

**Natchel' Blues Network, Inc.** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to promoting blues as a true American art form. **Your annual contribution puts you on our mailing list for the newsletter/calendar and notices of special NBN events and meetings.** If you *enjoy* blues music and/or *play* blues music, please join the NBN! Become an NBN Member = **Receive discounts at area businesses on food, entertainment and musical merchandise!** (Discounts applicable only when presenting valid NBN Membership Card.) **Please support your local blues organization!**

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ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

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NBN is sponsored in part by The Hampton Arts Commission, Virginia Commission for the Arts, & the City of Virginia Beach through the Virginia Beach Arts & Humanities Commission.

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NBN Newsletter  Mailings  Festival  Fundraising/Sponsorship \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Development \_\_\_\_\_

Promotion/Policy  Education Programs \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly/Semi-Monthly Shows \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

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If I've missed anybody or need to update some information, e-mail [bluzq@hotmail.com](mailto:bluzq@hotmail.com) with subject as "Band List."



Harper @ J.M. Randall's 11/10/06

photos by Alan Kurzer



Visit blues society websites by finding their links at:

<http://blues.about.com/od/bluessocieties/>



**NATCHEL BLUES NETWORK**

## NATCHEL' BLUES NETWORK

"Keepin' the Blues Alive in Hampton Roads Since 1984"

Volume 23

Number 1

January/February 2007

Norfolk, Virginia

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## Favorite Five Blues CDs of 2006



Recipient of 1998 KBA Award  
"Blues Organization of the Year"

### FAVORITE FIVE BLUES CDs OF 2006

#### BLUES HEAVEN

#### BLUES BITS

#### INTERVIEW WITH DEBORAH COLEMAN

#### 2006 NBN ANNUAL MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY

#### THE BLUE HIGHWAY

#### DVD/CD REVIEWS

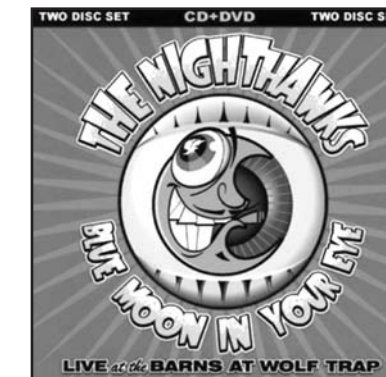
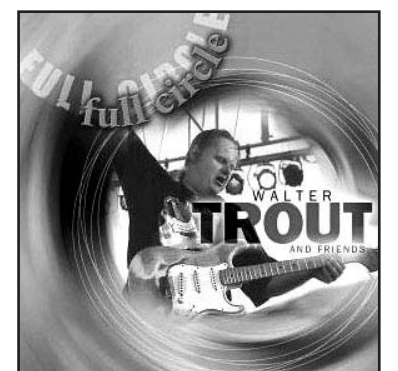
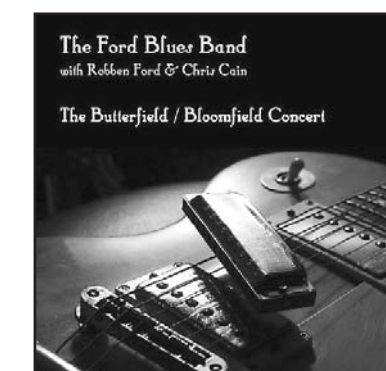
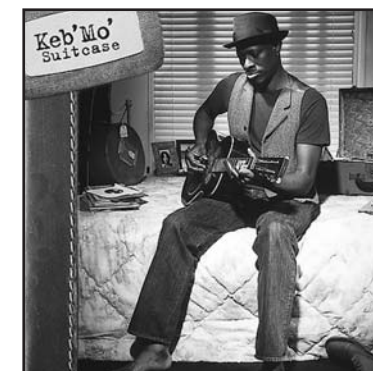
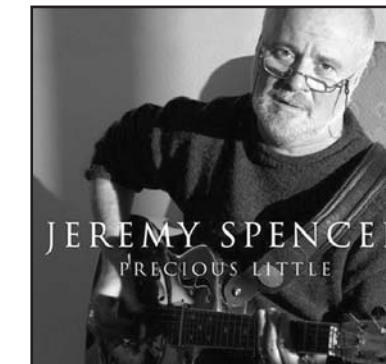
#### BLUES CALENDAR

#### 2007 KBA RECIPIENTS

#### R&B ICON RUTH BROWN

#### WHO NEEDS MTV OR VH 1

#### AND MORE



The CDs represented on the cover were picked two or more times by the panel.

See inside pages 10 and 11 for more selections

The official bi-monthly publication of The Natchel' Blues Network, Inc.: a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the Blues.

AFFILIATE OF THE BLUES FOUNDATION



## Where U can Hear the BLUES

- WHRV 89.5 FM** **Blues Stage** with Melvin Van Peebles  
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**Out of the Box** with Paul Shugrue  
Monday-Thursday 7-9 pm, Sat. 1-5 pm  
**A Shot of the Blues** with Paul Shugrue  
Friday 10 pm-midnight  
**Blues Before Sunrise** with Steve Cushing  
Sunday 1-6 am
- WHOV 88.1 FM** **Nothin' But the Blues**  
Wednesday 7-10 pm
- WESR 103.3 FM** **Blues Review** with Billy Sturgis  
(VA Eastern Shore)  
Wednesday 8-9 pm
- WFOS 88.7 FM** **Who's Got the Blues** with Richie Babb  
3rd Sunday of month 4-7 pm  
**Blues Traffic Jam**  
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Ad must be pre-paid.  
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KEN KIRBY

1220 executive blvd.  
Suite 101  
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www.annnicolegallery.com

I met Ken, the owner of Ann Nicole Gallery, almost two years ago while looking for donations for NBN's Silent Auction. Upon entering the Gallery, I heard blues music coming from within. My comfort level went up a notch. I introduced myself and shook hands with Ken while listening to Marty Craver at WFOS who just happened to be promoting an NBN event.

As I looked around the Gallery, I noticed some of the beautiful artwork is created by Ken Kirby. Several pieces have a "Blues" theme, as Ken is a blues music lover himself. Since this first encounter, the Ann Nicole Gallery has **generously supported the NBN by distributing *Blues News* to their clientele and by making generous donations to our Silent Auction, providing door and raffle prizes at NBN events, and framing our posters.**

Please visit the Ann Nicole Gallery if you are looking for collectible artwork with a blues influence. The Ann Nicole Gallery also displays artwork by other artists and provides quality custom framing at an affordable price.

Andree T. Butcher

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Copy deadline: 5th of the month prior to publication date.

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Business Card \$30 1/2 page \$85  
1/4 page \$45 Full page \$150  
*A fee of \$35 will be added if not camera-ready*

For more information, contact Advertising  
Beth Jarock (757) 623-8559  
e-mail - bluesbet@infionline.net

Deb Malenda Hill  
e-mail - bluzq@hotmail.com

### Graphic Info

Jackie Merritt (757) 722-5811  
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### Membership and Volunteer Information

Natchel' Blues Network  
P.O. Box 1773  
Norfolk, VA 23501-1773

### NBN Hotline

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[Discounts applicable only when presenting valid NBN Membership Card]

NBN membership form is on the back page

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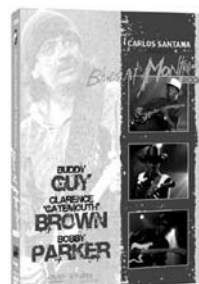
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# DVD REVIEWS

By Alan Kurzer



**CARLOS SANTANA**  
*Blues At Montreux 2004*  
Eagle Eye Media EE39127-9  
www.eaglerockent.com

In July 2004 guitarist Carlos Santana presented musical heavyweights Buddy Guy, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown and Bobby Parker at Montreux for a four-hour blues marathon.

From Lafayette, Louisiana to L.A., teenage Bobby Parker backed up doo-wop artist Otis Williams, eventually moving to New York where he played behind Bo Diddley, Etta James and Sam Cooke at The Apollo. His blues classics include "Blues Get Off My Shoulder" (1958) and "Watch Your Step" (1961). Hammond keyboards and gritty harp push Parker's fuzz-drenched guitar and hot vocals on Albert King's funk blues "Breaking Up Somebody's Home."

Grammy-winner Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown learned guitar and fiddle from his railroad working father. His big break came in 1947 when he flew up onstage to replace an ailing T-Bone Walker. Honking sax, rhythmic piano, and Santana and Guy's energetic soloing set off eighty-year-old Brown's rich, swinging, chicken picking on the blues gem, "I've Got My Mojo Working."

Out of Lettsworth, Louisiana, Buddy Guy constructed his first guitar from hairpins, string and a piece of wood. Arriving in Chicago in 1957, his career eventually took off at Chess Records with hits like "Let Me Love You Baby." Muddy Waters' classic slow blues "Hoochie Coochie Man" spotlights Guy's gut-busting vocals and unpredictably manic guitar. Otis Rush's "So Many Roads So Many Trains" percolates with Barbara Morrison's riveting singing and high-octane picking by Guy, Parker and Santana.

This 31-track blues extravaganza is a visual/audio stunner, with top-notch playing by all involved, including the late great "Gatemouth."



**SUE FOLEY**  
*Live In Europe*  
Ruf Records Ruf 3013  
www.suefoley.com

Well-respected Canadian blues songwriter/guitarist/bandleader Sue Foley has been performing for twenty years and recently released her tenth solo disc, *New Used Car*. With music awards from Canada, France and W.C. Handy nominations here in the States, she helped organize the historic *Blues Guitar Women* CD and is currently working on a groundbreaking book spotlighting interviews and history on influential female guitarists. Inspired by the likes of Elizabeth Cotten and Memphis Minnie among others, Foley clearly has fashioned a unique blues approach all her own.

This thirteen-track, live DVD tears off in a minor rumba (Think "All the Loving") mood, with ex-Howlin' Wolf picker Jody Williams' nugget "Hooked On Love." This band's robust treatment includes Graham Guest's rich Hammond organ work and Foley's up-and-down the guitar neck, rapid fire, reverb-heavy blues trills. Foley does her musical hero proud on Memphis Minnie's gritty country blues, "Me And My Chauffeur." With capo on her paisley Tele firmly in place, Foley begins to really stretch out, making every bent note count on the downright scary Willie Dixon powerful slow blues, "Same Thing."

On the blues rocking "New Used Car" a swirling organ and rhythmic snare attack gives way to Foley's uniquely spirited singing and wicked, staccato guitar approach. "Hooker Thing," Foley's instrumental homage to favorite player Earl Hooker, accentuates both her gutsy chording and solo lines, as she energetically works off drummer Tony Bona and Guest's flashy boogie-woogie piano licks. DVD bonuses include an informative interview and a *Blues Caravan* "live in Amsterdam," eight-song concert.

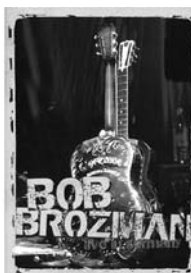


**BLUES CARAVAN 2006**  
*The New Generation*  
Ruf Records Ruf 3014  
www.rufrecords.de

One of the more interesting pairings was last year's recording *Pilgrimage Mississippi to Memphis* by three young Europeans: Ian Parker, Erja Lyytinen and Aynsley Lister. Coming after Hurricane Katrina's devastation, they produced one fine release, recording only in Memphis and Clarksdale. From this CD and peppered with all three guitarists' solo efforts, *Blues Caravan* highlights the best of each of them. Recorded December 7th, 2005 at The Underground in Köln, Germany, the evening is split between the three going acoustic, followed by high-spirited electric versions with their respective outfits.

On the gutsy acoustic "Mississippi Lawnmower Blues," fellow Englishmen Parker and Lister trade enthusiastic vocals and tasty guitar breaks, as Finnish musician Lyytinen rolls on with her meaty resonator slide playing. Parker's spirited country blues, "Time Bears Witness," follows both he and Lyytinen beautifully harmonizing over a foundation of sympathetic electric piano and Lister's clean, bluesy picking. Lyytinen's Chicago-meets-acoustic-Zeppelin "Dreamland Blues" features her crackling vocals, sweet country slide, and Parker's and Lister's potent vocal tradeoffs. With Stratocaster firmly in hand, Parker fearlessly spits out lyrics and flurries of cool, sustained riffs on Muddy Waters' funk/boogie, "She's All Right."

Lister's tough vocals, slippery Claptonesque guitar, and Sarah Jones' driving percussion provide the spark on the energetic, power-boogie, "Everything I Need." The Blues Caravan returns for five more electric numbers, highlighting the trio's dueling electric side. DVD extras include interviews, additional acoustic numbers and backstage video. So, sit back folks and get ready to be bowled over by the passionate, red-hot *Blues Caravan*.



**BOB BROZMAN**  
*Live in Germany*  
Ruf Records Ruf 3012  
www.bobbrozman.com

Hailing from New York, acoustic player extraordinaire Bob Brozman caught the music bug early, picking up the six-string at age five and finding the National guitar by thirteen. A noted musicologist, he had his initial musical roots in Hawaiian and Delta blues. His over 26 releases include twelve collaborations with international musicians and ten solo albums. He has managed to articulate many unique worldwide styles, primarily due to his constant traveling and interaction with players in remote areas around the globe.

Recorded live in December 2005 at The Underground in Köln, Germany, Brozman's nearly all-original, fifteen-track DVD release jumps right out of the gate with the high-speed, Spanish calypso gem, "Down The Road." Armed with his National resonator guitar, he sings, yelps and chants, all the while spinning, poking and prodding tuneful and percussive jaunts with amazing results.

Through open-string, chiming harmonics, Indian and down-in-the-Delta melodic phrasing, Brozman's engaging and robust vocals pepper the flashy, gutbucket "Rattlesnake Blues." Brozman admittedly travels back historically one hundred years on the sweet, breakneck speed "Hawaiian Heat Wave," infusing lush, ethnic melody and harmony on this impossible number. Watch in awe as Brozman drives Robert Johnson's classic blues "Love In Vain" into uncharted territory, fueled by his gravelly singing and lowdown, slip-sliding, vibratoed acoustic guitar. Video extras include one interesting guitar lesson and a really cool interview that includes additional guitar playing as well. Trust me...this guy's really going to knock you out.

P.O. Box 1773  
Norfolk, VA 23501-1773  
24 Hour Blues Hotline:  
(757) 456-1675

## BLUES NEWS

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## BLUES NEWS

The official publication of the Natchel' Blues Network, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, run by volunteers dedicated to promoting the blues as America's one true musical art form.

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Beth Jarock, Editor

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## 2007 NBN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Doty, Ted Doty, Georganne Fischer,  
Bruce Kincaid, Jackie Merritt,  
Jackie Scott, Ernie Williams,  
Greg Williams & Shar Wolff

## WEBMASTER

Jeff Miller

*The views & opinions expressed in this publication by individual writers are not necessarily the opinions of NBN or Blues News. The staff cannot guarantee the return of submitted material.*

# Words from the PRESIDENT

*NBN members and Friends of the NBN know how to make Blues History!*

Closing out 2006 with the impressive turnout at our 2006 **Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Party** on December 3rd at **Goodfellas** reflected the entire year in one night. I was pleased to see so many new members join the seasoned members at this special event. This is exactly what an organization needs; it shows both growth and continued interest.

I would like to thank each member of the **Tuesday Night Choir**: Lloyd Binger, Lloyd Jones, Mark Hopkins, Jackie Scott and Bobby "BlackHat" Walters, for their kindness in providing outstanding blues music for the event; I am also grateful to Bill Cann and Kyle Glover who sat in with the Choir, and all of the other musicians who participated in the jam. Also, Diane, Kenny and the **Goodfellas staff**, my sincere appreciation goes to you for your continued support of blues musicians and the NBN in 2006.

Special thanks to the **Nominating Committee**: Bruce Kincaid, Maurice Kleinman and Shar Wolff, for a job well done. You gave the NBN membership an opportunity to "choose" who they wanted to elect to the Board in 2007.

**NBN Board of Directors and Officers**, sincere thanks to each of you for committing yourselves to making 2006 a successful year! Outgoing Director **Shelly Craig Potter**, thank you for activating and leading the Education Committee into 2007. Yours truly is thankful for the opportunity to have served on the NBN Board of Directors. It's been a wonderful year thanks to each of YOU!

**2007 NBN BOARD OF DIRECTORS** welcomes two new faces: **Jackie Scott** and **Gregory Williams**. Jackie Scott has been providing administrative support to the NBN for several months. Her passion for blues music is the energy that has driven her to become a director. **Gregory Williams** came highly recommended by current Board Member, Shar Wolff. Gregory's resume of accomplishments on various boards is too long for my limited space in *Blues News*.

Current Directors **Sue Doty, Ted Doty, Georganne Fischer, Bruce Kincaid, Jackie Merritt, Ernie Williams, Shar Wolff** and the outgoing slate of NBN Officers, President **Andree T. Butcher**, Treasurer **David Horen** and Secretary **Martha O'Berry** join together to welcome Jackie and Gregory. Congratulations to Georganne Fischer and Jackie Merritt on their re-election to the BOD.

As the NBN begins a new year, change and growth are eminent. The 2007 Board of Directors will elect a **new slate of Officers at their January 9th board meeting**. Please contact Bruce Kincaid, Maurice Kleinman or Shar Wolff with any recommendations you may have.

As 2006 comes to a close, still new relationships are budding. **Virginia Arts Festival** and **Tidewater Friends of Folk** have joined the NBN as **supporting organizations**. Please visit our website for upcoming **NBN scheduled events**: Hampton Acoustic Blues Revival, plus the Silent Auction, Blues on the Boardwalk and Blues at the Beach. Also, look for volunteer opportunities at the Bayou Boogaloo!

Any comments or suggestions? I can be reached by phone via the NBN Hotline (757-456-1675) or by e-mail at andreetbutcher@cox.net.

## Happy New Year, Everyone!

**Andree T. Butcher**  
NBN President 2006

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# AN INTERVIEW WITH DEBORAH COLEMAN

Photos by Scott Allen & Jen Taylor (vividpix.com)

Popular blues guitarist and Portsmouth, Virginia's own, Deborah Coleman, got her primary musical roots from her immediate family. With a father playing classical piano, a brother on guitar, and a sister on guitar and keyboards, she picked up guitar at age eight, eventually moving to lead at fifteen after hearing the legendary Jimi Hendrix. An important blues moment for her was catching, at age nineteen, a live show featuring the likes of notable blues luminaries John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf. After winning

the 1993 Charleston Blues Festival's National Amateur Talent Search, she released her first album, *Takin' A Stand*, in 1994. Coleman has received numerous published musical reviews ranging from Billboard, JazzTimes, Downbeat, Guitar Player and Musician magazine. Special moments have to include her performance in the 2000 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame "Tribute To Muddy Waters" concert, the "Blues Divas" special, B.B. King's 80th Birthday Celebration and Koko Taylor's recent "Special Tribute to the Sisters of Royalty" benefit concert. Following session work on the new solo and Blues Caravan recordings, Deborah spoke by phone from her home, with her grandson Ricardo ("Bird") nearby.

**For another Portsmouth artist looking back, how special was it for you recording with the late Ruth Brown on Pinetop Perkins' *Ladies Man* CD and then seeing her perform at the Attucks Theatre last year?**

I met Ruth in Memphis for the first time during a Handy Award weekend. Pinetop was also in town recording *Ladies Man* and we were both scheduled for that session. We got to talking and when she found out I was from the same place, she was like, "Oh my God, we're sisters you know," that kind of thing...and we've been friends ever since. I went and saw her performance at the Attucks Theatre last year and we had a chance to hang again. She was telling me a little about herself, how her life was going, all the medical problems and everything. She was able to pull herself up from it all, so when I heard about her passing last week, I was totally shocked. At any rate, she was one of the strongest women I have ever met, and I'm glad I had the chance.

**Can you name some guitarists that were influential on your style of playing?**

B.B. King, Larry Carlton, Buddy Guy and Jeff Beck just to name a few but I could go on and on. And of course, Hendrix.

**You have a new CD coming out in 2007. Who's playing, producing and what direction will your new release take?**

Yes, I am self-producing my first studio album on the JSP label out of England. My guitarist Billy Crawford, Neil Shull on drums and Jerome Heitman on bass all performed on this recording. It is a mixed bag of blues, rock, and R&B, but Deborah Coleman all the way. It should be released sometime in 2007. So I will be doing two records in one year. That's a lot of work, but I'm feeling like work. I've been off for too long.

**Can you tell us a little about the upcoming *Blues Caravan* CD and tour?**

When I got the offer to do the *Blues Caravan* thing my priorities got switched around. I was right in the middle of my own recording when the call came. It was a no-brainer. So since then, Sue Foley, Roxanne Potvin and I recorded the album for Ruf Records with Kevin Bowe producing. I am really happy with this effort. We start touring on January 23rd in Europe and we will be touring all year around the world. There will also be a U.S. tour, so look for it.

**You graciously gave your time last November 19th for Koko Taylor's Celebrity Aid Foundation "Special Tribute to the Sisters of Royalty" benefit. How did this benefit show get organized? Who else was performing and how successful was it?**

It was great. It was held at the House of Blues in Chicago. Koko's daughter Cookie headed up this event. She got all of the women together and it went very well. We



raised quite bit of money for the foundation and I was happy to do it. Plus I got to spend time with the girls! Koko Taylor, Marcia Ball, Marva Wright, Denise LaSalle, B.B. Queen, Janiva Magness, and Irma Thomas, just to name a few. We don't get a chance to see each other much so I was a happy camper. Ain't no amount of money worth that. And no cat fightin' either. After all, we are professionals!

**How was your trip on the October Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise?**

That one was a four-day cruise and we went to Cabo, San Lucas. It was excellent... The horn sounds somewhere around ten in the morning and the partying goes until seven o'clock the next morning, day after day. All night jams after the concerts. I played two dates on the ship and after that I did jams, too. I played with Zac Harmon, Tommy Castro, Chris Duarte and I hung out with Lee Oskar from "War"... I found myself standing outside until three in the morning trying to get onstage. That's how tight it was. If you have never been on one of the cruises, you should. You will love it!

**Whatever became of the "Blues Divas" program that featured you and artists like Mavis Staples, Irma Thomas, Odetta and Renee Austin?**

Mississippi Public Broadcasting has been getting it out there. Thanks to Ty Warren, Morgan Freeman and others it has been seen and still being seen on BET, STARZ, and MPB. I get so many e-mails about it. I am very pleased with the coverage. It's been great. They've been showing it for almost a year now.



**How did "B.B. King's 80th Birthday Celebration" go and who special did you get to jam with?**

It was Bobby "Blue" Bland, B.B. King, Dickie Betts, Bruce Willis, Montel Williams and others...All of us were onstage together and we had this big all-star jam thing. It was really cool and I had a ball. It was held in Biloxi, Miss. 2 weeks or so before Katrina. I took my grandson with me on that one. When we saw the news reports after the storm, he said to me, "Look nana, there's that big guitar we saw, it's still standing!" Made me think...so am I! Grateful I am.

**You'll be performing at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts on Feb. 16, 2007. Will you be mixing up your song list or lean heavily from your brand new disc?**

Yes, I will be at the Valentine's Day show with my band. We'll be mixing it up. It is a new facility. We needed this venue. I can't wait to perform. They have top-notch entertainment coming all the time; so don't be afraid to come to "surprising" Suffolk.

Deborah, thanks for sharing some time with us.

Alan Kurzer

# CD REVIEWS



**MARK HUMMEL**

*Ain't Easy No More*

Electro-Fi Records E-Fi-3398

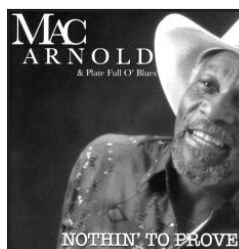
www.markhummel.com

As a harp player myself, I have strong opinions as to the ranking of blues harmonica players. It is hard for a new guy to break into my "Top Ten Favorite" list. With this CD, Mark Hummel has just cannonballed smack into the middle of my list of favorites. This CD shows off his skills as a great blues harp player, writer, and vocalist. There is not a cut on the CD that I don't want to hear repeatedly.

Hummel's band, The Soul Survivors, has been together 7-9 years. Hummel does the vocals and harp, Charlie Wheal is on guitar, Marty Dodson on drums, Steve Wolf on bass, Bob Welsh on keyboards, Mike Rinta on trombone, and Scott Peterson is on sax. *Ain't Easy No More* pays tribute to past blues giants, from Ray Charles to Rice Miller and James Cotton.

Hummel's cover of James Cotton's "Creeper" is almost an exact copy of Cotton's version. The swing/jump numbers could easily be found on a Kim Wilson album. Hummel uses the same equipment that I often use: '59 Fender Bassman amp and an Astatic JT-30 crystal mic. However, Hummel somehow gets a monster tone full of crunch and dirty guts that I have yet to find. Listening to him turns me green with envy, but I love it. This recording has old school, West Coast Jump, Chicago style, Swing...you name it. You don't have to be a harp lover to like this CD. If you love the blues, you'll like this CD.

Ronny Parker



**MAC ARNOLD & PLATE FULL OF BLUES**

*Nothin' to Prove*

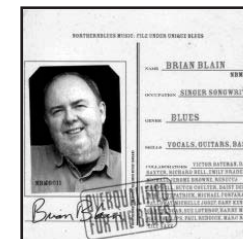
Plantation Productions MA 31605

www.macarnold.com

Mac Arnold has been around some of the biggest crossover names in the business. Playing bass for the likes of Muddy Waters, Otis Spann, John Lee Hooker and Tyrone Davis -- Mac Arnold truly doesn't have *Nothin' to Prove*. I have no idea as to why I personally never heard of this Chicago Blues bass player from the "old school" before, but he truly has, as the credits on this CD say, "left his footprints in the blues foundation and is still making tracks."

The ten cuts on *Nothin' to Prove* testify to Mac's obvious influences. His solid, "nothin' to prove" bass lines provide a perfect foundation for "Plate Full of Blues" accompanists Max Hightower, Austin Brasher, Mark McMakin, and Mike Whitt, as they complement each other, perfectly backing up Arnold's guttural, bluesy drawl. Special guests on piano and B3 organ feature Rudy "Blue Shoes" Wyatt and Jim Peterman. From the opening song, "Blues For You," to the live recording "Get On Back To The Country, pt. 2," *Nothin' To Prove* is a must-have for every blues enthusiast.

Ted Doty (aka Doad)



**BRIAN BLAIN**

*Overqualified for the Blues*

NorthernBlues Music NBM0011

www.northernblues.com

"I got my problems, but nothin' like you. I'm overqualified for the blues." Thus the opening verses to Brian Blain's

title track confess. Based on how well this NorthernBlues recording artist's album has been produced and recorded, his over-qualifications are our windfall. The compositions are lyrical and witty, while the arrangements complement each song. This is a storyteller who has a long list of supporting musicians to relate to his listener's every detail. "Enfant Choisi" (Chosen Child) hints at perhaps the artist's early childhood, or someone very close to him. This artist has truly learned what it means to have "space between notes," rather than giving you all he could easily deliver at once.

"High Tech Blues" is an interesting song in that it deals with something all of us in the 21st century can relate to. I would like to hear the vocalist straining a little more as he laments how his "computer is crashing, and my network's going down." The song "I'm a Little Mixed Up" is a more upbeat rendition as the singer confesses that he has no idea where he stands with his love interest. Thirteen tracks all-together on this excellent piece of work from a bluesman who was born in Ontario. I give it two thumbs up.

Ted Doty (aka Doad)

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# CD REVIEWS



**CHARLIE WOOD**  
*Lucky*  
Inside Sounds ISC-0530  
www.insidesounds.com

Here is one musical cat who'll just simply amaze you. Memphis native Charlie Wood went from classical piano as a youngster to jazz throughout high school and college. He paid his blues dues back in 1990, touring the U.S. and Europe as keyboardist for legendary guitarist Albert King. He led his trio on Beale Street for over fifteen years, performing with many guests including B.B. King and fellow keyboardist Joey DeFrancesco. Wood has done session work for years, having recorded four solo releases, still managing glowing reviews in *Downbeat* and *Blues Revue* magazine and awards from N.A.R.A.S. ("Premier Player Award").

Taking a page right out of Mitch Woods & His Rocket 88's and Roomful of Blues, Wood's original "Can't Teach That Stuff" swings us hard with his roots/boogie piano style, accomplished vocals underscoring clever, autobiographical lyrics, and Kirk Smothers' animated tenor and alto sax lines. A tip of the bayou cap to Louisiana's steadfast resolve, the rocking rumba charged "Never Gonna Stop New Orleans" shuffles on with Smothers' sax and Wood's rich, jazzy/blues singing and piano.

Ray Charles' R&B classic "Lonely Avenue" sustains the original bluesy vibe, filled with Wood's plush organ riffs and more of his soulful vocals. Harmonica ace Billy Gibson blows some sweet country harp and provides some cool vocals, as Wood plays traditional ragtime piano on W.C. Handy's "Beale Street Blues." Tune in as Wood knocks you out with his extremely soulful groove.

**Alan Kurzer**



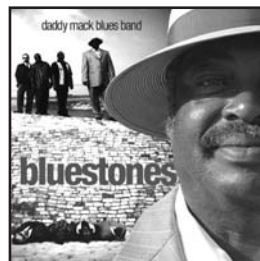
**THE BILLY GIBSON BAND**  
*Southern Livin'*  
Inside Sounds ISC-0528  
www.billygibson.com

Although raised way down in Clinton, Mississippi, harmonica icon Billy Gibson traveled to nearby Jackson to catch major harp players including the late Sam Myers and Greg "Fingers" Taylor. In Clarksdale, he worked with blues musicians Johnnie Billington and Bobby Little in their band The Midnighters, learning about the music business before eventually moving to Memphis. There he received jazz harmonica technique from the late harmonica legend, Pete Pedersen. This training was indeed a plus for Gibson's standout jazzy, 2001 release, *The Nearness of You*. He has received numerous Memphis player awards and has frequently made guest appearances on artists' recording assignments including Michael Burks, McCarty-Hite Project and Deborah Coleman.

There certainly is a lyrical sexy/love undercurrent that permeates this audacious disc. Gibson takes a slightly unusual take on "Fireman." This extremely funky tune shakes David Bowen's close-to-Albert King guitar tone, mixes Charlie Wood's fat Hammond B3 and Gibson's spicy vocals, and stirs in a four-part horn crew for this one driving number. On the brash original "Mississippi," sweet background harmonies, sputtering rhythmic keyboards, and Gibson's red-hot country styled harp punches this bumping soul/funk drill.

Wood's tasteful acoustic blues piano finally leads Gibson and company into a passionate relenting "One More Time, One More Time." Wood's melodic Hammond, Bowen's gutsy solo guitar, and Gibson's alternating clean country harp for clipped Chicago Southside powers the faithful R&B Booker T. instrumental, "Hip Hug-Her." For Gibson and band, *Southern Livin'* is without a doubt his most diverse and potent release to date.

**Alan Kurzer**



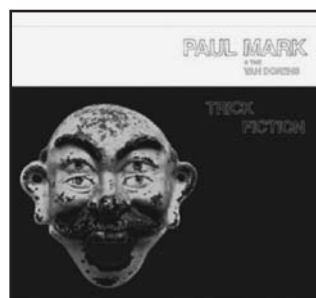
**DADDY MACK BLUES BAND**  
*Bluestones*  
Inside Sounds ISC-0529  
www.insidesounds.com

Hailing from Como, Mississippi, the same home as blues legends Jessie Mae Hemphill and Fred McDowell, Daddy Mack Orr picked up guitar playing rather late in life, his forties. Working in his automobile repair garage by day and recording and performing at night, this family man has now released three solo discs and has also appeared on the popular CD *Fried Glass Onions: Memphis Meets the Beatles*. From his days gigging at the fabled juke joint Green's Lounge with local R&B outfit The Fieldstones, this recording continues Orr's partnership with brothers Harold and James Bonner, on bass and rhythm guitar respectively.

Orr's resonated singing, at times reminiscent of Anson Funderburgh's late vocalist Sam Myers, vigorously delivers the ambiguous lyrics on the lowdown boogie, "Shade Tree Mechanic." Here, guitarist James Bonner steers his mostly single note barrage in a much cleaner direction, while a few verses later Orr closes the deal with his heavy-on-the-vibrato, assertive lead lines. The inspiring original, "Savin' My Love," is a '60s trip back to where this heartfelt R&B gem could've been pumping out of your local AM radio station. Riding an emotional wave of Wood's soaring keyboards and one rock-solid rhythm section, Orr tempers his soulful lyrics with another rich, blues-drenched solo.

While their last CD, *Slow Ride*, molded '60s and '70s rock classics in their own down-home image, this gritty, urban Memphis blues group's latest stew, *Bluestones*, is one tasty treat.

**Alan Kurzer**



**PAUL MARK & THE VAN DORENS**  
*Trick Fiction*  
Radiation Records RDTN 5899  
www.PaulMark.com

On stage Paul Mark & the Van Dorens epitomize the rocking, raucous bar band; road warriors who hit every smoke-filled juke joint on the East Coast playing raw, visceral blues. Their rollicking live shows are all swagger, twang and filterless-Luckies-rolled-up-in-your-shirt-sleeve blues. In the studio, however, things can be very different, and their latest release, *Trick Fiction*, is case in point. It has its share of window-shattering rave-ups, but Mark and his band-mates are capable of much more than buzz-saw blues. Whether it is the controlled environment of the sound booth, the additional musicians/instruments or the earthy female back-up singers, *Trick Fiction* leaves the bar and travels many paths. Add Mark's witty, sophisticated lyrics full of barbs, innuendoes and social commentary, and you have a CD that begs for repeated listenings.

The opener, "Fritos, BBQ & Scotch," is all bravado and biting wit punctuated by scorching guitar riffs and a classic blues back-beat. "Never Again" is a no-holds-barred Jerry Lee Lewis-inspired rocker that compares to the best of the Killa. "Suspicion" conjures up Johnny Rivers backed by the Ventures. "Big Glass Building" with its snaky guitar is rootsy swamp rock. Then we are thrown a curve with "Stake Out," an ice-cold jazz instrumental. Saving the best for last: "Riverside Diner," driven by its train-wreck beat, surreal imagery, B3 organ fills and gospel shouts, ends the CD with a thunderous climax.

*Trick Fiction* proves that this power trio's fiery live shows are only a small part of the action. It provides us with a picture window revealing a remarkably diverse musical landscape and a memorable listening experience.

**David Horen**

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**DEBORAH COLEMAN**  
CONTEMPORARY  
BLUES  
FRIDAY 2/16 AT 8:00PM



**CHARLIE A'COURT**  
BLUES  
FRIDAY 2/23 AT 8:00PM

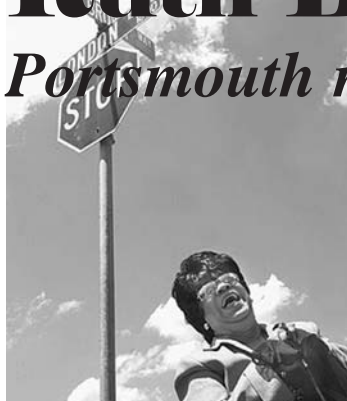
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# R&B Icon, Ruth Brown

## Portsmouth native, dies at 78



Ruth Brown, the Portsmouth native who became a pioneering singer known as “the mother of R&B,” died Nov. 17, 2006. She was 78. Brown had been on life support since Oct. 29 after suffering a heart attack and stroke, said her longtime friend and lawyer Howell Begle. She died at a hospital in Henderson, Nev., near Las Vegas, where she lived with family.

Brown last visited Portsmouth this past spring, her cousin said. “She looked so very well. She was in good spirits.” At a local event, Brown even took to the dance floor with Portsmouth Mayor James Holley. “Their picture was in the paper of them dancing. He twirled her around once or twice,” Breckenridge-Haywood said. That fresh memory of vibrance made news of her passing “really a shock,” she said.



Ruth Brown is survived by her two sons, Earl Swanson and Ron Jackson, both of Las Vegas; and siblings Benjamin Weston and Alvin Weston, both of Portsmouth, Leonard Weston of Long Island, NY, and Delia Weston of Las Vegas.

Born Ruth Weston on Jan. 30, 1928, Brown won a Tony and a Grammy and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. She was a leading advocate for the rights and royalties of recording artists. The oldest of seven children, she was born at 1747 London St. She grew up at 918 Nelson St. She began her singing career at Emanuel AME Zion Church in Olde Towne. She attended I.C. Norcom High School, where she was a cheerleader. Performances at the Shriners Arabia Temple led to USO shows. By the outbreak of World War II, Brown had learned enough Bing Crosby songs to serenade crowds at Langley Field, Fort Eustis, Camp Lee and Little Creek.

Her parents didn’t know. “Lots of times my parents didn’t even know I was on a base, because I lied a lot to get to where the music was,” she told *The Virginian-Pilot* in one of several articles about her life. “I was supposed to be going to choir rehearsal. One time I got really unlucky and my father showed up at one of those performances. He stood up at that stage, and I stopped singing immediately. I think he probably whipped me for about 10 blocks.”

She snuck up to New York and won first place at the Apollo Theater’s amateur night. She turned down a return engagement, lest she get caught by her family. In 1945, at age 17, she ran away. She hit the road with trumpeter Jimmy Brown, whom she married. She soon discovered he was already married. The union was annulled, but she kept his last name. Through Cab Calloway’s sister, Ruth met Ahmet Ertegun, who was starting a fledgling imprint named Atlantic. In 1948 she was booked to appear at the Apollo to perform alongside Billie Holiday and Dizzy Gillespie, but she shattered her knees in a car crash en route. She remained in the hospital for 11 months. Her legs gave her problems for the rest of her life.

In May 1949, Brown recorded “So Long” while still on crutches. It became her first hit. She favored ballads, but Atlantic pushed her toward up-tempo songs. “Teardrops in My Eyes” remained on the R&B charts for 11 weeks in 1950. Songs including “I’ll Wait for You,” “I Know,” “5-10-15 Hours” and “(Mama) He Treats Your Daughter Mean” made her an unstoppable blues singer in the 1950s. Atlantic Records became known as “the house that Ruth built.” Gradually, her advance for a song was raised from \$69 to \$350. But while Atlantic told her that her songs were million sellers, its accounting showed her owing the company for recording costs. Those discrepancies would come to a head later in her career.



She had left Atlantic, recorded a few albums for the Mercury label and in 1963 married Bill Blunt, a Long Island police officer. He wanted her to leave show business; they separated in 1966 and divorced. Her records were out of print and royalties non-existent.

“I took some hard knocks. Why shouldn’t I tell somebody that I had to work as a school bus driver and a maid? I put on black glasses when I went to get food stamps. I’ve been working in a private home and taking care of a child and heard my music come on the radio. They didn’t know it was me.” Aside from a Grammy nomination in 1969 for a cover of “Yesterday,” Brown recorded just for small labels. In the mid-’70s, she ran into comedian Redd Foxx, whom she had helped years earlier, at a Long Island show. He flew her to the West Coast, where engagements in Los Angeles and Las Vegas reignited her career.

In 1987, D.C. attorney and fan Howell Begle helped Brown win a voluntary payment from Atlantic Records of \$20,000. It also opened the door for the formation of the Rhythm and Blues Foundation, which helped struggling pioneer musicians. In 1989, she starred in “Black and Blue,” a Broadway show that earned her the Tony. Health problems began to emerge that year. She collapsed in January, suffering mild heart problems. The opening of “Black and Blue” was delayed because of an attack of angina and pneumonia. Complications from her knees crept in too. “Some critic wrote I had the best legs in town,” she told *The Pilot*. “I thought, ‘I hope the wind doesn’t blow up my dress, because these legs are covered with bandages and band aids. I’m lucky to be walking.’”

In 1990, Brown won a Grammy for her recording “Blues on Broadway.” That same year, she celebrated her 62nd birthday in Portsmouth with three days of events in her honor. There was a black-tie gala and a parade. Nelson Street in Portsmouth was renamed Ruth Brown’s Place, and a scholarship for local high school graduates was started in her name.

After some debate, she was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1993. Accolades and albums poured in: She appeared on an album by Bonnie Raitt, who credits her as an inspiration, in 1995. In 1998, at age 70, she was nominated for another Grammy for her album *R+B=Ruth Brown* as well as three W.C. Handy Awards, and she was consulting with Showtime for a movie on her life. In June 1996 she released her autobiography, *Miss Rhythm*.

She suffered a stroke in March 2000, which sent her into a depression. She was unable to speak for days; months passed before she could talk coherently. Her son Earl lifted her out of the depression, she said, by playing her music and making her look at her collection of awards.

In 2002, Brown came home to see a star placed in her name on the Legends of Music Walk of Fame on Granby Street in Norfolk. In May 2006, she was honored at the Portsmouth Notables banquet, where she was the keynote speaker.

“Coming back to Portsmouth is nothing new to me,” she said in an interview years before. “I’ve always been back to that place. That’s home to me. That’s a part of me.”

**Malcolm Venable and Steve Stone**  
[Reprinted from 11/18/06 issue of *The Virginian-Pilot*]

Brown also began developing a rocking, no-nonsense persona. It was far from an act. Once, backstage at the Apollo, she knocked out Little Willie John’s front teeth after he insulted her. “I was kinda brazen,” she said. “Didn’t step back off of nothing or nobody.”

The 1950s belonged to Brown, a star on the rhythm-and-blues, or “race music,” circuit. She had three gold records and 50 hits on the charts. Her brother Benny Weston acted as her transportation manager. As they worked the South, their skin color meant they were barred from hotels and restaurants. Brown would pack chicken or pork chops. They slept in the car. They washed up in gas stations.

In 1955, she married Earl Swanson, with whom she had her second son. They later divorced. “Lawdy,” she wrote in her autobiography. “I could pick a good song but I sure couldn’t pick a man.” As the decade ended, so did her winning streak.

## JANUARY 2007 BLUES CALENDAR

Cities: (N) Norfolk...(VB) Virginia Beach...(P) Portsmouth...(C) Chesapeake...(S) Suffolk...(H) Hampton...(R) Richmond...  
(NN) Newport News...(W) Williamsburg...(Y) Yorktown  
For Listings to the NBN Calendar  
**please contact: Ron Parker** rjparker1213@verizon.net  
[For Mid-Atlantic listings, visit [www.natchelblues.org](http://www.natchelblues.org)]

### Wednesday 3 Gregg Allman & Friends - The NorVa (N)

Friday 5  
dc3 – A.J. Gator’s - Holland Rd. (VB)

Saturday 6  
Rylo - Marker 20 (H)

Thursday 11  
**Johnny Winter – Steppin’ Out (VB)**  
John Baldwin (solo) - Cheeseburger in Paradise (VB)

Friday 12  
Johnnie & the Lowdowns – J.M. Randall’s (W)  
DOAD - Baker Street (VB)

Saturday 13  
**Albert Cummings - Jewish Mother (VB)**  
Black White Blues – J.M. Randall’s (W)

Thursday 18  
DOAD - Tidewater Arts Outreach Program (duo)

Friday 19  
Black White Blues - Locks Pointe (C)  
dc3 – A.J. Gator’s - Cedar Rd. (C)  
Hollie & the SpeedBumps - Lazy Horse Bar & Grill (C)

Saturday 20  
**The January Allstars featuring The Tight Lipped Horns - Jewish Mother (VB)**  
**9 pm (with Catfish Hodge, Tom Principato, Pete Ragusa, Steve Wolf, and Tommy Lepson)**  
The Ray Pittman Project – J.M. Randall’s (W)  
Black White Blues - Cactus (Y)

Sunday 21  
**Phil Wiggins Harmonica Workshop (H)** contact Jackie Merritt, limited attendance  
Black White Blues - Locks Pointe (C)

Friday 26  
Black White Blues - Locks Pointe (C)  
DOAD - VFW Club (by invitation) - Belview Ave. (N) 7 pm  
Hollie & the SpeedBumps – Jerry’s (C)

Saturday 27  
**Walter “Wolfman” Washington & the Roadmasters - Jewish Mother (VB)**

Sunday 28  
John Baldwin (solo) - Cheeseburger in Paradise (NN)

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT!

**Suzy Ray Vaughn**  
**@ Goody’s Deli & Pub (H)**

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT!

**Open Mic Night w/Don Butcher**  
**@ Goodfellas (H)**

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT!

**T-Ford 2 Blues Project**  
**@ Jewish Mother (VB)**

[Seasoned blues musicians known to the band are welcomed to jam.]

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT!

**H.M. Johnson Band**  
**@ O’Sullivan’s Wharf (N)**

### LOOKING FOR NBN MUSICIANS

## ART AFTER 5 AT SELDEN ARCADE IN NORFOLK ON FEB. 2, 2007

Art After 5 partners hot music with cool art, and takes place the **first Friday of every month** at Selden Arcade. **February’s event will feature the Natchel’ Blues Network** on the main level of the Arcade and an opening reception for Karina Turouk’s “Women of South Africa” exhibit in the Arcade’s formal gallery, located on the second level.

This event will **showcase some of the Natchel’ Blues Network musicians** and offer the general public the opportunity to learn about our organization and what the NBN has to offer blues lovers in the Hampton Roads area.

Representatives from the NBN’s Public Relations Committee, Merchandise Committee, Volunteer Committee, Education Committee, Special Events Committee, Membership Committee, *Blues News* Distribution and Newsletter Committee will be on site to answer any questions.

Please contact **Andree T. Butcher** -- andreetbutcher@cox.net or 456-1675 -- if you would like additional information or if you would like to participate in this event and, **Rudy Norman** - iris@netzero.com or 483-4108/434-3005 -- for volunteer opportunity. This event is free and open to the public and takes place on **February 2nd, 2007** from **5PM until 7PM** at the Selden Arcade in Norfolk, VA.

## New NBN Members & Renewals

Thanks to the following new members or renewals over the last couple of months. Your support is helping to keep the Natchel' Blues Network and blues music in Hampton Roads alive!

Robert Bailey	Jeffrey Karr
William Bond	Shar Wolff & Bruce Kincaid
Peter Brennan	David C. Kushner
Naomi Pearson-Brown	Debbie & Bernie Mayer
Dale & Andree T. Butcher	Richard Noyes, CPA
Judy Carson	Stephen N. Parker
Mary Clare Conley	Marc Pressar
Georganne Fischer	Richard & Kathryn Reese
Lisa & Dan Gauldin	Jeff Rice
R & B Gray	Paula Rosati
Craig W. Haines	J. Rawls Saecker
Paulette D. Hart	Mark Sauer
Wayne A. Henderson	Caroline Schloss
Gerry Hershey	Steve Sloop
Deborah M. Hill	Grant & David Taylor
Donna F. Johnson	Gaye Yarbrough

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Walter T. Camp, *State Certified Mediator*

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Bruce Harlow, *BHP Inc. LLC*

Darryl Roadcap, *Seven Cities Electric, Inc.*

Caroline Schloss, *Schloss Realty LLC*

William G. Sykes, *Patent Attorney*

Steve Wilkins, *Wilkins & Associates, Inc.*

WHRO



Studebaker John  
J.M. Randall's, 10/27/06 photo by Robert O'Neal



Magic Slim and the Teardrops  
J.M. Randall's, 11/01/06 photo by Robert O'Neal



Jackie Scott, sitting in with Magic Slim and the Teardrops  
J.M. Randall's, 11/01/06 photo by Robert O'Neal



Andrew Jr. Boy Jones  
J.M. Randall's, 11/18/06 photo by Alan Kurzer

## 2007 Keeping the Blues Alive Awards

Twenty-one individuals and organizations will be honored with The Blues Foundation's **2007 Keeping The Blues Alive (KBA) Award** during a recognition brunch Saturday, February 3, 2007, in Memphis Tennessee. The KBA ceremony will be part of the International Blues Challenge (IBC) weekend of events that will feature the semifinals and finals of the 23rd IBC competition, as well as seminars, presentations and receptions for blues societies, fans and professionals.

The Keeping The Blues Alive Awards recognize the significant contributions to Blues music made by the people behind the scenes. Each is selected on the basis of merit by a select panel of Blues professionals. The KBA Committee has this year added an "International" category to specifically recognize the global reach and popularity of Blues music, even though past KBA Awards have been presented to Canadians and Europeans.

**Blues Club:** Rum Boogie Café - Memphis, Tennessee

**Blues Organization:** Blues Society of the Ozarks - Springfield, Missouri

**Education:** Rev. Robert Jones - Detroit, Michigan

**Festival:** New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival - New Orleans, Louisiana

**Film, Television or Video:** *Antone's Home of the Blues*, SilverStar Entertainment Production - Austin, Texas

**Historical Preservation:** Howlin' Wolf Blues Society - West Point, Mississippi

**International:** Lucerne Blues Festival - Lucerne Switzerland

**Internet:** Pollstar.com - Fresno, California

**Journalism:** Frank-John Hadley - Newton, Massachusetts & Colts Neck, New Jersey

**Literature:** Peter Guralnick - West Newbury, Massachusetts

**Manager:** Charles Driebe - Atlanta, Georgia

**Photography:** Jef Jaisun - Seattle, Washington

**Print Media:** *Blues Matters!* - Brigend, Wales, United Kingdom

**Producer:** John Porter - Los Angeles, California

**Promoter:** Terry O'Halloran - Omaha, Nebraska

**Publicist:** Karen Leipziger - Nashville, Tennessee

**Radio-Commercial:** Charlie Lockard, WZXR - Hughesville, Pennsylvania

**Radio-Public:** Bob Corritore, KJZZ - Phoenix, Arizona

**Record Label:** Ruf Records - Lindewerra, Germany

**Retailer:** Electric Fetus - Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Sponsor:** Sierra Nevada Brewing Company - Chico, California

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS at the 2006 NBN Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Party!!!

**ROB HOGAN** ~ DOOR PRIZE WINNER ~ AUTOGRAPHED POSTER FEATURING DEBORAH COLEMAN AND BIG BILL MORGANFIELD.

**RON PARKER** ~ RAFFLE WINNER ~ TWO BLUES INFLUENCE INK DRAWINGS BY LOCAL ARTIST "MILLER"

Several volunteers also left with t-shirts, CDs, gift certificates and more! **Ann Nicole Gallery** of Chesapeake, VA donated ink drawings and custom framing of door and raffle prizes.



Grant Austin Taylor  
& members of The Tuesday Night Choir



Jammers Gerry, Shelly and Dale  
photos by Alan Kurzer

## 2006 NBN Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Party

**Goodfellas** in Hampton was the scene for another successful NBN event. Once NBN business concluded, the jammin' commenced, hosted by the **Tuesday Night Choir**. The TNC is a loose association of musicians that accumulated out of regular attendees of the Tuesday Night Open Mic at Goodfellas. The night's lineup consisted of **Lloyd Binger** (guitar), **Bobby "BlackHat" Walters** (harmonica, vocals), **Marty Germain** (drums), **Lloyd Jones** (bass) and **Mark Hopkins** (guitar). The "jam" atmosphere commenced almost immediately as **Kyle Glover** sat in on drums for most of TNC's opening set.

Next up was a dose of the blues in a pint bottle. Eleven-year-old **Grant Austin Taylor** delivered some smokin' guitar far beyond his years and belted out a number of standards including B. B. King's "The Thrill is Gone." This kid is goin' places.

**Jackie Scott** came on to bring back the thrill with her big voice and commanding stage presence, followed by **Johnny Sanders** with his banjo and rootsy acoustic-based blues. While Johnny sounds just fine on his own, the band did a great job of backing him up. Guitarist and singer **E.Z. Malone** helped out on Johnny's set, then delivered a fine set of his own, joined by **Paul Warren** on bass.

Acoustic blues was represented by **The Blues Committee: Shelly Craig-Potter** (guitar, vocals), **Dale Butcher** (bass) and **Bruce Kincaid** (harmonica, vocals). Then, a host of attending musicians joined TNC for a few tunes. Players included **Bill Cann** (trumpet, harmonica), **Ronnie Joe Parker** (harmonica, vocals), **Jackie "SugarLips" Merritt** (harmonica), **Mike Williams** (drums) and **this reporter** (guitar). Other performers of the evening included **Bill Kelly**, **Jack Campbell**, **Gerry** and **Lee-Lee**. Special thanks to **Lloyd Jones**, who in addition to playing bass for TNC, provided the sound system and recorded the event for posterity.

As mentioned previously, the event was a huge success, and well-attended. However, a member of the Goodfellas staff made a couple of observations. One was that the bar typically couldn't get a crowd like that on nights they were featuring a local blues band for entertainment. Another is that there were a lot of faces at this event that aren't otherwise seen. **Please, folks, if you really want to support the blues, go out and see some! We're lucky enough to have several venues in the area that want to book blues acts, but if we can't generate enough of a turnout to make it economically viable for both the venues and the artists to keep performing, we may find the local blues scene gone one day.**

Let's try to make 2007 a great year for Tidewater blues!

Denny Fohringer

# The Blue Highway

## Travelin' Blues:

### Double your pleasure in Baltimore

The last two times I was in Baltimore, I hit right into a double play. I'll try for the Trifecta next time I go. On Wednesday nights, there is a great open mic night at **Mick O'Shea's Irish Pub**. Mick's is located at 328 North Charles Street, about five blocks from Baltimore's historic Inner Harbor. Both times I attended it I was welcomed with open arms. Both times the host hooked me up with an excellent guitarist and we jammed for six or eight songs. The other acts were very exciting and it added to the magic of the evening. There were these three guys: one on the bongos, one on the guitar, and the other just making noises into a mic (commonly called beatbox, I looked it up). They were laying down these urban hip-hop rhythms that really got the crowd worked up. Next on stage was a trio that looked and sounded fresh off the boat from the U.K. What a blast, going to an Irish Pub and hearing authentic Irish folk songs! Now, can you guess what came next? The Irish crooner hooked up with the beatbox dude and laid something down I've never heard before. Whoa! What a sound. Mere words cannot describe it.

Knowing that one good turn deserves another, a large group of us went down to a full-on blues jam at the **Full Moon Saloon** the very next night. The Full Moon is located at 1710 Aliceanna Street in the Fell's Point area of Baltimore, a short cab ride from the Inner Harbor. It has just the classic atmosphere you want from a blues club: low ceiling, long bar, limited seating, dim lights, tight dance floor, and a colorful clientele. I can remember distinctly standing up on the stage looking out over the crowd and thinking, "Damn, I am *so* in my element here." It's embarrassing, but true. I can't for the life of me remember the names of the guys I played with (so you know it was a good couple of nights), but the one guy that stands out is the keyboard player who had a golden raspy voice just like Steve Winwood.

So there you have it: **Wednesday night - Mick O'Shea's, Thursday night - The Full Moon Saloon**. Did I mention the beer is really cold at both locations?

Keep the blues alive,  
**Jack Campbell**



Jimmy Thackery  
Oceana Naval Base 10/14/06  
photo by Alan Kurzer

## Who Needs MTV or VH1...

...when we have right here in Williamsburg, VA, the **Xstatix**, opening the information superhighway for us to enjoy LIVE music via their weekly webcast? Okay, one might not see Beyonce, the RHCP, or the latest Twenty-four-seven episode. But one might certainly enjoy some amazing music from these four lads live, and (check this out) – **they're inviting local musicians and bands to appear on their webcasts!**

Every Thursday night at nine o'clock, the Xstatix broadcast live from their studio in Williamsburg. Doug Dye on keys, Micky Smith on bass, John Meena on sax, and Mike Griffith make up the band known as the Xstatix. Their ability to improvise together is beyond uncanny--one of the best line-ups of capable musicians in one band around here. If you can't catch them on their webcasts on Thursdays at 9 pm at [www.xstatix.net/](http://www.xstatix.net/), chances are if you check **J.M. Randall's** calendar, you're bound to see them listed at least one time during the venue's monthly schedule.

The band has put together a kind of weekly "show," and features more than just live music. They often have open discussions with their viewers, via their online beta chat system. They also keep archives of their favorite performances.

**Tune in, if you get a chance, some Thursday evening**, and hear the Xstatix and what they're all about. Like their opening comments say on their site, "We play music because therapy costs too much." AMEN!

**Ted Doty (aka Doad)**

## Scenes from Jim Dombey's 50th Birthday and Blues Bash



Host Band  
Black White Blues



Photos  
provided  
by Jim & Laurie Dombey

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- January 13  
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- January 20  
The January Allstars featuring The Tight Lipped Horns
- January 27  
Walter "Wolfman" Washington & The Roadmasters
- February 1  
The Codetalkers
- February 9  
The Jae Sinnett Trio featuring Allen Farmham & Terry Burrell
- February 10  
The Nighthawks

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Compiled by Beth Jarock

**CURTIS SALGADO MAKING GREAT STRIDES FOLLOWING LIVER TRANSPLANT.** The road to recovery will soon lead to home for musician Curtis Salgado. He should return to Portland before the end of 2006. Salgado, who'd been diagnosed with liver cancer in March of 2006, has spent the past two months at The Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha where he received a life-saving liver transplant on September 30th. Overall, his recovery has gone well. He did undergo a second surgery three weeks after his transplant due to abdominal bleeding. He was also hospitalized for a suspected rejection episode, but both issues have been resolved. Salgado's transplant team says his liver function is completely normal. They expect him to make a full recovery. Once released, Salgado will continue his follow-up care in Oregon. He may return to Nebraska for annual check-ups. Fundraising continues to be a primary concern. Two substantial loans were secured at the eleventh hour allowing for the transplant. In addition to the upcoming loan payments, future expenses include medications, anti-rejection drugs, follow up medical care, travel and living expenses. **All merchandise available at [www.curtissalgado.com](http://www.curtissalgado.com) will benefit the Curtis Salgado Fund.** Donations to the "Curtis Salgado Fund" continue to be accepted and can be made at any US Bank or can be mailed to US Bankcorp, 2550 NW 188 Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124.

**Pacific Blues Cruise News --** The inaugural Pacific sailing of the **Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise** on October 3-7 was a smashing success, with 18 acts and more than 36 shows, including a legendary daytime blowout at Sammy Hagar's Cabo Wabo club in **Cabos San Lucas**. It was such a success that the Legendary folks have announced that next year's Pacific Blues Cruise will be **extended to an entire week cruising the Mexican Riviera** on the Holland America Oosterdam. You don't want to miss all the fun so book early; you know these things sell out quickly. The dates will be **October 13-20, 2007**. For more info go to [bluescruise.com](http://bluescruise.com) or call the Legendary office at **1-888-BLUESIN (258-3746)**.

**Blind Pig recording artist Tommy Castro** has just finished work on his latest studio album, entitled ***Painkiller***. The album, which was recorded at Laughing Tiger Studio in San Rafael, California, will be released in January 2007. Tommy and his electrifying band tear it up again, and welcome special guests Coco Montoya, singer Angela Strehli, pianist David Maxwell, and singer/pianist Theresa James.

**Piedmont Talent** in Charlotte, NC, one of the world's leading booking agents for blues and roots music, has announced the addition of **Fiona Boyes** to their roster. She joins a stable including Johnny Winter, Alvin Youngblood Hart, Rory Block, Bobby Rush, Candye Kane, Carey Bell, and Little Charlie & the Nightcats. Fiona's recent debut U.S. release, ***Lucky 13***, is climbing the international blues charts. She will be residing in Charlotte, beginning early 2007.

**Blues Foundation** member **Paul Smedberg of Fayetteville, NC**, is the lucky winner in the Foundation's members-only drawing for the last cabin on the January 2007 **Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise** ([www.bluescruise.com](http://www.bluescruise.com)). Paul plans to go on the cruise and just returned from the Pacific Cruise in October.

**Louisiana's Arts Award Presented To Carol Fran:** Carol Fran was awarded the 2006 Louisiana Governor's Arts Award for Folk Artist of the Year at a ceremony at the Shaw Center for the Arts in Baton Rouge on November 8. The Louisiana Governor's Arts Awards recognize Louisiana's artists, arts educators, businesses, and arts organizations based on the significance and magnitude of their contributions, the benefits of those contributions to Louisiana's citizens, and the nominees' record of involvement with the arts in Louisiana.

**Legendary folk musician & M.C. Records artist Odetta** was named the recipient of the 2006 **Winnipeg Folk Festival Achievement Award**, presented December 7, 2006, at the festival's annual Winter Wassail. Odetta was in attendance to accept the award, and gave

a short performance at the event. **The Winnipeg Folk Festival Achievement Award was established to recognize outstanding accomplishment in performance, composition and innovation in folk music, and to recognize a contribution to the continued thriving and public awareness of the genre.** Nominees must have performed at the Winnipeg Folk Festival. The winner is presented with **\$10,000** and a commemorative award.

**Janiva Magness** will perform at the **International Blues Challenge Opening Reception** for all Big Blue ticket holders on Thursday, February 1. She will be accompanied by another wild woman--2006 IBC Solo/Duo Winner **Eden Brent**. This will be a one-of-a-kind performance that is sure to kick off the IBC in high style.

**2007 Grammy Award Nominations--Best Traditional Blues Album (Vocal or Instrumental):** *Brother To The Blues* by Tab Benoit With Louisiana's Leroux [Telarc Blues], *Bronx In Blue* by Dion [Razor & Tie], *People Gonna Talk* by James Hunter [Rounder], *Guitar Groove-A-Rama* by Duke Robillard [Stony Plain Records], *Risin' With The Blues* by Ike Turner [Zoho Roots]; **Best Contemporary Blues Album (Vocal or Instrumental):** *Live From Across The Pond* by Robert Cray Band [Vanguard Records/Nozzle Records], *Sippiana Hericane* by Dr. John & The Lower 911 [Blue Note Records], *Suitcase* by Keb' Mo' [Epic/One Haven/Red Ink], *Hope And Desire* by Susan Tedeschi [Verve Forecast], *After The Rain* by Irma Thomas [Rounder].

## Blues Birthdays

JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
1	Frank Stokes Mama Yancy	3	Johnny "Guitar" Watson
2	Edith Johnson Little Smokey Smothers	4	Curtis Salgado
4	Charlie Sayles	6	Phil Alvin
5	Jo-Ann Kelly	7	King Curtis
6	Wilbert Harrison	8	Earl King
8	Tampa Red	8	Floyd Dixon
9	Katie Webster	9	Johnny Heartsman
10	Sam Chatmon Eddy Clearwater	10	Big Joe Duskin
11	Slim Harpo	11	Josh White
12	Miss. Fred McDowell	11	Phillip Walker
15	Earl Hooker	11	Otis Clay
17	Mick Taylor	11	Little Johnny Taylor
19	Janis Joplin	12	Pink Anderson
21	Leadbelly Snooks Eaglin Bnois King Zora Young	12	Dr. Blues
22	Sam Cooke	13	Chicago Beau
24	Tuts Washington Guitar Shorty	14	Magic Sam
25	Sleepy John Estes Little Mack Simmons Etta James	15	Kokomo Arnold
26	Huey "Piano" Smith	16	Wild Bill Doggett
27	Elmore James Bobby "Blue" Bland	16	James "Super Chikan" Johnson Andra Faye
28	Drink Small	17	Noble Watts
29	Eddie Taylor	17	Lou Ann Barton
30	Ruth Brown Janiva Magness	18	Irma Thomas
31	Roosevelt Sykes Charlie Musselwhite	20	Jimmy "Papa" Yancy Beulah Bryant
		21	Scrapper Blackwell
		22	Nina Simone
		22	Ernie K-Doe
		23	Johnny Winter
		24	Carl Weathersby
		25	Ida Cox John Jackson
		26	Fats Domino
		26	Bob "The Bear" Hite
		28	Jesse Fortune



**Robert Lockwood Jr.**, a pioneering Mississippi Delta blues guitarist and singer who forged a career in Cleveland, passed away on Nov. 21, 2006. He was 91. Lockwood died of respiratory failure at University Hospitals Case Medical Center where he had been a patient since suffering a stroke on Nov. 3.

Lockwood was born in Turkey Scratch, Ark. At 11, he started guitar lessons with legendary bluesman Robert Johnson, who briefly moved in with Lockwood's mother. "He never showed me nothing two times," Lockwood said in a 2005 interview with *The Plain Dealer* newspaper (Cleveland). "After I got the foundation of the way he played, everything was easy."

Lockwood worked on street corners and in bars and became a musical mentor to B.B. King, who listened to Lockwood in the 1940s on the "King Biscuit Time" radio show broadcast from Helena, Ark. Lockwood moved to Chicago in the 1950s and was a session player on records by Little Walter, Sunnyland Slim, Roosevelt Sykes and other blues musicians. He branched out from the delta-style blues to jump blues, jazz and funk. In 1960, he moved to Cleveland and played in blues clubs for decades.

On the piano in his Hough home, he kept a photo of Hillary Rodham Clinton – "Miss Hillary," Lockwood called her - presenting him with a National Heritage Fellowship in 1995. "It's about time," Lockwood said when he accepted the prize, or so the story goes. He toured throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. In July, he performed at blues festivals in England and Finland, accompanied by his longtime bassist Gene Schwartz.

The Memphis-based Blues Foundation bestowed two National Blues Music Awards and four W.C. Handy Awards upon Lockwood and inducted him into the Blues Hall of Fame. As a solo performer, Lockwood earned Grammy nominations for two albums: 1998's *I Got to Find Me a Woman* and 2000's *Delta Crossroads*.

**Timothea, New Orleans Vocalist, Passes:** Timothea Beckerman, 55, the New Orleans vocalist known professionally as Timothea, the Siren of Soul, and to her friends as Timi, died on November 14 at a hospital in New York of complications from Hepatitis C. She had been waiting for a liver transplant, but her condition was too fragile for the surgery.

Timothea was a multiple threat as a performer, songwriter, producer, businesswoman, and talent scout. She began singing for change in front of the jukebox at her aunt's bar in Westwego, Louisiana. By age 12 she was sharing the stage with people like Earl King, Irma Thomas, Ernie K-Doe, Dr. John, Johnny Adams, and Art and Aaron Neville. She cut her first single, "Teenage Prayer," when she was 14, at the New Orleans hit factory of the time, Cosimo Matassa's studio.

She quit music to raise a family, but came back in the early 1980s. She made a number of singles produced by King and joined Adams's revue at Dorothy's Medallion where she met Walter "Wolfman" Washington, with whom she co-wrote *Wolftracks* (1986) and *Out of the Dark* (1987) for Rounder Records.

Timothea founded Siren to Wail in 1999 to produce public service announcements for TV and radio and concerts to raise public awareness of Hepatitis C. Her latest idea, written by her son, rapper Jesse B, was The Hep-Acation Project for awareness in the schools, again using music to draw attention to this debilitating illness. An annual Once in a Blue Moon concert and silent auction raised thousands of dollars since 2000 with entertainers like Dr. John, Buddy Guy, Allen Toussaint, Art Neville, Bobby Rush, and her own backing band, the Blue Soul All Stars.

**Chicago Harpist Snooky Pryor Passes:** Legendary blues harpist James Edward "Snooky" Pryor died October 19, 2006. He played a major role in shaping the Chicago Blues harp sound during the postwar era; he long claimed he was the first harpist to run his sound through a public-address system.

## Blues Heaven

Born in 1921, he was playing at the age of eight in Mississippi. Both Sonny Boy Williamsons -- the original, John Lee Williamson [1914-1948], and Aleck Ford/Rice Miller [1899-1965] -- were influential on Pryor's style. He first went to Chicago in 1940 and then was stationed at nearby Fort Sheridan while serving in the U.S. Army where he played his harp through Army PA systems. Armed with a primitive amp he dazzled Maxwell Street in late 1945 with his amplified harp.

Pryor made influential 78s during the postwar Chicago era. With guitarist Moody Jones he played on "Telephone Blues" and "Boogie" for Planet Records in 1948, followed the next year by "Boogy Fool"/"Raisin' Sand" for JOB with Jones on bass and guitarist Baby Face Leroy Foster. (It was allegedly guitarist Floyd Jones, Moody's cousin, who gave him the nickname Snooky.) He made more sides for JOB (1952-53), Parrot (1953), and Vee-Jay ("Someone to Love Me"/"Judgment Day") in 1956, but did not have much commercial success.

He left music and moved to downstate Ullin, Illinois in 1967, but came back in the 1970s, touring (including Europe) and occasionally recording. The 1987 Blind Pig album, *Snooky*, produced by guitarist Steve Freund, found his chops intact. Two albums for Antone's followed, *Too Cool to Move* and *In This Mess Up to My Chest*. Two more releases, *Snooky Pryor and his Mississippi Wrecking Crew* and *Can't Stop Blowin'* appeared on Electro-Fi.

**Robert "H-Bomb" Ferguson**, a singer and pianist who urged listeners to "rock baby rock" at the dawn of the Rock 'n' Roll era, died on November 26 of complications from emphysema and cardiopulmonary disease. He was 77.

Allegedly discovered by Duke Ellington's trumpeter, Ferguson played in several bands then began recording solo for Savoy in the early 1950s. His recordings from that era were compiled in a recent reissue, *Big City Blues*, on Rev-Ola Bandstand, including "Good Lovin'" and "Rock H-Bomb Rock," both from 1952. "Rock H-Bomb Rock" was also included last year in a box set called *Atomic Platters: Cold War Music From the Golden Age of Homeland Security* on Conelrad.

Ferguson got his Cold War-era nickname from his big voice. He had quit music, but resumed performing in the 1980s adopting colorful wigs as a trademark. A native of Charleston, South Carolina, the eleventh of twelve children, Ferguson said his interest in the blues dated back to his childhood. His father, a Baptist pastor, paid for piano lessons, "and wanted me to do religious stuff," he said. "But after church was over, while the people was all standing outside talking, me and my friends would run back inside and I'd play the blues on the piano."

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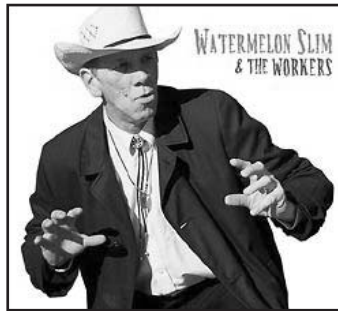
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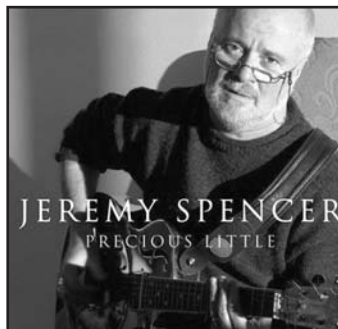
THE TICKETS VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

# Favorite Five Blues CDs of 2006



## Richie Babb – Program Director, WFOS FM 88.7 - Chesapeake

1. *Watermelon Slim & the Workers* by Watermelon Slim & the Workers - NorthernBlues Music
2. *Listen at Me Good* by Harmonica Shah - Electro-Fi Records
3. *Refined Sugar* by Sugar Pie DeSanto - Jasman Records
4. *Honk* by Swamp Cabbage - Swamp Cabbage Records
5. *One Man Band* by Adolphus Bell - Music Maker



## Barry Friedman – Owner, Birdland Music - Va. Beach

1. *Precious Little* by Jeremy Spencer - Blind Pig Records
2. *Suitcase* by Keb' Mo' - Epic
3. *Do I Move You?* by Janiva Magness - NorthernBlues Music
4. *You & Me* by Joe Bonamassa - Premier Artists
5. *People Gonna Talk* by James Hunter - Rounder Records



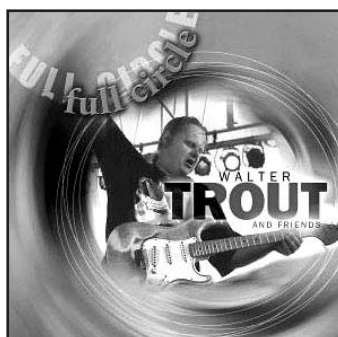
## David Horen – Blues News Reviewer/Writer - Portsmouth

1. *Do I Move You?* by Janiva Magness - NorthernBlues Music
2. *People Gonna Talk* by James Hunter - GO Records
3. *Brother to the Blues* by Tab Benoit - Telarc
4. *Trick Fiction* by Paul Mark & The Van Dorens - Radiation Records
5. *Change in the Weather* by Eric Lindell - Alligator Records



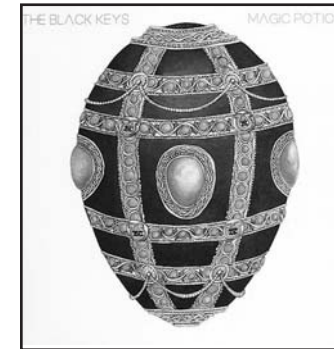
## Mark Johnson – Natchel' Blues Network – Norfolk

1. *We Are Mighty Lester* by Mighty Lester - Mighty Lester Productions
2. *Live From Across The Pond* by Robert Cray Band - Vanguard
3. *Playin' Dirty* by Joe Louis Walker - JSP Records
4. *Butterfield/Bloomfield Concert CD* by The Ford Blues Band - Blue Rock'it Records
5. *Suitcase* by Keb' Mo' - Epic



## Alan Kurzer - Musician, Port Folio Weekly & Blues News Reviewer/Writer-Norfolk

1. *Do I Move You?* by Janiva Magness - NorthernBlues Music
2. *Full Circle* by Walter Trout & Friends - Ruf Records
3. *Blue Moon in Your Eye* by The Nighthawks - Rolling Storm Communications
4. *Fried Glass Onions: Memphis Meets The Beatles Vol. 2* by Various Artists - Inside Sounds
5. *In The Natural State* by Jimmy Thackery with The Cate Brothers - Rykodisc



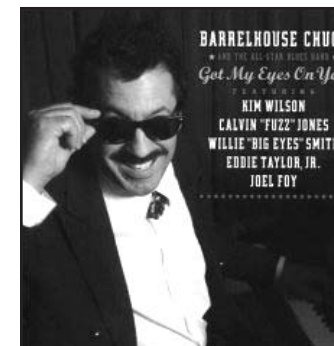
## Sam McDonald – Music Reporter, Daily Press - Newport News

1. *Magic Potion* by The Black Keys - Nonesuch
2. *Dona Got a Ramblin' Mind* by Carolina Chocolate Drops - Music Maker
3. *Not Forgotten* by Malcolm Holcombe - Gypsy Eyes Music
4. *Nashville* by Solomon Burke – Shout! Factory
5. *What's Going On* by Dirty Dozen Brass Band - Shout! Factory



## “Guitar” Tommy Parker – Musician, Blues News Writer - Virginia Beach

1. *My Heart's in Texas* by Smokin' Joe Kubek & Bnois King - Blind Pig Records
2. *Blue Moon in Your Eye* by The Nighthawks - Rolling Storm Communications
3. *Ain't Easy No More* by Mark Hummel - Electro-Fi Records
4. *Butterfield/Bloomfield Concert CD* by The Ford Blues Band - Blue Rock'it Records
5. *Round Two* by Big George Brock - Cat Head Presents



## Ann Rabson – Musician (Ann Rabson & Saffire-The Uppity Blues Women) - Fredericksburg

1. *Got My Eyes On You* by Barrelhouse Chuck - The Sirens Records
2. *Meet Me in the Middle* by M.S.G.-The Acoustic Blues Trio – Self Release
3. *Lucky 13* by Fiona Boyes - Yellow Dog Records
4. *Shoulder to Shoulder* by Cephas & Wiggins - Alligator Records
5. *Skunkmello* by Guy Davis - Red House Records



## Paul Shugrue – WHRV FM 89.5 “A Shot of the Blues” & “Out of the Box” - Norfolk

1. *Suitcase* by Keb' Mo' - Epic
2. *The Lady and Mr. Johnson* by Rory Block - Rykodisc
3. *Cold as Ice* by John Lee Hooker Jr. - Telarc
4. *Precious Little* by Jeremy Spencer - Blind Pig Records
5. *Meet Me in the Middle* by M.S.G.-The Acoustic Blues Trio – Self Release



## Shar Wolff – Natchel' Blues Network - Hampton

1. *Blues Brunch at The Mart* by Michael Coleman and the Delmark All-Stars - Delmark Records
2. *Ain't Easy No More* by Mark Hummel - Electro-Fi Records
3. *Full Circle* by Walter Trout - Ruf Records
4. *Old New Ballads Blues* by Gary Moore - Eagle Records
5. *Do I Move You?* by Janiva Magness - NorthernBlues Music