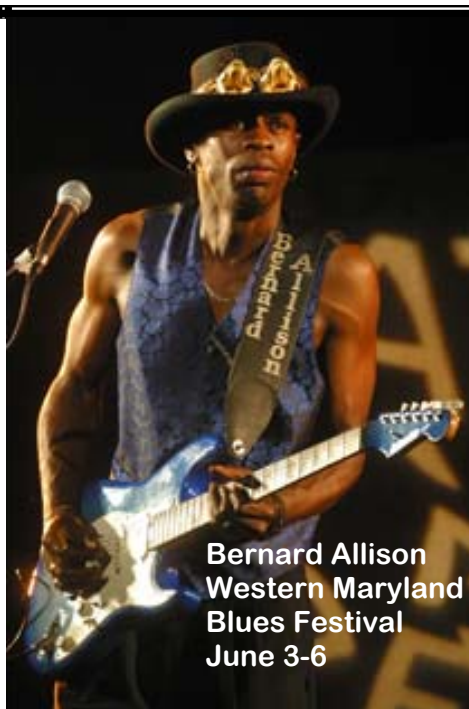


# Capital Blues Messenger

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

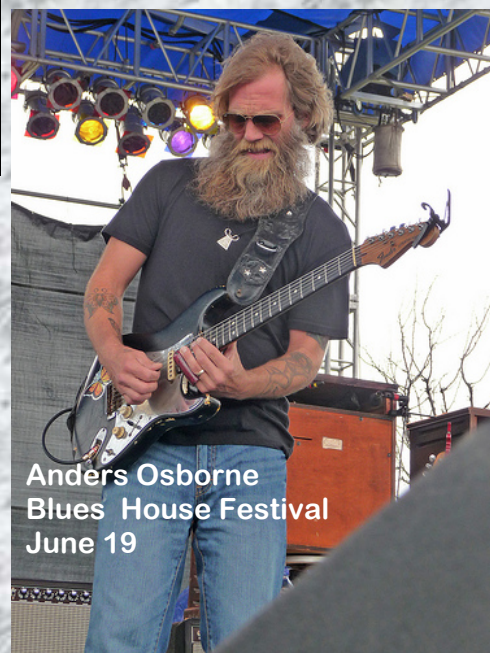
June 2010 Volume 4 Issue 6



Bernard Allison  
Western Maryland  
Blues Festival  
June 3-6



Pura Fé  
Tinner Hill Blues  
Festival  
June 10-13



Anders Osborne  
Blues House Festival  
June 19



Big Bill Morganfield  
Billtown Blues  
Festival  
June 13



Bobby Parker  
Safeway BBQ Battle  
June 26-27

**Summer's Here!  
June Blues Festivals  
Upcoming DCBS Events  
Blues News**

# 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. It is funded in part by the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. 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](http://www.dcblues.org).

Send changes in name, address or membership status to [membership@dcblues.org](mailto: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 to [editor@dcblues.org](mailto:editor@dcblues.org).

Blues listings for bands should be sent to [calendar@dcblues.org](mailto: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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**DCBS on MySpace & Facebook:** Stacy Brooks

**DCBS on PayPal:** Fred Morser

## Become a DCBS member!

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](http://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](mailto:president@dcblues.org).

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## 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**

## Cover Page Photo Credits:

Photos of Bernard Allison from blues-fest.org

Photo of Pura Fé from purafe.com

Photos of Anders Osborne and Big Bill

Morganfield by Crawl'n' Kingsnake

Photo of Bobby Parker by Ron Weinstock

## HELP WANTED!! - VOLUNTEERS

**Yes, You! Give a Few Hours or More**  
DCBS needs volunteers for several continuing and one-time assignments. Staff a booth at an event, volunteer for the Fish Fry, write reviews, etc. Visit [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) for information or contact [volunteer@dcblues.org](mailto:volunteer@dcblues.org).

## 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 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](http://www.dcblues.org). Questions? E-mail: [ads@dcblues.org](mailto:ads@dcblues.org)



**DC Blues Society's 6th Annual  
Fish Fry 'n' Blues 'n' Bike Contest**  
Saturday, July 17, 2010 4 pm -11 pm

Admission: \$12 (includes fish sandwich)  
Bike Contest Registration: \$5  
Grand Prize Winner: \$200

All night blues party with Dr. S.O. Feelgood as DeeJay  
Bands interested in playing can sign up  
at First Sunday Jams or e-mail [jams@dcblues.org](mailto:jams@dcblues.org)



American Legion Post 41  
905 Sligo Avenue  
(entrance on Fenton by public parking lot)  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Information and tickets: [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) or Call 301-322-4808

## Blues Fans, Vendors, Volunteers, Bikers, and Bands (Did We Leave Anyone Out?) Don't Miss The DCBS 6th Annual Fish Fry 'n' Blues & Bike Contest

On July 17, the Silver Spring American Legion is the place to be. Blues music starts at 4 pm and continues all night, and the fish fry runs from 4:30 to 9 pm. Motorcyclists must register their bikes from 4 to 5 pm, in order to compete in the contest for "favorite motorcycle." The "judges" (all paying customers) will get a short form to write in their favorite motorcycle. The vote for the best bike will be held from 5 to 7 pm, with the winner announced at 8 pm. The winning motorcycle gets a \$200 cash award. In the event of a tie(s), the pot will be divided.

The response from bands interested in playing that evening already promises a terrific line-up. If a band is interested and hasn't signed up yet, they should e-mail [jams@dcblues.org](mailto:jams@dcblues.org) by June 10 and request to be put on the standby list. Vendors interested in having a table to promote wares/business, please contact [ads@dcblues.org](mailto:ads@dcblues.org) by June 30. And volunteers are needed for the event — sign up at [volunteer@dcblues.org](mailto:volunteer@dcblues.org).

### DCBS Interview With Grady Champion

Grady Champion is one of the hottest talents on the blues circuit today, having won the Blues Foundation's 26th Annual International Blues Challenge in Memphis in January 2010. Champion was honored in the Best Blues Band category, topping 110 other outfits.



Champion has worked in the music field for nearly 20 years, attracting plaudits for his harp playing, singing, and crowd-friendly approach to traditional blues. Grady also writes and plays guitar. This year, he also has a part in the horror movie "Rites of Spring" filmed in Mississippi.

For much of his career Champion has toured the Southeast, but he is coming to the Washington-area this summer, as the headline performer for the **DCBS Festival Fundraiser to be held on July 31, 8:30 pm to midnight at the Silver Spring, MD, American Legion Post 41 on Sligo Ave.**

CBM reporter Burney Simpson contacted Champion through his Facebook site and he graciously responded via email to questions.

**CBM:** Congratulations on winning the Blues Challenge. What's new since then?

**GC:** It was a big plus to my career by winning the 2010 International Blues Challenge. It has gotten people interested in what I am doing even though I have been doing it for years. To be voted as the top blues band in the world, it gives you credibility as you begin booking internationally.

**CBM:** You also were honored this year with a Grady Champion Day by the Mississippi State Senate and with a Grady Champion Day by your home town of Canton, Miss. How did that feel?

**GC:** It feels great to be honored by the state and the city in which you were raised and to have the support of the people of where I live, it is remarkable.

**CBM:** Most of your touring is south of the Mason Dixon line. How can we get you up north more often?

**GC:** Back in the early 2000s, I did a lot touring in the north east. By having promoters book me in these areas, I will be more than willing to come back.

**CBM:** Any plans to release a new CD?

**GC:** Yes, we are working and taking on new material. We're gathering songs to do recording towards the end of the year for release in 2011 and possibly working on a deal to have a new release of my 2008 album since we didn't have distribution on it. We are working on having it redistributed.

**CBM:** Why the long break in CD releases from 2001 to 2008?

**GC:** I moved back home from Florida and decided to go back to school and study music.

**CBM:** Your voice has been compared with Robert Johnson, your harp playing with Sonny Boy Williamson, and your interaction with an audience with Luther Allison. Who did you listen to as you forged your own sound?

**GC:** I listened to a lot of older blues greats like Sonny Boy Williamson, Little Walter, Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, B.B. King and numerous others.

**CBM:** Besides other musicians, what personal influences are heard in your music?

**GC:** My life and the life that I lived and my experiences are heard in my music.

**CBM:** You began as rapper and switched to blues. Why?

**GC:** I wanted to be involved with a more mature audience and at the time that I was really into rap it started moving into gangster rap and my mother did not raise a gangster.

**CBM:** How can musicians bring the blues to young people?

**GC:** Young people can be brought the blues by bringing it more into television, radio, and bringing the blues into the schools

**CBM:** What contemporary blues musicians do you listen to?

**GC:** I don't listen to any contemporary blues musicians in particular; I am mostly interested in traditional blues music.

Catch Grady Champion on July 31 at the American Legion Hall in Silver Spring, MD. Ticket info at right.

**DC Blues Society Presents  
a Festival Fundraiser Featuring  
2010 International Blues  
Challenge Winner  
GRADY CHAMPION  
July 31, 2010  
8:30PM – 12:00AM  
American Legion Post 41  
905 Sligo Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY  
\$20 members  
\$25 non-members  
[www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)  
or call 301-322-4808**

\*22nd Annual DC Blues Festival September 4th Carter Barron Amphitheater Free Admission!

# TINNER HILL BLUES FESTIVAL

**Falls Church**All Blues, All Weekend,  
All Over Town

JUNE 10-13

*The Little City* Virginia  
is for LoversCatch The Blues in  
The Little City,  
City of Falls Church

A TRIBUTE TO

*John Jackson*

Winner of a National Heritage Fellowship, John Jackson was one of Virginia's pre-eminent singer-guitarists. With his Piedmont blues style of guitar and banjo playing and husky, high baritone voice, John brought blues, ballads, and old country songs from his native Blue Ridge Mountains to over 60 nations.



**Thursday, June 10 State Theatre\* 8 pm — Chuck Brown & Bobby Parker & Nadine Rae**  
**Friday, June 11 Creative Cauldron\* 7:30 pm — *Tinner Hill: Portraits in Black & White***  
**Saturday, June 12 Cherry Hill Park 10 am — Panel Discussion “Red, Black and Blue”**  
**1 –8 pm Free Concert in The Park with Pura Fé & Lee Gates & Phil Wiggins & Corey Harris**  
**Murray Porter & Charles “Big Daddy” Stallings & Patty Reese**  
**Clarence “The Blues Man” Turner & MSG Acoustic Blues Trio and many others**  
**& Early Bird Blues & Famers Market & BBQ cook-off judging & Blues on Washington Street**  
**John Jackson documentary & CD debut**  
**Children’s activities & Workshops & Soul food & Vendors**  
**Over 25 businesses offer dining and shopping specials, blues music and related activities**  
**Most events are free & For full schedule & tickets: [www.tinnerhill.org](http://www.tinnerhill.org) & Tel: 703-241-4109 & e-mail [info@tinnerhill.org](mailto:info@tinnerhill.org)**

## 17th Annual Tinner Hill Blues Festival — The Crossroads for Music, History & Culture

The annual Tinner Hill Blues festival, a tribute to John Jackson, takes place June 10 - 13 in Falls Church, VA and promises to be a musical journey from the Mississippi Delta, up through the Piedmont, and across the continent to the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

The 4-day event kicks off with a fundraiser (a ticketed event) on Thursday, June 10 at the State Theatre with two of DC's icons of music: Chuck Brown (The Godfather of Go-Go) and legendary guitarist Bobby Parker. If you missed last year's show, this encore presentation gives you a chance to redeem your musical soul. If you were there – well you know - and you also know you want to be there again! Get a ticket, tell your friends and kids about this chance to witness musical history! Each of this mighty duo was dubbed a “Hidden Gem” by *Washingtonian Magazine*. The show also includes a guest appearance by vocalist Miss Nadine Rae plus New York comedienne (and Falls Church native) Nicky Sunshine who will have everyone in stitches.

On Friday, June 11, Creative Cauldron, a new art space in Falls Church, hosts an original theatrical production, *Tinner Hill: Portraits in Black & White*, (this is also a ticketed event) exploring the city's early civil rights history and race relations with live Blues music and an art exhibit. You'll also find great food and Blues bands in restaurants around Falls Church, aka *The Little City*.

A mid-morning panel discussion, *Red, Black and Blues*, will take place on Saturday, June 12. Three notable Native American experts, Dr. Ron Welburn, Elaine Bomberly, and Penny Gamble Williams, will join festival performers PuraFé, Lee Gates, Murray Porter and Corey Harris to explore the influences and shared musical traditions of Native Americans and African Americans. The theme carries into the free *Concert In The Park* which follows from 1–8 pm. (See article on p 6 for more information on some of the festival performers.)

Other performers include Phil Wiggins (with Corey Harris), Clarence “The Bluesman” Turner, Patty Reese, and MSG Acoustic Trio. Kristin Gomez will lead kids' activities with Kidz Pull Strinz, and there will be performances by The Yorktown Blues Band and Curtis Blues, harmonica lessons from Choo Choo Charlie and more. Other happenings include a barbecue cook-off, soul food and vendors in the park, plus music on South Washington Street and a shuttle to carry Blues lovers between venues, the Metro, and restaurants along the way.

Blues history also abounds with the screening of the award winning documentary, *John Jackson: A Blues Treasure*, and the debut of a new Smithsonian Folkways CD, *Rappahannock Blues: John Jackson*. The collection of twenty songs selected from hundreds of live concert recordings also includes an informative booklet written by music historian Barry Lee Pearson. The CD will be available to the public for the very first time at the Tinner Hill Blues Festival!

The festival finale takes place Sunday, June 13, 11 am–3 pm, with a Blues Brunch and Jam at Bangkok Blues. The public is invited to join the Jambassadors from the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation and other musicians in a tribute celebrating the legacies of John Jackson, John Cephas, and Archie Edwards. [www.acousticblues.com](http://www.acousticblues.com) **Note-** For more information and/or tickets to June 10 fundraiser and June 11 theatrical production, visit [www.tinnerhill.org](http://www.tinnerhill.org). *Article by Mary Knieser*



15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
WESTERN  
MARYLAND

# BLUES FEST

JUNE 3-6  
2010

Hagerstown, MD



## FEATURING

- THE TOMMY CASTRO BAND • BERNARD ALLISON
- TROMBONE SHORTY & ORLEANS AVENUE
- PHIL WIGGINS & COREY HARRIS • MICHAEL BURKS
- ERIC LINDELL • KENNY NEAL • EDEN BRENT
- JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR • HAMILTON LOOMIS
- THE MIKE WESTCOTT BAND
- THE ERIC BYRD TRIO WITH THE BROTHER RAY BAND
- "BIG DADDY" STALLINGS & THE BLUEZ EVOLUTION BAND
- FLAT-FOOT SAM & THE EDUCATED FOOLS
- THE TONEHOUNDS • MOONDOG MEDICINE SHOW
- THE HARD SWIMMIN' FISH

\*Listed artist roster is subject to change

Supported in part by: City of Hagerstown, Maryland State Arts Council and Washington County Arts Council.

For advance tickets call 301-791-3246 or visit [www.blues-fest.org](http://www.blues-fest.org). For more information call 301-739-8577, ext. 116.



BLUES REVUE

BLUES-FEST.org

## Tinner Hill Blues Festival- Continued Some of the Saturday Performers

The Tinner Hill Blues Festival ad and article on p 4 of the CBM highlights the different activities that are scheduled for this 4-day event in Falls Church, VA. Here's some teaser information on some of the Saturday, June 12 panel discussion participants and the free concert performers.



**Pura Fé** is a founding member of the a cappella group Ulali and this vocalist, singer, actress and activist, helped bring the contemporary music of Native Americans to the world. Her solo career has taken her to concert stages around the world where "...her soulful voice and acoustic lap steel slide guitar, carries the ancestral message of the 'Indigenous World' and the missing history that unified and separated the blood ties of Black and Indian people of the South. With a fresh new

take, PuraFé resurrects and elegantly states the common bond and the indigenous influence on the 'birth of the Blues.'" - Music Maker Relief Foundation). Benjamin Bratt (actor and supporter of Native American causes) said of her "Like all truly great singers, PuraFé has the power to move you. With a potent mix of Native influences and good old fashioned blues, her voice is 'soul' itself...." Information: [www.purafe.com](http://www.purafe.com)

**Murray Porter**, keyboardist, singer and songwriter, was raised on Six Nations Reserve and resides in Vancouver, BC. The Pappa Johns Band with Murray Porter won Best Blues Album at the 2004 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards for their CD *Full Circle* and were 2005 JUNO Award nominees for Aboriginal Recording of the Year. As a solo performer he has received many music nominations and awards including the 1999 CAMA award for Best Songwriter; a 2003 International Songwriting Competition finalist and nominated for 2005 Songwriter of the Year by the Maple Blues Awards, Canada's national blues awards. [www.myspace.com/murrayportermusic](http://www.myspace.com/murrayportermusic)

**Phil Wiggins & Corey Harris** are no strangers to area blues fans. Phil's unique harmonica style makes him one of the leading harp players in the world. He is also a gifted writer and his songs helped define the duo known as Cephas & Wiggins. Now he has teamed with guitarist/vocalist Corey Harris, who, in addition to Piedmont Blues, has also delved into Delta Blues, reggae, R&B and African music. Harris was the recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship "Genius Award" in 2007, a \$500,000 unrestricted fellowship given to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction. Wiggins' and Harris's combination of talent and experience make each performance unique and are true ambassadors of the Blues throughout the world. [www.piedmonttalent.com](http://www.piedmonttalent.com)

**Lee Gates** is known as a powerhouse guitar slinger. This first cousin to Albert Collins was born in Pontotoc County, MS and moved to Milwaukee as a young man. He worked in the steel mills by day and at night, the house band of a local club. And, although he did not cut his first album until 2003, his years of work paid off and he is the acclaimed foremost guitarist of that city and his talent has taken him to music venues throughout the US. Music critic Lou Novacheck said of Lee recently: "Lee Gates has Mississippi Mud running through his veins." [www.myspace.com/leegates](http://www.myspace.com/leegates) Article by Mary Knieser

## Artists on the CBM Cover - A Sample of the Talent You Can See at Festivals This Month

**Bernard Allison** is one of a terrific lineup that blues fans can see at the June 3-6 Western Maryland Blues Festival in Hagerstown, MD (ad on p 9). His bio on his website ([www.bernardallison.com](http://www.bernardallison.com)) says Bernard "totes the same smokin' six string shooter that his late father Luther Allison assaulted the blues with. And he is blessed with his father's

soulful voice, spiritual devotion, and a musical freedom which experiments with the blues.... As a true "son of the blues," Bernard possesses the requisite guitar feel and vocal intonations necessary to push his blues into the next century. He knows the energy level necessary to hold audiences and combines enough showmanship and spontaneity to push the performance in fresh, innovative directions.... "In order for anything to expand, you have to take a risk," says Bernard. "Blues is about experimenting and getting your feelings across to someone else. And if you want to keep it going, people are going to have to give it all a chance because we're losing all our creators...."

**Pura Fé** — see article at left on this performer who will be gracing the June 10-13 Tinner Hill Blues Festival in Falls Church, VA.

**Big Bill Morganfield** is one of the artists who will be performing at the June 13 Billtown Blues Festival in Hughesville, PA (ad on p 8). Big Bill Morganfield is the son of McKinley Morganfield, who is better known as Muddy Waters, one of the most influential musicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Big Bill began his own music career in his adult years, after he had already obtained bachelor's degrees in English from Tuskegee University and Communications from Auburn University. In fact, it was several years after the death of his father in 1983 (when Bill was 27), that Big Bill decided to explore his musical heritage, bought himself a guitar, and started playing and teaching himself. Years later, Big Bill's music shows that he carries Muddy's spirit and love for the blues, and he says he feels a spiritual bond with his father when he's on stage. In 1999, his debut album, *Rising Son*, was produced by Muddy's long time guitarist, Bob Margolin, who also played on the record, along with three other former members of the Muddy Waters Blues Band. The album was well received, and Bill went on to receive the W.C. Handy Award for "Best New Blues Artist," the equivalent of a Grammy Award in the blues world. Big Bill's subsequent albums included *Ramblin' Mind* and *Blues in the Blood*, which also showcased Big Bill's talent as a songwriter. [www.blindpigrecords.com](http://www.blindpigrecords.com)

**Anders Osborne** will be at the June 19 Blues House Festival in Winchester, VA (ad on p 10). Blues fans at the May 22-23 Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival also had the opportunity to see him perform there. [Jambase.com](http://Jambase.com) provides this interesting summary of his talent: "Oftentimes the most true portraits of America have been rendered by those who have come from outside its borders, yet somehow seem to understand and inhabit our culture more than those of us who have lived here all our lives. Consider the Band, which 30 years ago became the archetypal American outfit despite being four-fifths Canadian. Swedish native (and current New Orleans resident) Anders Osborne is that sort of artist as well. He's worked his magic for other performers, writing "I Was Wrong" and "A Better Man" both Grammy-winning songs from Keb' Mo's album *Slow Down*. Osborne combines classic American musical forms such as blues, rock and roll, and Crescent City funk to create a sound that acknowledges no borders as they're usually understood, but defines its own space in the world and demands to be heard."

**Bobby Parker** will be at the Tinner Hill Blues Festival on June 10, with Chuck Brown and Nadine Rae, and the Safeway/National Capital BBQ Battle on June 27 (ad on p 7), performing right before Cyril Neville. Bobby is no stranger to the DC area, and you can see this veteran performer and blues guitar legend at numerous venues in DC and surrounding areas. Some of his recent performances were at the May 22 Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival, the May 26 Congressional Blues Festival, the April 11 DCBS-sponsored Nadine Rae Benefit, and he was the surprise guest at the April 23 Joe Bonamassa concert at Lisner Auditorium. Bobby's new website ([www.bobbyparkerblues.com](http://www.bobbyparkerblues.com)) has great videos and photos - check it out! Bobby Parker's seminal late 50's—early 60's singles "Watch Your Step", "Blues Get Off My Shoulder" and "Steal Your Heart Away" influenced a host of rock legends. He was lead guitarist with the late Bo Diddley; a member of the bands of Chuck Berry, Little Richard and Fats Domino in the 1950's. John Lennon once said of him; "The best stuff I ever heard is by a bloke called Bobby Parker."

TAKE METROBUS OR METRORAIL TO:



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**BARBECUE BATTLE XVIII**

★ A CELEBRATION FOR THE NATION! ★

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY JUNE 26 & 27, 2010**

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW (Between 9th & 14th Streets)

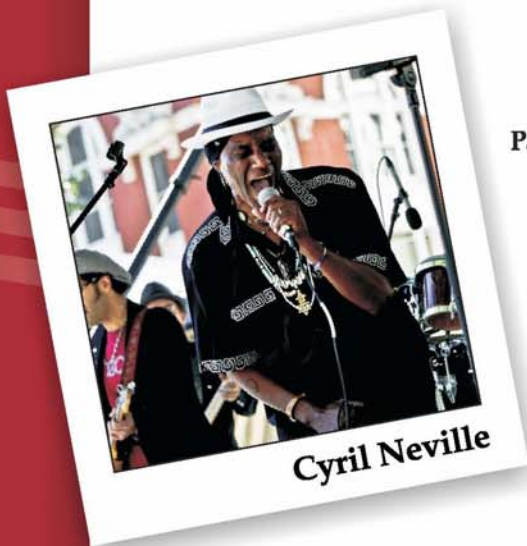
Sat. 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. • Sun. 11:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**30 BANDS ON  
3 STAGES!**

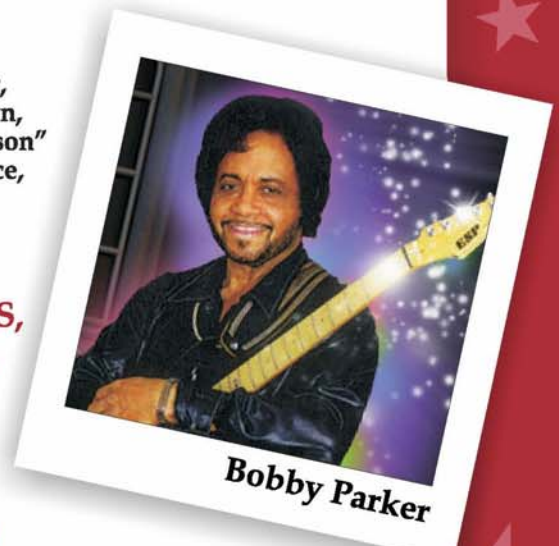
Cyril Neville, Bobby Parker,  
Mother's Finest, Chuck Brown,  
Parrot Beach, "Mousey Thompson"  
& the James Brown Experience,  
Chopteeth, Higher Hands  
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## 31st Blues Music Awards Announced



Photo by Patrick Kennedy, Reno Blues Society

The Blues Foundation announced the 31st Annual Blues Music Awards in May. Congratulations to the many winners.

Tommy Castro (photo at left) received four awards: **B.B. King Entertainer, Band of the Year, Contemporary Blues Album (Hard Believer), and Contemporary Blues Male Artist.**

Other awardees included: **Album of the Year - Between a Rock and the Blues** Joe Louis Walker

**Acoustic Album - You Got to Move** David

Maxwell & Louisiana Red; **Acoustic Artist - Louisiana Red**

**Best New Artist Debut - Tiger in Your Tank** Monkey Junk

**Contemporary Blues Female Artist - Ruthie Foster**

**DVD - Delmark Records - It Ain't Over! Delmark Celebrates 55 Years of Blues, Live at Buddy Guy's Legends**

**Historical Album - Chess - Authorized Bootleg -Muddy Waters Live**

**Pinetop Perkins Piano Player - Eden Brent**

**Rock Blues Album - Already Free** Derek Trucks Band

**Song of the Year - "Pearl River"** Cyril Neville & Mike Zito

**Soul Blues Album - Ace of Spades - Johnny Rawls, Soul Blues Female**

**Artist - Irma Thomas, Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year - Curtis Salgado**

**Traditional Blues Album - Chikadelic Super Chikan, Traditional Blues**

**Female Artist - Debbie Davies, Traditional Blues Male Artist - Duke Robillard**

Awards in instrument categories included: **Bass - Bob Stroger, Drums - Cedric Burnside, Guitar - Derek Trucks, Harmonica - Jason Ricci, Horn - Deanna Bogart, and Instrumentalist-Other - Buckwheat Zydeco (accordion)**

## 2009 International Songwriting Competition Awards

The International Songwriting Competition (ISC) recently announced its 2009 awards. The Blues winners include Suzie Vinnick and Dan Ker-shaw (Toronto, ON, Canada) for their song "Sometimes I Think I Can Fly" (First Place); Jason Ferguson (Omaha, NE, USA) for his song "Time Is Now" (Second Place); and Darren Watson (Wellington, New Zealand) for his song "Can't Get Enough Of You" (Third Place). The ISC website has photos and song links for each of the winners so you can easily listen to the songs that won these awards. Check them out!

<http://www.songwritingcompetition.com/winners.htm>

The winners were chosen by a panel of celebrity and industry judges. More than \$150,000 in cash and prizes is shared among the 65 winners. Entry deadline for 2010 awards is October 6, 2010.

## RIP Roy Carrier 1947 – 2010

Roy Carrier, aka Zydeco Roy, died of a heart attack on May 3. He was the last of the Zydeco players who evolved in the 50's and 60's and helped put Louisiana's sexy blend of Cajun and LaLa music on the American roots map. Roy was one of 9 children born to a sharecropping family with a definite musical bent. At the age of 10, Roy began playing the live music circuit with his father, an accordion player. Roy later formed his own band, the Night Rockers, playing guitar and then the accordion, despite having lost most of his right index finger in a well-pulley accident. For 16 years, Roy worked as an offshore driller, while playing his music, and buying and establishing a neighborhood roadhouse that became "the place" for Zydeco musicians to convene, learn, jam, and develop this wonderful genre of music. In 1989, Roy began focusing on his music full time. His website asserts that his music "never veered far away from a blues-based style of Zydeco's origins." One testimony on Roy's website aptly describes his music as follows: "Roy Carrier and the Night Rockers are the asskickingest Zydeco band on the planet, guaranteed to make you lose your mind and your composure out on that dance floor." *Andy "Blue Boys" Grigg, Owner/Publisher 'Real Blues Magazine'*

## RIP Lena Horne 1917 – 2010

Lena Horne died on May 9 at the age of 92. This legendary performer, adored by audiences all over the world, was known for her sultry blues ballads and fiery jazz classics, and especially her signature song, "Stormy Weather." The great-granddaughter of a freed slave, Lena entered show business at age 16 as a member of the chorus line at New York's famous Cotton Club. As a teenager, she also toured with an orchestra led by jazz bandleader Noble Sissle. The racial discrimination she encountered as her musical and acting career evolved led to her work in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s. Although blues and jazz were her specialty, Lena Horne's husky, contralto voice was equally at home with a variety of styles "She was, and still is, a pioneer for women, and especially for black women," said Dionne Warwick when Lena received the Kennedy Center Honors Award in 1984 for her achievements in the performing arts. "She has kept alive her inner fires, cast them into song, and warmed us all." Lena Horne received the Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1989.



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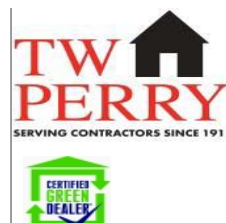
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<i>June</i>		<i>June Blues Calendar cont.</i>	
3	<b>Western Maryland Blues Festival</b> @ Downtown Hagerstown; Nighthawks @ Rockville Town Square; Mike Westcott Band @ University Park Plaza; BG & Mojo Hands @ Rosslyn Lunchtime Concert Series	26	<b>Safeway/National Capital Barbecue Battle XVIII</b> @ Pennsylvania Ave, NW; <b>Ernie Hawkins</b> @ Archie's Barbershop; Fabulous Thunderbirds @ Rams Head; Nighthawks @ Swingin' Wine Fest, Linganore Winecellars; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Scott's II; Bobby Lews Band @ Dogfish Head Alehouse, Gaithersburg; Andra Faye & Mighty Good Men @ Eastern Market; Bobby Parker @ Madam's Organ; Big Boy Little Band @ Delta Blues
4	<b>Western Maryland Blues Festival</b> @ Downtown Hagerstown; Rudy & The Bluefish All Star Jam @ Hampen Hill BBQ Hagerstown; Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Next Door Ellen, Stacy Brooks Band @ Bangkok Blues	27	<b>Safeway/National Capital Barbecue Battle XVIII</b> @ Pennsylvania Ave, NW; <b>BBS June Picnic w/Duke Robillard, BBS Band Contest</b> @ Rosedale American Legion; Nighthawks @ Swingin' Wine Fest, Linganore Winecellars
5	<b>Western Maryland Blues Festival</b> @ Downtown Hagerstown; <b>30<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington Folk Festival</b> @ Glen Echo; Rudy & The Bluefish All Star Jam @ Hampen Hill BBQ, Hagerstown; Hokum Jazz @ Glover Park Day; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Falls Church Music and Art in the Park; Chris Polk @ Madam's Organ	28	Daryl Davis Band @ Westminster Presbyterian Church
6	<b>DCBS Jam</b> @ Silver Spring American Legion; <b>Western Maryland Blues Festival</b> @ Downtown Hagerstown; <b>30<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington Folk Festival</b> @ Glen Echo; Mem Shannon @ Madam's Organ; Big Daddy Stallings @ Chesapeake Bay Wine Festival; Janine Wilson Band @ Herndon Festival	<b>Early July</b>	
7	Tom Newman Band @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	2	BG & Mojo Hands @ King's Contrivance Village Center; BG & Mojo Hands @ Branded 72
10	<b>Tinner Hill Blues Festival</b> @ Various Falls Church Venues; Nighthawks @ Veterans Park; Seth Walker @ Iota Club	3	Bobby Lewis Band @ Hershey's
11	<b>Tinner Hill Blues Festival</b> @ Various Falls Church Venues; Lisa Lim & Over the Limit @ Delta Blues; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Grist Mill Park; Johnny Artis @ Madam's Organ	4	<b>No DCBS 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Jam - July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday</b>
12	<b>Tinner Hill Blues Festival</b> @ Various Falls Church Venues; <b>Steve James</b> @ Archie's Barbershop; Hot Rods & Old Gas @ Cryer's; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Lion & Bull; Janine Wilson Band @ PG Pool, Mt. Rainier; Nicole Hart @ Madam's Organ	5	Stacy Brooks Band @ Westminster Presbyterian Church
13	<b>Tinner Hill Blues Festival</b> @ Various Falls Church Venues; <b>21<sup>st</sup> Billtown Blues Festival</b> @ Hughesville, PA; Louisiana Swamp Romp @ Wolf Trap; Cathy Ponton King @ Takoma Park Jazz Festival; Gina DeSimone & Moaners @ Eastern Market	<b>Regular Blues Events</b>	
14	David Cole Blues Band @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>DCBS Jam</b> @ Silver Spring American Legion (1st Sunday); Paulverizers Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Z Revue Blues Jam @ JVs (1st Sunday); Nancy Katz & Stray Dogz Jam @ Old Fire Station No. 3; Blues in the Attic Jam @ Blondie's Rouzerdome, PA
18	Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Velocity 5; Victor Wainwright & WildRoots @ Madam's Organ	<b>Monday</b>	Wolf's & Matt Kelly's Blues Jam @ JVs (2nd Monday)
19	<b>Columbia Pike Blues Fest</b> @ South Arlington; <b>11<sup>th</sup> Annual Blues House Festival</b> @ Winchester, VA; Esther Haynes & Keith Grimes @ Old Town Kensington; Hot Rods & Old Gas @ Bare Bones Grill; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Woodbridge Elks Lodge; Bobby Lewis Band @ Washington Grove Music Weekend; Nighthawks @ C&C Cycle Open House; BBQ Bob & Spareribs @ Madam's Organ	<b>Tuesday</b>	Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ (alternating Tuesdays)
20	<b>Country Blues Guitar Workshop w/ Mary Flower</b> @ Archie's Barbershop; Sears Trio @ Eastern Market; Buckwheat Zydeco @ Rams Head; Nighthawks @ Nick's Fish House	<b>Wednesday</b>	Wolf's Blues Jam @ Beach Cove; Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille
21	Reggie Wayne Morris Band @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>DCBS Thursday Jam/Open Mic w/Sol</b> @ LA Bar & Grill; Patrick Alban or Johnny Artis @ Madam's Organ; Open Mic w/Fast Eddie @ Spanky's Shenanihgans; Blues Jam @ Eastport Democratic club; Big Boy Little Band Jam @ Zoo Bar; Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo
22	Lisa Lim & Over the Limit @ JVs	<b>Friday</b>	Glen Moomau & Blue Flames @ Bertha's; Wolf's Blues Jam @ Fat Boys (3rd Friday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Café; Brian Gross Trio @ Café Ole; Hot Rods & Old Gas @ Zoo Bar (1st Friday); The CobraFish Blues Jam @ Zodiac Bar & Grill, Hagerstown, MD (2nd Friday)
23	Cathy Ponton King @ Lake Kittamaqundi	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Acoustic Blues Jam</b> @ Archie's Barbershop; Big Boy Little @ Zoo Bar (1st Saturday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe; Brian Gross & Steve Levine @ Sala Thai, Bethesda (2nd Saturday)
25	Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Delta Blues; Bobby Lewis Band @ Air Race Classic Terminus; Janine Wilson Band @ Gaithersburg City Hall Pavillion; Skyla Burrell @ Madam's Organ	<p><b>Attention dancers:</b> 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: <a href="mailto:hc1829@aol.com">hc1829@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>Bolded</b> items are picks by calendar editor, Steve Levine, and include DCBS and BBS events. Send listings to <a href="mailto:calendar@dcblues.org">calendar@dcblues.org</a> or mail to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd., College Park, MD 20740. <b>Musicians: Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.</b> 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: <a href="http://www.dcblues.org">www.dcblues.org</a>.</p>	

**Happy Belated 40th Birthday (May 19) to Steve Levine, DCBS Calendar Editor**

## Watermelon Slim Tears Down the House

Watermelon Slim gave a tutorial on the blues at the Old Bowie Town Grille, in Bowie, MD, on May 19. It was just his slide guitar, harp, and coyote's howl of a voice against the world. And he tore down the house.



There were no socially conscious lyrics about the homeless, no carefully paced guitar solo, harp solo, vocal. Watermelon Slim is worn - - his hair, his teeth (or lack of), and his weathered face. He complains openly about his amp and carps about driving 1000 miles back home.

Watermelon Slim is not of this era. Thank goodness. He doesn't hide his love for the blues and for performing behind a veneer of irony and studied professionalism. He really feels it, and you feel it too.

Slim has drive and spirit and more energy than guys half his age. He puts it into every song, scratching out the lyrics, punching the air to accentuate the lines, straining the slide on his guitar to drag out that high note. He lays out a dozen harps, slides, chatchkes and shaman's tools next to his upside-down, left-handed slide guitar.

Slim's solo set was a mix of his own songs and blues classics from the likes of Mississippi Fred McDowell, Sunny Boy Williamson, and Howlin' Wolf. He brought new life to "Angel from Montgomery," the John Prine song that Bonnie Raitt made a hit. He mixed 60 years of disappointment with a lifetime of hope as he sought 'one thing I can hold onto,' knowing he was never going to get it.



That rawness was countered with a sense of playfulness. Slim gets the crowd to sing along with "Traveling Man" by Ricky Nelson and jokes about aging and "half-timers' disease." Between songs the Viet Nam vet and long-haul trucker cracks wise on semis with no pop, blues music, dead heroes, and the daughter of an Iowa mechanic

Thanks to the Old Bowie Town Grille for bringing Watermelon Slim to town. It's a friendly roadhouse restaurant with great burgers, hard-working waitresses, drinks well poured, and a love for roots music. Check it out. [www.oldbowietowngrille.com](http://www.oldbowietowngrille.com)

Article and photos by Burney Simpson

## The Annual DC Blues Festival is Coming Corporate Sponsors are Needed.

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 Photo: Glenn Thompson

**Festival Information: [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)**

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**Visit the DCBS Booth at These June Events**

- 🎵 Saturday and Sunday, June 5-6 at the Western Maryland Blues Festival Hagerstown, MD -- Festival is June 3-6
- 🎵 Saturday, June 12 at the Tinner Hills Blues Festival, Falls Church, VA -- Festival is June 10-13
- 🎵 Saturday, June 19 at the Columbia Pike Blues Festival, South Arlington, VA
- 🎵 Saturday, June 19 at the 11th Annual Blues House Fest, Wilmington, VA
- 🎵 Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27, Safeway/National Capital BBQ, Washington, DC

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**Briggs Farm Blues Festival**

DCBS Members can enter to win tickets to the July 9-10 Briggs Farm Blues Festival, held in Nescopeck, PA. Send the following information to [contest@dcblues.org](mailto:contest@dcblues.org) by mid-June:

1. Which day: Friday, Saturday, or both
2. Single ticket or pair of tickets
3. Your name, email, and phone number
4. How long you've been a DCBS Member (\*optional)

What people are saying about the Briggs Farm Blues Festival  
*This festival is for blues fans who want the real thing! I had a great time and can't wait to return next year!* See ad at right and visit the Briggs Farm website [www.briggsfarm.com](http://www.briggsfarm.com). Advance tickets are \$20 (one day) or \$35 (two day). Children 12 and under are free. Camping tickets:\$70

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## Silver Spring Blues Festival “Rocked”!

DCBS was pleased to have a role in ensuring a successful 2nd Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival on May 22. The skies remained clear for most of the festival, and even when some rain decided to fall, the crowd didn't disperse.



If you haven't viewed the photos on the DCBS website, please check them out now! The lineup of local talent was outstanding. Choo Choo Charlie Williams and Baltimore Red Jones opened the show, followed by Johnny Graves, the Andy Poxon Band, the Daryl Davis Band with Ida Campbell, and a young boogie woogie piano player/protégée (photo at left) performed a song as Daryl proudly looked on. Mary Shaver and the Smokin' Polecats with Pete Ragusa, and then the Nighthawks, capped off the Festival. *Photos by Ron Weinstock*

## Delta Blues Juke Joint's Memorial Day Weekend Backyard Blues & Crab Festival

The Delta Blues Juke Joint & Diner in Waldorf, MD hosted a 2-day backyard blues festival on Memorial Day weekend, with a lineup of blues bands each day and a menu of finger-lickin' good food plus vendors and children's activities. This new establishment is committed to promoting the blues and is our newest business offering discounts to DCBS members. See the new Delta Blues entry on p 11, our Discount page. *Photo of Matt Kelley and Wolf Crescenze, Big Boy Little Band by Ron Weinstock*



## Annual Battle of the Bands

**October 9**

**Entry Deadline — August 13**

The annual Battle of the Bands has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 9. The winning band will represent the DC Blues Society at the 27th Annual International Blues Challenge (IBC) which will be held from February 1 – 5, 2011, in Memphis, TN. The winner will also perform at the 2nd Annual College Park Blues Festival on November 6, 2010, and at the 23rd Annual DC Blues Festival in September 2011.

The deadline for entering the 2010 Battle of the Bands is August 13. Because the DCBS winner will compete at the IBC in Memphis, certain rules and restrictions apply. Competition information, rules, and the entry form are posted on the DCBS website: [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org). Additional information about the IBC is available on The Blues Foundation website: [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org).

In addition to sending a band to the IBC, DCBS will also sponsor a solo/duo IBC entrant, based on a separate entry process. Again, please visit [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) for more information.



Photo of 2009 Battle of Band winners Big Boy Little Band (BBLB), with DCBS President, Felix McClaire (middle).

**BBLB will perform at the September 4 DC Blues Festival**

*Photo by Mary Knieser*

**Attention bands**

**Send your July & August gigs to [calendar@dcblues.org](mailto:calendar@dcblues.org) by June 15**



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