

THE ROLE OF BLUES SOCIETIES

MEMBERS AND MUSICIANS

BY JACK HADLEY

The mission of the Blues Foundation is “to preserve blues heritage, celebrate blues recording and performance, expand worldwide awareness of the blues, and ensure the future of the uniquely American art form.”

Blues societies are free to carry out this mission in their own way. I’m sure every affiliate is different. I think most society members are not musicians. Musicians that I know (many, not all) believe a blues

society exists to help them get gigs and to promote their shows. I seriously doubt the membership agrees with them.



GREELEY BLUES JAM 2018 AND JANIVA MAGNESS, BOULDER OUTLOOK 2011. PHOTOS © TARRY UNDERWOOD

Continued on pg. 10

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SHOUTIN' THE BLUES

BY KYLE DEIBLER



Introducing Board President Kyly Deibler

Kyle Deibler comes to the CBS Board having served as the President of the Phoenix Blues Society for 8 years and a member of their Board for 10 years. A key volunteer at the national level for the Blues Foundation, Kyle has worked as a Venue Coordinator for the International Blues Challenge in Memphis for 12 years and continues to be in charge of the Handler crew for the Blues Music Awards for the last 11 years. Over the course of his 15 plus year involvement with the Blues, Kyle has actively produced and been involved with 10 Blues Festivals and well over 100 events in total.



THE COLORADO BLUES SOCIETY
was formed to create a greater awareness and wider appreciation of the American indigenous art form, the BLUES.

P.O. Box 386, Windsor, CO 80550



Affiliated with The Blues Foundation
www.blues.org

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EDITOR & CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Jack Hadley

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Jack Hadley, Tarry Underwood,
Jerrelyn Corraggio, Ken Arias,
Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro,
Tarry Underwood, Jude Talaba

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for all Blues Musicians and Venues

Did you know you can have your gigs posted on the Colorado Blues Society Calendar? Posting your gigs alerts blues lovers to your shows.

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Fri • June 8th • 9pm
FAINT HEART BAND • Rock

Sat • June 9th • 9pm
SYMBOLS • Porn Rock

Fri • June 15th • 9pm
PAULA BOGGS BAND • "Seattle-Brewed Soulgrass"

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KARAOKE • "Saturday Night Liquid Courage"

Fri • June 22nd • 9pm
OUTLIERS • Rockin' Blues & Swing

Sat • June 23rd • 9pm
RANDY RICKS BAND • Classic Rock & Blues

Fri • June 29th • 9pm
MUSICIANS IN ACTION (MIA) • Blues

Sat • June 30th • 9pm
TBA • Live Music

Fri • July 6th • 9pm
SHIREL AND NEW AGE • R&B

Sat • July 7th • 9pm
BAR HOPPERS • Classic Rock

Fri • July 13th • 9pm
REX PEOPLES & X FACTR • Blues

Sat • July 14th • 9pm
TBA • Live Music

Fri • July 20th • 9pm
THE ARISTOCATS • R&B, Funk & Rock

Sat • July 21st • 9pm
TBA • Live Music

Fri • July 27th • 9pm
K.C. & FRIENDS

Sat • July 28th • 9pm
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Sat • July 28th • 9pm
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UPCOMING BLUES SHOWS

Taj Mahal

Mon. July 23rd, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver

Charlie Musselwhite

Fri. Aug. 3rd, Gothic Theater, Denver

John Primer

Fri. Aug. 10th, Moxi Theater, Greeley

VIOLET'S VENUE

Hey there Colorado Blues Family & Friends! Time for you to check out one of the newest upcoming music places to kick back & relax by a cozy fire, throw down a few icy cold ones with your friends, and shoot a couple rounds of pool, while waiting for the music to rock out. This budding club beginning to blossom on the local music scene is aptly named **Violet's Venue**, nestled in the old Riff's location located off 26th St. & Kipling in Wheat Ridge.

At Violet's, they believe Happy Hour should be "more than an hour", so theirs is from 4-7 pm every night with \$2 beers, and other food/beverage specials as well!

Club owner, Violet Vostrejs, shared that the vision for this family owned business is to offer a comfortable, warm, welcoming place where neighbors from near and far could gather. You can enjoy some of the yummiest small plate cuisine skillfully prepared by Violet's son, while grooving to the best local musical talent that Colorado has to offer. The club will ultimately host national bands as well. Not only is Violet's hosting many of the favorite bands of all you hardcore blues fans, including former IBC competitors/winners, but new and upcoming bands as well.

Monday nights are dedicated to the Pool League, so chalk up that cue and hustle over to Violet's to polish up your game. Come back on Tuesdays, and challenge your buddies to unrivaled musicality during Karaoke night. Then on Ladies Night, (Wednes-

days) bring your chums to enjoy spectacular drink & food specials while catching up on all the latest shenanigans with all your lady friends.

Thursdays thru Saturday nights, Violet's is the place to be where you'll find some of the best music around. Violet's features a wide range of music from Blues to Classic Rock, Country, Jazz, Bluegrass and Southern Rock - you'll find them all here. With a huge dance floor, you can put on those boogie shoes and really cut loose. Headlining musicians & bands abound, so be sure to like & follow Violet's Venue on Facebook so you will be notified of all the latest about upcoming events.

Sunday nights heralds the best news for Baby-Boomers Blues Fans --- the Blues Jams start @ 5PM and run all the way up to 8 PM. You never know who will show up to jam with hosts, The Haus Band. You can start there and move on to the many other jams around Denver Metro, or call it a night & still be home in time for dessert!!

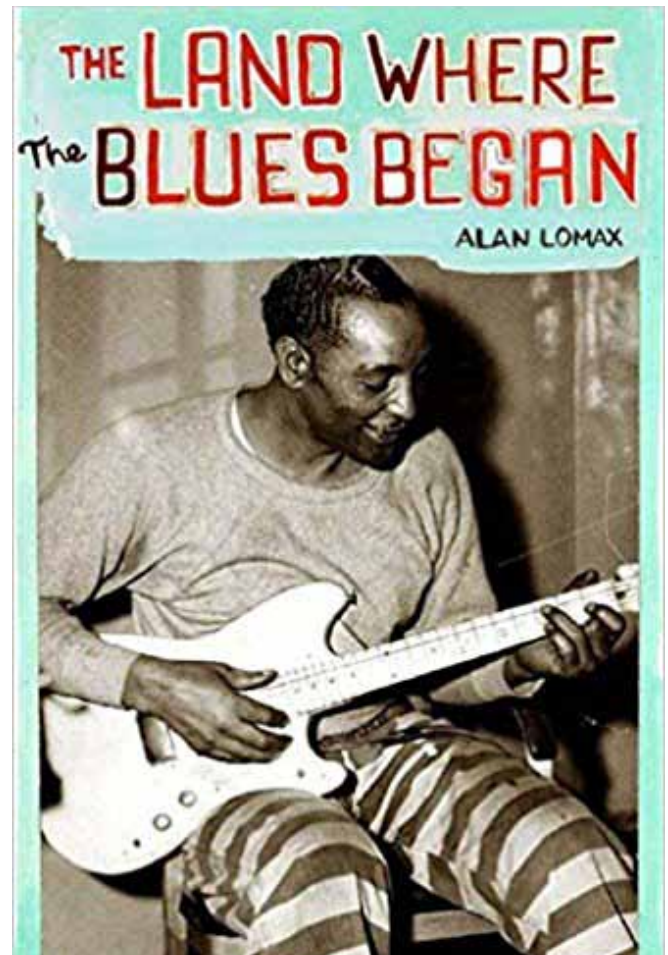
And with \$2 Coor's Lite you'll know where to find me! See ya there?!

- JUDE TALABA



**10151 W 26th Ave Unit B,
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215
(26th & Kipling)
(303) 232 - 0717**

Blues Books



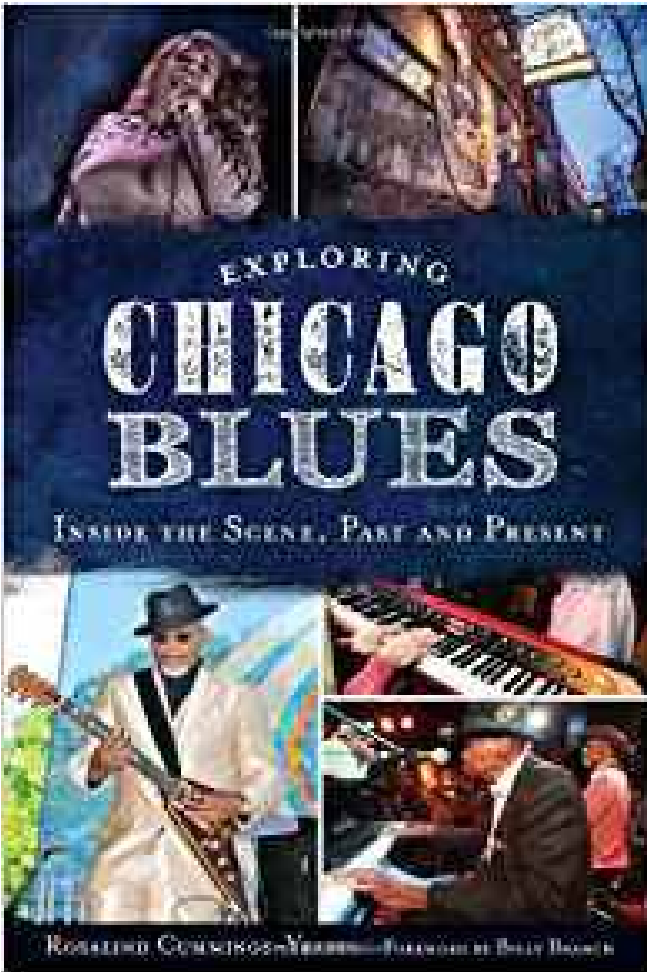
"... his classic work on the place of jazz and blues in American social, musical, economic, and cultural history. From the music of African slaves in the United States through the music scene of the 1960's, Baraka traces the influence of what he calls "negro music" on white America -- not only in the context of music and pop culture but also in terms of the values and perspectives passed on through the music..."

Leroi Jones (Amiri Baraka)

"...Crisscrossing the towns and hamlets where the blues began, Lomax gave voice to such greats as Leadbelly, Fred MacDowell, Muddy Waters, and many others, all of whom made their debut recordings with him...'The Land Where the Blues Began' captures the irrepressible energy of soul of people who changed American musical history..."

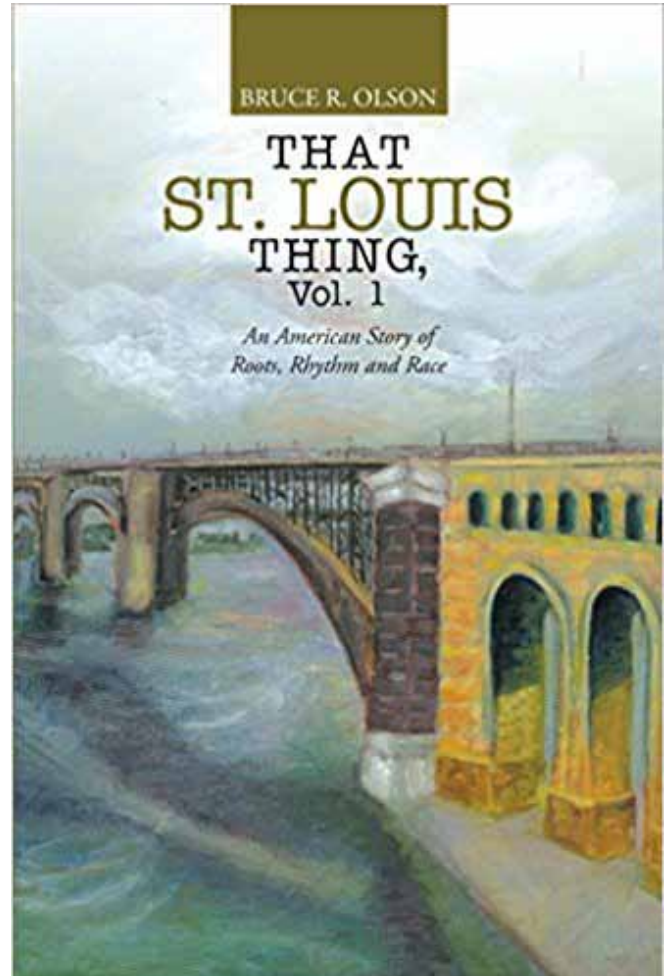
Alan Lomax

Blues Books



"...Blues history is steeped in Chicago's sidewalks; it floats out of its restaurants, airport lounges and department stores. It is a fundamental part of the city's heritage that every resident should know and every visitor should be afraid to miss..."

**Rosalind Cummings-Yeates
(foreword by Billy Branch)**



"...That St. Louis Thing is an American story of music, race relations and baseball. Here is over 100 years of the city's famed musical development -- blues, jazz and rock -- placed in the context of its civil rights movement and its political and economic power. Here, too, are the city's people brought alive from its foundation to the racial conflicts in Ferguson in 2014. The panorama of the city presents an often overlooked gem, music that goes far beyond famed artists such as Scott Joplin, Miles Davis and Tina Turner..."

Bruce Olson

THE ROLE OF BLUES SOCIETIES

MEMBERS AND MUSICIANS

BY JACK HADLEY

Continued from pg. 1

Members and musicians will always have different opinions on the role of the organization. Here are some ideas that will keep us all moving in the right direction.

MEMBERS

Support local venues. Since we exist to support blues music in all its forms let's make sure we make it to blues shows. If you think the music starts too late contact the venue. In my experience you can also ask them why they're aren't having enough (or any) blues acts at the club. They want bodies in the room!

Support blues acts. Clubowners do complain that blues fans don't support local or national acts. CBS has hundreds of members. We can do better. If you haven't been going to blues shows don't be surprised if blues music dries up.

House concerts. Some of us have indeed made the effort to host blues shows at their homes. It's a great way to introduce your friends to blues music that YOU like. And it can be done inexpensively.

Learn to dance. Fellas, I'm talking to you! We're not in middle school any more so there is no excuse.

Members can also join the Blues Foundation. You will support national programs, make connections when you come to Memphis for the IBC and keep up with the latest national blues news. It doesn't cost very much.

And one more thing: members should make an effort to talk about difficult subjects like **the lack of diversity in the blues world**. It's a real issue that needs to be addressed.



MUSICIANS

Social Media. One of the things I learned at the IBC was that musicians aren't engaged in social media enough. I don't mean Facebook. Expand your reach via Twitter and Instagram. Keep your website up to date. If you don't have one you need one.

Gossip. There is nothing more destructive than trashing another performer. Your career should not be hampered by the success of someone else.

Gigs. Being able to perform in your community is key. Musicians need a local base of support. Don't think that you have to get paid for every single date. You can find a cause you support and volunteer your talent. If you don't ask for a gig - paid or otherwise - it won't find you because you're not visible. Keep playing. Play all the time.

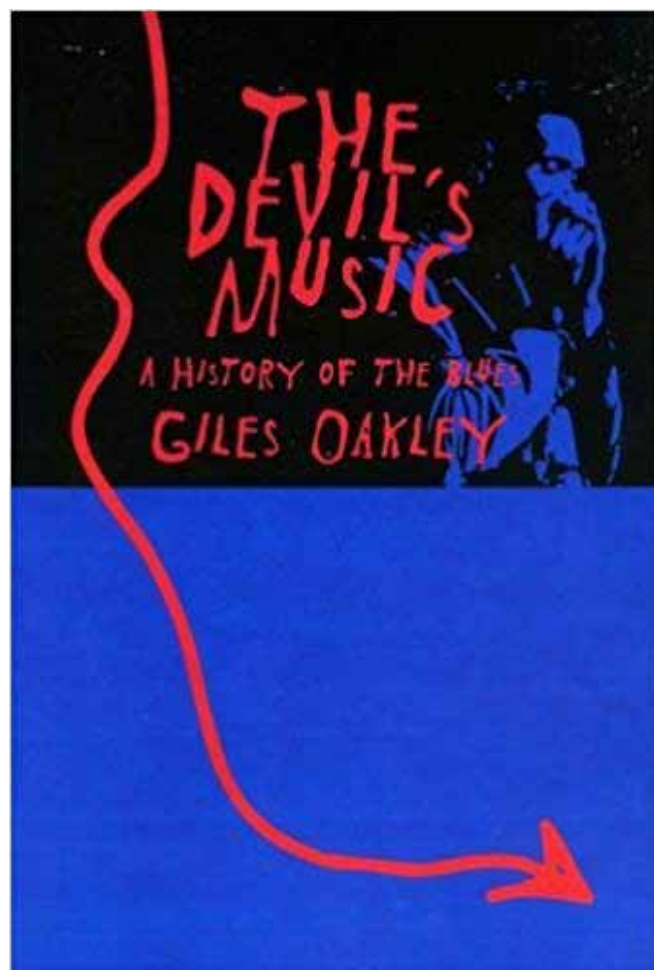
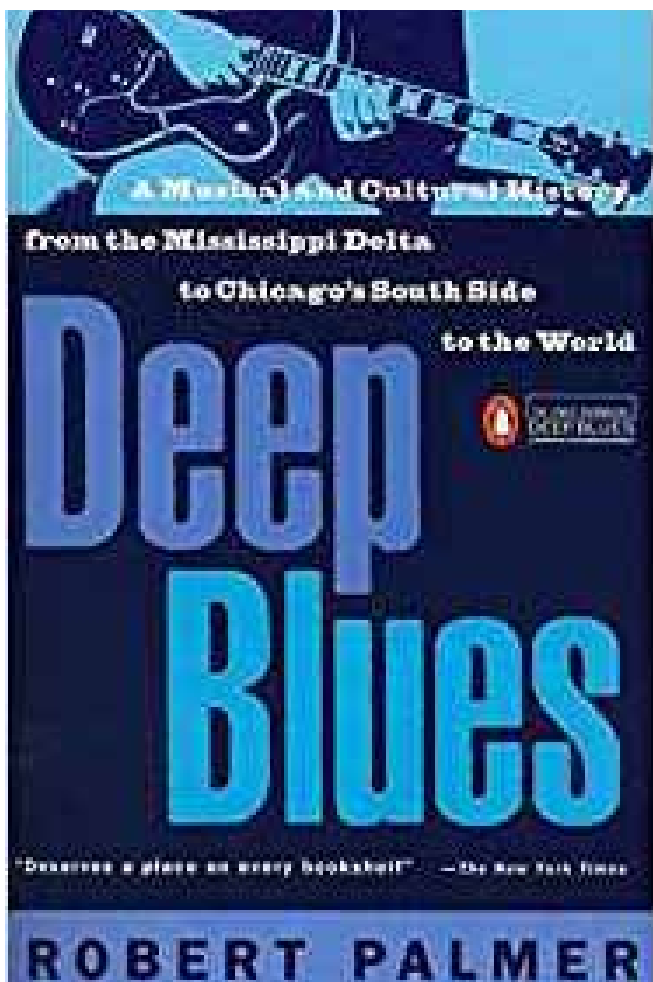
Attend a board meeting. These are free and open to the public. It's in your interest to find out what's really going on with your blues society, especially if you're a member. Why get your news second hand when you can find out for yourself? . ❑

BUDDY GUY

PHOTO © BUDDYGUY.COM

“...make an effort to talk about difficult subjects like the lack of diversity in the blues world. It's a real issue that needs to be addressed.”

Blues Books



"...the cornerstone of American popular music, the bedrock of rock and roll. In this extraordinary musical and social history...the story of the blues through the lives of its greatest practitioners: Robert Johnson, who sang of being pursued by the hounds of hell; Muddy Waters, who electrified Delta blues and gave the music its rock beat; Robert Lockwood and Sonny Boy Williamson, who launched the King Biscuit Time radio show and brought blues to the airwaves..."

Robert Palmer

"...Superbly researched and vividly written, 'The Devil's Music' is one of the only books to trace the rise and development of the blues both in relation to other forms of black music and in the context of American social history.."

Giles Oakley

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VIOLET'S VENUE

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WHAT IS BLUE STAR CONNECTION?

The Blue Star Connection (BSC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing music into the lives of children and young adults who are fighting cancer and other life-challenging situations. We also work with musical therapists in various hospitals and clinics. We also host fundraisers and benefit concerts in many cities around the world.

THE BLUE STAR CONNECTION MISSION

The Blue Star Connection mission is to provide access and ownership of musical instruments for children and young adults with cancer and other serious life challenges. To date we have reached hundreds of kids and have donated musical gear to over 25 Children's Hospital Music Therapy programs, as well as several other community programs.

Please help us continue this mission.

bluestarconnection.org

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



CHILDRENS HOSPITAL OAKLAND



2018 IBC BAND WINNER Mojomama

PHOTO: KEN ARIAS



2018 IBC SOLO/DUO WINNER Scott "Shack" Hackler

PHOTO: JERRELYN CORRAGGIO

JUNE - JULY 2018 HOLLER
15



**The Colorado Blues Society is looking for
VOLUNTEERS!**

We have a number of committees that members serve and lead:

Membership, Public Relations, Education, IBC, Media,

Volunteer coordinator, and Merchandise...with an immediate need

for help in the Merchandise area, although we are always open to new ideas

and areas we can expand to. The most important quality is a

willingness to participate and help in most any area.

The Colorado Blues Society was the Blues Foundation's

Blues Organization of the Year in 2013.

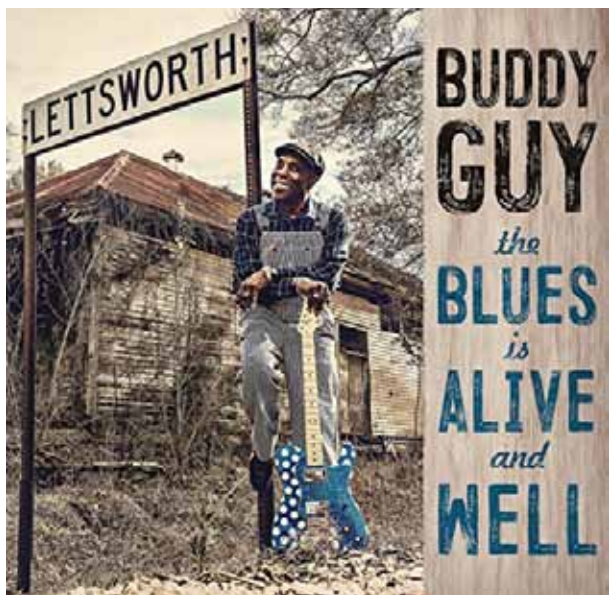
Interested? Email Wolf at upamtn@comcast.net

or info@coblues.org and tell us about yourself.

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

REVIEWS

Buddy Guy
THE BLUES IS ALIVE AND WELL
Silvertone/RCA Records



A few years ago I came up with the idea So, with the release of Buddy Guy's new CD titled "The Blues Is Alive And Well", I'm guessing that the rest of the genre's artists are pretty much thinking "Oh God, there go five or six categories in any upcoming blues awards programs right out the window". And from what I just heard, that should be a very legitimate concern. With all of the great music Buddy has put out over the last six or so decades, you might think it would be going out on a limb by saying that this could be some of his best work ever, but you can go ahead and put me on that limb.

On "The Blues Is Alive And Well", Buddy Guy - on guitar and vocals - is joined by: Tom Hambridge, the album's producer, on drums, percussion and background vocals; Rob McNelley on rhythm and slide guitar; Kevin McKendree on keyboards; Willie Weeks and Tommy MacDonald on bass; Emil Justian on harmonica; The Muscle Shoals Horns which include: Charles Rose on trombone and horn arrangements, Steve Herrman on trumpet, Doug Mofet on tenor sax and Jim Hoke on bari-

tone sax; and Regina McCrary, Ann McCrary and Rachel Hambridge on background vocals. Special guests on the album include a few names you may just be familiar with: Keith Richards and Jeff Beck on guitar; James Bay on guitar and vocals; and Mick Jagger on harmonica. With Buddy and Tom having penned and/or collaborated on them, fourteen of the disc's tracks are originals with the fifteenth being a Sonny Boy Williamson cover.

The disc opens with a slow, soulful ballad that could actually be considered a prayer. Unlike Robert Johnson, who made that infamous deal with the Devil, Buddy is trying to make his own deal with the Lord. Realizing he's in the twilight of his life, Buddy appears to be pleading with the Lord to just send him down "A Few Good Years" (Hambridge/Fleming). Good luck with

that Buddy! With the emotional and sincere way in which you asked, I think the Lord may send them to ya.....especially if He's a fan of the blues.

Close your ears, Lord. Here we are on the very next song and as he refers to the devil being in him, Buddy's claiming to be "Guilty As Charged" (Hambridge/Fleming). Alrighty then! Musically and vocally, Buddy's on top of his game right here. With Tom, Rob and Kevin lighting up the rhythm behind him Buddy's just killing it on the guitar and vocals, especially with those patented, escalating, falsetto screeches of his.....

"I'm GUILTY! I'm GUILTY as charged. This is classic Buddy Guy right here.

Those of you who subscribe to SiriusXM radio have already had a taste of - no pun intended - "Cognac" (Guy/Hambridge/Fleming). Since it features Keith Richards and Jeff Beck joining Buddy in on some back and forth monster guitar licks, this one will surely be on most of the other stations playlists as well.

On the title track, as Buddy hears the back door slam while coming in the front, he's quickly faced with the reality that "The Blues Is Alive And Well" (Hambridge/Nicholson). It's not as if anything Buddy does needs much help, but with that said, the masterful job of the Muscle Shoals horns, added to the always amazing keyboard work from Kevin, this one does rise to the next level.

Whether he gets those extra few good years or not, once Buddy reaches heaven's gate the joy on his face will show that he's "Blue No More" (Hambridge/Johnson). This is a wonderfully soft and slow duet featuring Buddy and James Bay doing an absolutely beautiful job of sharing the very soulful and emotional vocals and the soothing blues guitar leads.

The first two minutes of "You Did The Crime" (Hambridge/Fleming) start off with a very slow and deep bass line by Willie, light and timely cymbal taps by Tom, and a trance inducing piano and harmonica performance by Kevin and Mick, that I'd have been fine with this being an instrumental. Then Buddy joins in and softly, yet strongly, starts belting out some slow blues and something good suddenly got better.

For those of you who like full throttle, smokin' blues rockers, this one will have you saying "Ooh Daddy" (Hambridge/Fleming). With Tom and Willie leading the frantic rhythm pace, Kevin wailing away on those keys and Buddy and Rob slugging it out on guitar, this one's three plus minutes of all hell breaking loose.

Continued on pg. 18

REVIEWS

Buddy Guy

THE BLUES IS ALIVE AND WELL

Silvertone/RCA Records

Continued from pg. 17

With all that's going on here; the fabulously soulful horns; the outstanding and profound rhythm; and some of Buddy's most scorching guitar work; the lyrics somehow dominate on "End Of The Line" (Hambridge/Fleming)

*I'm the last one to turn out the light,
The last one to call it a night.*

*When the clock on the wall says late,
I still got one more to play.*

*But I feel sometime,
Like I'm the end of the line.*

*But the times been good to me,
I'm as young as an old man can be.*

*Well I'm way past seventy-one,
But I still can get this damn job done.*

*But I feel sometime,
Like I'm the end of the line.*

*The last man standing on an empty
stage,
If life was a book, I'd be the last page.
Even though I've got one foot in the
grave,*

*I won't be quiet and I won't behave.
So many of my friends have gone,
Maybe my time ain't long.*

*I promise till the day I die,
'm gonna keep these blues alive.
But I feel sometime,
Like I'm the end of the line.*

The message Buddy's delivering came through these ears very loud and clear. He knows he's reaching the end of his line and he knows he's the end of the line of the legendary blues greats. Hang in there Buddy, the Lord's gonna answer that prayer and give you a few good years.

Other tracks on "The Blues Is Alive And Well" include: "Bad Day" (Hambridge/Davis), "Whiskey For Sale" (Hambridge), "Old Fashioned" (Guy/Hambridge), "When My Day Comes" (Hambridge/Sweeney), "Nine Below Zero" (Williamson), "Somebody Up There" (Hambridge/Fleming), and "Milky Mutha For Ya" (Guy/Nelson).

If you haven't yet received a copy of "The Blues Is Alive And Well" for airplay, please contact Betsie Brown at www.blindraccoon.com and to find out more about Buddy Guy, just go to www.buddyguy.net. Whomever you contact, please tell them their friend the Blewzzman sent you.

- PETER "BLEWZZMAN" LAURO

REVIEWS

Tas Cru
MEMPHIS SONG
Subcat Records



PRELUDE

A few years ago I came up with the idea of having an annual "Memphis Reunion" sometime around August and September of each year. The idea grew from the fact that having gone to Memphis once or twice a year for the last eighteen years, I missed the great friends from all over the country that I only see while there for the International Blues Challenge in January and the Blues Music Awards in May. That said, from his declaration in the disc's liner notes, it's obvious that Tas Cru feels the same as I do. Here are his thoughts:

"There are very few places in America that mean more to blues lovers, past and present than Memphis. It's a blues Mecca - the birthplace of Sun and Stax and home to the International Blues Foundation and the Blues Hall Of Fame. There is Beale Street, with its legends memorialized with their names engraved on brass notes that dot its crowded sidewalks. There too is BB King Boulevard, that hallowed ground that honors the king of the blues. We are drawn there from near and far - a blues family who twice each year gath-

ers for what seems to me like a big ol' blues family picnic (aka the Blues Music Awards and the International Blues Challenge). We eat and drink, listen and dance, play and sing. We celebrate together as we celebrate being together. We sing our Memphis song - all day and most of the night with voices that grow hoarse and rough from exhaustion. And then, long after our picnic is done and we have returned to our homes, we hear its call. 'Come home daddy/momma you been too long gone. Come on home and sing your Memphis song'". Amen, Tas!

REVIEW

Tas Cru's latest release is titled "Memphis Song" and it's a collection of twelve original songs. On the disc, Tas Cru - on vocals and guitars - is joined by: Bob Purdy on bass; Dick Earl Erickson on harmonica; Andy

Rudy on piano and clavichord; Ron Keck on percussion and drums; Sonny Rock and Andy Hearn on drums; Guy Nirelli and Bill Barry on organ; Mary Ann Casale on lead and background vocals and acoustic guitar; and Donna Marie Floyd-Tritico and Patti Parks on backing vocals. Additionally, featured artists on the title track include Victor Wainright on piano and Pat Harrington on slide guitar. Now let me tell you a bit about some of my personal favorites.

Obviously, for the story it tells, the title track is surely one of the disc's best. As mentioned in the prelude, it's all about that magical and musical city of Memphis calling us back home to sing that "Memphis Song". Just as the city itself does, the song's opening immediately casts a spell upon you with the combination of Mary Ann's acoustic guitar notes and Dick's harmonica chords. Then, shortly after Tas joins in with an emotional and soulful presentation of the song's message, you'll be wanting to immediately start your own Memphis reunion. Add to that: Tas and Pat Harrington killing it on lead and slide guitar throughout; BMA winner Victor Wainright deepening that spell your in with a

monster piana (as he says it) lead midway through the song; and a very deep, intense rhythm being maintained by Bob Purdy and Andy Hearn on the bass and drums; Tas Cru and Mary Ann Casale may just have themselves a 2019 "Song Of the Year" nomination with this one. I'll be shocked if not.

People say he's crazy, 'cause he plays the blues. Yeah, they say he's crazy and call him a simple fool. Call him what you will, Tas Cru is here to testify that he is indeed a "Fool For the Blues". Aren't we all? From start to finish, this one is three-and-a-half minutes of all out heat. Guy Nirelli (organ), Sonny Rock (drums) and Bob Purdy (bass) have the rhythm in three alarm mode; and Tas, with some very powerful back up support from Donna and Patti, is belting the hell out of the vocals and scorching the hell out of those guitar leads. Killer track!

Assembling a percussionist, two organists and three different drummers to team up with bassist Bob Purdy on various tracks, leaves no doubt that Tas was looking for a rhythm rich sound for this project. "Daddy Didn't Give You Much" is just one of the many tracks on which you'll hear just how well that panned out. In fact, right here, Andy Hearn and Ron Keck - both at disc's best - are just killin' it on the kit and congas. Speaking of disc's bests, the boss is at it as well. Several of the dozen or so times I replayed this track were with the headphones on while mainly focusing on the vocals. Whoa! That Tas Cru can sing!

Attention men! Here is a public service announcement from Tas Cru. Simply put, "Don't Lie To That Woman". As many of us have already learned - and probably the hard way at that - this is some sound advice. This one's a slowed down, laid back, kind of swampy sounding blues tune. It features Tas doing some fine acoustic pickin' while playfully talk-singing and story-telling; lots of crisp, timely, finger snapping; melodic back up vocals; soft rhythm; and silky soft piano leads.

Continued on pg. 20

REVIEWS

Tas Crew

MEMPHIS SONG

Subcat Records

Continued from pg. 19

So, with The Bush League having been Knowing that, like him, most of us "Can't Get Over Blues" could have been a great reason for Tas to close out the disc with it's longest and most bluesy track. For six-and-a-half minutes Tas, the ladies, the rhythm guys and the harmonica player all just wrap themselves around a very cool foot tappin' knee slappin, head bobbin' groove and before you know it, right around six minutes and twenty fives seconds in you'll be hitting the replay button for more..

Other excellent tracks on this very well written, very well performed and very well produced album include: "Heal My Soul," "Give A Little Up," "Have A Drink," "That Look," "One Eyed Jack," "Queen Of Hearts" and "Feel So Good".

Should you like to purchase a copy of "Memphis Song", or possibly need one for airplay, contact Tas at tascru-music@gmail.com, and to find out more about him - especially his involvement with children and his "Blues In The Schools" programs - just go to www.tascru.com. And as I know you will, please tell him his buddy the Blewzzman sent you.

EPILOGUE

Following up his last album, "Simmered And Stewed" - which was nominated for a Blues Music Award in the "Best Emerging Artist Album" category - with such another exceptional album, it's this listeners opinion that Tas Cru is no longer emerging - he has emerged! With still very close to a year until the next Blues Music Awards, put the Blewzzman down as expecting four nods for Tas Cru and "Memphis Song".

- PETER "BLEWZZMAN" LAURO

"...few places in America that mean more to blues lovers, past and present than Memphis. It's a blues Mecca - the birthplace of Sun and Stax and home to the International Blues Foundation and the Blues Hall Of Fame. There is Beale Street, with its legends memorialized with their names engraved on brass notes..."

Tas Crew

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randalldubis@yahoo.com

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SCOTT "SHACK" HACKLER

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HOGBACK BLUES BAND

info@hogbackbluesband.com

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JOHNNY JOHNSTON

jbluesjohnston@hotmail.com

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MICHAEL HORNBUCKLE BAND

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THREESHOTS

contactthreeshots@gmail.com

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WILD CARD

critterlovers@hotmail.com

FELONIUS SMITH

felonius@comcast.com

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4-6 pm Blues Hang Over (every other
Sunday) www.koto.org, Island Radio,
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www.island92.com
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