



# DC BLUES CALENDAR

April 2007

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## **THE DC BLUES SOCIETY**

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WASHINGTON DC 20013-7315  
202-962-0112

<http://www.dcblues.org>

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*Vice-president:*

*Secretary:*

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**Charlie Sayles demonstrates technique at "Music in the Key of Life" training. See P. 3.**

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The D.C. Blues Society is a non-profit section 501(c)(3) organization. Annual membership: Student \$15 (send copy of photo id); Individual \$25, Family \$35, Canada \$35 (US), other countries \$50 (US). Contributions (not dues) to the D.C. Blues Society are tax-deductible. To join, send a check & address to the P.O. box above. There is an application on page 11.

The DC Blues Calendar is usually published monthly (except for a combined December-January issue and occasional other double issue). It contains information on society events, blues listings and other items of interest. Recent issues are also downloadable as PDF files from the Society's website, [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org).

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Please note, changes in your name and address and/or membership status should be forwarded to [membership@dcblues.org](mailto:membership@dcblues.org) or mailed to the postal box.

**Note—The next issue is the May 2007 and has an April 17, 2007 deadline. Send newsletter contributions to [newsletter@dcblues.org](mailto:newsletter@dcblues.org) Listings should be sent to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd, College Park, MD 20740 or e-mail to [cypressgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:cypressgrove@hotmail.com).**



The Acoustic Jam gets dancers on their feet.  
© "Barrelhouse" Bonni McKeown. Used with Permission

## MARCH ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC JAM

by Albie Stepowany

The acoustic open mic jam for March was an unqualified success. **Ian Walters** got it started on the baby grand piano at Ellington's on Eighth. "**Barrelhouse**" **Bonni** took control of the 88's, while guitar and vocals from **Albie Stepowany**, **Gina de Simone** and **Darrell Mayer** kept the Jam gellin'. In town, from Mississippi was saxophonist **Ryan Betts**. His playin' complimented the piano, vocals and guitars rather nicely. **Denny** and **Mark** of the jug band **Snakehead Run** laid down some folksy blues with a combination of dobro/mandolin/guitar/fiddle. They even played an obligatory **Robert Johnson** tune and were accompanied by Ian on some other songs. **Ellington's Annette** along with DCBS' president **Felix McClaire** were encouraged by the turnout of jammers and patrons. As the weather improves, the hopes are that the participation continues to improve, as well.

## DCBS CO-SPONSORS "MUSIC IN THE KEY OF LIFE"

The DC Blues society and the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum have agreed to co-sponsor "Music in the Key of Life," a teacher training session that took place at the Anacostia Community Museum on February, 10, 2007. The 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. program included a tour of our Banding Together exhibition and a performance and discussion that included **Chet Hines** and **David Cole**.

**Society News Continues on P. 8**



Guitarist David Cole at "Music in the Key of Life" training  
© Linda Maxwell. Used with Permission

# President's Drum



Felix at the March Acoustic Jam with  
"Barrelhouse" Bonni McKeown

The transition that barely brought you the February issue of the newsletter now brings you a new DCBS newsletter! You'll still get the informative calendar, Blues news and personalities, and music reviews. Hopefully, some of those reviews will be coming from **Ron Weinstock**—who after 19 years of snapping thousands of photos, writing hundreds of reviews, and churning out the only newsletter DCBS has known—is hanging up his editor's visor. Talk about transitions... This period of time when DCBS cannot attract volunteers for as little as a year stands in stark contrast to Ron's generation-long dedication to DCBS in many capacities, and to the newsletter in particular. I suppose you can say that Ron has raised this puppy, now it is on its own.

***Thank you, Ron, for all the many years of hard work on the newsletter. It was clearly a labor of love. I look forward to your continued contributions to the new newsletter.***

It's not easy producing the newsletter month after month. Ron was a one-man band in that regard. He wrote articles and reviews, lay out and edited newsletter, and handled advertising. It will probably take at least three new volunteers to replace him.

But right now it's all in the hands of one overburdened volunteer. Much thanks to **Tony MacFarlane**, a former DCBS webmaster, for stepping into the breach and helping us deliver a quality and timely newsletter. *[Well, I do hope it was timely.]* Some of you may remember Tony from his stint as DCBS Webmaster. Welcome back, Tony! Help him out by contributing CD reviews, photos, articles on any Blues subject, or editing services.

Here's the mantra in shorthand: **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS NOW!** The lack of enough volunteers

often chases away the dedicated and overburdened few. Not many of us have the tenacity and love for a voluntary effort that Ron has demonstrated. Delivering the newsletter was not optional. Keeping the DCBS alive, vibrant, and contributing to the Blues community is not optional either. We just need a little help...

I mentioned last month that we would be offering the newsletter by email or online. That has happened. To ensure you receive the newsletter, please subscribe (free to members) to the DCBS Membership List at [www.dcblues.org/news/members-only.html](http://www.dcblues.org/news/members-only.html). If you encounter any problems with this system or have comments, please let me know at [president@dcblues.org](mailto:president@dcblues.org).

Now for the exciting stuff! In another 20th Anniversary special event, we are sponsoring a panel discussion about today's state of Blues music. The discussion called "Who Stole the Soul From the Blues" will be held Saturday, April 14 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The panel will include professor and WPFW host **Dr. Jared A. Ball**, musician **Mike Baytop**, **DJ Tom-Tom (Tom Bracey)**, Chicago singer/drummer **Larry Taylor**, and "Barrelhouse" **Bonni McKeown**, a West Virginia blues singer-songwriter. A down home acoustic blues show will feature Mike, on guitar and bones, Jay on harmonica and "Barrelhouse" Bonni on piano. For more details, see the article on p. 7.

Keep an eye on the DCBS calendar as we have a few surprises in the works. We may hear from some shonuff Mississippi Blues musicians later this year taking us back to where it all began. And look out for the Invitation-Only Festival Fundraiser being planned for a venue in the heart of downtown Washington, DC. We're a little slow finalizing the lineup for this year's festival (9-1-07 at DC's Carter Barron Amphitheater). We should have it firmed by the next edition of newsletter.

Remember that desired outputs depend on appropriate inputs. We depend on your input.

Blues Always,

Felix McClairen, President

P.S. As I wrap up this installment of the Drum, I see that one of our loyal helpers has accidentally sent an unfinished email to members without blind copying. I apologize for the error and we'll guard against it in the future. That's why this gig is about the Blues.

# Blues Bits

Brought to you by [dcb blues.org](http://dcb blues.org) and WPFW. These sketches of DC area Blues notables can be heard on WPFW-FM Blues shows.

## BOBBY PARKER

Louisiana born Blues legend, Bobby Parker, was on the road with Otis Williams and the Charms by the time he was a teenager. A few years later he was in Chicago with Bo Diddley and appeared with Bo on the Ed Sullivan show. Bobby was with the Paul 'Hucklebuck' Williams Band, a house band at the Apollo Theater when he waxed "Blues Get Off My Shoulder" for Vee-Jay in 1958. Bobby moved to Washington, DC in 1961 and recorded "Watch Your Step," a song covered by a number of artists including Santana. Even the song's riff was copped by John Lennon for the Beatles' 'Day Tripper.' Touring England in 1968, Parker recorded "Its Hard But Fair."

While it would be over twenty years before he next recorded, his two Black Top albums *Bent Out of Shape* and *Shine Me Up* are among the finest blues recordings of the '90s. Bobby joined Carlos Santana in a performance of "Watch Your Step," which can be seen on the DVD set, *Carlos Santana Presents: Blues at Montreux 2004*.

Bobby remains DC's premiere modern blues artist and continues playing at local venues and touring internationally.

## JOHN JACKSON

John Jackson was born in 1924 in Woodville, VA. He began his musical odyssey when he befriended the enigmatic "Happy," a water boy on a chain gang during the height of the Depression. Happy taught Jackson open tuning and the nuances of the slide. Soon Jackson was performing locally at parties and juke joints. But being a gentle man, he gave up public entertainment in the mid-40s after witnessing several violent clashes in drinking houses.

After World War II Jackson moved to Fairfax County where he eventually began what he called his "holy calling," grave digging at Fairfax City Cemetery. When he picked up the acoustic guitar again in the 60's his musical career took off with several recordings with Arhoolie Records and performances at local and international festivals. Jackson was one of the artists headlining the fundraiser concert that launched the DC Blues Society.

The 12th Annual Western Maryland  
**BLUES FEST**  
June 1-3  
**2007**

Featuring

- Joe Bonamassa
- James Cotton Band
- Walter Trout & The Radicals
- Charlie Hunter Trio
- John Mooney and Bluesiana
- David "Honeyboy" Edwards
- Eddie Shaw & The Wolf Gang
- Campbell Brothers
- Nora Jean Bruso
- Ruby Hayes Blues Band...

**and many more!**

WESTERN MARYLAND  
**BLUES FEST**  
HAGERSTOWN

301-739.8577, ext 116

[www.blues-fest.org](http://www.blues-fest.org)

\*Listed artist roster is subject to change  
Supported in part by:  
City of Hagerstown, Maryland State Arts Council and Washington County Arts Council.

**BLUES REVUE**

# Upcoming Blues Festivals

Its still early but we can note some of the more interesting blues and related events that are coming up.

**Baton Rouge Blues Week** is entering its 12th year. Benefitting Music (Blues) in the Schools, and sponsored by The Advocate, VSA of Louisiana and The Baton Rouge Blues Foundation. The Slim Harpo Awards, The Worlds Greatest All Star Jam Session, and feature concerts at SOGO Live and Phil Brady's with Blues dishes on restaurant menus, April 22 to April 29, 2007. Events include a harmonica jam on April 23 at Phil Brady's with Shannon Williford, Two Tone Malone, BB Bruce & Larry Neal; Baton Rouge Blues Society All Star Jam at Phil Brady's on April 24 featuring Luther Kent, James Johnson, Oscar Davis, Susan Owens and many more Blues greats; Linda Hopkins on April 26 and Mose Allison on April 27 at the Manship Theatre; Mem Shannon at Teddy's Juke Joint, on April 27; Larry Garner & the Bluebirds at Phil Brady's on April 27; Big Al Carson & Heavyweights at Teddy's Juke Joint on April 28 and Henry Gray & Rudy Richard at Phil Brady's on April 28. For a full schedule and links, [www.louisianasmusic.com/brbw05/](http://www.louisianasmusic.com/brbw05/).

**The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival** (JazzFest) takes place the weekends of April 27-29 and May 4-6. I will be going the second weekend. The lineup includes too many acts to list and I refer you to [www.nojazzfest.com](http://www.nojazzfest.com). If you cannot get there, you can listen to some performances live on wwoz over the internet [www.wwoz.org](http://www.wwoz.org).

**The 6th Annual Ponderosa Stomp**, returns to New Orleans on Wednesday May 2. This year's eclectic lineup includes cult rocker Roky Erickson, master arranger Wardell Quezergue, soul songwriter supreme Dan Penn, rockabilly wild man Dale Hawkins, R&B legend Little Jimmy Scott, and dozens more rarely seen – and seldom heard – American music legends in its line-up. This marathon eight hours-plus music festival will rock two stages, the Big Room and the Parish, at New Orleans' House of Blues from 5:30 PM to 2 AM on Wednesday, May 2, 2007.

"The audience won't even know what hit them," promises Dr. Ike Padnos, executive director of the Mystic Knights of the Mau-Mau, the 501c3 organization that's producing the 6th Annual Ponderosa Stomp, which also features Texas Tornado co-founder Augie Meyers, Stax sessions guitarist Skip Pitts, Gulf Coast guitar empress Barbara Lynn, Mardi Gras king Al "Carnival Time" Johnson, Excello harp master Lazy Lester, keyboardist extraordinaire Willie Tee, tremendous trumpeter/famed New Orleans bandleader Dave Bartholomew, President of Soul Rockie Charles, hillbilly bopper Jay Chevalier, tough Texas shouter Roy Head, and rockabilly wailer Joe Clay.

Also appearing at the 6th Annual Ponderosa Stomp: Motown guitar slinger Dennis Coffey, hill country bluesman Kenny Brown, chitlin' circuit showman Bobby Rush, "Mr. Big Stuff" singer Jean Knight, piano man Henry Gray, six-string demolition expert Eddie Kirkland, rockabilly drummer Matt Lucas, Memphis sessions genius Bobby Emmons, swamp pop singer Grace (Dale & Grace) Broussard, New Orleans heartbreaker Tony Owens, Muscle Shoals veteran Ralph "Soul" Jackson, and backing bands Lil Buck Sinegal and the Top Cats with special guest Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural, Deke Dickerson & the Eccofonics, and the New Orleans Rhythm and Blues Revue. Weblink is [www.ponderosastomp.com/home.php](http://www.ponderosastomp.com/home.php).

**Festivals Continues on P. 10**

**April 22-29, 2007**  
All the Blues you can use!  
In the Middle of the Most Musical  
125 Miles on Earth

**BATON ROUGE  
BLUES  
WEEK**

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sun 22	Noon	Earth Day Downtown	Earth Day Kick-off to BR Blues Week
	7p	Earth Day Stage	feat. Mr. Hinson & the Blisters
Mon 23	8p	Teddy's Juke Joint	Teddy's House Band
		Phil Brady's	Harmonica Jam
			w/Shannon Williford, Two Tone Malone, BB Bruce, Larry Neal
Tue 24	8p	Slippery Pete's	Marty Christian acoustic blues
	6:30p	Phil Brady's	Baton Rouge Blues Society All Star Jam
			feat. Luther Kent, James Johnson, Oscar Davis, Susan Owens and many more BR Blues Greats
Wed 25	9p	Slippery Pete's	Elvin Killerbee
	3-5p	Old Governor's Mansion	David Horwitz Blues Photography Exhibit & Workshop
	6-10p	Phil Brady's	Shirley Neal's Blues Buffet with Neal Music on the Jukebox
	7:30p	Manship Theatre	LightHouse Gospel Singers
	8p	Teddy's Juke Joint	Dixie Rose & James Johnson
	8p	Slippery Pete's	Chicago Al
Thu 26	7:30p	Manship Theatre	Linda Hopkins w/ Herman Jackson Quartet
			Harvey Knox Band, Lil Ray Neal
Fri 27	9p	Phil Brady's	Mose Allison
	8p	Manship Theatre	Deacon John & The Ivories
	9p-12a	Hollywood Casino	Mem Shannon
	9:30p	Teddy's Juke Joint	Larry Garner, The Bluebirds
	10p	Phil Brady's	Big Al & the Heavyweights
Sat 28	9:30p	Teddy's Juke Joint	Henry Gray, Rudy Richard
	10p	Phil Brady's	Teddy's House Band
Sun 29	7:30p	Teddy's Juke Joint	Sundance

**For venue info, go to:**

[www.philbrady.org](http://www.philbrady.org)  
[www.slipperypetes.com](http://www.slipperypetes.com)  
[www.teddysjukejoint.com](http://www.teddysjukejoint.com)  
[www.manshiptheatre.org](http://www.manshiptheatre.org)

Affordable hotel rates and ground transportation to and from Baton Rouge to New Orleans and Lafayette.  
For more information: [www.LouisianasMusic.com](http://www.LouisianasMusic.com)

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# April Blues Listings

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| <p><b>1</b> DCBS Jam @ Chick Hall's Surf Club<br/>Blind Boys of Alabama @ Maryland Hall<br/>1st Annual Charlestown Blues Feast @ Beachcomber<br/>Clarence Turner @ Glen Echo</p> <hr/> <p><b>3</b> Buddy Guy @ Birchmere<br/>Swing Speak w/Dave Chappell @ Clarendon Ballroom</p> <hr/> <p><b>5</b> Nighthawks @ Wolf Trap</p> <hr/> <p><b>6</b> Sherwood Blues Band @ Flannagan's Harp &amp; Fiddle<br/>Big Four Combo @ Dulles Hilton<br/>Swing Dance</p> <hr/> <p><b>7</b> Melanie Mason @ Ruby's Cafe<br/>Blue Smoke @ Frisco's<br/>Guitar Workshop @ Archie Edwards Barbershop</p> <hr/> <p><b>9</b> Buddy Guy @ Birchmere<br/>James Cotton Band @ Rams Head</p> <hr/> <p><b>10</b> Little Charlie &amp; Nightcats @ Clarendon Ballroom</p> <hr/> <p><b>11</b> One Bad Jack Blues Jam @ Beach Cove</p> <hr/> <p><b>12</b> Dikki Du &amp; Zydeco Krewe @ Chick Hall's Surf Club</p> <hr/> <p><b>13</b> Sherwood Blues Band @ Murphy's Pub</p> <hr/> <p><b>14</b> "Deep Blue," A Showcase of the Talents of the Women of the Barbershop @ Duke's City Upstairs Lounge<br/>James Cotton @ Blues Alley<br/>Curbfeelers @ Columbia Island Marina<br/>BG &amp; Mojo Hands @ Outta the Way Cafe<br/>Tom Principato Band @ Moms In the Kitchen<br/>ACME Blues Company @ Boatman's Bar &amp; Grille</p> <hr/> <p><b>15</b> James Cotton @ Blues Alley<br/>Tom Principato Band @ Strathmore</p> | <p><b>16</b> John Mayall @ Rams Head<br/>James Cotton @ Blues Alley</p> <hr/> <p><b>17</b> Nighthawks @ Clarendon Ballroom</p> <hr/> <p><b>19</b> Tom Principato Band @ Rock &amp; Roll Hotel</p> <hr/> <p><b>20</b> Sherwood Blues Band @ Firestone's<br/>Shambells @ Cat's Eye<br/>Kenny Wayne Shepherd @ Rams Head Live<br/>Tom Principato Band @ Sunset Grille</p> <hr/> <p><b>21</b> Rosie Ledet &amp; Zydeco Playboys @ Catonsville Barn Theater<br/>ACME Blues Company @ Beach Cove Restaurant</p> <hr/> <p><b>22</b> ACME Blues Company Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues</p> <hr/> <p><b>25</b> One Bad Jack Blues Jam @ Beach Cove</p> <hr/> <p><b>27</b> Clarence Turner @ Bangkok Blues<br/>Blue Smoke @ Pisces Lounge<br/>Brian Gross Trio @ Sala Thai, Bethesda<br/>Daryl Davis Band @ Chevy Chase Ballroom</p> <hr/> <p><b>28</b> Baltimore Blues Society presents Smokin' Joe Kubek w/Bnois King @ Rosedale American Legion<br/>Sherwood Blues Band @ Olney Tavern<br/>ACME Blues Company @ B&amp;G Tavern<br/>Terrence McArdle's Jumpin Tonight @ Towson Armory</p> | <p>Gordon Beirsch<br/>Bobby Smith @ Firehouse Cue<br/>Jim Bennett &amp; Lady Mary w. Unique Creation Band @ Lamont's<br/>Detroit Slim @ Full Moon<br/>Automatic Slim Jam @ Wahoo's<br/>Matt Bishop @ Zoo Bar<br/>Pro Blues Jam @ Sully's</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mon</b></p> <p>Blues jam @ Surf Club<br/>Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tue</b></p> <p>Ben Andrews @ Madam's Organ<br/>Doug Parks open mic @ Downtown Saloon</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wed</b></p> <p>Robert Lighthouse @ Chief Ike's Mambo Room<br/>Big Dog Band @ Cat's Eye<br/>Blues Jam with Rude Dog @ Club 347<br/>Blue Lou's Jam @ Surf Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thu</b></p> <p>Open Mic Blues Jam hosted by Idle Americans (starting April 5, continuing every other Thursday) @ The Country Store<br/>Ronnie Ray Jam @ Cactus Flats<br/>Big Boy Little Band Jam @ Zoo Bar<br/>Jam @ New Vegas Lounge<br/>Unforgiven @ The Saloun<br/>Ronnie Ray Jam @ Cactus Flats</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fri</b></p> <p>Blue Flames @ Bertha's<br/>Open Mic @ Pharoah's</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sat</b></p> <p>Jam @ Archie's Barbershop<br/>Red Jones @ Full Moon<br/>Walter Robinson Band @ Pharoah's</p> |
|--|--|--|

## WEEKLY BLUES EVENTS

### Sun

Steve Kraemer (other Sunday bands listed those days) @ Cat's Eye

Paulverizers Jam @ Surf Club (except 1st Sunday)

Big Four Combo Brunch @



Acoustic Jam host Ian Walters plays the piano like he was born doing it.

© Felix McClairen. Used with Permission



An unidentified guitarist plays at the Acoustic Jam.

© Felix McClairen. Used with Permission

### Society News Continued from P. 3

Creative writing is an important character building issues for all children and youth. Participants in the session learned how the lyrics in Rock and Roll, Hip-Hop and related African American musical forms can serve as storytelling tools. They discussed how personal and community history, social events, and cultural values are reflected in popular songs. Lessons learned can be adapted to all content areas and for special needs use.

### WHO STOLE THE SOUL FROM THE BLUES?

The DC Blues Society, celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year, will sponsor a panel discussion about today's state of Blues music. The discussion called "Who Stole the Soul From the Blues" starts at 4:00 p.m. Saturday April 14 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 "I" St. S.W. Washington, DC. From 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. An exciting acoustic blues show will feature **Mike Baytop**, on guitar and bones, **Jay Summerour** on harmonica and "**Barrelhouse**" **Bonni** on piano. **Larry Taylor** of Chicago will be a special guest vocalist.

Panelists have seen the issues first hand as entertainers, promoters and journalists. **DJ Tom-Tom (Thomas Bracey)** will talk about his experience promoting blues, southern soul and R&B oldies on the East Coast. **Dr. Jared Ball**, Morgan State communications professor and producer and host of the "Freemix" hiphop news show on WPFW, will offer his views on getting the "real" music out despite the barriers of today's corporate media. **Larry Taylor**, Chicago singer and drummer who has protested low musician wages, will talk about

ways to sustain the cultural roots of Blues. **Mike Baytop**, musician and director of the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation will speak about his experiences of sharing acoustic blues with young people. "**Barrelhouse**" **Bonni McKeown** will help facilitate discussion and address documented practices in the blues music industry that continue to frustrate artists. Other panelists will add diverse perspectives to this timely subject. This discussion promises to be lively and informative. Audience participation is welcome as time allows. A down home acoustic Blues show at 6:30 p.m. follows the panel discussion.

Tickets are \$5.00 advance and \$7 at the door. Call 301-322-4808 for tickets and information. This program is one in a series of special events marking the DC Blues Society's 20th anniversary. Visit [www.dcb Blues.org](http://www.dcb Blues.org) for event and membership information.

**Society News Continues on P. 10**

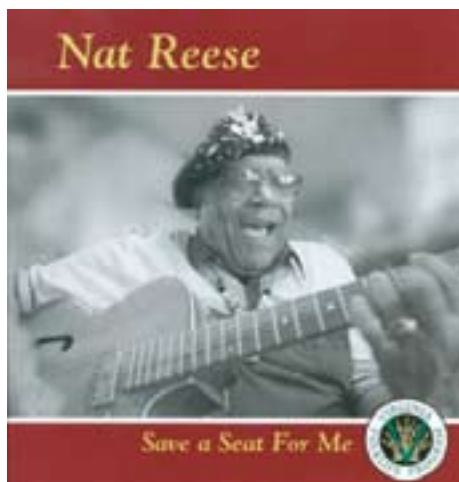


(Left to Right) "Barrelhouse" Bonni, Jay Summerour, & Mike Baytop.

© "Barrelhouse" Bonni McKeown. Used with Permission



# Blues Reviews



## NAT REESE

The music Nat Reese makes is as fresh as ever, and at 80+ years of age he continues to be a musical inspiration. In 1988, when I invited Nat and his guitar student to jam on a few tunes, I had no idea that he was the Nat Reese everyone was talking about at the Augusta Heritage Workshops in West Virginia. We've been friends since then and have enjoyed many musical moments together.

*Nat Reese—Save a Seat for Me* is a solo album featuring Nat's signature blend of blues, swing, and gospel music. From the jovial "The Preacher and the Bear" to the title song "Save a Seat for Me," all sixteen tracks are a joy to listen to. The inclusion of his live performance at the Prism of Howard Armstrong's "I Ain't Gonna Throw It Away" enhances the "live" feel of the CD.

Nat's vocal phrasing and delivery, and his Gospel-tinged voicings are in a class all by themselves. Singing usually behind or in front of the beat like great singers do, Nat wraps his guitar accompaniment so perfectly around his vocals that it may sound like he's overdubbed

his vocals. But that's just Nat Reese playing live in the studio! The way he shapes his chords will also intrigue instrumentalists.

Produced by Jon Lohman, with beautiful photos and excellent notes by John Maeder, this is the recorded package for which Nat's fans have been waiting a long time. It is a part of The Crooked Road Music Series and is produced by the Virginia Folklife Program, a program of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. That this CD sounds just like Nat Reese playing live is the best compliment I could give any recording. It's a gem.

—Judy Luis-Watson



## TODAY'S CHICAGO BLUES

Karen Hanson  
Lake Claremont Press

Karen Hanson's *Today's Chicago Blues* is a very useful guide to the blues scene in Chicago that exists today. It is a guide to folks who wish to explore the riches of the scene as it presently exists. It likely serves as a valuable replacement

for the sections on blues on many travel guides devoted to the City.

I should emphasize that this is a guide for blues, not hotels or general dining in Chicago. It provides you with information on blues clubs in Chicago and in the Chicago suburbs, focusing on those rooms with the most regular scheduling of blues performances. There is a chapter on the Chicago Blues Festival that likely will be a must read for those heading out to the world's largest blues festival. Also included are Blues Historical and Cultural Sites, which include the Chess Studio the Blues Heaven Foundation, the Chicago Blues Archives, and various cemeteries where blues legends rest, Jazz Record Mart.

Equally indispensable are reviews of the New Maxwell Street market and Chicago Blues Labels. Hanson also covers Blues Jams with a helpful list of tips for musicians participating in jams and the audience. The book also includes Chicago Blues Radio and portraits of mostly currently performing blues musicians around the city.

There are some minor nits in the text such as on page 67, discussing Willie Dixon. Hason states that he wrote "Wang Dang Doodle" for Koko Taylor in 1955, when the tune was actually first recorded by Howlin' Wolf and later by Koko in the late sixties. This is a minor point and possibly reflects the use of websites for some of the sources (particularly regarding some of the blues performers.)

Even so, any minor errors do not detract from the overall value of this book which is highly recommended.

—Ron Weinstock

## SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELISTS AND PERFORMERS

**DJ Tom Tom (Thomas Bracy)** has been involved in the entertainment industry for over 25 years as a DJ, concert promoter, record producer, songwriter and emcee. As a DJ he has played the east coast, from West Palm Beach, FL to Long Island NY, specializing in Blues, Southern Soul and R & B oldies. Tom-Tom has helped produce songs for local bands including Hardway Connection, which won the International Blues Challenge in 1994. As a DJ at Lamont's Entertainment Complex in Southern Maryland, he has emceed shows featuring national blues acts. DJ Tom-Tom's next project is bringing R & B and Blues to venues in Northern Virginia and Bethesda, MD.

**Dr. Jared A. Ball** is an assistant professor of communications studies at Morgan State University. He is editor of the *Journal of Hip-Hop and Global Culture from Words, Beats and Life* and hosts Jazz & Justice Mondays 1-3p EST on DC's WPFW 89.3 FM Pacifica Radio. Ball is also the founder and creator of FreeMix Radio: The Original Mixtape Radio Show, a hip-hop mixtape committed to the practice of underground emancipatory journalism. He and his work can be found online at [www.voxunion.com](http://www.voxunion.com)

Chicago singer/drummer **Larry Taylor**, is a driving force in West Side Soul--a hard-hitting, heart-grabbing music that oozes out of tiny hole-in-the wall joints and flows with the beat of the street. He learned the blues as a youngster from Howlin' Wolf's drummers and his stepfather Eddie Taylor Sr. (that steady boogie guitar behind Jimmy Reed). For 30 years he drummed and recorded with the greats of Chicago blues. On his own critically acclaimed AV Records CD, "They Were in This House," Taylor brings back the blues of his forefathers and belts out funky and inspiring soul songs of the 1960s. He speaks about his blues heritage and how to relate it to music today. [www.larrytaylorbluesnsoul.com](http://www.larrytaylorbluesnsoul.com)

**Mike Baytop**, a DC native, plays acoustic blues guitar, harmonica and percussive bones. His father gave him his first harmonica; years later, he became fascinated by the blues he heard growing up. Mike performed with Archie Edwards, his mentor on harmonica and guitar, at Smithsonian Institute's 150th anniversary; and the 90th anniversary of the Niagara meeting at Harpers Ferry in 1997. They played the 1997 Rocky Gap festival in Cumberland MD along with Mike's bones mentor, Richard "Mr. Bones" Thomas. Mike

performed at the 2002 DC Blues Society festival, spoke and performed at the U. of MD in 2002. He regularly presents blues in the schools, and often visits Avalon, MS to perform at the MS. John Hurt family memorial museum. Mike is also the executive director of the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation. 2007 Bunker Hill Rd NE, DC 20018. [www.acousticblues.com/mike\\_bio.htm](http://www.acousticblues.com/mike_bio.htm)

**"Barrelhouse Bonni" McKeown** is a West Virginia blues singer-songwriter whose style recalls old upright pianos in juke joints and the Bessie Smith era of vintage 1930s blues. Three fine Washington DC acoustic bluesmen—Jay Summerour, Mike Baytop and NJ Warren—are guests on Bonni's 2003 CD, *Barbershop Blues*. She co-produced Chicago singer/drummer Larry Taylor's critically acclaimed debut CD in 2004, *They Were in This House*. Barrelhouse Bonni helped to found the Charleston WV Blues Society. She has exposed music business practices that hold back African American blues artists. She leads classes and workshops on blues history and how to sing your own blues tune, and promotes the blues as a bridge between ethnic groups and generations. [www.barrelhousebonni.com](http://www.barrelhousebonni.com)

**Jay Summerour** grew up in Rockville MD and Oakland CA, and followed his grandfather into playing the harmonica. Sonny Terry and James Cotton became his mentors. He also went on the road with mainstream acts, Starland Vocal Band and the Cambridge Harmonica Orchestra. He accompanies traditional DC area guitarist Warner Williams in an acoustic duo "Little Bit A Blues." [www.pxrec.com/Patuxent\\_Blues-williams-home.htm](http://www.pxrec.com/Patuxent_Blues-williams-home.htm).

## Festivals Continued from P. 6

**The Blues Music Awards** take place May 10 at the Memphis Cook Convention Center. For info on the Awards and nominees visit [www.blues.org/bluesmusicawards/index.php4](http://www.blues.org/bluesmusicawards/index.php4).

**Western Maryland Blues Festival** returns June 1 to June 3 with performers including James Cotton, John Mooney & Blueisana; Joe Bonamossa, Walter Trout, Eddie Shaw & the Wolf Gang; Campbell Brothers; David 'Honeyboy' Edwards; Nora Jean Bruso and DC's own Ruby Hayes. This is an always entertaining event.

**The National Capital Barbecue Battle** takes place this year on June 23 and June 24. Performers for this year have not been announced. Check the website, [www.barbecuebattle.com](http://www.barbecuebattle.com).

# DC Blues Society Membership Application Form

## MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following companies offer discounts to DCBS members. In order to take advantage of these discounts, you must present your current membership card.

### **1/2 Price Discount at Blues Alley**

DCBS members receive half off the normal admission for Blues shows that do not take advance ticket sales.

1073 Wisconsin Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
(202) 337-4141  
www.bluesalley.com

### **15% off at BOK Custom Framing**

5649 Lee Highway  
Arlington, VA 22207  
(703) 534-1866.  
Hours: Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat. 10-5

### **10% off at Capitol Hill Books**

Located across from Eastern Market at

657 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 544-1621  
Hours: Mon-Fri 11:30-6 Sat-Sun 9-6  
www.capitolhillbooks-dc.com

### **10% off at Famous Dave's Barbecue (Gaithersburg Location)**

917 Quince Orchard Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
(240) 683-0435  
Hours: 11-10 Mon-Thurs & Sun, 11-11 Fri-Sat  
www.famousdaves.com

### **15% discount at Industrial Sound Studios**

If you call soon, your first set of ADAT tapes is free.

P.O. Box 1162  
Riverdale, MD 20738  
(301) 209-0565  
industrialstudio@hotmail.com

### **10% discount at J & J Automotive**

9160 Euclid Court  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 368-3600  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5  
www.jjautoservices.com

### **Buy 1 drink, get 2nd drink free at JV's Restaurant**

6666 Arlington Boulevard  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
(703) 241-9504  
www.jvsrestaurant.com

**The DC Blues Society** is a non-profit section 501(c)(3) all volunteer organization! It is devoted to promoting and perpetuating blues music, one of America's most important cultural gifts to the world. In furtherance of this, the Society engages in a variety of activities including (but not limited to):

- Free Annual DC Blues Festival
- Open Monthly Blues Jam Shows with noted national and local acts
- Best Unsigned Blues Band Competition
- Blues in the School Program
- Monthly newsletter, the D.C. Blues Calendar



Members receive the Society's newsletter, The D.C. Blues Calendar, with information on upcoming Society events and other blues in the Washington area and other material of interest; discounts on society events & merchandise, some clubs, and other benefits. Membership proceeds play an important part in making our activities happen.

Contributions (not membership dues or merchandise) to the D.C. Blues Society are tax-deductible

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Dues per year (Circle appropriate one:)**

**Student: \$15.00      Individual: \$25.00**  
**Family: \$35.00      Corporate: \$50.00**  
**Canada: \$35.00 (US)      Other Countries: \$50.00 (US)**

### **Family members (List names:)**

Interested in volunteering? \_\_\_\_\_

### **A Panel Discussion "Who Stole the Soul From the Blues" and show w/Barrelhouse Bonni, Mike Baytop, Jay Summerour, & Larry Taylor**

April 14 Westminster Presbyterian Church  
400 I St. S.W. Washington, DC.  
\$7 at door; \$5 Advance. For advance tickets, order by April 9.

# Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **Donations for the DC Blues Festival/Society**

See website for levels of donations and premiums

Level of donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount donated: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
DC Blues Society, PO Box 77315, Washington DC 20013-7315



Darrell Mayer, guitar; Ryan Betz, sax; Kevin Brown, percussion; Desimore, guitar.  
Acoustic Jam Second Thursday of every month at Ellington's on Eighth.

Details P. 3.



## **DC Blues Society**

PO Box 77315

Washington DC 20013-7315

Don't miss "Who Stole the Soul from the Blues"/Acoustic Show 4/14/07 Westminster Presbyterian Church. Advance tickets \$5. Call 301-322-4808