, Frederick ▲ The AshCats 40th Anniversary @ Crossroads Bar, Chantilly ▲ Ursula Ricks Project @ Kooper's North, Timonium
- 30 Steve Kraemer & The Bluesicians @ Cat's Eye Pub, Fells Point ▲ Sandra Dean Band @ Amerian Legion Post 60, Laurel ▲ Sol Roots @ Jojo's Restaurant, Washington DC
- 31 Wolf's Every Monday Blues Show @ Lahinch Tavern ▲ Bad Influence @ Westminster Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC ▲ Monday Night Roots 'n Rock Open Mic @ Hank Dietle's Tavern



REGULAR EVENTS—BLUES ALL WEEK

The Regular Blues Calendar below is provided each month to convey information on recurring blues jams/performances/dances, in addition to the monthly calendar prepared by DCBS.

Accommodations for Covid-19 may affect participation. Please check in advance with the venue and/or host to learn of any changes.

Sundays

DCBS First Sunday Blues Jam @ American Legion Post 41 ▲ Wolf's First and Third Sunday Blues and Sit-in Jam @ JV's, Falls Church ▲ Sol Roots Band @ JoJo Bar, Washington, DC ▲ Stacy Brooks and B.T. Richardson @ Madam's Organ, Washington, DC

Mondays

Wolf's Every Monday Blues Show and Sit-in Jam @ Lahinch Tavern, Potomac ▲ Monday Night Roots 'n Rock Open Mic @ Hank Dietle's Tavern

Tuesdays

Dan Hovey Happy Hour @ Hank Dietle's Tavern s Patty Reese @ The Manor at Silo Falls, Brookeville

Wednesdays

(except Second Wednesday) Dean Rosenthal's 4 Piece Racket @ 49 West Coffeehouse, Annapolis ▲ Bill Pappas Project @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria

Thursdays

Mike Kelley, Matt Kelley Andy Hamburger and Sam Goodall @ 219 Restaurant, Alexandria

Fridays

every fourth Friday: **DCBS 4th Friday Blues Happy Hour** @ American Legion Post 41, Silver Spring

Saturdays

Acoustic Jam Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation @ 4502 Hamilton St., Hyattsville

Upcoming Performance? Let the DCBS Know!

The DCBS has always been committed to sharing with blues fans the latest news about events of interest. To keep our calendar listings as current and comprehensive as possible, we need the help of area musicians, bands, agents, venues and fans. **Please send us information about your upcoming performances and events. Deadline is the 20th of the month preceding publication, i.e., Jan. 20 for the February issue.**

In addition to hosting his weekly radio show, **Don't Forget the Blues**, our volunteer, WPFW DJ Elliott Gross will be compiling information about upcoming events. Please submit info about your shows and performances to:

radio@elliottgross.com.



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