



Capital Blues Messenger

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

April 2019

Volume 13, Issue 4



Consummate Blues Man. Outstanding Blues Party.

Selwyn Birchwood Dazzles DCBS at St. Patrick's Day Performance

by Robyn S. Quinter

"There's a blues party in here tonight," declared Selwyn Birchwood shortly after taking the stage. The guitar ace told the sold-out DCBS audience that he had no safety net for the evening's performance, the music would be generated by raw emotion and feelings. And he delivered on that promise with lots of laughs and in his bare feet.

Birchwood and his band shared an intense and wide-ranging St. Patrick's Day show with blues fans at American Legion Post 41 in Silver Spring, MD. "We're all-original, we don't sound like anyone else," he said. With a baritone sax wailing and his tight band behind him, Birchwood demonstrated effortless guitar playing, as the music flowed from his fingertips without the need for any apparent thought. His lanky body was in sync with his

music, as he jumped, danced and bounced around the stage in his bare feet, shaking his oversized Afro and flashing a wide, engaging grin.

Since winning the 2013 International Blues Challenge and the Albert King Guitarist of the Year Award, Birchwood released two albums, *Don't Call No Ambulance* in 2014 and *Pick Your Poison* in 2018. He said he's been to 15 countries in the past six years and, now in his early 30s, he's sitting on top of the blues world.

During the show, Birchwood musically travelled the history of the blues. A talented impersonator, he good-naturedly mimicked legends John Lee Hooker, T-Model Ford, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf and others, playing in their styles and capturing their voices. "Deep in my heart, I don't

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photos by Wayne Botts

Mo' Music for DCBS Members

by Pete Salsbury

The DC Blues Society (DCBS) is happy to announce a new partnership with The Hamilton Live and The Soundry, bringing more opportunities for DCBS members to enjoy music at these venues.

The music clubs will offer tickets as giveaways to DCBS members; in return, DCBS will promote their blues-related events. This partnership is another example of the benefits offered to members of the DCBS!

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DC BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. Box 6289

Washington, DC

20015-0289



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 reserves the right to edit or refuse any content, including advertising, that it deems inappropriate.

DCBS Board Members

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president@dcblues.org

Vice President: Nick Dale
vp@dcblues.org

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secretary@dcblues.org

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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; The Soundry; 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
P.O. Box 6289
Washington, DC 20015-0289

*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*

Fourth Friday Blues

Happy

APRIL 26

HOUR

featuring

ENJOY!



GREAT MUSIC & DANCIN' WITH



FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Happy Hour: 5–10 pm • Music: 6:30–9:30 pm

FREE Admission • No Cover • Door Prizes

50–50 Raffle • Affordable Cash Bar + Food

American Legion Post 41

905 Sligo Ave. • Silver Spring, MD 20910

Entrance on Fenton St., adjacent to public parking lot

FREE Parking AFTER 7 PM



www.dcblues.org • 240-876-8295



2019 Inductees to Blues Hall of Fame

The Blues Hall of Fame honors those who have made the Blues timeless through performance, documentation, and recording. Members are inducted in five categories: Performers, Individuals, Classic of Blues Literature, Classic of Blues Recording (Song), and Classic of Blues Recording (Album).

Since 1980, The Blues Foundation has inducted 400+ industry professionals, recordings, and literature into the Blues Hall of Fame. Candidates are determined exclusively on their bodies of work over their lifetimes. The 2019 Induction Ceremony is set for Thursday, May 8, the evening before The Blues Music Awards.

Performers:

Aretha Franklin was often viewed as the Queen of Soul; however she also was recognized as the Queen of the Blues, as well as gospel royalty. Her



powerful vocal range, striking intimacy, and impeccable timing made her one of the greatest singers ever. After signing with Columbia, her first release was "Today I Sing the Blues." At Atlantic Records, she scored many hits

which entered the repertoires of blues and soul bands, including "Dr. Feelgood," the second side of "Respect." Franklin, who died in 2018, garnered more than 20 Grammys, along with the Kennedy Center Honors, the NAACP Vanguard and Hall of Fame awards, and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Booker T. & the MGs

presented the soulful sound of Memphis, playing behind the stars at Stax Records, while making their own instrumental hits. Their first record in 1962, "Green Onions," was followed by 14 more chart hits.

The original group comprised Booker T. Jones (organ), Steve Cropper (guitar), Lewie Steinberg (bass), and Al Jackson, Jr. (drums). Donald "Duck" Dunn took over on bass later. They also were an integrated band, which was rare then, particularly in the South. "Green Onions" was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2018.



William James "Count" Basie and his sound were forever linked to Kansas City, a freewheeling crossroads that was a hotbed for both jazz and blues. "The King of Swing," Basie created music rooted

in the blues. He played blues piano with an easy, economical touch; wrote or revamped an impressive cache of blues and jump tunes; and employed acclaimed vocalists who could sing the blues, such as Jimmy Rushing, Billie Holiday, and Joe Williams.

Ida Cox was touted as the "Uncrowned Queen of the Blues" from the start of her recording career in 1923. Although Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith are considered the top stars of the vaudeville blues

era, Cox was every bit their rival. A high-class entertainer who dressed in the finest gowns, Cox also was a composer of note. Her "Wild Women Don't Have the Blues" has become a feminist anthem, while other titles and verses of hers have resurfaced in the work of legendary bluesmen, including "Mojo Hand" (Lightnin' Hopkins) and "I Am So Glad" (Skip James). Cox passed away in 1967.



Connie Curtis "Pee Wee" Crayton was a California transplant. With guidance from T-Bone Walker and jazz guitarist John Collins, Crayton developed his own guitar style, incorporating their sophistication but picking with a harder edge. One of West Coast blues'



brightest stars, Crayton reached No. 1 in 1948 on BILLBOARD's R&B chart with "Blues After Hours," the only instrumental credited to a guitarist ever to top the R&B charts. Crayton displayed a dynamic flair on

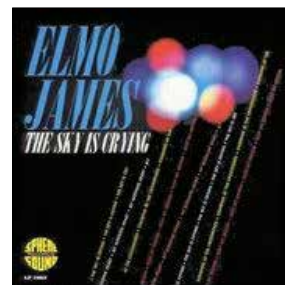
later records, and his guitar battles with longtime friend T-Bone Walker always made headlines. Crayton died in 1985.

Classic Blues Album

Elmore James: *The Sky is Crying* is the other James recording being honored with a Blues Hall of Fame

induction this year. James died in 1963 and did not live to see the release of this 1965 compilation, the first U.S. album to collect sides he recorded for

Bobby Robinson from 1959-1961. Seven of the 12 tracks on this classic collection were first issued as singles on Robinson's Fire label, including a remake of his signature song, "Dust My Broom."



Classic Blues Songs

"Everyday I Have the Blues" is one of the most ubiquitous blues tunes. B.B. King is most associated with the tune, and so the first of his own many versions gets the honor.

"I Got a Woman" by Ray Charles perfectly illustrates the way Charles transformed the sacred into the secular.

"Rollin' Stone" by Muddy Waters was the first blues record issued by Chess. It also is the only track Muddy sang and played by himself.

"Shake Your Money Maker" by Elmore James was recorded in 1961 and marked an exuberant departure from his deep blues recordings.

"The St. Louis Blues" is one of the most recorded songs of all time. Few versions of the W.C. Handy tune can compare with that of Bessie Smith's 1925 Columbia single.

Individual

Moses "Moe" Asch is a preeminent figure in the history of folk music, thanks to his release of 2000+ albums on Folkways Records, as well as on Asch, Disc and other labels. Folkway's blues roster included Lead Belly, Elizabeth Cotten, Reverend Gary Davis, Memphis Slim, and Big Joe Williams.

Classic Blues Literature

LOST DELTA FOUND: REDISCOVERING THE FISK UNIVERSITY-LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COAHOMA COUNTY STUDY, 1941-1942 was first planned for publication in the 1940s. The original manuscript was submitted to the Library of Congress but was misplaced for decades. This 2005 Vanderbilt University Press publication is edited by Robert Gordon and Bruce Nemerov.

Welcome to Spring!

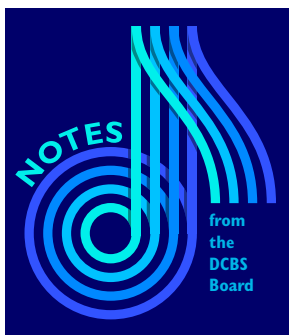
Warmer weather, hot events!

Incredible "sold out" Selwyn Birchwood Band at St. Patrick's Blues Day Party.

We told you this was going to be a good show, and we were right! If you were there, you know you were at the best party in town. Thanks to all who made this a "sold out" show. For the next DCBS ticketed event, follow our advice and buy your tickets in advance! The review and photos from the Selwyn Birchwood show start on page 1.

Lotsa Help. We couldn't have put on the Selwyn Birchwood and Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner show without a lot of help. Thanks to Nick Dale, Pat Bransford, Cynthia and John Vierria, Robert Anderson, Adam Oppenheim, Larry Spiwak, Russell Scott, Clarence Turner, Carol Salsbury, Dorothy Hines, Ann Richardson, Robyn and John Quinter, Wayne Botts and WPFW's Elliott Gross, who emceed the show.

Support from WPFW 89.3 FM. Thanks to Elliott Gross, Chris DeProperty and Bill Wax from WPFW for promoting the Selwyn Birchwood show and for coming out to the event.



It's always nice to have celebrities in the house!

4th Friday Blues Happy Hour.

Mark your calendars for Built 4 Comfort band on April 26. You won't want to miss this show. See the ad on page 3. Thanks to The Bad Influence Band for a fantastic show on March 22!

Last Thursday Blues at Rí Rá Irish Pub in Georgetown.

Thanks to all who came out to the Linwood Taylor show in February and Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner in March. Look for news in your weekly eblast and on the website for more information. Fast Eddie & the Slowpokes will be performing at Rí Rá on Thursday, April 25.

More shows and ticket giveaways from the City Winery DC! We had our first concert ticket giveaway contest and the lucky winners attended the performance by Bob Margolin and Jimmy Viviano. Look for news on upcoming shows at the City Winery DC and more ticket giveaways in the weekly eblasts and on the DCBS website. Upcoming shows are listed here, those performances designated with ★★ will have exclusive ticket giveaways for DCBS members.

Want to review a newly released blues CD? Been to a great show recently? Please consider writing a short story for the Capital Blues Newsletter. We are interested in articles on blues shows you saw or records you recommend

2019 DCBS Special Events

July 13: Hotter-Than-July Blues Party
Sept. 14: 2019 Battle of the Bands and Solo/Duo Competition
Oct. 13: DC Blues Festival
Nov. 9: College Park Blues Festival

2019 4th Friday Blues Happy Hours

Apr. 26: Built 4 Comfort Band
May 24: The Crossfire Band
June 28: The Mojo Priests
July 26: Carly Harvey Band
Aug. 23: Cooking with Gas
Sept. 27: Fast Eddie & the Slowpokes
Oct. 25: TBA

to our members. Contact editor@dcblues.org if interested.

We (always) need your Membership! Your membership and donations are needed to support all of our events. It's an awesome deal! Your membership costs about \$3 a month.

Enjoy this issue of the CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER. Please send me an email if you have suggestions or can help us at future events and activities. Thank you for your support!

--Pete Salsbury
president@dcblues.org



Apr. 9: Mike Farris ★★
Apr. 10: Adrian Belew
Apr. 14: Los Lonely Boys ★★
Apr. 25: Zepparella
May 12: John Waite
May 14: The B.B. King Blues Band ★★
May 18: The Blasters ★★
May 25-26: Roy Ayers
May 31: John "Papa" Gros ★★
June 7: Tal Wilkenfeld
June 18: Al DiMeola
July 5: Carolyn Wonderland ★★
July 7: A J Ghent
July 12: Southern Soul Tribute
"Music of Muscle Shoals & Stax Vol" ★★
July 27: Masters of the Telecaster
"Tribute to Danny Gatton"
(★★ designates ticket giveaway)

Did you recently mail a letter or membership form to the DCBS?

DCBS changed its mailing address in February, but we recently learned that we are not receiving mail at our new P.O. Box. The Postal Service is investigating the fate of our mail, but some correspondence may have been returned to sender. Please send any mail directly to our new address. Thank you!

DC Blues Society
P.O. Box 6289
Washington, DC 20015-0289

2019 Local + Nearby Blues Festivals — Make Your Plans Now!

It's once again time to start thinking about which blues festivals you might attend this year. From late Spring through early Fall, the DC area and surrounding states host many blues and other music festivals. This annual guide is intended to help DC-area blues fans plan their weekends and trips to include some great festivals that support the blues. Several festivals are also fundraisers for charities.

The DC Blues Society is especially pleased to be able to produce the 30th Annual DC Blues Festival this year. For the second year, the DC Blues Festival will be held at the Wunder Garten, 1101 First St., NE, Washington, DC on Sunday, Oct. 13. The Festival has been moved to Columbus Day weekend to avoid the scorching heat of last year's Festival. Once again, this will remain a free Festival, and DCBS welcomes sponsors and donations. The Wunder Garten will be selling their outstanding craft beers and other drink options, and a food truck will be onsite. For those wondering about the change in venue, the Carter Barron Amphitheatre remains closed pending construction to fix structural issues with the stage.

The Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival (CBBF) is taking a break this year. The CBBF promoter made this announcement after last year's mud-heavy Festival, saying "Primarily, we felt that we need to take a year off to evaluate the changing conditions in the outdoor concert world."

Similarly, the Western Maryland Blues Fest is taking a one-year hiatus, due to construction in the downtown Hagerstown area; however, another organization has stepped up and will host an alternative festival, the

Interstate Brews & Blues Fest, at Washington County Agricultural Education Center in Boonsboro, MD.

And more good news — the Bluebird Blues Festival returns this year on Sept. 28 on the grounds of the Prince George's Community College, and The Music Café in Damascus is hosting a new festival, the Big Funky Blues Festival, on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16.


The Tinner Hill Festival returns for its 26th year, as a "re-branded, re-styled, and expanded music festival celebrating many genres of music on the main stage and interactive villages throughout the Festival Experience."

Mark your calendars now for some of the great festivals included in this guide. Visit the individual festival websites to see the line-up of performers. Some festivals are free; others have admission fees and offer early bird and/or advance ticket sales.


If we've missed listing a blues festival, please let us know so we can share this information with DCBS members. Send information to: newsletter@dcblues.org. The DCBS booth will be set up at some of these events, watch your DCBS emails for volunteer needs and also for ticket giveaways and discounts.


If you'd like to volunteer to write a review of a festival or take photos for the Capital Blues Messenger, please send an e-mail to newsletter@dcblues.org. Please share this festival listing with others. Help keep the Blues alive!

JUNE

▲ **Saturday–Sunday, June 1–2** 
39th Annual Washington Folk Festival
Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, MD 20812
www.fsgw.org/WashingtonFolkFestival
FREE!

▲ **Friday, June 7 (evening)**
Interstate Brews & Blues Fest 2019
Washington Co. Agricultural Education Center
Boonsboro, MD
www.InterstateBluesFest.com
Tickets: General admission \$5; general admission + bottomless beer mug \$25; VIP (crabs only) \$35; VIP (crabs + beer) \$55

▲ **Friday–Sunday, June 7–9** 
27th Annual Capital Jazz Fest
Merriweather Post Pavilion
10475 Little Patuxent Pkwy.
Columbia, MD 21044
www.capitaljazz.com
Cool jazz and soul.
Tickets: prices vary by seat selection, early bird tickets available through 5/3

▲ **Saturday, June 8** 
26th Tinner Hill Music Festival
Cherry Hill Park, Falls Church, VA 22046
www.tinnerhill.org
Tickets: TBA

▲ **Saturday–Sunday, June 8–9**
8th Annual St. Georges Blues Festival
Fort Dupont Grounds
260 Old Elm Ave., Delaware City, DE 19706
www.diamondstateblues.com or 302-836-8202.
Tickets: \$75 both days if purchased by 6/7; \$40 Sat. /\$45 Sun. Buy tickets at www.bluehorizonpromotions.com.


▲ **Friday–Sunday, June 14–16**
30th Annual Billtown Blues Festival
Lycoming Co. Fairgrounds
Hughesville, PA 17737
www.billtownblues.org or 570-584-4480
Tickets: Music only, or camping and music available, single day or 3-day


▲ **Saturday, June 15**
11th Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival, A Blues Block Party and SSBF Blues Week, June 6–15
Downtown Silver Spring on Ellsworth Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910
www.silverspringblues.com, www.facebook.com/SSBBluesFest
FREE!



▲ **Saturday, June 15**
24th Annual Columbia Pike Blues Festival
Walter Reed Dr. at Columbia Pike
Arlington, VA 22204
www.columbia-pike.org/bluesfest/
FREE!

▲ **Sunday, June 16**
Big Funky Blues Fest
Mt. Airy Fire Company Carnival Grounds
1008 Twin Arch Rd., Mount Airy, MD 21771
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/big-funky-blues-fest-tickets-54901562050>
Tickets: Advance, kids 13-99 \$30; kids under 13 \$15; under 2, free. At gate, \$35, \$20

▲ **Saturday–Sunday, June 22–23** 
27th Annual Giant National Capital BBQ Battle*
2011 Pennsylvania Ave., between 9th & 14th Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20004
www.bbqdc.com
Tickets: \$12 each day, \$20 for 2-day pass. Children 12 and under-free; BBQ/VIP Party pass: \$95 each day, or \$155 for 2 days

 Listings with this designation include blues and other music genres.

JULY

▲ **Thursday–Sunday, July 11–14**
22nd Annual Briggs Farm Blues Festival
Briggs Farm, Nescopeck, PA 18635
www.briggsfarm.com or 570-379-2003
Tickets: \$35 Friday or Saturday; \$60 for 2 days,
\$95 for 4 days; camping \$130 for 4 days, \$105
for 3 days

▲ **Saturday, July 13**
DCBS Hotter Than July Party
(details to be announced)
American Legion Post 41, Silver Spring

▲ **Saturday–Sunday, July 27–28**
Pittsburgh Blues & Roots Festival
Syria Shrine Center
1877 Shriners Way, Cheswick, PA 15204
Tickets and lineup to be announced April 11
www.facebook.com/PGHBluesAndRootsFest

AUGUST

▲ **Friday–Sunday, Aug. 9–11**
19th Annual Heritage Music BluesFest
Heritage Port Amphitheater
Wheeling, WV 26003
www.heritagemusicfest.com or 304-238-6064
Tickets: advance \$80 for 3 days, \$120 for VIP

▲ **Saturday, Aug. 17** 
27th Annual Hot August Music Festival
Oregon Ridge
State Park
13401 Beaver
Dam Rd.
Cockeysville,
MD 21030
www.



hotaugustmusicfestival.com or 877-321-3378
Tickets: \$58 for extra early bird to \$73 last call;
\$85 at the gate

Congrats, Ticket Winners!

Congratulations to the DCBS members who won free tickets to the March 25 performance of Bob Margolin and Jimmy Vivino at the City Winery, DC:

Mary Luceri ▲ Judy Dulaney

Is your DCBS membership current? Members always receive priority for giveaways and special offers.

Your name could be among the winners of tickets to City Winery, DC; The Hamilton; and The Sundry. Watch your DCBS Eblasts, visit www.dcbles.org,

and follow us on Facebook to submit your entries to win tickets for selected festivals and shows and to obtain available discounts.

SEPTEMBER


▲ **Sunday, Sept. 1**
Baltimore Blues Society Alonzo's Memorial Picnic



Rosedale American
Legion Hall
1311 Seling Ave.,
Rosedale, MD
21237


<http://www.mojoworkin.com/> or 410-744-2291
Tickets: info pending.

▲ **Saturday, Sept. 7**
17th Annual Greenbelt Blues Festival
Roosevelt Center and New Deal Café,
Centerway and Southway, Greenbelt, MD
20770
www.facebook.com/GreenbeltBluesFest
www.GreenbeltBluesFestival.com
FREE!

▲ **Sunday, Sept. 8** 
42nd Takoma Park Folk Festival
Takoma Park Middle School
Takoma Park, MD 20910
www.tpff.org or 301-589-0202
FREE!

▲ **Saturday, Sept. 28**
Bluebird Blues Festival
Prince Georges Community College
301 Largo Rd., Largo, MD 20774
www.pgcc.edu
FREE!

OCTOBER

▲ **Sunday, Oct. 7** 
37th Annual Takoma Park Street Festival*
Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
<http://www.mainstreettakoma.org/featured-events/takoma-park-festival/> or 240-535-0187
FREE!

▲ **Sunday, Oct. 13**
NOTE: New month and date!
30th Annual DC Blues Festival
Wunder Garten, 1101 First St. NE
Washington, DC 20001
www.dcbles.org
FREE!

NOVEMBER

▲ **Saturday, Nov. 9**
12th Annual College Park Blues Festival
Ritchie Coliseum, University of MD
College Park, MD 20740
www.dcbles.org, <https://www.facebook.com/CollegeParkBluesFest/>
FREE!
Area musicians! Enter the DCBS Battle of the Bands or the Solo/Duo Competition, to be held Sept. 14, for a chance to perform at the College Park Festival Blues Festival. Details at www.dcbles.org

DCBS Announces Partnership with The Hamilton Live, The Sundry

from page 1

The first giveaway will be for tickets to Billy Price and the Charm City Rhythm Band at The Sundry on Friday, April 12. Watch your eblasts, and check the DCBS Facebook page and website to learn how to submit your entry. DCBS members receive priority in these contests, make sure your dues are current and your membership is in good standing!

The Hamilton Live is located at 600 14th St., NW, in downtown Washington, DC 20005. Its spring and summer schedule has a number of outstanding blues artists. These include Poppa Chubby on Friday, May 24; Vanessa Collier on Friday, May 31; Jimmie Vaughn on Saturday, July 20; and John Mayall on Monday, July 22.

Its new sister venue, The Sundry, is located

at 10221 Wincopin Circle in downtown Columbia, MD 21044. The Nighthawks will appear on Friday, May 3; followed by Bad Influence Band on Friday, May 10; Deanna Bogart on Friday, May 17; and Morgan James on Friday, June 14.

Please support the blues bands coming to the region so The Hamilton Live and The Sundry will continue to book them. Both venues will offer exclusive ticket giveaways to DCBS members for selected blues-related shows.

Look for announcements in the CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER, eblasts and on the web for upcoming blues shows and tickets giveaways exclusively for DCBS members. For more info, visit <https://www.live.thehamiltondc.com> or <https://www.thesundry.com>

Band of Friends Celebrates Rory Gallagher at the City Winery

by Pete Salsbury

The award-winning trio “Band of Friends: A Celebration of Rory Gallagher” rocked the City Winery DC on March 15. This is the Friends’ third US tour in less than a year, and the band is led by Rory Gallagher’s former bassist, Gerry McAvoy who played on all 14 of Rory’s solo albums, and rising blues-rock star Davy Knowles on guitar. Mike Hansen is filling in on drums for Ted McKenna, Gallagher’s former drummer who recently passed away.

If you are not familiar with Rory Gallagher, the Irish guitarist shared the stage with Jimi Hendrix, Cream, and The Who; toured all over the world; and turned down offers to join the Rolling Stones. He is listed 57th on ROLLING STONE magazine’s list of “100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time.”

Sadly, Rory passed away in 1995 at the age of 47. But his music lives on. Gerry stresses Band of Friends is not a tribute band. “The interpretations of the material can be quite spontaneous and unique,” he said. “It’s not a note-for-note replica of Rory’s material or concerts from decades past, but his influence and spirit are omnipresent in everything we do.”

I sat down with Gerry and Davy before the show for an exclusive talk about the tour and about Rory.

DCBS: “Gerry, when did you decide to start the Band of Friends?”

Gerry: “I had moved to France and in around 2012, I started listening to all of my vinyl and a lot of it was Rory. I had forgotten how good those songs were. There are some great songs, and they hadn’t been played in a while. I thought they should be done again with the right people. I contacted Ted, and he was up for it. I got Marcel Scherpenzeel in Holland, and he was up for it. Then I got in touch with Davy in the States and he was up for it. It’s been snowballing since then.”

DCBS: Davy, I saw you on the Joe Bonamassa cruise recently and at one

show, almost everyone was holding a drum “sticks for Ted.” That was a powerful, emotional show. Do you know who gave out the drum sticks?”

Davy: Yes that was very emotional. A friend of mine and a fan of the band and Ted bought a load of them and wanted to do something nice. I didn’t know he was going to do it. It was overwhelming and emotional to see it. Then at the first show on this tour, the same guy came back with a load of drum sticks.”

DCBS: “I never saw Rory but watching videos and seeing Davy play, I see there are a lot of similarities in playing styles.”

Gerry: “Davy comes from the same place as Rory. We listened to the same music I listened to growing up, love the blues. He has the same passion, the same drive that Rory had.”

DCBS: “What guitar and amp do you use?”

Davy: “For my band, a 66 Tele is my main guitar. Fender made a copy of Rory’s famous, iconic strat. Have to use a strat for Rory’s music. It was a part of him; just the right thing to do. I use a 1976 Vox AC 30 amp.”

DCBS: “Gerry, what do you play?”

Gerry: “I use a 63 Fender P-bass. I bought it in San Francisco in ‘75 or ‘76. Got a lot of others including an old Silvertone bass that I recorded with Rory.”

DCBS: “Who influenced you when you started? Remember seeing any special shows?”

Davy: “Growing up on the Isle of Man, 30 or 40 miles from Ireland, Rory was king! He had a Celtic



Above, from left, Bassist Gerry McAvoy, DCBS President Pete Salsbury and guitarist Davy Knowles talked music and Irish guitar master Rory Gallagher. At left, the duo with drummer Mike Hansen rocked the City Winery DC.



photo by Pete Salsbury

flair. I heard a lot of Celtic growing up, and he was very relatable to us. I started playing because of Mark Knopfler; I wanted to be Mark Knopfler, even had a headband (everyone laughs). He inspired me to start.”

Gerry: “I grew up with the Shadows; Jet Harris was my idol at the time. Paul McCartney was a major influence; so melodic. So were Willie Dixon and Jaco Pastorius. I did see John Mayall’s Blues Band and Cream. Van Morrison had a club and he brought in a lot of British Bands.”

Davy: “Where I grew up was isolated but my father took me to Belfast now and then. He was a big music fan, and I saw Eric Clapton, John Mayall, Mark Knopfler and Stan Webb’s Chicken Shack blues band.

DCBS: Thanks for taking time to meet before your show tonight.

The show started with a rocking’ version of “Messing with the Kid.” Gerry doesn’t stand still much on stage, smiling, directing the band and encouraging the audience to clap and cheer on the band. When Gerry asked, “Do you want to hear some blues?” the crowd screamed and yelled again, and Davy followed with a tour-de-force solo. Davy has mastered an amazing technique using his right-hand fingers to adjust the volume and tone knobs while playing notes with his left hand. It’s a very tricky, complex thing to try.

Next they played a very emotional, slow blues song, “A Million Miles Away” as a tribute to their friend Ted McKenna, followed by “Shadowsplay” with Davy’s outrageous guitar bringing the crowd to a frenzy. For an encore, Gerry invited everyone to stand up front and around edges of the stage. The band did a powerful version of “Bullfrog Blues,” a trademark song of Gallagher’s. What a night! A Band Make sure you see Band of Friends the next time they’re in town.

**Note: thanks to Eric Foss and Leslie Inoclan at Soundtrex Management and Heather Otto and Chloe Pannell at City Winery DC for helping arrange the interview with Gerry and Davy.*



Birchwood, DCBS Celebrate “A Blues Party”

from page 1

want these guys to be forgotten,” he said. “The blues is such a cool form of music. I connect to their stories and that lets me reach the music at a higher level.”

Birchwood said he liked to “conjure up spirits” and talked about Muddy Waters’ classic “Whiskey

Blues.” Acknowledging Waters’ inspiration, he moved into “Guilty Pleasures” from the *Pick Your Poison* CD. The audience was so reverent and quiet that you could have heard a pin drop.

The second set was time for “getting funky,” and Birchwood started with the CD’s cover song “Pick Your Poison.” In recognition of St. Patrick’s Day, he laughed slyly, then pulled on an oversized leprechaun hat with a blond beard attached.

Birchwood continued the musical history lesson, showing off different styles of finger picking on his electrified acoustic guitar. The audience was transfixed at his version of the 19th-century standard, “Make Me a Pallet on Your Floor,” using Carolina-style picking. Introducing the influence of Gospel music with profanity, Birchwood said he likes to curse before playing Gospel songs. “That way you go wrong and then get right.”

Taking a seat and holding his lap steel guitar, Birchwood was in his element. He moved into “When the Saints Go Marching In,” using his exacting style to coax rich, lengthy tones that

delighted the appreciative audience.

No blues show would be complete without paying respects to B.B. King, and Birchwood appropriately obliged by ending the show with “I’m a Blues Man But I’m a Good Man.”

Preceding Birchwood, local guitar icon Clarence “The Blues Man” Turner revved up the audience with a set of original and cover songs. Turner quickly filled the dance floor with the first chords of Willie Dixon’s “I’m Ready for You” and Ray Charles’ “Black Jack” from his most recent CD, *The Caster Blaster*. Much to the delight of the crowd, Turner and his five-piece band highlighted their original songs, including “Pay Day,” “I’m a Happily Married Man” and “Mojo Hand.”



photos by Wayne Botts



photo by John Quinter

Clarence “The Blues Man” Turner, backed by his five-piece band, set the stage for a rollicking good evening, performing songs from his most recent CD, *The Caster Blaster*.



photo by Wayne Botts

Bill Wax, at right, from WPFW, shares a laugh at the DCBS St. Patrick’s Day Blues Party.

APRIL 2019 BLUES

- 1 Charlie Owen & Pocket Change @ Westminster Church ▲ Brian Culbertson @ Birchmere
- 3 Brian Culbertson @ Birchmere ▲ Fast Eddie and The Slowpokes @ Nick's Restaurant, Alexandria
- 4 Holly Montgomery @ Hershey's ▲ Kiss and Ride @ Hamilton Loft
- 5 Johnny and The Headhunters @ Hamilton Loft ▲ Little Bit 'A Blues @ Hershey's ▲ **Sugaray Rayford, Bad Influence Band** @ The Soundry ▲ Hard Swimmin' Fish @ New Deal Café ▲ New Blue Soul @ Cafe Montmartre, Reston ▲ Dave Lange @ Bear Chase Brewing Co., Bluemont
- 6 Bad Influence @ Clyde's Chevy Chase ▲ Vintage#18 @ Blackwall Hitch Alexandria ▲ The Allman Others Band @ New Deal Café ▲ Rachel Ann Morgan @ Hamilton Loft ▲ Dave Lange @ Tarara Winery, Leesburg
- 7 **DCBS 1st Sunday Jam** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ ▲ Journeyman (Eric Clapton Tribute) @ Pearl Street Warehouse ▲ Johnny & The Headhunters, Linwood Taylor @ JVs ▲ Dave Lange @ Blue Valley Winery, Delaplane
- 8 Vintage#18 @ Westminster Church
- 9 **Tab Benoit** @ Birchmere ▲ Swang Bang with Matt Kelley @ JVs ▲ Mike Farris @ City Winery **DCBS Ticket Giveaway**
- 10 **Tab Benoit, Eric McFadden** @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Patty Reese @ Ayse Meze
- 11 **Zenith Sunn: Anson Funderburgh & Eric Lindell** @ Hill Country BBQ
- 12 Bad Influence @ Barley & Hops Grill, Frederick ▲ Billy Price Charm City Rhythm Band @ The Soundry **DCBS Ticket Giveaway** ▲ Rachel Ann Morgan Band @ Clydes Chevy Chase ▲ Swampcandy @ Hamilton Loft ▲ Patty Reese @ Silver New Brasserie ▲ Anthony David @ Bethesda Blues & Jazz
- 13 Official Blues Brothers Revue @ AMP by Strathmore ▲ Bad Influence @ Blair's Londontowne Pub, Edgewater ▲ Roger Girke and The Wandering Souls @ Old Bowie Town Grille ▲ Los Lonely Boys, Gary Douglas Band @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Moonshine Society @ Hamilton Loft ▲ The Crimestoppers @ The Bungalow, Chantilly ▲ **Gabe Stillman & Skyla Burrell** @ JVs ▲ Vintage#18 @ The Music Café ▲ Linwood Taylor @ Lahinch Tavern ▲ On the Bus with Ron Holloway @ Villain & Saint
- 14 Dave Chappell and Tommy Lepson @ JVs ▲ Los Lonely Boys @ City Winery **DCBS Ticket Giveaway**
- 15 Sol Roots Band with Phil Wiggins & Ron Holloway @ Westminster Church
- 16 **Ana Popovic, Mary-Elaine Jenkins** @ Pearl Street Warehouse
- 17 Patty Reese with Dave Chappell @ Bar AhSo, Chefscape, Leesburg
- 18 Ron Hicks Project @ New Deal Café
- 19 **Tommy Castro & The Painkillers CD Release Tour, Kevin "B.F." Burt** @ Pearl Street Warehouse ▲ Dave Chappell Band @ New Deal Café ▲ Bobby Thompson Trio @ Villain & Saint
- 20 **Tommy Castro & The Painkillers CD Release Tour, Kevin "B.F." Burt** @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Bad Influence @ Hamilton Loft ▲ Don't Tell Suzie @ Hershey's ▲ Karl Stoll Power Trio, Roger Girke Blues Band @ JVs
- 21 Sol Roots @ Jo Jo Bar
- 22 Rodney Kelley Band @ Westminster Church ▲ Patty Reese and others –Azalea City Recording Artists IMT Earth Day Concert @ St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville
- 23 Mark Wenner & The Blues Warriors @ JVs
- 24 Patty Reese @ Ayse Meze
- 25 **DCBS Last Thursday Blues with Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes** @ Ri Ra Irish Pub ▲ Dave Chappell @ JVs ▲ Zepparella @ City Winery
- 26 **DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hour with Built 4 Comfort** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Big Boy Little Band @ New Deal Café ▲ Ana Egge and The Sentimentals @ City Winery ▲ Kelly Bell Band CD Release Party at WTMD, Towson
- 27 **BBS Presents Frank Bey, Gabe Stillman Band** @ Rosedale American Legion ▲ Bad Influence @ Frederick Owls Club ▲ Rock-A-Sonics @ Old Bowie Town Grille ▲ Bobby Lewis Blues Band @ Hershey's ▲ The Crimestoppers @ Streetcar 82 Brewing Co. ▲ David B. Cole Tribute to Santana and Jimi Hendrix @ JVs ▲ Mark Wenner's Blues Warriors @ Drum & Strum
- 28 Memphis Gold @ JVs ▲ Moonshine Society @ Villain & Saint ▲ The Nighthawks @ Kensington Day of the Book
- 29 Carly Harvey's Kiss and Ride @ Westminster Church
- 30 Billy Price Charm City Rhythm Band, The Nighthawks @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Sol Roots and Guests @ JVs

EARLY MAY 2019

- 2 **Delbert McClinton** @ Birchmere ▲ Reggie Right Eye and The Missing Pieces @ New Deal Café ▲ Still Standing @ Babes Boys Tavern
- 3 Cadillac Jump Blues Band @ Old Bowie Town Grille ▲ The Nighthawks @ The Soundry ▲ The Roustabouts @ New Deal Café ▲ Patty Reese (solo) @ Hershey's
- 4 Built 4 Comfort @ Hershey's ▲ The Crimestoppers @ Backyard Grill, Chantilly
- 5 **DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion** ▲ Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ ▲ The Nighthawks @ Kensington Car Show
- 6 Linwood Taylor Band @ Westminster Church

Bolded items on calendars of upcoming events are picks by calendar editor and include DCBS, BBS and other events.

Musicians, promoters, and venues:
Send calendar listings to **calendar@dcblues.org** by the deadline, 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 venues to verify events.

Visit **www.dcblues.org** for additional music links and information.

BLUES ALL WEEK

Regular Blues Events

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

SU	1st Sunday DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Along for the Ride @ 219 (Most Sundays) ▲ Dirty Ed & The Collaborators Sunday Blues Jam @ Paradiso Italian Restaurant
M	Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church ▲ Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's ▲ Capital Blues Ensemble @ 219 Basin St. Lounge (alternates Mondays with Moonshine Society)
TU	Clusterfunk @ Madam's Organ ▲ Hell's Bottom Blues Jam @ Takoma Park VFW Post 350
W	Wolf's Blues Jam with Linwood Taylor or Big Boy Little @ Blair's Londontowne Pub ▲ Jesse Shifflet Open Mic @ Station Ale House, North East, MD (frequency varies) ▲ Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille ▲ Patty Reese @ Ayse Meze Lounge, Frederick
TH	Johnny Artis @ Madam's Organ ▲ Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo ▲ Learning to Fly Blues Jam @ Takoma Park VFW Post 350
F	DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hour @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Cadillac Jump Band @ Bertha's (4th Fridays)
SA	Archie Edwards Acoustic Blues Jam @ The Public Option

Key DCBS Volunteers

DCBS is an all-volunteer organization, and we greatly appreciate the folks who help. The contributions of energy, ideas and time from our key volunteers keep the DCBS running. Behind every event, jam, newsletter, ticket giveaway and e-blast are the efforts of key volunteers and board members. Several positions are currently open.
If you're interested in helping, please contact **president@dcblues.org**

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For more information, visit the DCBS website or contact **ads@dcblues.org**

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by Pete Salsbury

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▲ **Advertise** in the monthly CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER. It's one of several opportunities for interested vendors to reach DMV blues enthusiasts. Ads may also be placed on the DCBS Facebook page, website or included in eblasts. For more information about advertising, including specifications and deadlines, visit www.dcb blues.org or contact ads@dcb blues.org

▲ **Donate** a gift certificate or door prize to be presented at a DCBS event. The 4th Friday Happy Hours, 1st Sunday Jams and special events throughout the year attract hundreds of attendees and assure that your firm receives appropriate recognition.

▲ **Sponsor** a DCBS special event. We're seeking financial support for the DC Blues Festival on Oct. 13 to keep the event free to attendees. For more info, contact president@dcb blues.org



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