

Capital Blues Messenger

Celebrating the Blues in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia
December 2011 Volume 5 Issue 12



Season's Greetings & Happy New Year



**DCBS
New Year's Eve
Celebration
Features
Melvin Taylor
& Band**



**Also In This
Issue
College Park
Festival Recap
Featured Dec. &
Jan. Events
CD Reviews
And More**



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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Become a DCBS member!

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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Unless noted, photos & articles were contributed by DCBS board members and newsletter editor. Printer: Quick Printing Inc. Wheaton, MD www.quickprintinginc.com

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D.C. Blues Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Date: _____ If renewal, check here _____

Name (please print clearly above) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Dues per year (circle appropriate one):

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

Individual: \$25 Family: \$35

Corporate: \$200 Canada: \$35 (US funds)

Other Countries: \$50 (US funds)

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

If Family, list member names: _____

Your volunteer time/talent is always welcome. If interested in volunteering, check interest(s):

___ Update Website

___ Work a shift at a show (DCBS table, door, etc.)

___ Promote shows (distribute flyers, handbills, etc.)

___ Raise funds (sell ads, organize auctions, etc.)

___ Write reviews or take photos for Newsletter

(see your name in print!)

___ Other? _____

Mail with check to
THE DC BLUES SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON, DC 20013-7315

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

President's Drum



Hello all - It seems that lately my opening statement for the President's Drum has been a Thank-You for something. Well, no need in breaking with tradition, so THANK ALL OF YOU who attended the Fourth Annual College Park Blues Festival on November 12. As you know, it was partially a fundraiser to help get our International Blues Challenge (IBC) representative Clarence "the Blues Man" Turner to Memphis, TN, where the band will compete in the IBC competition January 31 - February 4, 2012. The Festival also was presented to pay homage to our military veterans, as one of the Veterans Day weekend celebrations. With the hardship that military personnel and their families have to endure on a regular basis, it would be the best of gestures and necessity to honor and recognize them for the sacrifices they make. Thanks again to all our Veterans. Check out the photos below of some of the Festival attendees, vendors, and sound technicians. For more photos and a Festival recap, also see pages 6 and 7.

New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance - Well, winter is upon us and it's time for our annual New Year's Eve celebration. Detailed information is provided on p. 4, so get your tickets in advance through PayPal or reserve by calling the phone number listed. As usual, we'll have quality entertainment at an affordable price, so let's spend time with like-minded folks and have a BLAST!

Share the Blues and Its History with the Young - I've been listening lately to a young musician who started on the guitar at the young age of 3. He's been advertised lately as being 19 years old, with the voice of a well seasoned Bluesician. Marquise Knox is his name - check him out at www.marquiseknox.com. I've come to realize I'm probably a Johnny Come Lately to Marquise according to all the awards and nominations he's already garnered and the events that he's showcased thus far. No, the Blues are not dead or dying. As long as we continue to educate our young people to its beginnings, they'll be more young folks like Marquise on the scene. Make it a point to pass along literature to the young about this art form.

Help DCBS Cut Costs - As you know, the DC Blues Society is a non-profit organization that has an extremely tight budget. As a cost-cutting measure, we would like to ask those of you who are still receiving this publication, the *Capital Blues Messenger (CBM)*, by U.S. mail if you could switch to receiving it by email. If all our members received the *CBM* by email, this would greatly reduce the monthly expense we now pay to print and mail hard copies. Besides, the emailed version is in color and is spectacular. If you can, please consider this request. I think you'll be more than satisfied with the change. To effect this change, please send an email to membership@dcblues.org and indicate you would like to receive the *CBM* by email rather than U.S. mail.

I'll see you at the Wheaton American Legion on New Year's Eve. Enjoy yourself 'till then, and go see some live music and take a friend.

Sam'i

Changes to the DCBS Board of Directors

At the December 1, 2012 meeting of the DC Blues Society Board of Directors, the annual election process for officers was held. All of the current Board members will continue to serve on the Board in 2012 and will continue with their same responsibilities, except that Felix McClairn will once again be the DCBS President. Sam'i Nuriddin, who voluntarily stepped down from the President role, will continue to be the Jam Master and Membership Coordinator. See all of the Board members on p. 2 of this newsletter. In addition, Howard Herrnstadt (aka Harmonica Blu) was elected to the Board as a new member, and he will assume the Media responsibilities.

Thank you Sam'i for your leadership this past year. Congratulations Felix and Howard!

College Park Blues Festival - Attendees, Veterans, Vendors, Volunteers, Sound Techs - Thank You



Photos top row, L to R: Veteran dancing; sound technician Mark Leary (and yes, Ritchie Coliseum is a challenge to the sound guys!); vendors showing their wares

Bottom row: A table set in memory of the POWs-MIAs

Photos by Sheryl Adams

DC Blues Society
New Year's Eve Celebration
 Dinner, Champagne, Dancing
December 31, 2011
8:00 PM - 12:30 AM



Eric Herzog
Photography/Foto, Inc.

American Legion
Post 268
11225 Fern Street
Wheaton, MD 20902

Featuring
Guitar Virtuoso
Melvin Taylor
and band
www.melvintaylormusic.com



Advance tickets on SALE!
\$30 member ♦ \$35 non-member
Door: \$35 member ♦ \$40 non-member
www.dcblues.org or call 301-322-4808

Bring in the New Year
at the DCBS New Year's Eve Celebration
Featuring Melvin Taylor

On Saturday, December 31, the DC Blues Society presents its annual New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance from 8:00 pm to 12:30 am at the American Legion Post 268, 11225 Fern Street, Wheaton, MD 20902. Bring in the year with the best Blues party in the region!

The evening includes a southern style dinner (turkey, ham, black-eyed peas, greens, cornbread and more), a champagne toast, party favors, and dancing 'til 2012 to live Blues! **Virtuoso guitarist, Melvin Taylor and his band will perform at this year's party. Melvin Taylor has played with greats like Pinetop Perkins and opened for a range of stars including B.B. King, Buddy Guy, George Benson and Carlos Santana.** See the article below and the interview on the next page for more information on this special performer.

Seating is limited, so get your tickets now. Advance tickets are \$30 per person for DCBS members and \$35 for non-members. At the door, admission is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Yes, this great admission price includes the entertainment, dinner, the champagne toast, and party favors. A cash bar is available as well.

To purchase tickets, visit www.dcblues.org, where you can pay via PAYPAL, or call 301-322-4808.

Melvin Taylor - "One of the most exhilarating blues guitarists to emerge in the past decade...[he] is more a blues innovator than a purist, mixing jazz chords and rock influences into his tapestry of electric blues."
 -Rolling Stone Magazine

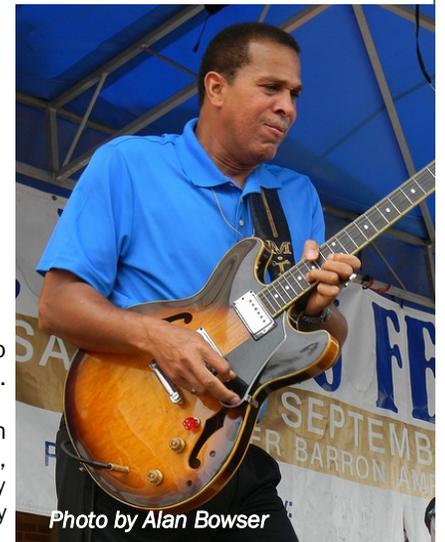


Photo by Alan Bowser

Melvin Taylor - A Stunning Performer!

Melvin Taylor is known as a phenomenally talented bluesman. He is one of those musicians who has earned and enjoyed tremendous respect and recognition in Europe and who can equally awe U.S. audiences.

Taylor was born in Mississippi but raised in Chicago, where he is still based. He learned guitar from his mother's brother, Uncle Floyd Vaughan, who jammed with his friends to tunes by Muddy Waters, Jimmy Reed and Howlin' Wolf. By the age of 12, Taylor was a participant in these jams. Almost entirely self-taught, he learned slide playing, finger-picking and flat-picking styles from his favorite recordings by B.B. King, Albert King and Jimi Hendrix.

While in his teens, Taylor joined the Transistors, a band that made their mark playing popular music of the 1970s at talent shows and night clubs. After the Transistors broke up in the early 1980s, Taylor focused his attention on playing blues in Chicago's West Side clubs. When pianist Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins was looking for a guitarist for a number of European performances, Taylor's talent was recognized and he joined the Legendary Blues Band for a year. In a Tribute to Pinetop, Taylor described his meeting with the legend as follows:

"Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins sent Willie Smith to my house on Chicago's west side to pick me up for rehearsal. A few minutes into our session, Pinetop looked at me and said, "Man, you are the real deal - do you have a passport"? This was my entry into the newly formed Legendary Blues Band with Pinetop Perkins, Calvin "Fuzz" Jones, and Willie "Big Eyes" Smith. I was 22 years old and Pinetop was 67. We remained close friends for the next 30 years. Pinetop was the first person to show interest in my talent and I will be grateful forever to him."

Taylor made such an impact in Europe that several club and festival bookers wanted him back with his own group. Since the late 1980s, he has made regular tours of Europe, often backed by former members of the Transistors, where they opened for the such legends as B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Santana, George Benson and Canned Heat.

Taylor's initial recordings were two that he recorded for a French label. Those were subsequently reissued on the Pennsylvania-based Evidence Music label: *Blues on the Run*, originally recorded in 1982, and 1984's *Melvin Taylor Plays the Blues for You*. Taylor signed with Evidence Music in 1995, and with blues impresario John Snyder, he recorded his debut for the label, *Melvin Taylor and the Slack Band*. That album also showcased his original songwriting. In 1996, he recorded his second U.S. album, *Dirty Pool*. Both records showcase Taylor's awe-inspiring guitar playing and original renderings of classic Chicago blues tunes. In 2000, *Bang the Bell* was released, and in 2002, he teamed with Lucky Peterson and Mato Nanji for the *Rendezvous With the Blues CD*. Melvin's latest CD, *Beyond the Burning Guitar*, was released by Orchard in November 2010, and is available through iTunes and other digital sites.

Melvin Taylor is an amazing self-taught master guitarist. His unique sound and his stunning live performances are continuing to thrill and entertain audiences. Information from Richard Skelly, Rovi All Music Guide www.allmusic.com, and www.melvintaylormusic.com.



Felix McClairen Interviews Melvin Taylor for an Up-Close Look at This Artist

DCBS Board Member Felix McClairen interviewed Melvin for this *Capital Blues Messenger* (CBM) article, and this interview provides additional insight into this great performer who will be providing the entertainment for the DCBS New Year's Eve celebration.

CBM: You played a couple of gigs at Rosa's in Chicago recently. Have you played there in the past? What other classic "sorta" Chicago joints have you played?

Taylor: Rosa's is like my home base. 29 years ago I was at Rosa's seven nights a week. There are apartments upstairs. I still got clothes there. I look forward to seeing Mama Rosa, who is 82 or 83 years old. [Rosa's was founded in 1984 by her son, Tony.] I play Rosa's anytime I'm in Chicago. I've played Buddy Guy's, House of Blues, and the Blues Brothers Bar. I played the Checkerboard Lounge when I was 23 years old. I played with Bluesmen like Buddy and Jr. Wells at the famous Theresa's Lounge on Chicago's Southside. Back then I also played with Little Walter's band, The Aces.

CBM: You're heralded as a genuine guitar wizard by critics and fans. To what do you attribute your technique and multi-faceted style?

Taylor: Well, I learned the basics and mixed in what I have naturally. My technique is self taught, so I have no limits. I just finished a new CD, *The Sweet Taste of Guitar*, which shows a variety of styles. I came to Fairfax, VA to work on the CD. On it I play guitars, horns, and keyboards. There are two types of musicians: schooled and gifted. Some of the greatest musicians couldn't read music. [I don't.]

CBM: Speaking of multi-faceted, I listened to "One More Time (I Love the Way You Lie)" [Single 2011]. It starts and ends with a baroque (I think) flourish, includes a high-pitched gothic female voice, a rap, and your lightening fast riffs. Who are the personnel? How did this collaboration come about?

Taylor: I really love music and I'll play anything. I arranged this Eminem tune. I may as well copy the best in the business. That's Emma Gray on vocals and Matt Christian, an audio engineer from Fairfax, rapping.

CBM: When/how did you develop an interest in a range of musical styles, including Blues, jazz & Rock?

Taylor: I was 30 years old when I started learning music in a different way. My playing was very busy. I tried to simplify my style.

CBM: What led to what some might call your Blues immersion?

Taylor: Earlier, I felt I had to cross over. But Blues are my roots. I never left the Blues. Blues is the core. I can go a million places, but the Blues is always there.

CBM: What was it like (most memorable experience) to play with Pinetop Perkins starting when you were just 22 years old?

Taylor: Pinetop was funny. I was crazy about him. We were both country boys from Mississippi. I use to hang out at his house. We would laugh and talk for hours. I was picked on a little. When I joined his band, they'd call me "Young Blood." I did a West Coast tour with Pinetop's band, and we stayed in Europe for two months.

I met Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Witherspoon, Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, Ike Turner—everybody! Pinetop was like Otis Spann—a great piano player.

CBM: How had you prepared yourself to play with legends, when you were so young?

Taylor: What really made me ready was my uncle, Floyd Vaughn. In my family and around my house everybody played. We'd have fish fries and all the Bluesmen would be there. Many great Bluesmen like Lil Milton played in my house. When I joined the Pinetop's Legendary Blues Band, I already knew the songs.

CBM: You've played all over the world. What were some of your favorite places or gigs?

Taylor: I played the North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands for several years, the last time in 1997. Miles, Dizzy, Ray Charles, Chick Corea, Stevie, Herbie Hancock were all there. I remember the lunch-

room at the hotel, stars everywhere! I did a 5-city tour in the Ukraine for the American Music Series in 2010. I liked the great reception I received. I also enjoyed conducting the Jazz Guitar Master Class - at The Conservatory of Music in Lvov, Ukraine last year. I worked with formally and well-trained musicians who knew and loved good music.

CBM: They say you're a star in Europe. What venues have you played? Why not a star in America?

Taylor: Like any business, the music business has its politics. There are different promoters and cliques. Here, at home, I sensed envy from my peers. I was excluded from events - it leaves you in a predicament. People love you but the promoters shut you out. It hurts. I guess I fit in better in Europe at the time.

In addition to the venues I've already mentioned, I've played at the New Morning Jazz Club and the Meridian Hotel Blues Club in Paris, the Prince Albert Hall in London, and I've done concerts, festivals, and clubs in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, North Africa (Tanzania), Chile and Venezuela in South America, China, and Tokyo, Japan.

CBM: How many CDs have you produced? I count 9-10. With a lot of traveling, how do you decide to do a CD?

Taylor: Nine. The ninth one will be out in January. I'm also working on a special music project associated with the GRAMMYS in Atlanta. I just became a voting member of the Recording Academy. I just decide to take off a couple of months to record. I take some time to figure out the production. The new CD, *The Sweet Taste of Guitar*, is all original tunes and I play all of the instruments. *Beyond the Burning Guitar* contains 23 original tunes except a Beethoven piece.

CBM: The *Dirty Pool* CD (1997) includes three Stevie Ray Vaughn tunes (and the CD title is same as a Vaughn song). Are you a fan?

Taylor: [Not necessarily.] We're the same age. We played on a 3-4 concert tour and Stevie liked my playing. He learned to play from Jimi Hendrix and Albert King.

CBM: What's the story behind "God Bless you Pinetop?" What made you and Daryl Davis do this tribute song?

Taylor: It had to happen. I talked to Pinetop a few months before his death. I went to Rosa's and talked to him and Otis Rush. I had to do something to honor him. So I asked Daryl Davis to join me. Daryl replaced Pinetop with the Legendary Blues Band when Pinetop left the road. I play all the instruments except piano.

CBM: What was the evolution of your last CD, *Beyond the Burning Guitar* (2010)?

Taylor: There was stuff in my head all the while I was going through stuff. I took off time in VA. I hadn't recorded in a long time. I met retired music publisher, Ivan Mogul, who suggested I do an all instrumental recording. He gave me insights. Ivan had the Orchard label with Nat King Cole, Nina Simone, Liza Minnelli. The problem in Chicago is that the Blues Fest & Jazz Fest can peg you. You can get lost in Chicago with so many good players. (I did get my picture on a 12-ft mural of the Chicago skyline at the airport.) So I went to Europe.

CBM: Where are you hoping to take your career from here?

Taylor: To the top!

CBM: What projects are you working on or plan? Next dates?

Taylor: We'll never stop. I've got a music video in the works, a documentary film, and a book.

CBM: Our New Year's Eve crowd always comes to party—even if they're dressed to the nines. What you got for them?

Taylor: We got some good stuff! We got mixtures. Whatever the crowd wants. The band is some of Chicago's finest. Our drummer, Jay Davenport, is back from touring with John Mayall. I grew up with Mike Riley, who plays bass. Mike happens to be Eddie Shaw's nephew and played for Lil' Milton and Tyrone Davis. Rick Jones will be on keyboard.

CBM: We're looking forward to juking into the New Year with you and the band. Thanks for your time.

College Park Blues Festival Gets Bigger Each Year

The man facing the audience in a cowboy hat and sunglasses sang and played with all of the experience one would expect from an 81-year-old man who had been performing in front of an audience since childhood. But the guitar licks and singing that cut the air that night had the energy and drive expected from a much younger man.

Warner Williams was playing the Fourth Annual College Park Blues Festival, held November 12 at the University of Maryland's Ritchie Coliseum. As the opening act, Williams was the perfect performer to set the bar for an evening of blues. The rapt, almost reverential attention Williams received from the audience seemed to recognize his status as a musical icon and recent National Endowment of the Arts National Heritage Award recipient. Hardly anyone was talking, and few were looking at anything else in the room other than Williams as he played a set that acknowledged the Veteran's Day weekend with an instrumental of "God Bless America" and also included his version of "Blueberry Hill," the classic made famous by Fats Domino.

Up next was Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner, who will represent the DC area at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, January 31 - February 4, 2012. Clarence is also a seasoned performer and his style of blues helped to draw out the dancers and those who enjoy being up close to the musical action. His band included Sean Graves on drums, Dave Satterwhite on bass, Chuck Pearson on keyboards/organ, and Andrew Alli on harmonica.

The DC Blues Society Band with Ayaba Bey followed. Sam'i Nuriddin was on guitar, David Harris on harmonica, David Jackson on bass, and Joseph "E-Flat" Thomas on saxophone. Ayaba had great stage presence whether she was belting out the vocals with the band, or singing and playing the guitar herself.

The show ended with master guitarist Tom Newman pleasing the crowd with his version of jazz-infused, dynamic blues. His awesome band included Chuck "The Pluck" Carter on bass, Norman Weeks on keyboards, Kenny Sanders on drums and vocals, Howard Bernstein on harmonica, and Liz Virones on vocals.

Article by Kirk Jackson and Pat Bransford



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Photos from upper right clockwise:
Warner Williams (by Sheryl Adams (SA)),
Clarence "the Blues Man" Turner (SA),
Andrew Alli (by Pat Bransford (PB)),
Joseph "E-Flat" Thomas (SA),
Chuck "The Pluck" Carter on bass (PB),
Howard Bernstein on harmonica (PB)
Liz Virones (SA),
Tom Newman (SA),
Ayaba Bey (PB)

To see sample videos of the performances, visit Kirk Jackson's blog at <http://beldonsbluespoint.blogspot.com/>



A Thank You Message to All Who Supported the College Park Festival

The musicians, the volunteers, the sponsors, the prizes, the vendors, and the attendees are what make an event great. Thanks for making it happen!

Big shout outs to these key helpers on festival day:

Lawrence - for hanging the DCBS banner, setting up tables and chairs, configuring the lighting / sound for the venue, and ensuring overall security and maintenance throughout the event

Cheryl - for coordinating and setting up the stage

Bob and the PG Police - for putting up the digital sign to direct festival goers

Mayor Andy Fellows, Commander Chris Myers, and the Phillips-Kleiner VFW Post 5627 - for a moment of special recognition to the veterans and their wonderful Veteran's presentations

Lisa and Tina - for raising \$300+ in the raffle

Peter, Jen, Marshall, and Dave - for staffing the DCBS Booth and selling \$100+ in guitar raffles

Alan Gray - for artist food pickup/delivery (from Prince Cafe and Krazi Kebob), staffing the Welcome Center and DCBS Booth, and all-day assistance

Victor - for artist and prize pickup/delivery (from Original Ledo's Pizza and A2Z Wireless prizes), signage and materials (and weeks of prep including changing the DC Blues Festival date on the huge banner)

Adele, Barbara, Celina, Edda, Sharon, Alan, and Tina - for staffing the Welcome Center

Barbara P. and Mike Newland - for stage reconfigurations, decorations, and vendor setup

Adele and Lisa - for setting up the tables and decorations

Florette - for setup and green room assistance

Sharon - for connections, cleanup, and transporting signage

Dave Rabinowitz - for creative configurations and consultations

Marshall, Dave, and Alan G. - for manpower and ingenious logistics

Mark and his crew - for providing the sound

Ida Campbell - for emceeing the event

Sheryl and Pat - for capturing the festival in photographs

Shannon - for recording the event and reporting the event before/during/after on the College Park Patch

This isn't the full list - it's a start - it takes a big crew to put on a festival and it couldn't be done without YOU!!!

Jazs



Emcee Ida Campbell and Jazs

Photo by Pat Bransford

Special Message to the Sponsors of the College Park Blues Festival

The Fourth Annual College Park Festival was brought to you by the City of College Park, the College Park Recreation Board, the University of Maryland, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the DC Blues Society.



In addition, a number of private businesses deserve recognition for their role in making the Festival so successful, and especially for providing raffle and give-away prizes that were valued from \$100 to \$600.

Special thanks goes to:



Rocketeria
18120 Hillcrest Avenue, Olney, MD
20832 301-774-5690
www.rocketeria.biz



Atomic Music - Beltsville store
10111A Bacon Dr., Beltsville, MD 20705
301-595-4190 www.atomicmusic.com



Marathon Deli
4429 Lehigh Rd, College Park, MD 20740
301-927-6717



Prince Café
8145 Baltimore Ave., Ste. A
College Park, MD 20740
301-513-0800



The Original Ledo Restaurant
4509 Knox Rd, College Park, MD 20740
301-422-6122
www.ledorestaurant.com



Krazi Kabob
4427 Lehigh Road, College Park, MD
20740 301-864-5150
www.krazikebob.com



Jason's Deli
7356 Baltimore Ave., College Park, MD
20740 301-779-3924 jasonsdeli.com



A2Z Wireless
7401 Baltimore Ave., College Park, MD
20740 301-985-2002

Big thanks also goes to these additional College Park businesses: Looney's Pub, New York Deli, Kevin Nails, and the Bagel Place, plus the College Park Arts Exchange, Hungry for Music, and the Branchville Phillips-Kleiner VFW Post 5627.



Da 'Gator Blues Show and Tribute

A Night of Music, Fun & Support



Saturday, December 10, 2011

Doors open at 5:00 PM Show at 6:00 PM

Lamont's Entertainment Complex

4400 Livingston Road, Pomonkey, MD 20640

Tel: (301) 283-0225

\$20 Donation*

(all proceeds go to Da 'Gator)

Featuring Bobby Parker ♦ The Orioles

Memphis Gold ♦ Lee Field

Hardway Connection ♦ Gridloc Band

Jacques Johnson ♦ Chick Willis

Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner ♦ Big G

The Gatorettes ♦ Ida Campbell and many others

MCs: James Funk ♦ Millie Ware

*Donations may be sent to "Frederick Bolling"
c/o Lamont's Entertainment Complex

Da 'Gator Tribute Promises to Be A Huge Show

DC Blues fans have been listening to Da 'Gator on WPFW 89.3 FM for years and have probably seen this avid Blues, Jazz, and Southern Soul aficionado at various music events in the DC area. On Saturday, December 10, Lamont's Entertainment Complex in Pomonkey, MD will be hosting a Blues Show and Tribute for Da 'Gator, who has been struggling with medical issues since May of 2011.

Rick "Da 'Gator" Bolling was born in New Orleans and grew up in Jacksonville, FL. His grandmother nicknamed him Da 'Gator because he would eat almost anything like an alligator. He took an interest in the Blues when he was three years old, when he became fascinated with the sound of three neighborhood men playing music on a guitar, washboard, and soda bottle. As Rick Bolling, he hosts a Thursday afternoon jazz show on WPFW (4 to 6 pm). However, on Saturday afternoons on WPFW, Da 'Gator plays two hours of southern soul and contemporary and adult Blues (12 to 2 pm). While Da 'Gator has been ill, various programmers have been substituting for him at WPFW, most notably James Funk, who is the usual sub for "Blues Time with Da 'Gator" on Saturday afternoons.

As you can see on the announcement on the left, there is a long list of musicians who are lining up to perform at the December 10 Tribute. Put this event on your calendar and be among the many who are likely to attend for a night of music, fun, and the chance to support Da 'Gator in this way.

RIP Doyle Bramhall

February 17, 1949 to November 12, 2011

Texas blues legend Doyle Bramhall died in his sleep from heart failure, on November 12, 2011. He was at home in Alpine, Texas and reportedly had been suffering from pneumonia. Bramhall was 62 years old and was famous for his work in Austin, Texas with both Jimmie Vaughan and Stevie Ray Vaughan, as well as his solo efforts. A top-notch drummer, singer, band leader and songwriter, Doyle helped to define the Austin blues scene, over a 40-year music career. Many of his songs appeared on Stevie Ray Vaughan's most noted albums. Doyle's son, Doyle Bramhall II continues his father's tradition as a major musical force. To read Doyle Sr.'s bio on the Yep Rock Records website, visit http://www.yeproc.com/artist_info.php?artistId=200. Doyle will forever be considered an influential and important figure in Texas blues. From Bob Corritore Blues Newsletter Nov. 14, 2011

The Blues Foundation's 2012 KBA Awards

The Blues Foundation has announced that it will honor 17 individuals and organizations with its 2012 Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) Award during a recognition brunch on February 4, 2012 (in conjunction with the International Blues Challenge), in Memphis, TN. Each year, The Blues Foundation presents the KBA Awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the blues music world, by actively promoting, documenting, and preserving the music.

"This year's recipients showcase the breadth and diversity of the blues music community. The honorees range from a Mississippi juke joint to a Polish blues festival, from an educator specializing in the diddley bow and the khalam to one of rock's most legendary guitarists, from a volunteer public radio jock to a television program reaching millions, but they all share a passion to bring the music to the people," notes Jay Sieleman, Blues Foundation Executive Director. The 2012 Keeping the Blues Alive Awards recipients (and their category) are as follows:

Agent: Rodgers Redding - Macon, GA

Club: Red's Lounge - Clarksdale, MS

Education: Dan Treanor - Arvada, CO

Festival-US: White Mountain Boogie 'N Blues Festival - North Thornton, NH

Festival-International: Rawa Blues Festival - Katowice, Poland

Film, Television and Video: *Treme*, David Simon and Eric Overmyer, Executive Producers - New Orleans, LA

International: Mike Lecuyer - Saint Michel de Montaigne, France

Journalism: Scott Barretta - Oxford, MS

Literature: *Life* by Keith Richards - New York, NY

Manager: Toni Ann Mamary - Totowa, NJ

Organization: Blues Society of Western New York - Buffalo, NY

Photography: Aigars Lapsa - Riga, Latvia

Print Media: Soul Bag - Clichy, France

Promoter: George Wein - New York, NY

Radio: Commercial: Ted Todd - KKZX-FM - Spokane, WA

Radio: Public: Harvey Stauffer - WVPE-FM - Elkhart, IN

Record Label: Severn Records - Annapolis, MD

For more information on these awardees, visit the Blues Foundations website, www.blues.org.



December		December cont. - Make New Year's Eve a Blues Music Celebration	
1	Nighthawks w/ Tracy Nelson @ Rams Head On Stage	31	DCBS New Year's Eve Celebration w/ Melvin Taylor @ Wheaton American Legion; Big Boy Little Band New Year's Eve Party @ Zoo Bar; Deanna Bogart @ Rams Head On Stage; Jonny Grave @ Level X; Electrofied @ Chef Mac's
2	Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar; Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Andy Poxon w/ Scott Ramminger & Crawstickers @ 219; Nighthawks w/ Tracy Nelson @ Blues Alley; Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Jonny Grave @ Nanny O'Brien's		
3	One Year Anniversary Show w/ Big Daddy Stallings @ Chef Mac's; Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar; Andy Poxon @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Delbert McClinton @ Baltimore Soundstage; Victor Wainright @ Madam's Organ; Bad Influence @ Hard Times (Frederick); 5th Annual Maryland Traditions ALTA Awards Ceremony, w/ Chuck Brown, Phil Wiggins, Warner Williams performing @ Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center; Joy Bodycomb Band @ Ice House Cafe	Early January	
4	DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ; Nighthawks w/ Tracy Nelson @ Shenanigans; Moonshine Society @ LA Bar	1	DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion
5	Linwood Taylor @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	2	Bill Heid @ Westminster Presbyterian Church
7	Jonny Grave @ National Portrait Gallery	4	Andy Poxon @ Bare Bones
8	Moonshine Society @ Acre 121; Just Two (Joy Bodycomb & Mike Tash) @ Main Street Cafe	6	Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar
9	Wolf's Blues Jam @ Fat Boys; Moonshine Society @ Cajun Experience; Biscuit Miller & Mix @ Madam's Organ; Sookey Jump @ Zoo Bar; Big Money Band @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Joy Bodycomb Band @ Potomac Grill; Rick Franklin @ Downtown Holiday Market	7	Jim O'Neal Benefit @ Wheaton American Legion; Big Boy Little Band w/ Steve Guyger @ Zoo Bar; Deb Callahan @ Madam's Organ
10	Da Gator Blues Show & Tribute (see p. 8 for performers) @ Lamont's; Hot Rods & Old Gas - Over the Limit Edition @ Bare Bones; Biscuit Miller & Mix @ Madam's Organ; Smokin Polecats @ Madam's Organ; Duffy Kane & Freedom Train @ Bare Bones; Andy Poxon @ New Deal Cafe; Jonny Grave @ Upshur Street Art & Craft Fair; Jonny Grave @ Nanny O'Brien's	Regular Blues Events	
11	B.T. Richardson @ Madam's Organ	Sunday	DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion (1 st Sunday); NRBK Open/Mic Jam @ Old Fire Station No. 3 (Fairfax, VA); Blues Jam w/Dogfather Blues Band @ The Whiskey; Blues Jam @ Benny's Pub (every other Sunday),
12	Lil Royal Still Jumpin' @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Vincino	Monday	Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Mondays)
13	Annapolis Christmas w/ Nadine Rae & others @ Rams Head	Tuesday	Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ (alternating Tuesdays)
16	Hot Rods & Old Gas @ JVs; Nadine Rae @ Proud Mary's; Andy Poxon @ Fat Boys	Wednesday	Wolf's Hot Rods & Old Gas Blues Jam @ Emerald Cove (2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays); Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Blues Jam @ Pickled Herring (North East, MD)
17	Big Boy Little Band @ Chef Mac's; Moonshine Society CD Release Party @ Bayou; Bobby Parker @ Madam's Organ; Automatic Slim @ Bare Bones; Tom Principato @ Night Cat; Bad Influence CD Release Party @ Dogfish Head (Gaithersburg); Jonny Grave @ Quarry House; Rick Franklin & His Delta Blues Boys @ Cassatt's	Thursday	Patrick Alban or Johnny Artis @ Madam's Organ; Open Mic w/Fast Eddie @ Spanky's Shenanigans; Big Boy Little Band Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo; Memphis Gold Jam @ JV's (1 st Thursday)
19	Nighthawks @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	Friday	Glen Moomau & Blue Flames @ Bertha's; John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe; Brian Gross Trio @ Cafe Ole
22	Santa Jam XV w/ Mary Redmond, Soul Gravity, Linwood Taylor, Mark Wenner, Cathy King, School of Rock @ State Theatre	Saturday	Acoustic Blues Jam @ Archie's Barbershop; John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe; Brian Gross & Steve Levine @ Sala Thai, Bethesda (2 nd Saturday)
23	Moonshine Society @ JVs; Chris Polk @ Madam's Organ; Jonny Grave @ Nanny O'Brien's	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	
25	B.T. Richardson @ Madam's Organ	Bolded items on the Blues Calendar on p. 9 are picks by calendar editor, Mike Wolk, and include DCBS, BBS, and other events. Musicians, promoters, and venues: Send calendar listings to calendar@dcblues.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 the event. See the DCBS website, www.dcblues.org , for additional music links and information.	
26	Jacques & Margie Live! @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	Attention bands Send your Jan. and Feb. gigs to calendar@dcblues.org by Dec. 15	
29	Deanna Bogart @ Weinberg Center for the Arts		
30	Moonshine Society @ Cajun Experience; Marcia Ball @ State Theatre; Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Hard Swimming Fish @ Zoo Bar		

CD Review: Bad Influence's *Under the Influence*

By Ron Weinstock

Bad Influence is a Washington, DC area band that this writer has been following for some time. The core of the band is guitarist Michael Tash, harmonica player Roger Edsall (who also doubles on guitar) and bassist Bob Mallardi, with David Thaler on drums. When I first saw them perform they also had a saxophonist, but they have been a quartet for some time and have developed into a tight band that can jump the boogie, swing the shuffle, and slow drag a three in the morning blues.

The fact that they have played together for such a long time underlies the band's tight group sound and emphatic playing. They have also developed into quite accomplished players with Tash, a versatile guitarist, able to channel Elmore James and Albert King with sharply focused and thoughtful solos; while Edsall is amongst the DC area's finest harp players, able to distill Little Walter, George 'Harmonica' Smith, Sonny Boy Williamson and Slim Harpo into a personal style

They have a new album *Under The Influence* that consists of mostly originals with Mallardi taking the majority of the vocals, with Edsall handling a few. A bit of "Dust My Broom" slide guitar from Roger Edsall forms part of the foundation of the opening "Man Child," while the band gets a hot shuffle going on "Hey Red," with Mallardi inviting his lady to party till the break of dawn and it sounds like the band will jitterbug all night long with Tash and Edsall taking incisive solos. A bit of southern blues rock seasoning is heard on the driving "Do As I Say," with Edsall adding organ effects on his harp accompaniment and strutting a bit during a solo break.

Edsall handles the vocal on "Sugar Daddy Baby," a fine shuffle with Tom Ruggieri added on saxophone in the backing. This performance strikes the right groove and tempo and will be a delight for swing dancers, and includes some jazzy single note fretwork from Tash. Nothing wrong with a bit of rock and roll (not hard rock) on the rendition of Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Run Through The Jungle," with another Edsall vocal. Edsall also adds slide guitar and harmonica while Tash employs some atmospheric tremolo in support. "Cat Fight II:PTP" is a spirited harmonica feature that showcases Edsall's imaginative and expressive playing with guest Jay Monterose taking the guitar solo here. A nice strutting shuffle follows on "Looking Right At Me."

A solid rendition of "As The Years Go Passing By" has Tash in part evoking Albert King, as Mallardi delivers a heartfelt vocal on a song originally recorded by the great Fenton Robinson for Duke. Besides Tash's inspired guitar, Edsall has a choice harp solo, followed by a hot guitar chorus. Mark Stephens adds boogie-inflected piano behind Edsall's vocal on "Room 111," where it sounds like quite a party is going on. "Mailbox Blues" has a swamp blues feel with a strong Latin tinge in the rhythm.

Under the Influence is a terrific album of blues with an occasional rock and roll accent that is sure to delight Bad Influence's existing fans and gain them new ones. It is available from the band's website, badinfluenceband.com and at cdbaby.com, and you can sample this at www.reverbnation.com/badinfluenceband.

Editor's Note: Bad Influence performs often in the DC area and their gigs typically appear in the Blues Calendar in this newsletter. On Saturday, December 17, they will have another CD Release Party at Dogfish Head Alehouse, 800 West Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (www.dogfishalehouse.com, or 301-963-4847).



CD Review: Marcia Ball's *Roadside Attractions*

By Ron Weinstock

Marcia Ball's newest album, *Roadside Attractions*, (Alligator Records) will be welcomed by her many fans who certainly will enjoy this release with its Gulf Coast grooves. This CD was produced by Gary Nicholson, who has produced Delbert McClinton's recordings, among others. One point of special interest is that Marcia wrote or co-wrote all the songs on this CD, and they are excellent. The performances are first rate, with consistently strong backing, whether provided by a small combo or a slightly larger group with a horn section.

The rollicking title track finds Marcia singing about all the sights and wonders of the world she has seen in her years on the road. There might be 7 billion people on this world, but she is still her man's girl and she is coming home. The country-flavored wistful "Between Here And Kingdom Come" celebrates life on a two-lane highway and one red light small town, while "We Fell Hard" is a rocker sporting a hot New Orleans groove. "Look Before You Leap" has a driving groove with a philosophical lyric about her mom warning her to look before you leap or you might find yourself too deep in trouble.

"I Heard It All" is lyrically akin to Robert Cray's "Right Next Door" (Because of Me). This song is about Marcia going to a regular Friday hotel rendezvous and hearing an argument in the next room. She soon realizes that the man she has been seeing is now begging his wife to take him back. Whereas in Cray's recording, he is full of guilt for breaking up a marriage, Marcia cannot believe he is treating herself like that. She confronts the cheating husband in front of the wife, saying she heard it all and warning her that he cheated once and he will do it again. It is a marvelously nuanced vocal and performance. The mood shifts radically on the next track, funky "Believe in Love," where she celebrates how her man keeps her believing in love. There is a terrific saxophone solo on this song.

"This Used To Be Paradise" has a topical bent about how life in the gulf coast changed after the oil man changed things. The performance benefits from the understated lyrics and vocals along with a nice accordion in the accompaniment. "Mule Headed Woman" is a wry, slow blues about Marcia's man who will keep drinking "his whiskey, even if it is killing him." Closing the album is the hot rocker, "The Party's Is Still Going On," and with Marcia, the party never ends. While that is true, the performances and lyrics here show increased thoughtfulness and sophistication. Marcia Ball is not only a hot tamale baby who can boogie the woogie, but is also a superb singer who brings to life the exceptional songs here. This explains in part why *Roadside Attractions* is so exceptional.

Editor's Note: Marcia Ball is currently touring in support of her Roadside Attractions CD. DC area fans can see Marcia perform live at The State Theatre, 220 North Washington St., Falls Church, VA, on Friday, December 30, 2011. Visit www.thestatetheatre.com or call 703-237-0300 for more information. Ron Weinstock is a regular contributor to the CBM. These and other CD reviews by Ron are available on his blog at <http://inablue mood.blogspot.com/>. His review copy of Roadside Attractions was provided by Alligator Records.





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Fundraising for 2012 Tinner Hill Blues Festival Includes House Parties

The Tinner Hill Blues Festival is an annual occurrence each June, and celebrates the rich Blues heritage of the Fall Church, VA area. Fundraising for the Tinner Hill Foundation and the Festival is a year-round endeavor, and efforts occasionally include small house parties featuring local or visiting performers. On Sunday, November 20, one such house party was held at the Falls Church home of Lindy Hockenberry and Edward Christiansen. Pearl Bailes on harmonica and Eleanor Ellis on guitar performed some wonderful acoustic blues, according to Ron Weinstock, who also provided the photo at the right. Ron also shared that "Ellis, one of the founders of the DC Blues Society and Bailes played a set that included excellent renditions of songs from a number of blues masters including Little Hat Jones, Memphis Minnie, John Cephas, Archie Edwards and Tampa Red. A truly marvelous performance." The 2012 Tinner Hill Festival will be held June 8 - 10.



WPFW Membership Drive

WPFW 89.3 FM is conducting its Winter Membership Drive this month - December 2-5 and December 9-12. Tune into WPFW and pledge early and often! WPFW is also seeking volunteers to answer phones and record incoming pledges. To sign up, email volunteers@wpfw.org, or call 202-588-0999 ex. 360

BUY LOCAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Local Blues Music, That Is!

What a great gift for friends and family who are blues fans. Buy a CD or other merchandise from local performers whom they enjoy. Several have had 2011 CD releases - Support the Blues!

Save the Date - Get a 2012 Calendar for the New Year and Mark These Dates!

Sunday, January 1, 2012 - DCBS 1st Sunday Jam

The Jam will be held on New Year's Day, at the Silver Spring American Legion, 4 to 8 pm.

Saturday, January 7, 2012 - Jim O'Neal Benefit

The DC Blues Society Band will join other performers at a benefit being held for Jim O'Neal, who co-founded *Living Blues* magazine. The benefit will be held at the American Legion Post 268, 11225 Fern Street, Wheaton, MD 20902. O'Neal was diagnosed with lymph cancer in June, and has since had back surgery and undergone chemotherapy. When diagnosed he was without health insurance. O'Neal, most recently, has been research director and text writer for the Mississippi Blues Trail, a project funded by the National Endowment of the Arts. A 2002 inductee of the Blues Hall of Fame, O'Neal also co-founded Rooster Blues records and his current projects include his Stackhouse Recording Company and BluEsoterica Archives & Production.

Saturday, February 25, 2012 - Daddy Mack

DCBS celebrates Black History Month with the down-home, funky music of the Daddy Mack Band from Memphis. Daddy Mack throws down his raw Memphis Blues on February 25, from 8 pm-12 am at the American Legion Post 41, 905 Sligo Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Advance tickets members \$12; non-members \$15. At the door, members \$15; non-members \$17. For tickets visit www.dcblues.org or call 301-322-4808.

Congratulations Go to Wade Price

Winner of the November 12 Raffle Drawing for the \$600 Value Tribute Series G&L Guitar (donated by Rocketeria)

Wade will be presented with the guitar at the December 4 DCBS Jam (first Sunday Jam). DCBS thanks all who participated in this raffle.

DCBS Needs Volunteers for New Year's Eve Party Can You Help??



The DC Blues Society's events are typically a success because of the volunteers that provide support behind the scenes, as well as more visibly at the events. For the **December 31 DCBS New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance** at the Wheaton American Legion, volunteers are needed to decorate before the event, to provide food donations (e.g., black eyed-peas, green beans, turkey, ham, rice, cornbread, etc.), and to help serve food during the event. Volunteers are also the reason why DCBS can offer such an affordable New Year's Eve celebration.

If you can help the Society for this event or for any other activities, please send an e-mail to volunteer@dcblues.org and indicate how you are interested in helping.

For additional volunteer needs, visit the Volunteer link at www.dcblues.org. There are many opportunities available. Start today!

Also, check out the DCBS webpage for a photo slideshow which shows many of the Society volunteers in action. If you are among those who have and do volunteer, a big thank you goes to you! You are helping to keep the blues alive in the DC area.

Can't Volunteer But Want to Help DCBS?

The DC Blues Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to keeping the Blues alive through outreach and education. To this end, the Society depends on membership fees, donations, sponsors, and grant monies. Please keep your membership current (the form is available on p. 2 of this newsletter and/or you can join online), encourage others to join, and also consider donating to DCBS. Donations are tax-deductible, and may be done online or through donations mailed to:

DC Blues Society
P.O. Box 77315
Washington, DC, 20013-7315



DC BLUES SOCIETY

Celebrating the Blues in DC, MD & VA

www.dcblues.org

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