

Capital Blues Messenger

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

February 2011 Volume 5 Issue 2



**2011 IBC
Memphis
Results**

**January
DCBS-
Promoted
Blues Events**

**Valentine's
Day
And
Black History
Month**

**Plus More
Blues News
Inside**

Photo: www.memphisinternationals.org

THE DC BLUES SOCIETY

**P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON, DC
20013-7315
www.dcblues.org**



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 e-mail or U.S. mail to members. Past newsletters are available at www.dcblues.org.

Send changes in name, address or membership status to membership@dcblues.org or mail to DCBS Attn: Membership at the address listed above.

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 e-mail to: newsletter@dcblues.org.

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

Note: The 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.

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Members are key to the livelihood of the DCBS. Member's dues play an important part in helping DCBS fulfill its mission to promote the Blues and the musicians who keep the music alive, exciting and accessible. Members receive discounts on advance sale tickets to DCBS events, DCBS merchandise and from area merchants and clubs when you present your DCBS membership card (see p 11). Members also receive the monthly *Capital Blues Messenger* (CBM) newsletter and those with e-mail access get the CBM via e-mail plus additional e-mail updates about DCBS events.

Becoming a member is simple, quick and easy:

- Use the mail-in application
- Apply on-line at www.dcblues.org, or
- Sign up at DCBS events or DCBS-sponsored events/venues where you see the DCBS booth.

Members are invited to attend the monthly DCBS Board meetings. For information, send an e-mail to president@dcblues.org.

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Date: _____ If renewal, check here _____

Name (please print clearly above) _____

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Dues per year (circle appropriate one):

Student: \$15 (Include photocopy of student ID)

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*Contributions (not dues) are tax-deductible.
Please allow up to six weeks for processing*

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- Update Website
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 Raise funds (sell ads, organize auctions, etc.)
 Write reviews or take photos for Newsletter (see your name in print!)
 Other? _____

Mail with check to
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Correction: The January issue of the CBM inaccurately included the In Memoriam headline "Kelvin Thomas Dec. 18, 2010." The headline should have read: Kelvin O'Neal Dec.18, 2010.

Unless noted, photos and articles were contributed by DCBS board members and newsletter editor.

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Corporate DCBS Memberships

DCBS offers a Corporate membership option that provides small and large businesses the opportunity to advertise through DCBS while supporting DCBS programs. For only \$200 per year, businesses receive the same benefits of individual DCBS members (see above) PLUS 6 postings of any combination of 1/4 page ads in the DCBS monthly newsletter and/or web icons on the DCBS website. Each web icon/event posting will remain on the DCBS website for one week per posting.— for a total of 6 weeks presence on the DCBS website. **This is a \$240-\$280 value, for only \$200.** To get more information, or to establish corporate membership, visit: www.dcblues.org/memb/mbr_join.php.

ADVERTISE IN THE DCBS CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER

AD RATES	
Business card	\$20
1/8 page	\$25
1/4 page	\$40
1/3 page	\$55
1/2 page	\$75
2/3 page	\$110
Full page	\$140

Rates are based on camera-ready artwork and must be received by the 7th of the prior month. Design service is outsourced and a fee will be charged. Ads should be at least 300 dpi in either PDF or JPG. Submit in B/W and color when possible. Ad size and space allocation contingent on prior commitments and editorial content. DCBS reserves the right to refuse advertising it deems inappropriate. Ad specs and on-line rates: www.dcblues.org
Questions? E-mail: ads@dcblues.org



January Was a Cold Month - Unless You Were Partying To The Blues

Cold temperatures, snow, and ice do not deter some Blues fans, as was evident at two January 2011 events that were promoted by the DC Blues Society. On Thursday, January 20, the Surf Club Live, in Hyattsville, MD, was the place to be, as fans and a lineup of performers crowded this venue for the Fundraiser to send Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark and the Blues Allstars to the 2011 International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis. In addition to the Blues Allstars, the lineup included Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner Band, Stacy Brooks, and the DC Blues Society Band.

Anthony sent an eblast with the following Thank You: *I would like to thank everyone that came to the Surf Club last night. Because of you it was a great success. We had great bands and outstanding performances. I want to send a Big, Big thank you to John for doing the sound. I can not thank him and his crew enough. Without him, this would never have gotten off the ground. I also want to thank the DC Blues Society for their support in this effort.* Photos top row from left: Ken Sparks and Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark, Glenn Alexander, Charles "Reds" Adkins; bottom row from left: "Swamp Dog" and Stephane Themeze, and some of DCBS's very loyal blues fans. Photos by Jazz.



On Saturday, January 29, the Silver Spring American Legion was the site of a Good Bye Party for Stephane Themeze, harp player for the Clarence "The Bluesman" Turner Band. (Stephane is in photo below, with Sean Graves in the background, and the full Band appears in the second photo: Sam'i Nuriddin (DCBS President), Clarence Turner, Stephane, Sean Graves, and David Satterwhite (front row)). Stephane will be returning home to France. During his stay in the US and the DC area, it is clear that he has developed a following of friends and fans who welcomed the opportunity for one more blues party with this wonderful guy. Stephane leaves for France sometime after performing with the Band at the IBC in Memphis (see p 4).

Photos below L to R, Nadine Rae and Stacy Brooks, Sabrina Turner (Clarence's wife) and Stephane, Emma Ward & Jennifer Yeargin-Bush, and Mary Knieser and Jennifer. Photos by Mary Knieser (except photo of Mary).



And The Winner Is - - The 2011 International Blues Challenge (IBC)

The February issue of the *Capital Blues Messenger (CBM)* was completed a tad late this month, and that allows us to report on the results of the IBC, which was held in Memphis, TN, from February 1 – 5. The overall winner for the Band category was the Lionel Young Band, representing the Colorado Blues Society. As described by Nick Dale, DCBS Vice President, the Lionel Young Band is a versatile jazzy group with electric violin and horns. The overall winner for the Solo/Duo category was George Schroeter & Marc Breitfelder, representing Baltic Blues. The top 3 winners (top 2 winners for Solo/Duo) and the additional finalists (in alphabetical order) in the Band and Solo/Duo categories were as follows:

Band Category

1. The Lionel Young Band - Colorado Blues Society
 2. The Mary Bridget Davies Group - Kansas City Blues Society
 3. Rob Blaine's Big Otis Blues - Windy City Blues Society
- Alex Wilson - Grafton Blues Association
 Grand Marquis - Topeka Blues Society
 Randy Oxford Band - South Sound Blues Association
 Stevie J & the Blues Eruption - Central Mississippi Blues Society
 The Sugar Prophets - Illinois Central Blues Club

Solo/Duo Category

1. George Schroeter & Marc Breitfelder - Baltic Blues (Germany)
 2. "Sweet Taste" Kennedy - Canal Bank Shuffle (Ontario, Canada)
- Back Porch Stomp - Washington Blues Society
 Big Jim Adam & John Stilwagen - Colorado Blues Society
 Izzy & Chris - West Virginia Blues Society
 JT Blues - Billtown Blues Association
 The Juke Joint Devils - Massachusetts Blues Society
 The Mighty Orq - Houston Blues Society

Rob Blaine (from the #3 Band, Rob Blaine Big Otis Blues) won the Best Guitarist Award, which is a custom Gibson 335 with The Blues Foundation Logo and a Category 5 amp. Stephane Bertolino won the first ever Best Harmonica Player Award presented by Lee Oskar. Stephane is in the French band AWEK, sponsored by Blues Sur Seine. In the Best Self-Produced CD contest, the judges crowned *Get Inside This House*, by Joe McMurrian of the Cascade Blues Association in Portland, OR.

The Blues Foundation noted that for the second consecutive year, a non-American act won the Solo/Duo category thus solidifying the global scope of the event. Another event first was that the Band category winner was a prior year Solo/Duo category winner.

A big congratulations goes to the DCBS nominee in the Band category, Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark and the Blues Allstars, for advancing to the semi-finalist stage, and to another good "friend" of DCBS, Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner, representing the Blues Ridge Blues Society, for also advancing to the semi-finalist stage. Look for more information in the March issue of the CBM on the IBC experience from the perspective of these bands, as well as from JP Reali, the DCBS nominee in the Solo/Duo category. **Also, look for an announcement of a special DCBS show featuring Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark and the Blues Allstars, and Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner, to celebrate their semi-finalist status.**

More on the Overall Winners of the 2011 IBC Band & Solo/Duo Categories



Band Category (photo at left): Lionel Young (violin/guitar/vocal) also won the 2008 IBC Solo/Duo division. He's played with a who's who in the blues world & has played all over the world, including Montreux Jazz Festival, the 1988 Olympics, and the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise. Chip Eagle of Blues Wax wrote, "If you're not familiar with Lionel, you're missing out ... What makes Lionel stand out is that when he plays, he owns the room. He's one of those special performers who's able to do his own thing while still playing to the crowd". The band includes top-notch players: Jay Forrest on drums & vocals, Kim Stone on bass, Ricardo Peña on keys & guitar, Dexter Payne on sax, clarinet & harp, and André Mali on trumpet. www.myspace.com/lionelyoung



Solo/Duo Category (photo at right): Over the last 20 years, the German duo 'Georg Schroeter (piano) and Marc Breitfelder' (harp) has played more than 2000 concerts all over the world. They have released 15 albums, have 2 Silver Medals 'World Harmonica Championship, and are the winners of the 'European Harmonica Festival' in 1996 and the Baltic Blues Challenge 2009. www.bluestour.de

Photos: www.blues.org.

Save the Date! April 17 - Kick Cancer: A Survivor Fundraiser

The DC Blues Society is helping to promote a Kick Cancer fundraiser that will be held on Sunday, April 17. The list of artists who have expressed interest in performing at this event is impressive, and provides every indication that this will be an event you do not want to miss. Stay tuned for more information. The DCBS website (www.dcblues.org) and future issues of the *CBM* will provide updates on the Fundraiser and the location, as the plans evolve.

This Fundraiser is in memory of Chris Kirsch, a former DCBS Board member who died in 2004. Proceeds from the Fundraiser will be directed to local musicians and music-supporting cancer survivors who are struggling with medical bills and no insurance or employment support. For more information or to donate raffle prizes, volunteer time, etc., contact: kickcancerfund@gmail.com.

Kick Cancer Right Here Right Now
 In Memory of Chris Kirsch, 1955-2004
 Live music, dancing, and fabulous raffle prizes helping music-supporting cancer survivors!

Sunday April 17, 2011 2pm-9pm

Raffle Prizes include:
 Blues Revue 1-year subscriptions - the worlds blues magazine
 CDs: Doug MacLeod CD Release - Acoustic Blues Award nominee

ADD YOUR DONATION HERE
 Contact: kickcancerfund@gmail.com
 Sponsors Welcome!
 Volunteers Needed!

Capacity Crowd Enjoyed McLean Community Center Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

Curtis Blues is more than “a one-man band.” He’s a man with a mission – a blues mission. He not only sings the blues, he presents with each song, a history of the blues. On Sunday, January 16, at the McLean Community Center’s 8th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Curtis brought his musical message to an audience of about 300 who packed the large conference room in the Virginia suburb.

With an array of stringed instruments (a diddley bow, a gourd banjo and an assortment of guitars including a handmade cigar box guitar and a resonator), Curtis took his multi-generational audience on a fun-filled, musical history lesson. His specialty is Mississippi/Delta blues from the 1920s, 30s and 40s. Between songs, he related stories about the early blues women and men and the development of the genre. He explained how to make a diddley bow (a one-stringed instrument) and discussed the origins of the banjo in the West African country of Mali. He also strolled through the room so the audience could hear and see close up his cigar box and resonator guitars.

For the second year in a row, the celebration also included the excellent barbeque from The Tender Rib in Temple Hills, MD (www.thetenderrib.com). The DC Blues Society, which helped promote the sold-out event, had a membership table and distributed information about upcoming events.

Find out more about Curtis Blues at www.curtisblues.com (also see the interview with Curtis in the January 2011 *CBM*). When you’re in Old Town Alexandria some weekend, stroll down the boardwalk behind the Torpedo Factory and catch one of his open-air performances. Curtis said “*It is the basis of all my preservation efforts, playing this acoustic blues the way my heroes did... It doesn't get more honest than that.*” Article and photos by Mary Knieser



Celebrate Black History Month With Some Blues History

The month of February is recognized as Black History Month, and is a fitting time to remember that the history of Blues music is rooted in the history of Black Americans, growing out of the hardships they faced at the turn of the 20th century. By studying the content of blues songs, you can learn or be reminded of the experiences and struggles of the working-class Southerners who created the music, including the legacies of slavery and the cotton economy in the South, the development of Jim Crow, the Great Migration, and the Civil Rights Movement. Why not take some time this month to renew your understanding of the history of the Blues and to pass some of that appreciation on to at least one child.

The internet is full of resources available on the history of the blues, and there are also some excellent documentaries. If you want to test your knowledge, here’s a website we found with some fun quizzes about the Blues.

http://www.funtrivia.com/quizzes/music/music_mixture/blues.html

Take a quiz! And then, as one quiz suggests – go out and hear some Blues! See the Blues Calendar on p 9 for a handy resource on some options for this month.

2011 Blues Music Award Nominees Announced

The Blues Foundation has announced the nominations for their annual Blues Music Awards, which will be presented at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis, TN, on May 5, 2011. Performers, industry representatives and fans from around the globe will have the chance to celebrate the best in Blues recording and performance from 2010. Among those heading the list of nominees for the 32nd Blues Music Awards are Buddy Guy (five nominations), Charlie Musselwhite (also five nominations), Janiva Magness (four nominations), and three nominations each went to Derek Trucks, Eden Brent, Joe Louis Walker, James Cotton, Nick Moss, Paul Oscher and The Mannish Boys. “The ballot is balanced between familiar names nominated because of stellar releases and more than a dozen first-ever nominees,” Jay Sieleman, The Blues Foundation’s Executive Director said. Tickets for the May 5 Award show are now on sale. Online voting is also ongoing, through March 1, 2011. Blues Foundation members are the only fans who may vote. To review the list of nominees and/or to purchase tickets for the Ceremony, visit: www.blues.org.

A DCBS Member Recommendation: NABF 2010: “Been There, Done That, Do’In It Again”

While we’re in the midst of winter, I thought it would be a great opportunity to reflect on this past year’s 17th Annual North Atlantic Blues Festival (NABF), held on Maine’s dramatic ocean coast in the town of Rockland, July 10 & 11, 2010.

In 1997, the NABF humbly began in the parking lot of Rockland’s Trade Winds Motor Inn and it now attracts thousands to this picturesque small town. This year, the importance of Maine to the blues music genre was recognized by the unveiling of a Mississippi Blues Trail marker in this same parking lot. And while it is the 110th Mississippi Blues Trail marker, it was only the seventh established beyond Mississippi’s borders.

The NABF is a smaller festival, as it consists of one stage, yet the setting (with the stage literally within feet of the Atlantic Ocean) is incomparable. There are not many places where the July summer temperature is mitigated by the cool fog rolling off the ocean and into a music venue! In addition, this event is supported wholeheartedly by the Town of Rockland. They close down the main street during the evening of the NABF to accommodate a pub crawl, where musicians inhabit local venues in addition to numerous groups set up on the closed street. The town also provides a free tram service to transport concert goers between the venue and accommodations (eateries, lodging (motels, B&B and campgrounds)) in Rockland and neighboring hamlets. Finally, the local Maine Eastern Railroad supports the event by running a daily “Blues Train” that originates in Brunswick, ME, with a few additional stops along its route, and terminates within one block of the festival. An AMTRAK extension/connection with Brunswick, ME is slated for completion in 2012.

The 2010 NABF line-up for the two-day event included the following performers: Preston Shannon, Biscuit Miller, John Nemeth, Bryan Lee, Johnny Rawls, James Cotton, Shakura S’Aida, Moreland & Arbuckle, Michael Burks, Shemekia Copeland and Keb’ Mo’. The following provides additional detail:

Opening the NABF on Saturday, Preston Shannon (photo at right - a Nashville resident band) presented a very tasteful set, and what was most appreciated was the fine musicianship and the tasteful decibel level. I’d characterize Preston Shannon’s music as in the Stax genre and as a melding of Mem Shannon and the Holmes Brothers. Biscuit Miller (photo below) fronted his band on a five string bass. His enthusiasm and high-energy stage appearance is still infectious months later; I’d never seen a performer exhibit and transfer such gaiety to an audience. Everyone was up out of their seats for his set and was especially appreciative of the group’s rousing tribute and rendition of James Brown funk! John Nemeth’s set dove-tailed with a recent CD release which had, at the time, much air-time on Bill Wax’s Bluesville. The band was similarly dressed in sharkskin suits and thin ties. John, who provides his falsetto vocals and a mean harp, reflected on his upbringing in rural (is there any other kind?) Idaho. Bryan Lee, who is well known to the DCBS community, presented his usual tight set exemplifying the NOLA experience. Johnny Rawls, who hails from Mississippi, is a long-time performer who at one time was O.V. Wright’s band director. His album *Ace of Spades* won the 2010 BMA for Soul Album of the Year. The crowd loved his soulful performances, while his guitar sported an amusing “international no” symbol containing the words: “Mustang Sally.” Closing the festival’s first day, James Cotton needed no introduction. It was apparent that his life on the road has taken a toll on his health and due to his bout with throat cancer, Darrell Nulisch sat in as vocalist for James’ set. At the set’s conclusion, James Cotton was presented with a plaque of appreciation and the crowd joined in with a rendition of “Happy Birthday” to commemorate his 75th birthday only days earlier. James Cotton basked in the crowd’s heartfelt appreciation and recognition of the Blues giant that he is.



On Sunday, the weather was rather unstable. While teased with glimmers of sunshine, the crowd was largely presented with periods of rainfall. Shakura S’Aida was Sunday’s opening act and true to the NABF’s tradition of featuring spectacular yet relatively unknown artists in this slot, Shakura’s energized performance (and her outstanding lead guitarist: Donna Grantis) was recognized by a very long line of CD purchasers. It’s an understatement to say that Moreland & Arbuckle presented a raw electrified set that I’d term *grunge blues*. I overheard someone in the crowd ask: “Where’s the bass guitar?” Yet, this trio consists only of a drummer, Arbuckle providing vocals and harp, and Moreland as the sole guitarist assailing a four-string cigar box guitar that pipes one string into a bass amp! Again, the energy level exhibited by this duo is unmatched. Through Michael Burks, his family’s blues music tradition now spans three decades. The crowd thoroughly enjoyed the power-house guitar playing that his fans have long recognized. An interesting note to residents of the DC area is that Michael was employed for a decade by Lockheed Martin (LM) as a mechanical technician supporting the manufacture of missile components. Thankfully, his LM manager also recognized his musical talent and aided his career change! Shemekia Copeland is one classy lady who showed her appreciation to the fans enduring the inclement weather (by now a substantial rainfall) by venturing off stage and through the crowd while demonstrating her fine voice. Finally, Keb’ Mo’ closed the NABF with a solo acoustic set. As a long-time fan, I was thrilled with the prospect of finally seeing him perform live. Yet his set was somewhat disappointing: his audience engagement was limited and at his set’s conclusion he simply rushed off after seemingly having met his “obligation.”

As WPFW’s beloved Nap Turner would say in closing his BAMA Hour show: “God willing and the creek don’t rise.” I will be attending Rockland, Maine’s 2011 NABF July 16 & 17. Article and photos by L. Brand Gainesville, VA, a DCBS member.

The 18th Annual NABF lineup includes Nellie “Tiger” Travis; Eddie “The Chief” Clearwater; Lil’ Ed and the Blues Imperials; Magic Slim and the Teardrops; The Brooks Family Reunion with Lonnie, Ronnie and Wayne; Trampled Underfoot; James Armstrong; Tony Lynne Washington; Eric Bibb; and Robert Cray. Buy tickets and learn more at www.northatlanticbluesfestival.com.

Valentine's Day Blues: 10 Classic Love Songs

By Ted Drozdowski, posted as a Lifestyle Feature article on www.gibson.com on 2/11/2010.

Wanna go with something different for your Valentine's Day mash-up? Try the blues. Some of the sweetest, saddest and most soulful songs of all time — and plenty of them with stinging guitar — are from the blues canon. Here are 10 classic examples guaranteed to fan the fires of love.

"Layla" by Derek & the Dominos: This 1970 classic is the greatest unrequited love song of the rock 'n' roll era, inspired by a 12th century Persian poem and Eric Clapton's infatuation for his friend George Harrison's wife, Patty. Although there are only 12 lines, the song's outro guitar duet, led by Duane Allman's longing slide, speaks volumes.

"Have You Ever Loved a Woman" by Freddie King: Les Paul and ES-345 wrangler King was known for a devilish tone he sometimes achieved by using metal fingerpicks. He cut this Billy Myles tune about abject longing in 1960 for the Federal label. It didn't get much recognition until 1970, when Eric Clapton resurrected the song with Derek & the Dominos and it became one of the all-time great six-string sparring matches — between E.C. and Duane Allman. King's own performances, however, were never less than absolutely searing.

"At Last," Etta James: Those elegant strings, the gently swaying dance beat and, of course, that sexy, gritty, beautiful voice add up to what may simply be the most gorgeous love song ever put on tape. Sure, Beyonce's version ain't chowder, but Ms. James' original 1961 Chess Records hit is all candlelight and oysters.

"I'll Take Care of You" by Bobby Blue Bland: The first of a string of 11 Top 10 R&B smashes Bland began in 1961, "I'll Take Care of You" is the great soul-bluesman's most romantic number. The title says it all, but the warm sincerity in his velvet voice really sells the sentiment.

"The Rain Song" by Led Zeppelin: Robert Plant sings so delicately about "the sunlight of his growing" and "the wonder of devotion" that it's obvious the guy's smitten. And Jimmy Page gets it, joining in with a mix of acoustic, electric and steel guitars that create a sonic portrait of the serendipity of true love. Bonus: in concert this song gave Pagey a chance to whip out his custom double-neck Gibson EDS-1275 famed for its role in live renditions of "Stairway to Heaven."

"Pride and Joy" by Stevie Ray Vaughan: SRV loves his baby, heart and soul, and plays his backside off to boot. This Valentine's Day message is as big and clear as the Lone Star State.

"Don't Give Up On Me" by Solomon Burke: Love isn't just about never having to say you're sorry. It's also about second chances, and this great American soul singer serves that notion up like a warm cup of chocolate in the title track of his 2002 Joe Henry-produced comeback.

"Melissa" by The Allman Brothers: The humble devotion of Greg Allman's lyrics perfectly fits the melodic side of his great band. And with Warren Haynes and Derek Trucks on the job, this *Eat a Peach* classic is even sweeter today.

"When a Man Loves a Woman" by Percy Sledge: Forget the Michael Bolton version and slide on back to 1966 when the great Alabama-born blues and soul man sang it to perfection. That's why the song notched number one on both the pop and R&B charts back then, and why it's still an essential part of the Valentine's Day hit parade 44 years later.

"I Just Want to Make Love to You" by Muddy Waters: Sometimes the direct approach is best.

Editors Note: Ted Drozdowski is located in Nashville, TN. His www.gibson.com bio says: "When Ted Drozdowski isn't slinging ink he's slamming slide guitar with his alt-juke joint band Scissormen. He's been an editor at Musician and the Boston Phoenix, written for many magazines including Rolling Stone and Travel & Leisure, penned plenty of liners including the 5,500 word essay for the award-winning Hooker, consulted for PBS' Martin Scorsese Presents: The Blues, and co-authored Billboard's Jazz & Blues Encyclopedia. His awards include a Keeping the Blues Alive statue from the Blues Foundation. Scissormen's latest studio CD is 2008's Luck in a Hurry. Get in touch via www.scissormen.com." Ted and his drummer, Rob "R.L." Hulsman, are also featured in a 90-minute documentary film, Big Shoes: Walking and Talking the Blues, directed by Robert Muggee (2010). To see an 18 ½ minute trailer of the film, visit <http://vimeo.com/channels/bigshoestrailer>.



Keep Howlin' Wolf Howlin' in Washington!

Support DC's Blues station WPFW 89.3 FM by volunteering at WPFW's Winter Membership Drive, February 3 - 19. Volunteers are needed to answer phones and record incoming calls and pledges during the Membership Drive. Shifts are generally four hours, but can be longer or shorter. They are also a great way to see first-hand how the station operates. To volunteer, contact Rachel Pope at pope_rachel@wlfw.org, or call 202-588-0999, ext. 360, and be sure to mention if you're a DCBS member. DCBS members and all Blues fans are also encouraged to make a pledge to WPFW during the Membership Drive. Pledges can be made on line (www.wlfw.org) or by telephone. Listen to your favorite WPFW programmers and support their efforts during the Membership Drive!

WPFW 89.3 FM rings in 2011 with a new General Manager, John Hughes. Mr. Hughes comes from WHUT, Howard University's television station, where he served as the Deputy General Manager and as the Chief Operating Officer. He's had a long career in the communication industry. DCBS looks forward to working with Mr. Hughes and encourages its members to listen to WPFW and to actively support this great radio station and unique community resource. For more information, see www.wlfw.org.

CD Reviews

Shemekia Copeland's *Deluxe Edition*

By Ron Weinstock

Shemekia Copeland impressed me the first time I saw her perform - she was with her father, Johnny Copeland. I had heard amazing things about this teenager and on that night in 1995 or 1996 at Tornado Alley in Wheaton, MD, she sang a few numbers backed by Johnny's band and exhibited a poise as well as power that belied her age. I believe it was Bill Wax (now of XM-Sirius Bluesville) who said she reminded him of a young Irma Thomas. Her dad was beaming on stage, listening to his baby perform. Her late father undoubtedly would not be surprised by how far his daughter has come, being one of the biggest Blues attractions today.

Alligator Records, for whom Shemekia recorded her first four albums, has just issued the latest in its *Deluxe Edition* series of reissues with 16 selections (over an hour of music) compiled from this artist's first four releases as well as an Alligator Christmas release. Along with Shemekia's live performances, these recordings have established her reputation, and the new release provides a good sampling of those earlier recordings. She really shouts out the songs against solid bands. What is striking is how good she is and how solid the bands are, but the songs stand out more from what she invests in them, as many of them are solid, if somewhat idiomatic. One song that stands out is her father's "Ghetto Child," which has become a cornerstone of her performances. However, her lament on the state of current radio, "Who Stole My Radio?" is better sung than the lyrics perhaps deserve. Other songs, like a toast to a lady's salon in "Sholanda's," are a bit more original. That song, along with the fine late night lament "Don't Whisper," are songs Shemekia collaborated on. This latter number has a fine vocal where Shemekia has turned the heat down, but her singing still smolders. Other songs on the *Deluxe Edition* include the iconic, for Shemekia, "Turn the Heat Up," and the acidic "Salt In My Wounds."

This *Deluxe Edition* CD includes a booklet with all the session information of the performances and a poster, with the back of the poster containing Bruce Iglauer's reflections on Shemekia as well as rare photos of this Blues lady. It is a fine retrospective of the music Shemekia Copeland recorded for Alligator and, especially for those lacking a CD by her, serves as a welcome starting point to her powerful Blues.

Editors Note: Shemekia Copeland will be performing at the Rams Head On Stage in Annapolis, MD, on February 24, 2011. On April 17, Shemekia and other Blues artists will begin another BLUZAPALOOZA celebrity concert tour to entertain the troops. This 14-day tour, starring BLUZAPALOOZA veterans Shemekia and Moreland & Arbuckle, will take the Blues to Krygyzstan, Afghanistan and Qatar, with most of the time spent at forward operating bases within the war zone of Afghanistan.

Roomful of Blues' *Hook, Line, and Sinker*

By Ron Weinstock

After 43 years, Roomful of Blues shows no sign of slowing down. From its early days with Duke Robillard leading it in its reworking of classic jump blues, with pianist Al Copley, saxophonists Greg Piccolo and Rich Lataille, the band has expanded from an initial focus on R&B of the late forties/fifties to span more recent blues and rhythm grooves. Guitarist Chris Vachon has been a driving force of the band for at least the past two decades, and saxophonist Lataille still rips off his solos, while they have a new vocalist in Phil Pemberton. Their new CD, *Hook, Line and Sinker*, shows the band is not slowing down in the least.

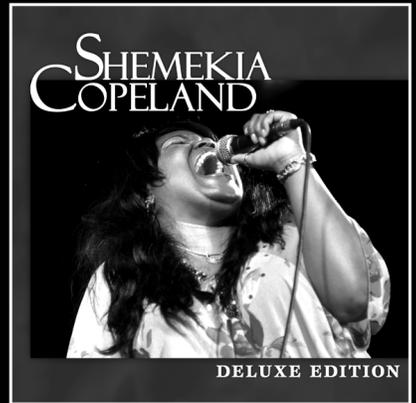
The new release opens with a hot rendition of the Big Maybelle classic "That's A Pretty Good Love," that begins with some slashing guitar by Vachon, a bit of Johnny 'Guitar' Watson crossed with Lafayette 'Thing' Thomas. It's interesting to hear a male sing this, and while Pemberton has a strong voice, he almost is over the top here while the horns riff in support and rhythm cooks. Gatemouth Brown's "She Walks Right In," is a hot jumping number with some nice sax obligatto behind the vocals, before Vachon treats us to some fifties-styled Gatemouth

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THINGS NEVER STOP
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Brown guitar followed by some booting baritone sax from Mark Earley, as the other horns riff like a mini Count Basie Band. Then we go to New Orleans for a cover of the Smiley Lewis recording from which the CD gets its title, although Pemberton's vocal can't cut Deacon John's Jump Blues cover much less the original.

Pemberton's frenzied rock and roll vocal along with Vachon's slashing fretwork are front and center on "Kill Me," from the Don & Dewey songbook, followed by a lively reworking of a Gatemouth Brown instrumental from the early fifties, "Gate Walks to Board," where Vachon, Lataille, Earley, trumpeter Doug Woolverton, and pianist Travis Colby get solo spots. Pemberton can be an evocative singer when he cools down a bit, as on the remake of Amos Milburn's "Juice, Juice, Juice," while "Ain't Nothin' Happenin'," cracks the tempo up on a hot Crescent City boogie, on which Pemberton sounds at home. "Win With Me Baby" is another Peacock Gatemouth Brown recording. There are solid vocals and guitar on this, with the horns providing the right atmosphere. Lieber and Stoller's "It" is a relatively obscure Jimmy Witherspoon recording with nice vocals and good playing, while the rendition of "Come On Home" is a bit less frantic than Louis Jones' original of this early sixties R&B rave-up, followed by a reflective Pemberton on "Time Brings About a Change," from Floyd Dixon's songbook, with Vachon almost in a Johnny Moore vein, Woolverton adding lovely muted trumpet and a terrific tenor sax solo. A remake of a Nappy Brown recording "Just a Little Love," closes this out, with Pemberton sounding very nice and the performance sports a booting tenor sax solo.

While some of my comments on specific songs may have sounded critical, the simple fact is that taking this album as a whole, this may be the best Roomful of Blues recording in a very long time. Roomful of Blues has shaken up the house and that is a very good thing.

For more reviews by Ron Weinstock, visit: inablue mood.blogspot.com.



<i>February</i>		<i>Early March</i>	
1	Otis Taylor Band @ Blues Alley (Ticket giveaway/discount)	2	Esther Haynes @ La Portas
2	Buckwheat Zydeco @ Wolf Trap; Wolf's Blues Jam @ Beach Cove	4	Motor City Josh @ Madam's Organ
3	Corey Harris @ Blues Alley (Ticket giveaway/discount); Buckwheat Zydeco @ Rams Head On Stage; Nighthawks @ Surf Club	5	Deanna Bogart @ Black Rock Performing Arts; BBQ Bob & Spareribs @ Madam's Organ; Joy Bodycomb @ Potomac Grill; Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar
4	Eric Culberson @ Madam's Organ; Mary Shaver Band @ Ice House Café; Skyla Burrell Blues Band @ 219	6	DCBS Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ
5	Eric Culberson @ Madam's Organ; Nighthawks @ Jammin' Java; Automatic Slim @ Bertha's	Regular Blues Events	
6	NO DCBS Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion (cancelled due to Super Bowl) Next Jam is March 6.	Sunday	DCBS Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion (1 st Sunday—cancelled for Feb. 6); Paulverizers Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille; NRBK Open/Mic Jam @ Old Fire Station No. 3; Blues Jam w/Dogfather Blues Band @ The Whiskey; Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues
7	Danny Blew & Blues Crew @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	Monday	Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's (2 nd and 4 th Mondays)
8	Eric Lindell @ Rams Head On Stage	Tuesday	Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues (new beg. Feb. 15); Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ (alternating Tuesdays)
10	Skyla Burrell Blues Band @ Cat's Eye Pub	Wednesday	Wolf's Hot Rods & Old Gas Blues Jam @ Beach Cove; Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille
11	Johnny Winter, Damon Fowler @ Rams Head On Stage; Joy Bodycomb @ 2nd Chance Saloon; Little Red & Renegades @ Haydee's; Nighthawks @ Bentz Street Sports Bar; Nadine Rae @ Lexington Market; Stacy Brooks @ My Place	Thursday	DCBS Thursday Jam/Open Mic w/Sol @ LA Bar & Grill; Patrick Alban or Johnny Artis @ Madam's Organ; Open Mic w/Fast Eddie @ Spanky's Shenanigans; Blues Jam @ Eastport Democratic Club; Big Boy Little Band Jam @ Zoo Bar; Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo; Ronnie Ray & Coolers Jam @ Braddock Inn
12	Johnny Winter, Damon Fowler @ Rams Head On Stage; Nichole Hart & NRG Band @ Madam's Organ; Nadine Rae @ Lexington Market; Bobby Lewis Blues Band @ Hershey's; Mary Shaver Band @ JVs	Friday	Glen Moomau & Blue Flames @ Bertha's; Hot Rods @ Old Gas @ Zoo Bar (1 st Friday); Wolf's Blues Jam @ Fat Boys (2 nd Friday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Café; Brian Gross Trio @ Café Ole
13	B.T. Richardson @ Madam's Organ; Stacy Brooks @ Madams Organ; Linwood Taylor @ Cat's Eye Pub	Saturday	Acoustic Blues Jam @ Archie's Barbershop; Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar (1 st Saturday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe; Brian Gross & Steve Levine @ Sala Thai, Bethesda (2 nd Saturday)
14	Remembering B.B. Country @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	<p>Attention dancers: See DCBS homepage for link to dance-friendly venues. To subscribe to a weekly e-mail newsletter "So Many Choices" with dance-specific information, often with a blues twist, send an e-mail to DCBS member and Blues fan Robin: hc1829@aol.com</p> <p>Bolded items are picks by calendar editor, Mike Wolk, and include DCBS and BBS events. Send listings to calendar@dcblues.org. Musicians: Deadline is 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 the event will occur. The DCBS homepage has additional music links and information: www.dcblues.org.</p>	
15	James Hunter @ Rams Head On Stage		
17	Blues at the Crossroads: The Robert Johnson Centennial with Big Head Todd & the Monsters, David "Honeyboy" Edwards, Hubert Sumlin, Cedric Burnside and Lightnin' Malcolm @ Strathmore; Tom Principato @ Rams Head On Stage		
18	Tom Principato @ Birchmere; Billy Thompson @ Madam's Organ; Lisa Lim & Over the Limit @ JVs Restaurant; Electrofied @ Chef Mac's; Bobby Kyle Band @ Old Town Bowie Grille		
19	Charlie Musselwhite and Hot Tuna @ George Mason University; The Nighthawks @ Rams Head On Stage; Hot Rods & Old Gas @ Bare Bones; Little Red & Renegades @ Bayou		
20	25 th Annual WAMMIES Awards @ State Theatre; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ; Tom Principato @ Baileys Crossroads Border's		
21	Robert Cray @ Birchmere; Tom Newman Blues Band @ Westminster Presbyterian Church		
22	Robert Cray @ Rams Head On Stage		
24	Shemekia Copeland @ Rams Head On Stage; Stacy Brooks - Mardi Gras Party @ Surf Club Live		
25	Joy Bodycomb @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Lisa Lim & Over the Limit @ Martini's Lounge; Rick Franklin & Roger Heart @ Corner Store; Stacy Brooks @ My Place; Ursula Ricks @ Chef Mac's		
26	BBS presents Michael Burks, The Lee Boys @ Rosedale American Legion; Joy Bodycomb @ Old Fire Station #3; Bobby Parker @ Madam's Organ; Lisa Lim & Over the Limit @ Martini's Lounge; Andy Poxon Band, Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark & Blues Allstars @ Bangkok Blues		
28	Clarence Turner @ Westminster Presbyterian Church		

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DC Blues Society
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Veteran Patients***

**THURSDAY
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1:00- 3:00 PM**

**Featuring
Dr. S.O. Feelgood
with Mr. Bozee The Clown**

**VA Medical Center
50 Irving St. NW
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**Information:
www.dcblues.org
or call 301-322-4808**





*The National Salute to Veteran Patients is held annually during the week of February 14
www.volunteer.va.gov/NationalSaluteVeteranPatients.asp

Blues Salute to Veteran Patients

As highlighted in the graphic on the left, the DCBS is coordinating a Blues Salute for Veteran Patients during the National Salute to Veteran Patients Week (February 13-19). This Blues Salute event will take place on February 17 at the VA Medical Center in Washington, DC. Mr. Bozee, the Clown (and an avid blues fan) and Dr. S.O. Feelgood, as DJ and emcee, will be playing blues music and entertaining the patients and others present at the VA Medical Center as part of this tribute.

The National Salute to Veteran Patients Program occurs annually during a designated week in February, and its purpose is to pay tribute and express appreciation to Veterans; increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center; and encourage citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers. More than 98,000 Veterans of the U.S. armed services are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and nursing homes.

RIP Dave Giegerich, 1953 to December 29, 2010

Dave Giegerich, 57, one of the co-founders of the Hula Monsters, died December 29 in Baltimore of complications from aplastic anemia, a blood disorder. Giegerich was a musician known in the Baltimore-DC area for his hybrid of Hawaiian tunes, western swing and rockabilly; and as a master of the steel guitar and dobro. www.washingtonpost.com

RIP Gerry Rafferty, 1947 – January 4, 2011

The Scottish singer-songwriter Gerry Rafferty died at the age of 63 after a long illness and a long battle with alcoholism. In 1972, as a member of Stealers Wheel, a soft-rock group, he saw the band's debut album climb the US charts. It included the million-selling "Stuck in the Middle With You." He also wrote the multimillion-selling hit and 1978 release "Baker Street." From www.guardian.co.uk.

RIP Bobby Robinson, 1917 – January 7, 2011

Producer, record label owner, and musical pioneer Bobby Robinson died on January 7 after a lengthy illness. Robinson was 93 years old. A musical institution in New York's Harlem community, he opened his legendary Bobby's Happy House record store in 1946 and ran it until it closed in 2008. As the visionary producer and label owner for the Fire, Fury, Enjoy, and Red Robin record labels, he produced numerous recordings during the 1950s/'60s that would shape and influence blues, R&B, early rock 'n' roll, and soul music for a generation to follow. From Keith's Blues Blog, <http://blues.about.com>

RIP Fred Sanders - 1939 - January 17, 2011

Longtime Memphis blues guitarist Fred Sanders died on January 17, at the age of 71, after a long battle with cancer and after a stroke. Sanders, a great guitarist and stirring vocalist, was a fixture on Beale Street and played daily in the famous W.C. Handy Park. His album *Long Time Coming* was released last year on the I55 Productions label. From Bob Corritore's Blues Newsletter, bobcorritore@yahoo.com

**Pinetop Perkins Foundation
Announces Youth Workshop Series
Piano and Guitar Masterclasses,
June 15 – 17, 2011, Clarksdale, MS**

The Pinetop Perkins Foundation will hold its second annual Youth Workshop Series in Clarksdale, MS, and will offer guitar as well as piano workshops. Bob Margolin will direct the guitar workshops and Ann Rabson will once again lead the piano workshops. Margolin won the Blues Music Award for guitar in 2008 and 2009, played in Muddy Waters' band for 7 years, and has led his own band for 31 years. Ann Rabson has been performing the blues professionally since 1962, has released three solo albums, appeared on ten Saffire albums, and as a side musician on many other recordings. Both musicians also have extensive experience presenting at workshops and other arts education programs.

The three-day Workshop concludes with a performance jam at the Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale. The Workshop Series is open to the young and the young at heart, and a limited number of scholarships are available (four to Mississippi youth ages 12 to 21, and one to a youth living outside the state of Mississippi). The Workshop fee is \$395, not including lodging. For more information and application forms, visit www.pinetopperkinsfoundation.org.

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Workshop Costs: \$10/\$15 club members and non-members for each workshop

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Open Dance Dee Jay: Mike Harding from Greensboro, NC

Open Dance Costs: \$10/\$12 club members and non-members

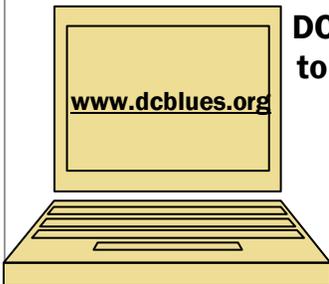
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<p>15% Discount 🎵 LA Bar & Grill 2530 Columbia Pike Arlington, VA 22204 703-682-1560 www.lowerarlingtonbarandgrill.com</p>	<p>JV's Restaurant 🎵 Drink Special 🎵 Buy one & get 2nd drink free 6666 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, VA 22042 703-241-9504 www.jvsrestaurant.com</p>	<p>10% Discount 😊 Capitol Hill Books Across from Eastern Market 657 C Street, SE Washington, DC 20003 202-544-1621 www.capitolhillbooks-dc.com</p>	<p>20% Discount 😊 Neil Senning Enterprises Quality Painting and Handyman Services: Plastering/Drywall Deck Cleaning/Power Washing/Staining/Carpentry/Interior & Exterior Work and much more. 301-717-1773</p>

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DCBS is starting a new promotion and contest. Have a picture taken of you and/or your friends wearing DCBS merchandise (e.g., hat, tee shirt, tank top). Send in the photo to newsletter@dcblues.org, or post it to your Facebook page and tag DC Blues Society, so it also appears on the DCBS Facebook page. DCBS will include some of the photos in future newsletters. When there are enough entries, DCBS will select the most unique photo and the winner will receive a free tee shirt or a selection of a CD from those that DCBS has available.

A Big Thank You To The Blue Waters Foundation Annapolis, MD
 For its generous donation to the DC Blues Society



Blues Foundation Partners with Sound Healthcare

The Blues Foundation has partnered with Sound Healthcare, a Nashville entity whose goal is to provide access to specific insurance and discount products custom-designed to meet the needs of Blues music industry professionals. They strive to customize programs of protection designed to balance your budget with your needs. Sound Healthcare also partners with: Country Music Association; Gospel Music Association; International Bluegrass Music Association; Audio Engineering Society; Songwriters Guild of America; The Recording Musicians Association; Americana Music Association and Nashville Association of Musicians, Local 257, A.F. of M. For more information, visit www.blues.org.



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That means we need you, as individuals and organizations, to help DCBS achieve its mission of keeping the Blues alive, through outreach and education.

- **Become a volunteer** - visit www.dcblues.org for a list of the many volunteer opportunities, and/or write to volunteer@dcblues.org.
- **Maintain your DCBS membership** - whether it's an individual, family, or corporate membership (see p 2).
- **Spread the word about DCBS benefits and attend DCBS events.**
- **Become a friend of DCBS on Facebook!**
- **Give the DCBS Board Members and Key Volunteers** (see p 2) feedback on the Society's efforts.
- **Help DCBS secure sponsors for the free annual DC Blues Festival**, held each year during Labor Day weekend, at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre (see www.dcblues.org for the different sponsor options).

Festival Season is Coming

Advertise your Festival in the
DCBS *Capital Blues Messenger* newsletter.
See information on p 2 and visit www.dcblues.org.

What's Ahead for DCBS and You!

Mark your calendars for these dates now and remember to check the DCBS website often and read all DCBS eblasts for the most up-to-date postings of Society events. While many events are planned well in advance of the actual show, others develop with less advance notice and there may not be enough time to promote those events in the *Capital Blues Messenger*.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| February 17 | Blues Salute to Veteran Patients (see p 10) |
| April 17 | Kick Cancer Fundraiser (see p 4) |
| June 18 | 3rd Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival |
| July 16 | 7th Annual DCBS Fish Fry 'n Blues 'n Bike Contest |
| September 3 | 24th Annual DC Blues Festival |
| October TBD | DCBS Battle of the Bands |
| November TBD | 4th Annual College Park Blues Festival |
| December 31 | DCBS New Year's Dinner and Dance |

And more - plans are being developed for a Spring show featuring the 2011 IBC semi-finalists, Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark and the Blues Allstars, and Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner; and for a show featuring Biscuit Miller.

If you have ideas for other shows, as well as ideas for venues for shows, please send them to : president@dcblues.org.

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