

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY
"...PRESERVING, PROMOTING AND PERPETUATING THE BLUES."

Louisville, Kentucky

January 2015

Incorporated 1989





The Beat Daddys photo courtesy of The Beat Daddys. Randy Colvin photo by David True

On Sunday, January 11, Stevie Ray's Blues Bar will host an International Blues Challenge (IBC) Benefit for the KBS IBC winners of 2014. Randy Colvin (above right) won the KBS solo/duo contest and The Beat Daddys (above left) won the KBS band contest. They will represent the blues society at the Blues Foundation's 31st annual blues competition in Memphis, TN January 20-24. The benefit will feature both IBC winners along with One Shot Johnny of Magnolia, KY, Boscoe France of Madisonville, KY, Primo from Bloomington, IN and Louisville's own Mark Stein & the Rib Tip Kings. R&B recording artist Prince Phillip Mitchell will be a special guest of The Beat Daddys. Admission is \$5. Doors open at 4:00 pm with the music starting at 5:00 pm.

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Blues News

The monthly newsletter of the Kentuckiana Blues Society

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January 2015 Volume 28 Number 1 Editor

Natalie Carter

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Brown Nelson Grube William Peeples Les Reynolds Gary Sampson David True

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The views expressed by the authors and advertisers are their own. Contributions by anyone offering pertinent and thoughtful discussion on blues issues are welcomed.

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We appreciate your support and welcome your input. If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas, etc., contact us at this address:

Kentuckiana Blues Society P. O. Box 755 Louisville, KY 40201-0755

As usual, please check your mailing label to see if your membership will expire soon. Our single membership is a bargain at only \$20.00 US per year. Double membership (two members at the same address, two membership cards, one newsletter) is only \$25.00 US per year, and we now offer a special band rate of \$30 per year, which includes one newsletter plus a membership card for each band member. If you see a notice on your mailing label, that means that it's time to renew!

KBS LEADERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2015:

Gary Sampson – president
Debbie Wilson – vice-president
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Chris Grube – treasurer

KBS MONTHLY MEETING

If you are interested in reviewing new blues music, come on out to the KBS monthly board meeting (held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at The Pizza Place in Hikes Point) and take your pick! We receive promo releases from the major blues labels as well as regional and local bands. If you review a CD, it's yours to keep!

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION! LOOK AT YOUR MAILING LABEL!

If it says "LAST ISSUE - PLEASE RENEW" you will be purged from the membership rolls after this mailing and will not receive any future issues of Blues News. We don't want to lose you! Please take a moment now and check your label and renew online at www. kbsblues. org or send a check to

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Thank you for your support!

The Louisville Blues Compilation Volume II is available exclusively at



Letter From The Prez



I've received several calls recently from both KBS members and non-members alike who have had problems getting the weekly blues email that I send out on Tuesday nights. I've talked about this with KBS webmaster Debbie Wilson and, for some reason, different email systems treat the KBS messages as spam. This may have to do with the many web links in the email. If this happens to you, just go back to our website at http://kbsblues.org/ and re-enter your email address at the top of the page where it reads "Join our mailing list at Google Groups." We do not add anyone to the weekly email list. Even KBS members have to sign up themselves. Anyone can sign up for the emails. You don't have to be a blues society member to receive it. We get a lot of last minute information on blues dates that don't make it into the monthly newsletter and it's a great way to stay up-to-date.

Voting is underway for Stevie Ray's Eighth Annual Hall of Fame Induction. The top two vote-getters will have their portrait added to Stevie Ray's hall of fame wall. Voting will continue through mid-February and the winners will be announced at the Hall of Fame Benefit Show the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day. That show will benefit the Animal Care Society of Louisville.

Louisville said goodbye to two bands from its blues community recently. Little T&A, winners of the 2011 KBS Blues Challenge Band Contest performed their last show on Wednesday, November 26 at Jim Porter's. Tony Tkac and Amy Johnson started the band on a sweltering summer night in August of 2010 at The Lounge on East Madison St in the Phoenix Hill neighborhood. The Predators played their last gig at Stevie Ray's on Saturday, December 20. The band has played around town for over 23 years and band members Jimi V and Screamin' John Hawkins represented the KBS in the solo/duo division at the 2010 IBC. In fact, they were our first blues society representatives to make it to the semi-finals of the blues challenge. Amy continues to perform with the band Tre Bella and Screamin' John plays around town with both Tyrone Cotton and his band Hog Operation. I'm sure this is not the last we've heard from all of these fine musicians.

Crescent Hill Radio began broadcasting on the FM dial on October 29. WCHQ, 100.9 FM, is a non-profit, community radio station dedicated to local and regional music. We are currently looking for underwriting sponsors to help us support the station. A sponsorship on Crescent Hill Radio can run as little as \$250 a year and is tax deductible. If you would like more information, contact me at gary@crescenthillradio.com or 502/724-9971 or station manager Kathy Weisbach at kathy@crescenthillradio.com or 502/544-5003. The station's website address is http://www.crescenthillradio.com/

Notable events this month include a "Blues Explosion" at Jim Porter's on Friday, January 2 with Lazy Eleven, Bluestown and Broken Dreams. The venue will also have Lexington's Tee Dee Young on Friday, January 9. Tickets for that show are \$10 in advance, \$12 day of the show and KBS members will receive \$5 off when they present a current membership card. Weaverville, NC native Malcolm Holcombe brings his unique style of roots, blues and folk music to the Rudyard Kipling on Friday, January 9. Headliners Music Hall will host Jam For A Cure on Saturday, January 10 with V-Groove, The Greg Foresman Acoustic Experience, Danny Flanigan & the Rain Chorus and John Mann. All proceeds go to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. In addition to the IBC Benefit on Sunday, January 11, Stevie Ray's will have Toad Strangler from Bowling Green on Friday, January 16 and the Gordon Bonham Blues Band of Indianapolis on Friday, January 23. The New Vintage will have the Stray Cat Blues Band on Saturday, January 31 and Selwyn Birchwood, winner of the 2013 IBC band contest on Tuesday, February 3. Both shows are \$10 in advance, \$12 day of the show and blues society members receive a \$2 discount with a KBS membership card. The New Vintage is located at 2126 South Preston St, right behind the White Castle at Eastern Pkwy and Preston Hwy.

Gary

Editor's note: The review of the Jeremiah Johnson Band's CD "Brand Spank'n Blue" in last month's issue was submitted by Rebecca Mach.

A Tribute To Sara Martin

by Keith S. Clements, Photos by William Peeples

It started in December 2013 when Heather Leoncini, the president of the National Jug Band Jubilee, asked the Kentuckiana Blues Society if there was a head-stone on Sara Martin's grave in the Louisville Cemetery. A quick check revealed that there was no marker in Section JJ, Row R, Grave 23. A sad oversight for this famous classical blues and jug band vocalist who was popular during the 1920s.

Soon there was collaboration between the two organizations that resulted in a fund raising effort. A goal of \$2000 was set and a design was created with the assistance of Bays Brothers, a monument company that specialized in laser etching. Generous donations were received from many local and national sources, and a stone worthy of the famous singer was made and set. Anticipation grew before the dedication ceremony on September 19, 2014, which was the day before the 10th anniversary concert for the National Jug Band Jubilee at Louisville's Waterfront Park. The weather was perfect as over 100 people gathered at the site.

A canopy was in place, with chairs and flowers by the shrouded headstone. Heather had arranged for the Jake Leg Stompers from Murfreesboro, TN, and special guest Maria Muldaur, to perform some bawdy jug band songs along with some traditional blues music. Musician and historian Pen Bogert presented some remarks about Martin's life and accomplishments. Several descendants of Martin's were located by Michael Jones, the author of the recently-published book "Louisville Jug Music – From Earl McDonald to the National Jubilee", and it was fitting that these relatives were on hand to participate in the unveiling of her stone.

Following the ceremony, there was a tour of the gravesites of other musicians buried in the cemetery, including John "Preacher" Stephens, Sylvester Weaver and Earl McDonald. Both Weaver and McDonald had recorded with Martin between 1923-1927 for Okeh Records. Blues history was made in 1923 when pioneering blues guitarist Weaver recorded "Longing for Daddy Blues", the first recording of a blues singer with just guitar accompaniment. Jug band history was made in 1924 when Sara Martin's Jug Band, which included McDonald blowing on a jug, was the first jug band to record, playing "Blue Devil Blues" and "Jug Band Blues".

The mission statement of the Kentuckiana Blues Society is very simple; "...to preserve, promote and perpetuate the blues tradition." The preparation and dedication of Sara Martin's headstone was an excellent example of preserving our favorite music.

Keith S. Clements



Maria Muldaur with the Jake Leg Stompers



Members of Mrs. Martin's family attended the ceremony



A fitting tribute to one of our own





New Music Reviews!





Daddy Mack Blues Band Blues Central Inside Sound

Daddy Mack Orr, was written up in the AARP magazine in October 2010 for starting a new direction in life (giving up his auto mechanic business to focus on music) at the age of 65. He did not start playing guitar until he was 45 years old. He has now released his 6th CD, the first of which was released 15 years ago. The band includes the same personnel since the beginning except the drummer.

Orr's Memphis style blues is infused with humor and commentary on the world's state of affairs. On the second cut on the CD, "Hard on Me", he talks about looking down from the stage at young women which makes it "Hard on Me", and he wishes he were half his age. On "Doorman" he sings that he'll do anything for his girl and will "be her doorman, but not

her doormat". On "Daily Blues" he sings that he does "not have to watch the news, I got my own daily blues". The song "Watermelon Man" tells about his woman running off with the watermelon man. He is not distraught over losing his girl but he is upset because he can't get any melons anymore.

Daddy Mack's music is mostly a funk-blues style. He uses harp, sax, trombone, organ, and clarinet, all sparingly, and only on certain songs such as the jazzy-swing "Sharp Dressed Daddy". All of the 13 songs are originals mostly written by producer Eddie Dattel.

This is a pretty good Memphis Blues CD-a departure from the multitude of blues-rock releases that Daddy Mack is not tempted to imitate.





Jimmy Davis Band On A Wing and A Prayer

Sunday morning of Ribberfest weekend found four of us wandering Main Street in beautiful downtown Madison. We were looking for a place to eat breakfast but it seemed there wasn't an open restaurant downtown. Then we came upon an empty storefront with a crowd, including Jimmy Davis, milling about. He said he would be performing at the breakfast inside. That's all we needed to know. We fell in line and placed our orders for breakfast. As we waited for our food, I noticed that the ceiling was covered in what looked to be pink crinkled something. Perhaps paper Mache? I thought I had gone upstairs with Miss Kitty at the Dodge House! The breakfast was good but the highlight was seeing Jimmy Davis perform songs from his soon to be released CD. We were at The Red Bicycle Hall a new venue for live music, live theatre, art and receptions.

There are many rooms in the house of blues: everything from Country Blues (White boys rhythm and blues), pre-war to post-war bi-coastal Swing Blues, Delta Blues, Chicago Blues, Texas Blues and on and on. Today we were invited by Jimmy Davis to enjoy some Gospel Blues from his CD.

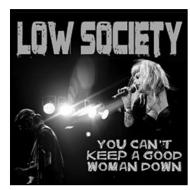
From the CD's liner notes: Luke 3:11 and He answered them, "whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." All proceeds from this recording go to the Salvation Army and the House of Hope. There are many wonderful people who helped make this recording possible and all for the same reason; all praise one living God! In loving memory of Jeffrey Reece.

- 1. "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize" is a folksong from the '50's also known as "Hold On" or "Gospel Plow". Jimmy embellishes this tune with a wah-wah pedal.
- 2. "God Don't Ever Change" was written by Blind Willie Johnson. Jimmy does some nice finger picking and uses a slide in some parts.
- 3. "Wish I was in Heaven" is an up tempo R.L. Burnside Delta Blues song.
- 4. "Shine on to the Lord" I could find no history on this song on Google. But Jimmy uses a wah-wah effect on it.
- 5. "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" with Jimmy doing some nice finger picking again on this Reverend Gary Davis song.
- 6. "God's Got It" was written by Reverend Charlie Jackson and is my favorite on this CD. Jimmy uses his ring finger slide on this one.
- 7. "Because Jesus Lives" (we don't need to fear for the future). This song is relegated to the general public file and I can find no other information on it.
- 8. "Without The Lord" uses a straight 12 bar blues form, I, IV, V and it is done very nicely. The author is unknown.
- 9. "John the Revelator" is a "Traditional Gospel Blues Call" that has been recorded by Blind Willie and Son House. Jim-

- my does this with a nice growl in his voice. He uses a lightly fuzzed guitar done at the pace of a funeral dirge. Nice listening.
- 10. There is no information on "Well, Well, Well". Jimmy plays some real nice slide guitar on this cut. "When I Lay My Burden Down" is an old traditional Gospel song in the manner of "Glory, Glory". It has been cut in many genres including Folk, Country, Rock and Gospel. The song is a real heart string grabber as a soliloquy. Odetta and Roy Acuff have each cut this song but with different lyrics.

On A Wing and A Prayer: a musical experience brought to you by Jimmy Davis and his band

Nelson Grube



Low Society You Can't Keep A Good Woman Down Icehouse Records

The very title of this band's Icehouse Records debut (though not its first recording overall) is made abundantly evident on the first note. Blues belter Mandy Lemons takes no prisoners with her emotional, soulful and powerhouse vocals that, as press materials say, "mixes southern-fried soul and northern attitude."

While the mostly-original set list of 12 songs are high energy and rockin', this can be called a blues album. Just be sure to use the term "rock" when describing most of the songs, however. Texas and Delta blues appear to be the key influences, yet firmly anchored in rock 'n' roll.

The simple core of four-piece Low Society is fronted by Lemons, who formed the group, and producer-guitarist Sturgis Nikides (former sideman with John Cale, of the Velvet Underground, according to press materials). The solid rhythm section of drummer Mike Munn and bassist Nick Dodson pound out a rock solid beat to hold it all together while Lemons preaches and Nikides answers the call with his scorching slide guitar.

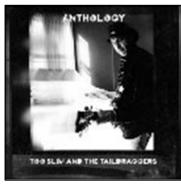
Ten of the tunes are originals, while two ("VooDoo Woman," by Koko Taylor; and "Let Me Ride" by Memphis Minnie) are well-chosen covers. An interesting note here, one of the more funky numbers winds up being a tune titled "Son House Says" – and, House was anything but. Just sayin'... The title track is very high-energy but definitely a blues-based rocker with some greeeeeasy, fat-sounding slide and rolling piano (the latter from Rick Steff). Lemons shows she can maintain the energy even in a slow, smoldering song like "This Heart of Mine." The old-timey feel of the Memphis Minnie tune "Let Me Ride" is authentic with Lemons' powerful voice leading the way.

The only downsides to this CD are: 1) sometimes, Lemons' vocals cross the line into being too harsh; and 2) the deep male backup vocals sometimes seem affected or farcical (but maybe on purpose? Again, just sayin')...

Not quite an aside, but since this reviewer has never heard of the guy, the surprise in this CD is actually Nikides, who is quite the accomplished guitarist.

It you like your blues high energy and maybe a tad "over-cooked" from time to time, with lots of slide guitar and powerful vocals, you'll like this CD.





Too Slim and the Taildraggers Anthology Underworld Records

Too Slim's last CD reviewed by the KBS was "Blue Heart". That CD's songs and a lot more are included in this anthology comprising music covering 28 years. There are 34 songs on two CDs, only three of which are new releases. As for the music itself, it is blues based rock. It is quite interesting music and as most of us like rock, it is a pretty good release. Too Slim is quite an accomplished guitarist and is adept at slide.

The three new releases are "Wishing Well", "Little Gun Motel", and "Big Ole House". "Wishing Well" is not really a remarkable cut, but not a bad one either- soft rock if you need a category. "Little Gun Hotel" is a Texas rock boogie song with Jim Suhler as guest guitarist. "Big Ole House" is a slow piano-surrounded ballad. Good but not remarkable.

All in all, Anthology is a good release and offers a "Greatest Hits" release of Too Slim. Mostly rock, and some good music too but very little of what I would call blues. With 34 songs, one can expect some good ones and some bad ones. I would say that this one has more of the good than the bad (if indeed any are "bad"). Rather than Good or Bad, I would say that some can be easily dated since the release covers such a time span.

You can hear some for yourself at www.tooslim.org.

Bob Brown

Four Roses Louisville Blues Brews & BBQ Festival July 11 – 13 at the Water Tower

Photos by David True



Cheryl Renee



John Primer



Sylvia Walters & Groove City



da Mudcats



Lazy Eleven



Tanita Gaines



Sponsor Larry Bisig



View From the Stage



Lamont Gillispie & 100 Proof



Little T&A



Mississippi Heat



Stella Vees

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	30	31 - New Years Eve	Jan-1	2	က
New Life Fellowship (Madison IN) – El Gospel with Jimmy Davis 10:30 am Eliza Place – Open Jam hosted by Jamy Ferguson 7:00 Willie's Locally Known (Lexington) Lee Carroll's Home Cooking Soul Jazz Trio 11:00 am	Patchen Pub (Lex) - Blues Jam 7:00 Blues Blues & Jazz Club (Lex) – Tee Dee Young & Friends	New Vintage - Charles Walker / Laurie Jane & 45's Henry Clay's Henry Clay's House (Lexington) Northside Sheiks Off Broadway Tap House (Madison) Open Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	Amvets Post #61 – Jenny & the Jets Bistro 42 – Soul Circus Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett Jim Porter's – Rock Bottom Blues Potbelly's – Big Poppa Stampley Stevie Ran's – Old School VFW Post (Longfeld) – Dallas Cole Wick's Pizza (Goose Creek) – Carla & the Holy Smokes	Malid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Stevie Ray's – TNT Open Jam 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) – Open Jam	Backstretch Bar & Grill (Lexington) – DJ Rice Gerstle's Place – Blues & Greys 8:30 Jim Porter's – Lazy Eleven / Bluestown / Broken Dreams Maid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Stevie Ray's – Jimmy Dayis Band 9:30	Chateau Thomas Winery (Nashville IN) – Gary Applegate Crown Room (Madison IN) – Jimmy Davis 10:00 Gestle's Place – The Tarnations 9:00 Potbelly's (Paddock Mail) – Big Poppa Stampley 11:30 am Stevie Ray's – V-Groove 9:30 859 Social Club (Lexington) – DJ Rice
4	22	9	2	8	6	10
Pizza Place – Open Jam hosted by Earny Ferguson 7:00 Willie's Locally Known (Lexington) I Lee Carroll's Home Cooking Soul Jazz Trio 11:00 am	Patchen Pub (Lex) - Blues Jam 7:00 Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lex) – Tee Dee Young & Friends	Henry Clay's House (Lexington) Northside Sheiks Off Broadway Tap House (Madison) Open Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	Olde Towne Bar & Grill (Vernon IN) Gary Applegate 7:00 Gary Applegate 7:00 Pizza Place – KBS Board Meeting Potbellvs – Big Poppa Stampley Stevie Rav's – Heritage Happy Hour 6:00 (Blues & Greys 8:30 The Garage (Columbus IN) – Snakehandlers Blues Band Trio Volare – Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00 Willie's Locally Known Millie's Locally Known I exindron – Mondy Pines 8:00	Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Stevie Ray's – TNT Open Jam 9:00 VEW Post (Madison IN) – Open Jam Volare – Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	Big Shots – Dallas Cole Band 10:00 Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Jim Porter's – Tee Dee Young / Bluestown Maid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Rudyard Kipling – Malcolm Holcombe 8:00 Stevie Ray's – Guitar Pawnshop 9:30	Gestle's Place – V-Groove 8:00 Headliners – Jam For A Cure with V-Groove, Greg Foresman Band, Danny Flanigan and John Mann 8:00 Jim Portar's – Bluestown Potbelly's (Paddock Mall) – Big Poppa Stampley 11:30 am Stevie Ray's – Jenny & Jets 6:45 / Big Black Cadillac
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pizza Place – Open Jam hosted by Earny Ferguson 7:00 Stevie Ray's – IBC Fundraiser for J Randy Colvin / The Beat Daddys 5:00 Willie's Locally Known (Lexington) Lee Carroll's Home Cooking Soul Jazz Trio 11:00 am	Patchen Pub (Lex) - Blues Jam 7:00 Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lex) – Tee Dee Young & Friends	Henry Clay's House (Lexington) Northside Sheiks Off Broadway Tap House (Madison) Open Jam 8:00 Open Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's Blues Jam 9:00	Olde Towne Bar & Grill (Vernon IN) Gary Applegate 7:00 Gary Applegate 7:00 Stevile Rar's – Jenny & the Jets Volare – Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Stevie Ray's – TNT Open Jam 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) – Open Jam Volare – Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	Barret Bar – Lamont Gillispie & 100 Proof 9:00 Jim Porter's – Broken Dreams Stevie Rav's – Toad Strangler 9:30	Jim Porter's – Broken Dreams MOM's Music (Mellwood Ave) – Open Jam 2:00 Potbelly's (Paddock Mall) – Big Poppa Stampley 11:30 am Stevie Rav's – No Problem 7:00 / Nobody'z Bizzness 10:00
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Pizza Place – Open Jam hosted by Earny Ferguson 7:00 Willie's Locally Known (Lexington) Lee Carroll's Home Cooking Soul Jazz Trio 11:00 am	Patchen Pub (Lex) - Blues Jam 7:00 Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lex) – Tee Dee Young & Friends	Henry Clay's House (Lexington) Northside Sheiks Off Broadway Tap House (Madison) Open Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	Olde Towne Bar & Grill (Vernon IN) Gary Applegate 7:00 Potbeliv's – Big Poppa Stampley Stavie Ray's – Blues Drifters 8:30 Volare – Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Stevie Ray's – TNT Open Jam 9:00 VEW Post (Madison IN) – Open Jam Volare – Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Jim Porter's – Rock Bottom Blues Stevie Ray's – Soul River Brown 9:30	Goose Creek Diner – Big Poppa Stampley 5:30 Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Jim Porter's – Robbie Bartlett 8:00 Jim Porter's – Rock Bottom Blues New Vintage – Stray Cat Band 9:00 Potbelly's (Paddock Mall) – Big Poppa Stampley 11:30 am Stevie Ray's – Mississippi Adam Riggle Band 7:00 / Billy Davis Group 10:00 4th Street Pub (Columbus IN) – Snakehandlers Blues

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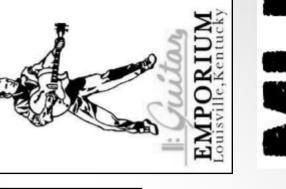
It's a good idea to check in with the

subject to change.

before hitting the road!

Show dates/times are always

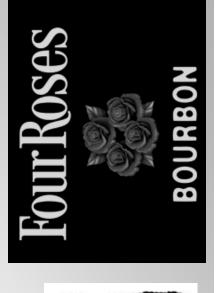
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GET THE BLUES AND FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT!

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KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY
Attn: Membership Director
P.O. Box 755
Louisville, KY 40201-0755

