

Capital Blues Messenger

Celebrating the Blues in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia
July 2012 Volume 6 Issue 7



DCBS & Lamont's Presents Memphis Blues Blowout Saturday, July 21

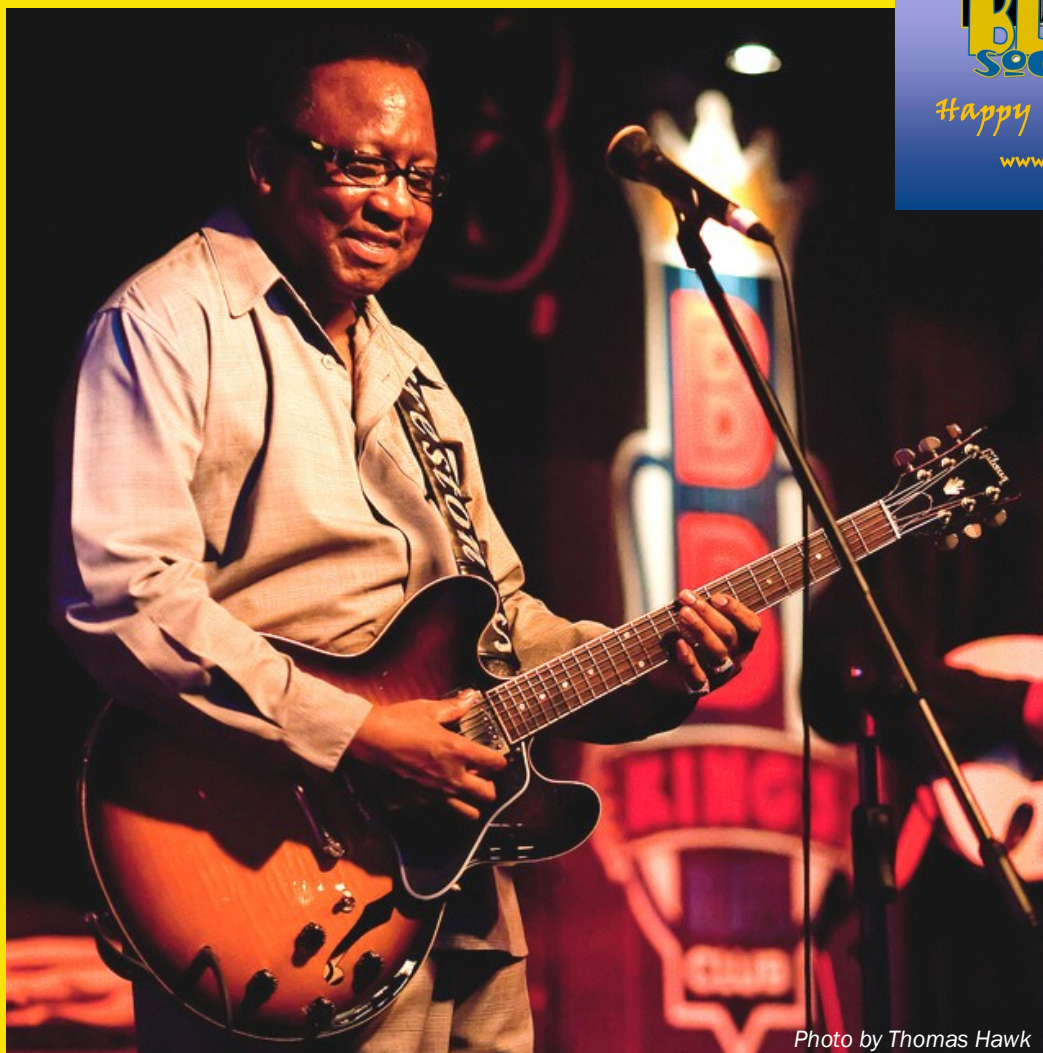


Photo by Thomas Hawk

*DC Blues Society
~ Celebrating the Blues for 25 Years ~*



Happy Anniversary

WWW.DCBLUES.ORG

**DCBS Hotter Than July
Fish Fry 'n' Blues
Saturday, July 14**

**Inside
DCBS July Events
Aug. 3 Zac Harmon Show
and more Blues News &
Reviews**

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, photos, and ideas for articles, reviews, cartoons and photography. Please submit material via e-mail to: newsletter@dcblues.org.

Blues listings for bands should be sent to calendar@dcblues.org.

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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Become a DCBS member!

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 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, or
- 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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Cover Photo of Preston Shannon: By Thomas Hawk, a professional photographer who sometimes likes to think of himself as a "photography factory." Learn more about Thomas on <http://thomashawk.com/>.

Unless noted, photos & articles were contributed by DCBS Board Members and Newsletter Editor. Printer: Quick Printing Inc. Wheaton, MD www.quickprintinginc.com
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Corporate DCBS Memberships

DCBS offers a Corporate membership option that provides small and large businesses the opportunity to advertise through DCBS while supporting DCBS programs.

For only **\$200 per year**, businesses receive the same benefits of individual DCBS members (see above) PLUS 6 postings of any combination of 1/4 page ads in the DCBS monthly newsletter and/or web icons 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. **This is a \$240-\$280 value, for only \$200.**

To get more information, or to establish corporate membership, visit:
www.dcblues.org/memb/mbr_join.php.

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

President's Drum

25 Years Kickin' It!

I'm on a volunteer kick. I'll get to that in a sec'. DCBS was officially born on June 17, 1987. For many legacy Bluesmen (and Blues songs), actual or verifiable "dates of birth" are often hard to come by. Not so with the DC Blues Society. We use official documents that declare the organization a corporation on a given date. In this case, that's June 17.

We are thrilled to have served the Blues-loving fans in the DMV for all this time! And we look forward to another 25 years. The Blues ain't going nowhere. In fact, I predict a severe outbreak of Blues in the next 10-15 years if we, our politicians, and corporate titans stay on track. [I digress.]

Yeah, DCBS keeps kickin' it fueled by the time and dedication of volunteers. Think about it. Corporations that pay folks to work don't stay around this long consistently fulfilling the mission for which they were born! The difference is that for volunteers, it's a love thang. And love trumps a lot of stuff...

And on that note, instead of my typical volunteer beg, I have a "Thank You" message.

I want to welcome Chris DeProperty to the ranks of indispensable DCBS volunteers. You heard me pleading for Mona's replacement for months now. Chris recently answered that plea and has assumed responsibilities assisting with membership, and producing and e-mailing DCBS updates, announcements, newsletters and more. This isn't the first time Chris has volunteered with us. We're happy to have her back. You *should* know Chris from her hosting the 'Bama Hour on WPFW 89.3 FM, Saturdays 11 am - 12 pm. Chris is one of the best music pickers in the biz. Check her out.

This 25th year will be marked by a number of special events paying homage to founding members, many of them musicians in the acoustic or solo/duo Blues tradition. We'll also host forums, acoustic performances and surprises. Stay tuned.

Kickin' It in July

We kick off July (Sunday the 1st) with the **FREE monthly open mic Blues Jam** at the Silver Spring American Legion, starting at 4 pm. The crowds are growing for the Jam, making DCBS and the Legion's bartenders happy. More folks want to play and more folks are coming to listen. If you haven't been in a while, come back. You can check Groupon and *The Washington Post* Going Out Guide and all the rest of the entertainment guides. You won't find this much fun for free.

Next up is the **Annual Hotter Than July Fish Fry 'n Blues show**. That's on July 14 at the Silver Spring American Legion. (Details on p. 6-7) There's just something about fish and Blues. How else would someone write: *I wish I was a catfish...* Be a part of the experience.

That ain't all we are kickin' up in July. I told you about Lamont's Entertainment Complex in the last *CBM* issue. So, I'll just say come to the **Memphis Blues Blowout featuring Preston Shannon and Daddy Mack** at Lamont's on Saturday, July 21. Gates open at 12 pm, showtime is 1 pm. If you want some authentic Blues & Soul in a down-home setting, take that ride to the country. Someone said I wasn't clear on one point in my last *CBM* message: You can bring coolers. They may contain your beverage of choice. *That means alcohol, too.* I hope that's clear enough. You should bring lawn chairs or blankets. You can even bring your grills. Come on, folks! *Five bands* at these prices! (Plus a bonus special associated with the DC Blues Society Band. Clarence Turner will be standing in on bass. Clarence brings his nimble fingers to the bottom for those who like their rhythm with a bounce.) See information at the right and on p. 4. Show DCBS some love and fill up Lamont's.

And on the heels of all that July excitement, **Zac Harmon** kicks off August with an appearance on Friday, August 3, at the Wheaton American Legion. Zac has come a long way since we first did shows with him in VA and at the Surf Club on the same weekend in 2005, introducing him to an East Coast audience. He's since headlined one of our annual DC Blues Festivals, toured all over the world, won a number of prestigious awards, and served on the Blues Foundation's Board of

Directors. This is a great chance to see Zac up close in an informal nightclub setting and enjoy this gifted songwriter, singer, and killer guitarist. See p. 8 for more information on Zac, and come and write your own review!

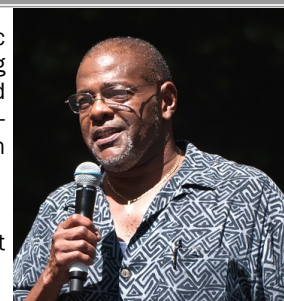
Kickin' & Beggin'

Or is that beggin' and kickin'? Guess it depends on the context...

Back to my volunteers kick *and* the beg. We need you for the Fish Fry and the Memphis Blues Blowout. All you have to do is send me an email (president@dcblues.org), or visit the DCBS website (www.dcblues.org) for more details and to sign up.

I'm not ashamed of begging, it's the nature of most 501(c)3 organizations. I'm just representin'. We're always begging for donations of time and money. I've been talking about time donations, but I want to thank a donor who recently gave DCBS \$250 in "symmetry" with our 25th Anniversary (yes, that's \$10 for each of our 25 years) and thanking us for what we do. That's very encouraging and heartwarming. I'll let him remain anonymous, but I call him one of DCBS biggest fans, supporting our events and fundraising efforts at every turn. I encourage those of you with the wherewithal, to follow this member's lead. Symmetry is symmetry though... A \$25 donation makes us smile, too.

Blues Always,



Felix McClairen
by Ron Weinstock

DC BLUES SOCIETY & LAMONT'S
PRESENT

Memphis Blues Blowout

Featuring

Preston Shannon



*Reigning King of
Beale Street*

Daddy Mack



*Master of Down-Home
Funky Blues*

Jim Bennett, Lady Mary & The Unique Creation Band
Dr. S.O. Feelgood Band & Show
DCBS Band featuring Ayaba Bey
~~ After-Party inside club right after festival ~~

SATURDAY July 21, 2012

Gates open: 12 Noon ~ Showtime: 1 PM

Lamont's Entertainment Complex

4400 Livingston Road Pomonkey, MD 20640

Just 17 miles from the DC Beltway @Exit 3 - MD 210 S - Indian Head Hwy



Advance Tickets: Member \$18 | Non-Member \$20
Day of Show: \$25

Information/Tickets: www.dcblues.org
or call 301-322-4808

Photos: Ron Weinstock (Shannon) | www.myspace.com/thedaddymackbluesband

DCBS & Lamont's Present a Memphis Blues Blowout/Must-See Event

On Saturday, July 21, the DC Blues Society and Lamont's Entertainment Complex are proudly presenting a Memphis Blues Blowout festival, featuring two dynamite performers who are true-blue Memphis Bluesmen, plus three local bands/performers that have some pretty deep roots of their own and are guaranteed to warm up the audience and have you asking for more! So pack your coolers and your lawn chairs (yes, you can bring both, and your cooler can be packed with your favorite alcoholic or non-alcoholic brew, and food). It's going to be a party so come prepared to stay the day, and maybe even into the night for the indoor After-Party! Festival will happen rain or shine.

Where: Lamont's Entertainment Complex, 4400 Livingston Road, Pomonkey, MD.

Driving Directions: From the DC Beltway/I-495, take Exit 3 onto MD-210 South, Indian Head Highway; continue about 14.3 miles and make slight left onto MD-227/ Marshall Hall Rd.; after 1.3 miles, stay straight on MD-224; and after another 1.3 miles, Lamont's will be on the left.

Tickets: Advance: DCBS Members \$18, Non-Members \$20. Door: \$25
Information and Ticket Sales: www.dclubes.org or call 301-322-1808

Showtime: 1:00 pm, gates open at noon.

- 1:00 pm DC Blues Society Band with Ayaba Bey
- 2:00 pm Dr. S.O. Feelgood
- 3:30 pm Jim Bennett, Lady Mary, & Unique Creation Band
- 5:00 pm Daddy Mack Blues Band
- 6:30 pm Preston Shannon

Preston Shannon & the Preston Shannon Band - Memphis-based guitarist, singer, and songwriter Preston Shannon is well known as one of the finest contemporary Bluesmen in the U.S. He delivers deep, soul-filled vocals, atop his burning, venom-tipped guitar chords - a blend of Southern-fried soul and blues; danceable, grooving tunes; and slow, soulful ballads. Shannon was a member of a popular '70s bar band Amnesty and played in several other Memphis-area bands before he decided to play music full-time and landed a spot in soul-blues belter Shirley Brown's band. In 1991, he formed his own band and began playing the clubs on Beale Street and other places. In 1994, his first widely distributed recording, *Break the Ice*, was issued, followed by *Midnight in Memphis* (1996), and *All in Time* (1999). His fourth album, *Be With Me Tonight*, was released in 2006.

www.prestonshannon.com

Daddy Mack Blues Band - Since 1998, The Daddy Mack Blues Band has been the house band at the Center For Southern Folklore on Beale Street in Memphis, and thousands of tourists have experienced Daddy Mack's natural and soulful musical blend. Daddy Mack has played all over, from BBQ dives in Mississippi to halls in Paris. He's known for his Albert King-like biting vocals, funky guitar licks, and his uncompromising notion of real Blues. Daddy Mack has recorded five CDs and was the subject of a 2008 one-hour documentary *Plain Man Blues - Daddy Mack Orr's Inspiring Story of Struggle and Triumph*.

www.myspace.com/thedaddymackbluesband,
www.herschelfreemanagency.com/daddy_mack

Jim Bennett, Lady Mary, & Unique Creation Band - Jim Bennett grew up in the town of Pomfret, MD, and has been playing music and entertaining for the last 45 years. He formed/managed the Family Reunion Band and then, as his career developed, began backing up such notable performers as Sonny Till and the Orioles, The Manhattans, Roy C, Millie Jackson, Lee Fields, Clarence Carter, and others. Bennett and Lady Mary were part of Hardway Connection before doing their own record as a duet in 1999 called "Still Lovin'." Since then he's released a steady stream of Southern Soul albums with Lady Mary or solo. At age 18, Lady Mary decided singing was her calling. She auditioned for Jim Bennett & Unique Creation Band, and 22 years later they are still producing great music together. She is regarded as a shining star in her native Washington DC, and all over the Southern Soul Circuit. Bennett and Lady Mary have regular appearances at several local and not-so-local venues, and Lady Mary has performed as a headliner as well as an opening act for many notable artists.



www.soulbluesmusic.com/jimbennett and
www.ladymaryindahouse.com

Dr. S.O. Feelgood - Drummer and vocalist Dr. S.O. Feelgood has been in the music business for over 49 years, and he's taken his Feelgood Band and Show to local clubs as well as to Chicago and up and down the East Coast. Dr. Feelgood is also a long-standing and active member of the DC Blues Society, a frequent emcee and performer for DCBS events, and he has organized the *Annual DC Blues Festival* workshops for the past 16 years. In addition, Dr. Feelgood is an accomplished poet, songwriter, and author of children's stories.



DC Blues Society Band with Ayaba Bey - The DC Blues Society Band is a rhythm band that plays at many DCBS jams and other events, and also backs and features local artists, such as Ayaba Bey. Dr. Bey is indeed a "griot" (a storyteller, also musician-entertainers from West

Africa whose performances include tribal histories). She has traveled to Guyana, Brazil, the Caribbean, and hundreds of colleges/universities across the US sharing her historically-based educational theater/music programs. She has also shared the stage with many renowned jazz artists. The DCBS Band will include Ayaba (vocals/guitar), David Harris (harmonica), Sam'i Nuriddin (guitar), Joseph Thomas (sax), Calvin Newbill, Jr. (drums), and filling in for David Jackson on bass will be special guest, Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner.

Volunteers for the Memphis Blues Blowout - If you are interested in volunteering (e.g., to fill a 2-3 hr shift staffing the DCBS booth or selling tickets at the gate), please write to president@dclubes.org.

Photos: Preston Shannon by Ron Weinstock, Daddy Mack from cited Myspace website; Jim Bennett provided by artist, Dr. Feelgood by Sheryl Adams, Ayaba Bey by Mary Knieser



CD Review: Rick Estrin and the Nightcats *One Wrong Turn*

By Nick Dale

Singer/harp player/songwriter Rick Estrin fronted Little Charlie and the Nightcats since their formation in 1976 at U.C. - Berkeley. They signed with Alligator Records in 1987 and released about ten albums. People got confused because Little Charlie Baty was the guitarist, but Estrin set the tone with his wryly humorous lyrics, retro appearance and exuberant stage presence. Baty retired from touring a few years ago, so now it is Rick Estrin and the Nightcats.

If there is a subgenre in blues for "smartass blues," Estrin is definitely one of its leading practitioners. He takes a tongue-in-cheek attitude toward most of the dilemmas that he presents. On this album, he contributes eleven of the twelve songs. He opens with a facetious "putdown" of an acquaintance in "You're a Dog," where the subject of the song is pursuing women of all descriptions, in all ways, at all times. Perhaps there is a tinge of regret in the singer that he is not the subject. "If she's young or old, or thick or thin/ You tell me it's all good, you're gonna dig right in/ You're just a DOG." He follows with "Lucky You," where the subject "Takes vacations in places I can't even spell/ I can't get ahead. Hey what can I do?" Then "Callin' All Fools," where "I'm callin' all fools/ Callin' all fools like me/ Hey if you ever been a sucker/ Brother, you got company." Perhaps the funniest is his experience in "I Met Her on the Blues Cruise," where Rick is enticed by one of the passengers to her stateroom. Closer inspection reveals her tattoos of famous blues musicians who have been there before. He flees the cabin, meets another musician who tells him, "That ain't cool mother#@&ker/ That's my fiancée." "I said you shoulda known better/ Just look at where you met her/ On the BLUES CRUISE." (Names omitted in this review). Sometimes Estrin turns serious, as on the title track, where "One wrong turn/ Can make it or break it," or its follower "Desperation Perspiration," where "Desperation perspiration/ You got it comin' out your skin/ The women never let you in/ They smell LOSER."

Estrin enlivens things with some excellent harp playing, both on diatonic and chromatic. Norwegian guitarist Kid Andersen provides some excellent fills. Bassist/organist Lorenzo Farrell and drummer J. Hansen provide a steady underpinning to the proceedings. The album features two instrumentals. The album closer, the mysteriously titled "The Legend of Taco Cobbler" owes more to the theme from "Bonanza" and cheesy science fiction of that era, for those of you who can remember, than it does to the blues. However, it all works in the context. In sum, *One Wrong Turn* is an enjoyable, well-written and well-performed album that avoids the strain for humor that has sometimes marred previous efforts by Estrin and the Nightcats.



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"An impressive singer who easily moves herself among soul, blues, jazz, funk & rhythm and blues, like few women nowadays do. Marion oozes a heartbreaking feeling in every note that comes out her throat." - *Vincente Zummel*

For more information please contact:
Frank Roszak Promotions
www.roszakradio.com froszak2003@yahoo.com

"real deal... superb talents well versed in traditional blues"



"Li'l Ronnie and the Grand Dukes blew us away with their solid blues and outstanding musicianship! Ronnie played outstanding harp and sang gut-bucket blues... A great evening of the blues! Absolutely incredible!" - *Gary Anton, Bradfordville Blues Club,*

Also available on-line at iTunes, Amazon & cdbaby

Hot Dang It! It's Going to Be Hot On July 14 And We're Not Talking About the Weather DC Blues Society 8th Annual Hotter Than July Fish Fry 'n' Blues

The DCBS Annual Fish Fry/Blues Show offers something for everyone at an unbeatable price. Blues all day and night, fish fry and other great food, and the camaraderie of other fun- and music-loving partiers. Buy advance tickets now at www.dcblues.org! Here's the basic schedule:

Blues Music 4 pm to 11 pm
Fish Fry 4:30 to 9 pm - Bring a potluck dish & get a copy of the *Blues in My Kitchen* cookbook.

While the line-up is always subject to change, DCBS is pleased to announce that the following 11 bands/performers (listed in alphabetical order) have signed up to play, and 2 more stand waiting in the wings if there should be an opening.

- Almost Blue
- Blues Obsession
- Dave Panzer & the Bluesicians
- DC Blues Society Band with Ayaba Bey
- Fast Eddie & the Slow Pokes
- Ida Campbell
- In Lay Mans Terms
- Joyce Ettingoff
- Mikey Ambrosino
- Tan Man Blues Band
- XPress

If you are available to volunteer for a two-hour, or even a four-hour shift (to collect money, serve food, sell raffle tickets, etc.), contact volunteer@dcblues.org (see next page). Those interested in being a vendor or sponsor for the event, should contact volunteer@dcblues.org.

To whet your appetite for the music, here are the bios and photos which have been received to date for the performing bands:

Blues Obsession is a music project rooted in the DC Blues Society, and led by guitarist Dick Culp and bassist Holly Culp. This venture continues to include other local musicians to expand its array of music offerings to include all styles of composition. This year's Fish Fry performance features Norma Jean Thacker (Vocals), Kevin 'Hoss' Hessman (Harp), and drummer Scott Chadwick. The set list includes a mix of Southern rock blues and early Tina Turner renditions of some old blues favorites that illustrate the crossover from blues to R&B. The songs tell the timeless stories of love found, love lost, and love movin' on - all for the dancing pleasure of DCBS fans!

David Panzer and the Bluesicians features David Panzer's vocal and instrumental skills (guitar, bass, and keyboard) that have been honed over many years of performing blues, soul, jazz and rock and roll music.



He spent five years playing guitar and touring the world with soul legend Wilson Pickett. He has also performed with many other local and national artists such as Skip Mahoney, Memphis Gold, Jacques Johnson, the Orioles, Little Anthony and the Imperials, Bloodstone, the Platters, Moonshine Society, Retro Deluxe, the Drifters, and Gene Chandler. David led the noted DC soul band, "The Mustangs," for many years, and also produced WAMMY-award winning guitarist Chick Hall Jr.'s *Nuke the Juke* CD.

DC Blues Society's 8th Annual
Hotter Than July Fish Fry 'n' Blues
Saturday, July 14, 2012 ♦ 4 - 11 PM
American Legion Post 41 ♦ 905 Sligo Avenue
(entrance on Fenton by parking lot)
Silver Spring, MD 20910



Food ~ Music ~ Fun
DJ: Dr. S.O. Feelgood
Bands! Interested in playing?
Sign up at First Sunday Jams
or e-mail jams@dcblues.org



Admission: \$12 (includes fish sandwich)
Other food available for purchase
Advance tickets on-line
www.dcblues.org or call 301-322-4808



Friends 'n' Fans ~ Fabulous Volunteers ~ Blues Bands



DC Blues Society
Bringing great Blues to DC ♦ MD ♦ VA for 25 years!
Join DCBS for its year-long anniversary celebration

Photos: Alan Bowser, Pat Bransford, Mary Knieser, Ron Weinstock

The DC Blues Society Band with Ayaba Bey - see p. 3 for information on the DCBS Band and the impressive background of Ayaba.

Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes came together in 2011 for a one-time gig at the DC Blues Society Fish Fry. Less than a year later, The Slowpokes have played venues from Frederick to Solomon's Island and from Senate Caucus rooms to roadhouses, and have shared the stage with Victor Wainwright (2012 Pinetop Perkins Award Nominee). The Slowpokes bring varied musical histories to the stage. Larry Younkings (guitar/vocals) joined the band 'Mama Kin' in the 70s and competed on the same club circuit as the early KIX band which featured his cousin Ronnie Younkings on guitar. Dave Gorozdos (keys/vocals) has shared the stage with local favorites such as Ronnie Dove, Jonny and the Sting-rays, The Lady Rose Blues Band and others. Scott Chadwick (drums) has played with Lady Rose Band, Big Money Band, and the Walker Blues Band, to name a few. "Cookie" Cook (bass) has played with US Military bands, Harmonica Blu Express, and others. Ed Crowley (harp/vocals) has shared the stage with Al Chesis (Delta Sonics) and the Nighthawks. The Slowpokes playlist is inspired by classic blues material from Chicago to West Coast Swing, Motown to Muscle Shoals, and rock n' roll in between. Their goal is to get you up on your feet and they never miss their target!



Hotter Than July Fish Fry & Blues Line-up cont.

Ida Campbell has been singing since she formed a high school female singing act and performed in DC Public School Talent Shows. She has continued singing as the main vocalist or supporting other artists with vocal backgrounds. Her Afro-centric Cuban American heritage and deep felt love for all types of music, is deeply rooted in Blues,



and she emulates the passion of the Blues masters and the spirit and energy of the female vocalists well known in the R&B and Blues world. Ida's Blues Nation Band was formed in 2008, as a select group of musicians to provide a distinct type of Blues and Rhythm. Ida has performed as a guest vocalist with the Night-hawks, Whop Frazier, Daryl Davis, Bobby Parker, Memphis Gold, and others. In 2010, she was the opening act for Grammy Nominated Artist Guitar Slim Jr.'s performance at a Washington, DC venue.

www.facebook.com/AiydaAiyda

In Layman Terms is a family band living in Williamsburg, Virginia. They have a passion for the blues and classic rock. Cole, 14, started playing guitar when he was 5 years old, and took lessons to help strengthen his weak fingers as part of physical therapy. Music quickly became his passion. His sister, Logan (11), started taking bass lessons when she was



7 years old so that she could spend time with her big brother. She loves playing bass and singing. Their mother, Sandy Layman, used to play drums as a teenager, so when the kids decided they wanted to start a band and needed a drummer, they convinced their mom to dust off her drum kit. Now there is no turning back. Music connects them in a way that cannot be expressed with words. They love any opportunity to share their joy with others.

www.3inlaymanterms.com

Mikey Ambrosino and Band is a newly formed youth blues band that will be making its debut at the Fish Fry. The group includes Mikey Ambrosino (age 16) on guitar, Betsy Garris (16) on vocals, Trevor Mooney (17) on bass, and Axel Kabunji (19) on drums. Each of them has a lot of experience playing music in other genres - Mikey and Trevor play in a rock band, Mikey and Betsy play in a bluegrass band, and Mikey and Axel are friends from school that often rock out together. Mikey's interest in putting this blues band together started two years ago with a trip to Memphis, where he played on stage at B.B. Kings and other clubs on Beale Street. Having just joined the DC Blues Society, Mikey is excited about introducing blues to his generation.

Xpress has been together for over two years with a repertoire that is blues-based and also reaches into jazz and blues-rock. Howard Herrnstadt (Harmonica Blu) has been playing harp for over 40 years and mines modern and pre-WWII harp styles with big influences from jazz and American "folk" styles. Dave Myre is a recently retired US Navy Commander whose last post was as an aerospace engineering professor at Annapolis. Over



the years he has studied guitar with several teachers and played in several bands. He has terrific chops and tone. never overplays, preferring to be tasteful and appropriate to each song. Then again, he will rock out when it fits the song! Guitar aficionados will be very impressed! James "Cookie" Cooke has been

playing bass for a lifetime, having started at the age of 12. After a career in the US Army he used the GI Bill to study music theory for two years. He can cover blues, jazz, rock, funk, country, Elvis - you name it! - with a deep rhythmic pocket. Drummer Randy Pittman has gigged with several rock and blues bands in the Annapolis area. His tremendous rhythmic knowledge always helps Xpress to find the right groove.

www.harmonicabluxpress.com

Potential Volunteers for the Hotter Than July Fish Fry 'n Blues:

Attendees who bring a potluck dish will receive a Blues in My Kitchen cookbook (full of artist's recipes). Also, volunteers are needed to help out at this all day and night event! To sign up as a volunteer, you can contact volunteer@dcblues.org or visit the Sign-up Genius site: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D44ACA62DA02-dcbs>.

Volunteer needs include:

OUTSIDE (volunteers needed 3-10pm): Fish fryers, servers, and ticket collectors, for 2-hour shifts each
Setup and cleanup assistants

INSIDE (volunteers needed 3-11pm): Wristband/ticket distributors, DCBS booth staff (sell merchandise, recruit members), to work 2-hour shifts; Setup and cleanup assistants

Support the Blues Foundation! Two New Initiatives of Note

The Blues Foundation is Memphis-based, but world-renowned as THE organization dedicated to preserving our blues music history, celebrating recording and performance excellence, supporting blues education and ensuring the future of this uniquely American art form. The DC Blues Society is proud to be one of the 195 local blues societies that are officially affiliated with the Blues Foundation.

The Blues Foundation is currently engaged in a capital campaign to build a physical Blues Hall of Fame. On its website (www.blues.org), the Foundation notes its plans: "Since 1980, The Blues Foundation has been inducting individuals, recordings and literature into the Blues Hall of Fame, but until now there has not been a physical Blues Hall of Fame...The campaign calls for up to \$3.5 million to create a hall of fame that will be the place to: honor inductees year-round; listen to and learn about the music; and enjoy historic mementos of this all-American art form..." More information, including how to make pledges and donations, can be found on the Blues Foundation' website.

The Blues Foundation store (also accessible from its website) is currently selling *Harpway 61*, an all instrumental album by Italian blues harmonica player Fabrizio Poggi. All proceeds from the sale of the album go to The Blues Foundation. The music was donated by Fabrizio, the artwork was donated by Portland artist Dan Dalton, and the release is intended to be a tribute to the blues harmonica greats.

Harmon-izing Zac Harmon

By Mike Schulz

Growing up in Jackson, Mississippi, in the 1960s and '70s, guitarist and vocalist Zac Harmon says, "The thing about the blues is that it wasn't something you heard and said, 'Oh, I like that.' It was part of the culture, so when I started playing, it was only natural that that's what I played. "Blues was like *air*," he adds. "And if you breathed, you was gonna get it."

With JazzNow.com lauding his "soulful vocals and breathtaking showmanship" and the *Edmonton Sun* describing him as "the closest the blues gets to a heavy-metal star," it's clear that Zac Harmon got it good ... even if it did take a while for people to realize it. Following two decades as a Los Angeles-based studio musician, writer, and producer, Harmon released his first solo CD – *Live at Babe & Ricky's Inn* – in 2002, and four years later, at age 49, received the Blues Music Award for best new blues artist.

"It's kind of funny," says the musician, during our recent interview, of his relatively late emergence in the blues spotlight. "Folks sometimes say, 'Oh, wow – he's an overnight success!' But overnight in the music business can sometimes be 20 years."

He laughs. "That's a *lo-o-o-ong* night."

The son of a blues-harp-playing father and pianist mother, Harmon says he began his own musical education on the violin at age six, and became fascinated with the guitar at nine, much to the annoyance of one of his siblings.

"My sister had a guitar, and I would wait until she went to sleep at night, and I would slip her guitar and play. And she finally *caught* me one night, and the house *exploded*," he says with a laugh. "So my mom decided she would buy me one."

And it wasn't long after securing a guitar of his own – "around 1968 or '69" recalls Harmon – that his adoration for the blues was solidified. "My mother took me to a show at the Mississippi Coliseum," he says. "I think Bobby Rush was the opening act, but the show featured Little Milton Campbell, B.B. King, Albert King, and Albert Collins. And I just left there scarred for life."

Yet while he continued to hone his blues skills, Harmon says that, as a youth, he didn't seriously consider pursuing a career in music. "I didn't know what a professional musician was," he says. "It wasn't like I knew successful musicians or anything, you know? I just wanted to play, and it didn't make any difference *where* I played, or who I played for, or whether I was getting paid or not. I mean, money was kind of like a secondary blessing that happened to come along."

The first of such blessings came, says the musician, "when I graduated high school. I went on tour with Dorothy Moore, who had a big hit record then called 'Misty Blue.' And then, when the tour was over, I got a call from Little Milton Campbell, who was one of my idols. He called because he had heard me out on the road and was impressed, and he was like, 'I want you to join my band.'"

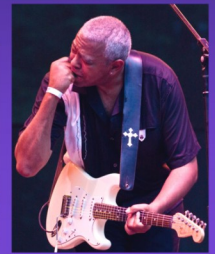
That opportunity, however, wasn't in the cards. "The deal that I brokered with my mother," says Harmon, "was if she would just let me go out on the [Dorothy Moore] tour, then I promised, when the tour was over, I would go to college. So when Little Milton called me, I had to tell him that I couldn't play because my mom wanted me to go to college. And the first thing he said was, 'By all means, you go to college. If I had known that that's what you were going to do, I never would've called you.'"

"And that kind of encouragement from him kind of sealed the deal for me," he continues. "To go ahead and finish college before I went out to pursue my career."

Majoring in economics and accounting, Harmon received his degree from Jackson State University in 1980, even though, as he says, "I had *no* intentions of doing anything other than music." Happily, though, when he decided to seek employment in music rather than finance, he did so with his parents' approval.

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Photos: Ron Weinstock & Glenn Thompson



"My mother and father said, 'This is what you want to do? Okay. But you cannot do it *here*, because the industry is not here. The industry is in Los Angeles and New York. So if you're going to do this, that's where you need to be."

New York – or rather, *near* New York – was Harmon's first destination. "I went to Philadelphia," he says, "because I had a girlfriend who was good friends with some of the folks at Phila International Records."

"But when I got there, it was in the middle of winter, and there was snow, and cars were sliding everywhere ... I was just *not* accustomed," Harmon says with a laugh. "I'm a Southern boy, you know? So I was like, 'You know what? Uh uh. I can't do *this*.'"

California's climate, says the musician, proved much more fitting, and between 1981 and 1985, he worked a day job, spent evenings playing guitar as a studio musician, and even found time to earn an MBA from Malibu's Pepperdine University. "I had a full plate of things," says Harmon. "And around 1985, I finally started making more money *playing* than I was working my job, so I was able to stop the day job and concentrate solely on music."

"I was very, very lucky," he adds. "Having that blues base really helped me a lot because a lot of guys wanted me playing on their records because I had that *feel*, that Southern-blues kind of feel, which worked for what they were doing musically in L.A. at that time."

From his tenure as a studio musician, Harmon went on to a career as an L.A.-based songwriter and producer, collaborating with such blues and R&B artists as Karyn White, Freddie Jackson, and Black Uhuru, whose Harmon-produced *Mystical Truth* album received a Grammy nomination in 1994. And while the musician says he was grateful for his success during the late '80s and through the '90s, "the only thing I wasn't really happy about was that my own career as a blues artist was kind of on hold."

Continued on p. 10



July		July cont.	
1	DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ	30	Shirletta Settles @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf's Blues Jam w/ Linwood Taylor @ JVs
2	Vince Evans @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf Blues Jam w/ Mike Westcott @ JVs	Early August	
4	Jonny Grave @ Hamilton	1	George Thorogood & Destroyers, Delbert McClinton @ Wolf Trap
5	Bad Influence @ Music on Main Street, Kentlands	2	Big Daddy Stallings @ Publick Playhouse
6	Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar; Biscuit Miller @ Madam's Organ; Andy Poxon @ Poplar Inn; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Avenue, White Marsh; Briggs Farm Blues Festival (see p. 11) @ Nescopek, PA; Moonshine Society @ Dogwood Tavern; Daryl Davis @ Bethesda Metro Center	3	DCBS Presents Zac Harmon (see p. 7) @ Wheaton American Legion; Andy Poxon @ Local Chop & Grill; Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Lexington Market; Nighthawks @ Rockville Town Square; Moonshine Society @ Dogwood Tavern
7	Big Daddy Stallings @ Lexington Market; Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar; Biscuit Miller @ Madam's Organ; Briggs Farm Blues Festival (see p. 11) @ Nescopek, PA; Big Daddy Stallings @ Lexington Market; Andy Poxon @ Local Chop & Grill; Atwater & Donnelly @ Tinner Hill Blues Festival Fundraiser; Moonshine Society @ 219	4	Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar; Bad Influence @ Fredericksburg Music Festival; Nighthawks @ Jammmin Java; Tom Principato @ Ram's Head; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Arc Theatre
8	Holmes Brothers @ Mason District Park, Annandale; Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner @ Glen Echo Blues Dance	5	DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion
9	Moonshine Society @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf Blues Jam w/ Matt Kelley @ JVs	6	Queen Aisha @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf's Blues Jam w/ Paul Pfau @ JVs
11	Bad Influence @ Willow Gardens	Regular Blues Events.	
12	Buddy Guy/John Mayall @ Wolf Trap; Nadine Rae & Allstars @ SW DC Waterfront	Sunday	DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion (1st Sunday) ; Axe Handlers Blues Jam (Paul Jones/Zach Sweeney) @ Sully's; Skyla Burrell Jam @ Benny's Pub (every other Sunday); NRBK Open Mic @ Old Fire Station No. 3 (Fairfax, VA); Blues Jam w/Dogfather Blues Band @ The Whiskey
13	Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Fat Boys; Nadine Rae & Allstars @ Proud Mary's; Crawstickers @ 219	Monday	Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's
14	DCBS Presents Hotter Than July Fish Fry 'n' Blues (w/ up to 11 bands - see p. 4-5) @ Silver Spring American Legion; Nadine Rae & Allstars @ Baltimore Inner Harbor; Anders Osborne @ Hamilton; Andy Poxon @ Wilberts	Tuesday	Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ (alternating Tuesdays); Moonshine Society @ 219
15	NOVA Blues Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony/Show @ Manassas Moose Lodge	Wednesday	Blues Jam @ Emerald Cove; Scott Wells Jam @ Pickled Herring Pub (all but 1st Wednesday) (North East, MD); Classic & Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille
16	Lil Royal Steppin' Up @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf's Blues Jam w/ Paul Pfau @ JVs	Thursday	Patrick Alban or Johnny Artis @ Madam's Organ; Big Boy Little Band Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo; Memphis Gold @ JV's (1st Thursday)
19	Andy Poxon @ Hill Country BBQ; Nighthawks @ "Uncorked"-City of Rockville Wine & Music Festival	Friday	Glen Moomau & Blue Flames @ Bertha's; Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar (1st Friday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Café; Brian Gross Trio @ Café Ole; Friday Jams @ Legends on the Square
20	Andy Poxon @ Blair's; Bad Influence @ Rio	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)
21	DCBS Presents Memphis Blues Blowout (see p. 6) @ Lamont's; Big Boy Little Band @ Bare Bones; Andy Poxon @ New Deal; Nighthawks @ BlackRock; Moonshine Society @ JV's	Attention dancers: See DCBS homepage for the 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	
22	Daryl Davis @ Concert on the Green, Great Falls, VA; Nighthawks @ Dietle's		
23	Linwood Taylor @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf's Blues Jam w/ Matt Kelley @ JVs	Bolded items on the Blues Calendar are picks by calendar editor, Mike Wolk, 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 the venues to verify events. See the DCBS website, www.dcblues.org , for additional music links and information.	
24	Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Veteran's Plaza, Silver Spring		
25	Ana Popovic @ Ram's Head On Stage; Nighthawks @ Columbia Lakefront		
27	Andy Poxon @ Harborplace; Moonshine Society @ Cajun Experience; Archie Edwards Concert w/ Shari Kane & Dave Steele @ AEHBF; Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Martini's		
28	Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Holiday House; Nighthawks @ Stoney Badger		

CD Review: Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials
Jump Start

By Ron Weinstock

Alligator Records has just released the label's eighth album by Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials, *Jump Start*. Only Magic Slim and the Tear-drops has a lengthier tenure of playing down-home classic Chicago blues, and like Slim, Lil' Ed Williams benefits from having stability in his group. In fact, the present line-up of brother James 'Pookie' Young on bass; Michael Garrett on second guitar; and Kelly Littleton on drums, has been together for nearly 25 years, since just before Ed's second album, *Chicken Gravy & Biscuits*. This fact shows in the tightness of the performances heard in this CD.

Fans of Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials will find little new on this collection of hard driving slide blues and Chicago shuffles. With the exception of a J.B. Hutto cover, Ed wrote or co-wrote the songs here. There is a mix of a slow, straight blues such as "You Burnt Me," where after being left out on the street Ed asks why would he want her back, and the amusing slide-burner "Born Loser," on which Ed sings about living on the edge and walking on the wild side, but opportunity knocked and his door was locked, and Murphy's Law is his motto. On the driving "House of Cards," Ed tells his woman that she was living in a dream and the game has turned around -- and her house of cards is tumbling down after dealing Ed a bad hand, with her dating another man.

"Jump Right In" is an amusing song about this woman telling him to jump right into the pool and she'll teach him to swim, and when he is ready for his swimming test she'll take him to her deep end. Michael Garrett takes the solo on this. Marty Sammon's organ adds atmosphere to "Life Is A Journey," which he wants to share with his woman. "Musical Mechanical Electrical Man" musically channels Uncle J.B. Hutto's "Please Help," as he tells his woman he will fix her up, as he has a plan. Ed evokes his uncle further on his fervently performed cover of Hutto's "If You Change Your Mind," with Sammon adding piano behind Ed's passionate singing and driving slide guitar. It may be the stand-out performance on an album that is consistently entertaining and full of heartfelt blues.

Like the entire body of recordings by Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials, *Jump Start* will get the party rocking with its good time houserockin' blues.

Harmon-izing Zac Harmon *cont. from p. 8*

That changed, says Harmon, when "the landscape of music changed" at the beginning of the 21st Century. "The whole session scene was pretty much gone because rap music came in and took over, and it was either you were gonna get with that, or find something else to do.

"And at that time in Los Angeles," he continues, "gangster rap was real popular. And because, I guess, of my Southern roots and the fact that I'm a Christian, I just could not bring myself to be part of some of the things that they were saying. It just didn't work for me. I couldn't be on a record that had to have the tag of 'Parental Advisory,' you know?"

So in 2002, I finally said, 'You know what? I've played on or written or produced or been a part of over 100 records. Not one have I done on me. So I'm going to do a record on me. I'm gonna go into a club, and I'm gonna do a show, and I'm gonna record the show. And I'm gonna put it out -- no overdubs, no nothing -- and just be who I am and what I am. And if nobody buys the record, that's fine. But I'm gonna do what I came here to do.'"

"A BAZOOKA ASSAULT OF FOOT-STOMPIN' BLUES AND SLOW-BURNIN' KNEE-BUCKLERS." —*Chicago Sun-Times*



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The result was *Live at Babe & Ricky's Inn* -- described by MNBlues.com as "an excellent debut CD" -- and as Harmon says, "The record really took off, you know? Blues folks were digging it, and one thing led to another, and two years later I won the IBC [International Blues Challenge] award" for Best Unsigned Blues Band. "And here I am today."

Harmon's busy touring schedule, which he says keeps him on the road roughly 30 weeks per year, has also found him in Canada, France, Italy, northern Africa, and Iraq, where the musician performs blues standards and compositions from his post-2002 CDs *The Blues According to Zacariah* (2005) and *From the Root* (2009).

This interview was conducted and written by Mike Schulz, as a prelude to Zac Harmon's performance at the 2010 Mississippi Valley Blues Festival. The interview was posted to www.rcreader.com/music/blues-fest/ and was reprinted here with the permission of the author.

*Editor's note: Zac Harmon has released a new CD (2012) titled *Music is Medicine*, available on CDBaby.com. This CD will be reviewed in the August 2012 issue of the DCBS Capital Blues Messenger.*

DCBS Member Ticket Giveaway & Discounts

Remember to check the DCBS Members Only website often for special ticket giveaways and discounts.

Contribute to the Capital Blues Messenger

The CBM welcomes blues CD and event reviews, photos, ideas for articles, and other input from DCBS members, and space permitting and as appropriate, will publish submitted items. Send your ideas/volunteer, by writing to newsletter@dcblues.org.



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Volunteer for the Annual DC Blues Festival!

This year's Annual DC Blues Festival will be held on Saturday, September 1 at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre (see p. 12 for more information). Please consider volunteering and helping to recruit volunteers who can help for at least 2 to 4 hours between 11:00 am through 11:00 pm on September 1, or who can help with pre-Festival activities. Visit the Festival volunteer information and the different tasks on the DCBS website (www.dcb Blues.org) and send the following information to: fest-volunteer@dcb Blues.org with the subject line **Volunteer for DC Blues Festival**:

1. Assignment Preferences (please send 3, in order of preference) from the list on the website.
2. Include any special messages that the Volunteer Coordinator should know (e.g., if your health limits you to sit-down work).
3. Your name / phone / email / DCBS member (yes or no)

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Photos: www.bigboylittleband.com; Sheryl Adams (Clark); Ron Weinstock (Turner)



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