



# Capital Blues Messenger

April 2009

Volume 3 Issue 4

**DC Blues  
Society  
Founder  
and  
First  
President  
John  
Cephas  
1930 - 2009**



Photo by Tom Radcliffe and provided courtesy of Alligator Records



THE DC BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON, DC
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www.dcblues.org

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

The DCBS' newsletter, The Capital Blues Messenger, is published monthly (unless otherwise noted).

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 and ideas for articles, reviews, cartoons and photography.

Blues listings for bands should be sent to calendar@dcblues.org or mail to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd. College Park, MD 20740.

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

Table with 2 columns: Article Title and Page Number. Includes 'President's Drum' (3), 'John Cephas Tribute' (5/9), 'Cyril Neville's CD Brand New Blues' (7), 'Calendar' (10), 'Memphis Gold @ Blues Alley And CD Review' (11). Includes cover photo credit and copyright info.

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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.

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Ads should be at least 200 dpi; optimum 300 dpi. PDF or JPG preferred. Print edition is in black & white. For on-line rates, go to www.dcblues.org. Questions? Email: ads@dcblues.org

# President's Drum

## John Cephas

One of the DC Blues Society's founding fathers, John Cephas, has finished his work in this world. Some of that work is close to the hearts of those who loved his music. Those who labor on behalf of and support, through their membership and donations, the efforts of the DC Blues Society, also cherish his contributions. John was one of three signatories (along with Barry Pearson and Carl Johnston) to the articles of incorporation that formally laid out the mission and structure of the Society and gained its nonprofit status. John's blueprint has guided the focus and growth of the Society since its creation twenty-one years ago.

Through his hard work and vision, John helped launch a perpetual Blues machine that continues to enrich, educate, and entertain Blues lovers in the DC region. His collaboration with Phil Wiggins took him around the world, perpetuating his particular style of Piedmont Blues. While many will miss John Cephas, his legacy will live on through his recordings and through the organization he did so much to create.

While I didn't know John personally, I and all the board members, past and current, ride on his shoulders. The DC Blues Society is forever grateful for his contributions. Read more on John Cephas on Pg. 5.



In another loss to the Blues community, "**Blu Lou**" Rao succumbed to cancer over the weekend after a valiant battle. Lou was a fixture at Chick Hall's Surf Club and a dear friend of Chris Hall for many years. He lived his love for music, playing bass guitar and other instruments and singing, establishing and leading jams, and helping others any way he could.

Blu Lou was always on hand for DC Blues Society jams and shows and eager to help us set up the sound system, troubleshoot problems, and handle deejay duties. On a personal note, Lou brought me into his home to record an audition disc for the competition to become the voice of Metrorail [Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority], "...the doors are closing..."

The doors have now closed behind Blu Lou as he exits this stage. But for those of us whose lives he touched with kindness, generosity and his infectious love for music, the door will always be open to fond memories. Lou was a great friend to the DC Blues Society. On behalf of the Society, I extend our sincere condolences to Lou's friends and family.

## What's Going On?

Although the Surf Club Live! was closed in March, April is another story. Check out the reopening shows starting Friday, April 3 with King Soul (60s Memphis Soul). On Saturday, April 4, The Nighthawks return to the Surf Club. And, the next day, April 5, DCBS's monthly first-Sunday jam (4-8 pm) kicks off the week.

Then get ready for Saturday, April 18 and the **DC Blues Society Open House and Festival Auditions at the Surf Club**. This is the second year we've held this very popular event. **Free admission! Free food!** We only ask for your donations for the DCBS free Annual Blues Festival. We're also looking for volunteers and new members. Tell a friend who's not a member to come out, have lots of fun and join DCBS. The winner of the auditions gets to open the annual festival on September 5 at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre in DC.

As of press time, there are a dozen bands participating:

- Capitol Blues Ensemble
- Erbium Blue
- Hugh Feeley & Talk Is Cheap
- Ida Campbell and the Blues Men
- Jenn and the Tonics
- Kimiesha & Company
- Ralph Chiodo
- Rose Between Thorns
- Ryan Stevens
- Sherwood Blues Band
- Tish
- Tony Porter

This year's winner also has the opportunity to perform at the first annual **Silver Spring Blues Festival at Downtown Silver Spring**, May 9. 2-6 pm (see ad Page 6). The Society is working closely with the Silver Spring Town Center, Inc., led by Alan Bowser, who is organizing this free festival. He's putting together a fun-filled afternoon that the whole family will enjoy. Plan now to attend! For information and the schedule, go to [www.silverspringblues.com](http://www.silverspringblues.com).

## CW Harrington Returns May 2

We were all geared up to see CW Harrington reprising his smash Obama-Rama performance on March 14 but it was canceled. Don't fret. — the CW show has been rescheduled for May 2 at the Surf Club, 8:30 pm-12:30 am. Get your tickets now at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org).

## A Band is Born!

Oh, by the way, another reason not to miss the Silver Spring Blues Festival is the debut of one of the area's hottest, funkier, most entertaining bands to grow out of the local scene! [Excuse the hype.] The Society has given birth to a brand new band: The DC Blues Society Band. OK, it's not the most imaginative or engaging name. But we're working on that — or not. The notion of a Society band is not new. There was one many years ago but it went the way of battling egos and dwindling interest.

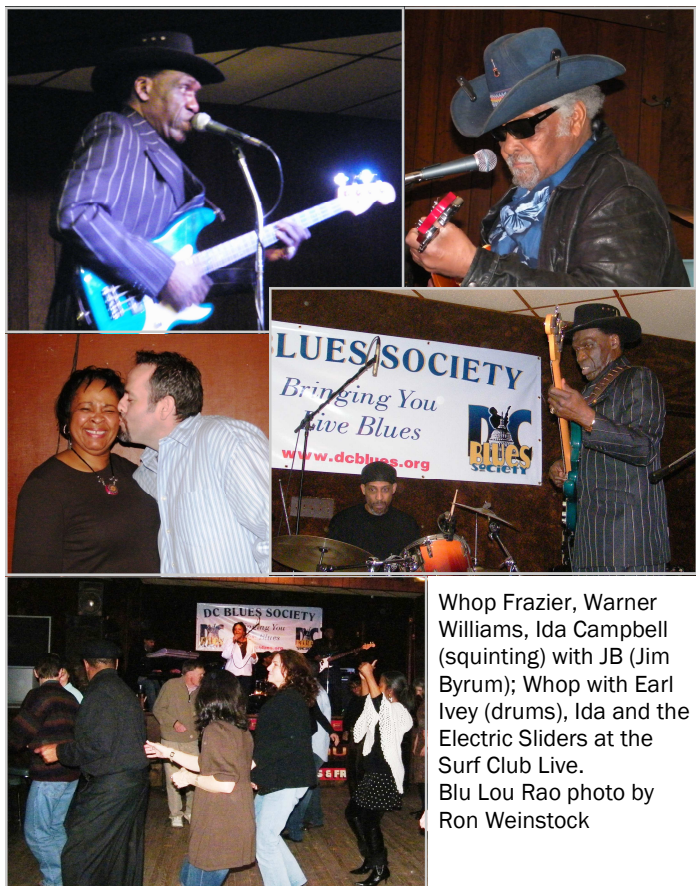
My vision was to put together a basic rhythm unit with a regular lead and rotating guest leads & sidemen/women. The band will play at jams, open for some of our club shows, festivals, and other clubs and private events. The DCBS Band will increase and improve our presence on the region's Blues and R&B/soul scene. The DCBS Band will give DCBS a presence in venues we might not otherwise access with associated opportunities to grow membership. The band may open another window to extensions of our Blues In The Schools (BITS) program. Former Society president and jam master, Sam'i Nuriddin, will lead this fledgling band.

About the upcoming Silver Spring Blues Festival, Sam'i said, "The band will basically consist of a rhythm section, and we will showcase a top flight vocalist or other talent" to keep it interesting. The band's lineup for the Silver Spring Festival includes Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark (harmonica); Sam Brawler (drums); Dave Jackson (bass); Sam'i Nuriddin (second guitar). The featured guest vocalist/guitarist is Ivan "Illinois Slim" Jackson. [[www.illinoislim.com](http://www.illinoislim.com)]

That's just what's happening through May. Open our emails and visit the website to keep up with the Blues goings on. I look forward to seeing you at the free Open House and Festival Auditions or one of the other upcoming exciting shows.

Blues Always,

PS: In case you missed another spectacular event, below are a few photos from Whop Frazier's February 28 show.



Whop Frazier, Warner Williams, Ida Campbell (squinting) with JB (Jim Byrum); Whop with Earl Ivey (drums), Ida and the Electric Sliders at the Surf Club Live. Blu Lou Rao photo by Ron Weinstock

## DCBS Open House & Festival Auditions



**Saturday, April 18, 2009**

**6:30 pm - 1:00 am**

**Surf Club Live!**

**4711 Kenilworth Avenue**

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**Audition winner will perform at 1st Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival,  
Downtown Silver Spring, MD, Saturday, May 9**

**and**

**21st Annual DC Blues Festival**

**Saturday, September 5**

**Carter Barron Amphitheatre, Washington, DC**



2008 Festival Audition photos courtesy of Ron Weinstock



## John Cephas

(September 4, 1930 – March 4, 2009) was born in Washington, DC to a family rich in musical talent. His father, Ernest, was a Baptist minister who recognized his son's gifts and encouraged him to learn the guitar and his mother, Sylvia, taught her sons to sing. John's grandfather, John Dudley, lived in Caroline County, VA, near the town of Bowling Green and it was here that John learned much of the music traditions and history of rural Virginia that would eventually shape his musical career. Along with other relatives, he played at family gatherings and heard the music of early Piedmont Blues artists. He would later list Blind Boy Fuller, Rev. Gary Davis and Blind Lemon Jefferson as some who influenced his playing. And, in time, his own talents, as a singer, guitarist and composer, would put his name in that list of remarkable Blues musicians.

When one speaks of the Blues musicians of his generation, certain names are bound to come up: John Jackson, Archie Edwards, Bill Harris, Flora Molton, Nap Turner, Mary Jefferson. Harris ran a club called *Pigfoot* not far from Edwards' place (the Alpha Tonsorial Barbershop) in Northeast DC. There were after-hours sessions at the club and Saturday jams at the barbershop. Traveling musicians stopped as they passed through DC and locals came to hone their skills, pickup pointers from the seasoned players or just play with old friends.

In 1977, while performing at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, John Cephas and Phil Wiggins met. The following is taken from the duo's website ([www.cephasandwiggins.net](http://www.cephasandwiggins.net)): *Cephas was playing in the band of pianist Big Chief Ellis and Wiggins was accompanying gospel singer-guitarist Flora Molton. Along with pianist Wilber "Big Chief" Ellis and bassist James Bellamy, John and Phil formed the Barrelhouse Rockers. A year after Ellis' death, the duo of Cephas & Wiggins was born.*

*Cephas & Wiggins were leading exponents of the Piedmont Blues – specifically the Piedmont-style guitar... Almost immediately after the two musicians joined forces, the blues community proclaimed them as the new champions of the East Coast Piedmont style of blues...*

*To Cephas & Wiggins, the blues lyric was the poetry of the African-American experience. Said Cephas, "The blues is a creation of black people in communities all across this country when times were hard. It was a way of expression, an outlet, and it's had so much impact. Blues music is truth. The lyrics are true-to-life experiences that people everywhere can relate to." "People automatically think of sadness and depression when they think of blues. But the blues is uplifting music, music to rejuvenate you, to nourish the spirit. When you get down, the blues will pick you up again. Blues is nourishment for the human spirit," says Wiggins.*

*They chose their repertoire carefully, not only for musical impact, but also to highlight the cultural and historical content of their genre. Their concert performances evoked life in the post-Reconstruction South. Hard work, celebration, joy, and struggle are all there. A verse that may sound like a straightforward love song may also contain an allusion to African tribal culture or the indignities of racism or an optimistic assertion of a better future. Cephas & Wiggins provided their audiences with a very special treat – a powerful and intelligent performance of a wonderful, American treasure, the blues.*

According to blues historian Barry Lee Pearson, Piedmont blues and other types of acoustic blues were sorely overlooked by the music industry who viewed them as not commercially viable. Recording contracts were scarce but with perseverance, a little luck and a lot of support from people like Pearson and Joe Wilson who promoted US artists through the US Information Agency tours, the duo began to gain some recognition. To the surprise of many, Cephas and Wiggins won the 1986 Traditional Artists of the Year award and in 1987, *Dog Days of August* won the W.C. Handy Best Traditional Blues Album award.

The importance of passing on musical traditions to ensuing generations was not lost to these musicians. Cephas and a group of friends, mostly musicians, recognized the need to formalize their jam sessions as a way to preserve the legacy of the Blues, especially acoustic Blues, and to provide opportunities for local musicians. With that, the DC Blues Society was born. Cephas served as its first president, Wiggins as its second.

Cephas was also committed to passing on the Piedmont guitar style to younger musicians and he opened his home and his heart to many as evidenced by the large turnout of musicians at the Sunday, March 29 tribute at the Smithsonian's Baird Auditorium and Westminster Presbyterian Church. The unmistakable sound of the Blues filled the theatre as family, friends and fans (some of whom came from as far away as Seattle) gathered for the celebration. Phil Wiggins, Corey Harris, Daryl Davis, Eleanor Ellis (a founding member of DCBS), Rick Franklin and others paid the musical tribute to John Cephas while friends like Barry Pearson (another DCBS founder), Joe Wilson, Bill Wax, to name a few, told stories about the man they knew and loved.

Later in the day, a house party jam took place at Westminster Presbyterian Church in southwest DC. (The church hosts Blues every Monday night and jazz every Friday night.) Musicians from across the region came to play before an appreciative audience. Musicians set up outside the church entrance to play under bright skies and cherry blossoms; a dozen or so took over an inside stairwell to sing doo-whop; and of course, inside there was the main stage with musicians taking turns for their joyful musical tributes.

As you will see from the photos on Page 9, the spirit of John Cephas was evident throughout the day as old friends reconnected, new friendships were made, songs were shared. He will be sorely missed but his mission will continue through his recordings, his friendships and, in the society he founded over twenty-one years ago. And, remember his words too : **Blues music is truth.**

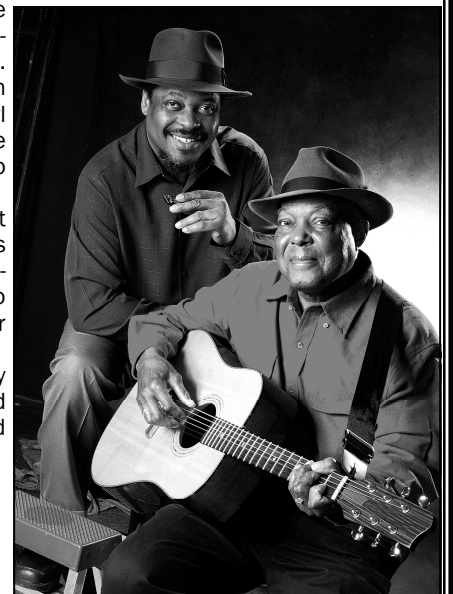


Photo at the top of the page by Tom Radcliffe and provided courtesy of Alligator Records. Special thanks to Lynn Volpe, Phil Wiggins, Barry Pearson, Eleanor Ellis, Ron Weinstock and Bruce Iglauer of Alligator Records for their contributions.



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**Requiem**

**Hank Crawford** (Jan 29, 2009) 74. Born in Memphis, Crawford was raised on the blues. In his early career, he worked with Bobby "Blue" Bland, B.B. King and Ike Turner. In addition to playing baritone and alto saxophone, he was also the musical director for Ray Charles. His style of playing, often described as "soul-jazz" connected jazz to its roots in blues and gospel music. As a composer, arranger and musician, he recorded several albums with David "Fathead" Newman and Jimmy McGriff. He also toured and recorded with Dr. John, Etta James, Lou Rawls and others.

**Jimmy Boyd** (March 7, 2009). Singer, musician and actor, Boyd was just a month short of his thirteenth birthday when he recorded the hit single "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." Initially banned in Boston by the Catholic Church on the grounds that it mixed sex with Christmas, the song has sold over 60,000,000 copies. Boyd went on to have a career in music, television and film. He was 70.

**Willie King** (March 8, 2009). Delta Blues guitarist and singer. His album, *Freedom Creek*, received the Living Blues 2000 Best Blues Album award and Best Contemporary Blues Album award. He was featured in Martin Scorsese's series "The Blues" (2003) and was the subject of a documentary entitled *Down in the Woods* (2007). A 2005 inductee to the Howlin' Wolf Hall of Fame, King died on his 66<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Eddie Bo** aka Edwin Joseph Bocage (March 18, 2009), 79. This Blues singer, songwriter and pianist worked with Etta James, Irma Thomas, Art Neville, Joe Turner, Ruth Brown, Lloyd Price and a host of others in Blues, jazz and R&B. Among his role models were pianists Oscar Peterson and Art Tatum. He was featured in the Smithsonian music series, *River of Song*. Bocage received music industry awards and honors from New Orleans.

**Mel Brown** (March 20, 2009), 69. Blues guitarist, pianist and band leader he recorded with many blues legends like T-Bone Walker, B.B. King, John Lee Hooker, James Cotton. His Electro-Fi album, *Neck Bones & Caviar*, won the 2001 W.C. Handy Award for Blues Comeback Album of the Year.

**Cyril Neville's CD *Brand New Blues***

**Review by Ron Weinstock**

The youngest member of the Neville Brothers, Cyril Neville has long engaged in a variety of projects including exploring reggae and other world music, and revisiting some Crescent City classics along with adding his voice and conscience to the Neville Brothers. MC Records is bringing out his latest disc, *Brand New Blues*, which has a most definite blues focus.

Brian J, the producer, provides most of the musical accompaniment but many tracks are supplemented by such artists as Neville brother Art, nephews Ivan and Ian, guitarist Tab Benoit, harmonica whiz Johnny Sansone and washboard from Waylon Thibodeaux. There are a few originals and some intriguing covers like Jimmy Reed's "I Found Joy" which opens the album. It's a simple groove and a vocal that suggests a hint of Taj Mahal. The title track has Neville singing about all types of blues, from the hole in shoes to broken hearted blues, but when he thought he had seen it all, she walked in to his life with the brand new blues, spending his money as if no tomorrow. "Shake Your Gumbo" is a funky, dance oriented number and Neville does a marvelous treatment of "I'll Take Care of You." "Cream Them Beans," with Thibodeaux's washboard and Sansone's harp, is a lively ditty with a hot creole groove. "Cheatin and Lyin" has Neville wondering how some people sleep at night "as something so wrong can be seen as right" with "cheating and lying from the White House on down." "Mean Boss Groove" has a protest lyric about a bad boss and credit card bills piling up with a haunting, accompaniment evocative of John Lee Hooker's brooding slow blues. Neville also does "Blue Blue Water," another lesser known Jimmy Reed number. The CD closes with a highly expressive, blues-infused rendition of Bob Marley's "Slave Driver."

Many of Neville's recordings have had limited distribution. Hopefully, MC Records will be able to get his music into wider circulation as he has a voice that deserves to be heard on its own.

You can catch Cyril Neville at The State Theatre in Falls Church on Tuesday, April 21. For information go to [www.thestatetheatre.com](http://www.thestatetheatre.com).

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- Willie "Big Eyes" Smith
- The Nighthawks
- Ruby Hayes Blues Band
- Choctetooth Afrofunk Big Band
- Bad Influence Band
- The Kelly Bell Band
- Jumplown
- Rhythm Kings
- Ronnie Ray

*\*Listed artist roster is subject to change.*

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Eric Burdon  
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Big Bad  
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## Saturday

- Los Lonely Boys
- Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- Ana Popovic
- The Lonnie Brooks Band
- Davy Knowles & Back Door Slam
- Sugar Blue
- The Chesapeake Bay Ladies of Blues with Deanna Bogart, Melanie Mason, Patty Reese and Nadine Rae

## Sunday

- Jonny Lang
- Eric Burdon and the Animals
- Shemekia Copeland
- Lydia Pense & Cold Blood
- The Nighthawks featuring Hubert Sumlin
- Zac Harmon
- Albert Cummings

Artists & times are subject to change without notice.

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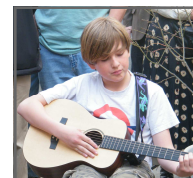


WE CARE AND FRIENDS





Young and old, and every age in between, they came from across the DC region and across the country to pay tribute to John Cephas, musician, mentor and friend.



More photos on [www.flickr.com/photos/28294197@N05/sets/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/28294197@N05/sets/) or search on Flickr for DC Blues Society

### Membership means discounts! Show 'em your card

The following companies offer discounts to DCBS members. You must present your current membership card to receive them. Discount offers may be withdrawn at any time.

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## April Calendar

1	<b>Del Ray Workshop</b> @ Archie's Barbershop (for information on its new Riverdale location, go to <a href="http://www.acousticblues.com">www.acousticblues.com</a> ); Blues Jam w/Chip Clemmer @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Josh Basson Benefit @ JV's (see notice end of Column 2)
2	<b>Del Ray Workshop</b> @ Archie's Barbershop; Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar
3	<b>Legendary Rhythm &amp; Blues Revue</b> @ Rams Head; Sherwood Blues Band @ Flanagan's Harp & Fiddle; Big Enough Blues and Jazz Band @ Saint's Bourbon Street; Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Country Store; Bottle of Blues @ Orchard Landing; Rude Dog @ Waterfront Hotel; Nothing But Trouble @ Pickled Herring Pub
4	<b>Legendary Rhythm &amp; Blues Revue</b> @ State Theatre; Big Boy Little @ Zoo Bar; Nighthawks @ Surf Club Live; Automatic Slim @ Bertha's; Bottle of Blues @ Bare Bones; Roger Girke Band @ Cat's Eye; Ursula Ricks @ Cat's Eye; Chris Polk Band @ Madam's Organ; Tyrone Shuz & His Funky Bluz @ Old Bowie Town Grille
5	<b>DCBS Jam</b> @ Surf Club Live; Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues; Ursula Ricks @ Madam's Organ
6	Nadine Rae @ Vicino's; Queen Aisha @ Westminster Church
7	Idle Americans @ Cat's Eye
8	Muleman @ Cat's Eye; Blues Jam w/Chip Clemmer @ Old Bowie Town Grille
9	Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Skyla Burrell Blues Band @ Cat's Eye
10	Capital Blues Ensemble @ Saint's Bourbon Street; Kelly Bell Band @ Whitlow's; Daryl Davis Band @ Carlyle Club; Skyla Burrell Blues Band @ 13 <sup>th</sup> Floor of The Belvedere; Blue Collar Band @ Holiday House; Nothing But Trouble @ Cat's Eye; North Mississippi Allstars @ State Theatre; Lex Grey & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ; Sookee Jump Blues Band @ Zoo Bar; BG & Mojo Hands @ Glen Echo
11	<b>Ed &amp; Tob's House Rent Party</b> , Freeland, MD (for details go to <a href="http://www.forkman.net">www.forkman.net</a> ); Deanna Bogart @ Jammin' Java; Sherwood Blues Band @ Potomac Grill; Brian Gross @ Sala Thai, Bethesda; Daryl Davis w/Pinetop Perkins @ Glen Echo; Carl Filipiak & Tom Principato @ Ram's Head; Rude Dog @ Cat's Eye; Lex Grey & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ; Smokin' Polecats w/Marianna Previti, Jamie Lynch @ Zoo Bar; Cathy Ponton King @ Barns of Wolf Trap
12	Linwood Taylor @ Cat's Eye
13	Clarence Turner Blues Band @ Westminster Church
15	Blues Jam w/Chip Clemmer @ Old Bowie Town Grille
16	Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Deanna Bogart @ Lakefront Stage, Columbia, MD; Linwood Taylor @ Cat's Eye
17	<b>Jason Ricci &amp; New Blood</b> @ Madam's Organ; Nadine Rae @ Domenica's; Whale Etoufee @ Saint's Bourbon Street; Idle Americans @ Frisco Grille; Stacey Brooks Band @ Surf Club Live; Daryl Davis Band @ Carlyle Club; Tom Principato @ Club 66; Roger Girke Band @ The Laurrapin; Liz Briones @ Zoo Bar; Douglas Everton & Wayward Street @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Cape May Jazz (and Blues) Festival April 17-19
18	<b>DCBS Blues Festival Auditions</b> @ Surf Club Live; <b>BBS presents Smokin' Joe Kubek w/Bnois King &amp; Jason Ricci</b> @ Rosedale American Legion; Choo Choo Charlie and Spitfires @ Thrive Monthly Concert Series; Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Country Store; Blues Therapy @ TBONZ; Dagmar and Seductones; Quarry House Tavern; Linwood Taylor @ Lexington Market (12 PM); Linwood Taylor & Rude Dog @ Ryan's Daughter; Roger Girke Band @ An Pointin Stil; BBQ Bob & Spareribs @ Madam's Organ; Roustabouts @ Zoo Bar; Steve James House Concert @ Glassie/Littell Home, Bethesda
19	Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues; Linwood Taylor & Rude Dog @ McGerk's; Blues Jam w/Paul Mastradone & The Paulverizers @ Old Bowie Town Grille
20	Scott Ramminger @ Westminster Church,
21	Cyril Neville @ State Theatre
22	Blues Jam w/Chip Clemmer @ Old Bowie Town Grille
23	Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Stacey Brooks Band @ Flanagan's Harp and Fiddle

## April cont'd

24	Sherwood Blues Band @ Music Cafe; Dr. S.O. Feelgood @ Saint's Bourbon Street; Bottle of Blues @ Michael's Cafe; Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Jessie Garrison Band @ Zoo Bar; The Hall Brothers @ Old Bowie Town Grille
25	Nadine Rae @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Sherwood Blues Band @ Dish Bistro Lounge; Idle Americans @ Ebb Tide; Brian Gross Trio @ Sala Thai, Bethesda; Kelly Bell Band @ Great Grapes; Flatfoot Sam & Educated Fools @ Zoo Bar; Bad Influence @ Music Cafe; Bobby Parker @ Madam's Organ
26	Blues Jam w/Paul Mastradone & The Paulverizers @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues;
27	Danny Blew & Blues Crew @ Westminster Church
29	Muleman @ Cat's Eye; Brian Gross @ Beans in the Belfry; Blues Jam w/Chip Clemmer @ Old Bowie Town Grille
30	Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar

## Early May Calendar

1	Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Country Store; Deb Callahan @ Madam's Organ; Rude Dog @ Waterfront Hotel; Joy Bodycomb Band @ Old Bowie Town Grille
2	<b>DCBS presents CW Harrington &amp; Band</b> @ Surf Club Live; Big Boy Little @ Zoo Bar; Rude Dog @ Bare Bones; Bad Influence @ Ice House Cafe
3	<b>DCBS Jam</b> @ Surf Club Live; Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues; South Memphis String Band @ Rams Head; Bottle of Blues @ Orchard Landing; Iness & Karim Albert Kook w/WorldBlues (from Algeria & France) @ Archie's Barbershop (for information on its new Riverdale location, go to <a href="http://www.acousticblues.com">www.acousticblues.com</a> )
4	Daryl Davis Band @ Westminster Church
5	Idle Americans @ Cat's Eye
7	<b>Rod Piazza &amp; Mighty Flyers</b> @ Rams Head; Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar
9	FREE 1st Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival, <a href="http://www.silverspringblues.com">www.silverspringblues.com</a>

**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](mailto:hc1829@aol.com)

**Bolded** items are picks by calendar editor, Steve Levine, and include DCBS and BBS events. Send listings to [calendar@dcblues.org](mailto:calendar@dcblues.org) or mail to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd., College Park, MD 20740. Deadline is the 15th of the month. 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](http://www.dcblues.org).



### The Ducks are Coming to Washington, DC!

On Sunday, June 7, 2009 WPFW (89.3FM) will present the first annual WPFW Luck of The Duck Race.

Adopt an adorable rubber duck for a \$5 donation and help preserve the music programming that you enjoy on our favorite community radio station. Join the WPFW staff, programmers and volunteers to watch your rubber duck race toward the finish line and a chance to win one million dollars. Witness the spectacle of 20,000 rubber ducks being dumped in the Potomac River, vying for winning position.

To adopt your duck(s) go [www.wpfw.org](http://www.wpfw.org) or call the Duck Hotline, 202-588-0999 ext.344.

**Adopt A Duck – Support WPFW**



## Memphis Gold's CD Release Party and Gibson Guitar Award at Blues Alley CD Review by Ron Weinstock

Let me begin with a caution: this article may display some bias on my part since Memphis Gold and I have been friends for about eighteen years and I was in the studio while he finished some of the tracks on his latest CD, *Gator Gon' Bitechu!* (Stackhouse).

When Memphis gave me an advance of his second CD, *Prodigal Son*, I was floored by how much his music had matured. *Gator Gon' Bitechu!* is a very successful follow-up highlighting Memphis' strengths: his sanctified-rooted singing, his solid, rhythmically charged guitar playing and the good-time feeling he invests in each performance.

The new CD opens with a sample of a symphony orchestra then moves into some slide guitar played against a North Mississippi groove as Memphis sings "I Shoulda Known," a lament about a woman who bled him dry. It's followed by "Catfish Creeper," with dual slide guitars sounding like "Dust My Groove," as Memphis sings about laying on the river bottom like a log until someone comes along with the right bait.

Set to the groove of "Woke Up This Morning," Memphis asks his woman "Do You Still Want Me?" after she's used him and broken his heart. The title track, inspired by WPFW (98.3 FM) blues programmer, Da "Gator, has an infectious funky groove with some brassy horns and a nice guitar break.

"My 2 Kcandys" is a jaunty shuffle that gives a shout out to a Candy and a Kandy. On "Can't Get Enough," using the melody of B.B. King's "The Thrill Is Gone," Memphis sings about not being able to get enough of his woman using him while hoping one day she'll finally see his love.

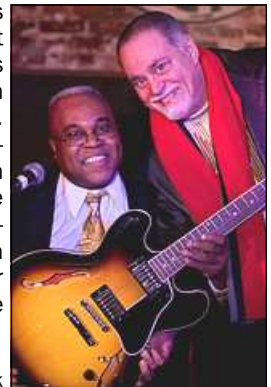
The mood then shifts on a lovely blues ballad, entitled "How I Got Over," a song about falling in and out of love. The groove picks up again on the quasi auto-biographical shuffle "I Was Born in Memphis." "Squeaky Wheel" features a nice harp solo.

"Lil Lucy" opens with a dreamy backing as Memphis recalls a boyish fantasy about a beautiful lady who used to pass his house everyday, then the band shifts into a funky groove with a funky bass riff as Memphis asks "Lucy, why do you tread on me?"

*Gator Gon' Bitechu!* should be available from local retailers as well as [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com). Memphis Gold's website: [www.memphisgoldblues.com](http://www.memphisgoldblues.com).



The CD release party took place at Blues Alley on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. That night, Memphis Gold also celebrated his birthday and received a special honor from Gibson Guitar. Bill Wax, the host of *B.B. King's Bluesville* on Sirius XM Radio, presented Gold with a classic Gibson Custom ES-335 guitar on Gibson's behalf. The award was in recognition of Gold's contribution to the Blues and for his perseverance in getting back on his feet (and his guitar) after suffering severe injuries in 2008 when he fell from a tree while working on his day job.



Photos courtesy Ron Weinstock

## Festival Audition Judges Needed

DCBS needs several people to judge the bands participating in the Festival Auditions to be held on Saturday, April 18. This is a great opportunity to put your music expertise to work! Judges need to arrive by 6:30 pm on the night of the auditions and stay for the entire event. Of course, all judges need to be impartial and unbiased so family members and friends are ineligible.

If you're interested, please contact Jazs at [ads@dcblues.org](mailto:ads@dcblues.org). You can also view the scoring system and criteria on DCBS's website: [www.dcblues.org/index.php?pageRequest=IBC](http://www.dcblues.org/index.php?pageRequest=IBC).

## Legendary Rhythm & Blues Revue

Planning to attend the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Revue featuring Tommy Castro Band, Deanna Bogart, Magic Dick and Ronnie Baker Brooks, on Saturday, April 4 at the State Theatre? Take a minute and stop by the DCBS membership table to say "hello." Bring your friends by so they can sign up. New members who sign up at DCBS events, or at the DCBS exhibit booth, receive a special, limited edition CD featuring 17 tunes by some of the best bands in the DC area. But the supply is running out so get 'em before they're gone!

Members also 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 Page 9).

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## Upcoming DCBS Events

- Apr 18: Open House & Festival Auditions
- May 2: CW Harrington & Band
- Jul 18: Festival Fundraiser with Bryan Lee
- Aug 1: Annual Fish Fry 'n' Blues & Bike Contest
- Sep 5: 21st Annual DC Blues Festival (free)
- Sep 5: Festival After-Party
- Oct 10: Battle of the Bands
- Oct 31: Blues in the Schools (BITS) Fund raiser featuring Eric Bibb
- Nov 7: WinnerFest featuring Battle of the Bands winner (date TBA)
- Dec 19: Annual Holiday Party
- Dec 31: New Years Eve Dinner & Show

DCBS is looking for volunteers! Help staff the membership booth at shows, the annual festival and other events and with DCBS projects. Contact [fest-volunteer@dcblues.org](mailto:fest-volunteer@dcblues.org) or go to the DCBS website [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org).



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