

## STATE OF THE BLUES

### PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

BY JACK HADLEY

Most Americans growing up in the age of pop music never listened to the blues. It wasn't played on commercial radio and, sadly, not much has changed. I realize that any roots music in 2018 is hidden in plain sight. It's out there if you look for it. I was at a blues jam recently and I was surprised at the music I heard.

It was uniformly real blues music. There were no reggae covers or pop tunes played under the guise of blues. The most telling part of the night for me was a band of young people who hit the stage. A standard lineup of guitar, bass, drums and a lead vocalist. I have to admit they didn't look like they knew anything about the music. I was dead wrong. These kids (anyone under 30 is a kid to me now) hit it real hard. It was on the blues

rock end of the scale and more blues than I expected. Howlin' Wolf and a few other classic covers. It was well done and I felt the blues coming from the stage. No, they didn't sound like any of the artists on this page (Sonny Boy Williamson, Rick Estrin & The Nightcats and Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, clockwise from left to right). They sounded like themselves. And it's still called the blues.



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# **BLUES RELEASES SEPT. 2018**

## **BILLBOARD MAGAZINE (PARTIAL LIST)**

**Out Of The Blues - Boz Scaggs**

**The Blues Is Alive & Well - Buddy Guy**

**Roots Of Blues - Various Artists**

**Victor Wainwright And The Train - Victor Wainwright And The Train**

**Honey Up - Vanessa Collier**

**High Desert Heat - Too Slim And The Taildraggers**

**America's Child - Shemekia Copeland**

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Published for Feb-March, April-May,  
June-July, Aug-Sept, Oct-Nov, and  
Dec-Jan

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Jack Hadley

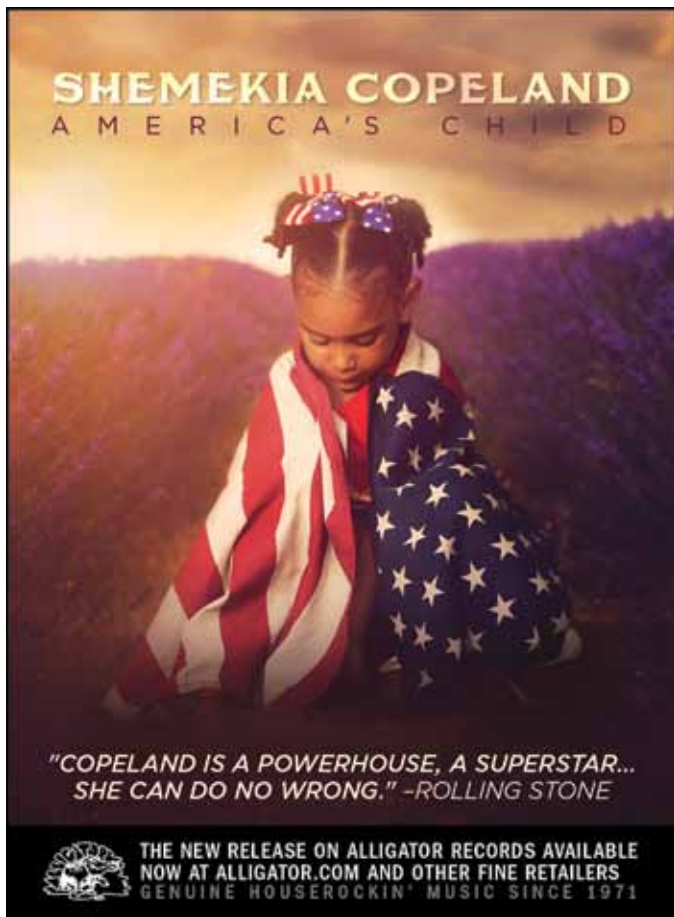
**CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE**

Jack Hadley, Jerrelyn Corraggio,  
Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro,  
Larry Hulst

**ADVERTISING**

Ad placement, Rates & Specs:  
Jack Hadley Design  
[jack@jackhadleymusic.net](mailto:jack@jackhadleymusic.net)





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# **Education Committee**

**By Committee Chair Kerry Morrison**

## **BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS (BITS)**

The year started off with a number of presentations done by Gary Allegretto: Bergen Valley Elementary in Jefferson County for 117 5th graders on the 16th of January; Leroy Drive Elementary School in Northglenn where Gary did three presentations for a total of 160 kids on January 17th. Gary then went to Polaris Expeditionary Learning School in Fort Collins (k-12) and presented to 90 students.

Dan Treanor did lessons for about 260 kids at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School in Denver on January 26th. In April Dan went to Rocky Mountain E.S. in Westminster and about 300 kids learned about the blues. In May, Dan was at Overland Trail Middle School in Brighton and 200 kids were there. In July, Lionel Young gave presentations at the libraries in Breckenridge, Frisco and Silverthorne.



**UPDATE - Kerry explained how schools qualify for a Blues In The Schools (BITS) event. She said has been very lucky in that the schools have contacted her. Kerry coordinates with a musician to get things going. The Education Committee is always open to accepting donations to do more blues in the schools sessions.**

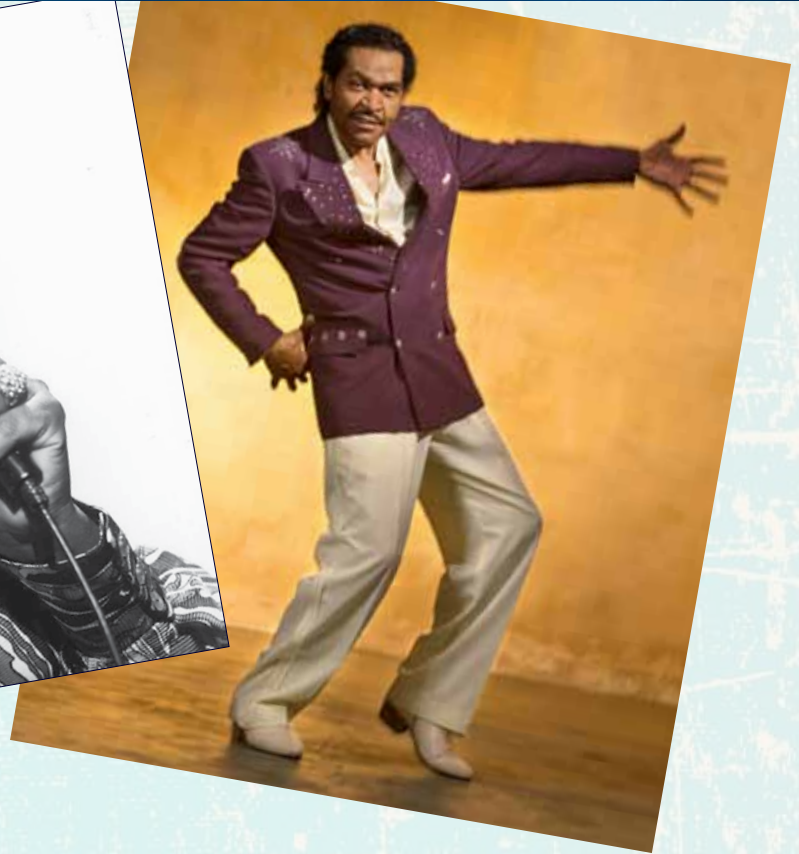
**- EDITOR**



# Jus' Blues Music Foundation

“Nurturing The **Soul** Of The Blues”

Preserving Blues Heritage through Cultural Arts



## **JUS' BLUES MUSIC FOUNDATION**

A recent awards show in Tunica, Mississippi honored those performers who are steeped in Soul Blues. The award show took place in August, 2018 at the Horseshoe Casino. A number of these artists have performed in (or close to) Colorado: Marquise Knox, Larry Garner and John Primer, to name a few.

### **The mission of the Jus' Blues Music Foundation**

Our mission is to preserve Blues heritage through cultural arts by nurturing the soul of the Blues through historical Blues education, programming Blues education to youth and performing artists in communities nationwide and around the world, making sure we don't forget the Blues.

**Pictured above: Koko Taylor and Bobby Rush**



## **PRESS RELEASE RECAP FROM THE JUS' BLUES MU- SIC FOUNDATION**

**TUNICA, MS August 10, 2018**

The famed Bluesville venue located inside Horseshoe Tunica Casino & Hotel was set on fire opening night last week of the 2018 Jus' Blues Music Awards & Conference! The 18th Annual Jus' Blues Music Awards was lit with soul stirring performances by Latimore, Karen Wolfe, Larry Garner, Toni Green, Chick Rodgers, Calvin Richardson, John Primer, Ms. Jody, Tyree Neal, Toni Lynn Washington, Marquise Knox, Sheba Potts-Wright, Willie Clayton, R. L. Boyce and several more. Mighty Memphis Blues & Soul Band A-440 jammed behind all the artists and filled the room with funky and soulful sounds.

Bev Johnson of Memphis radio WDIA fame and Soul man Calvin Richardson were excellent hosts that kept the show moving and grooving. Bev was beautiful and Calvin was hilarious as he offered funny anecdotes and gave the audience several wardrobe changes.

Rousing performance tributes were made and played honoring departed music legends, including Jus' Blues Honorees Denise LaSalle and Mr. Beale Street Preston Shannon. A

deeply personal and heart-felt speech was given by Sir Charles Jones who was honored with the Willie Mitchell Lifetime Achievement Award. Son of legendary Boom, Boom, Boom Blues man, John Lee Hooker, Jr. was the recipient of the Bobby 'Blue' Bland Lifetime Achievement Award. He literally took the audience to church with his rousing personal testimony of his times of troubles to triumphant victory through God and music. All the honorees seemed humbled via their speeches at receiving acknowledgement of their accomplishments in receiving their individual Jus' Blues Music Award.

The venue was packed with fans and the who's who of Blues & Soul music. The audience was excitedly impressed as they not only got to enjoy a great production but also got to mingle and take pictures with the many artists and industry folks that were there enjoying the festivities.

The Blues Got a Soul Technology Conference has upped the value of being in attendance with veteran artists and industry professionals offering pertinent music business information via workshops. Music professionals like Dr. Johnny Jones, Dr. Clark White, Vocal Coach & Artist Keisha Jackson, Mu-

sic Marketer Arthur Mitchell, Social Media Specialist Dominique Anderson and Legal & Publishing Expert Jonathan Mason gave presentations and offered their expertise to the attendees. Additionally, veteran hit songwriters Jimmy Roach and Henderson Thigpen advised new songwriters how to best advance their careers.

The legendary Jus' Blues White Party was elevated to another level with the musical talents of Gerald Richardson and world renown Mississippi Blues star Grady Champion who rocked the party into the wee hours.

The festivities concluded Saturday evening and well into Sunday morning at the Jus' Blues Juke Joint Fish Fry Party. The stars of the night were the audience as they were entertained by Memphis' own Chilly Bill and Dallas Blues legend Gregg A. Smith. The audience danced the night away and was also treated to a special guest appearance by Nellie "Tiger" Travis who performed her hit song, "Mr. Sexy Man."

continued on page 9





**Jus' Blues Music Foundation Award Winners**  
These artists have performed in Colorado (clockwise from top left):  
Larry Garner, John Lee Hooker, Jr., John Primer and Marquise Knox



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**The Colorado Blues Society is a proud supporter of Blue Star Connection. Donate to Blue Star today!**



*CHILDRENS HOSPITAL OAKLAND*

*SHEMEKIA COPELAND, BLUES UNDER THE BRIDGE, COLORADO SPRINGS*

*PHOTO: LARRY HULST*





**TOP: CASS CLAYTON SITTING IN WITH MICHAEL REESE & SPIRIT MACHINE AT THE GOLD ROOM, COLORADO SPRINGS**

**BOTTOM: BOOKER T. AT BLUES UNDER THE BRIDGE, COLORADO SPRINGS**

**PHOTOS: LARRY HULST**





**LEFT: KERRY PASTINE (KERRY PASTINE & THE CRIME SCENE), WOMEN IN BLUES BENEFIT, THE ARMORY, BRIGHTON**

**RIGHT: JOHNNY RYAN (JOHNNY & THE MONGRELS), DICKENS OPERA HOUSE, LONGMONT**

**PHOTOS: JERRELYN CORRAGGIO**



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**The Colorado Blues Society was the Blues Foundation's**

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**CBS is a 501c3 non-profit that supports the Colorado Blues community**



# REVIEWS

## Michele D'Amour & The Love Dealers WIGGLE ROOM



Although "Wiggle Room" is the fourth release for Michele D'Amour & The Love Dealers, there are several "firsts" that come into play with the project. The album happens to be her first release on her very own Blueskitty Records - and it's also her first release with her new band.

Joining Michele D'Amour McDanel, on lead and backing vocals, are: hubby Patrick McDanel - the only remaining Love Dealer from past releases - on electric bass, electric upright bass and trombone; Jeff Cornell on electric, acoustic and resonator guitars; Dave Delzotto on drums; Brian Olendorf on keyboards; and Noel Barnes on tenor and baritone saxes. Other special guest musicians include: Nora Michaels and John Oliver III on backing vocals; Angelo Ortiz on congas; and Greg Lyons on trumpet.

Having heard all of her previous releases, it's my opinion that the changes Michele made were indeed made for the best because hands down, "Wiggle Room" is the best of the bunch. The disc contains ten, all original tracks.

So with so many songs that use those all too common terms such as loser, cheater, liar, drunk, rotten, abusive,

dirty dog, etc, to describe men, it's refreshing to hear one being sung about a "Sweet Lovin' Man". The only problem is that Michele had to go through most of the others prior to finding that sweet lovin' man to come home to every night. Michele and Nora's lead and back up vocals are smooth and sassy, Patrick and Dave have the rhythm right in the pocket and Noel's tenor sax leads are absolutely splendid.

Have you ever thought that one day you might be homeless? Probably not! Although most of us dread the thought of contacting cancer; having a heart attack or even passing a kidney stone (yikes!), most of us don't think we'll ever be homeless - and yet so many unfortunate people are. Just imagine, as Michele has done, that you are:

*"Nothing to no one, of no consequence,  
his heart's overdrawn, his life  
makes no sense.*

*Stands on the corner, holding a sign,  
pretend you don't see, pay him  
no mind.*

*And nothing to no one, it's dark and it's  
cold, the streets are no place to be  
growing old*

*He aches all over, keeps moving  
somehow, lost and forgotten,  
no place for him now."*

Imagine that - being and meaning "Nothing To No One". Kinda makes you think about those times - as I've admittedly done - pretended I didn't see him and I paid him no mind. Patrick's deep bass lines, Greg's muffling trumpet and Brian's hushed piano leads eerily take you for a walk down a dark alley - a place this unfortunate person most likely calls home.

"Let It Slide" has so much going on it may very well be the disc's best track. The thirty second intro featured such an intense rhythm and percussion thing that

I was actually looking forward to it being an instrumental. In that short a time I was just blown away by the hypnotic vibe being laid down by Angelo (congas), Brian (organ), Dave (drums) and Patrick (bass). Then Michele starts singing with this absolutely beautiful, powerful yet soft, note holding voice that instantly commanded my attention.....that is until Jeff jumped in with his crazy good guitar licks. Take it from the Blewzzman, if you want to zone out for awhile, put on your headphones, turn the volume up a bit and play this one 4-5 times. Right about here kudos to the disc's producer - Mark Riley - and engineer - Steve Feasley - are in order. You guys earned your fee on this one alone.

On this particular track Michele laments over the useless efforts she puts herself through in her attempts to prove herself "Worthy" to a loser who's not at all worthy of the effort. It is another of the many well written tracks in which she makes strong statements and sends out strong messages. If slow, sultry sax leads perk your ears, midway through this one Noel's got a real nice treat for you.

With a title like "Hard Times", you'd like to think that this was a song about the great depression or some other event you'd like to forget about from the long ago past. In reality, what's greatly depressing is that story the song is telling is taking place right now. It's more about humanitarianism...or lack of it...than it is about politics - but we all know how fine than line is. Michele's heartfelt lead vocals, along with John's soulful back ups as well, do a fabulous job of putting intense feelings into the songs powerful lyrics. Musically, the dark rhythm, the somber sax tones and the solemn keyboard chords perfectly set the tracks melancholy mood.

Other tracks on "Wiggle Room" include: "Falling Down", "Wiggle Room", "Honey On The Side", "Been So Long" and "He Can't Be Wrong".

Between putting her new and best band together, putting out her best work yet and putting it in the hands of one of the best publicists in the genre, Michele D'Amour & The Love Dealers have now got it all going on.

- PETER "BLEWZZMAN" LAURO



# REVIEWS

## Bobby G PHD IN THE BLUES Third Street Cigar Records



"PHD In The Blues" is Bobby G's second release in just about a year. Since he waited till the age of seventy-three to release his first, it appears to me that he just might be trying to make up for lost time. At least that's what I'm hoping - I'd surely welcome a release a year from this powerful soul singer.

Since a line I used in my review of his debut album "Still Standing" - back in July of 2017 - is once again true, I'm simply going to say it again. "With Johnny Rawls - the perennial nominee and often winner of many soul blues awards - having written or co-written all of the disc's ten tracks, you'd be correct in assuming that this one is loaded with soulful blues". That said, let me just add that these are all new tracks written expressly for Bobby.

On "PHD In The Blues", lead vocalist Bobby G is joined by: Larry "Entertainment" Gold on guitar; Johnny "HiFi" Newmark on bass; Scott Kretzer on drums; Danny Pratt on harmonica; Ramona Collins and Trez Gregory on background vocals; Cadillac Dan Magers on keyboards; Eric Sills on shakers; Rick Wolkins and Mark Lemle - a.k.a. The Toledo Horns - on trumpet and saxophone; and special guest, the maestro

himself, Mr. Johnny Rawls on background vocals, rhythm guitar, keyboards and song compositions.

Sometimes interpretation just doesn't come into play and you've just got to let the song's lyrics tell the story themselves. That's the case right here on the title track.....

*"I grew up in Mississippi  
didn't have much use  
for school.*

*I went on the road with  
my band just singin'  
and playin' the blues.*

*The blues took me around  
the world places  
I'd thought I would  
never be,*

*I met all kinds of people  
oh I thought I never  
would meet.*

*I don't have a diploma  
hanging on my wall.  
when it comes down  
to real life*

*I learned it all.  
I've got a 'PHD  
In The Blues.'"*

As Bobby G very soulfully and very sincerely tells it, similar to getting an education at the "school of hard knocks", he learnt everything he knows from the blues. The blues is his teacher, his preacher and his friend. Musically, it's as stellar as the vocals and lyrics. The rhythm work is precision work, the Toledo Horns are heavenly horns and Larry Gold's stinging blues guitar licks are as good as gold.

This opening line of "Just Can't Stop Loving You" - "Oh Man! Boy I'm a mess." - cracked me up. Bobby's in a bad way and as you might expect it's because of being dumped by a woman. Because he just can't stop loving her he stopped smoking; he stopped drinking; he stopped cussing; he stopped gambling; he stopped flirting; he stopped cheating; and although those are indeed great accomplishments - they were all to no avail. You see, the truth of the matter is that although it breaks Bobby's heart, they're much better apart. Once again, the rhythm is right in the pocket, Larry's lead guitar shines and Bobby's vocals - along with smooth harmony and backup support from Ramona and Trez - highlight the track.

This smoker's called "Love Machine", and at the hands of Scott and HiFi putting out some of the disc's most profound rhythm; and the horn section adding fuel to that fire; that well tuned machine is working at full throttle. The dancers will go crazy over this one. It's even got Bobby wanting to scream.

"Don't Change Lovin Me" may very well be my favorite song of the batch. With the silky smooth and soulfully sincere way in which he lets his lady know: she can change the color of her hair; she can change the clothes she wears; she can change her point of view; and anything else she wants to - as long as she doesn't change loving him; Bobby is at disc's best on vocals. On top of that, the tracks also features Cadillac Dan putting on a flawless keyboard performance from start to finish with several monster solos in between. This one drew a handful of replays.

I promise you that by the second time you hear Johnny Rawls, Ramona and Trez sing this songs chorus line you'll be singing "Where Did The Blues Go?" right along with them. Paying homage to B. B. King, Albert King, Freddie King and Albert Collins, as Bobby voices his displeasure for today's music he can't help but wonder where the blues has gone. With the rhythm section doing their usual smoking stuff behind them, Danny and Larry light it up with some seriously hot harmonica and guitar leads.

Have you ever been to a show where the band gets into such a groove that you just want them to "Do It All Night"? I have, and this is one of those songs. Put me somewhere with Bobby G and the guys doing this one and you can lock the door and throw the key away. Killer stuff!

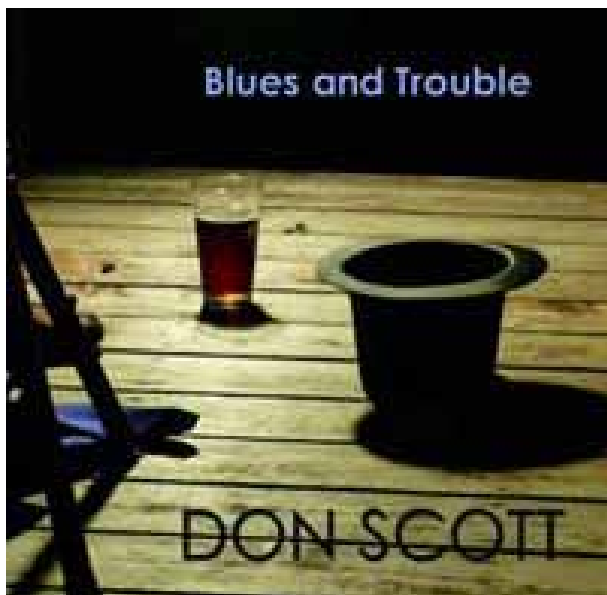
Other tracks on "PHD In The Blues" include: "Ain't That A Good Thing", "No More Picking Cotton", "How Can I Miss?" and "Whole Lotta Money".

To get a copy "PHD In The Blues" and to learn more about Bobby G and Third Street Cigar Records, just go to the label's website at [www.thirdstreetcigarrecords.com](http://www.thirdstreetcigarrecords.com).

- PETER "BLEWZZMAN" LAURO

# REVIEWS

**Don Scott**  
**BLUES AND TROUBLE**  
Self-Produced



## PRELUDE

What do the acronyms BMI, IBC, EPK, AIM and WAV have in common with DAV? Absolutely nothing - just like this opening statement has absolutely nothing to do with the review. However, being a veteran of the Vietnam era myself, I feel compelled to write it. As most of you should know, the first five are all music related and as I hope most of you do know, the last one means Disabled American Veteran - of which Don Scott is one. That said, thank you for your service and I'm happy you made it home my brother.

As a solo artist, as a duet, or with a full band: singer; songwriter; guitarist; and harmonica player; Don Scott, a native of Minnesota, has been performing all over the world for very close to fifty years now. His influences include Sonny Terry, Brownie McGhee, T-Bone Walker, Big Bill Bronzy, Count Basie, and more, and just a few of the people he's worked with include Mighty Joe Young, The Legendary Blues Band, James Harmon and pretty much everyone's favorite - the late and great William Clarke.

"Blues And Trouble" is Don Scott's eighth release and of it's thirteen songs, six are his originals. For this project, Don Scott - on the guitar, national guitar, harmonica and vocals - is joined by: Rosanne Licciardi on slap-top cajon, octo-snare cajon and other implements of percussion; Brian Werner on piano; and Karyn Quinn on upright bass.

The disc opens with "Street Walkin' Women" (T-Bone Walker), and like every opening track should do, this one started things off with a great first impression. Having known it or not, hearing Don sing and play just a few notes and chords immediately suggests you're listening to a seasoned blues veteran. That, added to the profound bass lines from that stand up of Karyn's; and the remarkable snare and high hat work from Rosanne; the fact that you're in for a music treat has just been established.

On Aaron Neville's "Devil Ride", with that same excellent rhythm going on alongside him, Don - doing triple duty - pretty much takes charge of the track. His vocals are powerful and passionate; his harmonica highlights are just that - highlights; and listening to his consummate acoustic guitar strummin' and pickin' is a complete joy. Excellent track!

Now, if you've put your earbuds in and are ready for a serious and heart rate rising jog, this might not be the track to play. On the other hand, if you're about to go for a "Lazy Walk", then by all means put it on and stroll along. This original instrumental of Don's will be the perfect accompaniment for it. It should also be mandatory listening for Acoustic Guitar 101 classes.

*"Yellow ribbon stickers, plastered on cars, you see them everywhere. Red, white and blue, support our troops, show them you really care.*

*Don't show the body bags, maimed or wounded, that'll never do. We're rough and tough, we always win, God has blessed us to. But when the troops come home, support's not there, the VA took a cut in pay. That money went to the rich in last year's tax break, can you come back "Some Other Day"*

.....and that's just the opening verse on what's very obviously an original track. Ya think Don's pissed? Of course he is - and rightfully so. Just for its powerful lyrics alone, this one deserves several listens. It was during one of them that I realized the polarity of the song. While the lyrics had me as frustrated as Don is, midway through the song an absolutely beautiful and calming guitar and piano performance by him and Brian seemed crazily soothing. From every aspect, this was one hell of a track.

That's okay, I was worried about the same thing. But fortunately for us all, "Cody's Funky Butt" is an instrumental. Phew! I don't even want to know where that would've lyrically gone. On the other hand, this original is another flawless instrumental featuring more extraordinary guitar and piano highlights at the hands of Don and Brian and some lively, funky rhythm and percussion from Rosanne. Another great track.

Another of Don's originals is an instrumental titled "Sunday Cruise". As the name might indicate, it's similar in style to "Lazy Walk" and is somewhat reminiscent of America's "Ventura Highway". Having listened to several of these very relaxed and laid back original instrumentals it's become obvious to me that Don Scott seems to have found peace with himself through the music he creates. If I'm right, I'm very happy for him.

**- PETER "BLEWZZMAN" LAURO**

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# ACTS

## 50 SHADES OF BLUE

drjimseely@gmail.com

## ANDREA VAN ALLEN

dreavanallen@gmail.com

## BAD CHOICES

jeandworak@gmail.com

## BARREL OF BLUES

scottystrat15@gmail.com

## BLACK RAILS RHYTHM & BLUES BAND

breedlovebluesband@gmail.com

## JENN CLEARY

jenncleary@jenncleary.com

## COLORADO SLIM

coslimblues@gmail.com

## DEBORAH STAFFORD & THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

staffordwebb@juno.com

## DEEP POCKET THIEVES

deepocketthieves@gmail.com

## DOC BROWN'S BLUES BAND

mrbrown6300@aol.com

## THE JACK HADLEY BAND

jack@jackhadleymusic.net

## RANDALL DUBIS

randalldubis@yahoo.com

## EEF "MISS 333"

info@orangepackage.com

## SCOTT "SHACK" HACKLER

scott.hackler@gmail.com

## HOGBACK BLUES BAND

info@hogbackbluesband.com

## HOUSE MONEY

jtomasfoto@gmail.com

## JILL WATKINS MUSIC

jill@jillwatkins.com

## JOHNNY & THE MONGRELS

johnnyandthemongrels@gmail.com

## JOHNNY JOHNSTON

jbluesjohnston@hotmail.com

## MAD DOG BLUES

maddog@poetscoop.org

## MICHAEL HORNBUCKLE BAND

michaelhornbuckle@gmail.com

## MOJOMAMA

paul@mojomama.net

## MY BLUE SKY

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www.kvnf.org  
KOTO 91.7FM, 89.3FM, 105.5FM Telluride,  
4-6 pm Blues Hang Over (every other  
Sunday) www.koto.org, Island Radio,  
5-7 pm (rebroadcast Thursday, 5-7 pm)  
True Blues with Brian Elliott  
www.island92.com  
KRFx 103.5 FM Denver, 7-10 pm  
Strictly Blues with Kai Turner  
KBCO 97.3 FM Boulder, 9-10 pm  
Blues from the Red Rooster Lounge  
KPLU Seattle, 7 pm-1 am  
http://www.kplu.org

## MONDAY

KSBV 93.7 FM Salida, 9-10 am Blues Deluxe  
KAFM 88.1 FM Grand Junction, 9 am-noon  
Jimmy's Blues Kitchen (alternate weeks)  
KAJX & KCJX 88.9, 89.7, 90.1, 90.9, 91.1,  
91.5 FM Aspen, Carbondale, Rifle and  
other towns, 11-midnight Blue Horizon  
with Blue Bird

## TUESDAY

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www.kvnf.org  
KAFM 88.1 FM Grand Junction, 1-4 pm,  
Bluesday Laboratory  
KLZR 91.7FM Westcliffe.  
2-4pm blues with Sally Barnes

## WEDNESDAY

KCRT 92.5 FM Trinidad, 7-8 pm  
Trinidadio Blues Hour with  
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KHEN 106.9 FM Salida, 1-4 pm  
Jazz & Blues with Bill  
KVNf 0.9 FM Paonia & 89.1 FM  
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www.kvnf.org  
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House Rent Party with Jeff

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102.3 FM Gunnison, 2-3 pm Blues Deluxe  
www.blueswithrussell.com, 8-10 pm  
Blues with Russell  
KAJX & KCJX 88.9, 89.7, 90.1, 90.9, 91.1,  
91.5 FM Aspen, Carbondale, Rifle  
and other towns, 11-midnight,  
Beale Street Caravan  
KLZR 91.7FM Westcliffe.  
2-4pm blues with AJ Biggerstaff

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www.kgoat.org,  
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KDUR 91.9 FM &  
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9 O'Clock Blues with Marc  
KAFM 88.1 FM Grand Junction,  
9pm-midnight Rockin' Blues  
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3-5pm Natch'l Blues

## MONDAY - FRIDAY

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