



October 2002

©2002 D.C. Blues Society
 Jam October 5 @ Taliano's
 Acoustic jam October 19 @ Taliano's
 (202) 828-3028
 homepage- <http://www.dcblues.org>

2002 DC Blues Festival Notes & Thanks

What a wonderful tribute to our local hero John Jackson! He had to be smiling somewhere.

We'll start putting together next years festival committee in the next few months. We have many places we'd like to see improvements including publicity, sponsorship, grants, flyers, volunteer coordinators etc... To make the 15th Annual DC Blues Festival even more fun than this years! If you have skills in any of these or other areas you would like to share please contact me, Chris Kirsch at; blueshead@blueelephantmusic.com. A huge list of artists we would like to book for future shows is always ongoing and we're always looking for good ideas. If you have any requests please let us know by the end of December for next years festival since we will decide sometime between Jan. & March on the lineup.

There are limited numbers of the festival shirt and various other fun items still available. They make great



Top - Tribute to John Jackson participants (l-r) Neil Harpe, Eleanor Ellis, Jeff Scott, Jay Summerour and Warner Williams. Photo © Ron Weinstock.
 Bottom - Phil Wiggins and John Cephas.
 Photo © Danspix

gifts for the blues fan in your life. Look for us at DCBS jams and events through out the fall & winter. It's time to single out all the great folks who made this years festival so great including the board, volunteers, sponsors, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and the National Park Service. Thanks again to everyone for coming out for a great time at the 2002 DC Blues Festival!

First I have to single out Steve Levine (my cochair) & Ron Weinstock (our editor and media coordinator) for their encouragement. Initially to take the plunge and join the board 2 1/2 years ago and then to take on the task of coordinating our festival (with a promise from Steve of lot's of help). Both these guys work their hearts out for the blues & the society and deserve all of our thanks big time!

My Baltimore Blues Society buddies, the National Park Service, Scott Mitchell and the rest of my twist friends were also instrumental in the preparations for

THE DC BLUES SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON DC 20013-7315
Hotline (202) 828-3028
<http://www.dcb blues.org>

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 The **DC Blues Calendar** is published usually monthly and includes information on Society events, blues listings and other items of blues interest. Listings should be sent to Steve Levine, 5022 Quebec St., College Park, MD 20740 (cypressgrove@hotmail.com). Recent issues of the DC Blues Calendar are available as PDF files and may be downloaded from the Society's website, www.dcb blues.org.
Ad rates: Business card \$20; 1/8 page \$25; 1/6 page \$30; 1/4 page \$40; 1/3 page \$55; 1/2 page \$70; 2/3 page \$100; full page \$125. Discount for consecutive placement of ads. Column width is 3.65 inches for a 2-column page, or 2.4 inches for a 3-column page. Height for 1/2 page is 4.85 inches. To place ad, contact Ron Weinstock, 2862 Dover Lane, #202, Falls Church, VA 22042 or rbluesw@yahoo.com.
For next issue, the November issue: Must have copy, listings & ads by October 17.



Festival Wrap-up continued from page 1
 the festival.

The Board Members; Melvin LaVert (President), Sami Nuriddin (Vice President), Nick Dale (Secretary), Wal-



Top right column - Paul Bell & Mary Flower
 Middle right column - Jan Zukowski and Pete Ragusa
 Above left - Mr. Bones; Above right -Mark Wenner
 Photos © Danspix

ly Adams (Treasurer), Muriel (Interim treasurer), Courtney Brooks, Dennis Devore, Steve Levine, Tony & Denise Pusan, Joe Shamwell & Ingrid Strawser (Directors), Chet Hines (Projects Committee Chair) & John Delaney (Webmaster) all lent vital support to the effort. Tom Gorman (Counsel) for his help with the performance contracts last year.

The day of the show the Volunteer Coordinators, Nick Dale & Sami Nuriddin with lot's of great help did a bang up job checking bands, MC's and volunteers in. They could also be found pitching in all over the place.

The most demanding job every year (besides mine?!) is the merchandise booth. Thanks to Kirk, Stacey and their team from Guest Services Inc. for the help every year in making this possible. The Booth Coordinator, Hal Northcott got it done with the help of an awesome booth staff Fran Sweatt, Mercedes de la Cruz, Rob & brother Lance, Rich & Pernille Levine, Heeday, Mary Anne Shorb, Ed Kelleher, Kay Dellinger and Mae Brooks. Thanks again and hopefully we'll continue

Continued on page 3

Festival Wrapup continued from page 2

getting more organized next year.

Our backstage managers Bill Wax & Steve Levine (last minute stand ins) were phenomenal! They did a great job and with such short notice! The backstage crew, Doug Uttermohle, Jayson Hait, George M. & Henry B. Tate rocked with Rock and the rest of the NPS staff.

Patti Innis, Pat Lynch, Barrelhouse Bonnie & Dan Rice provided friendly guidance to the many folks accessing the stage & back gate entrances. Food & bev./hospitality area troopers Karen Owens & Florette Orleans kept everyone happy with beverages and snacks and the awesome soul food laid down by Good Food Service Inc. was fantastic!

The front gate/ workshop/children area was MC'd by Chet 'Dr. Feelgood' Hines

and all the other great stuff he makes for us!

The National Park Service crew at Carter Barron have to be thanked for the annual use of their great facility! My contacts Steve Lebel, Rita Gunther and Tom Baggot of Carter Barron, Concessionaire (Guest Services, Inc.) contacts Kirk Huserick and Stacey Brown, Rock, the Rangers, Perfect Sound, Cannon Stage Lighting and Drums Unlimited all out did themselves this year!

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities for their annual support.

The Baltimore, Diamond State, Frederick, River City & Potomac Blues Societies. Blues on the Bay, Bluebird, Western MD and lot's of other festivals also gave us valuable support & encouragement all year.



who also did a great job on the sound & petting zoo with Waverly Milor, Shirley A. Shadricks, Steve Mitchell, Horace Morris, Tarik, Rita M. Chatham, George A. Fuller, Eve Pines, Don Essex and John & Pearl Hodge, handing out programs and backing him up. Special thanks for the truck from Waverly and the help at the booth by Pearl and John.

The MC's and Bill Wax's coordination and stage management were great! Bill, Texas' Fred Carter, Nap 'Don't Lose the Blues' Turner, The 'Gator', Steve Hoffman, & Nearly Slim we thank you!

Thanks to Rick Poore at Designwear (Lincoln, NE) for the great T-shirts



I'm sure I've missed people so my heartfelt thanks all the great people who helped make our festival so successful this year!

Chris Kirsch 2002 - DC Blues Festival Co-chair

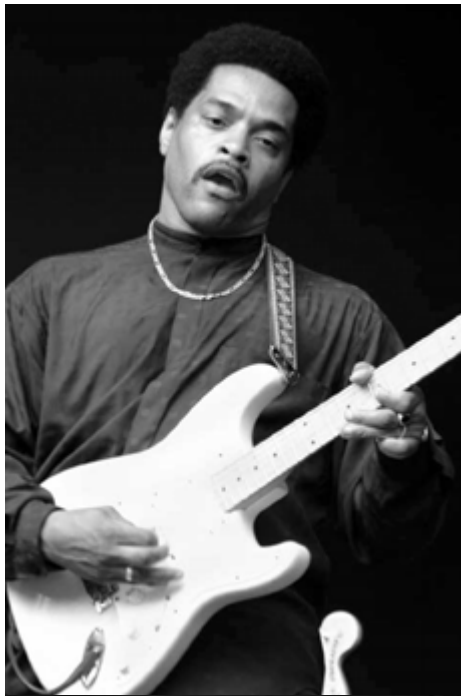
Pictured on this page

Top - Jackie Merritt, part of group from the Archie Edwards barber-shop. Middle row -

Phil Wiggins, John Cephas, Bottom Rich "The Gator" Bolling, All pictures on page © Danspix

October Blues

2 Automatic Slim @ Cat's Eye
3 Resonators @ Hopkins Plaza Noon
4 Reggie Wayne Morris @ Zoo Bar
B-More Blues Band @ Bayou Blues
Melanie Mason @ Backstreets Cafe
Highway 49 Band @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
Carl Filipiak @ Imax Jazz Cafe
Mary Shaver Band @ Lasick's
5 *Music Maker Relief Foundation*
Benefit w. Taj Mahal, Beverly Watkins,
Cootie Stark, others @ State Theatre
Tyrone Davis, Clarence Carter, Marvin
Sease, & Roy C @ DC Armory
One Thin Dime (reunion show) @ Lasick's
Jackson Street Band @ Bayou Blues
Hokum Music Company @ Arts On
The Avenue
Automatic Slim @ Holiday House
Melanie Mason Band @ Whitey's
Muleman @ Cat's Eye
6 DCBS Jam @ Taliano's
9 Leon Redbone @ Ram's Head
10 Leon Redbone @ Ram's Head
Esther Haynes w/Phil Mathieu @ Artisans
11 Automatic Slim @ Bootleggers
Daryl Davis @ Bayou Blues
The Rail Riders @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
12 Heart Of Blue @ Summit Station
Cathy Ponton King @ Madam's Organ
Leon Redbone @ Wolf Trap
Fat Daddy @ Bayou Blues
The Hydromatics @ Full Moon Saloon
13 Archie Edwards Heritage Fdtn. Band
& Sherwood Blues Band @ Takoma
Park VFW
Melanie Mason @ 2nd Sat. Coffeehouse
18 Sherwood Duo @ Coffee House
on the Hill
Kelly Bell Band @ Santa Fe Cafe
Muleman @ Lasick's
19 **Mem Shannon @ Wolf Trap**
Jody West Band @ Bayou Blues
Automatic Slim @ MD Brewer's Ass'n
Oktoberfest, Timonium Fairgrounds
Noon
Automatic Slim @ Summit Station
20 DCBS Acoustic Jam @ Taliano's
Reggie Wayne Morris @ Firestone's
Carl Filipiak @ Bayou Blues Cafe
22 Bo Weevil @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
23 Bo Weevil @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
Anders Osborne @ State Theatre
24 Muleman @ Cat's Eye
Janine Wilson @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
25 Melanie Mason @ Summit Station
Janine Wilson @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
Thge Satellites @ Bayou Blues
26 Deanna Bogart @ Birchmere
Cathy Ponton King @ Backstreets Cafe
Tom Vaughan & The Roadhouse Five
@ Summit Station



Ed Scott of DC Blues Society Band.
Photo © Danspix. Pete Kanaras of
Nighthawks. Photo © Ron Weinstock

Reggie Wayne Morris @ Paloma's
Kelly Bell Band @ Recher Theatre
Muleman @ Caton Tavern
29 **Dr. John @ Birchmere**
31 **Dr. John @ Ram's Head**
Lavay Smith @ Wolf Trap

Weekly Events

Sun Jim Bennett & Lady Mary w.
Unique Creation Band @ Lamont's
Detroit Slim @ Full Moon
Jam @ Lasick's (except 1st Sunday and
when Redskins have 4PM start)

DC Blues Calendar October 2002 p.4

Steve Kraemer @ Cat's Eye
Bobby Thompson @ Dr. Dremo's
Taphouse
Kenny Haddaway (open mic) @ Whitlow's
Acoustic Jam @ King of France Tavern
Danny Morris Band @ Sunset Grille
Automatic Slim Jam @ Wahoo's
Pro Blues Jam @ Sully's
Mon Blues Jam @ Taliano's
Tue Jam @ Full Moon
Ben Andrews @ Madam's Organ
Resonators @ Grog & Tankard
Diane Postell Trio (exc 29) @ Josephine's
Wed Jam @ Coconuts
Jam @ 94th Aero Squadron
Open mike @ Bangkok Blues
Big Dog Band @ Cat's Eye
Persuaders @ Main Street Blues
Steve Smith Band @ Round Table
Various @ Full Moon
Thu Jam w/ Flatfoot Sam @ Zoo Bar
Jam @ Backstreets Cafe
Jackie Lee @ Wild Azalea
Everything Bagel @ Cafe Tattoo
Jam @ Full Moon
Jam @ Surfside 7
DCBS Jam @ Torrie's
Fri Hardway Connection @ Tradewinds
Blue Flames @ Bertha's,
Jackie Lee @ George Stark's Head Hog
Sat Various @ Full Moon

D.C. BLUES SOCIETY MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The Music Loft offers a 10% discount
on repairs, lessons, rentals and sales.
2507 N. Franklin Road, Arlington VA
(703) 522-5500, Wed-Sat 12 to 6 PM.
They also have selected recordings by
local acts such as Franklin & Harpe &
The Top Dogs
Industrial Sound Studios is offering a
15% discount to DC Blues Society
members. You must have a card to get
this great deal. If you call soon and set
up time to record, your first set of ADAT
tapes is free. For more information,
contact Industrial Sound Studios, P.O.
Box 1162, Riverdale, MD 20738.
Phone: 301-209-0565.

E-mail: industrialstudio@hotmail.com.

**Next issue is November
2002. Deadline is October
17.**

*Listings should be sent to
Steve Levine, 5022 Quebec St.,
College Park, MD 20740. E-mail
to: cypressgrove@hotmail.com*

**IMPORTANT SEND AD
PAYMENTS, MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS TO D.C. BLUES
SOCIETY MAILBOX.
ONLY NEWSLETTER & AD COPY
GOES DIRECTLY TO RON
WEINSTOCK**

Places to Hear Blues

Bookings get cancelled so check with the venue as the show gets closer.

94th Aero Squadron, 5240 Paint Branch Pkwy, College Park, MD
Afterwords Cafe, 1517 Connecticut Av NW, DC (202) 387-1462
Bangkok Blues, 926 W. Broad St. Falls Church VA (703) 534-0095

Backstreet Cafe, 12353 Wilkens Av Rockville MD 301-984-0394
Barefoot Pelican, 2156-E Enterprise St., Sterling, VA (703) 444-2208

Bay Cafe, 2809 Boston St, Baltimore, MD (410) 522-337
Big Joe's Place, 8120 Crain Hwy (N.3d), La Plata MD (301) 392-6060

Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA (703) 549-7500
Bistro Bistro, Reston Town Center, Reston, VA (703) 834-6300
Blues Alley, 1041 Wisconsin Ave (Rear), DC (202) 337-4141

Bop'N'Bowl, Falls Church (VA) Duck Pin Lanes, 4000 S Maple St. (703)-847-5984
Brickseller, Washington DC (202) 293-1885

Bushwallers, Frederick MD (301) 695-6988

Buomi Temple, 5050 King St. White Marsh MD (410)-583-7337.

Cafe Vez 1438 U ST, NW, Washington, DC 202-667-0785

Cat's Eye Pub, 1720 Thames St, Fells Point, Baltimore MD (410) 276-9085

Chick Hall's Surf Club, 4711 Kenilworth Ave., Hyattsville, MD (301) 927-6310

Clyde's, Chevy Chase, MD (301) 951-9600

Coffee House On The Hill, 421 Seward Square, SE, Washington DC

Coconut's, 1629 Crofton Center, Crofton MD (301) 261-3366

Cowboy Cafe South, 2421 Columbia Pike, Arlington VA (703) 486-3467

Crossroads Tavern, Richie Highway and Georgia Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD (410) 761-6199

Dr Dreho's Taphouse, 2001 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington VA

EastPort Clipper, Annapolis MD (410) 487-7648

Ebb Tide, 985 Bay Ridge Road, Annapolis, MD (410) 269-1500

Fantastico, 380 Broadview Avenue, Warrenton, VA (540) 349-2575

Fat Tuesday's, 10673 Braddock Rd, Fairfax (703) 385-5717

Flannagan's, Manassas, VA (703) 551-2059

Full Moon Saloon, 1710 Aliceanna St, Baltimore MD (410) 558-2873

Game Room, 731 Cady Drive, Fort Washington, MD

Half Moon BBQ, 8235 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring MD (301) 585-1290

Harmony Hall, Fort Washington MD

Harper's Choice Village Center, Columbia, MD

H.R. 57. 1610 14th Street, NW, DC, 202-667-3700

Hull Street Blues, 1222 Hull Street, Baltimore, MD (410) 727-7476

Ice House Cafe, Herndon, VA (703) 471-4256

Jammin' Java, 231 Maple Ave, Vienna VA (703) 255-1566

King of France Tavern, State Circle, Annapolis MD (410) 216-6340

Lamont's, Livingston Rd, Pomonkey MD (301) 283-0225

Lasick's, 9128 Baltimore Blvd, College Park, MD (301) 441-2040

Leadbetter's, Baltimore MD

Lexington Market, Baltimore, MD

Luna Park, 5866 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA (703) 237-5862

Maggiano's, Washington DC

Michael's Pub, King's Contrivance Ctr, Columbia. (410) 290-7878

Madam's Organ, 2461 18th St NW, DC (202) 667-5370

Market 5 Gallery, Eastern Market, 7th & North Carolina Ave. S.E. Napoleon's, Warrenton, VA (540) 347-4300

Neptune's, 23900 N Patuxent Beach Rd. California, Md 301-833-0073

Oasis, 8241 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD (301) 608-3360

Okra's 9110 Center St, Manassas VA (703) 330-2729

Potomac Overlook Park, Arlington VA

Ram's Head, 33 West St., Annapolis, MD (410) 268-5111

Recher Theatre, 512 York Rd., Towson, MD, (410) 337-7210

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

Round Table, 4859 Wisconsin Ave NW, DC (202) 362-1250

Scottish Rite Temple, 3800 N Charles St, Baltimore (410) 583-7337

Sonoma's, Columbia MD

Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo, MD

Spanky's Shenanigans, Leesburg, VA (703) 777-2454

Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Hwy., Chantilly, VA (703) 818-9292

Spotlight, Woodbridge, VA 703-494-9349

State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St, Falls Church, VA (703) 237-0300

Stone Cellar, Ellicott City MD (410) 461-4990

Summitt Station, Summitt at Diamond Aves., Gaithersburg, MD

Spotlight, Woodbridge VA 703-494-9349

Starland Cafe, 5125 McArthur Blvd, DC 202-244-9396

Sunset Grille, 7250 Columbia Pike, Annandale VA (703) 658-0982

Sweet Caroline's, Winchester VA

Takoma Park (MD) VFW, 6420 Orchard Ave.

Taliano's, 7001 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD (301) 270-5515

Texas Ribs, Waldorf, MD

333 Coffeehouse, 333 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, MD (410) 647-4275

Timber Creek Tavern, 10092 Belair Rd,

Kingsville, MD (410) 529-7999

Torries, 7732 Richmond Hwy Alexandria VA 703-360-4911

Tradewinds, 5859 Allentown Way, Camp Springs, MD (301) 449-1234

TT Reynolds, Fairfax VA (703) 591-9292

Twins, 1344 U St NW, Dc (202) 234-0072

Whitey's, 2761 Washington Blvd, Arlington VA

(703) 525-9825

Whitlows, 2854 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA (703) 276-9693

Wild Azalea, 1648 Crystal Sq. Arcade, Arlington, VA, (703) 413-2250

Wolf Trap, Vienna VA (703) 255-1900

Wyvill's Tavern, 5753 Southwest Crain Hwy, Upper Marlboro, MD (301) 952-1222

Zanzibar, 700 Water St SE (202) 554-9100

Zoo Bar, 3000 Connecticut Ave., NW, DC (202) 232-4225

D.C. BLUES CALENDAR AD RATES:

Business card \$20; 1/8 page \$25; 1/6 page \$30;
1/4 page \$40; 1/3 page \$55; 1/2 page \$70;
2/3 page \$100; full page \$125.

Discount for consecutive placement of ads. Column width is 3.65 inches for a 2-column page, or 2.4 inches for a 3-column page. Height for 1/2 page is 4.85 inches. To place ad, contact: Ron Weinstock, 2862 Dover Lane, #202, Falls Church, VA 22042. e-mail - rbluesw@yahoo.com

Deadline for November 2002 issue is October 17.



Josh Basson, vocalist with DC Blues Society Band. Photo © Danspax

Cephas & Wiggins

Alligator has just released John Cephas & Phil Wiggins new cd **Somebody Told the Truth** and it will be welcomed by lovers of acoustic blues. With the exception of Cephas' vocal on *Darkness on the Delta* where he is accompanied by Tal Farlow's quintet, the disc has the Piedmont blues duo performing a variety of material including an original lyrical take on the classic *Stagolee* theme, *Stack and the Devil*, personal interpretations of classic blues from Robert Johnson (*Last Fair Deal Gone Down*) and Skip James (*Sick Bed Blues*), and some perceptive observations on life and personalities (*The Pimp in the Pink Suit*). *Burn Your Bridges* is a rollicking feature for Phil's wonderful harp that will be familiar with the pair's longtime fans. Also revived is the wonderful ballad, *Reno Factory*, that they first cut as part of some of their earliest recordings that appeared on L&R. John Cephas, in the booklet accompanying this disc, attributes the song to the late Foddrrell Brothers. This has long been among my favorite songs by the duo and others will also welcome it being readily available again. This is a terrific recording, one that will be enjoyed by their longtime fans and others who love acoustic blues.

Shemekia Copeland

Another of Alligator's new releases is Shemekia Copeland's third disc, **Talking to Strangers**. Shemekia certainly has grown in so many ways, not simply artistically, since I first met her when she sang a few numbers opening for her father, the late Johnny Copeland. I remember Bill Wax stating then that Shemekia reminded him of a young Irma Thomas. I shared Bill's enthusiasm for a vocalist who showed remarkable poise and sang with a maturity belying her youth. Even now she is only in her young twenties. Still this new recording shows how much she has grown as a singer and is her most consistent and satisfying disc. There is none of the occasional bellowing vocals that blemished **Wicked**. She sings with control, yet with the power of her vocals undiminished. Perhaps having Dr. John produce this album contributed to this result, as does a nice variety of material from the opening *Livin' on Love*, *Sholanda's*, an rocking celebration of a hair dresser set to a joyous Crescent City groove, and the powerful soul-blues ballad *Don't Whisper*, which she co-wrote with Jon Tiven and Cindy (or John) Hahn. A reggae groove is found on the lament *Should Have Come Home Last Night*. The title track is one of four numbers that Dr. John wrote or co-wrote, with *Too Close* being a terrific slow blues with Shemekia complaining about her man crowding up her life with something in her mind telling her something not right. The song that will probably getting the most play is Hahn and Hudson's wonderful new blues-ballad, *Happy Valentine's Day*, a terrific song about her man him a day for lovers to leave her for another. Shemekia is marvelous here on what likely will become regarded as a blues classic. The album closes with Shemekia paying a nice homage to her father on *Pie in the Sky*. The studio band, led by Dr. John on both piano and organ is terrific with her regular guitarist, Arthur Neilson, displaying his impressive chops at several places. It certainly does not hurt to have the great New Orleans drummer Herman Ernest anchoring this session. With good material, strong playing and terrific singing, Shemekia Copeland is fulfilling the promise she displayed in her earlier releases with **Talking to Strangers**. It is a superb release.

Dennis Gruenling

One of the unexpected pleasures of the Baltimore Blues Society's June picnic was hearing Dennis Gruenling & Jump Time, a band from New Jersey. Gruenling is a phenomenal harp player and leads his band through a jump blues oriented set. His band has recently changed singers and current singer Gina Fox proved to be a marvelous chanteuse whether handling ballads or hard jump blues numbers like *Mis-*

NOTES HOT & BLUE by Ron Weinstock



Mississippi Saxophone, and adaptation of Roy Montrell's (*I Love to Hear That*) *Mellow Saxophone*. Very impressive was the group's use of a saxophone and how the sax and Gruenling's harp sounded together. Gruenling plays customized harmonicas and plays with invention and subtlety that impress. **That's Right** is the groups latest album on backBender records and the back cover includes endorsements from Charlie Musselwhite and D.C. legend Pierre Beauregard amongst others. It captures the group in transition as Ms. Fox is heard only on some tracks. The group's former vocalist, John McCuiston, is heard on several tracks including the Eddie 'Cleanhead' Vinson classic, *Person to Person* and *I'm Coming Back Home*, one of several originals by Gruenling. Special mention should be made of Andy Reidel's fine guitar playing (Reidel, who sang wonderfully at the BBS picnic does not take any lead vocals here), and the saxophones of Doug Sasfai, as well as Jeff Rupert and Cliff Pecota who guest on several tracks. The noted jazz player, Kenny Davern adds some woody clarinet to a couple of tracks, with an exceptional accompaniment to Fox's wonderful ballad singing on *I Can't Believe You're in Love With Me*. Ms. Fox also sounds wonderful on *Mississippi Saxophone*, and the Louis Jordan classic, *Wonderful Time*, and she capably reworks a Bobby Bland recording, *I Don't Believe*. Ms Fox sounds a bit more natural live than here, probably as a result of performing this material for several months as opposed to perhaps learning it when this was recorded. The musicianship is superb. The rhythm section rocks and swings, the solos are tasty and fresh and the ensemble is even more impressive than than the considerable parts. For

Continued on page 7

everybody's talking!

"HOT AND HAUNTING...
HER RAFTER-RATTLING
VOICE IS A FORCE
OF NATURE, WITH
POISE TO MATCH
HER POWER."
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shemekia copeland

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RECORD STORES EVERYWHERE, AT
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BLUES

Continued from page 6

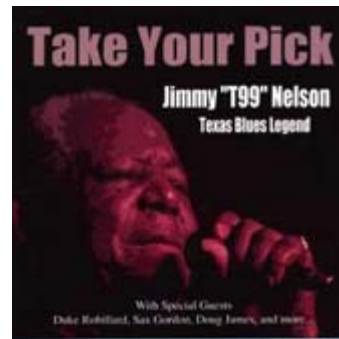
information on how to get this check out www.backbender.net.

Classic Blues Reissues

Fantasy Records which acquired Stax Records sometime ago has reissued the classic Albert King album, **Born Under a Bad Sign**. This 1967 album was the first album by King for the Memphis label and matched King with a studio band centered around Booker T & the MGs. This was a highly influential recording which along with Kings mid-seventies album, **I'll Play the Blues For You**, included a number of songs that became part of the core blues repertoire and shaped how so many artists played the music. Songs include the title track with its great line, "If it wasn't for bad luck I would not have any luck at all," the remake of the delta blues *Crosscut Saw*, with a hot rhythm section and blasting horns, the jaunty *The Hunter* with stinging guitar and the bravado line about pretty women being King's game, the classic blue ballad *As the Years Go Passing By* and *Personal Manager*, where he tells his lady how he would love to manage her affairs. King delivers the vocals and plays some classic guitar mixing long sustained notes with short staccato runs. King's sense of phrasing and use of silence is something setting him apart from his many imitators and those influenced by him. The liner notes focus a bit too much on King's influence on Stevie Ray Vaughan, but the fact is that even as spectacular a guitarist as Otis Rush who had already made some classic recordings a decade earlier incorporated elements of King's style into his own approach.. This is an essential disc although much of it might have been previously issued on cd on Atlantic as **King of Blues Guitar**.

MCA has reissued Muddy Waters Chess album **Fathers and Sons**. After attempts to psychedilize Muddy Waters music (the dreadful Elec-

MORE NOTES HOT & BLUE by Ron Weinstock & C.J. LeClair



tric Mud and the mixed **After the Rain**), Chess brought Muddy and pianist Otis Spann into a studio with Muddy's musical children, Paul Butterfield and Mike Bloomfield, and then revisited some of Muddy's early Chess recordings. It was a solid date that showed Muddy still to be one of the most formidable blues singers and slide guitarist. Both the great Spann and Butterfield (on harp) provided sterling account of themselves. This writer finds Mike Bloomfield's playing sometimes a bit too busy, especially when adding fills behind Muddy's vocals. But that is a minor defect. The original album had one record devoted to studio recordings and one to live recordings. On this reissue, they have been augmented by some previously unissued studio recordings. Perhaps not an essential Muddy Waters album, but a highly enjoyable and entertaining one nonetheless that is recommended.

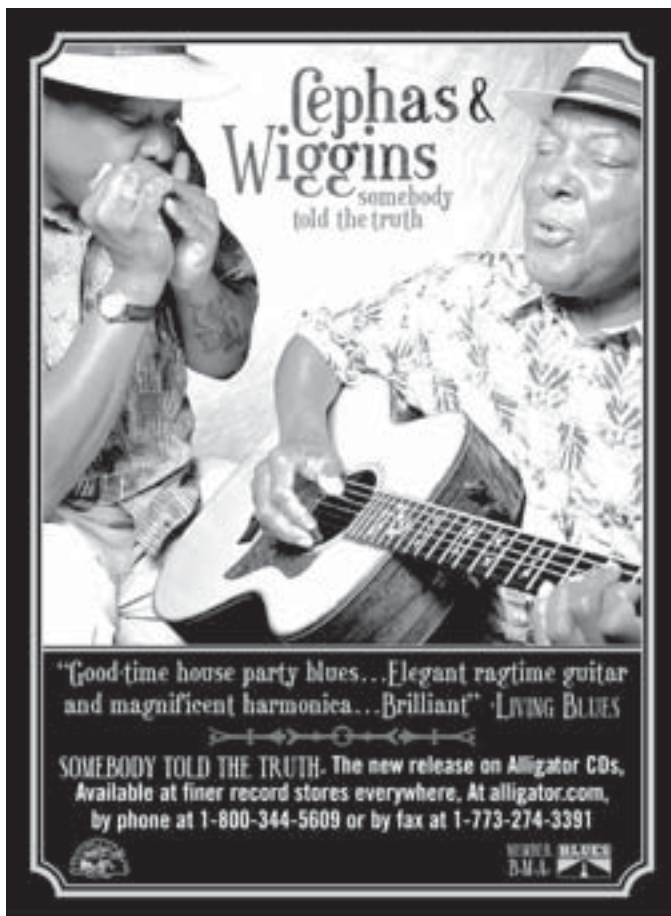
Jimmy "T-99" Nelson

Fans of jump blues and blues shouters in the vein of Big Joe Turner and Jimmy Witherspoon will want the latest release by Jimmy "T-99" Nelson, **Take Your Pick** on Nelly Marie Records. Nelson is a veteran singer who had some terrific recordings for Modern records in the early fifties. Two of them, *T-99 Blues* (a reworking of *Honey Dripper Blues*) and *Meet Me With Your Black Dress On*, reached the R&B charts. He later joined forces with Texas tenor giant Arnett Cobb for a few years and has maintained roots in Houston for the past few decades. A comeback album for Bullseye was well received by critics and now comes a new release produced by Roomful of Blues alumnus, trombonist Carl Querfurth. Querfurth has backed Nelson with a band that includes Duke Robillard on guitar, and a fine rhythm section. Comprised mostly of choice originals by Nelson, such as opening *Mean Evil* and *Son Listen to Me*, there is a strong remake of Joe Turner's *Mornin' Noon & Night*, and the ballads *Candy* (made famous by Big Maybelle) and *Someday You'll Be Sorry*. Perhaps the most unusual choice of material is the rendition of *(Life is a) Cabaret*, but like everything here, wonderfully sung and with some exquisite accompaniment from Robillard (who is terrific throughout) and his cohorts with solid, idiomatic horn arrangements and a swinging, rock-solid rhythm section. It is probably safe to suggest that swing dancers will find this a terrific disc as well as fans of great blues singing. Nelson is among the last of the classic blues shouters still with us and is more than a mere survivor as displayed on the potent performances on **Take Your Pick**. This is available at better stores or mail order stores. You can also try NU Productions, P.O. Box 721225, Houston TX 77272-1255, 281-568-2760 or e-mail: nuri@neosoft.com.

Todd Wolfe

Todd Wolfe was former lead guitarist for Sheryl Crow from 1993 until 1998. Upon his departure he put together a group that became the house band at New York's famous blues club, Manny's Car Wash. His new release, entitled *Wolfe*, (Okra-Tone Records) is a masterful blend of a number of different playing styles and is composed of original songs except for Robert Johnson's classic, *Come In My Kitchen*. Todd's backing band provides a wonderful foundation for Todd to lay out and lay out he does with some tracks as long as eight minutes. The great thing about these tunes is their length allows him to build some incredible solos and multi-tracking that is truly incendiary.

Of particular interest are *Shame*, showcasing Todd's wah-wah pedal ability and *Black Night*, a slow blues work out featuring searing lead work reminiscent of Eric Clapton when he was with Cream. Todd is also a great vocalist and *Come In My Kitchen*, features some incredible picking and vocal interplay with backing vocalist, Barb Walker. Overall, Wolfe is a terrific collection of powerful and evocative songs illustrating Todd Wolfe's first rate ability as a songwriter, guitarist and vocalist. For those of you who had the privilege of seeing him perform at July's Frederick Blues Festival, you will know what I'm talking about. His disc can be ordered directly from www.toddwolfe.com.



Music Maker Relief Foundation Benefit in Falls Church

A reminder that the Music Maker Relief Foundation will make its first appearance in the DC area, Saturday October 5 at the State Theater in Falls Church with performances by Taj Mahal, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Cootie Stark, Cool John Ferguson and Mudcat. Tickets for the show, which starts at 9:30 PM are available through the Foundation at its website, www.musicmaker.org, and at the State Theater box office the night of the show. Amounts will serve to help the Foundation in its Mission: "Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern musical traditions, gain recognition and meet their day to day needs. Today, many such musicians are living in extreme poverty and need food, shelter, medical care, and other assistance. Music Maker's aid and service programs improve the quality of recipients lives. Our work affirms to these artists' that we value the gifts of music and inspiration they have delivered to the world. Our mission is to give back to the roots of American music."

Taj Mahal is a musical legend who needs little said about him. Beverly Wwatkins was a member of the Piano Red/Dr. Feelgood band in Atlanta four decades ago who had a superb recent album and whose sets at the Pocono Blues Festival were highlights of the festival. Cootie Stark is an amazing acoustic blues artist. The music is gonna be great as is the cause.



Beverly Watkins, seen at this year's Pocono Blues Festival, will be among those at the Music Maker Relief Foundation benefit at State Theater October 5. Photo © Ron Weinstock

To order tickets www.musicmaker.org, or call 919-643-2456 for event tickets and information. The mailing address is Music Maker Relief Foundation, 4052 Summer Lane, Hillsborough, NC 27278. See you there.

Alligator Records Website Specials

Alligator Records has a special offer for those purchasing through its website. They have the new Alligator Records Quantity Discounts. Choose a minimum of three CDs from a list of 30 titles and start saving. Classic albums from Albert Collins, Elvin Bishop, Koko Taylor, Buddy Guy, Son Seals and more are included. Choose a minimum of 3 to get them at \$10.00 a piece. The selections change every month so check back! The web address for this special offer is: <http://www.alligator.com/specials/index.cfm>.

The new Shemekia Copeland album, **Talking To Strangers** is also available for the low, low price of \$14.98 (including free postage in the USA) direct from Alligator Records. Web address: <http://www.alligator.com/store/album.cfm?AlbumID=AL4887&artistid=041>.



More D.C. Blues Festival scenes. Top - Stokey the Clown with ballon tricks for children. Middle left - Emcee Bill Wax; Middle right - Mary Shaver. Bottom - Some of the crowd at the Carter Barron. Bill Wax photo © Danspax.

Other Photos © Ron Weinstock



More from the DC Blues Festival. Top left. Nighthawks Pete Ragusa, Mark Wenner and Jan Zukowski meet DC Blues Society Director Joe Shamwell who wrote the Z.Z. Hill classic *Shade Tree Mechanic* which the Hawks have recorded and were playing when Joe arrived at the Festival. Top right -Boy at the instrument zoo. Middle row from left Warner Williams; Neil Harpe; Mom dancing with daughter; Gene Meros, saxophonist with the DC Blues Society Band. Bottom left - Girl at instrument petting zoo. Bottom right - Richard 'Mr. Bones' Thomas accompanies NJ Warren with Mike Baytop in background. Warner Williams photo © Danspix. Other photos © Ron Weinstock

Upcoming Blues

Wolf Trap has **Mem Shannon** coming to the Barns. Mem is one of music (not simply blues) most perceptive songwriters and has a very distinctive style as a guitarist and singer fusing soul and blues elements into a very unique mix. By the way, Mem Shannon's appearance is the last on 12 date Southeast USA tour before the former taxi driver embarks on a seven date tour of New Zealand and Australia.

Cephas & Wiggins will be appearing at a benefit concert, **Diversity Rocks**, for NAME, the National Association of Multicultural Education at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway in Arlington on November 1 at 8:00. Also appearing will be Si Kahn, and the popular duo of Cathy Fink & Marcy Maxter I assume there will be more information forthcoming on this event. This concert takes place during a conference NAME is holding. For ticket and other information call NAME at (202)628-6263.

Johnny Winter is coming to the State Theater in November. Also on November 9, Wilbur Fletcher's WLF Productions presents **The 5th Annual Blues & R&B Festival** at the Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro. Performers scheduled for this show include Eddie Holman, Eddie Floyd, Maxine Brown, Mary Anne Redmond, W.D. Jay, Kimmy & Klasse' and, Rudy McPhatter. Check the Showplace Arena for more information on this event.

Blues in Passing

Erma Franklin, one of Aretha's sisters, who had a hit with *Piece of My Heart*, which was covered by Janis Joplin and more recently by country singer Faith Hill, recently passed away. In addition to her own recordings, she sang backup on a number of Aretha's recordings including *Respect*.

Doug Clark, of Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts, died Monday September 16 in Chapel Hill N. C. after a short illness. He was 66. Clark toured with his band for 47 years, and was famous in the fifties and sixties for his risque lyrics and good, basic R&B.

News from B-Sharp - the Blues Music Association's newsletter

Blind Boys of Alabama were profiled on the season premiere of 60 Minutes II on September 25 and scheduled to appear on the Late Show with David Letterman October 28.

Roy Rogers and Norton Buffalo have been invited by the Government of China to perform at the Beijing & Wuhan International Cultural Festival later this month.

Corky Siegel achieved a milestone in his 37-year career with the international release of Russo's **Street Music - A Blues Concerto - Three pieces for Blues Band and Symphony Orchestra** on Deutsche Grammophon, July 2002.

Chris Thomas King is appearing in Robert Mugge's documentary, **Last of the Mississippi Jukes**, which will premiere over the BLACK STARZ! Channel, February 2003. The documentary is being submitted for consideration for the 2003 Sundance Film Festival.

Ruf Records is set to release a Luther Allison CD **Pay It Forward**, a tribute to the artist, in late October.

On September 12th, the U.S. Senate passed Resolution 316, designating **The Year of the Blues** beginning February 1, 2003. The bill will now move to the House of Representatives for vote.

For more news items and past news, you can go to the B Sharp archive at B Sharp will be permanently archived at <http://bluesmusicassociation.org/news/index.html>.



Top - Former Muddy Waters Band drummer, Willie Smith and DC Bellamy were surprise guests during one of Sam Lay's sets at this year's Pocono Blues Festival.

Photo © Theresa Hemp.

Middle - Bernard Allison has little girl assist on guitar at Hot August Blues show. Photo © Ron Weinstock.

Bottom - Fat Possum act T-Model Ford, opened for Buddy Guy at the 9:30 club recently.

Photo © Heeday Nakahashi

D.C. Blues Society Membership Application/Order Form

The DC Blues Society is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) all volunteer organization! (0902)

Members receive a copy of the newsletter; The D.C. Blues Calendar, as well as discounts on society events & merchandise, some clubs, and other benefits.

The most important benefit is you help keep our ad rates up, the grant applications more appealing to the grantors and potential sponsors interest and support.

Contributions (not membership dues or merchandise) to the D.C. Blues Society are tax-deductible.

Please Print Clearly:

Date: _____ If renewal, check here _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

Dues(US) per year: Circle appropriate one.

Individual: \$15.00 Family: \$25.00

Corporate: \$50.00

Canada-\$25.00(US) Other Countries\$40.00 (US)

Dues: _____

Tax-deductible Contribution: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Mail this application with your check or money order to:

D.C. Blues Society

P.O. Box 77315

Washington D.C. 20013-7315

Family memberships (list member names):

Please allow up to six weeks for processing Questions? Check out www.dcblues.org

or call the Society Hotline: (202) 828-3028

Would you be interested in volunteering? _____

If yes, what would you like to do (if you know)?



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Left -Reesa Gibbs part of the Archie Edwards Heritage Foundation Band . Photo © Danspix

Right - John Jackson's nephew Jeff Scott playing on banjo a song her learned from his uncle, Blind Boy Fuller's "She's So Sweet." Photo © Ron Weinstock



Above - The Nighthawks Pete Kanaras, mark Wenner, Pete Ragusa and Jan Zukowski continued their 30th Anniversary with a great DC Blues Festival set. Photo © Ron Weinstock
To the left, Cephas & Wiggins
Photo © Danspix
More coverage of the 14th Annual DC Blues Festival is found inside this issue of the DC Blues Calendar

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