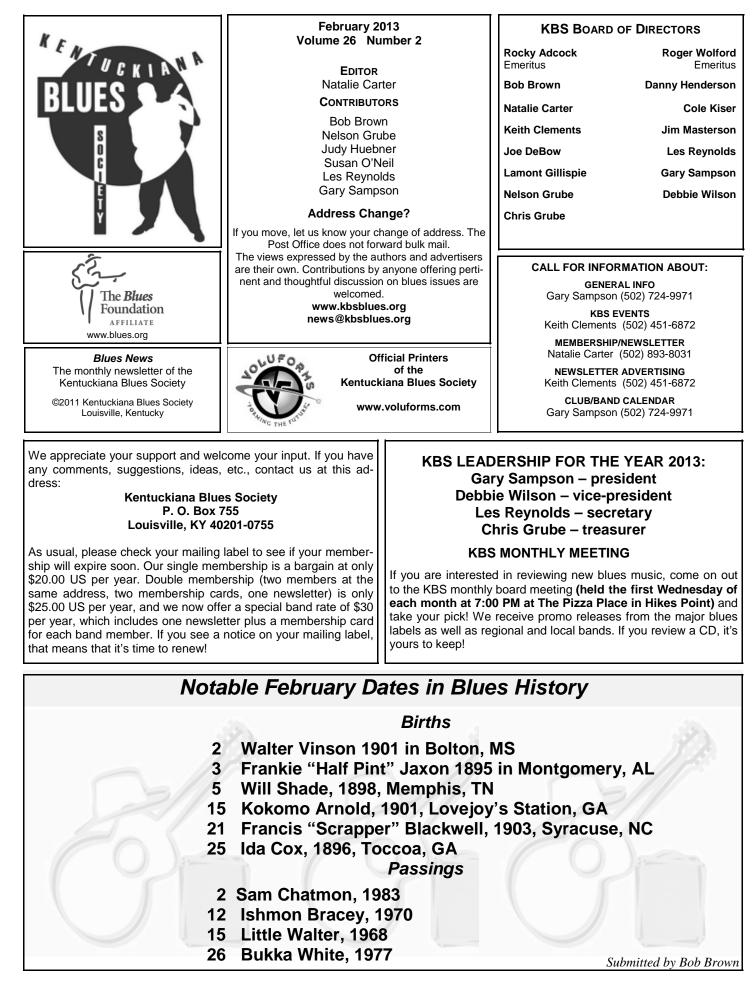


Photo by Judy Huebner

Daniel "Boscoe" France displays his unique style of playing at Stevie Ray's on Saturday, January 19. The Madisonville, KY native won the Guitar Center Battle of the Blues Contest last year beating out over 4,000 participants nationwide. His group won the River Basin Blues Society band contest and will represent the Evansville, IN blues society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis January 30 through February 2. The Boscoe France Band will return to Stevie Ray's in May. You can find more information about the band online at http://www.boscoefrance.com/. Seated behind Boscoe on drums is Jimmy Cummings.

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February 2013





Photo by Cheryl Cissell

Guitar Emporium has long been a supporter of local blues and the Kentuckiana Blues Society. Starting this year, Guitar Emporium will now offer a 10% discount on all purchases for KBS members. Just show your current KBS membership card to receive the discount. Our thanks to Jimmy Brown and the entire staff at the Guitar Emporium for their continued support.

Notable shows this month include the Charlestown, SC duo Shovels & Rope at Cosmic Charlie's in Lexington on Wednesday, February 6. The husband and wife team just released their second album called "O' Be Joyful" last year. The Filson Historical Society (FHS) will again host its annual Blues Night at the Filson Club on Friday, February 15. Music will be provided by the 10th Street Blues Band. Admission is \$20 for FHS members and \$25 for non-members. More information is available online at http://www.filsonhistorical.org/. The Austin, TX band Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybears sold out Headliners when they appeared there last year. The blues, funk and

soul band will be at Cosmic Charlie's in Lexington on Monday, February 18. Shiny Old Soul of Cincinnati describes its music as "cosmic roots and blues." They will be at the Maple Inn on Saturday, February 23.

Looking ahead, Buddy Guy and Jonny Lang will be at the Kentucky Center on Tuesday, March 5. There is a 45 year difference in their ages but the styles of the two blues men come together nicely when they perform on the same bill. Tickets range in price from \$35 to \$60. You can find more details and order tickets online at http://www.kentuckycenter.org/. Steve Ray's will hold its sixth annual Hall of Fame (HOF) benefit for the Animal Care Society at the bar on Sunday, March 17. The benefit helps raise money for the animal shelter and is held to induct two new members into Stevie Ray's Hall of Fame. The winners will have their portrait painted by Jim Masterson and displayed along with the previous HOF recipients. Stop by Stevie Ray's and vote for your two choices to be added to the HOF wall.

I'm sure most of you are wondering what is going on with the monthly delivery of the newsletter. We've had problems relating to time management on our end and with issues concerning U.S. postal regulations that have caused repeated delays in delivery. We are working very hard to correct these issues. Please have some patience and understand that the KBS is an all-volunteer organization. We try and do our best under the circumstances. No one gets paid. No one is on salary or receives a commission. All the money paid in memberships and raised through sponsors goes to running the society and paying our bills. You can always check out the current events on our website at http://kbsblues.org/. I also want to encourage you to sign up for my weekly blues news emails. They include a detailed blues calendar complete with last minute gigs received after the newsletters have been mailed. You can sign up on the KBS website. Just look for the box labeled "join our mailing list @ Google Groups" at the top of the first page. I send the weekly email out every Tuesday night/Wednesday morning.

Gary

Editor's Note: Old Louisville Springfest photos from January Blues News were used courtesy of Old Louisville SpringFest Planning Committee, Chuck Anderson, Photographer, © 2012.

PLEASE check your MAILING LABEL for your renewal date, and please be sure to keep your membership current.

"TIME TO RENEW" will appear at the top of the label when your membership is expiring. PLEASE NOTE: IT COULD TAKE UP TO A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO GET YOUR NEW CARD. If you need it sooner, leave a voice message for Natalie at 893-8031 or send an email to membership@kbsblues.org.

Teresa James and the Rhythm Tramps

Papa Mojo's Roadhouse, Durham, North Carolina, on our way to The Sweet Potato Jam in Kinston, North Carolina.

We traveled from Louisville, through Knoxville, Asheville, Winston/Salem and on I-85 into Durham. Papa Mojo's Roadhouse sits in a - this time of night - deserted shopping center. Papa's seats about 50 people if the crowd crowds in real close. No one was more than 30 feet from the stage and at floor level. This put me right in Front of Big Joe Maher and later Teresa James.

The six of us ordered Shrimp, Andouille bites, Blackened Gator Bites, Devilled Crab, Red Beans and Rice, Jambalaya, BBQ Yardbird (all I think I know is that it wasn't Armadillo) and more shrimp and salads. Beverages of every imaginable sort were available.

Big Joe Maher (*Big Joe and the Dynaflows – Laying in the Alley* and *All Night Long* are two of his/their albums) came out – this time with a young man on Guitar name of Robert Framm who I had seen play once before and is a superb player – anything thrown at him – he throws right back. Tom Brill on stand up bass – with lady killer looks and then Joe made him into a real monster by asking him to "sing a couple"! Kevin McKendree – sometimes of Delbert's band Dick 50 – possibly the fastest piano hands around. Big Joe on drums and vocals.

Big Joe does blues, old blues, old swing blues and handles most of the singing. What a great combination of players for this kind of a band. Mr. Framm needs to cut a CD himself. I told him so and he allowed as how he was trying to get it done but playing all the time and getting others together to make the CD is rough these days. Roots Music for the 20th Century is what it says on Joe's CDs and he writes a lot of his own material.

I have always said that Teresa James is the "illegitimate sister of Delbert McClinton and Bonnie Raitt (both are fans and she has worked with both). She is all that my description entails – but she also is sooo much more. And this night she proved it.

Teresa on stage singing "up there" is one thing – but at ground zero – 10 feet away – a different story happens. When she sings the audience of course gets the house PA thru the speakers, but what doesn't get picked up by her mic comes out and hits you square in the face. Extra sauce on the rhyme. She is sultry, bluesy, hits unbelievable highs and adds well timed growls that grab your soul and make parts tingle. And banshee like harmonies on husband Terry's or guitar player Billy Watts' vocals and a Jet whine that reminds you of Janis Joplin but that she takes 0h! so much farther – all while pounding out some barrelhouse piano that reminds you of the roll that blues and rock is so often missing.

The Rhythm Tramps Band is Teresa on piano and vocals, Terry Wilson on bass and vocals, Herman Matthews on drums, Billy Watts on guitar (he is amazing – I'd say that he is among the best working guitarists extant), Lee Thornburg on horns. For four hours we listened and danced to songs like: *E I E I O, I Do My Drinking on the Weekend, Come on Home. If I Can't Have You, and Long Way from Texas.*



Their newest CD - Teresa James and the Rhythm Tramps, COME ON HOME - was #3 on the Roots Music Report Blues Chart for November 20th.

They quit when Papa Joe's license said that they had to and as we found our cars we realized it was *late*. We had to be up early the next day to drive to Kinston to see a guy named Delbert sing in a sweet potato barn. At the Tater Jam you bring with you what you want to eat, drink, sit on, be warmed by, etc. The only things provided are upside down sweet tater bins to use for your table and restrooms. Molly is there to sell you stuff and you can get a TATER JAM t-shirt suitable for wearing to Bingo.

We made it to Kinston for a really Happy Birthday Party for Kendall Hill – who has been having this birthday party for himself and us for 17 years. He charges to get in to see the Super Grit Cowboy Band (they even got a Steel Guitar player!), Big Joe and The Boys, Teresa James and the Rhythm Tramps, and the finale, of course, Delbert McClinton. This year Delbert had Whitey Johnson on guitar and Mr. Katz on piano. But that night is a story for another time.

Google Teresa and the Tramps and watch their YouTube videos. You may discover something wonderful.

on Home, If I Can't Have You, and Long Way from Texas. Story and Pictures by Nelson Grube

DC Productions & EXPO FIVE Blues Night at Hoopla's Bar Saturday February 16th, 2013:

Lamont Gillispie & 100 Proof Blues fresh off their appearance at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

Saturday February 23rd, 2013:

daMudcats featuring former singer Susan O'Neil

Hoopla's Bar is located inside EXPO FIVE at 2900 7th Street Rd. \$3 Cover *8pm-12am * www.expofive.com * 502-645-1820



Get More Blues News From the KBS Monthly Feature "I've Got a Mind to Ramble" in the LOUISVILLE MUSIC NEWS





Americana Rip Cat Records

This is the second CD I have reviewed by this group. The first, 2010's Boogie Disease, got a thumbs up from me. At that time, I was very impressed by their west coast blues in the vein of a Hollywood Fats, Rod Piazza, or Junior Guitar Watson. They claim to be a mix of west coast and Chicago blues, but their west coast sound drives the music- the reverb drenched guitar gives it away right from the start.

This 2011 release is an exceptional follow up to the first CD. Kid Ramos is the guest guitarist and producer on this CD as he was on the first. The other members of the band, and they are worth mentioning, are Johnny Main on guitar and vocals, Tex "The Weeping Willow" Nakamura on harmonica, Mike Torturro on upright and electric bass, and J.R. Lozano on drums.

The CD starts with a song called "Hanging Tree" which if judged by the title, would be a real bluesy downer of a song. Instead it is a real lively foot tapper (the lyrics are indeed what one would think from the title). The song "Dixie" ventures into rockabilly-blues. Main's vocals are great on these tunes. Ramos lets loose with the slide guitar on "Pleading My Case" and the harp is well inserted into all of the songs. "Mr. Operator" is an exceptional slow blues tune with great guitar work.

From the first song to the last, this CD impressed me. I have now played it numerous times in the car and at home and copied it onto my itunes. While listening I heard different things out of different speakers, so I tried the headphones. That opened up more interesting sounds and is worth you trying. These songs are well written well performed, well recorded and need to be in your blues collection.

Bob Brown



Dorothy Morrison, Tracy Nelson, Angela Strehli, Annie Sampson The Blues Broads Live CD/DVD Delta Groove Records

Where to start? First, it might be appropriate to mention that this is not a full-blown blues recording. There's a healthy dose of gospel and retro-soul, rounded out by about four solid blues tunes on the odd-numbered tracks (1, 3, 5, 7).

Having said that, though, this is a thoroughly enjoyable listening experience. These women are all legends in their own right, and coming together as a band, with stellar backing musicians, provides a veritable history lesson in blues, rock, gospel and soul.

Anchoring the blues content is the Queen of Texas Blues, Angela Strehli. Well past 65 years of age now, her ragged growl is still potent as the band performs two of her songs, the more well-known "Two Bit Texas Town" and "Blue Highway."

Tracy Nelson, whose "Livin' the Blues" (co-written with Gary Nicholson) sets the tone as the CD's opener, has had a long and eclectic career which began in blues and later spanned folk rock, psychedelic rock and most recently, country music.

Annie Sampson has a rock, gospel and theater background. She played one of the leads in the original production of Hair in the late 1960s, and has also recorded with a wide and eclectic variety of musicians during her career.

Dorothy Morrison started out in church music, and rose to international renown as the lead singer on the Edwin Hawkins Singers' hit "Oh, Happy Day," the biggest selling gospel recording of all time. Morrison has also worked with a large number of secular artists during her career.

They are backed up by a talented and solid crew of musicians, which includes the well-known bassist Steve Ehrmann. One of the highlights features special guest, singer-songwriter and keyboardist/saxophonist Deanna Bogart, who lends her smoky voice and piano pounding skills on the boogie tune "It Won't Be Long" (J.L. McFarland). She shows her band-leading abilities and provides an absolutely delightful fast and furious (but well-controlled) solo during the song. The CD has 10 tracks of covers and originals, with the aforementioned gospel number and the retro-soul hit "Mighty Love" (Jefferson/Hawes/Simmons) perhaps the most generally well-known of the entire set list. This group, which began as a loose and casual collaboration, is now a more solid, consistent and established entity, and they perform well together. Their energy and synergy is infectious.

Of course, all things, and people, age with time, and there are periods here and there where it shows in a flattened-out voicing, a rougher edge, a less-than-stable note. But the spirit is the glue, and that's what it's about here--not so much about genre content or technical perfection, but a statement to collaboration, friendship, resilience, longevity and legend.

The finale, the gospel number "Oh Happy Day," is a rousing, energetic finish appropriately led by Morrison, whose inspired and forceful vocals propel this recording to a great finish.

Even if you expect and prefer straight-up blues, you will want this CD.

Les Reynolds



Samantha Fish, Cassie Taylor, Dani Wilde Girls With Guitars Ruf Records

A talented team of twentysomethings. Young women with attitude, class, and sass. They might be young, but they are good. Really good.

Cassie Taylor, Samantha Fish and Dani Wilde present their considerable skills with bass, guitar and vocals, along with excellent drummer Jamie Little, on 10 originals and two cover tunes of blues and blues-rock that will make you sit up and take notice--and keep noticing. This stuff grows on you.

Each brings their unique gifts to the mix, although Wilde, from the UK, and Fish, from Kansas City, Missouri, might not be quite as recognizable as Taylor, the daughter of the scary-looking, somber-song-composing trance-blues banjo and guitar player Otis Taylor. And, while they usually sound better singing as a group, Wilde's throaty, soulful and full-voiced delivery provides the most pleasing solo vocal punch, oftimes reminiscent of her countrywoman Joss Stone. Wilde is also quite a talented guitarist, as is Fish, who can also be heard playing some very sweet sounding slide on a few tunes.

Their youth, while serving to give them marketability and an ability to look forward to (hopefully) long careers, at times shows up in a less-than-stable sung note, or a note gone flat--and yes, they do sound young. Yet, for all that lack of "mileage" they handle this recording very well, thanks in part to producer Mike Zito, who also plays some mean-sounding

guitar on this CD from time to time.

It's not all blues, but there are no "throw-away" tunes here. Some are better than others, though. Wilde's lead guitar and vocals on "Mr. Loving Man" (her tune) make this one a highlight. Zito's ghostly slide on the next cut "We Ain't Gonna Get Out Alive" adds icing to a very tasty cake. Wilde again proves herself a vocal talent on "Reason to Stay," as this stripped-down number with just her and her dobro brings real blues to the set list. For all her singing skill, though, she demonstrates she needs to stay in her "pocket" and not venture too far into the higher octave range. "Get Back" perhaps shows the group's Little-Taylor rhythm section at its best. Three subsequent tracks feature Fish's excellent slide technique.

The final tune, Paul Pena's "Jet Airliner" (made famous by Steve Miller back in the '70s) is perhaps their best effort. It's silky-smooth groove and flow, the gorgeous airtight vocal harmonies and Fish's fretwork electricity show what these women can really do when all pistons are firing in perfect synch.

Yeah, these ladies are young, no doubt about that. And they have their rough edges. They will mature and get better and better--then set the world on fire.

Les Reynolds



I've Got a Mind To Ramble By Susan O'Neil reprinted with permission from Louisville Music News



It's five days before deadline and I am lamenting the fact that the article that I planned to write for the January issue is not going to pan out. I was telling my dear friend Jennifer Lauletta about my dilemma and she simply said, "write about that picture you have hanging on your wall." I marvel at the proverbial nose in front of my face. "Buy Me Some Blues," by artist Jimi Claybrooks, is an offset lithograph that was given to my husband Rick and me as an anniversary gift from Kathleen O'Neil, my wonderful sister-in-law. She bought it at Furnish, my favorite vintage furniture (and other cool stuff) shop on Preston near Audubon Park, knowing that I had been watching it for a few months, waiting to make an offer when I could afford to. Don't know what she gave for it but we now have this priceless treasure hanging on our family room wall and I gaze at it often for inspiration.

"Buy Me Some Blues" is a blues tribute celebrating the Mississippi Delta Blues tradition, from 1900 to the present. It features the likenesses of seven Blues Legends: Sleepy John Estes, Lead Belly, Riley B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson, Howlin' Wolf and John Lee Hooker. The bluesmen are sitting on the front porch of what looks like some sort of juke joint/general store holding their guitars. When I look at it, I try to imagine what it was like to be on that dusty storefront. How did it feel? Better yet, how did it sound? Oh, how my mind wonders when I take my imaginary trip to the Delta.

John Adam Estes, "Sleepy John Estes," 1899-1977, is the gentleman sitting in a rocking chair at the far left on the porch. He was a guitarist, songwriter and a poet. According to Wikipedia, his epitaph reads "*ain't goin' to worry Poor John's mind anymore*" which was derived from his song, "Someday Baby Blues." His active career spanned from 1929-1977 and his songs have been covered by everyone from Led Zeppelin to Bob Dylan.

Huddie William Ledbetter, "Lead Belly," 1888-1949, is the man standing in the doorway of the storefront. He was known for his strong vocals and most commonly played the twelve-string guitar, but he could also play the piano, mandolin, harmonica, violin and accordion. He used a finger-picking style to play his guitar and had a catalog of folks songs, He wrote about the topics of his day in songs such as "The Titanic," and performed songs like "Midnight Special," which he probably learned in prison. His music has been covered by Creedence Clearwater Revival, Tom Petty, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Cash and many more.

Sitting on the steps of the porch is Riley "B.B." King, born in 1925 and still performing here and there. He has received countless honors and is ranked No. 6 on Rolling Stone Magazine's list of 100 greatest guitar players of all times. He is credited with introducing a sophisticated style of soloing based on fluid string bending and shimmering vibrato that influenced virtually every electric blues guitarist alive.

McKinley Morganfield, "Muddy Waters," 1913-1983, is sitting to the right just above B. B. King next to Lead Belly. Muddy is credited with electrifying the Blues and inventing the Chicago Blues sound. He, too. has influenced more contemporary Blues and Rock artists than anyone can count. Robert Leroy Johnson, 1911-1938, is on the porch sitting next to Muddy Waters. Robert was an itinerant musician and today is considered a master, particularly, of the Delta Blues style. He had superb guitar skills and displayed a wide variety of styles. His vocal style incorporated the use of micro tonality, which explains why his singing conveys such powerful emotion. Eric Clapton described Johnson's music as "the most powerful cry that I think you can find in the human voice."

Chester Arthur Burnett, "Howlin Wolf," 1910-1976, was a singer, guitarist and harmonica player. In the picture, he is standing slightly behind the porch support next to Robert Johnson. Wolf was an imposing presence with one of the loudest and most memorable voices of all the "classic" 1950s Chicago Blues singers. A number of songs written or popularized by Burnett, such as "Smokestack Lightnin'", "Back Door Man", "Killing Floor" and "Spoonful," have become blues and blues rock standards.

Seated on the far right end of the porch is John Lee Hooker, 1917-2001. He was a highly influential Blues singersongwriter and guitarist. Hooker developed his own unique style of what was originally an individual brand of country blues. His music was metrically free and could be said to embody his own particular genre of Blues, often incorporating the boogie-woogie piano style and a driving rhythm into his blues guitar playing and singing. His songs have been covered by Buddy Guy, Cream, and Van Morrison to name a few.

In the midst of doing my research and brushing up on these great Blues icons in this picture, impressed by their accomplishments, whom they influenced and who influenced them, I began to wonder how our own Louisville Blues players have been influenced by any one or more of these legendary men. I enlisted the opinions and insights of three of Louisville's own iconic Blues guitar players, each possessing their own distinctive style, and highly regarded by their peers. They are Mark Stein, a former band member of mine and currently the leader of the Rib Tip Kings; Screamin' John Hawkins of The Predators fame and Rob Pickett, former band mate and member of da Mudcats.

When asked if he was influenced by B. B. King, Mark Stein simply said, "Every electric guitar player that plays rock or blues, whether they know it or not, has been influenced by B. B. King." Elaborating, he said that B. B. was the first to use the hand tremolo properly, which was a method of bending the strings so the notes would waiver. In Mark's mind there would be no Eric Clapton without B. B's influence. Mark also sites Muddy Waters as a huge influence since he is the man who invented electric blues and developed the Chicago Blues sound that many Blues guitar players try to emulate. Mark credits Howlin' Wolf with being the greatest blues singer that ever lived. Mark said that he makes futile attempts to sound like Howlin' Wolf, and enjoys covering a lot of Wolf's tunes such as "Smokestack Lightning," Back Door Man," "Worried About You Baby" and "Little Red Rooster."

Screamin' John Hawkins stated that Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson and Howlin' Wolf were huge influences on him from the age of 17. He went on to say that when Ear xTacy was in its first location, he would search for vinyl and managed to purchase the *Chess Collection* album, where he learned the classic licks that everybody was stealing. This was when he first realized where these classic sounds that the likes of Eric Clapton and other contemporary players were coming from. Like most creative guitar types, Screamin' John would learn what he could, try to emulate and ultimately cut his own path that defines his current Blues style. John started researching other people that he read about, but never heard, so he would dig deeper into the Blues catalogs, which is where he discovered treasures from Robert Johnson and Howlin' Wolf.

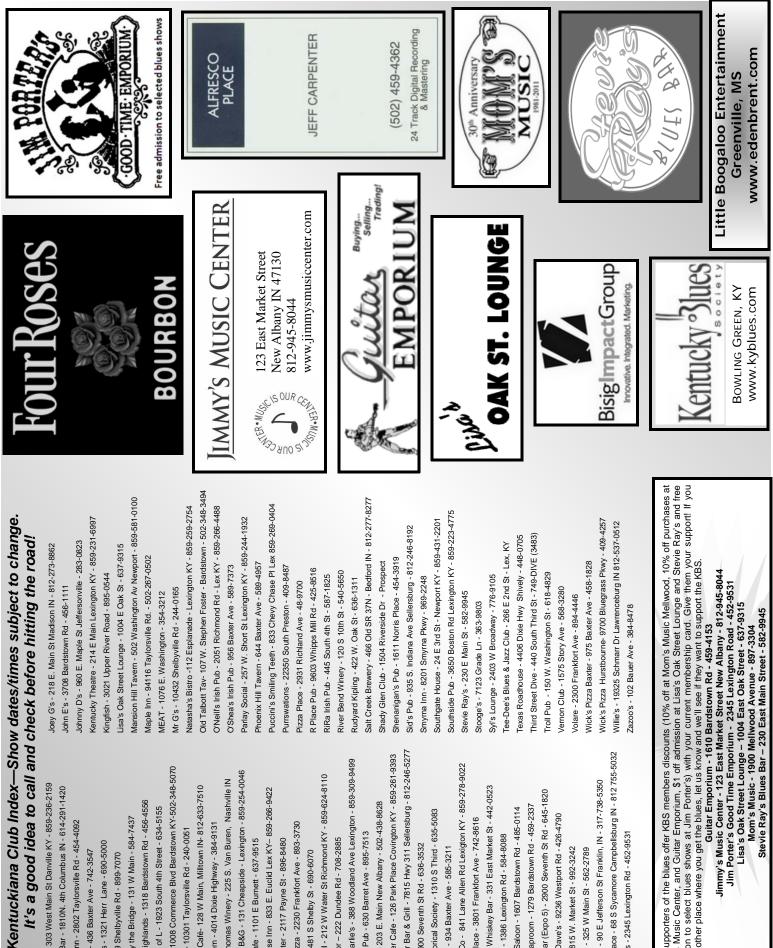
Rob Pickett, like Mark and Screamin' John, didn't cite Sleepy John Estes and Lead Belly as much of an influence, though they all stated that they appreciated the talent and the contribution that they made to the Blues. Rob specifically mentioned how much he enjoyed how raw and emotional their music was, that it was authentic and free form. There were sometimes more than the standard 12 bar blues – there may be some extra bars thrown in here and there. Rob's high school playlist included Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker. He enjoyed listening to them before school, when he had some time to kill before getting out and about. John Lee Hooker's boogie style was fun for Rob to learn, but the fact that Hooker sometimes had non-standard timing and made changes at random times was perplexing. Rob sited B. B. King as probably the easiest guitar player to quote because it is more structured. He likes the way that B.B. would tag the root note up high at the beginning of a phrase or the end of a phrase. Like both Screamin' John and Mark, Rob takes what he can from these Masters and puts a bit of himself into his playing.

Even though this was not the article that I had planned to write, I will have to say that I have really enjoyed pulling it together. I learned so much about our Blues forefathers that I did not know. This was truly a labor of love. So, until next time, Peace, Love and the Blues, Hippies.



Kentuckiana Blues Calendar

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