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Blues News

The monthly newsletter of the
Kentuckiana Blues Society

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Time to Renew?

Check your mailing label and please be sure to keep your membership current. And remember, it may 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 an email to membership@kbsblues.org.

Help Us Celebrate Our Twentieth Year!



Do you have any pictures, stories or memorabilia from past KBS events you'd like to share? We're working on a special exhibit for our twentieth birthday party and we need lots of input from our members. If you have any materials or ideas you'd like to see included, please contact Gary at prez@kbsblues.org or (502) 724-9971, Keith at info@kbsblues.org or (502) 451-6872, or Natalie at news@kbsblues.org or (502) 893-8031. Better yet, drop in on a board meeting, held every first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 at O'Shea's Irish Pub on Baxter Avenue.

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 \$15.00 US per year. Double membership (two members at the same address, two membership cards, one newsletter) is only \$20.00 US per year. If you see a notice on your mailing label, that means that it's time to renew!

KBS LEADERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2008:

Gary Sampson – president
Debbie Wilson – vice-president
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KBS MONTHLY MEETING

If you are interested in reviewing new blues releases, come on out to the KBS monthly meeting (**held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at O'Shea's, 956 Baxter Avenue**) 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!

LETTER FROM THE PREZ

Pat Morley of Velveeta Jones emailed me recently and said they put on a good show at the International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis even though Spanky (Sondra Kirkpatrick) was sick. He said he believes they were good ambassadors for the state of Kentucky and they ate a lot of ribs. The Mike Crandall Band, complete with a 14-year old drummer and sponsored by the Connecticut Blues Society, won their venue. The winners of this year's IBC were Trampled Under Foot in the band division. They were sponsored by the Kansas City Blues Society. In the solo/duo division the winner was Lionel Young sponsored by the Colorado Blues Society. A pat on the back goes out to Dan Stevens and Chris D'Amato for making it to the finals of the solo/duo competition. Dan has played at a couple of KBS events over the years. They were also sponsored by the Connecticut Blues Society. Congratulations to all the bands that made it to Memphis and good luck next year.

The Kings of Love are bringing their soul, R&B and blues show back to Lisa's Oak Street Lounge. The band will now play on Sunday nights from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Pat Bareis and Byron Davies return with a new drummer and guitarist. The KOL held down the Tuesday night spot for many years at Lisa's until the passing last November of Don "Big Daddy" Pollard. Bid Daddy will be greatly missed but I'm sure he will be there in spirit.

In checking out venues for this month's calendar I was disappointed to see that Joey G's in Madison, Indiana will no longer be offering live music. Hosts Joey and Cheri noted on their website that "music still matters to us although in these tough economic times the weight of providing live music at our expense over a period of almost eight years has grown extremely difficult and has forced us to re-evaluate our priorities and above all we must keep it real.....Stay Tuned!" Hopefully in the future they will be able to once again offer the same great music they have provided in the past. Joey G's the restaurant will continue to operate as will their record store House O' Hits. You can find them online at <http://houseohits.com/>.

There are a couple of acts coming to town in the month of March I highly recommend. Malcolm Holcombe returns to Air Devils Inn on Thursday, March 6. I always try and see Holcombe when he comes to town. He possesses a great raw energy when on stage that few musicians can match. He is the modern day Johnny B. Goode coming out of the North Carolina woods with a guitar on his back. Check him out online at <http://www.malcolmholcombe.com/>. Stevie Ray's Blues Bar presents Blind Pig recording artist and Texas native Hamilton Loomis on Monday, March 24. Checking out Stevie Ray's future listing they will also have Stacy Mitchhart on Wednesday, April 9 and Tab Benoit on Sunday, May 18. Mark your calendars now.

On February 16 I reluctantly accepted the resignation of Brenda Major as Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of the Kentuckiana Blues Society. In her resignation letter Brenda stated that "I no longer have the enthusiasm to constructively contribute to the success of this organization." Brenda has been a major part of the blues society for the last decade. Her efforts have been greatly appreciated and her input will be missed. Keith Clements provides more insight into her contributions in this month's article on the KBS celebrating 20 years.

Gary



Photo by Gary Sampson

Mark Decker (left) and Chris O'Neil of the Yard Dogs played a little blues and southern rock recently at Pucker's Bar & Grill on Preston Highway. The Yards Dogs have a MySpace page at <http://www.myspace.com/yarddogslouisville>. Many blues bands are starting to find their audience through social networking websites. In the January issue of Blues News we printed a list of bands who play in our area and their website addresses.

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The KBS Celebrates 20 Years – Part 2

Keith S. Clements

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Last month I reminisced about the early years of the Kentuckiana Blues Society from late 1988, when it was founded, through 1994. This month we will take a journey through the middle years starting in 1995 to 2000. The January issue of Louisville Music News did an excellent cover article about Louisville guitarist Foree Wells. Mark Clark did the interview for the story with photos by Jean Metcalf and Eddie Davis. The article stated, "Foree Wells & The Walnut Street Blues Band recently finished recording its first album, which is slated for early 1995 release by Rooster Records." What was to be a few months turned out to be twelve years. Blues News co-editor, Brenda Bogert completed, "The Story of Sylvester Weaver – The First Guitarist To Record, Parts 1-3" which were later reprinted in Blues & Rhythm magazine. On April 8 we boarded a bus for the 1st Louisville Bluesland Cruise. A group of forty four blues soul mates met in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn at 2nd & Broadway and headed to Willie's 537 Restaurant for dinner. Then we went to Stevie Ray's to hear the Red Snapper Blues Band. The next stop was the Backstage Café where the Cincinnati Blues All-stars were performing. The climax was the 26th Street Tavern where the 26th Street Blues Band was holding court. Fred Murphy's down home vocals and harp plus Joe Wells' soulful blues standards were backed by a band that had been playing together for fourteen years. Sue O'Neil, one of our cruisers, got up and sang "I've Got Bad News" and for a brief moment we were all one with the blues. The tradition of the KBS Annual Blues Cruise would continue for the next twelve years. Winston Hardy was featured in the May issue of LMN that coincided with the release of his CD, "Mumbo Jumbo." A memorial tribute to Bill Gaither, a Kentucky bluesman who recorded over one hundred songs from 1931-1944, was held at the New Crown Cemetery in Indianapolis on June 11. The KBS raised \$100 for the base for his military headstone. On August 8 KBS members were guests at the Derby City Bop Association Tuesday dances for "Bop & Blues" night at Jim Porters, thanks to KBS Board member and bop deejay, Ron Wallace. The KBS printed up promotional brochures and a blue and white banner was made to use at festivals and events. The Blues to the Point – Two Rivers Blues Festival started in Carrollton on September 8 and 9 with the legendary Lonnie Mack as the closer. In October the KBS moved their meetings from Willie's Place to the Velvet Rose Supper Club which was also owned by KBS board member, Willie Bright. Two blues clubs opened, The Blues Castle at 10th and Dumesnil where the Red Devils Motorcycle Club was located and Big Heavy's Blues and Dance Club at 227 E. Market St. Fred Murphy received the Sylvester Weaver Award at the 1995 Garvin Gate Blues Festival which was headlined by Magic Slim, Dietra Farr with Mississippi Heat and Byther Smith. Pen and Brenda Bogert relinquished their editor duties for Blues News and Paul Schneider took over as editor as well as serving as secretary.

"Blues in the Night," a blues musical opened at Actors Theatre in February 1996. During its run there was a display "When The Blues Start Talking" based on information obtained during the KBS Oral History Project. With the growing backlog of archival materials (books, newsletters, VHS) the Louisville Academy of Music at 2240 Frankfort Avenue was selected to be the custodian of our blues stuff under the supervision of Robert French. During May Zena's Café reopened at 122 W. Main St. continuing their long tradition of presenting live local blues seven days a week. The KBS started having their Board meeting at Zena's in August. The 2nd Blues Cruise started with dinner at the Velvet Rose Supper Club where David 'Honeyboy' Edwards was our guest. Then we went around the block to Big Heavy's where "Honeyboy" was accompanied by Rick Sherry. The Nasty Weather Blues Band closed the set. The last stop was the Blues Garden (formerly the Blues Castle) where it was blues alfresco with the 10th Street Blues Band and guests Mary Ann Fisher, George Brackens, and the indomitable Fred Murphy. The Louisville Blues Legacy Project was completed with the tapes and transcripts of twenty interviews given to the U of L Archives and a final report submitted by Pen Bogert to the Kentucky Historical Society. Tyler Henderson Blues Band won the 4th Annual Amateur Competition held at the Velvet Rose on August 17 which was also the first anniversary of Willie Bright's club. Mary Ann Fisher received the Sylvester Weaver Award as well as a KBS sweatshirt at the 1996 Garvin Gate Blues Festival. She added "Fish" on the back of her sweatshirt, which was the nickname Ray Charles gave her when she went on the road with him during the 50s.

The year 1997 began with the sudden and sad news of the passing of Foree Wells on January 8. The February/March newsletter was devoted to remembrances and photos of Foree. Memorial concerts for Foree were held at Zena's Café and Jim Porter's during March with the proceeds going to the Wells family. Pen Bogert took over duties as treasurer, the position Foree held since the beginning of the KBS. Debbie Wilson began developing the KBS web site at www.aye.net/~kbsblues. This web site has now been simplified to www.kbsblues.org. The Walnut Street Blues Band won the KBS 5th Amateur Blues contest at Stevie Ray's in September competing against seven other bands. With the departure of Howard Rosenberg, the driving force behind the Garvin Gate Blues Festival, the Garvin Gate Association agreed they could no longer present the festival. When the Palace became the new sponsor for the festival, it moved uptown to Theater Square and charged admission. Smoketown Red received the Sylvester Weaver Award during the festival. Fourteen KBS members were away that same October weekend attending the King Biscuit Festival in Helena AK. We rented two vans, stayed in Clarksdale, MS, and got our first exposure to the Mississippi Delta and what the Biscuit was all about. At the General Membership meeting in November, Brenda Major was promoted from secretary to president of the KBS. Little did she know that she would have that awesome responsibility for the next eight years. The Backstage Blues Café stopped featuring blues music and succumbed to a disco format, while Stevie Ray's came under new management with Mike Kenney booking top blues talent. In 1998 the KBS started raising money for a memorial fund to purchase a headstone for Foree Wells. A committee was formed and a blues dance fundraiser was held at Horsefeathers on April 4 with Ron Wallace as deejay. Jim Rosen left this world on February 18 after a two year struggle with cancer. There were many benefits during that time to defray his medical expenses. Shortly before he died Brenda Major and Bob Cox did a very probing interview with Jim that was published in two parts in Blues News. The pain of the loss was transformed into a night of mixed emotions during Jim's Memorial Concert on March 2 at the Butchertown Pub. Londa Crenshaw opened an evening that didn't want to end with all the musicians and friends Jim touched reminiscing and jamming together including the Bubba Girl Jam. The KBS moved their meetings to the Main Street Smoke House in April until it abruptly closed five months later. Our transient meetings moved from Brenda's house to Mark's Feed Store until the end of the year. The annual KBS membership dues were increased by \$5 to \$15 for singles and \$20 for couples which went into effect on June 1. These dues have remained the same for the past ten years providing the best deal in town. During the summer the Belle of Louisville and Public Radio Partnership launched three Blues Cruises which included Tim Krekel, Steve Ferguson, and the Metropolitan Blues All-Stars. The Garvin Gate Blues Festival was in its second year at Theater Square where Lamont Gillispie was presented the Weaver. Paul Schneider did a two part interview where Lamont talked about his experiences with The Stray Cats, Lefty Dizz and the Homewreckers. The

year closed out with the KBS General Membership meeting and a second fundraiser for Foree Wells at Billy's Place on Nov. 7 with the Walnut Street Blues Band providing the music.

In January 1999 the KBS began meeting in the back room of the Germantown Café. Lorene Wells, a KBS Board member and wife of Foree Wells, died on February 20. Lorene managed the Walnut Street Blues Band and her passing gave more urgency to providing a headstone for the Wells family. Harry Lewman, a musician, Lead Belly (Leadbelly) scholar and KBS member, published the book "Lead Belly – No Stranger to the Blues" which transcribed both Lead Belly's vocals and 12 string guitar arrangements. Harry also released his self produced CD, "Gonna Be The Death Of You" that paid tribute to Barbecue Bob, Blind Willie McTell and Lead Belly. Speaking of books, Lonnie Brooks and his son, Wayne Baker Brooks, were signing copies of "Blues For Dummies" as contributing authors at Hawley Cooke Bookstore on June 10. They appeared at Headliners Music Hall the following night. The KBS sponsored a tee shirt design contest for it was time for a fresh new look. From over sixty entries the winning design by Frank O'Connell was unveiled at Stevie Ray's during the Annual Blues Cruise in May. Martha McNeal took over as secretary, replacing Lynn Gollar. Martha had become a dependable contributor of blues events and CD reviews for the newsletter. Mike Suttles and Kerry Ferrell began hosting "Sunday Night Blues and Stuff" on WQMF 95.7 FM from 10:00 PM to midnight. This show was a continuation of what Jim Rosen had started on Sunday morning on FOX. Kerry and Mike had sat in occasionally for Jim when his health was failing so the transition was easy. Six Flags at Kentucky Kingdom initiated their blues festival called Blues, Brews and Barbecue in September. The Louisville Blues Festival on Fourth (formerly Garvin Gate) held their third and final festival in October. The Fat Possum Juke Joint Caravan with Elmo Williams, T-Model Ford and R. L. Burnside was right on target but Big Daddy & The Holding Company was way off the blues bullseye. Brenda presented the Weaver to Tanita Gaines during the Festival. The headstone for Foree and Lorene Wells was dedicated at Calvary Cemetery on October 17. The shiny black granite monument displayed their pictures and below Foree's name was the quote "Some people get up to play the blues, think that all you do is play three changes. There's more to it than that. The blues is a feeling." Both Mary Ann Fisher and Winston Hardy, who was in frail condition, attended the ceremony. The year closed out with the KBS 10th Anniversary Party at Stevie Ray's on November 14. Jimmy Roberts Blues Band, the winner of the 1999 Unsigned Blues Competition, opened the party and E.C. Scott, the sassy lady from the West Coast, closed it down. Join me next month as I take you through the recent years from 2000 to the present.

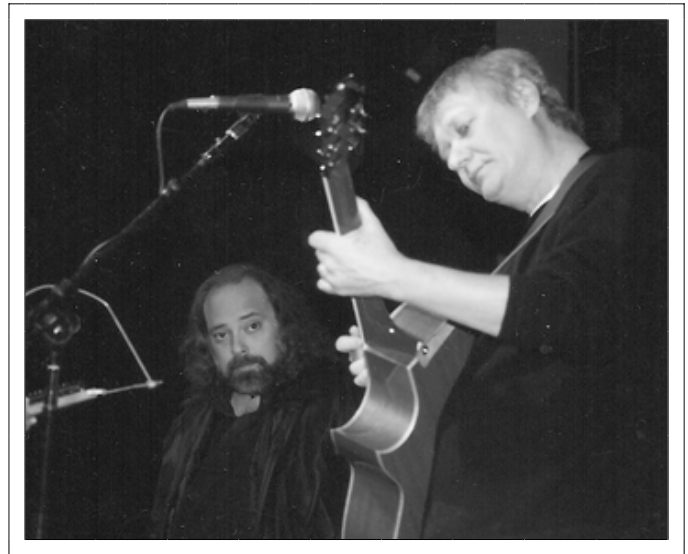


Photo by Keith S. Clements
Jim Rosen and Tim Krekel at the Nov 16, 1997 benefit.



Photo by Keith S. Clements
King Biscuit Blues Festival Trip, 1997.



Photo by Keith S. Clements
Jimmy Roberts at the KBS 10th anniversary party at Stevie Ray's.

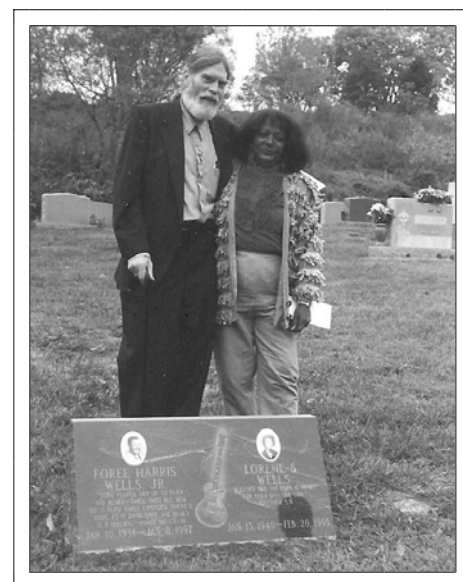


Photo by Keith S. Clements
Winston Hardy and Mary Ann Fisher, 10/17/99.



New Music Reviews!



Nick "Hambone" Hamstra
Lighting In My Hands
Self Produced

Jeanne Doak first told me about the bluesman in town who went by the name "Hambone". She said "You have to check this kid out. He sounds just like an old black man". Praise indeed for a young Caucasian playing the blues. I ran into him one night at Stevie Ray's as I was leaving and he was just getting there to play a later set. Hamstra, a polite, soft spoken man who appears to be his mid-twenties, gave me a copy of his CD to review. "I hope you like it," he said.

I do. All of the songs are originals and most feature Hamstra on guitar and vocals by himself but a few songs include Alex Puga on harmonica, John Ori Stith on bass and Marty Kerr on drums. Hamstra has a great feel for the blues. Most of the songs are slow-rollin', gettin' down blues tunes. I especially liked "Lighting in My Hands" and "Rollin On" the first two tracks on the CD. He's also written an ode to gambling on the ponies called "Number 5" and plays an excellent slide guitar on "Ain't It Lonesome". Overall this is an excellent first album and I recommend you catch him at one of the many shows he does around town. *Lighting in My Hands* can be found online at CDBaby.com and Hambone's website is <http://www.myspace.com/hamboneblues>.

Gary Sampson



Mark "Big Poppa" Stampley
Here Come "Big Poppa" Stampley
Cariblujazz Vol. 1

It has often been said that James Brown was the hardest working man in show business. That may have been true but Mark Stampley is certainly the hardest working man in Louisville on the local blues scene. Just look at his website and you will see him listed three and four times a week. Stampley, who goes by the moniker Big Poppa, has self-produced this album in a style which he calls caribluejazz – a mix of Caribbean, blues and jazz music. Stampley's music has an easy, relaxed feel to it. This no doubt comes from experience as the album notes state that he has played over 1,000 gigs. Big Poppa is an accomplished guitar player and

vocalist. I especially liked his tune called "The Co-Dependent Blues" detailing the story of a friend in love with a no-good woman. Some of the album is done in a spoken word format, much like a "griot" as Stampley describes himself in the liner notes. A griot is a West African poet and wandering musician who is a keeper of oral tradition. "Lips" is one of those songs that begins with Stampley speaking the lyrics before he starts to sing. It helps to produce an intimate feeling between the musician and his audience as if he's talking directly to them instead of only performing. *Here Comes "Big Poppa" Stampley* can be found at ear x-tacy and online at CD Universe. Big Poppa's website can be found at <http://www.markstampley.com/>.

Gary Sampson



They Called Me Evil
Kolvane
Daniel Berkery 2007

This CD, composed of only two songs, "They Called Me Evil" and "Reckless Sinner" from the band Kolvane out of Portland Oregon, is part of a DVD, yet to be released. The title song is about a man that spends his nights sitting on a tombstone. It is unmistakably a rock song with a dark subject.

The second song is acoustic and is much closer to blues than the first song. It is a solo with only Kolvane performing.

Kolvane is one of the original founders of the Rose City Kings and has branched out on this project. Even though the music is pretty good, it is more rock than blues and this CD is not extensive enough to judge its merits as far as the direction that Kolvane is heading (the Rose City Kings, reviewed last year, are a pretty tight band).

Bob Brown



Train Rolls On
Mississippi Mudsharks
Double Barrel Records DBR 9204

The Mississippi Mudsharks are a southern California band formed in the early 1990's. After several years on the road and touring with the likes of Buddy Guy and Dick Dale the band called it quits and took a breather. They came back after an eight year layoff and picked up right where they left off. The bands' self-described music is a mix of traditional blues, country and surf music but to me it has a classic southern rock/blues sound. Scottie "Mad Dog" Blinn on vocals reminds me a lot of Danny Joe Brown from the 1970's band Molly Hatchet. With song titles like "Throw It In The Hole", "Hangin' Tree" and "Lakeside Redneck Shindig" this album sounds as if it could have easily come out of Jacksonville, Florida instead of San Diego, CA. My personal favorites on the album are "Devil's Road" and "Can't Put Down The Drink." "Can't Put Down The Drink" is a classic blues tune with great lyrics like "I used to be ugly, Lord there was no helping me. Couple beers, shot of whiskey, glass of wine and I'm just as pretty as can be." It's also backed up by the soulful guitar strings and vocals of Scottie Blinn. If you are a fan of the southern rock and blues sound like I am then I think this is an album you would enjoy. The band can also be found online at <http://www.myspace.com/mississippimudsharks>.

Gary Sampson

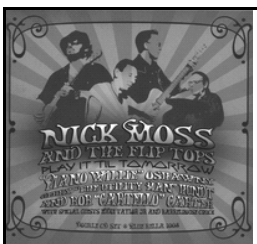


Untitled
Gypsy Switch

This untitled four song CD sampler was recorded live by the Louisville roots and blues band Gypsy Switch. The band on the album is made up of Daphne Luster, Chet Surgener, Rick Ennis, Curtis Wilson, and Steve Morgan. Sorry but the musicians and their instruments are not identified. The players are all very competent and the music is a little understated probably to better feature the vocal talents of Daphne Luster. I remember when Daphne use to come into Lisa's Oak Street Lounge for the Wednesday night blues jams with Lamont Gillispie. She was very shy and somewhat tentative about getting on stage but when she did she would surprise everyone in the house with her very powerful singing voice. I like her interpretation of the Tina

Turner tune "Crazy 'Bout You Baby" and the song "Francis" which is backed by some excellent harp-playing. The other two selections on the sampler are Tom Wait's "Big Black Mariah" and John Prine's "Angel From Montgomery". Gypsy Switch plays frequently around town and has started to take it out on the road. Check out their website at <http://www.myspace.com/gypsyswitch2>.

Gary Sampson



Play It Till Tomorrow
Nick Moss & the Flip Tops
Blue Bella Records 2007

Nick Moss is a guitarist from Chicago who played bass for Willie "Big Eyes" Smith in his Legendary Blues Band. When the guitarist quit, Moss moved from 4 to 6strings for the band. He later joined the Jimmy Dawkins band and became accomplished in Chicago blues. His next stop was with the Jimmy Rogers band, but he left to do more of his own music and to chart his own path. He now owns the recording label Blue Bella and has produced his and other's CD's.

This, Moss' most ambitious recording yet, is composed of two CDs and is a real treat to the ear. The first CD is an all electric set while the second is mostly "unplugged". There are 14 songs on each CD. The release is dedicated to Nick's road dog (an actual dog) that passed away in 2007.

There are several artists on the album including his wife, Kate Moss (who incidentally did an excellent job designing the cover art). The artists trade duties as Nick likes to do in his live sets. It keeps the audience listening and keeps them in awe at the multi-talented musicians. On keyboards is Willie Oshawny, Gerry Hundt plays guitar, mandolin, and harp, while Bob Carter plays drums. Guests on the CD are Eddie Taylor and Barrelhouse Chuck, on guitar and keyboards respectively.

The music on the first CD (Program One) is mostly Moss originals that starts out heavy on guitar but eases into a more balanced set, with that "Chicago Club Sound". The three covers are by Chicago guitarist Floyd Jones-"Rising Wind", Luther "Snake" Johnson's "Woman Don't Lie" and Lefty Dizz's "Bad Avenue". Moss is a respectable harpist as he demonstrates on "Peculiar Feeling". The music on this CD can be classified as traditional Chicago blues- nothing wild or with special effects here- just good blues.

The second "Program" is unplugged, but don't let that fool you- it is still Moss playing upbeat music and true blues. It consists of acoustic and limited electric guitar, piano, drums and harp. This CD is my favorite of the two. The piano and harp really complement each other and Moss' acoustic guitar is excellent. The Barrelhouse boogie piano is great. The song "Wild Imagination" reminded me of a Walter "Shakey" Horton tune and was my favorite.

This CD is one of the better releases of 2007 I think. For Moss fans, this is probably already in your changer. For people not yet exposed to Moss, you can get more information and sound clips from his website at www.nickmoss.com.

Bob Brown



The Way It Feels
Roxanne Potvin
Ruf Records RUF1128

There's a new girl on the block, she's from Canada, and she can sing and play guitar and just make you feel good.

Roxanne Potvin, from Quebec, is all of 23 years old and sings and plays with a maturity of someone twice her age. The Canadian chanteuse and songwriter, who wrote eight of the 12 tunes on her latest release, is a fundamentally sound guitarist; but it is her singing that really makes her stand out. She's got a way of singing in her sultry soprano that sounds strong and sure yet comfortable and relaxed as well. Her style, and song selection, takes you back to an earlier time of smoky jazz and blues clubs with a seamless mix of old and new sounds.

Mostly a mixture of jazz and blues, this CD conjures up images of Potvin's possible vocal influences: Susan Tedeschi (although less forceful), touring partner Susan Foley (also a Canadian), Norah Jones and a sassier version of Madeleine Peyroux.

Of course, it certainly helps that the producer is her countryman Colin Linden (who now lives in Nashville). Linden is perhaps reaching near legendary status in some circles as a quality producer and is also known as an excellent blues guitarist—which he proves several times on this CD. Speaking of musicians, songwriter John Hiatt lends his harmony vocals on one tune; legendary Canadian-born producer Daniel Lanois does the same on a selection sung in French; and Canadian guitarist Bruce Cockburn has a guest appearance on yet another song. Richard Bell, who also hails from Canada and passed away in mid-2007, once again performs some stellar piano and keyboard work—likely some of the last, if not final, recording work he ever did.

And while Potvin wrote most of the tunes, it is a song by another duo of writers (Bridge/Thompson) titled "Your Love Keeps Working on Me" that pretty much sums up all this young woman is as a singer. The sensual beat helps things along quite nicely and the young woman's impeccable sense of timing keeps the flow going. And, as was said at the beginning of this review – it just makes you feel good. Really good.

Les Reynolds



Clear Blue Flame
Delta Moon
Jumping Jack Records 2007

Gritty, groovy, greasy and rootsy. Delta Moon's latest CD is one of those kinds of recordings one might call "dirt music": pull it up by its roots and dirt falls off.

This Atlanta, Georgia-based blues/roots group is headed up by guitarists Tom Gray (who also sings lead vocals) and Mark Johnson. They should somehow figure out a way to fuse their names because they fuse their slide guitars together so well (Tom on lap steel and Mark playing bottleneck style) that sometimes it sounds like a single instrument. This is no small feat; and the two never, not even once, get in each other's way. These guys love slide guitar and have been playing like this throughout their Delta Moon releases. Their synergetic weaving in, out and around the lyrics and their own voices and rhythm section, perfect pitch and warm-toned sustain pretty much lets the guitars do the talkin'.

And, speaking of previous DM releases: fans of past work will instantly notice the absence of the great female vocalists that graced those recordings (first, the rough & tumble voice of Gina Leigh and then the silky moan of Kristin Markiton). Having said that, however, the saving grace here is that the gritty and crusty male vocals match the mood and tone perfectly.

There are 11 tunes on this CD, of which Gray and Johnson wrote all but the final cut -- a DM arrangement of Mississippi Fred McDowell's "You Done Told Everybody." All 11 songs are good choices, well executed and arranged; however, there are a few minor issues which detract a bit from the CD. There are a few instances where the instrumental sound level is a bit too high, slightly obscuring the vocals. And, there are a few times when the word syllable/word quantities don't seem to quite fit the allotted beats per measure, or perhaps the word choices seem a bit odd for the song. However, as said, those are inconsequential when considering the overall quality. Tunes to pay particular attention to include the title-track opener, which sets the mood and tone for the entire CD; the dark and "greasy" "Trouble in the Home," the juxtaposition of a fast-driving mandolin with the slow slide on "Stranger in My Hometown," and what could be called a surprise on track three. This tune, titled "Money Changes Everything," features the bluesy fiddle of Zeb Bowles and conjures up thoughts of a potential Top 40 Country song on mainstream radio (only much better). Also, since these guys are songwriters, as well, it would be remiss to not share a line or two. Track 7, the slinky, funky "Life's a Song," starts out like this: "Hey you...in the dusty Ford...gotcher trunk tied down with a bunjee cord...and the little spare, on your back right...that's the second time you've sat through this light..."

While Gray and Johnson might not be the best singers, they do have a way with words, and especially, those great slide guitars.

Les Reynolds

Performance Review - Jason Ricci at Stevie Ray's on January 22nd

Jason Ricci & New Blood "blew in" here Jan 22 at Stevie Ray's. I say "blew in" because that's what he does. He is a force! Awesome explosive harp playing is this man's specialty along with a fantastic theatrical stage presence. Jason is a phenomenal showman, cracking jokes with the audience and making fun of himself. He has been compared to Steven Tyler of Aerosmith, with his smoky voice that sometimes screams and making the microphone an instrument in the band. Jason came equipped with a weapon: Shawn Starsky, the lead guitarist. For one minute you think he is just warming up, playing around with the frets, very low key but when the crescendo opens up; watch out, this guy will burn you up with his guitar! Kinda reminds me of Eric Johnson--just kicked up a notch. He is both intricate & playful. I'm surprised his guitar did not catch on fire! (and that actually would have been nice, because it was ice cold outside!)

Jason has some very intriguing song material, his lyrics are home-spun, some songs sounded like one is sitting at the Greek Parthenon, hearing the wind whip around a haunting harp solo. Other songs are more rock in nature with a bluesy edge, others more jazzy sounding. I bought his cd & really enjoyed it. I heard some Mississippi hill country blues in a couple of the songs; Jason lived with Junior Kimbrough & family and played with R.L. Burnside and his family for a while on his blues pilgrimage.

I met Jason at the Wheeling blues festival in 2007, and I was very surprised that he remembered me. He told me that the night before he had gotten struck in the head accidentally at a blues club and showed me the bruise to prove it. To be so young, Jason Ricci has come a long way, from a problem with addiction to being a member of Big Al & the Heavyweights. His band is like his family, the group appeared to have a lot of fun onstage.

Hopefully Jason will "blow" back into Louisville soon...this show was a delight!

Lynn Smith

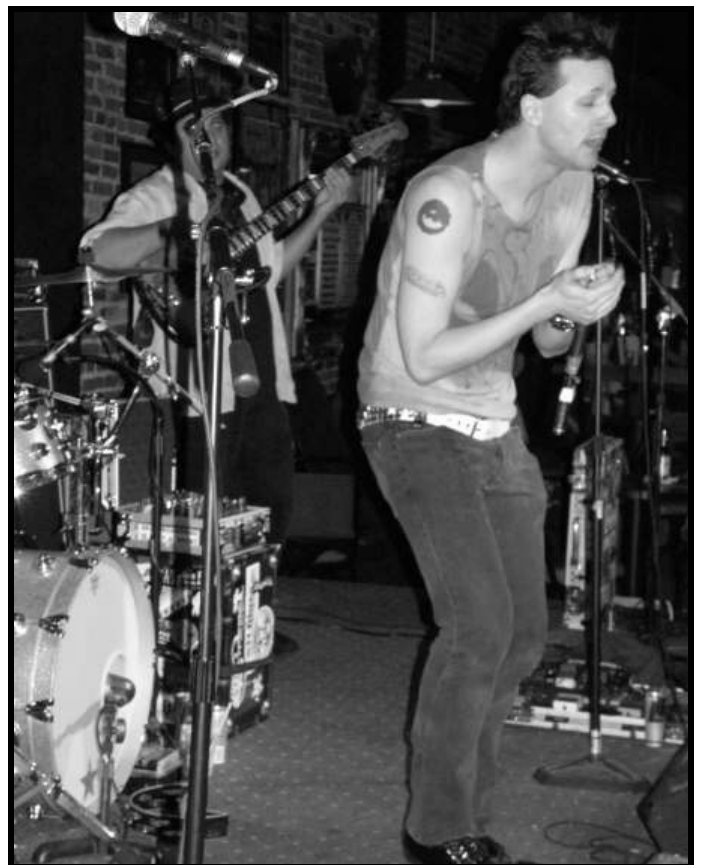


Photo by Jeanne Doak
Jason Ricci at Stevie Ray's 1/22/08

Lady Strings the Blues

What began as something I thought was a good book idea will become a regular column in this newsletter (as space permits).

The purpose for writing about female blues guitarists and vocalists (a pared-down version of my original vision) is to bring to light the obscure, overlooked and yet-unknown talent that is “out there” waiting to be discovered and heard. (There will be some writings covering more well-known, established, artists, too; and perhaps some with historical significance who have maybe been forgotten.) Not that I think this effort will make (or restart) anyone’s career by being mentioned in a newsletter column. It’s just a passion I have.

My interest has always been – and continues to be -- to help musicians, in whatever capacity I had/have. For some reason, I have for some time felt strongly drawn to female artists. I think I can attribute much of that to WFPK (then WFPL) and Laura Shine back in the early- and mid-'90's. For me, nothing has changed since then -- except my music collection has expanded, resulting in more female artists being included. My computer web site research, my mp3 player, my list of CDs to purchase – all of it reflects the same thing.

Rather than attempt to explain the reason(s) for this, I will simply “do it” – much like the Nike commercial slogan. The column will be of varying lengths, focusing on a different artist each time, with web links, personal observations, musings, mini-reviews and other items which seem appropriate for inclusion. Below is part of a long list of artists from which I can choose. If any of them “rings a bell”, great – my job is easier. If not, well, just stay tuned.

Til next time
Les Reynolds

PARTIAL ARTIST LIST: BeJae Fleming, Angie Scarr, E.G. Kight, Angela Strehli, Toni Price, CeeCee James, Liz McComb, Amy Helm, Janiva Magness, Ana Popovic...

Lady Strings the Blues Part 2

Half-step back, one step forward...or maybe not? Last time you may recall I introduced a column I'd be writing that would appear in the newsletter (as time and space allow) about female guitarists (focusing on blues, of course). With a bit of a play on words, the name for the column's title comes from the 1950s autobiography of blues/jazz diva Billie Holiday. I'd also like to mention a contemporary guitarist, Laurie Morvan, from Los Angeles. What's she got to do with this? Plenty. Like you (probably), I've scarcely heard of her. I recently sampled some of her music online and found her to be a good guitarist – not dazzling or great, but good (better voice, methinks). She's got a song titled “Where are the Girls?” (with guitars)...It's obvious what the tune is about...and quite an appropriate lead-in to the rest of this column.

Which leads me to the reason I started writing this column in the first place: the same reason I started writing the (doomed) book. It became like searching for relatives on a family tree – like a mission. I, too, wanted to find the girls with guitars, especially those who played some slide, or blues, or something “different” than the folkie-strums-three-chords stuff I'd been listening to (and becoming quite bored with) for years. This column will allow my research to see daylight, at least.

The rest of this piece, and the next column for sure, will be about that initial journey...subsequent ones will actually profile the guitarists themselves

I wanted to write, and publish, a book about truly talented female guitar players. There was plenty of stuff out there about men, in print and on the internet. My research forced me to dig a bit. In fact, I found one lone book in the local (main) library which fit the general style and format of the book I wanted to write—it was about singer-songwriters. I had to go to the 'net to see stuff on guitarists, or go to bookstores to find the occasional magazine article.

Of course, my excitement mounted when my research actually began hitting paydirt – and these weren't just chicks in a garage someplace. I was finding real talent – only, I was kinda feeling like I was the only person who knew about them, and only because I was doing research! Simultaneously, pitching the idea to publishers was proving NOT so gratifying. Big, small, niche – didn't matter. I was batting pretty close to zero in the response department. (Still, a red flag I chose to ignore. After all, getting a book published is SUPPOSED to be difficult...right?)

An idea occurred to me which I was “certain” would “fix” this: a CELEBRITY! Of course! THAT'LL do it! I need a female who is known primarily as a guitarist, who is a “household name” who will “sell” this book. Since I was not a celebrity author myself, I knew I would need to feature a celebrity in order for any publisher to give this book even a first glance. In the world of nonfiction, especially entertainment, writing skill matters not a whit. It's the WHO that counts – it's all in the WHO (author or subject). Well, my research, the very fact I was needing to do it, was my answer. There was but ONE woman who fit that bill – out of everyone, just one. Bonnie Raitt. The Queen of blues and slide guitar. THE ONE. I'd practically worshipped the ground she walked on – now, I was prepared to kiss her feet if she'd just grant me an interview...

Excitement mounted. BINGO! I was gonna SELL my book! I felt like a Pentecostal preacher dancin' on the platform. I was gonna do it! E-yeah! I was ready to testify, brother! The spirit was a-movin! I'm going to interview Bonnie Raitt, get her to be the centerpiece of this book, and ...and...uh...and...well...uh...yeah...

Not so fast, bubber...
Tune in next time when we hear the narrator say: “Welcome t' bluesville, son”

Les Reynolds

Sunday 2-Mar	Monday 3	Tuesday 4	Wednesday 5	Thursday 6	Friday 7	Saturday 8
Lisa's Oak Street Lounge - The Muji Fuji 8:30 - 12:30 \$2 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	Stevie Ray's - Open Mic Night 9:00	Lisa's Oak Street Lounge - The Muji Fuji 8:30 - 12:30 \$2 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	Dugout - Blues Jam 9:00 Electric Lady - (Madison IN) Open Mic Night 9:00 - 1:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00 Wicks Pizza (Baxter) - Hambone 10:00	Air Devils Inn - Malcolm Holcombe KY BBQ Co. - Tim Krekel and Friends 8:00 Longshot Tavern - Blues Jam 9:30 Nios @ 917 - Honey Roy 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Most Wanted Band 9:00 \$5 Zena's - Mississippi Adam Riggie 10:30	Captain's Quarters - Walnut St Blues Band Cheapside Bar & Grill (Lex, KY) Robbie Bartlett 10:30 - 1:30 DJ's Tavern - (Carrollton) Pure Gravel Blues Band 9:00 - 1:00 Jeff Ruby's - PC & the Final Verdict Band 9:30 Jim Porter's - Thunderbox Blues/Jaida Blue 9:00 - 2:00 \$5 River Bend Winery - Sheryl Rouse 9:00 \$10 Stevie Ray's - Velveta Jones 7:30 V-Groove 10:30 \$5 The Lounge - The Lounge Band 9:30 - 1:00 Zena's - TBA	Cal's Place - Jim Masterson Band 8:00 - 12:00 Cheapside Bar & Grill (Lex, KY) Robbie Bartlett 10:30 - 1:30 DJ's Tavern - (Carrollton) Pure Gravel Blues Band 9:00 - 1:00 Jeff Ruby's - PC & the Final Verdict Band 9:30 Jim Porter's - Thunderbox Blues/Jaida Blue 9:00 - 2:00 \$5 River Bend Winery - Sheryl Rouse 9:00 \$10 Stevie Ray's - Velveta Jones 7:30 V-Groove 10:30 \$5 The Lounge - The Lounge Band 9:30 - 1:00 Zena's - TBA
Lisa's Oak Street Lounge - Kings of Love 7:00 - 0:00	Stevie Ray's - Open Mic Night 9:00	Lisa's Oak Street Lounge - The Muji Fuji 8:30 - 12:30 \$2 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	Cheapside Bar & Grill (Lex, KY) - Willie Eames Dugout - Blues Jam 9:00 Electric Lady - (Madison IN) Open Mic Night 9:00 - 1:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00	KY BBQ Co. - Tim Krekel and Friends 8:00 Longshot Tavern - Blues Jam 9:30 Stevie Ray's - The Names 9:00 Zena's - Mississippi Adam Riggie 10:30	Cheapside Bar & Grill (Lex, KY) Jon Justice Band Jim Porter's - Boogie Men 9:00 - 2:00 \$5 KY BBQ Co. - Hambone/Justin Lewis 7:00 Quivers Lounge Pure Gravel Blues Band 9-1 Stevie Ray's - On the Edge 7:30/ The Predators 10:30 \$5 Syl's Lounge - TBA The Lounge - The Lounge Band 9:30 - 1:00 Zena's - Don Harris R&B Band 10:30 \$5	Air Devils Inn - Tim Krekel & TKO Cheapside Bar & Grill (Lex, KY) Jon Justice Band Jeff Ruby's - Kelly Red & the Hammer Heads 9:30 Jim Porter's - Boogie Men 9:00 - 2:00 \$5 R Place Pub - Robbie Bartlett 10:00 - 2:00 Stevie Ray's - King Sonic 7:30 The Predators 10:30 \$5 The Lounge - The Lounge Band 9:30 - 1:00 VFW Post 1170 - Yard Dogs 8:00 - 12:00 Zena's - Clay St Blues All Stars 10:30 \$5
Lisa's Oak Street Lounge - Kings of Love 7:00 - 0:00	Stevie Ray's - Open Mic Night 9:00	Lisa's Oak Street Lounge - The Muji Fuji 8:30 - 12:30 \$2 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	Dugout - Blues Jam 9:00 Electric Lady - (Madison IN) Open Mic Night 9:00 - 1:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00	KY BBQ Co. - Tim Krekel and Friends 8:00 Longshot Tavern - Blues Jam 9:30 Phoenix Hill - Party Butcher Blues Band 10:00 Stevie Ray's - Old School Band 9:00 \$5 Zena's - Mississippi Adam Riggie 10:30	Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:30 - 1:00 Jim Porter's - Clay St Blues All Stars 9 - 2 \$5 Lighthouse (Jeff, IN) - King Sonic 9:00 Sammy O's - Pure Gravel Blues Band 9:00 - 1:00 Stevie Ray's - Travelin' Mojos 7:30/ Voodoo Lounge Band 10:30 \$5 Syl's Lounge - Rick Debow Quartet 9:00 The Lounge - The Lounge Band 9:30 - 1:00 Zena's - Lamont Gillispie & 100 Proof Blues 10:30 \$5	Air Devils Inn - El Roostars Applebee's (New Albany) - Pure Gravel 9 - 12 Blue Mule - Bella Blue Band 9:00 - 1:00 Chatter's - Yard Dogs 7:00 Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:30 - 1:00 Jim Porter's - Clay St Blues All Stars 9 - 2 \$5 Lighthouse (Jeff, IN) - King Sonic 9:00 Nios @ 917 - Honey Roy 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Travelin' Mojos 7:30/ Voodoo Lounge Band 10:30 \$5 The Lounge - The Lounge Band 9:30 - 1:00 Zena's - The Marks 10:30 \$5
Lisa's Oak Street Lounge - Kings of Love 7:00 - 0:00	Stevie Ray's - Hamilton Loomis 8:00 \$8	Lisa's Oak Street Lounge - The Muji Fuji 8:30 - 12:30 \$2 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	Cheapside Bar & Grill (Lex, KY) - Willie Eames Dugout - Blues Jam 9:00 Electric Lady - (Madison IN) Open Mic Night 9:00 - 1:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00	KY BBQ Co. - Tim Krekel and Friends 8:00 Longshot Tavern - Blues Jam 9:30 Stevie Ray's - Hambone/ Velveta Jones 9:00 \$5 Zena's - Mississippi Adam Riggie 10:30	Jeff Ruby's - PC & the Final Verdict Band 9:30 Jim Porter's - Rock Bottom Blues 9:00 - 2:00 \$5 Molly Malone's - Robbie Bartlett 10:30 - 1:30 Seidentaden's - Tyrone Cotton 10:00 \$5 Smyrna Inn - Pure Gravel Blues Band 9:00 - 1:00 Stevie Ray's - Lamont Gillispie & 100 Proof 7:30/ Hellfish 10:30 \$5 Syl's Lounge - Walnut Street Blues Band 9:00 The Lounge - The Lounge Band 9:30 - 1:00 Zena's - Don Harris R&B Band 10:30 \$5	Jeff Ruby's - PC & the Final Verdict Band 9:30 Jim Porter's - Rock Bottom Blues 9:00 - 2:00 \$5 Molly Malone's - Robbie Bartlett 10:30 - 1:30 Stevie Ray's - Clay Street Blue All Stars 7:30/ Hellfish 10:30 \$5 The Lounge - The Lounge Band 9:30 - 1:00 Zena's - Tim Krekel & TKO 10:30 \$5
Lisa's Oak Street Lounge - Kings of Love 7:00 - 0:00	Stevie Ray's - Open Mic Night 9:00	Lisa's OSL - The Muji Fuji 8:30-12:30 \$2 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	Dugout - Blues Jam 9:00 Electric Lady - (Madison IN) Open Mic Night 9:00 - 1:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00	KY BBQ Co. - Tim Krekel and Friends 8:00 Longshot Tavern - Blues Jam 9:30	Jim Porter's - Funky Bluesters 9:00 - 2:00 \$5 Mac's Hideaway (New Albany) - Bluestown Stevie Ray's - King Bees 7:30/ V-Groove 10:30 \$5 The Lounge - The Lounge Band 9:30 - 1:00 Zena's - Don Harris R&B Band 10:30 \$5	Applebee's (New Albany) - River City Blues 9:00 Bugsy's (Jeff, IN) - Clay St Blue All Stars 9:00 Chatter's - Yard Dogs 7:00 Jeff Ruby's - Kelly Red & the Hammer Heads 9:30 Jim Porter's - Jim Bluesters 9:00 - 2:00 \$5 V-Groove 10:30 \$5 The Lounge - The Lounge Band 9:30 - 1:00

Kentuckiana Blues Calendar March 2008

Kentuckiana Club Index—Show dates/times subject to change. It's a good idea to call and check before hitting the road!

- Air Devils Inn - 2802 Taylorsville Rd - 454-4443
 Alternative-1032 Story Ave- 561-7613
 American Legion- 1930 McDonald Ln - New Albany - 945-1944
 Applebee's-3030 Grant Line, New Albany-812-941-1600
 Appleby's- 201 Spring St Jeffersonville- 812-283-3663
 Bar Complex - 255 E Main St - Lexington KY - 859-255-1551
 BBC - 3929 Shelbyville Rd - 899-7070
 BBC - Theater Square - 660 S. 4th - 568-2224
 Beamo's by the Bridge - 131 W Main - 584-7437
 Beamo's - 1318 Bardstown Rd - 456-4556
 Big Dave's Outpost- 1801 Bardstown Rd - 459-9142
 Billy's Place- 2523 W Broadway - 776-1327
 Bluegrass Tav- 2340 New Haven Rd Bardstown-502-348-2563
 Blue Mule - 10301 Taylorsville Rd - 240-0051
 Blue River Café- 128 W Main, Milltown IN - 812-633-7510
 Bobby J's- 252 E Market- 566-3061
 Brendan's - 3921 Shelbyville Rd - 895-1212
 Brick Alley - 325 St Clair St - Frankfort KY - 875-2559
 Brown Bag Deli & Pub - 2100 S Preston St - 635-6747
 Bugsy's Pub & Grill - 1702 Spring St - Jeff IN - 812-284-0742
 Caesar's Casino - Elizabeth IN - 877-367-3767
 Captains Qrtz - 5700 Captains Qrtz Rd - 228-1651
 Chatter's - 2735 S Hursbourne Pkwy - 499-6656
 Cheapside B&G - 131 Cheapside - Lexington KY - 859-254-0046
 Clifton Center - 2117 Payne St - 896-8480
 Clifton's Pizza - 2230 Frankfort Ave - 893-3730
 Common Grounds - 343 E High St - Lexington KY - 859-233-9761
 DJ's Tavern - 118 Court St - Carrollton KY - 859-567-5003
 Dragon Bar & Grill - 103 W Main St - Frankfort KY - 875-9300
 Dugout - 921 N Swan St - 584-4554
 Electric Lady - 202 Main Street - Madison, IN 812-265-3390
 Eva Mae's Creekside Inn - 6313 River Rd - 228-2882
 Filson Historical Society - 1310 S 3rd St - 635-5083
 Flanagan's - 934 Baxter Ave - 585-3211
 Friends & Company Bar 841 Lane Allen Rd - Lexington 859-278-9022
 Gaslight Inn - 10317 Watterson Trail - 286-7112
 Good Times Pub - 12612 Shelbyville Rd - 245-3220
 Goose Creek Diner - 2923 Goose Creek Rd - 339-8070
 Headliners - 1386 Lexington Rd - 584-8088
 Hideaway Saloon - 1607 Bardstown Rd - 485-0114
 Hyatt Regency - 320 W Jefferson - 581-1234
 Jeff Ruby's - 325 W Main St - 562-2789
 Jennica's - 636 E Market St - 587-8720
 Jimmy & Richie - 813 Lyndon Lane - 423-7774
 Jim Porter's - 2345 Lexington Rd - 452-9531
 Jeff Ruby's - 325 W Main St - 562-2789
 Jockamo's Pizza Pub - 983 Goss Ave - 637-5406
 Kentucky BBQ Co - 1800 Frankfort Ave - 895-3417
 Kingfish - 3021 Upper River Road - 895-0544
 Kingfish - 601 W Riverside Dr - Jeff IN - 812-284-3474
 Lighthouse - 202 Main St - Jeffersonville IN - 812-283-0077
 Lisa's Oak Street Lounge - 1004 E Oak St - 637-9315
 Longheads B&G - 8238 Dixie Hwy - 933-7837
 Longshot Tavern - 2232 Frankfort Ave - 899-7898
 Louisville Palace - 625 S 4th St - 583-4555
 Mac's Hideaway - 1636 Slate Run Rd - New Albany IN - 812-945-4256
 Masterson's - 1830 S Third St - 636-2511
 Nachbar - 969 Charles St - 637-4377
 Nios @ 917 - 917 Baxter Ave - 456-7080
 O'Neill's Irish Pub - 2051 Richmond Rd - Lexington KY - 859-266-4488
 O'Shea's Irish Pub - 956 Baxter Ave - 589-7373
 Past Times - 424 E Market St - New Albany IN - 812-945-9055
 Phoenix Hill Tavern - 644 Baxter Ave - 589-4957
 Quivers Lounge - 8402 National Tpke - 361-0025
 R Place Pub - 9603 Whippis Mill Rd - 425-8516
 River Bend Winery - 120 S 10th St - 540-5650
 Rudyard Kipling - 422 W Oak St - 636-1311
 Sammy O's - 3579 Paoli Pike - Floyd Knobs IN - 812-923-9540
 Seidenfaden's Café - 1134 E Breckinridge St - 582-9217
 Smyrna Inn - 8201 Smyrna Pkwy - 969-2248
 Stages Nightclub - 2508 Dixie Hwy - 778-4041
 Stevie Ray's - 230 E Main St - 582-9945
 Stoges Bar & Grill - 7123 Grade Ln - 363-9803
 Syl's Lounge - 2403 W Broadway - 776-9105
 The Lounge - 947 E. Madison St - 566-5034
 The Swamp - 5300 Cane Run Rd - 449-0203
 VFV Post 1170 - 107 Evergreen Rd - 245-8773
 Wick's Pizza - 975 Baxter Ave - 458-1828
 Wick's Pizza - 10966 Dixie Highway - 995-4333
 Wick's Pizza - 2927 Goose Creek Rd - 327-9425
 Wick's Pizza - 12717 Shelbyville Rd - 213-9425
 Zena's Café - 122 W Main St - 584-3074

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20th Old School Band

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