



BSWPA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 2

*The BSWPA celebrates **20 Years** of working to preserve and promote the blues. The Blues Society of Western PA thanks it many members and supporters who continue to 'help to keep the Blues!' We could not have done it without all of you!!!*

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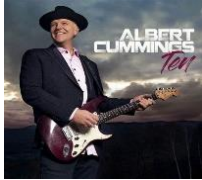


Summer 2024

The Blues Thrives ... a 'sit down' gathering on the Rhythm and Blues Cruise.... Interview host: Art Tripoldi

Featuring: Albert Cummings, Dawn Tyler Watson, Mathias Lattin, Danielle Nichole, Solomon Hicks, Super Chikan (Jim Johnson). Solomon Hicks

Art Tripoldi: What was it about the Blues that spoke to you?



***Albert Cummings** responded by saying that it 'grabbed him by the collar.' He learned that he had to mature to feel the depth of the music. He originally started with the banjo. He then saw Stevie Ray Vaughn. The banjo went 'out and 'in came the guitar'.

***Dawn Tyler Watson** smiled as she quietly said that the 'Blues chose me'. Dawn added that she had been a jazz singer. She finally recorded two Blues songs and found out that she was really a Blues singer.



***Mathias shared** that he was classically trained on guitar. His grandmother came home one day with a DVD that featured the *Crossroads* with Jimmie Vaughn, Eric Clapton, Buddy Guy, BB King. The first notes of "Rock me Baby" had him hooked. Smiling, declared that he 'was here in the Blues world for a while.'



***Solomon Hicks** shared that he was playing at the Cotton Club in New York City at a young age with a 15-piece band doing jazz. After listening to Johnny Be Good by Chuck Berry and listening to Wes Montgomery, he decided to 'grab what spoke to him" and the Blues did a lot of speaking.

***Danielle Nichole** asked 'who was not influenced by Etta James'. Hers was a musical household growing up and she also listened to Johnny Winter, Muddy Waters. Danielle was impressed by the 'realness and the honesty' of the music. The music flat out spoke to her. She proudly stated, The Blues is what I do! And, yes, Etta James was a big influence.



Art Tripoldi: Was there a learning curve?



***Super Chikan** said that the Blues evolved when the Europeans began moving into his neighborhood (Clarksdale, MS), looking for the real deal Blues. He laughingly added, 'I am the Blues.'" As a young guy, he would crawl under the porches of the houses in his community. He would listen to all the greats who played real Blues on the front porches of those homes. His cousin passed the Blues torch to him to continue the music, as each family did throughout the generations. He was told not to just stand there but ... do something that was both therapeutic and intriguing to him and the audience. Super Chikan added that he was the last one left that is fueling the Blues flames from his **2.**

hometown generation. Super Chikan added that he plays left-handed and had to learn music on his own. He made his guitar do many things to honor the music here and in his travels around the world.

*Dawn Tyler Watson talked about her being in the only black family in a town in Canada. She was singing in the choir at 10 years old. Her influences at the time were Andy Williams and John Denver. She bought a guitar. She learned jazz and country while developing her singing voice. She claims that she has spent a life time growing into her voice, growing into herself.

Art Tripoldi: How do you reach and engage people?

*Danielle said that she is social driven, connecting in clubs with the people.

*Super Chikan said that he believes in making good records. However, there is so much good music out there for people to choose from.

*Dawn stated that she gets followers on social media. When doing music in person, she reaches out and connects with the audience. Dawn added that her singing spreads joy and feeds each listener's soul, as well as hers.

*Solomon said that it was great to be heard on the radio but more uplifting in person. He likes to see and feel the fans' reactions in person.

Art Tripoldi asked about AI and reaching out to people.

*Art stated that thinking about AI influencing the music industry is scary. He shared that the Blues resonates honesty and hopes that it plays back to the people.

*Danielle said that the youth in AI is like kids banging music in the garage and that they want to evolve. The youth must discover all genres and decide to thrive.

*Mathias is finally seeing that the Blues is popular again. The mainstream market has slowed. He added that music through the ages has been a progression.

Art Tripoldi: What is your plan for 2024?

*Mathias claimed that it is hard to be authentic in today's world, not knowing what the younger people relate to and see as alright. Mathias who was awarded the *Best Emerging Artist* award says that he will stay relevant and timely through tours and working on a new album.

*Albert stated that it was frustrating. AI implodes the idea of the human spirit and feeling in music. Albert added that 'today is the first day of the rest of my music career.'

*Super Chikan added that keeping the Blues alive is hard... but radio play is helping with the younger people.

*Solomon said that young people must find the truth in the songs. He said that people like Beth Hart and Jason Ricci show their vulnerability in their music which is inspiring, making it believable.

*Dawn said that her career is not based on being part of the 'big machine.' Her goal is to see the world and continue to be authentic in her writing.... And hoping others feel, understand what she is conveying.

.....

The 19th Annual Blues Challenge was outstanding!!!

There was so much talent and so many styles in one room. How fortunate that we, the Blues Society of Western PA, are able to host such an amazing array of talent!!!! Each year, WE, the BSWPA, are well represented when 'our acts' hit Beale Street in Memphis, TN (that historic Blues mecca). 'Our' acts always hold their own when in the midst of so many talented global acts that also join the mix at the International Blues Challenge.

The winners of the 2024 Blues Challenge that will make the journey to Memphis to compete in the 2025 International Blues Challenge.....

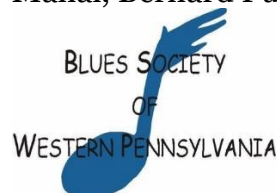


Guitar Zack- Winning Band

Guitar virtuoso Zack Wiesinger (or Guitar Zack) is no stranger to the Blues. He's been playing blues & rock guitar at a prodigious level since the age of 13. Wiesinger, born and bred in the Pittsburgh PA area, had an "education" in the Blues and classic rock from a very young age thanks to his encouraging family...who are also avid music fans. But playing the guitar was something that just came naturally to him. As an early teen, Zack would be taken to various open stage performances across the city wowing audiences and players alike who couldn't help but notice his amazing approach to the instrument. To see Zack play, one quickly understands that the Blues is literally oozing out of him at every turn. He's channeling the muse in the most direct fashion.

Zack broke into prominence upon winning the Albert King Award at the 2006 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN. He then won second place in Guitar Center's "King of the Blues Contest" in Los Angeles CA. Shortly after, he toured throughout Europe and the USA as a solo opening act for legendary guitarist Steve Vai on his String Theories tour and was subsequently included on the accompanying DVD and Vinyl releases. In Pittsburgh's bustling blues scene, Zack has played with folks like Billy Price, Jill West, Donnie Iris, The Granati Brothers, Glenn Pavone, The Mystic Knights, Sheri Richards, Chismo Charles, Mr. B and many more. Nationally, he's toured with Steve Vai as both a solo act and part of the band. He's also shared the stage with Bruce Springsteen, B.B. King, Hall & Oates, Samantha Fish, The Black Crowes, Buckwheat Zydeco, Kim Wilson and the Fabulous Thunderbirds, Robert Randolph, Taj Mahal, Bernard Purdie, Tommy Castro, Eric Sardinas, and more.

4.



Become a member of the Blues Society of Western PA today! The BSWPA is one of over 200 plus societies around the world that work to preserve and promote the Blues and that work to keep LIVE music alive. Join at bswpa.org



McKeg & DeCola - Winning Solo/Duo

Bubs McKeg is a rock / blues singer, guitarist, songwriter, and performing artist. He is known for his soulful voice and finger-picking blues guitar. Bubs has been a fixture in the Pittsburgh music scene since the 1960's entertaining rock and blues fans for over fifty years. **John DeCola** plays keyboards and accordion.

Over the years he has played in many different bands playing many genres of music. Currently he is playing in the Greater Pittsburgh area with several bands and has been a part of many recording sessions at multiple studios in the area.



2nd Place Band Felix and the Hurricanes

For the last 35 years **Felix and his Hurricanes** have used spontaneity and the fine art of showing audiences a good time.

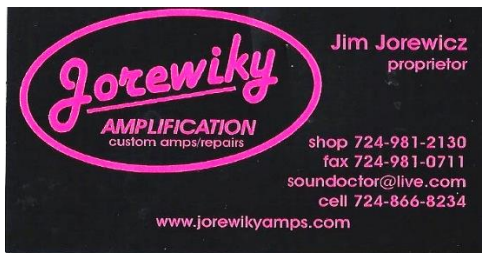
Never using setlists and going by the vibe from the crowd and sometimes playing three hours without a break. 2009 Blues Society of Western PA Blues Challenge winner! Felix Kos, (Guitar Vox), Bobby Watters (Drums Vox), Pat McGinnis (Bass Vox), Dr. Dave Villani (Keys Vox).



2nd Place Solo/Duo.... Bobby Thompson

Bobby Thompson got his first guitar at the age of 5 and has never looked back. His musical influences vary quite a bit, but his style is deeply rooted in the Blues. He started playing clubs at the age of 13 and learned a whole lot about music and life by doing so. By the age of 16, he surrounded himself with

seasoned Blues and soul musicians and formed the band "BluSoul." The older guys in the band were constantly bringing him "new" artists to listen to, helping him to expand his musical vocabulary. His next endeavor, "Bobby Thompson and The Groove," began in 2017 and had an amazing run until 2023. They were participants in the 2020 International Blues Challenge, representing the Blues Society of Western PA. They have also played many great stages, festivals, and events during their run. His time in this band had really started to shape his musical "voice" and prepared him for his newest project, "Bobby Thompson and The Chosen Few." It also gave him the confidence to start playing solo acoustic shows, where his accomplished guitar playing, passionate vocals, and showmanship really shine through.



Seeking Blues volunteers... We need your help! Contact: bswpa.org



FRI. 7/26 - SUN. 7/28, 2024
PITTSBURGH SHRINE CENTER, CHESWICK, PA

2024 PERFORMANCE LINE UP

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TORONZO CANNON
BILLY THE KID & THE REGULATORS
BLACKRIDGE
GUITAR ZACK (IBC WINNER)
AC & THE RESISTORS
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**Stop by the Blues Society of Western PA's booth.
Check out our 20th Anniversary shirt!!!!**



The Blues in the Schools project hosted by the BSWPA recently traveled to Hopewell High School. The students were engaged and totally emersed into a big dose of the Blues. This was a joint project between the Blues Society of Western PA and the Artists in Residence program hosted by Dave Bufalini.

Bobby Thompson represented well! Not only did Bobby show them 12 bar Blues but he talked with them. Some of Bobby's words were: Be receptive when playing music...all comes together as a finished production. Be sensitive to what is going on around you. Learn the art of playing. Learn anticipation. The key to being in an act is to be receptive. Listen and train yourself to focus on new things...the vocalist, the drums, the bass. You will hear things that you have never heard before in a song. The students were inspired to look at music in different dimensions and to try new avenues to express themselves through music.



Dave Bufalini, organizer of the Artists in Residence program, stated: Thanks to the BSWPA for their partnership to help mentor our students and bringing Bobby Thompson into the project to share his guitar skills, singing and songwriting talents. Bobby was mature beyond his years talking to the students. A big thank you needs to also be extended to Kit Keiper, Hopewell High School band and choir director, guitar class instructor, and to Rob Kartychak, Hopewell High School principal, for welcoming our endeavor to help expand his students learning.

Dave summed it up: It was a joy to see the students' enthusiasm working with Bobby, learning from Bobby and then discussing how to write their own songs!!!

<p>MOONDOGS</p>  <p>WE BELIEVE IN MUSIC</p> <p>378 FREEPORT RD. BLAWNOX, PA. 15238</p> <p>412-828-2040</p> <p>BRINGING THE BLUES TO THE BURG FOR OVER 19 YEARS</p> <p>WWW.MOONDOGS.US</p> <p>EMAIL: MOONESSER@AOL.COM</p> <p>RON ESSER--LEAD DOG</p> <p>SAVING LIVE MUSIC ONE NOTE AT A TIME</p>	 <p><i>The Fallout Shelter</i></p> <p>'Our Awesome Monthly Blues/Rock Jam Night'</p> <p>is now in its TENTH YEAR!</p> <p>Located on the Lower Level of Sheffield Lanes</p> <p>818 Raccoon Street, Alliquippa, PA - 724-378-7669</p> <p>facebook.com/thefalloutshelter www.thefalloutshelter.net</p> <p>We are a proud member of The Blues Society of Western PA.</p>	<p>Boutique guitar shop in Cranberry Township specializing in new amplifier and pedal/effect brands; vintage and used guitars. Authorized dealer for Magnatone, Strymon, Amp Nation, Dr. Z, Source Audio, Reverend Guitars, Gretsch, and more!</p> <p>Brushcreekguitars.com</p> 
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Become a card-carrying member of the Blues Society of Western PA today. Join online at bswpa.org. The Blues Society of Western Pa is one of many societies around the world that work to preserve and promote the Blues.



Good Intentions Gone Bad Chris Cain

"Chris Cain...Now That Boy Can Play The Guitar!" -B.B. King


Chris Cain's NEW Album, "Good Intentions Gone Bad", on Alligator Records will be out in July. What can I say other than Chris Cain is a Certified Bad Ass and a Genius. But do not take my word for it. Any guitar player worth his weight in Les Paul's and Strat's will tell ya the same thing! Dude is WICKED Good! Vintage Guitar Magazine says Chris is "The most important Blues players YOU need to hear."

On ***Good Intentions Gone Bad***, Cain delivers thirteen lyrically fresh original songs, seven of which add a swinging horn section to the mix. The album was produced by Christoffer "Kid" Andersen (of Rick Estrin & The Nightcats) at his famous Greaseland USA studio in San Jose, California. *Good Intentions Gone Bad* is, Cain says, "the best album I've ever made, thanks to Kid." With Cain leading the charge on guitar, the band delivers top-shelf performances on every track. From the humorous, true-to-life title track to the epic, slow-burning *Waiting For The Sun To Rise* to the Memphis soul-inspired *Thankful* (featuring a shared vocal with Cain's labelmate, Tommy Castro), the new album finds Cain operating at the absolute peak of his powers, with Andersen pushing him to new heights every step of the way.

With more than three decades of touring and fifteen previous albums under his belt, Cain, once known as "one of the greatest guitarists you've never heard," is now celebrated by fans and fellow musicians alike as being among the blues' most talented and exciting players. His original songs overflow with surprising hooks and feature razor-sharp lyrics that are moving and humorously insightful. With his powerful, soul man's voice and his inventive guitar work—inspired by Grant Green and Wes Montgomery as much as by B.B. King and Albert King—Cain's talents are unparalleled in the Blues world. *Living Blues* says Cain is currently "turning out the best work of his career."

"I'm so proud of this record," says Cain. "I know I've never sung or played better. Kid's ideas, the vibe he created...he makes you better while having a great time. This album is the logical next step after (his debut Alligator release) ***Raisin' Cain***. Everything I hoped for doubled."

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Joseph Grunwald
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Person of Interest

Person of Interest, produced by Tony Braunagel, is queued for release on August 2 on Little Village Records. It's exciting to see things come together after working on this for such a long time. The album will be available in CD, vinyl LP, and digital formats.

During the pandemic, I passed the time writing songs with the Billy Price Band keyboard player, Jim Britton. I also wrote with my friend, Fred Chapellier, the great French guitarist and recording artist, and with the team of Jon Tiven and Sally Young from Nashville. Tony worked with me at Ultratone, Johnny Lee Schell's studio in L.A., to bring the best of these songs to life.

I decided to dedicate one song on *Person of Interest* to the memory of guitarist Roy Buchanan, with whom I sang and recorded in the early-to-mid 1970s. After Jim and I wrote "Change Your Mind," I found that it reminded me of some of the songs I had sung and recorded with Roy, especially Please Don't Turn Me Away from *That's What I'm Here For*. Also, the song Can I Change My Mind--a different song with a similar title--is one of my best-known collaborations with Roy.* So when I suggested to Tony that we get someone to play some Buchanan-style lead guitar on Change Your Mind, Tony recruited his friend Joe Bonamassa, a lifelong fan and admirer of Buchanan's, who readily agreed to record a track for us. It's a scorcher, and I can't wait for you to hear it. Another highlight of the new album for me is the gospel-soul ballad "Mercy." In the late 1980s while I was recording *Free at Last*, my final album with Billy Price and the Keystone Rhythm Band, Mercy was an original song I had written with our keyboard player Mike Karr that the band never finished in the studio. A couple of years ago, one of my fans in the Philadelphia area brought a recording to one of my shows that she had made from the audience back then, and offered to give me a copy. I had forgotten all about Mercy, but when I heard it for the first time in many years, I decided to resurrect it. And after we laid it down in the studio, I'm glad I did. I'll probably tell you about some of the other songs on the album in 'my' *Billy Price* future newsletters between now and August. (These are what is known in the marketing/PR biz as "teasers.")

~Billy Price

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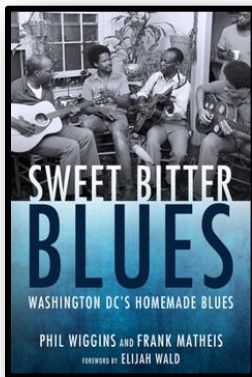
The Blues Society of Western PA hosts the PITCH program.... **Putting Instruments in the Children's Hands.** If you have new or gently used instruments or equipment, please donate. **Contact: bswpa.org**



All Aboard! Catch the Mojo Train!

Canadian-based Glenn Marais & the Mojo Train have a brand-new album out, and it will get you moving your cabooses! The album sports their signature funk-fused blues, and comes off as more of a “best of” collection rather than a standalone album; this is as eclectic as any one genre can allow.

I caught up with Glenn on the phone to chat about the band’s new album, inspirations, and more. He said the album was almost called “The Love Album” because the theme permeates the project. The album is titled **“Red, Hot, and Blue,”** and right out the gate you get sucked in with the swampy “That’s Where My Mojo’s At” with a tight-pocket groove, and an incredible harmonica and guitar partnership. Glenn’s smooth vocal helps to anchor the track, with stunning clarity, and raw emotion. The second track, “Superfunk” slaps you in the face with a swinging twang-tinged guitar, and cascading walk downs that circle the listener right back into singing out “One Love...” throughout the chorus. The saxophone break is a great opportunity to calm down, catch your breath, and then a searing guitar solo carries you home, back around to the chorus! Track three, “Love Denied” starts off with keys, and a funky drumbeat. Glenn’s vocals teetering between scream and silk, emotionally charged while telling a story everyone can relate to. Next comes the title track, a hypnotizing slow dance that resurrects blue lights, neon, and smoke from an old club. “Songs from another time, barely even got a dime, all I got’s my music and I’m floating down the river...” definitely takes you for a smooth ride, “Red, Hot, and Blue.” Track five snaps the listener out of the trance, with a raunchy slide guitar and harmonica leading the way. “It All Went Down” reminds us, “can’t put a price on love” and compels honesty, and forgiveness, and second chances from a world full of mess-ups. Then track six, “Love, Sweet Love” gives a glimmer of Motown meets John Mayer, a smooth and happy groove that will make you think you hopped in a time machine. This song is a hidden gem on the album, one that is sure to get you feeling good, and inspired to share the love you’ve got. Next in the playlist is “The Song of Love” with a tongue-twisting vocal, and dreamy soundscape that mellows you down to sit back in your comfort chair and reminisce. Next comes one of my favorite tracks, “Hold Me High” is a blues-rockers’ paradise, with a funky chorus, that leaves you belting out “Hold me high, lay me down.” This song is “kicking down the walls and ripping up your floor!” The guitar solo screams for attention, and sends you on a sonic train-ride down the side of a mountain! Then you climb the next mountain...building emotion, chugging along with the atmospheric echoes of “Hold me high...”. “Pink Lemonade” has a funky shimmer to it, the organ and guitar kissing a disco oasis from the past. “Can’t You See” slows down to either let you catch your breath, or take your breath away. And the final track “Professor Day” really takes you to school with slap-tactic bass and tasteful guitar, horns, and more. This is a great closer for the album, really showcasing not just the diversity of “Red, Hot and Blue” but also spotlighting the raw talent Glenn Marais and the Mojo Train has. ***I asked Glenn if he had any advice for up-and-coming blues musicians, and he said, “see every song as an adventure.”*** That is great advice, and if you’re wondering a great place to start out on that adventure, I’d recommend hopping the train — *Glenn Marais and the Mojo Train!* ~Big Bay Allen



Sweet Bitter Blues – Phil Wiggins and Frank Matheis

A while back, I received a copy of the book, “**Sweet Bitter Blues**” from my great friend, Phil Wiggins, and I added it to my pile of music, this books to read. If you’re a real fan of American Blues music, this autobiographical account of the East Coast Blues scene over the last several decades, specifically in the DC region, is one you should DEFINITELY put this on your **must-read** list.

Phil is extremely open, honest, and very forthcoming in his accounting of his personal experiences – both positive and negative. Together with co-author, Frank Matheis, Phil shares his experiences – both positive and negative. Together with co-author, Frank Matthies, Phil shares his experiences as not just the vastly accomplished musician and Harmonica innovator that he is but also gives the reader a glimpse into his heart and mind.

This book does not read like a finely polished novel, it’s closer to a word for word transcript of an honest conversation between two friends which I found quite refreshing.

I consider Phil to be a dear friend and mentor, and I think you will be doing yourself a huge favor by obtaining and reading this story of his life to the present day. ~Charlie Barath



Remembering Phil Wiggins...

Phil Wiggins has recently left us.... The following is a tribute by Charlie Barath.

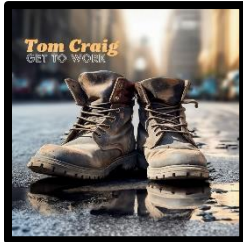
After a long health related battle, Phil left this world the day before his 70th birthday, which is far too soon for anyone. Through my friend, Phil, I find comfort in all of the smile inducing memories accumulated over the past 26 years since our first meeting in that old barn in central

Ohio. The friendship that we shared and the mentorship he provided will remain with me, and I hope to continue his example of encouragement and guidance, not to mention his positive attitude.

A man like Phil Wiggins and the impact he had on virtually everyone he met throughout the years is far too significant to be condensed down into the story of one relationship. I wanted, needed... to get these thoughts written down, and share them with whomever is interested. I have no doubt that anyone who has ever spent time with Phil has their own story of how they have been influenced by this man and his Harmonica.

He has played all over the world, including the White House, and was awarded the NEA National Heritage Fellowship in 2017. He has taught countless students, influenced **11.**

as many musicians, plus entertained an unknowable number of traditional music lovers around the globe. To have achieved these heights of success and still remain so accessible and, well, human, is something that sets Phil apart from so many others, and that is one thing I will always carry with me. ~Charlie Barath (writer of 'Who Cares What I Think')



Get to Work

Tom Craig

"**Get to Work**," the latest album from Tom Craig, wasted no time in pulling me in for a wonderful dose of smooth, soulful blues with "As Sure As I Can Raise My Hand". His buttery vocals and amazing landscape of tones keep me tightly tuned in until the very end." - **Phillip Smith**, Philly Cheeze's Rock & Blues Reviews

What else is being said?

*Fun and freewheeling, the latest from Tom Craig showcases the musical heart and spirit of a man ready to get to work. Each track features tight arrangements along with terrific guitar riffs, highlighting a hearty mix of funk, soul, blues, and old school brassy jazz. Tom Craig continues to prove that hard work pays off. -**Ken Billett**, Music Critic/Author Memphis TN

*Craig has a wealth of life experience and he shares it here on "Get to Work", his third all original release, he continues to evolve as a blues-based singer-songwriter. The results are here...modern blues music includes a lot of joy and sometimes, a little bit of pain.

—**Richard Skelly**, The Low-Budget Blues Program, Thursdays 8-10 p.m., WRSU-FM, the radio station of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.



Save the date.... Sunday, October 27
Plans are in the works to celebrate our
20th year of Blues. Join us at Moondog's
at 2 pm for an afternoon of Blues!!!!
More details soon!



Gigmaster Studios



Harptoberfest....

September 28

**Hosted by the BSWPA &
 Charlie Barath. Details soon.**



What were they thinking???

It is always exciting when our local artists are asked to open for the heavy hitters of Blues. Being curious as to their thoughts when getting 'the call', this Blues fan reached out to several who have 'answered' that call and made history!

Pierce Dipner was asked to open for **Eric Gales**...yes, THE Eric Gales. I remember the evening that Pierce joined us long ago as a 14-year-old at a youth jam at 565 LIVE. The BSWPA then sent Pierce to Memphis twice as a Blues Youth Representative at the International Blues Challenge and then as a Blues Challenge Competitor representing the BSWPA. Pierce has been on our radar for years, growing into a young man and honing his amazing skills.

Jonnye: Pierce Dipner what was your reaction to the call

Pierce: I was extremely excited to get the offer to join the lineup for the show. I was actually looking online for tickets earlier that day, and had just gotten back on my computer to order them when I saw the email. Eric Gales has been one of my favorite guitarists for a long time and I definitely didn't want to miss an opportunity to see him.

Jonnye: How did you prepare for the gig with Eric Gales?

Pierce: In terms of preparation, I kept everything the same as I usually do for a show since I like to have a routine. I did, however, decide to bring an amp I haven't played in a while since I could really open up in terms of volume at the venue with my '67 super reverb that used to belong to JD Simo.

Jonnye: What lessons were learned from that blues giant?

Pierce: Since seeing Eric and his band play, I have kind of gone down a rabbit hole of trying to work much more on my phrasing and runs when it comes to soloing. I think in a short amount of time I have improved a decent amount in terms of my playing from this perspective gained from watching much more of Eric Gales.



Soulful Femme (Cheryl Rinovato and Stevee Wellons) recently opened for Ana Popovic.

The same questions were posed to them. Cheryl responded by saying that they have opened for Ana many times and have become good friends over the years but nonetheless, each time we get the call to share the stage with her we feel truly honored and have a true sense of pride. We then begin to craft an opening show including the required length of time

and songs that flow easily with her style and texture of playing. Ana has taught many a lesson in the years that we have known each other including guitarists and music she thinks that we would benefit from studying. She has personally encouraged me to never stop playing. If it weren't for her encouragement, I may not be playing at all. She is not only kind and generous with her time but just as important is the legacy she will leave to the upcoming Blues artists.

13.



The BSWPA has a 20th Anniversary shirt in the works. It is going to be awesome!!! Get yours beginning this July at a fest or online at bswpa.org.



Dan Bubien recently opened for **Band of the Year, The Nick Moss Band**. Dan was also asked the same questions. His response: When I got the invite to open for Nick Moss My initial reaction was excitement and gratefulness and a feeling of pride to be asked and then that turned to anxiousness and nervousness to perform and present at a high-level cause you know what is coming on after me is at the highest of levels.

In terms of preparation, it was more of figuring out what format was available to me and how I could present the best show possible. Having the full band was not an option. Figuring out who or what instrumentation would be the best accompaniment for the situation and then figuring out what songs would be best to present in that format was pretty much the preparation and it did take some time to figure out.

The lessons I learned from watching and getting to talk and hang out with the great Nick Moss were: Just be yourself. Learn and practice your craft as much as you can. Be real, be authentic and just be cool. *Nick was as cool as the other side of the pillow.*



Coal Train Blues

Lone Crow Rebellion

Lone Crow Rebellion Strikes Gold with "Coal Train Blues" Lone Crow Rebellion, the Blues-rock sensation hailing from DuBois, Western Pennsylvania, has once again mesmerized audiences with their latest album, "Coal Train Blues." This much-anticipated release serves as a testament to the band's unwavering commitment to authenticity and their ability to seamlessly blend traditional roots with contemporary sounds. From the opening chords of the title track, "Coal Train Blues," listeners are transported to the rugged landscapes and gritty narratives that have become synonymous with the band's signature style. The haunting melody, coupled with poignant lyrics, sets the tone for an album that delves deep into the complexities of life in coal country. "Coal Train Blues" showcases the raw talent and emotional depth of Lone Crow Rebellion. The haunting harmonies and soaring crescendos resonate long after the song has ended, leaving a lasting impression on the listener. Throughout the album, Lone Crow Rebellion masterfully navigates themes of love, loss, and redemption with a rare combination of sincerity and artistry. Tracks like "Shame, Shame, Shame", "Great Day for Singing the Blues", and "Sneaking Out" are infused with an infectious energy that invites audiences to dance, while "The River" and "Cruise" offer moments of introspection and vulnerability. This is more than just an album; it is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of music to transcend boundaries. With this latest release, Lone Crow Rebellion has once again proven why they are a force to be reckoned with in the world of Blues-rock. In summary, "Coal Train Blues" is a captivating journey through the heart and soul of humanity, brought to life by the unparalleled talent of Lone Crow Rebellion. It's a must listen for fans of authentic, heartfelt music that speaks to the depths of the human experience. -DJ Zel, Blues Music Fan Radio

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