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April 2004
Hotline - (202) 962-0112
www.dcblues.org
© 2004 D.C. Blues Society
Next Blues Society Jams
Sundays April 4, May 2
4PM @ Taliano's
The D.C. Blues Society
where every year is a Year for the Blues



THE DC BLUES SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON DC 20013-7315
202-962-0112

<http://www.dcblues.org>

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Contributors: Sam'i Nuriddin, Ingrid Strawser

The D.C. Blues Society is a non-profit section 501(c)(3) organization. Annual membership: Individual \$15, Family \$25, Canada \$25 (US), other countries \$40 (US). Members receive the D.C. Blues Calendar, discounts at Society events and some clubs, and other benefits. Contributions (not dues) to the D.C. Blues Society are tax-deductible. **To join, send a check & address to the P.O. box above.**

The **DC Blues Calendar** is usually published monthly (except during the summer and the end of the year. It includes information on Society events, blues listings and other items of interest. Listings should be sent to **Steve Levine, 5022 Quebec St., College Park, MD 20740** or to the mail address (cypressgrove@hotmail.com). Recent issues of the DC Blues Calendar are downloadable as PDF files from the Society's website, www.dcblues.org.

The May 2004 issue deadline is April 17.

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. Ron's email address is rbluesw@yahoo.com. Send payment for the ads to the D.C. Blues Society postal box.



Some scenes from the March 21 benefit at Chick's Surf Club for Society director Chris Kirsch. Top photo is of The Shambles. Middle is of Mary Shaver backed by the Smokin' Polecats. Bottom is of Flatfoot Sam (who did most of the work organizing the event) along with Chris. It was great to see so many from the Society turn out and the Society had a table at the event. Chet 'Dr. Feelgood' Hines led the D.C. Blues All Stars and Steve Levine sat in with Janine Wilson. Special Thanks to Marc Gretschel and Wayne Kahn for their involvement. Continue to get well Chris. Photos © Ron Weinstock

April Blues Listings

1 Bill Heid @ Cafe Europa
 Bad Influence @ Blues Alley
 BG & the Mojo Hands @ JVs
 Mary Shaver Band @ Lasick's
 Skyla Burrell Blues Band @ Cat's Eye
2 Sonny Boy Chung @ Cafe Europa
 Catfish Hodge @ JVs
 Bad Neighbors @ Cat's Eye
 Walter Jay & Texas Flood @ Holiday House
 B'more Blues Band @ Poplar Inn
 Reggie Wayne Morris @ Zoo Bar
3 Big Boy Little @ Zoo Bar
 Tom Vaughn Roadhouse Five @ River's Edge Community Church
 Goldtops, Mike Guldin & Rollini & Tumblini @ Perryville American Legion
 Melanie Mason Band @ Bangkok Blues
 Rod Sebastian, Automatic Slim @ Cat's Eye
 Dalton Gang @ Town Taven
 Russ Greene Band @ Poplar Inn
 Blues Therapy @ Golden Sports Bar
4 DCBS Jam @ Taliano's
 Jamie Lynch Band @ Cat's Eye
5 Jamie Lynch w Robert Frahm @ JVs
6 Funky Meters w. Art Neville @ Ram's Head
 Billy Hancock & the Fat Boys @ JVs
7 Automatic Slim @ Cat's Eye
 The Shambles w Pete Kanaras @ JVs
 Sonny Boy Chung All Stars @ Jammini Java
8 Bob Margolin's AllStar Blues Jam @ State Theatre
 Liz Briones @ Cafe Europa
9 Heaters @ Holiday House
 Mary Shaver Band @ Summit Station
 Shambles @ Cat's Eye
 Sookie Jump Blues @ Zoo Bar
 Reggie Wayne Morris @ Willie D's
10 Funky Meters @ 9:30 Club
 Mike Montgomery & Deanna Bogart @ State Theatre
 Joe Dicey & Jamnation @ Zoo Bar
 Mary Shaver Band @ Zoo Bar
 Heaters, Carl Filipiak @ Cat's Eye
11 Mikey Jr. & Stone Cold Blues @ Cat's Eye
12 Joe Stanley Band @ JVs
Nick Curran @ Half Moon Café
13 Nancy Katz & Stray Dogs @ JVs
14 Muleman @ Cat's Eye
Wade Matthews benefit @ State Theatre
 Joe Bonamassa @ Recher Theatre
15 Bill Heid @ Cafe Europa
 Chaz dePaolo @ Cat's Eye
16 Liz Briones @ Zoo Bar
 Sonny Boy Chung @ Cafe Europa
 Mary Shaver Band @ Firestone's
 Ray Kaminsky @ Finewine.com
 Naked Blue @ Cat's Eye
 Reggie Wayne Morris @ Holiday House
17 Baltimore Blues Society presents **Tab Benoit, Mitch Woods & Rocket 88's @ Rosedale American Legion**



Curbfeellers @ Broad Street Grill
 Soul Messengers @ Poplar Inn
 Ray Kaminsky & Jeff Glassie @ Third Annual Heroes of Hope Golf Tournament, Lansdowne Resort

18 The Nighthawks @ Wolf Trap
 Deb Callahan @ Cat's Eye
 Liz Briones @ Firestone's
19 Jamie Lynch w Robert Frahm @ JVs
20 Billy Hancock & the Fat Boys @ JVs
21 Roomful Of Blues @ Wolf Trap
22 Roomful Of Blues @ Ram's Head
 Liz Briones @ Cafe Europa
 Eric King @ JVs
 Barn Burners @ Cat's Eye
23 Straight Jacket @ Town Tavern
 Bad Influence @ JVs
 BluesWorks @ Clarice Smith Ctr for the Arts
 Garry Cogdell & Complainers @ Cat's Eye
24 Straight Flush Band @ JVs
 Ray Kaminsky @ Village Green Day School
 Linwood Taylor & Rude Dog @ Cat's Eye
26 Joe Stanley Band @ JVs
27 The Shambles w Pete Kanaras @ JVs
28 Liz Briones @ LaPortas
 Patrick Alban & Noche Latina @ Cat's Eye
29 Willbilly @ Cat's Eye
30 Liz Briones @ Finewine.com
 Sonny Boy Chung @ Cafe Europa
 Nightstreet @ Cat's Eye
 Dalton Gang @ Holiday House

Weekly Events

Sun Detroit Slim @ Full Moon
 Kenny Haddaway (open mic) @ Whitlow's
 Steve Kraemer @ Cat's Eye
 Dave Elliott's Redneck Jazz @ JV's
 Jim Bennett & Lady Mary w. Unique

Creation Band @ Lamont's
 Jam @ Lasick's (except 1st Sunday)
 Jesse Yawn @ Club Pparadiso
 Acoustic Jam @ King of France Tavern
 Automatic Slim Jam @ Wahoo's
 Pro Blues Jam @ Sully's

Mon Blues Jam @ Taliano's
 Blues jam @ Chick Hall's Surf Club

Tue Jam @ Full Moon
 Billy Otis Band Jam @ Bangkok Blues
 Ben Andrews @ Madam's Organ
 Resonators @ Grog & Tankard

Wed Various @ Full Moon
 Diane Postell @ Tom's Sports Tavern
 Jam @ Coconuts
 Big Dog Band @ Cat's Eye
 Persuaders @ Main Street Blues
 Steve Smith Band @ Round Table

Thu Jam @ Backstreets Cafe
 Jam @ 94th Aero Squadron
 Jam w/ Flatfoot Sam @ Zoo Bar
 JBlues Museum @ The Saloun

Fri Blue Flames @ Bertha's,
 Hardway Connection @ Tradewinds

Sat Jam @ Archie's Barbershop
 Various @ Full Moon
 Clarence Turner @ Ledbetter's

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 1st set of ADAT tapes is free. For more info, contact Industrial Sound Studios, P.O. Box 1162, Riverdale, MD 20738. The Phone number is 301-209-0565. The E-mail address is industrialstudio@hotmail.com.

The next issue is

May 2004.

Deadline is April 17

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

Advertising information is at the bottom right of page 2

Places to Hear Blues

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

219 Basin Street Lounge, 219 King St., Alexandria, VA (703) 549-1141
 94th Aero Squadron, 5240 Paint Branch Pkwy., College Pk, MD
 Afterwords Cafe, 1517 Connecticut Ave NW, D.C. (202) 387-1462
 Allegro, 13476 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring
 Armadillos, 132 Dock St., Annapolis, MD (410) 268-6680
 Backstreets Cafe, 12352 Wilkins Ave., Rockville, MD
 B&B Cafe, 14601 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, MD 301-952-9001
 Ball's Bluff, 2 Loudon Street, SW, #2D, Leesburg, VA (703) 777-7577
 Bangkok Blues, 926 W. Broad St., Falls Church, VA (703) 534-0095
 Barefoot Pelican, 156 Enterprise St., Sterling, VA (703) 444-2208
 Bay Cafe, 2809 Boston St, Baltimore, MD
 Bayou Blues, 8133A Honeygo Blvd., White Marsh, MD (410) 931-BLUE
 Bean Counter, 9113 1/2 Belair Road, Perry Hall (410) 529-4200
 Bentz Street Raw Bar, 6 S. Bentz St., Frederick, MD (301) 694-9134
 Bertha's, 723 S. Broadway, Baltimore, MD (410) 327-0426
 Berwyn Cafe, 5010 Berwyn Rd., College Park, MD (301) 345-9898
 Birchmere, 3901 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA (703) 549-5919
 Blues Alley, 1073 Rear Wisconsin Ave. NW, DC (202) 337-4141
 Bohemian Gardens, 2001 11th St NW DC
 Brady's, 7189 Center St, Manassas, VA (703) 369-1469
 Calvert House, 6111 Baltimore Ave., Riverdale, MD (301) 864-5220
 Cat's Eye, 1730 Thames St., Fells Point, Baltimore, MD (410) 276-9866
 Chevy Chase Ballroom, 5207 Wisconsin Ave. NW, DC (202) 363-8344
 Chick Hall's Surf Club, 4711 Kenilworth Ave, Bladensburg (301) 927-6310
 Chuck & Billy's Lounge, 2718 Georgia Ave., NW, DC (202) 232-0924
 Clarendon Grill, 1101 N. Highland St., Arlington, VA (703) 524-7455
 Club Europa, 7820 Norfolk Ave, Bethesda MD 301-657-1607
 Coconuts, 1629 Crain Hwy., Crofton, MD (301) 261-3366
 Copper Bit, 573 Frost Dr., Warrenton, VA (703) 347-5757
 Dead Eye Saloon, Hanover Street, Baltimore, MD (410) 539-7784
 Diamond Grill, 800 W Diamond Ave Gaithersburg, MD (301) 963-4847
 Ebb Tide, 985 Bay Ridge Road, Annapolis, MD (410) 269-1500
 Famous Dave's, 917 Quince Orchard Rd, Gaithersburg, MD
 Fast Eddie's, 6220 S. Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, (703) 660-9444
 Fat Tuesday's, 10673 Braddock Rd, Fairfax (703) 385-5717
 Firestone's, 105 N Market Street, Frederick MD (301) 663-0330
 Fish Bowl, 4802 Benson Ave., Baltimore, MD (410) 247-2474
 Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., Baltimore, MD (410) 588-1889
 Funk Box (old 8X10) Baltimore MD
 Full Moon, 1710 Aliceanna St, Baltimore, MD (410) 558-2873
 Gee's, 3415 52nd Ave., Cheverly, MD (301) 927-2582
 Glen Echo Park, MacArthur Blvd & Goldboro Rd, Glen Echo, MD
 Grand Marquis, 18320 Village Mart Dr, Olney, MD (301) 260-0500
 Grog and Tankard, 2408 Wisconsin Ave, Washington, (202) 333-3114
 HR-57, 1610 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 (202) 667-3700
 Half Moon BBQ, 8235 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring MD (301) 585-1290
 Holiday House, 6427 Harford Rd., Baltimore, MD (410) 426-6794
 Hull Street Blues, 1222 Hull St, Baltimore, MD (410) 727-7476
 Hunter's, 10123 River Rd, Potomac, MD (301) 299-9300
 Ice House Cafe, 760 Elden St., Herndon, VA (703) 471-4256
 Iota, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA (703) 522-8340
 IMT, Unitarian-Universalist Church of Silver Spring, 10309 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD (301) 588-7525
 J.J.'s Grill, 2005 Viers Mill Road, Rockville, MD (301) 309-6388



Bobby Parker at Chris Kirsch Benefit on March 21. Photo © Ron Weinstock

Jammin' Java, 231 Maple Ave, Vienna, VA (703) 255-1566
 Junction Station, 1705 Edmonson Ave., Catonsville, MD (410) 747-6437
 JV's, 6666 Arlington Blvd, Annandale VA (703) 241-9504
 King of France Tavern, 15 Church St, Annapolis, MD (410) 216-6340
 Lamont's, 4400 Livingston Rd, Pomonkey, MD (301) 283-0225
 Lasick's, 9128 Baltimore Blvd., College Park, MD (301) 441-2040
 Luna Park Grille, 5866 Washington Blvd., Alexandria, VA (703) 237-5862
 Madam's Organ, 2641 18th St., NW, DC (202) 667-5370
 Magic Cue, 13032 Middlebrook Rd., Germantown, MD (301) 916-7665
 Mexicali Blues, 2933 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA (703) 812-9352
 Michael's Pub, Kings Contrivance Ctr, Columbia, MD (410) 290-7878
 New Haven Lounge, 1552 Havenwood Rd., Northwood Shopping Center, Baltimore, MD (410) 366-7416
 New Vegas Lounge, 1415 P St., NW, Washington, DC (202) 483-3971
 Occaquan Inn, 301 Mill St., Occaquan, VA (703) 491-1888
 Oliver's Pub, 1565 Potomac Ave., Hagerstown, MD (301) 790-0011
 Oliver's Saloon, 531 Main St., Laurel, MD (301) 490-9200
 Outta the Way Cafe, 17503 Redland Rd., Derwood, MD (301) 963-6895
 Paloma's, 15 W. Eager St., Baltimore, MD
 Parker's, 1809 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, MD (410) 563-2988
 Pelican Pete's, 12941 Wisteria Dr., Germantown, MD (301) 428-1990
 Ram's Head, 33 West St., Annapolis, MD (410) 268-4545
 Recher Theatre, 512 York Rd., Towson, MD (410) 337-7210
 Rendezvous Inn, 362 Front St., Perryville, MD (410) 642-0045
 Roots Cafe, 27th & Paul Streets, Baltimore, MD (410) 880-3883
 Rosedale American Legion, 1311 Seling Ave., Rosedale, MD
 Round Table, 4859 Wisconsin Ave., NW, DC (202) 362-1250
 Royal Lee Bar 2211 N. Pershing, Arlington VA (703) 524-5493
 Santa Fe Grill, 216 William St., Fredericksburg, VA (540) 371-0500
 Shark Club, 14114 Lee Hwy., Centreville, VA (703) 266-1888
 Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo, MD
 Spanky's Shennanigan's, Leesburg, VA (703) 777-2454
 St. Elmo's Coffee, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA (703) 739-9268
 Starland Cafe, 5125 MacArthur Blvd, NW (202) 244-9396
 State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA (703) 237-0300
 Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Hwy, Chantilly, VA (703) 818-9292
 Summit Station, 227 E. Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg, MD (301) 519-9400
 Sunset Grille, 7250 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA (703) 658-0982
 Sweet Caroline's, 29 W Cork St, Winchester VA (540) 723-8805
 Taliano's, 7001 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD (301) 270-5515
 Truffles, 1001 Olney-Sandy Spring Rd Sandy Spring, MD (240) 774-7309
 TT Reynolds, Fairfax, VA (703) 591-9282
 Twins, 1344 U St, NW DC (202) 234-0072
 Wahoo's Sports Bar, 9820 Liberty Rd, Randallstown, MD (410) 655-8668
 Waterman's Crab House Rock Hall, MD (410) 810-2631
 Whitlow's on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA (703) 276-9693
 Wild Azalea, 1648 Crystal Square Arcade, Arlington, VA (703) 413-2250
 Wolf Trap, Vienna, VA (703) 255-1900
 Woodstock Inn, Woodstock, MD (410) 465-9855
 Zanzibar, 700 Water St, SE (202) 554-9100
 Zig's, 4531 Duke Street, Alexandria VA 703- 823-2777
 Zoo Bar, 3000 Connecticut Ave., NW, DC (202) 232-4225
 If you know of clubs that do have blues on a regular basis (at least once a month) that we do not list, please send an update to Steve Levine at cypressgrove@hotmail.com.

Corey Harris

The PBS television series, *The Blues* presented by Martin Scorsese, was a disappointment with the inconsistency of between the films in the series. WETA locally produced short intros to the series that spotlighted local blues performers hopefully did boost the local blue scene and seemed more in the spirit of the "Year of the Blues" hype than much of this Series itself. It is unfortunate that the producers of the public television show, **Blues Story**, did not receive the funding that the Scorsese series received. That hour sketch of the blues as told by the performers themselves illustrated the potential of a week long series that The Scorsese series only teased us with.

Despite the prominence it gave the idiom, the only performers associated with the series that may have received a boost from the series were those featured on it and any boost in record sales was generally limited to the tie-in cds and dvds connected with the series. So 'blues albums' by Eric Clapton, The Allman Brothers and Jimi Hendrix were top sellers while the major blues artists of the past decade such as Joe Louis Walker and Lucky Peterson (both who had exceptional discs last year) likely saw no benefit for this series. One of the few blues artists who may have

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received a boost is Corey Harris. Harris appeared in the opening episode that Scorsese produced. That episode showed Corey traveling Mississippi and performing with Bobby Rush and Otha Turner and then to Africa where he performed with Ali Farka Toure and other Africans, illustrating the links between the music of West African and the blues in the US. Rounder issued late in 2004 Harris' new disc, *Mississippi to Mali*, which similarly explores the same musical links. Harris performs with drummer Sam Carr and soul-blues legend Bobby Rush, the granddaughter of the late Otha Turner, Shardé Turner & the Rising Star Fife and Drum band, Ali Farka Toure, another West African guitarist Ali Magassa and percussionist Souleyman Kane on a program of blues and African music that is fascinating and compelling.

Harris opens with a fine slide guitar instrumental, *Coahoma*, that evokes Furry Lewis. He then provides a fine rendition of Tommy Johnson's *Big Road Blues*, backed by Rush and Carr followed by a rendition of Skip James' *Special Rider Blues*, where the guitar of Ali Farka Toure and the percussion of Souleyman Kane lend an insistent, hypnotic quality to the

performance. This is followed by a Toure originals, *Tamalah*. Its insistent accompaniment suggests the kinship of the Delta blues music and one of the musical traditions of Africa. The linkage is also suggested by *Station Blues*, a reworking of the blues waltz, *Sitting on Top of the World*. On this, Harris is joined by Shardé Turner and her fife and drum band. Harris performs other downhome blues like *Cypress Groove*, *44 Blues*, and *Catfish Blues*, along with more performances with the Mali musicians. *Mr. Turner*, a juke joint performance with Rush and Carr is a tribute to Otha Turner who died a week before he was supposed to record with Corey, while *Charlene*, a Harris original, displays how well he has integrated the influences of the Mali musicians in his guitar playing, vocal and the percussion of Darrell Rose. When this disc ends with a riveting rendition of Blind Willie Johnson's *Dark Was the Night, Cold Was the Ground*, one has been through an enlightening, but even more important, entertaining musical journey. Harris writes in the liner notes, "As they say, "the roots of a tree cast no shadow.' Our different histories, ages, cultures are all part of the same tree. Listen closely and you will hear the root. Give thanks."

The Devil's Music

The Devil's Music was the title of a 1976 BBC 5 part documentary series that resulted from Giles Oakley's travels to the United States. It was accompanied by a nice written history of the blues by Oakley also titled **The Devil's Music**, and some albums on the Red Lightnin' label. While this writer has never seen the BBC television series, he has read Oakley's book (which I believe De Capo has republished) and had the original recordings, a double lp set **The Devils Music**, and a single lp, **More Devil's Music**. Those cds are reissued by the British Indigo label along with some live recordings by Memphis Slim and Sonny Boy Williamson from

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NEW on SEVERN RECORDS Available in stores March 16

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Also new on Severn: Mike Morgan & The Crawl's "Live In Dallas"

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the 1963 American Folk Blues Festival Tour in Indigo Records 3 cd box, **The Devils Music**.

The first two volumes contain recordings made during by Oakley and his BBC crew while visiting the US. Included is Mississippi bluesmen, Sam Chatmon doing *Stop and Listen Blues*, Big Joe Williams performing *Highway 49*, and Bukka White's powerful *Aberdeen Mississippi*. Some of the performers around Memphis and Helena, Arkansas are featured including former King Biscuit Time guitarists, Houston Stackhouse and Joe Willie Wilkins. Stackhouse's performances include a version of Tommy Johnson's *Cool Drink of Water* while Wilkins does *Mr. Downchild*, a tune associated with Sonny Boy Williamson and Robert Johnson. Harmonica player Sonny Blake is heard on Sonny Boy's *Bring It On Home*. Others here include Laura Dukes, once a singer with the Memphis Jug Band, and pianist Mose Vinson. Chicago blues are represented with performances by The Aces, Fenton Robinson (on which current DC area resident Bill Heid is on keyboards), Good Rockin' Charles, Elmore James imitator Joe Carter and Billy Boy Arnold. Pianist Little Brother Montgomery and singer Edith Wilson provide a nod to early blues recording. St. Louis is represented by the final twelve performances including 6 by James De Shay and his band recordings on *Pony Blues*, *Mistake in Life Hold That Train* and Elmore James' version of *Crossroads*. These live club recordings are not hi-fi but are DeShay's only recordings. Other recordings include more Big Joe Williams (a raucous *Sloppy Drunk*) and Henry Townsend (with the bittersweet *Tears Come Fallin' Down* being outstanding). The late blues queen Victoria Spivey closes the field recordings with a remake of her *T.B. Blues*. This is a fascinating collection of field recordings with some exceptional performances interspersed with other entertaining ones. Add to this live recordings of Memphis Slim and Sonny Boy Williamson in Europe from 1963 and one has an attractive box set, which I believe is bargain priced. Now if someone would only make the BBCTV series available on dvd.

Mike Morgan & the Crawl

Mike Crawl is one of the acts that emerged on the late lamented Black Top label with a rootsy blues style that was rooted in the traditions of Texas and the Gulf Coast. Severn has just issued their latest cd, **Live in Dallas**. Paired with second guitarist Chris Zalez, bassist Rhandy Simmons and drummer Kevin Schermerhorn, Morgan are heard playing to an enthusiastic Dallas audience. Much of the material is originals by Morgan and the Crawl, although Morgan and (Lee) McBee did not write the classic Earl King number *Those Lonely, Lonely Nights*. This is just a disc hard rocking blues and rhythm sounds with Morgan telling his lady that she loves her too much on *One of a Kind*, while on Frankie Lee Sims' *Frankie's Blues*, Morgan slows down the groove and delivers the vocal with an effective straightforward delivery. *Mother-in-Law Blues* benefits from a nice easy groove that

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Morgan & the Crawl provide. Perhaps some of the lengthier performances might have benefited from a little editing, but that is a minor quibble. Morgan is a steady, solid singer while the Crawl is rock solid behind him, resulting music that is will certainly entertain.

Blowing the Blues

Indigo has issued a three-disc history of blues harmonica, **Blowing the Blues** that spans the history of harmonica blues recordings from such pioneers as Robert Cooksey, De Ford Bailey, El Watson, Noah Lewis, and George 'Bullet' Williams; more recent masters like the two Sonny Boy Williamsons, Forest City Joe, Big Walter Horton, Little Walter, Papa Lightfoot, Junior Wells, Carey Bell, Paul Butterfield and Paul deLay and Billy Boy Arnold. The three discs present the material roughly chronologically and enable us to hear the evolution of harp technique from the imitation of trains and fox chases to the jazz inflected solos of Little Walter over the first two discs. Insofar as most of the recordings on the first two discs are in the public domain in Europe, a fair representation of the music through the early fifties is presented. The third disc with the most recent material is probably the most questionable in the choice of material. This may reflect limitations in the material that could be licensed which might explain the lesser remake of *Juke* by Little Walter as well as the inclusion of John Mayall, who was not a blues harp player of any distinction. Not that these recordings are terrible, but a number of these are not special while the first two discs contain many brilliant recordings. This is also a bargain priced set I believe.

Blues Harp Meltdown Vol. 2

There are a number of today's top practitioners of blues harmonica on the second volume of **Blues Harp Meltdown: East Meets West Live at Moe's Alley** on Mountain Top. Recorded at the annual blues harp tour that Mark Hummel puts together, this recording features RJ Mischo, Gary Smith, Frank Goldwasser (aka Paris Slim), Mark Hummel, Paul Rishell & Annie Raines, Johnny Dyer and Gary Primich. The two discs present over two hours of music that is often exceptional. Most of the performances might be described as in the West Coast jump vein, a mix of post war Chicago blues with jump blues rhythms and guitar seasoning that is associated with such artists as Rod Piazza and the late Hollywood Fats. The backing is provided by Hummel's band, The Blues Survivors with Paris Slim and Paul Rishell each guesting on guitar on several tracks. There's plenty of muscular harp from the participants. RJ Mischo starts things off with *Telephone Blues* before Gary Smith, veteran of the San Francisco Bay blues scene, contributes the moody *You Can't Hurt Me No More* and a rocking reworking of Little Walter's *It Ain't Right*, with Frank Goldwasser adding nice guitar. Goldwasser plays harp and sings Junior Parker's *All These Blues* followed by Hummel on the Moon Mullican rocker, *Seven Nights to Rock* and *I'm Gone*. Paul Rishell laying

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down strong Elmore James flavored slide on this latter tune. With Annie Raines on harp, Paul revives a nice swamp blues, *Nothing But the Devil* to close out the first disc. Annie handles a couple vocals with the lyrics of *Little Dog* being amusing, and has a outsuading instrumental *Annie's Rocker*. Johnny Dyer handles classic blues from Muddy Waters, J.B. Lenoir and Little Walter with a bit more down home vocal style before Gary Primich closes this two-disc set with a mix of originals and Smiley Lewis songs. Overall some consistently very good blues to be heard on this. I understand Cephas and Wiggins were among those who performed at this year's blues harp meltdown earlier this year which hopefully will be documented by a Volume 3.

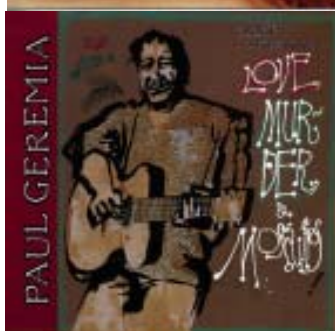
Kirk Fletcher

Kirk Fletcher is a young African-American guitarist from Southern California who has been mentored by some of the best West Coast blues musicians such as Junior Watson and Al Blake. Fletcher has also caught the eye of both Kim Wilson and Charlie Musselwhite who both have hired him for tour and Wilson has used Fletcher on recordings. One might call him an old school guitarist as their is little if any of post-Hendrix blues-rock flavoring in his music. He plays straight ahead driving blues guitar. His second album, **Shades of Blue**, is on the German Crosscut label and spotlights his inventive playing on several instrumentals and backing vocalists Kim Wilson, Janiva Magness and Finis Tasby. Magness is one of the more promising of the emerging female blues vocalist and Tasby is one of the few singers whose vocals evoke the grit and soul of the late Lowell Fulson. Fletcher is a splendid accompanist, whose sharp, biting lines embellish but not overwhelm the vocals. Highpoints include his accompaniments to Wilson's vocals on Lonesome Sundown's *My Home is a Prison*, and the classic Junior Parker (? I am guessing) *Stranded*; Magness' thoughtful renditions of Magic Sam's *That's Why I'm Crying*, and Tasby's reworking of Jimmy Dawkins' *Welfare Blues*. Fletcher really takes off on his solo on this last number. There is also a nice Tasby rendition of Percy Mayfield's *The River's Invitation*. Instrumental showcases include *Club Zanzibar* that Fletcher co-wrote with Wilson and the opening *Blues For boo Boo*, with its nice easy groove.

Paul Geremia

Listening to Paul Geremia playing his twelve-string Stella on the opening *Meet Me in the Bottom*, the opening selection of his new Red House album, **Love Murder & Mosquitos**, this listener was struck by how much his performance reminded me of the legendary Georgia master of twelve-string blues, Blind Willie McTell, without sounding like he was copying McTell. Its an indication of just how good Geremia is. This album is yet another superb album by him with his original renderings of blues recordings from such masters as Charlie Patton, Jesse Thomas, Tampa Red, Mississippi John Hurt and others along with a few distinctive orig-

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inals. He updates a song or two here including Riley Puckett's (*New*) *Bully of the Town* with his updated lyrics protesting the "so-called anti-terrorist legislation which endangers our citizenry by, in effect, making criminals of political dissenters." He is such a good player and singer, but he does receive splendid support on several selections. Paul Geremia has produced excellent recordings in the past, but is at the top fo his form here. This is Highly recommended.

Renee Austin

Renee Austin is a somewhat hyped young lady from the Twin Cities area who has a debut on Blind Pig, **Sweet Talk**. Austin has quite a voice and range which she displays over a collection of mostly self-penned songs. She caught the attention of Delbert McClinton who guests on *Pretend We Never Met*, and has been nominated for a Handy Award in the new artist category. On the opening *Not Alone*, she reminds this listener a bit in her phrasing of D.C. area singer Melanie Mason, although Austin sings a bit more powerfully and does possess a broader range. I enjoyed this album, although was not overwhelmed, perhaps reflecting what I heard as pop-rock flavoring to her performances. What is refreshing about the album is that she almost never goes overboard with her vocals. She still is maturing as a vocalist and has produced a very entertaining and listenable record that will impress some more than I. Certainly she is a talent to keep an eye open for.

Charlie Musselwhite

Charlie Musselwhite's recording career spans nearly four decades and as might be expected he has tried to find new material and fresh approaches to his music. His most recent recent is for the wold music label, Real World, **Sanctuary**, and has him supported by a trio with guitarist Charlie Sexton featured. Musselwhite's mood is a bit somber and reflective here as he opens with Ben Harper's *Homeless Child* before following with his own, *My Road Lies in Darkness*, where he sings that he ain't telling anybody "what that highway has done to me." He always had an ear for good songs, and Musselwhite can be heard here performing Randy Newman's, *Burn Down the Cornfield* (and "make love while it burns"), and Townes Van Zandt's *Snake Song*. The Blind Boys of Alabama add backing vocals to *Train to Nowhere* and *I Had Trouble*, adding a bit of a gospel seasoning to the lyrics. Musselwhite on record has perhaps become less forceful a singer and a harp player. Thid is not to say he has become a lesser performer. He has continued to grow and if his music may superficially seem less powerful than his earlier recordings, he has become wiser from his experiences and a more astute and accomplished artist as a result. Incidentally this cd has some copy protection which may lead to playback players on some car cd players and I had problems using on my pc at work, where I could not install the included cd player. I had no problem playing this cd on my Mac at home.



As promised last month here are some photos from Ingrid Strawser. Most of the ones here are from past Society jams. Top row from left to right - Kim Capps, Onion and a guitarist at the Lasicks' jam. Middle row from left to right is a bass player from the Taliano's jam, Elmen Pladgett and Clarence Turner. Bottom right photo is of Jon Steinman. All photos on this page © Ingrid Strawser

Jam Notes

The turnout for the March jam was terrific and it was great to see Mac MacDonald and Blues U Can Use show up. Mac many will remember had the club Smokeless where the Society held the jam for about a year. Mac is such a good singer and has such a good band, we hope to see more from him soon. Jam returns to Talianos on April 4 , so see you then.

The pictures on the front page of this issue are from the March jam. Top right is Eddie Becker and Jon Steinman. Mac MacDonald is featured in the center with his band. Mac later joined Chris Shaw and Blues Museum. Bottom row include Blue Lou on the left, a guitarist-vocalist in the center and David Cole on the right. I apologize for those I am unable to identify. Photos © Ron Weinstock





On March 6, the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation honored John Hodge, Nap Brundage & NJ Warren (the three pictured in front of the barbershop on the right photo in the third row). Here are some photos including one of David Jackson (top left photo in the middle playing the guitar) who had suffered a heart attack in the week before. Everyone was delighted to see Dave and he surprised folks by even playing some guitar. Hopefully Dave will be well enough to be at the April Jam. Don't hesitate to stop by the barbershop on most Saturdays for the weekly jam. They will be performing at the Herndon Blues Festival among other events this summer. Photos © Ron Weinstock



Thanks DC Musicians

One has to be impressed by the selflessness of the DC area musical community from the various benefits that unfortunately occur. Special thanks to those who played at the two benefits for our director Chris Kirsch. Flatfoot Sam who took the lead in getting musicians out for the shows especially deserves so much thanks. The music at Chick's Surf Club was amazing from the opening set by the Archie Edwards Barbershop Crew to the closing set by Bobby Parker with the Nighthawks. Patty Reese was wonderful and Chet Hines led a groups of regulars from the Jam on a very well received set. Janine Wilson's band included former Blues Society director, officer and keyboard player, Liz Lohr. Janine sounded great and Steve Levine sat in for a few numbers. Flatfoot Sam not only was outstanding as emcee, but had a great set as well. Ruthie and the Wranglers gave us some nice honky tonk music and a smile that could light up a stadium. Mary Shaver really can get into the heart of a song while the Shambles, Pete Kanaras' new band, played some real original rock 'n' roll before The Nighthawks took the stage and later when Bobby Parker joined things. It was a terrific night of music for a great person who we all have so much reason to thank for all he has done and hopefully all he will continue to do. We will have a report on the Willie Hicks benefit in the May issue.

Blues Festivals

Summer brings a bevy of festivals, and there are far too many to list them all. A recent Blues Revue listed about 300. Here are some significant ones. The end of April I will be heading down to New Orleans for the second weekend of the annual **New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival**. I will be arriving on Wednesday April 28 in time for the second night of the **3rd annual Ponderosa Stomp** at the Rock'n'Bowl with about 20 roots and blues acts from 5 PM to 2 AM. Then Thursday April 29, the second weekend of Jazz Fest kicks off. April 29 is when the Blues Foundation's annual **Handy Awards** ceremony takes place in Memphis (www.blues.org). The **Memphis in May Festival** follows over the weekend.

The **Columbia Pike Festival** takes place in early May and unfortunately we do not yet have information on this free event.

The **Western Maryland Blues Festival** takes place from June 4 to June 6 in Hagerstown. Performers include Tom Principato, Mary Ann Redmond, Robben Ford, Indigenous, E.C. Scott, Mighty Sam McClain, Jay McShann, Paul Rishell and Annie Raines, Ernie Hawkins, Wallace Coleman, and The Blue Rhythm Boys, Duke Robillard and more. The appearance of the legendary Jay McShann makes this a must see event. More info next month and in June.

The **Billtown Blues Festival** takes place in Hughesville PA on Sunday June 13. Performers include Howlin' For Hubert, an all-star band that includes Hubert Sumlin, Jimmy Vivino (from the Conan O'Brien show band), Levon Helm and David Johansen; Tab Benoit; Otis Taylor, Teeny Tucker, Ann Rabson and others. For information check the Billtown Blues Society's website, www.billtownblues.org.

The **Herndon Blues Festival** takes place at Frying Pan Park on Saturday July 24 and the lineup includes Frank Fotusky; the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation; Neil Harpe & Rick Franklin; Gaye Adegbalola; Reverend Robert B. Jones; Daryl Davis and Paul Rishell & Annie Raines. This free event does welcome your donations and is one of the few all acoustic blues festivals held. We will have full information on this event in the July newsletter, but I especially recommend getting there early for Frank Fotusky, a superb fingerstyle guitarist from New Jersey who is among those influenced by the late John Jackson and has a wonderful cd out that you can order from cdbaby.com.

The **Pocono Blues Festival** takes place Friday July 23 to Sunday July 25 and has become one of the best blues festivals anywhere. Friday night's Pre-Show Social includes Wallace Coleman, Byther Smith and Eddie Shaw & the Wolf Gang. Saturday the 24th, performers include King

Alex & the Untouchables, Eddie C Campbell, Nora Jean Bruso, Mighty Mo Rogers, Bobby Rush, Chick Willis and Bobby Blue Bland on the main stages and Big George Brock, Billy Branch & Kenny Neal, King Alex and Nora Jean Bruso in the tent. Sunday's performers include The Campbell Brothers, D.C.'s own Memphis Gold with Charlie Sayles, Jackie Payne (a great singer probably appearing with guitarist Steve Edmondson), Roy Gaines, Mavis Staples, Magic Slim & the Teardrops, Blind Boys of Alabama. In the tent, there will be Jimmy Burns, The Kansas City Blues All Star Revue with D.C. Bellamy, Linda Shell and Millage Gilbert and The Campbell Brothers. As can be seen, a varied lineup with some great performers including a few that rarely make it around the Mid-Atlantic. For information check the Jack Frost-Big Boulder website, www.jfbb.com, and click for summer events.

Other regional events to look out for include Hot August Blues near Baltimore in August, the Frederick

Blues Festival, the Augusta Heritage Workshops Blues Week, Common Ground on the Hill and the American Music Festival in Westminster MD and the National Capital BBQ Battle in late June in DC. And of course the DC Blues Festival comes at the end of the summer.



Memphis Gold & Charlie Sayles will be performing in the Poconos Photo Ron Weinstock



Wallace Coleman will be at the Billtown Blues Festival in June & the Pocono Blues Festival in July. Photo © Ron Weinstock



T-Shirts -Hats-Bumper Stickers

This is just a reminder to DCBS members that we have merchandise available for sale. We have a variety of T-shirts though not every shirt is available in every size, some of the Denim D.C. Blues Society shirts, hats and bumper stickers. We will hopefully have some at the monthly jam as well as at various festivals that the Society has a table at this summer. We also have cookbooks, cds by area artists and other material for blues lovers. If you can't make the jam, please call the DCBS Hotline at (202) 962-0112 and someone will get back to you with pricing information and availability.

Celina Wood and Kelly with Chris Kirsch are shown at the Society merchandise table during the March jam. Photo © Ron Weinstock

We Need You

The D.C. Blues Society can always use volunteers to help with a variety of activities including helping volunteer at events, putting together grant applications or solicit sponsors for events, helping staff a Society booth at various Blues Festivals, helping us maintain and update our membership list and assist, design and distribute flyers, and contribute to the newsletter. This is only part of what we can use help with. Even if you can assist us only occasionally, please let us know and we will get back to you when you are needed. It is also not too early to volunteer for this year's festival.

Blues Calendar Help Needed

I wish to reiterate a point made last month that I can use your contributions with this newsletter. We are looking for news and pictures on local performers and venues, book and record reviews. If you are interested in writing reviews, send me some samples of favorite discs or new ones, using the Notes Hot & Blue as a general guide to the length and format of reviews. If possible send me electronic versions of your documents by email, or on disc as I am a terrible secretary. Also needed are some pieces on local performers with some biographical background and a description of the type of blues one plays and one's regular venues. Submissions should be sent to me at my home address or email address, rbluesw@yahoo.com.

If you wish to send large picture files (jpegs, tiff and similar files as attachments in excess of 1 mb), please contact me first so I can advise you how and when to send me the files.

D.C. Blues Society Membership Application/Order Form

The DC Blues Society is a nonprofit section 501(c)(3) all volunteer organization! 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. *0404*

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) 962-0112

Would you be interested in volunteering? _____

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

Friends of Wade Benefit

Wade Matthews, electric bassist extraordinaire, is recovering from a near-catastrophic series of serious health issues. He has been hospitalized several times. Anybody who knows Wade will tell you, he is not only a talented musician, but one of the kindest, friendliest and most generous guys on the planet. He has often gone out of his way to help colleagues and younger musicians. He has little medical insurance and owes thousands in medical bills. Friends of Wade in the roots-rock and blues communities are holding a benefit concert at the State Theater on Wednesday, April 14. Performers include Catfish Hodge & the January All-Stars; Tom Principato; Ron Holloway; Tommy Lepson; Dixie Power Trio; Mary Shaver and more! If unable to attend, you can make a donation making a check out to: Wade Aid Fund/Rodger T. Jackson, and mail it to: Rodger & Sue Jackson, 916 Veirs Mill Road, Rockville, MD 20851-1633.



Wade Matthews, seen recently at Bangkok Blues. Photo © Ron Weinstock

Blues in Passing

Ella Johnson, one of the greatest rhythm and blues singers in Rhythm & Blues history passed away in February at the age of 86 although her death was not reported until mid-March. Johnson was a vocalist in her brother, Buddy Johnson's Big Band, one of the most popular bands that was able to survive until the fifties. As the New York Times wrote in its march 16 obituary, "A smooth singer with a seductive delivery, Ms. Johnson was often compared to Billie Holi-

day and Ella Fitzgerald. But as a part of her brother's rollicking bands, she also helped forge a link to R&B and early rock 'n' roll." Born in Darlington, South Carolina, she moved to New York to join her brother and in 1940 her vocal on *Please Mr. Johnson*, was her first hit record. Her best known song is probably Buddy's classic *Since I Fell For You*. Other songs she is remembered for include *When My Man Comes Home*, *Hittin' on Me*, *Did You See Jackie Robinson Hit That Ball?* and *I Don't Want Nobody*. She had been not performing for several years. Among those surviving include her husband, four brothers and a sister, Hattie Miller of Landover. Other recent deaths include **Gene Allison**, whose had a 1957 rhythm-and-blues hit, "You Can Make It if You Try, that was a precursor of 1960's soul music and was recorded by the Rolling Stones on their debut album in 1964, died in Nashville on March 6. He was 69. Oklahoma bluesman, **Flash Terry** passed away on March 18.



Chet 'Dr. S.O. Feelgood' Hines & the DC Blues All Stars at the Chris Kirsch Benefit. Photo © Ron Weinstock



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