

Capital Blues Messenger

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

October 2010 Volume 4 Issue 10



DCBS Annual Battle of the Bands October 9, 2010



Photo by Mary Knieser



(C) Glenn Thompson

Festival Photos And Review

And More Blues News and Future Events



(C) Glenn Thompson

THE DC BLUES SOCIETY

**P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON, DC
20013-7315
www.dcblues.org**



The DC Blues Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to keeping the Blues alive through outreach and education. The DC Blues Society is a proud affiliate of the Blues Foundation.

The Capital Blues Messenger is published monthly (unless otherwise noted) and sent by e-mail or U.S. mail to members. Past newsletters are available at www.dcblues.org.

Send changes in name, address or membership status to membership@dcblues.org or mail to DCBS Attn: Membership at the address listed above.

The Capital Blues Messenger is your publication and members are encouraged to submit articles and ideas for articles, reviews, cartoons and photography. Please e-mail newsletter@dcblues.org.

Blues listings for bands should be sent to calendar@dcblues.org or mail to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd., College Park, MD 20740.

Note: The deadline for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. DCBS reserves the right to edit or refuse any content, including advertising, that it deems inappropriate.

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Members are key to the livelihood of the DCBS. Member's 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 discounts on advance sale tickets to DCBS events, DCBS merchandise and from area merchants and clubs when you present your DCBS membership card (see p 11). Members also receive the monthly *Capital Blues Messenger* (CBM) newsletter and those with e-mail access get the CBM via e-mail plus additional e-mail updates about DCBS events.

Becoming a member is simple, quick and easy:

- Use the mail-in application
- Apply on-line at www.dcblues.org, or
- Sign up at DCBS events or DCBS-sponsored events/venues where you see the DCBS booth.

Members are invited to attend the monthly DCBS Board meetings. For information, send an e-mail to president@dcblues.org.

D.C. Blues Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Date: _____ If renewal, check here _____

Name (please print clearly above) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Dues per year (circle appropriate one):

Student: \$15 (Include photocopy of student ID)

Individual: \$25 Family: \$35

Corporate: \$200 Canada: \$35 (US funds)

Other Countries: \$50 (US funds)

Contributions (not dues) are tax-deductible.

Please allow up to six weeks for processing

If Family, list member names: _____

Your volunteer time/talent is always welcome. If interested in volunteering, check interest(s):

Update Website

Work a shift at a show (DCBS table, door, etc.)

Promote shows (distribute flyers, handbills, etc.)

Raise funds (sell ads, organize auctions, etc.)

Write reviews or take photos for Newsletter

(see your name in print!)

Other? _____

Mail with check to
THE DC BLUES SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON, DC 20013-73

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Unless noted, photos and articles were contributed by DCBS board members and newsletter editor.

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gpi@qprintingincs.com

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Corporate DCBS Memberships Now Available

DCBS is now offering a Corporate membership option that provides small and large businesses the opportunity to "bundle" advertising through DCBS while lending their support for DCBS programs.

For \$200 per year, businesses receive the same benefits of individual DCBS members (see above) PLUS 6 postings of either a 1/4 page ad in the DCBS monthly newsletter or a web icon on the DCBS website. Each web icon/event posting will remain on the DCBS website for one week per posting.— for a total of 6 weeks presence on the DCBS website.

Interested businesses should contact membership@dcblues.org to establish their corporate DCBS membership.

ADVERTISE IN THE DCBS CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER

AD RATES

Business card	\$20
1/8 page	\$25
1/4 page	\$40
1/3 page	\$55
1/2 page	\$75
2/3 page	\$110
Full page	\$140

Rates are based on camera-ready artwork and must be received by the 7th of the prior month. Design service is outsourced and a fee will be charged. Ads should be at least 300 dpi in either PDF or JPG. Submit in B/W and color when possible. Ad size and space allocation contingent on prior commitments and editorial content. DCBS reserves the right to refuse advertising it deems inappropriate. Ad specs and on-line rates: www.dcblues.org
Questions? E-mail: ads@dcblues.org

22nd Annual DC Blues Festival Recap

It just keeps getting better! I only offer this brief injustice to the real thing for those of you who did not attend this year's 22nd Annual DC Blues Festival on September 4 at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre. The weather was perfect, the beer—uhmm, cold, and the Blues exhilarating. The roaring applause heaped on all the acts testified to the high quality lineup.

In the spirit of testifying, Diunna (pronounced Die-U-Nuh) Greenleaf & Blue Mercy stole the show, with the diva shaking and sashaying about the stage belting out deep-throated Pentecostal-flavored vocals, ala the late Koko Taylor. Possessed of an otherworldly spirit, Diunna, (surprising even the stage manager) left the stage on a singing stroll through the audience as folk stood, gawked, and applauded. After her set, she remained near the stage autographing her CDs for admiring fans, even as the sun set.

But let's back up. Last year's winner of the DCBS Battle of the Bands, the Big Boy Little Band opened the show, inspiring much acclaim and excitement for their set. Big Boy's (Bret Littlehales) original 70's Soul-inflected tune, "(It's) The Idiot Talking" was a crowd and dancers' favorite.

This year we included a solo act, Doug MacLeod, who wrapped the audience around the neck of his guitar. MacLeod's clever and entertaining lyrics and guitar mastery had folks lining up for autographs before he could change clothes. It had been a while since a solo act was featured on the main stage. After MacLeod's rousing reception, we plan to include a solo act of his caliber in future Festival lineups.

Make no bones about it, Diunna wasn't the only diva gracing the Carter Barron stage. Cheryl Renee with Them Bones was definitely a hit. Cheryl's vocals were lit up with attitude, and she was downright aggressively percussive on keyboards. She brought the same energy and 'tude to the After-Party at the Silver Spring American Legion, where the audience danced the night away.

The festival headliner, Bryan Lee & The Blues Power Band, tore up the stage with Bryan's hot guitar licks and many original songs. Bryan knows how to get folks out of their seats. This should come as no surprise as he has played New Orleans nightclubs for over 30 years. The changing club scene in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina blew Bryan onto the road. While the impetus for his roadwork is regrettable, we're glad he's on tour. And few will deny that his performance was unforgettable.

This year's workshop stage was called the "John Cephas Performance Stage" in honor of John Cephas, a DCBS founding member and its first President.

The stage included local Blues masters, including Nadine Rae stopping festival-goers in their tracks before the Amphitheatre gates with her vocal workshop; the perennial "Choo-Choo Charlie" Williams leading the harmonica workshop; and a rootsy acoustic performance by the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation Ensemble. Thanks to Dr. S.O. Feelgood for producing and managing the workshop stage.

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard to make this festival successful. Thanks to Ranger Rita Gunther and the National Park Service at Carter Barron Amphitheatre and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. We are also grateful to the WPFM-FM Blues show hosts and staff who performed MC duties (Da' Gator, Elliott Gross, Steve Hoffman, Chris DeProperty and Mama K, aka Mary Knieser). Special thanks to Uncle Sonny's BBQ, stage manager Flash, and to TW Perry for providing the Festival big-A banner. The photos at the right capture just a few of the many people who made this Festival possible.

What's Coming Next

While September often brings the eclipse of outdoor Blues events, the DCBS continues to bring festival-style happenings for another couple of months, albeit indoors. Starting at 7:30 pm on October 9 at the Wheaton American Legion, some of the best area Blues bands compete in the Annual Battle of the Bands. [See lineup and other info

on p 5-8]. We've got six bands vying to represent the DCBS and DC region at the 2011 International Blues Challenge, February 1-5, in Memphis. Come out and cheer on your favorite band. After the dust settles, there can only be one winner, but we expect all the bands to put on a great show and the competition to be interesting. The Battle always fills the house. Get tickets now at www.dcblues.org or call 301-322-4808.

On November 6, the DCBS and the City of College Park present the 3rd Annual College Park Blues Festival. This year's headliner is Smokin' Joe Kubeck & Bnois King bringing their stinging Texas guitars and heel-kicking Blues to the stage. Also on the bill are the DCBS Band featuring Waverly Milor (formerly of Acme Blues Company and currently with Hard Swimming Fish), and the winner of the Battle of the Bands. (The Battle winner's perks include playing this Festival as well as the 2011 DC Blues Festival.)

Also mark your calendars for our annual Holiday Party (band TBA) on December 18 at the Wheaton American Legion, and the New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance featuring Electrofied. If you haven't seen this band, which features the dynamic vocals of Scott Taylor and virtuoso guitarist, Tony Fazio, come see what you're missing! You'll be hearing more about them in later CBM issues. Check them out now at www.myspace.com/electrofiedbluesband.

I hope you will support some or all of the rest of this year's events. These DCBS events also support the free Annual DC Blues Festival and our Blues in the School Program. We can't do what we do without you.

Blues Always,



Just a few of the many volunteers and workers who ensured that the 22nd Annual DC Blues Festival was a huge success.

Photos by Mary Knieser (1st six) and Pat Bransford (last photo)

Photo Summary of 22nd Annual DC Blues Festival

The DC Blues Festival was an outstanding day of blues music, sunny weather, appreciative fans and dancers, a fantastic audience, and many many picture perfect moments. These are just a handful of the many photographs that captured the day, and the After Party that followed. Please visit the DCBS website, www.dcb blues.org, to view the many other photos that are available through links provided by the photographers. See the President's Drum on p 3 for a recap of the performing acts. (Photographers key: GT- Glenn Thompson, MK-Mary Knieser, RW-Ron Weinstock, SB-Stacy Brooks, PB-Pat Bransford)



Photos above L to R: Bret Littlehales by RW, Doug MacLeod by GT, Dianna Greenleaf by GT, Bryan Lee by GT, Cheryl Renee by GT



Photos above L to R: Matt Kelley by GT, Felix McClairn by RW, John Bell, Nadine Rae, and Dave Jackson by PB, AEHBF Ensemble by RW



Photos above L to R: Bryan Lee & Dianna Greenleaf by SB, Bill Wax & Doug MacLeod by RW, Gabriel & Choo Choo Charlie Williams by SB



After Party Photos at Right



Photos L to R: Dancers by GT, Blues Fan by GT, Cheryl Renee by MK, Ida Campbell and Cheryl Renee by PB



DC Blues Society
**Annual Battle
of the Bands**

**Saturday, October 9
7:30 pm—12:30 am**

**American Legion Post No. 268
11225 Fern Street
Wheaton, MD 20902**

6 Bands Competing

Winner represents DCBS at the
27th International Blues Challenge
Memphis, TN Feb. 1-5, 2011

and these events:

Annual College Park Blues Festival
Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010

23rd Annual DC Blues Festival
Saturday, September 3, 2011

**Blues Lovers — Support
Your Favorite Band**

Buy Advance Tickets On-line
\$10 Member — \$12 Non-Member
Door: \$15

www.dcb Blues.org or call 301-322-4808



Photos: www.bigboylittleband.com; Mary Knieser (Thompson)
Ron Weinstock (Stallings) Glenn Thompson (Turner)



Winners of recent Battles:
Big Boy Little Band - 2009
Billy Thompson - 2008
Big Daddy Stallings - 2007
Clarence "Bluesman" Turner - 2006



Battle of the Bands
Doors open at 7:00 pm
Free Parking

**Come Early.
Grab a Table.
See All 6 bands Compete.**

**And Don't Forget to Save
These Dates for Additional
DCBS 2010 Events**

**November 6
3rd Annual College Park
Blues Festival
Ritchie Coliseum**

**December 18
DCBS Holiday Party
Band—TBD
Wheaton American Legion**

**December 31
DCBS New Years Eve
Dinner & Dance
w/ Electrofied
Venue To Be Announced**

DCBS Annual Battle of the Bands

Performance Schedule* - Saturday, October 9, 2010 - 7:30 pm to 12:30 am

Contest format - 30-minute sets with 10 minute changeovers

7:30 - 8:00 - MOONDOG MEDICINE SHOW

(15-minute break for introduction of judges and brief review of rules)

8:15 - 8:45 - ANTHONY "SWAMP DOG" CLARK and the BLUES ALLSTARS

8:55 - 9:25 - BAD INFLUENCE

(20-minute break for raffle, DCBS news, etc.)

9:45 - 10:15 - ROSE BETWEEN THORNS

10:25 - 10:55 - MOONSHINE SOCIETY

11:05 - 11:35 - LADY ROSE BLUES BAND

**11:45 - 12:00 - Announcement of winner, winner plays, & jam follows with
available runner ups**

12:30 - Closing

* Schedule subject to change

These Six Bands Will Compete at the October 9 DCBS Battle of the Bands



Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark and the Blues Allstars features Anthony Clark, a world class musician who has performed and recorded with some of the best local and national blues acts. Anthony started out playing the drums at the age of five, and by the time he was twelve, started listening to the blues greats -- musicians like Little Walter, Big Walter Horton, Paul Butterfield, and Sonny Boy Williamson, just to name a few. After moving to the DC area in the late 70's, he began to play around town in a number of jazz clubs as a drummer, all the while listening to the blues. He then started a blues band, and quickly became noticed for playing a harder-edged, funk-tinged version of the blues. With his band mates, Charles "Red's" Adkins on bass, Kenney Sparks on guitar, Glenn Alexander on guitar, and Emmitt Kittrell on drums, it quickly became apparent that this was a band to be reckoned with. Venues, festival organizers, and fans began to take notice. His debut CD is expected to be released in October 2010. www.anthonyswampdogclark.com



Moondog Medicine Show is a full throttle rocking blues band that takes off on standards and originals centered around well-seasoned blues chanteuse, Lana Spence along with guitarist John Turner, bassist Keith Sylvester and drummer Doug Eichelberger. Lana sings, not shouts, her blues with feeling. It's hard to believe that such a big sound comes from such a diminutive figure. Her body flows like her voice and one can't help but keep their eyes on her. The interaction between Lana and John is most appealing as they inspire each other on a voyeuristic trip to the summit of expression. www.moondogmedicineshow.com



Bad Influence, "the premier Washington, DC band," has been playing their brand of high energy blues since the humble beginnings in 1988. Ever-growing crowds turn out for the band's scorching hot and sinfully addicting blues-infused fare, charged with a masterful blend of sensuously rough edges wrapped in soulful smoothness and potent shots of swing and American roots. All of this is delivered in a suggestive, in-your-face finesse captivating even the most stoic of mind, body and spirit. The award-winning band features Bob Mallardi on bass & vocals; Hohner endorsed Roger Edsall on harp & vocals; Epiphone endorsed Michael "Jr" Tash on guitar; and Sonor endorsed David Thaler on drums. www.badinfluenceband.com



Moonshine Society delivers high energy roots rock, blues, and old school R&B in a style guaranteed to keep audiences dancing, toes tapping, and the drinks flowing. Often compared to Susan Tedeschi, Bonnie Raitt, Lou Anne Barton, and Sharon Jones, Black Betty leads a powerful band of musicians from around the world. The band features Joe Poppen (Memphis Gold, Charlie Sayles) on guitar. Other band members include Chris Brown on bass, Wes Lanich on keys, and Steve Wilkes on drums. Blues enthusiasts, college kids, burlesque lovers, and even biker bar regulars come together on the dance floors of a Moonshine Society show. www.moonshinesociety.com



Lady Rose Blues Band features Lady Rose, a heart and soul powerhouse blues vocalist often referred to as the "real deal" by many who observe her music, style, and dynamic stage presence. Lady Rose has been singing since she was 5 years old and sang mostly gospel music until 2009 when she began singing the blues. She launched her solo career as the featured vocalist with the DC Blues Society Band during 2009, and performed at numerous DCBS events, including the College Park Blues Festival with national recording artists Homemade Jamz Blues Band. In 2010, Lady Rose established her own blues band and has generated a reputation as a powerhouse blues vocalist that rocks the house. She covers songs from Buddy Guy, BB King, Etta James, Koko Taylor, Freddie King and many others, and she has played at many of the popular blues venues in the DC area. Lady Rose has also donated her time and talent in promoting blues at the Southern Maryland venue Delta Blues Juke Joint & Diner. Band members include Larry Staples on guitar, James Dail on bass, Buddy Ward on drums, and Steve Eckstrom on harp. www.bluesladyrose.com



Rose Between Thorns (RBT) is a rockabilly and blues band out of Northern Virginia featuring diverse song selection, instrumentation and vocal harmonies—great for clubs, parties, dancing and general entertainment. Playing together since 2006, RBT includes classically trained singer and pianist Christine Millet, bassist Duane Siler, Jon Spear on lead guitar, Tommy Powell on drums and Pete Farnham on rhythm guitar. Christine (our "Rose") is the lead vocalist but all of the band members sing. www.reverbnation.com/rosebetweenthorns and www.rosebetweenthorns.net

Editors note: Band descriptions & photos were provided by each band.

Check Out These Two October DC Area Events

- **Intermediate/Advanced Harmonica Workshops with Phil Wiggins** at Archie's Blues Barbershop, Riverdale, MD. 5 Saturdays, starting Oct. 2. Visit www.acousticblues.com/events/events.html.
- **Greater DC Rock n Roll Flea Market & Guitar Show**, sponsored by the School of Rock. Sunday, Oct. 17, 10 am–3 pm Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale, VA 22001. Visit www.rockfleamarket.com for more information.



Advice for Bands and Fans at the Battle of the Bands – An Interview With Bret Littlehailes

The CBM editor caught up with Bret Littlehailes, the “Big Boy” vocalist and harp player in the Big Boy Little Band (BBL), and interviewed him at length to see what tips he could provide for the bands competing at this year’s DCBS Battle of the Bands and for the winning band that will compete at the International Blues Challenge (IBC) in February 2011, in Memphis, TN. BBL was the 2009 winner of the DCBS Battle of the Bands and went on to finish among the top finalists at the 2010 IBC. BBL’s guitarist, Matt Kelley, also won the coveted Albert King Award for most promising guitarist at the 2010 IBC.



(C) Glenn Thompson

CBM: What advice do you have for the bands competing at the DCBS Battle and at the IBC?

Bret: The same advice probably applies to both events. What comes to mind first is that you have a very limited amount of time on stage at these

events and have to pick your songs carefully. Each song should have a different feel. You should try to have songs that feature a player in the band, but don’t try to feature too many people in one song. Emphasize which songs are your originals and tell the judges you are playing originals. Judges may not know the songs are your own.

Talk to the audience as you would at a regular performance. Thank people for being there. And pace your songs carefully. They take points off for not getting on and off the stage in the allotted time, so be really careful about that. And play blues, not rock. When you get to Memphis, the judges are people whose names you’ve been seeing on CD covers. Therefore, you want to play the real thing. Also, watch your dynamics. This is so important. You need to vary your dynamics. We did one song that had the guitar player tuned down so low that you could hear his strings ping.

CBM: What else comes to mind about how to approach the Memphis experience?

Bret: When you get to your venue in Memphis, the band which goes first is drawn out of a lottery. We had been told that it’s a real disadvantage to go first, that you’re pretty much done. When BBL was drawn first, we just decided to work really hard. Never give up, no matter what anyone tells you.

When you compete for the second night in Memphis, it’s against the same bands that were your competition the first night. So it pays off to stick around the first evening and see the other bands perform. I also made a point to speak to the other bands. Every band deserves your respect. They competed to be at that point just like you and you should stay and hear them. If you like something they do, go up and tell them. Everybody at the IBC is that good.

At the IBC, you get 15 minutes to play on both nights. This is probably the most important half hour you will play in your life.

CBM: Is there anything you would have done differently now that you can look back at your IBC experience.

Bret: Yes, I would have played more original songs at the finals. We had time to play three songs and started off with an original. People

that heard us kept saying that our guitar player, Matt Kelley, could be in line for the Albert King Award and we really wanted to help him get it. So we played a BB King song to feature Matt. Then we played a cover song instead of another original. I felt afterward that we should have played the original, but really, we’ll never know.

Another piece of advice – you need to be really speedy in getting on and off the stage, and be prepared for everyone to set up and dismantle their amps. (The IBC provides guitar and bass amps, as well as a full drum kit. Only harmonica players are allowed to bring their own amps. Drummers are allowed their own snare and cymbals.) When it’s your turn to play, you need to hit the stage running and play like you are playing your last four songs in a gig. The first song you play better be a killer and up tempo, and the same for the last song. You have to basically pack an hour show into four songs, to let the judges and the audience get to know you. At the same time, you have to stay focused and not worry about the judges. The judges will see if the audience is reacting favorably to your band and that’s contagious. You want to whip the audience into a frenzy.

I actually found the DCBS Battle harder than the IBC and I was surprised when we won it. It’s hard competing with your peers and I felt several bands at the DCBS Battle last year were really even in their performance. The same thing happened in Memphis. I mean, in Memphis everyone is really good. You have people from France; Beijing, China; all over the world and the US, those who won their competitions at the local level.

CBM: Any additional advice for bands now competing?

Bret: Yes, practice your songs over and over again and also practice the time between songs. At the IBC, you can play the same set on both nights if you want. There are different judges each of those nights. In my view, if your set worked well the first night, don’t change it! It’s also really important that you pace your set. A lot of people put together a band just to compete -- it’s not their regular band. The same band that competes at the local level has to compete in Memphis. A practiced band always sound better, in my view, than a band that just comes together to do a gig. I think BBL’s extensive practices and our history as a band helped set us apart from some of the others competing.

You also need to be careful how you dress. Dress well! For example, I wore a white suit and red shoes at the IBC, and I even pointed out the shoes while we were performing.

CBM: How did winning the 2009 DCBS Battle and then doing so well at the 2010 IBC competition impact the BBL?

Bret: The entire thrust of the Band has turned around since the IBC. It’s completely different now having gone to Memphis, having Matt win the Albert King award, and having been invited to do a CD with Sirius XM. The Zoo Bar is now more of a home-based gig for our band, and we now play almost every weekend night. I don’t take it for granted at all.

CBM: I hear that you’ve recently added another guitar player to the Big Boy Little Band?

Bret: Yes, we’ve added Zach Sweeney to our band to round things out and because Zach is such a fantastic guitar player. Everyone should come out to hear the interplay between Zach and Matt Kelley in our performances.

Photo by Glenn Thompson

Going to the 2011 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN?

The IBC will be held February 1 - 5, 2011. Information regarding special hotel rates is available on www.blues.org/#ref=ibc_travel.

IBC tickets go on sale October 1. Visit www.blues.org/#ref=ibc_index for more information. Ticket prices are:

\$100 Baby Blue – includes access to all showcases, quarter and semi finals as well as finals at the Orpheum Theatre.

\$175 Big Blue – same as Baby Blue PLUS tickets to the Keynote Luncheon and the Keeping the Blues Alive Awards!!

Also, the Blues Foundation is continuing to recruit volunteers for this major event. If interested, please contact Joe Whitmer at joe@blues.org.

Meet The Judges for the Battle of the Bands

DCBS has convened a panel of six judges for the October 9 Annual Battle of the Bands. This panel includes blues performers, radio personalities and programmers, and blues aficionados.



Da' Gator was born in New Orleans and grew up in Jacksonville, FL. His grandmother nicknamed him Da' Gator because he would eat almost anything like an alligator. He took an interest in the Blues when he was three years old, when he became fascinated with the sound of three neighborhood men playing music on a guitar, washboard, and soda bottle. As Rick Bolling, he hosts a Thursday afternoon jazz show on WPFW 89.3 FM (4 to 6 pm). However, on Saturday afternoons on WPFW, Da' Gator plays two hours of southern soul and contemporary and adult Blues (12 to 2 pm).



Tony Colter began a lifetime love affair with music at an early age ... the Journey continued as he played in garage bands in the Baltimore/Washington area and then progressed to radio, starting at his college radio station WACC in 1974. He went on to work at radio stations in Baltimore, Philly, Cleveland, and then, right here in the DC area— DC101 and Classic Rock WARW. Along the way he picked up the nickname "Mad Dog." at 98 Rock in Baltimore. Since November 2004, Tony has been on the air at SiriusXM Satellite Radio doing Monday through Friday mornings and Saturday and Sunday nights for Bill Wax on BB Kings Bluesville channel. He also did weekends on Deep Tracks, and for the past year and a half, he's been on the air Monday through Friday afternoons (2 pm-8 pm) and Saturdays (2 pm-6 pm) on Watercolors. Tony views the past 6 years on BB Kings Bluesville as a great ride.... it has included trips to Memphis to broadcast live from the Blues Music Awards and being a Judge at the International Blues Challenge, meeting the great bluesmen and women from the Legends to the up-and-comers and blues fans from around the world.



Chris DeProperty is a life-long Blues lover who has been a DC resident since 1990, having moved to DC from Philadelphia, where she was a member of the Philadelphia Blues Society. A long time volunteer at WPFW, she assisted Da' Gator as a "Gatorette" and was a substitute host for both Gator's show and the Bama Hour. She currently hosts the Bama Hour every Saturday morning on WPFW. (11 am to 12 pm)



Kimiesha (Holmes) Dean is a vocalist whose soulful, Gospel roots come from a church background and her days touring with the legendary Gospel Ensemble and husband "Daniel Dean & Rejoice." The independent label, Quark Records released her deep house stomper, "Love Me True." It was subsequently released on the Platinum selling *Deep Heat Compilation*, as well as the *New York Underground Hits* CD. Kimiesha later joined the Bands Platinum, Instant Replay,

and The Allen Watson Band (just to name a few) and then formed Kimiesha & Company (a jazz/R&B group), gigging throughout the metro NY area and abroad. After touring with dance-hall Kingpin, Shabba Ranks on his Strictly Dancehall World Tour as lead vocalist, she returned to Kimiesha & Company and released the club favorite "Ups and Downs," written by Big Moses & Kimiesha for Yellorange records. She also hosted a Sunday morning gospel music show on 88.7 FM NJ; promoted and helped organize many of the Live Music events while in NJ; and developed the initiative for a local artist awards program to recognize local artists' musical contributions to their craft and the community. Kimiesha recently moved to Silver Spring, MD and is currently writing, producing, and trying to connect with music people in the Metro DC area.



Kirk Jackson is a native Washingtonian with a lifelong love of music. His fondest memory is seeing Duke Ellington when Kirk was just 14. He also remembers riding his bike to the Carter Barron (site of the D.C. Blues Society's annual festival) as a child and teeny-bopper to see the Temptations, the Four Tops, Donny Hathaway, Rufus and Return to Forever. Kirk did not take up an instrument himself until 11 years ago, when he started on electric bass. He was living in Allentown, PA at the time and began attending jams regularly in the Lehigh Valley and at Warmdaddy's night club in Philadelphia. He

joined the Lehigh Valley Blues Network and played for Hidden Agenda, a rock band based in Allentown, for many years. Kirk currently teaches computer skills to the unemployed through a program run by UDC. For twenty years before that, he worked as a newspaper reporter in Allentown. However, one important side project that Kirk spends a lot of time on is Beldon's Blues Point, a blues blog that can be reached at www.beldonsbluespoint.blogspot.com. The blog contains articles on and question-and-answer interviews with local and national musicians.

Eddie Johnson is Past President of the Blues Brothers Club, which is a group of guys who liked to listen to Blues music and decided to get together and form a club – which they named Blues Brothers Club. The Club's purpose was, quite simply, to provide a forum for listening to Blues music and enjoying each other's company. As a long time listener of Blues Music, Eddie believes that the Blues is a gateway to understanding what's really going on in society. Eddie asserts that if you close your eyes and listen, you can visualize the true meanings of the songs. The Blues isn't anything but the truth of the world being expressed in music.

Judges Scoring Criteria

The scoring criteria for the DCBS Battle of the Bands will follow the Blues Foundation's recommendation that its affiliates use the established IBC scoring criteria, which includes the following categories: blues content, vocals, talent, originality, and stage presence.

Photos of Da' Gator and Chris DeProperty by Mary Knieser (taken at 2010 DC Blues Festival); other photos were provided by each respective judge.

Famous Dave's BBQ Sauce and Blues Downloads

"Blues Foundation member Ron Hacker and his band are featured performers in a marketing effort by **Famous Dave's BBQ sauce**. For a limited time, one million bottles of Famous Dave's Rich and Sassy BBQ sauce grocery stores around the country will feature a sticker worth \$5 of free blues song downloads at www.getmyblues.com. Famous Dave's has long been synonymous with blues music in the upper Midwest." *Article from www.blues.org*



October		Regular Blues Events	
1	Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Big Daddy Stallings @ 219; Moondog Medicine Show @ The Landing; Bad Influence @ Danielle's	Sunday	DCBS Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion (1st Sunday); Paulverizers Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Nancy Katz & Stray Dogz Jam @ Old Fire Station No. 3; Blues Jam w/Dogfather Blues Band @ The Whiskey
2	Nadine Rae @ Eastport Democratic Club's Crab Feast; Capitol Hillbillies @ Eastern Market; Biscuit Miller @ Madam's Organ; Big Daddy Stallings @ 219; Snakehead Run @ Mt. Pleasant Farmer's Market; Cathy Ponton King @ Seneca Lake Park; Bad Influence @ The Still; Lea Gilmore's Blues-i-fyin' @ Creative Alliance;	Monday	Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's (2nd and 4th Mondays)
3	DCBS Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion; Derek Trucks, Susan Tedeschi - Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center Benefit @ Bourbon Street Baltimore; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ; Snakehead Run @ Wonderland Ballroom	Tuesday	Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ (alternating Tuesdays)
4	Nadine Rae @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	Wednesday	Wolf's Hot Rods & Old Gas Blues Jam @ Beach Cove; Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille
9	DCBS Battle of the Bands @ Wheaton American Legion; Baltimore Blues Society presents John Primer, Kilborn Alley Blues Band @ Rosedale American Legion; Riverhouse Blues & BBQ @ Berryville, VA; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Ebb Tide; Nicole Hart @ Madam's Organ; Cathy Ponton King @ Flannagan's; Big Boy Little @ Delta Blues	Thursday	DCBS Thursday Jam/Open Mic w/Sol @ LA Bar & Grill; Patrick Alban or Johnny Artis @ Madam's Organ; Open Mic w/Fast Eddie @ Spanky's Shenanigans; Blues Jam @ Eastport Democratic Club; Big Boy Little Band Jam @ Zoo Bar; Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo
11	Dr. S.O. Feelgood @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	Friday	Glen Moomau & Blue Flames @ Bertha's; Hot Rods @ Old Gas @ Zoo Bar (1st Friday); Wolf's Blues Jam @ Fat Boys (3rd Friday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Café; Brian Gross Trio @ Café Ole
14	Carolina Chocolate Drops @ Birchmere	Saturday	Acoustic Blues Jam @ Archie's Barbershop; Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar (1st Saturday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe; Brian Gross & Steve Levine @ Sala Thai, Bethesda (2nd Saturday)
15	Jimmy Thackery & Drivers, Deanna Bogart @ Birchmere; Black Falls, Big Daddy Stallings, Bobby Parker @ 8X10; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Blue Fox; Dennis Stroughmatt & Creole Stomp @ Glen Echo	Attention dancers: See DCBS homepage for link to dance-friendly venues. To subscribe to a weekly e-mail newsletter "So Many Choices" with dance-specific information, often with a blues twist, send an e-mail to DCBS member and Blues fan Robin: hc1829@aol.com	
16	Skyla Burrell @ Madam's Organ; Cajun & Zydeco Music/ Dance Festival @ Glen Echo; Hot Rods & Old Gas @ Bare Bones Grill	Bolded items are picks by calendar editor, Steve Levine, and include DCBS and BBS events. Send listings to calendar@dcblues.org or mail to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd., College Park, MD 20740. Musicians: Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Events listed are based on the best information possible. DCBS cannot be held liable for errors in schedules, places or performances listed. It is recommended that you contact the venues to verify the event will occur. The DCBS homepage has additional music links and information: www.dcblues.org .	
17	Cajun and Zydeco Music and Dance Festival @ Glen Echo	<p style="text-align: center;">Attention bands Send your Nov. and Dec. gigs to calendar@dcblues.org by October 15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Volunteer Needed to Serve as DCBS Calendar Editor</p> <p>The current Calendar Editor, Steve Levine, has informed DCBS that he would like to step down from this volunteer assignment at the end of calendar year 2010. DCBS is seeking a new volunteer to take on this effort and to begin working with Steve as soon as possible. The Calendar is prepared monthly for publication in the <i>Capital Blues Messenger</i> newsletter. Steve estimates that it only takes a few hours each month to prepare the calendar. Those interested are encouraged to contact volunteer@dcblues.org.</p>	
18	Queen Aisha @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Candy Kane @ Rams Head		
19	Buddy Guy w/ Britt Neal @ Birchmere		
20	Buddy Guy w/ Kirsten Thien @ Birchmere		
21	Nighthawks @ Blackrock Center for the Arts		
22	Nighthawks @ Clyde's, Chevy Chase; Johnny Artis Band @ Madam's Organ; Lady Rose @ New Deal Café; Lisa Lim & Over the Limit @ DownUnder		
23	Otis Taylor/The Nighthawks @ Carlisle Theatre; Eleanor Ellis, Daryl Davis, Rick Franklin, Memphis Gold, Jay Summerour & others at afternoon Blues Festival/Leukemia, Lymphoma, MS Benefit @ Beale St Grill; Moondog Medicine Show @ Benny's Pub; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Jay's Saloon; Bobby Parker @ Madam's Organ; Lisa Lim & Over the Limit @ JVs		
25	Lady Rose @ Westminster Presbyterian Church		
26	Jimmy Vaughan, LouAnn Barton @ Birchmere		
29	Moondog Medicine Show @ Maloo's; Lex Grey & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ; Lisa Lim & Over the Limit @ Delta Blues		
30	Lex Grey & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ		
Early November			
1	Big Boy Little @ Westminster Presbyterian Church		
3	Delbert McClinton @ Birchmere		
5	Delbert McClinton @ Rams Head; Eric Culberson @ Madam's Organ		
6	College Park Blues Festival @ Ritchie Coliseum; Eric Culberson @ Madam's Organ		
7	DCBS Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ		

CD Review (and Artist's Health Update) Robin Rogers' *Back In The Fire*

By Ron Weinstock

The release of Robin Rogers' new Blind Pig CD *Back in the Fire* should have been a cause of celebration and a further step in her career's evolution and growth. However, serious health issues have arisen (discussed below) that may soon still this powerful and soulful voice. The comments of her many admirers and friends suggest that this will be a considerable loss, both in musical and personal terms. I have not had the pleasure of meeting her or seeing her perform, but statements from fellow blues-woman Debbie Davies, and Sirius XM Blues programmer, Bill Wax, make it clear that Robin is a very special person, not simply a special talent.



And what a voice she has. She sings with complete authority and total conviction which is evident on the opening track, "Baby Bye-Bye," that starts with hard hitting guitar from her husband Tony, before Robin emphatically tells her ex that the only one he loves is himself and he ain't gonna steal Robin's pride. Tony Rogers builds a nice solo here with the rest of the band solidly keeping the groove (and in the case of Mark Stallings on organ, adding to the atmosphere). It's a strong performance of a striking lyric. Robin adds nice harp to "Second Time Around," with Kerry Brooks on bass, producer-drummer Jim Brock, and Stallings on piano maintaining an easy shuffle groove with Robin taking a nice harp solo on a lively performance. "You Don't Know" takes the heat down as Robin sings in a low-key manner about how she has rested in the shadows and let love pass her by, as she has been hurt too many times. Again, the Rogers have such a way with words, and Robin sings with much soul here and Tony adds a sweet guitar solo.

Among other selections, Robin marvelously interprets the Little Willie John classic "Need Your Love So Bad," with horns part of the backing and guest Bob Margolin playing a strong guitar solo. "I Know I Done Wrong" is a lively number with a New Orleans flavored groove, as Robin admits she has been a bit wild. In this disc of wonderful performances, the most powerful may be "Don't Walk Away Run," Chuck Glass' song of spouse abuse, as Robin entreats her friend to get away from the abuser who drinks too much and loves to fight with no one his own size. The simple backing helps make Robin's urging that her friend "leave him tonight before the morning sun, don't walk away (pause) run," stand out even more. Robin's harp also adds to the mood on this compelling performance.

This terrific recording is counter-balanced by the fact that less than a month prior to its release, Robin Rogers, who had been hospitalized for a severe liver problem, was diagnosed with liver cancer. A scan prior to surgery revealed an untreatable cancerous tumor on her liver. She is not a candidate for a liver transplant so she had been sent home for hospice care. A trust fund has been set up to help with medical expenses and also aid for Tony who will be out of work. Like most musicians, they do not have health insurance and depend on touring income for their livelihood. Expenses for hospice care, medicine, and everyday living will be extremely high. Much of this is from the Blind Pig Records website, www.blindpigrecords.com/index.cfm?section=news&newsid=83, which also has information on how one can help Robin and Tony, including information on benefit shows; the special Facebook page, Robin Rogers Benefit Central; and the PayPal page to make direct donations. There is also a direct link to Robin Rogers's webpage, www.robinrogers.com, from which one can purchase Robin's CDs, including the excellent *Back in the Fire*. I have purchased this recording and made a donation to Robin. I hope that other blues and music fans will take my lead and buy some of the wonderful music from her website. Photo: www.robinrogers.com

Vendor, Sponsor, & Volunteer Opportunities!

The FREE College Park Blues Festival is Saturday, November 6 at 7 pm. See p 12 for information on performers and location.

SPONSORS: There are a variety of opportunities to be a part of this event and to reach out to new and existing customers. DCBS will advertise your participation on the DCBS website, in the DCBS *Capital Blues Messenger* newsletter, in eblasts and at the event.

Get publicity BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER the College Park Blues Festival by contributing any of the following:

- Gift Certificates
- Merchandise Giveaways
- Food for the Artists
- Other items that would bring business to you!

Contact ads@dcblues.org.

VENDORS: Sell your merchandise, crafts, and other items at this free festival! Contact ads@dcblues.org. The vendor fee is \$50.

VOLUNTEERS: Volunteers are needed! Can you help? Send a message to fest-volunteer@dcblues.org.

Be a WPFW Volunteer!

Sign up now to answer the phone and record incoming pledges during the WPFW 89.3 FM Fall Membership Drive, which is being held Sunday, October 3 through Tuesday, October 19. It's fun, it's easy, and it's a great way to support the station. Shifts are four hours and are available throughout the day!

Call 202-588-0999 ex. 360 or email pope_rachel@wfwf.org.

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School of Rock & John Lee



Membership means discounts! Show 'em your card

The following companies offer discounts to DCBS members. You must present your current membership card to receive them. Restrictions may apply and discounts may be withdrawn at any time.

<p>Half-price Admission Blues Alley Many Blues Shows Sun. - Thurs. 1073 Wisconsin Ave., NW Washington, DC 20007 202-337-4141 www.bluesalley.com</p>	<p>20% Discount Neil Senning Enterprises Quality Painting and Handyman Services: Plastering/Drywall Deck Cleaning/Power Washing/ Staining/Carpentry/Interior & Exte- rior Work and much more. 301-717-1773</p>	<p>10% discount GOT YOGA? Individual Sessions including gentle yoga, breathing techniques, warm up, poses, meditation & laughter therapy. Group Yoga Sessions (minimum of 8) available for above and Laughter Yoga Call to schedule: 301-802-1879</p>	<p>10% Discount Delta Blues Juke Joint & Diner 2796 Old Washington Rd. Waldorf, MD 20601 (301) 632-5837 Discount applies to food and admission www.deltabluesjukejoint.com</p>
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<p>15% Discount LA Bar & Grill 2530 Columbia Pike Arlington, VA 22204 703-682-1560 www.lowerarlingtonbarandgrill.com</p>	<p>JV's Restaurant Drink Special Buy one & get 2nd drink free 6666 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, VA 22042 703-241-9504 www.jvsrestaurant.com</p>	<p>20% Discount Three Brothers Italian Restaurant 4521 Kenilworth Ave. Bladensburg, MD 20710 301-864-1570 Until 9 pm. Not valid holidays or w/other discounts/restrictions may apply</p>	<p>20% Discount Royal Mile Pub 2407 Price Ave. Wheaton, MD 20902 301-946-4511 Discount applies to food www.royalmilepub.com</p>

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**Saturday, October 23, 2010
7:30 pm
Carlisle, Pennsylvania**



**Carlisle Theatre
and
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**Otis Taylor and
The Nighthawks
for
*A Double Shot of the Blues***

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The Nighthawks, "more than 30 years of blues and roots rock," and still winning major awards.

Carlisle Theatre, 40 West High Street, Carlisle, PA 17013
Ticket prices: \$34, 29, 24 Show and hotel discounts available for DCBS members. Visit www.carlisletheatre.org/newblues and www.dcblues.org or call 717-258-0666

DCBS Members

**Check Out These Ticket Giveaways & Discounts
Visit the Members Only DCBS Website**

Riverhouse Blues & BBQ, October 9 at Watermelon Park, Berryville, VA (See ad on p 10)– 10 Ticket giveaway

**Jimmy Thackery & The Drivers w/ Deanna Bogart
October 15 at the Birchmere, Alexandria, VA–Ticket giveaway**

Buddy Guy w/ Britt Neal (October 19) and w/ Kirsten Thien (October 20) at the Birchmere, Alexandria, VA.–Ticket giveaway

**Otis Taylor/Nighthawks: A Double Shot of the Blues Show
October 23 at the Carlisle Theatre, Carlisle, PA (see ad at left)
- 10 ticket giveaway! Also, \$10 discount on tickets, and \$60 discount on hotel room at Comfort Suites (\$149 value for \$89). Just a 2-hour drive from DC.**



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College Park Blues Festival

Ritchie Coliseum

Baltimore Ave. (Rt. 1) and Rossborough Dr.
College Park, MD

Saturday November 6, 2010

7 - 11:30 pm

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Smokin' Joe Kubek and Bnois King

DC Blues Society Band

and the Winner of the

2010 DCBS Battle of the Bands

Food Beverages Vendors Free Parking

For more information: www.dcblues.org



Smokin' Joe Kubek & Bnois King

Blues fans are in for a treat on Saturday, November 7, when the 3rd Annual College Park Blues Festival will feature Smokin' Joe Kubek and Bnois King. *Billboard* Magazine says "Kubek is one of the fiercest electric guitarists currently plugged-in. Hard-hitting original Texas Blues-rock." *Living Blues* describes their music as "powerful, hard-nosed, authentic roadhouse blues...Punchy Texas shuffles, fierce boogies, tough slow blues and mighty fine roots rock."

Smokin' Joe grew up in Irving, TX and was playing in Dallas clubs by the age of 14. Three years later, he formed his first band, and then played rhythm guitar behind Freddie King, did a short spell with Robert Whitfield's Last Combo, and then joined Al Braggs' band, and also recorded with Charlie Robinson, Big Ray Anderson and Ernie Johnson, and Little Joe Blue. Kubek often jammed with blues legends while he played constantly around the Dallas area. He fondly recalls how B.B. King encouraged him to play.

However, it was in 1989 that Kubek teamed up with singer/guitarist Bnois King, from Monroe, LA, after the two met at a Monday night Dallas jam session. King is known for his soul-tinged vocals and jazz-orientated style, and this contrasted well with Kubek's strident finger and slide techniques. Kubek explains the relationship as follows: "I pull the blues out of him, and he pulls the jazz out of me. Bnois knows so much about jazz it's amazing."

Fast forward to 2010. Kubek and King have released over 12 albums, given thousands of live performances, and continue to create "a one-two punch of raw, tough, blues-rock filled with intensity and purpose."

On November 7, they will headline the College Park Blues Festival, and the audience will also be treated to performances by the DC Blues Society Band and by the winner of the DCBS Battle of the Bands.

Information and photo from www.smokinjoekubek.com



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