



Capital Blues Messenger

Celebrating the Blues in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia

March 2015

Volume 9, Issue 3

“Blues Babies” Focus of DCBS’ Second Blues in the Community

by Cassandra Behler

On the afternoon of Feb. 14, the DC Blues Society sponsored the second part of its three-part **Blues in the Community** series focused on **Blues Babies**.

Part 1 of this series covered the time period from the birth of the blues around the turn of the 20th century until World War II.

Blues Babies, its name from the Muddy Waters’ song “The Blues Had a Baby and They Named It Rock And Roll,” traced the modernization of the blues as it moved from the fields to the cities. The Alexandria Black History Museum was a great venue for an enthusiastic and appreciative standing-room-only crowd of more than 60 people. And presenter David Cole, a DC-born musician and educator, was the perfect musical tour guide, weaving live music and storytelling to show the reach and influence of the blues. Emory Diggs provided rhythm on the bass guitar.

Mr. Cole started off with “Little Red Rooster” by Howlin’ Wolf, playing slide on a resonator guitar. He used a slow, languid pace to reveal the heartbeat underlying the music—the primal rhythmic life force that connects heart and soul. Switching to electric guitar, he played Tampa Red’s “You’ve Got to Love Her with a Feeling,” showing that the blues is not just a structure but an emotion.



photo by Margo Hope
Musician and educator David Cole traced development and modernization of the blues in the second half of the 20th century at the DCBS’ Blues in the Community presentation “Blues Babies.”

In the 1920s as “race records” started to sell, musicians tried to make a living as blues was exposed and later commercialized. Mr. Cole’s narrative went from the delta to Chicago, where the blues, still rooted in the

Deep South, became an electrified, driving force. He illustrated its “staying, living, thriving power” as the blues influenced country music, performing “Rainy Night in Georgia” and “I’m Ready.” Texas blues was illustrated by a Freddie King instrumental in which Mr. Cole displayed fiery fret work.

The receptive audience became vocal, active participants during the segment on Memphis blues, the music of

Stax, Muscle Shoals and R&B (“Midnight Hour” and “Soul Man”). The crowd loudly and enthusiastically provided harmony on “Mustang Sally.” And by “Sitting on the Dock of the Bay,” the audience started singing soon after the first note (and later whistling).

As the blues migrated, it became more disguised and often took on a syncopated, Afro-Cuban influence, as it was played by Bo Diddley. It then morphed into Rock & Roll. The British Invasion of the 1960s was louder but undeniably born in the blues, as was The Motown Sound (“Ain’t too Proud to Beg”).

Mr. Cole ended with some Jimi Hendrix (“Red House”, “Foxy Lady”), Prince (“Purple Rain”) and Carlos Santana (“Black Magic Woman”), clearly showing the blues influence on each song.

It was a wonderful afternoon. The performers clearly engaged the crowd as they shared the history and their appreciation of the blues.

Join DCBS for FREE 4th Friday Happy Hours

Meet your fellow blues lovers at DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hours. Admission is free, affordable cash bar and food are available. Doors open at 5pm, music is on stage from 5:30 to 9 pm.

Location is American Legion Post 41, 905 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring 20910. Entrance is on Fenton Street adjacent to the public parking lot. Parking in the public lot is free after 7 pm.

Mar. 27: Jessi Terrell & the Love Mechanic Band

Apr. 24: Margo & Adelphi Bluz

May 22: Shakedown

June 26: The Mojo Priests

July 24: Etuf’e

Aug. 28: Ron Hicks Project

The DC Blues Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to keeping the Blues alive through outreach and education. The DC Blues Society is a proud affiliate of the Blues Foundation.

The **CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER** is published monthly (unless otherwise noted) and sent by email or US mail to members. Past newsletters are available at www.dcblues.org.



The **CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER** is your publication and members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, and ideas for articles, reviews, cartoons and photography. Please submit material via email to newsletter@dcblues.org.

Blues listings for bands should be sent to calendar@dcblues.org

Note: Deadline for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. DCBS reserves the right to edit or refuse any content, including advertising, that it deems inappropriate.

DC BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. Box 77315

Washington, DC

20013-7315



www.dcblues.org

DCBS Offers Web, CBM & Eblast Advertising

The DC Blues Society advertising rates for the **CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER** monthly newsletter are shown below. Ads may also be placed on the DCBS website, www.dcblues.org.

Ads also may be placed in DCBS eblast emails for only \$50 for postings on two ebcasts. Visit the DCBS website for more or contact ads@dcblues.org.

CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER

Advertising Information

Business Card: \$20 > 3.5" w x 2" t

1/8 page: \$25 > 4" w x 3" t

1/6 page: \$30 > 2.375" w x 4.75" t

1/4 page: \$40 > 4" w x 4.75" t

1/3 page: \$55 > 5.25" w x 4.75" t

1/2 page: \$75 > 7.5" w x 4.75" t horizontal
3.75" w x 9.25" t vertical

Full page: \$140 > 7.75" w x 9.25" t

Eblast: \$50 for 2 blasts

Rates are based on camera-ready artwork. **CBM** ads must be received by the 7th of the month prior to publication. **CBM** ads must be 300 dpi or greater in .pdf, .ai or .eps format. Ad size and space allocation are contingent on prior commitments and editorial content. DCBS reserves the right to refuse advertising it deems inappropriate. For more info, email: ads@dcblues.org.

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Win Tickets!

Watch your DCBS Eblasts and visit www.dcblues.org and Members Only page to enter to win tickets to select Festivals and Blues shows, and obtain available discounts. Priority for ticket giveaways goes to DCBS members, be sure to keep your membership current. Please open and read those Eblasts so you don't miss any great opportunities.



Before your next online search, go to www.dcblues.org, click on the GoodSearch link, and designate DC Blues Society as your favorite cause. DCBS earns 1¢ for each time you search the web using www.GoodSearch.com. It's easy — just click, search and support. Looking for the perfect gift? Try www.GoodShop.com with 600+ stores. A percentage of each purchase is donated to DCBS and its mission to preserve and promote the Blues. Grab your mouse, click the link, and shop guilt-free!

The Mojo Priests at the IBC: A Story of Challenge, Struggle and (to some degree) Triumph

by Steve Abramowitz

The Challenge:

With great elation and anticipation, singer Darren Johnson, bassist Steve Abramowitz and guitarist James Kerrigan boarded their flights to Memphis on Tuesday, Jan. 20, one day before their first performance at the International Blues Competition. Their drummer decided to drive to Memphis and departed the day before on Monday. Unfortunately, he encountered a problem en route and never made it.

The Struggle:

On Wednesday morning Darren, Steve and James met at breakfast to discuss their options for that evening's performance. There was no question in their minds that they had to perform for the sake of professionalism and for the sake of the DCBS Society and their fans.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and was not taken lightly. Not showing was never an option, and they had to procure a substitute drummer by 5 p.m.

Steve took a cab to the Memphis Drum Shop and spoke to staff member, and drummer Graham Bellin who agreed to play with The Priests for the duration of the competition. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to rehearse with Graham before that evening's show.

The Triumph:

The band played their Wednesday night show with their new drummer. They



Top: The Mojo Priests poured their hearts and souls into their performances at the International Blues Competition in January. Above left: Stand-in drummer Graham Bellin gave stand-out support to the DCBS representatives to IBC. Above right: The Mojo Priests' music sparked some smart dance moves and lots of cheers. Photos by Carmella Doty

played well and they played their hearts out. Graham was a great drummer, but he was understandably unfamiliar with the material, and it showed to a degree on some of the songs. The second night's performance went better. (The first level of competition comprises two consecutive performance nights.) Unfortunately, the

band awoke Friday morning to the news that they were not moving on to the next level in the IBC.

Disappointing? Yes. But the band never gave up and held their heads high throughout a difficult process.

Brandon Santini

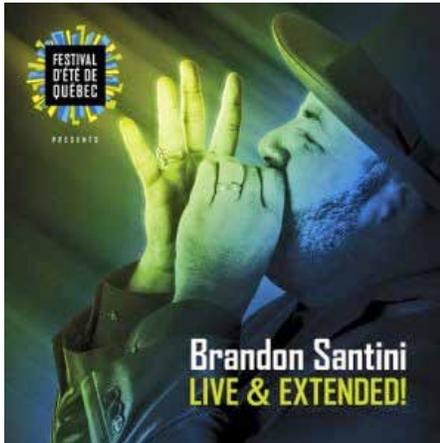
Live & Extended

VizzTone records

reviewed by Ron Weinstock

Brandon Santini has been establishing himself as one of the new blues harmonica hotshots. With his band of Timo Arthur on guitar, Nick Hearn on bass and Chad Wirl on drums, the Memphis-based Santini was recorded in July 2014 performing at Le Petit Imperial de Québec as part of Festival D'été Du Québec and his rousing performance can be heard on *Live & Extended*.

Santini's formidable fat, wet harmonica sound is present throughout with his no-holds barred attack. At the same time, the performances are straight blues. He may be high energy but that does not mean he has rocked out and his sense of dynamics is terrific.



He has chosen intriguing covers and solid idiomatic originals. His vocals are solid and the band provides solid support whether taking us down in the alley or rocking a nice shuffle.

From the opening moment of his hot take of James Cotton's "One More Mile" to the closing encore number "Come On Everybody," Brandon Santini lays down driving harmonica blues and forceful singing.

"This Time Another Year," with its chugging rhythm and some of guitarist Arthur's best playing is a terrific track as he sings about maybe being in Chicago or down south in Tennessee. Then he takes down the tempo on "Elevate Me Mama" which again sports some strong harp. After the nice groove of an original "Evil Woman" we hear a fresh, rockabilly tinged reworking of Walter Horton's "Have a Good Time."

Other choice covers include the funky groove to recast Slim Harpo's "Got Love If You Want It," and Frank Frost's "My Back Scratcher," with its mix of a lazy groove and Santini's extroverted vocal and harp. Then there is his hot shuffle "No Matter What I Do," and the breakneck tempo of "I Wanna Boogie With You."

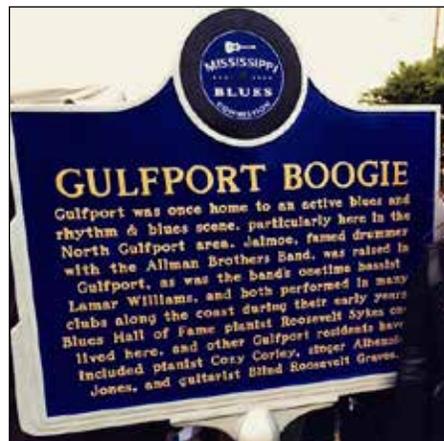
Listening to this terrific recording, one gets a sense of just how exciting he is live. *Live & Extended* certainly whets this listener's appetite to see him live.

Mississippi Blues Trail Adds Marker in Gulfport

The Mississippi Blues Trail recently added its first 2015 marker for Gulfport Boogie-Gulfport. Gulfport has been fertile territory for musicians who turned the area into a hotbed of blues and R&B, and impacted popular music on an international scale.

Jaimoe, famed drummer with the Allman Brothers Band, was raised in Gulfport, as was the band's onetime bassist Lamar Williams. Blues Hall of Fame pianist Roosevelt Sykes lived here, and other Gulfport residents have included pianist Cozy Corley, singer Albennie Jones, and guitarist Blind Roosevelt Graves.

Roosevelt Sykes, composer of "Night Time is the Right Time," "Driving Wheel," and other classics, lived here in the 1950s and 1960s and recorded "Gulfport Boogie" in tribute to "Little Conway's" (the Beverly Lounge). The area had a party atmosphere with nightspots the likes of the Hi-Hat Club, Owl Club, Ebony,



Night Owl and the Throne, all located just outside Gulfport police jurisdiction.

The roster of local blues, jazz and soul performers has included brothers Cleve and Clezell Booth, Sugar Billy, Yvonne Tims (who had the Blues Evolution band with her brother Johnny Jefferson), Buster Teague, Charles

and Ruby Wheeler, Jabo Walker, Billy Gray, and more recently acts such as Dr. G.L. John. Radio broadcaster and club owner Rip Daniels was born in Gulfport.

Gulfport's blues and jazz history dates back to the early 1900s when New Orleans jazz legend Jelly Roll Morton played the Great Southern Hotel. Another early New Orleans figure, Lee Collins, and 1940s blues singer Albennie Jones spent some of their early years in Gulfport, and pianist Little Brother Montgomery was based here in the 1920s. Ma Rainey, "the mother of the blues," performed in tent shows, and the city also became a stop for rambling bluesmen such as Robert Johnson and Big Joe Williams. Blind Roosevelt Graves, whose 1930s records exemplified some of the roots of rock 'n' roll, settled in Gulfport in his final years.

(Text excerpted and photo from Mississippi Blues Trail, ©2015, www.msbluestrail.org)

DC BLUES SOCIETY PRESENTS
NICK MOSS BAND



Saturday, April 18, 2015

8 PM - Midnight

(Doors open at 7 PM)

American Legion Post 41

905 Sligo Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Entrance on Fenton Street by public parking lot

Guitar World says NMB's CD *Time Ain't Free!* is "One of the 50 Best Albums of 2014"

You don't want to miss this. Buy your tickets early!

Advance: \$12 member / \$15 non-member

Door: \$18 (no member discount)

TICKETS: WWW.DCBLUES.ORG

Tel: 301-322-4808



MARCH 2015 BLUES

- 1 **DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Linwood Taylor @ JVs ▲ Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ ▲ **Guy Davis and Eric Bibb** @ Black Rock Center ▲ Dr. John Interprets Louis Armstrong @ Hamilton ▲ **James Cotton** @ Wolf Trap
- 2 Midnight Blue @ Westminster Presbyterian ▲ Beth Hart @ Birchmere
- 3 Billy Thompson @ Blues Alley ▲ Beth Hart @ Birchmere
- 4 Little Bit A Blues (Warner Williams, Jay Summerour) @ Blues Alley ▲ Dr. John & Nite Trippers @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 5 **Jimmie Vaughan, Jonny Grave** @ Hamilton
- 6 Still Standing @ Zoo Bar ▲ Bad Influence @ Dulles Airport Hilton
- 7 Patti Reese @ Bare Bones ▲ Bluestone @ JVs; Bad Influence @ Frederick Hard Times Cafe ▲ Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar ▲ Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark Jam @ Davies Unitarian Church
- 9 Avon Dews Blues Revue @ Westminster Presbyterian
- 11 Royal Southern Brotherhood @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 12 Bad Influence @ Clyde's of Chevy Chase
- 13 Bad Influence @ Ice House Cafe ▲ Sookey Jump @ Zoo Bar ▲ Buckwheat Zydeco @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 14 Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Rock & Roll Marathon ▲ Smokin' Polecats @ Zoo Bar ▲ Tinsley Ellis @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 15 Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ
- 16 Tom Newman @ Westminster Presbyterian
- 17 **Royal Southern Brotherhood** @ Blues Alley
- 20 Wolf's Still Standing Blues Night @ Cryer's Back Road Inn ▲ Moonshine Society @ Zoo Bar ▲ Bad Influence, Michael Allman @ JVs
- 21 Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Ice House Cafe ▲ Stacy Brooks @ Zoo Bar ▲ Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ JVs
- 22 **DCBS 4th Sunday Acoustic Jam** @ Mansion on O St. ▲ Jimmie Vaughan @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 23 Vince Evans @ Westminster Presbyterian
- 27 **DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hour w/ Jesi Terrell & LMB** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Twist & Turn Tavern ▲ Moonshine Society @ Hamilton Loft ▲ Swamp Keepers @ Zoo Bar
- 28 Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ John Strongbow's ▲ Bruce Ewan @ Zoo Bar ▲ Tom Principato @ Colonial Tavern ▲ Albert Cummings @ Hamilton ▲ **Capital City Blues Festival w/ Mel Waiters, Lenny Williams, Latimore, Clarence Carter, Shirley Brown, Theodis Ealey** @ DAR Constitution Hall
- 29 Albert Cummings @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 30 Full Power Blues @ Westminster Presbyterian

EARLY APRIL 2015

- 2 Dana Fuchs @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 3 Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar
- 4 **Muddy Waters' 100th Birthday Celebration featuring Commander Cody, Bob Margolin, Nighthawks** @ Hamilton ▲ Moonshine Society @ Hamilton Loft ▲ Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar ▲ Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Davies Unitarian Church ▲ Skip Castro Band @ Gypsy Sally's
- 5 **DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ
- 6 Queen Aisha Blues! @ Westminster Presbyterian

BLUES ALL WEEK

Regular Blues Events

The Regular Blues Calendar, below, is included in the Capital Blues Messenger each month to provide information on recurring blues jams/performances/dances. See also the March Blues Calendar on page 6.

1st Sunday DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ **4th Sunday DCBS Acoustic Jam @ Mansion on O St.** ▲ Sunday Afternoon Jam @ Old Firestation #3, Fairfax ▲ Blues Jam @ Battlefield Brew Works, Gettysburg, every other Sunday

Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church ▲ Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's ▲ Capital Blues Ensemble @ 219 Basin St. Lounge ▲ Blues Monday @ Republic

CrawStickers @ 219 Basin St. Lounge ▲ Johnny Artis Band @ Madam's Organ ▲ Open Mic @ Woodstock Inn, Woodstock, MD ▲ Swampcandy @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Hell's Bottom Blues Jam @ Takoma Park VFW Post 350

Wolf's Blues Jam @ Blair's Londontowne Pub ▲ Scott Wells Jam @ Pickled Herring Pub, Northeast, MD, except 1st week ▲ Classic Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille ▲ Jonny Grave @ Madam's Organ

Patrick Alban & Noche Latina @ Madam's Organ ▲ Big Boy Little Band Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar ▲ Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo ▲ Open Mic @ El Gavilan ▲ Blues Jame w/ Fast Eddie Galvin, Dave Saunders @ Bentz St. Raw Bar ▲ Open Mic with The Mojo Priests @ Sapphire, 2nd Thursday

4th Friday Happy Hour @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Glen Moomau & Juke Drivers @ Bertha's ▲ Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar, 1st Friday ▲ John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe

Acoustic Blues Jam @ Archie's Barbershop ▲ Davies Fish Fry & Open Mic, 1st Saturday @ Davies Memorial Unitarian Church, Temple Hills, MD ▲ Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar, 1st Saturday ▲ John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe

SUN
MON
TUES
WEDS
THURS
FRI
SAT

Bolded items on calendars of upcoming events are picks by calendar editor, Mike Wolk, and include DCBS, BBS, and other events.

Musicians, promoters, and venues:

Send calendar listings to

calendar@dcbllues.org

by the deadline, the 15th of the month prior to publication. Events listed are based on the best information possible.

DCBS cannot be held liable for errors in schedules, places or performances listed. It is recommended that you contact the venues to verify events.

Visit www.dcbllues.org

for additional music links and information.

DISCOUNTS for DCBS Members

Show your current DCBS membership card to obtain discounts from our supportive vendors, and show the vendor this newsletter to confirm the discount. Restrictions may apply, and discounts may be withdrawn at any time.

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113 Centerway Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770
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NATIONAL BLACK MEMORABILIA

Fine Art & Crafts Show

April 11-12, 2015

Saturday: 10 AM–7 PM ▼ Sunday: 10 AM–5 PM

Montgomery County Fairgrounds ▼ 16 Chestnut St. ▼ Gaithersburg, MD 20877

"31st Year Celebrating African American History"

Purchase Black Memorabilia + Collectibles from vendors including slavery artifacts, historical documents, books, autographs, stamps, advertisements, kitchen collectibles, coins, magazines, Civil War, toys, art, dolls, political, jewelry, entertainment, paintings, civil rights, sports + more. **View Educational Exhibits** including Slavery Artifacts, Buffalo Soldiers, Jim Crow, Black Panther Party, Marcus Garvey, Tuskegee Airmen, Malcolm X, George Washington Carver, Dorothy Dandridge + others. **Meet + obtain autographs** from Negro League Baseball Players, Tuskegee Airmen + other celebrities.

Admission: \$7 ▼ Students admitted free

All Indoors ▼ Good Food ▼ Free Parking

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Celebrating the Blues in the District
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