

## CHUCK BERRY

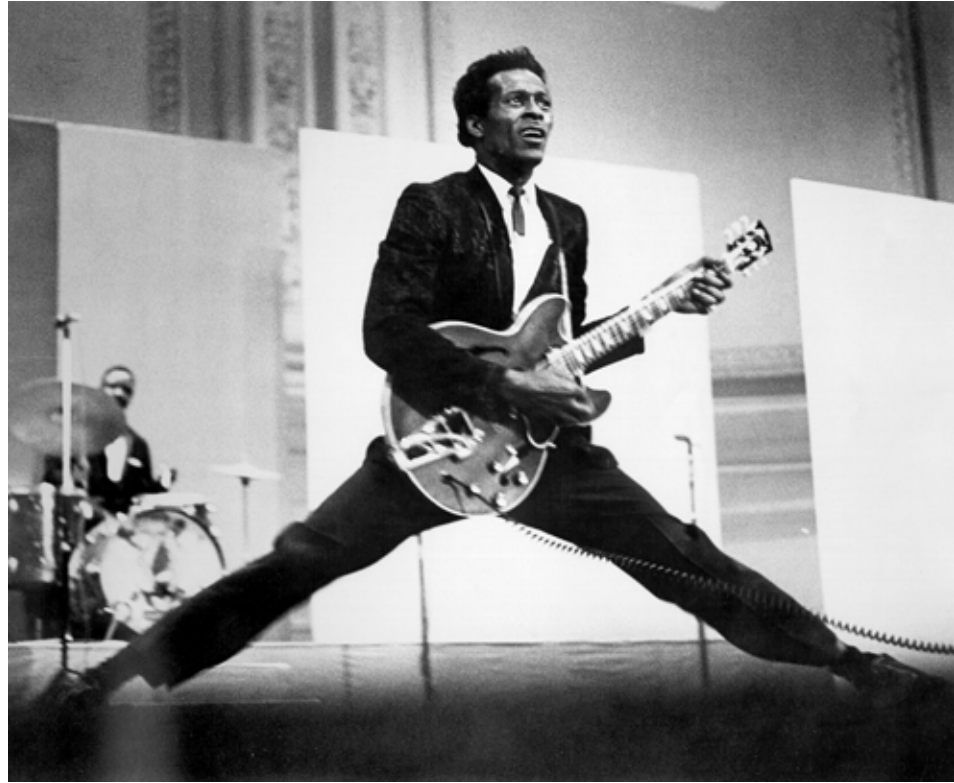
### HAIL TO THE KING

BY JACK HADLEY

Chuck Berry was the original brown-eyed handsome man. People around the world associate America with his music and all that came after. He defined “Americana”, a term that’s been hijacked to only include music that’s related to folk or country music. A combination of intensity, swagger, blues, T-Bone Walker and C&W, Chuck is the reason so many people learned to play the guitar. I bet there isn’t a guitar player alive who hasn’t played “Johnny B Goode”, whether it was Jimi Hendrix, Keith Richards or teenagers playing in their first basement band.

When Chuck Berry passed away on March 17th, 2017 at his St. Louis home, I read numerous accounts of people who immediately passed judgement on his legacy, telling us their version of the gospel truth. He was obsessed with money, only used pick-up bands to play gigs, a womanizer and on and on.

*Continued on pag 6*



CHUCK BERRY, THE KING OF ROCK’N ROLL

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**IBC Preliminary Round**

**Sunday April 23 2017**

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**Littleton, CO**

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**Competition 1pm**

**\$10 general admission**

**CBS members & non-members**

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# SHOUTIN' THE BLUES

BY TARRY UNDERWOOD



Wow, here we are in April with May just around the corner. The festival season starts with the Beaver Creek Blues and Brews and the Brighton Blues blast. How many people look to CBS.org/calendar to find out what bands are playing where on any given date? Well that calendar is updated by Peggy Jamison and Jennifer Underwood, with help from Jim Primock. Next time you see one of them, thank them for their hard work. Also, big thanks go to Chick Cavallero, our hard-working Vice-President spends many hours each week putting out our weekly update that is full of blues history, current events and includes the calendar with jams and shows.

I'd like to give a big shout out to Gary Guesnier and Nick Mader for putting the Thommy Knoxville fundraiser and to everyone who attended and contributed. It was my first time at the Westminster Brewing Company. They have great beer and have been hosting live music. A big thank you to them for hosting the event. Support them if you are in the area.

April and May also bring the IBC preliminary rounds and finals. April 2 will be at Dicken's Opera House in Longmont, April 23 will be at Ds' Tavern in Littleton, and the finals on May 7th back at Dicken's. Doors are at 12 with the competition starting at 1:00. Come out and support the musicians competing.

Lastly, I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual Member's Party on April 30th. It will be at a new venue for us this year, Syntax Physics Opera on South Broadway in Denver. The band will be Andy T Band featuring Alabama Mike. This is a free show to member's so mark your calendars and plan to be there! Show starts at 3:00.



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# 2017

## *Colorado Blues Challenge*

DESIGN: JACK HADLER DESIGN

### **IBC Final Round**

**Sunday May 7 2017**  
**Dickens Opera House**  
**Longmont, CO**  
**Doors 12noon**  
**Competition 1pm**  
**\$10 general admission**  
**CBS members, \$15 non-members**  
All admission fees go to the competition winners



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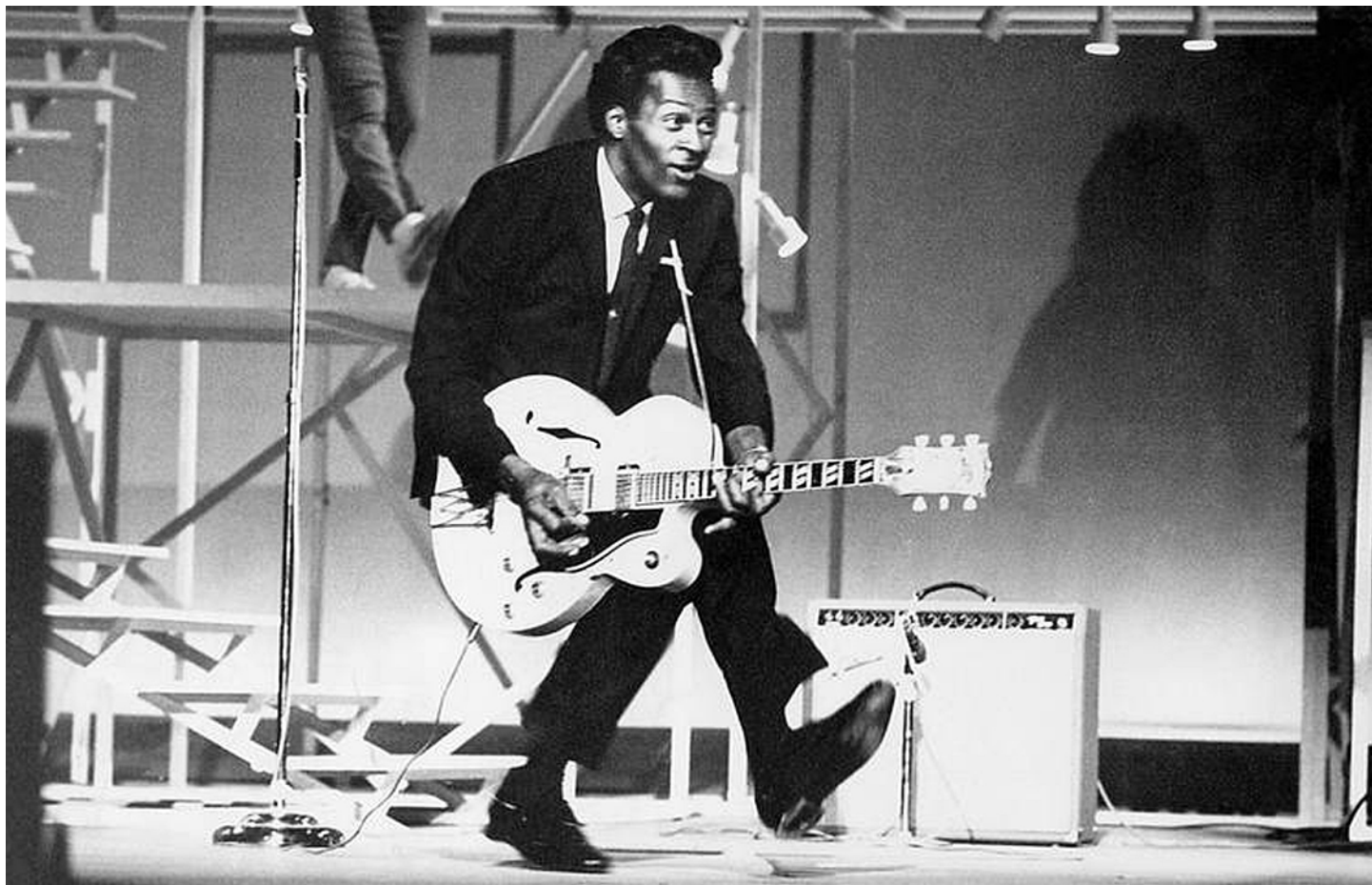
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# CHUCK BERRY

## HAIL TO THE KING

BY JACK HADLEY

Continued from pg. 1



As for me, I'd rather listen to those who actually made music with him, on-stage and in the studio. There was a period where Chuck played with pickup bands, but that wasn't the whole story. For years he had a killer stage and studio band. And the music speaks for itself.

Yes, he was human. His legacy is the music that he made and the people he touched. He was a poet and a great musician who blew up the status quo of what music was supposed to sound like. Before pedals and auto-tune there was Chuck Berry, hollow-body Gibson in hand. The story goes that he fell on stage one night and recovered without a hitch, turning his accident into the Duck Walk. Nobody did it like him.

I never met Stan Musial or Willie Mays, my childhood heroes. But I got to meet Chuck Berry one night backstage at Blueberry Hill in St. Louis. I'll never forget being in the presence of the King. □

*“...he fell on stage one night and recovered without a hitch, turning his accident into the Duck Walk...”*

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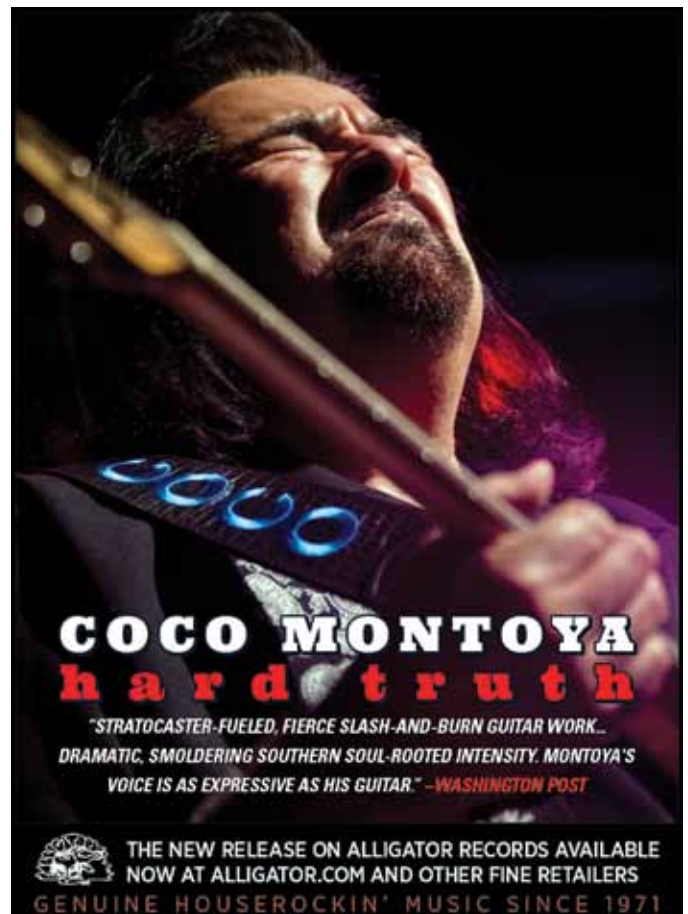
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Sat • April 15th • 9pm  
**COMEDY NIGHT** (TBA) • Comedy

Fri • April 21st • 9pm  
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Sat • April 29th • 9pm  
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**FREDI AND THE SOUL SHAKERS** • R&B, Rock

Sat • May 6th • 9pm  
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Fiona Boyes – Professin' the Blues

Jimmy “Duck” Holmes – Live at Briggs Farm

John Long – Stand Your Ground

Luther Dickinson – Blues and Ballads (A Folksinger’s Songbook) Vol I and II

## ACOUSTIC ARTIST

Doug MacLeod

Eric Bibb

Fiona Boyes

Jimmy “Duck” Holmes

Luther Dickinson

## ALBUM

Bobby Rush – Porcupine Meat

Kenny Neal – Bloodline

Nick Moss Band –

From the Root to the Fruit

Sugar Ray & the Bluetones –

Seeing is Believing

Toranzo Cannon –

The Chicago Way

William Bell –

This Is Where I Live

## BAND

Golden State Lone Star

Blues Revue

Lil’ Ed & The Blues Imperials

Nick Moss Band

Sugar Ray and the Bluetones

Tedeschi Trucks Band

## B.B. KING ENTERTAINER

Joe Bonamassa

John Nemeth

Lil’ Ed Williams

Sugar Ray Norcia

Sugaray Rayford

## BEST EMERGING

### ARTIST ALBUM

Corey Dennison Band –

Corey Dennison Band

Guy King – Truth

Jon Del Toro Richardson –

Tengo Blues

Terrie Odabi – My Blue Soul

Thornetta Davis –

Honest Woman

## CONTEMPORARY BLUES ALBUM

Al Basile –

Mid Century Modern

Kenny Neal – Bloodline

Nick Moss Band –

From the Root to the Fruit

The Record Company –

Give It Back To You

Toranzo Cannon –

The Chicago Way

## CONTEMPORARY BLUES FEMALE ARTIST

Alexis P Suter

Ana Popovic

Janiva Magness

Shemekia Copeland

Susan Tedeschi

## CONTEMPORARY BLUES MALE ARTIST

Albert Castiglia

Kenny Neal

Mike Zito

Sugaray Rayford

Toranzo Cannon

## HISTORICAL ALBUM

Arthur “Big Boy” Crudup,  
A Music Man Like Nobody  
Ever Saw, Bear Family  
Records

B.B. King, More B.B. King:  
Here’s One You Haven’t  
Heard, Ace Records

Bobby Rush, Chicken Heads:  
A 50-Year History of  
Bobby Rush, Omnivore  
Recordings

Doug MacLeod –  
Live in Europe, Under the  
Radar and Doug MacLeod

Michael Burks,  
I’m A Bluesman,  
Iron Man Records

Pinetop Perkins & Jimmy  
Rogers, Genuine Blues  
Legends, Elrob Records

## INSTRUMENTALIST-BASS

Biscuit Miller

Bob Stroger

Michael “Mudcat” Ward

Patrick Rynn

R W Grigsby

## INSTRUMENTALIST-DRUMS

Cedric Burnside

Jimi Bott

June Core

Tom Hambridge

Tony Braunagel

## INSTRUMENTALIST-GUITAR

Bob Margolin

Joe Bonamassa

Kid Andersen

Monster Mike Welch

Ronnie Earl

# 38th Blues Music Award Nominees

## INSTRUMENTALIST-HARMONICA

Dennis Gruenling  
Jason Ricci  
Kim Wilson  
Mark Hummel  
Sugar Ray Norcia

## INSTRUMENTALIST-HORN

Al Basile  
Nancy Wright  
Sax Gordon Beadle  
Terry Hanck  
Vanessa Collier

## KOKO TAYLOR AWARD (TRADITIONAL BLUES FEMALE ARTIST)

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Diunna Greenleaf  
Inetta Visor  
Shaun Murphy  
Trudy Lynn

## PINETOP PERKINS PIANO PLAYER

Anthony Geraci  
Barrelhouse Chuck  
Henry Gray  
Jim Pugh  
Victor Wainwright

## ROCK BLUES ALBUM

Albert Castiglia – Big Dog  
Mike Zito – Keep Coming Back  
Moreland & Arbuckle –  
Promised Land or Bust  
Tedeschi Trucks Band –  
Let Me Get By  
Walter Trout –  
Alive in Amsterdam

## SONG

“Blues Immigrant”  
written by Matthew Skoller & Vincent Bucher  
and performed by Matthew Skoller on  
Blues Immigrant  
“I Gotta Sang The Blues”  
written and performed  
by Thornetta Davis on  
Honest Woman  
“Seeing Is Believing”  
written by Ray Norcia  
and performed by Sugar Ray & The Bluetones on  
Seeing Is Believing  
“Walk A Mile In My Blues”  
written by David Duncan,  
Curtis Salgado & Mike Finigan  
and performed by Curtis Salgado on  
The Beautiful Lowdown  
“Walk it Off”  
written and performed  
by Toronzo Cannon on  
The Chicago Way

## SOUL BLUES ALBUM

Bobby Rush – Porcupine Meat  
Curtis Salgado –  
The Beautiful Lowdown  
Johnny Rawls –  
Tiger in a Cage  
Wee Willie Walker – Live!  
Notodden Blues Festival  
William Bell –  
This Is Where I Live

## SOUL BLUES FEMALE ARTIST

Bettye Lavette  
Lara Price  
Mavis Staples  
Terrie Odabi  
Vaneese Thomas

## SOUL BLUES MALE ARTIST

Curtis Salgado  
Johnny Rawls  
Wee Willie Walker  
William Bell

## TRADITIONAL BLUES ALBUM

Big Jon Atkinson & Bob Corritore  
– House Party at Big Jon’s  
Bob Margolin – My Road  
Golden State Lone Star Blues  
Revue – Golden State Lone  
Star Blues Revue  
Lurrie Bell – Can’t Shake This  
Feeling  
Sugar Ray & the Bluetones –  
Seeing is Believing

## TRADITIONAL BLUES MALE ARTIST

Bob Margolin  
John Primer  
Lil’ Ed Williams  
Lurrie Bell  
Sugar Ray Norcia

# 2017 COLORADO BLUES CHALLENGE



**TOP:**  
ROBERT WILSON  
BLUES BAND

**RIGHT:**  
BLUE LIGHTNING

PHOTOS © MICHAEL MARK



# 2017 COLORADO BLUES CHALLENGE



**TOP:**  
**THE SYMBOLS**

**RIGHT:**  
**RITA PENN ROLLER &  
JERRELYN CORRAGIO**

**PHOTOS © MICHAEL MARK**



APRIL - MAY 2017 HOLLER

# 2017 COLORADO BLUES CHALLENGE



**CLOCKWISE LEFT TO RIGHT:**  
*JESSICA ROGALSKI OF MOJOMAMA, STEVE ITTERLY, MAXWELL MUD*

**PHOTOS © MICHAEL MARK**

# 2017 COLORADO BLUES CHALLENGE



**TOP LEFT:**  
**TELEDONNA**

**RIGHT:**  
**THE JACK HADLEY BAND**

**PHOTOS © MICHAEL MARK**



# REVIEWS

## Hurricane Ruth AIN'T READY FOR THE GRAVE Hurricane Ruth Records



The basis behind naming this CD is that although Ruth LaMaster has come to grips with being far from the cradle, she does know she's still got a lot to give. I know that as well, and after you hear "Ain't Ready For The Grave", so will you. With this release, in addition to making a powerful recording, Ruth LaMaster made an equally powerful statement. From what I heard, regardless of where you are in the blues community you're in the path of Hurricane Ruth. As we say in Florida, "batten down the hatches".

Pulling no punches when it came to putting together the band for this project, powerhouse vocalist Hurricane Ruth went straight to the best. Those "A" listers include: the disc's producer, multi Grammy and Blues Music Awards winner Tom Hambridge, on drums; Reese Wynans on B3 & keys; Michael Rhodes on bass; Pat Buchanhan and Rob McNelley on guitar; and The McCrary Sisters & Wendy Moten on background vocals.

Of the twelve tracks on "Ain't Ready For The Grave", Ruth and Tom are the creators and/or collaborators of eleven. Fittingly, since many of them rock, the disc's only cover is of an AC/DC hit.

The opening track is most likely about the joint her dad owned while she was growing up, but most definitely about a place I'd like hangin' at - "Barrelhouse Joe's". They've got Jack on ice, fifty cent schooners of beer, red hot blues and you can barrelhouse till the break of dawn. Now we already know Ruth's familiar with the place but musically, but there's so much barrelhousing going on that I'm actually thinking that Tom, Reese, Michael and Pat may be as well.

Trust me, you will know this after listening to the song - but just in case, Hurricane Ruth wants to personally let you know that she's a "Hard Rockin' Woman".

Trust me once again, her telling you that will be one of the biggest understatement you've ever heard. Being the big Cardinals fan that she is, Ruth might appreciate me saying that when it comes to belting it out, Musial, McGuire and Boyer have nothing over her. Now if this track was just her, I'd use the category five line - but since the whole band is at full throttle as well, let me call this smoker a five alarmer instead. This is hard rockin' blues as hard and rockin' as it gets.

This one is one of the few slow and low down tracks of the lot and in a way that's good. After all, this is Hurricane Ruth, not Tropical Depression Ruth. In a way, it's sort of the title track because the line goes like this....."We're Far From The Cradle" (song) but we "Ain't Ready For the Grave" (Album). As alluded to in the opening line of the review, this is basically the Hurricane Ruth Thesis. Vocally, Ruth shines as a traditional blues woman as well as she does as a hard rockin' woman, and musically - although

toned down some from the rest of the tracks - Reese and Rob are incredible on the piano and guitar. Being somewhat of the purist that I am, I absolutely loved this one.

This rhythm driven smoker, about a floozie named "Estilene", wastes no time in getting things back into high gear. With Tom leading the way on drums, and Reese & Michael in full pursuit on the organ & bass, the rhythm section is ablaze. Throw in Rob showing he's as good as tearing up the guitar as he was at caressing it earlier and you've got the platform for Ruth to once again be a hard rockin' woman.

Those familiar with my reviews, and my blues preference as well, have heard me say this many times. Being the most straight up and low down blues track on the disc - while being the longest track as well - almost always makes it my favorite and that's just what "My Heart Aches For You" is. Being an original, it had to have been written from a personal experience of Ruth's. I'm sorry, I don't think anyone can put out that much emotion and obvious pain into a song not having lived it's story. The guys were feeling it too. Tom, Michael and Reese gave that broken heart it's beat and Pat's guitar accentuated it's pain. Wow!

"Yes I Know" this is the last song but please say it ain't so. There are some who credit the saying "always leave them wanting more" to Walt Disney, others to P. T. Barnum and some even to Gypsy Rose Lee but in this case, it was Hurricane Ruth who left me wanting more. This get up on your feet, throw your hands in the air, shout out "Hallelujah!" and catch the contagious good spirits style song has me feeling so good I just don't want it to stop. Ruth, you need to do a whole album of these kind of Gospel songs, please! And when you do, make sure Wendy and the McCrary Sisters are with you on all of them. Great stuff!

**continued on pg. 18**

# REVIEWS

Hurricane Ruth  
AIN'T READY FOR THE GRAVE  
Hurricane Ruth Records

continued from pg. 16

Other tracks on "Ain't Ready For The Grave" include: "Bee Keeper", "Cheating Blues", "Whole Lotta Rosie", "For A Change", "Let Me Be The One" and a song who's title pretty much sums up the whole recording, "Good Stuff".

Knowing Ruth LaMaster and Gina Hughes - the projects executive producer - as well as I do, I know that in addition to working very hard on this project (along with all the musicians as well) they also have some high aspirations for it. To them I say that from what I just heard, I've got those same aspirations. This discs got "nominations" written all over it.

For more about Ruth - and Gina, as well - please go to [www.hurricaneruth.com](http://www.hurricaneruth.com) and [www.thegalaxieagency.com](http://www.thegalaxieagency.com). When you do, please tell the ladies their friend the Blewzzman sent you.

*"...makes it my favorite and that's just what "My Heart Aches For You" is.*

*Being an original, it had to have been written from a personal experience of Ruth's. I'm sorry, I don't think anyone can put out that much emotion and obvious pain into a song not having lived it's story..."*

---

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# REVIEWS

**BlueHouse Project**  
**SELF-TITLED CD**  
**FetSong Music**



I first discovered BlueHouse Project by hearing a song of theirs on a compilation CD titled "Virginia Blues Showcase" that I reviewed and distributed for Bobby BlackHat Productions. Liking their track on the disc, I contacted the band for a copy of their full recording and as the expression goes - the rest is history.

BlueHouse Project got started by a bunch of old musician friends running into each other at a reunion concert for the Bayou Club in the DC area. The usual, but rarely ever happening, "we should get together and do some shows" were thrown around and lo and behold, "their people" actually did contact "their people" and wah-lah - BlueHouse Project was formed. The band consists of: Ron Fetner - composer of all eleven songs - on electric & acoustic guitars, mandolin, and lead & background vocals; Mark Tramonte on keyboard, piano and background vocals; Tom McCarthy on bass and background vocals; and Corey Holland on drums. There's also a sax crew on some tracks and they are: Mike Caffi, Bobby Reed and Scott Ramming. On this, the bands' debut disc, special guests include: Mark Wenner

(The Nighthawks) and Tom Dikon on harp; Tim Tanner on guitar, slide guitar and background vocals; Randy Short on drums; Rich Ridolfino on bass; and Jordan Ponzi on upright bass.

The disc opens with "Piece Of My Heart" and as an opening track should, it did indeed make an excellent first impression. Ron's formidable lead vocals; the quite tight rhythm Tom, Corey and Mike T. were locked into; and the guitar and sax leads by Ron and Bobby respectfully, were all outstanding.

"Black Widow Spider" is one of the tracks that features Mark Wenner on harp and if that's all I said about it, it's reason enough to listen.....but, there are others. Ron's guitar leads are some of the disc's best, Tom M. & Corey are all over the rhythm and the vocals, with some harmonious backup help, are contagious.

"I Can't Lose These Blues" is the track I referred to in my opening paragraph. It's an absolutely beautifully done ballad that's highlighted by tender, story telling style vocals backed by silk like rhythm with sultry sax and mesmeric guitar leads. Ron, if they're all going to be like this then this listener hopes you'll never lose these blues.

After hearing this one you'll surely want to sit down beside Ron and let him "Play You The Blues". His vocals and acoustic guitar work, along with Jordan's upright bass mastery make this very laid back song a must hear track.

This one is the disc's smoker. At the hands of Rich and Randy on the bass and drums, It features some of the disc's hardest driving rhythm; plenty of barrelhouse piano from Mike T.; fiery hot sax leads by Mike C. and Bobby; and Ron and Tim getting rough and raunchy on guitar. Oh yeah, by mid track you'll be joining the background vocalists as they melodically chant "Going Down To Texas".

The disc closes with "Black Cat Blues (For Velvet)", an acoustic track that features some fine pickin' by Ron and some equally fine blowin' by Tom. It's a cleverly and humorously written track that, as a cat person, I was totally able to relate to. It's about a stray cat that Ron lets into his house and as cats do, it takes over.

Other tracks on the album include: "White Cotton", "Coal Mine", "Newport Blue", "Uptown Strut" and "It's A Good Thing".

To learn more about BlueHouse Project check them out at [www.bluehouse-project.com](http://www.bluehouse-project.com).

- PETER "BLEWZZMAN" LAURO

# REVIEWS

## M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio THE FLOOD



The M.S.G. Acoustic Trio is the third band I'm reviewing that I discovered as a result of working with the "Virginia Blues Showcase" compilation CD. That was one heck of a disc and apparently there are a lot of good blues bands in the commonwealth. Their song on that disc was "Mean Church People" and since it is not on "The Flood", I've decided to include a link to the You Tube Video of the song. It's the ultimate song about the ultimate hypocrite. Listen closely, it could very well be about someone you know.

Now I'm not big on quoting passages I read on one sheets, jacket's liner notes or websites, but occasionally something pops up that I feel makes such a point that it needs to be shared. With that said, here is what Frank Matheis (Roots & Blues music journalist and radio producer/Publisher: [www.thecountryblues.com](http://www.thecountryblues.com)) had to say about the disc: "The Flood is a triumphant throwback to truehearted folk music, the way people played it in their own com-

munities for their own entertainment - unpretentious, pure, beautiful, and from the heart. M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio brings out a lovely amalgam of folk-roots-spirituals-blues, at once ethereal and soulful. It's going to touch you deep down". That's the way he wrote it, that's the way they played it..

The M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio consists of: Jackie Merritt on harmonica, bass, uke, guitar, bones and vocals; Miles Spicer on guitar and vocals; and Resa Gibbs on lead, harmony and backing vocals, washboard, cigar box strumstick and kazoo. Should you have missed it, how the band got it's name is spelled out above in bold. On **The Flood**, the special guests joining the trio include: Phil Wiggins on harmonica; Ralph Gordon on bass; Sam Gleaves on banjo, harmony and choir vocals; Cathy Fink on rhythm guitar & choir vocals; David Jackson on choir vocals; and Marcy Cochran on tenor viola. The disc features fifteen tracks of which eight are M.S.G. originals or compilations.

Sisters get turned against brothers, fathers get turned against sons and cousins get turned against cousins - and it doesn't end there. Long lost relatives you never knew come crawling out of the woodwork to claim their due and lifelong friends will stab you in the back, too. Those are just some of the things that happen when "Money Makes You Crazy" This original, sadly realistic, fast paced track is the only one of the lot that features just the trio using nothing but masterful lead (Jackie) & harmony (Resa & Miles) vocals and skilled hand jive by all. Outstanding effort.

"Good While It Lasted", another original, is a slow and sullen tune about how things sometimes get taken for granted - and more often than not, those things are the love of someone. This one's highlighted by Phil's melancholic harp leads perfectly supporting Resa's painful and remorseful vocals.

"I'm Down Today" but I won't be down always'.....I'm just loving that optimism. This uplifting track features Miles, along with doin' some slick pickin' & strummin', taking his turn at impressing on lead vocals and Jackie showcasing her harp skills.

Listening to the original "Front Porch Blues", made me think of the band's mission statement as quoted above. I actually visualized the band "sitting on the front porch with nothing to do; hangin' out with friends and family too; drinking iced tea, telling a joke or two." Yep, those were the good times. If the song's title and lyrics had you guessing it might feature a banjo, a guitar, a ukulele and a washboard accompanied by happy and harmonious vocals, you guessed right. Another great one!

If there are any vocal coaches reading this you might want to consider making listening to "New Familiar" your student's next lesson. This original song features Resa singing a solo and a capella and although it's short in length (1:53) it's long on precision.

"I'll Fly Away" and "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah" are two similarly and wonderfully done uplifting Gospel style tracks that include just about everyone. They both feature: Resa's angelic lead vocals; outstanding harmonic riffs, some by Jackie, some by Phil and some by both; Great pickin' and slappin' by Miles on the guitar and Ralph on the standup bass; and majestic sounding harmony and choir vocals.

*continued on pg. 21*

# REVIEWS

## M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio THE FLOOD

*Continued from pg. 20*

Other tracks on this astonishingly good disc include: it's title track, "The Flood"; "Going to The River" "Grinnin' In Your Face"; "My Old Ride"; "My Little One"; "Angel From Montgomery"; and "Amazing Grace".

Having been doing these CD reviews for well over fifteen years now, it's not a big secret that acoustic blues is not my blues of choice. That said, when I decide to work with one, it's obviously one that it impressed me a lot. "The Flood" did that and more. This one's Blues Music Award caliber - look into, M.S.G.

- PETER "BLEWZZMAN" LAURO

*"...here is what Frank Matheis (Roots & Blues music journalist and radio producer/  
Publisher: [www.thecountryblues.com](http://www.thecountryblues.com)) had to say about the disc: "The Flood is a triumphant throwback to truehearted folk music, the way people played it in their own communities for their own entertainment - unpretentious, pure, beautiful, and from the heart.  
M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio brings out a lovely amalgam of folk-roots-spirituals-blues, at once ethereal and soulful.  
It's going to touch you deep down"...*



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