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Pete Squires:

Still Learning after All These Years

Keyboardist Talks about Musical Influences Story and Photo by Bill Martin



since.

Pete Squires can still be seen riding his 2013 Super Drive Harley Davidson around Tulsa, except of course, when he's got a gig. Then it's a bit more convenient hauling his keyboard in his car.

At age 82, Pete may be the senior fellow among active Tulsa blues musicians. The keyboardist for the Johnny Paul Band has that Tulsa Sound written all over him, even though he grew up in Berryville, Ark.

He was introduced to the Tulsa music scene when he first lived here from 1979-83 playing with some of the city's finest ranging from **Leo Feathers** to **Danny McBride**.

Pete Squires Pete left Tulsa in 1983 and didn't return until 2002. But he didn't start playing in public again until 2009 when he started jamming with McBride at the Cimarron Bar. He's been jamming and playing in various bands ever

He attributes his gift of music coming from both his parents side of the family and still remembers growing up listening to Western Swing on a Victrola record player. He took piano lessons, learned to play guitar, but also plays by ear and always loved playing jazz on both instruments.

As far as music is concerned, Pete states, "it's my whole life. It's my main interest. I taught myself how to whistle when I was three years old so I could call my dog."

His mom started teaching him to play piano at age four, and his dad followed with guitar at age six.

During the 1960s, living about 60 miles from Fayetteville, he could be found playing at different venues there.

"I'm still trying to learn to play because I'm limited in what I can do, and I hate that, although I do play by ear pretty good," Pete says modestly. "I'd like to be able to play like **Rocky Frisco**." (Continued on Page 5)





Bobby Brewer

Terry Kirkland

Blue Dawgs:

Playin' All over Town Since Blues Challenge

Story and Photos by Bill Martin

Blues Society members **Bobby Brewer** and **Terry Kirkland** first played as a duo in the 2014 Tulsa Blues Challenge solo/duo competition and have been performing together ever since.

The pair loves the old blues artists with both citing **Muddy Waters** as a favorite.

Originally from Edmond, Bobby attended the University of Central Oklahoma where he played with various bands and first taught jazz guitar, which is intertwined with his blues playing to this day

He lived in Los Angeles playing with a number of noted artists such as jazz drummer **Shelly Manne.** He also resided in Boston and Nashville, where he played in the bands of a number of artists ranging from **Jerry Reed** to **Jeannie C. Riley.** (Continued on page 5.)

INSIDE:

Blues Choice Award Winners, Billy's Blues, Officer Elections Set, Guitars Gone Wild, Albert Cummings, Shemekia Copeland, Tommy Castro, The Jimmys, Andy Poxon, Eddie Cotton, Andy Cohen, JJ Appleton and Jason Ricci, D'Mar & Gill, and more!!



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LOCAL BIRTHDAYS

January 1 – Stan Reed, 7 – Charlie Redd, 8- Tom Skinner, 9 – Jon Parris, Kevin Phariss, Big Al Downing (2005), 12 – Jay McShann, 15 – Bill Raffensperger (2010) 17 - David Skinner, Dub Cross (2013) 20 - Scott Santee, Earl Grant, 21 -- Tiny Davis (2010), 22 - Dick Sims (2011), 23 – Jim Ziegler, 25 – Speedy West (2003), 29 – Shane Stewart and Marco Ogden (2009). **February 2** – Tommy Tripplehorn, 7 – Jimmy Byfield, Gus Hardin (1996), 8 – Ray D. Rowe, 9 - Gary Eldridge, 11 - David Thayer, 13 - David Berntson, Ice Pick Walt Gibson (2012), 15 – Paul Rowlett, 16 – Tommy Crook, 17 – Bill Snow, 18 - Jennifer Marriott, 18 – Pete Squires, 20 – Buddy Jones (2011), 22 – Ron McRorey, 23 – Larry York, 27 – Debbie Campbell (2004), Ron Martin (2009), 28 Don White.

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

are held the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. The January 12th and the February 9th meetings will both be held at the Cimarron Bar, 26th Street and South Memorial. Non members are always welcome! It's a fun and informative gathering for music lovers!

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Bill Barrett and Bill Martin

BILLY'S BLUES

The passing of Blues Society member Bill Barrett October **12th** is the hardest loss for me of a member(s) since the double whammy of losing my fishing buddy/father-in-law Clint "Poppy, Grandpa" Foster and my best friend, brother-in-law and BST treasurer **Don McDonald**, both in 2012.

Buffalo Bill, as I affectionately called him (he was born in Buffalo, NY) was such a blessing to me as Blues Society president. I remember several of us celebrating Bill's birthday on historic Beale Street in Memphis in January 2010.

At home, Bill was passionate in his support of the Blues Society and its mission. He was so proud of the BST he was always encouraging others to become members, or advertise in the Blues *News*. This was whether he was helping distribute the newsletter, attending a show, or wherever he might be.

Bill suffered a serious stroke within a year of that special time on Beale Street, and never fully recovered, as other serious health issues came along. Yet, he never wavered in his love of music, or the Blues Society. He wrote a number of features for the Blues *News* and I was amazed at his fluid writing style.

The past three years, even though in poor health, Bill served as a co-host of our Blues Challenge solo/duo competition.

I could go on about Bill's intelligence, his passion for life, honesty, loyalty and being a great father. I still treasure the many times when I was facing challenges, Bill would simply state, "You know I've got your back."

Buffalo Bill came into our lives around 2007 as our mutual love of music and blues brought us together. If it were not for the Blues Society being the bridge, I probably never would have had the privilege of knowing him.

Nothing seems to heal the body and soul and bring people together quite like music. I've been blessed with so many friends I would never have met were it not for the music and the Blues Society that supports it.

All of us may have less time on this earth than we realize. Life is so precious, yet fragile and uncertain. In a world gone crazy, it's reassuring to share something with friends so beautiful and lasting as music. - Bill Martin

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Dustin Pittsley Band is Big Winner in Blues Choice Awards

Birthday Party/Awards Ceremony Also will Honor Harry Williams, Patti Taylor and Mark Furnas

The **Dustin Pittsley Band** was the big winner in the 12th Annual Blues Choice Awards, sponsored by the Blues Society of Tulsa, where members vote on their favorite Northeastern Oklahoma artists in four categories: Best vocals, lead, rhythm and group. The winning artists will be honored and invited to perform at the 12th Annual Blues Choice Awards, which will be part of the Blues Society's annual birthday party. The date and venue will be announced in a few weeks.

The blues/rock Dustin Pittsley Band, led by its namesake, has now been voted *Best Group* for the 10th time. Dustin also captured his *Best Lead* for the eighth time, and *Best Vocals* for the second time. DPB plays about as much as any Tulsa band and each year tours throughout the mid-west, including dates at **Buddy Guy's Legends** in Chicago.

Other members of DPB are **Donnie Wood**, bass; **Chris Kyle**, keyboards; and **David Teegarden Jr**., drums.

Best Vocals: This is Dustin's second *Best Vocals* award, having won his first in 2011. While doing lead vocals and guitar for DPB,



The Dustin Pittsley Band: Dustin Pittsley, David Teegarden Jr., Chris Kyle and Donnie Wood.

he is a respected songwriter, with mostly originals tunes on the band's five albums.

Also voted *Best Vocals* was **Patti Taylor** of the **Patti Taylor Band**, which placed second in the Tulsa Blues Challenge in 2015. Patti has been singing since a little girl on her backyard swing set, as well as at church and school. She leads a nine-piece band displaying a mixture of gospel, blues, and R&B.

(Continued on page 5)



Blues Choice Awards...(Continued from page 4)



Best Rhythm: Veteran Tulsa guitarist Mark Furnas has won his first BCA. He played with the Fire Mountain Band in the 1990s, plus was lead guitarist for Wanda Watson for about six years.

Patti Taylor



He currently is lead guitarist for the **Darell Christopher Band**, the 2015 Tulsa Blues Challenge winner. Mark has been the office manager for the Jim Halsey Co. for the past 13 years.

"I've always prided myself as a good rhythm player," Mark says. "This is a special honor knowing guys like **Kevin Phariss** have been past winners."

Mark Furnas



Harry Williams

Harry Williams wins his second Best Rhythm honor, having won in 2004. He is in the *Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame* as well as the *Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame*. Harry Williams and Friends are a staple on Wednesday nights at the Cimarron Bar, plus he is the longtime drummer for the Kevin Phariss Band, leading the Sunday jam at the Cimarron. Harry was the drummer for Ike and Tina Turner for two and one-half years, among others.

David Teegarden Jr., drummer for DPB picked up his first *Best Rhythm* award a year ago and is taking home his second such award this year. He also plays drums for Tulsa icon **Randy Crouch and Flying Horse**.

Others receiving votes, in no particular order:

Best Vocals: Bethany Grace, Wink Burcham, David Berntson, Heather Buckley, Wanda Watson and Joshua Yarbrough.

Best Lead: Steve Pryor, Chris Kyle, Mark Furnas, Timbo Kelly, David Berntson, and David Russell.

Best Group: Steve Pryor, Bethany Grace & Gypsy Soul, James Groves Blues Machine, Duo Sonics and Audio Crush.

Best Rhythm: Donnie Wood, Dwayne Hassell, Derick Hassell,

David Berntson, and Bobby Parker.



Pete Squires.... (continued from page 1)

However, Tulsa guitarist **Johnny Paul Adams** chimes in stating, "Rocky used to say the same thing about you, Pete." Pete, who will be 83 years young on February 18th attributes his good health to quitting smoking in January 1969, plus he stopped drinking 25 years ago. A U.S. Navy veteran, he was a sailor on the cruiser USS Des Moines back in the 1950s.

Pete, who plays a Yamaha keyboard, cites his major musical influences as keyboardists (primarily jazz artists) dating back to the 1930s to 40s. They range from **Frankie Carle** (his first piano hero) to **Foster Pearson**, **Andre Previn** "and probably the best piano player I ever heard," **Art Tatum**. He also is a fan of jazz player **Bill Evans**, **Big Joe Turner** and **Pete Johnson**, whom he describes as his favorite boogie woogie player.

Pete still fondly remembers going over to **Tommy Crook's** house late at night after the Tulsa musical legend had finished a gig and jamming until the early morning hours. On another occasion he said there were six of them sitting around playing guitars at the same time.

Meanwhile, Pete is anything but a couch potato. Besides being the keyboardist for the **Johnny Paul Band**, he is a regular found playing with **Harry Williams and Friends** on Wednesdays at the Cimarron, Saturday afternoons at the 7/27 Club with **David Knight**, **Rick Lyles** and **Kat Irons**, as well at Sunday jams at the Slo Ride or Cimarron.

Meanwhile, Pete won't describe his own musical style, but modestly adds, "I'm just trying to figure it out and fit in with the sound in the band."

Blue Dawgs...(Continued from Page 1)

Terry recalls the day he received a call from an old high school classmate who said she and her husband (Bobby) had moved back to Oklahoma. Terry was invited to come to a show Bobby had in Broken Arrow.

"After about two songs, I said he could sit in and play with me anytime," Terry stated. "He'll be playing the blues, but you'll be hearing some jazz in it."

Terry adds that at first it was difficult getting gigs for the Blue Dawgs, but since last May the performances have really picked up, playing two to three times a week.

Terry attended Oklahoma State University, where he met and played with Tulsa blues/rocker **Scott Ellison**.

Until he retired, Terry owned Broken Arrow Concrete Design, adding that work didn't allow time to play. With more free time, he had a solo gig for three and a half years in Broken Arrow.

Terry, who does vocals and plays acoustic guitar cites **Eric Clapton** as his favorite guitarist.

Today, Bobby lives in Locust Grove and teaches beginner and intermediary guitar, as well as jazz guitar at Northeastern State University's Broken Arrow campus. As for the Blue Dawgs, Bobby says, "I love it. It's kind of hard finding someone doing the same old time blues and jazz stuff that we do."



CD REVIEWS

Shemekia Copeland: **OUTSKIRTS OF LOVE**

(Alligator Records)

Shemekia Copeland has been a big star for a long time, and she absolutely keeps her reputation intact with her latest release, Outskirts of Love. Smooth and flowing is the phrase.

Songs of note are the title track, as well as Devil's Hand, written by her late father Johnny Copeland, plus the classic The Battle is Over, (But the War Goes On), Cardboard Box, with Alvin Youngblood Hart, and Jesus Just Left Chicago,

with **ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons**. As you can see Alligator Records brought in some big guns for these sessions, including guitarist Will Kimbrough and many others. But the big star is still Shemekia as she explores several genres of music. What a pleasure to hear a voice that is such a fine tuned instrument! - Freddie Morrow



Albert Cummings Albert Cummings: **SOMEONE LIKE YOU** (Blind Pig Records)

The latest album from master guitarist, and fan favorite Albert Cummings, Someone Like You, marks his return to the noted blues roots label Blind Pig Records and

firmly keeps him high on the mountain in the blues rock world.

In 2003, **Double Trouble** (the late **Stevie Ray Vaughn's** rhythm section was so taken with Albert's fire and passion that bassist Tommy Shannon and drummer Chris Layton volunteered to play on and produce his solo debut record, the self-released, From the Heat. The great **B.B. King** dubbed Cummings "a great guitarist." All of which led Blind Pig to sign him.

For his newest recording here, Albert chose Grammy winning producer **David Z**. Albert wrote all the songs, and enlisted label mate **Jimmy Vivino** to help; all this led to a masterful recording. Songs of note are No Doubt, Make Up Your Mind, and my favorite track, Stay Away from My Sister. If you like your blues with an edge, this is for you. - Freddie Morrow



Guitars Gone Wild: STRING THEORY

Not one to continue down the same road, Tulsan Josef Glaude ventures into new territory with String Theory, his first release since the wonderful Blues for Skip (Blues News March/April 2011). This

newest release is less bluesy with more emphasis on classical, jazz fusion and yes, a hint or two of rock.

A nice addition is **Bill Jones** on rhythm and acoustic guitar who studied under Tulsan Mike Bruce and Joesf. Bill keeps the boys

from straying too far from the blues. Another student of Josef is **Jarrod Elmore** bringing the rock element. Jarrod drummed on a couple of cuts on *Blues for Skip*. Besides guitar, he masterfully engineered and mixed this album. Jarrod also programmed the drums, which took a little getting used to, but it's good.

Still, the master classical/jazz guitarist Joesf Glaude brings it altogether. I've listened to the dozen original instrumentals on String Theory several times and it just gets better each time. For more info, go to: www.guitarsgonewild.info - Bill Martin

JJ Appleton and Jason Ricci: DIRTY MEMORY



Jason Ricci had a big 2015 as the blues harmonica wizard received a Grammy nod for performing on Johnny Winter's In Step album. Then he was invited to

perform at the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame with Zac Brown and Tom Morello, for the induction of the Butterfield Blues Band.

On *Dirty Memory* Jason teams with guitarist JJ Appleton, turning back the clock, reviving the Piedmont tradition of acoustic blues that should make **Sonny Terry** and **Brownie McGee** proud.

This acoustic album has excellent resonator guitar work and vocals by Appleton, combined with Ricci's incredible harp playing and vocals. Eight of the 11 tunes are originals. This albums is roots blues in many flavors – and it is great. One of my favorites of the year. - Billy Austin

GILL D'Mar & Gill: TAKE IT LIKE THAT

(Airtight Records)

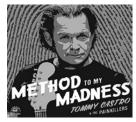
Drummer Derrick "D'Mar" Martin and vocalist/guitarist Chris Gill. D'Mar has an impressive resume including 15 years as Little Richard's drummer, while Gill

is an excellent Mississippi blues slide man. This is fine, fairly traditional blues release that is often laid back. It's perfect for a cold winter's night in front of the fireplace. $-\mathbf{R}$. Fripp





CD REVIEWS



Tommy Castro & The Painkillers: METHOD TO MY **MADNESS**

(Alligator Records)

Do you love guitar driven blues, like I do? Here's a great new album of sensational guitar driven blues for you, served

up, sweet and saucy, on Tommy Castro's 17th album. Often compared to Otis Redding, Tommy continues to write and perform outstanding blues music and definitely doesn't disappoint with the 12 awesome tracks presented within this album. The whole record is a standout, and sure to please. - Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)



ROAD BE KIND (Earwig Music)

Here's a guitar driven, finger picking, acoustic blues album with clever lyrics and good songs throughout. I'm not big on solo acoustic blues, but it's the way that

most early blues songs were recorded, so a lot can be said for a true artist that can do it all with nothing more than an acoustic guitar. -**Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



Andy Poxon:

MUST BE CRAZY

(Eller Soul Music)

Andy Poxon can definitely write, sing, and play some impressive blues music. His vocals remind me a lot of **Aynsley Lister**. If you're already an Andy Poxon fan you might be pleased that he finally

cut the giant red fro, and is playing the blues better than ever now. Some of these tracks are big band rockers and others are a bit more personal, but all together, they create a pretty good album. - Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)



Eddie Cotton:

HERE I COME

(DeChamp Records)

Here's some Smokey Robinson Rhythm and Blues type of excellent guitar driven blues that will get your toe tapping and make you want to dance. Great guitar, great energy and great blues music

throughout. An excellent band performance as well with guests like **Grady Champion**, on harmonica, featured on two tracks. -**Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



The Jimmys:

HOT DISH

(Brown Cow Productions)

This is such a fun album! Madison, WIbased The Jimmys know how to throw a party. With 13 original tunes, this album features one tight horn section. A sevenpiece band led by keyboardist and vocalist Jimmy Voegeli, it has a real Motown feel, with blues, jump swing, funk, soul and boogie thrown in.

Perry Weber (Hubert Sumlin) on guitar and drummer Mauro Magellan (Georgia Satellites) help bring it altogether. A favorite is What Chur Doin that nearly raises Albert King from the grave. Saddest Man Alive is a wonderful ballad with soothing keys by Voegeli. Very enjoyable album. Highly recommended. - Billy Austin

Officer Elections will be February 8th

The annual election of Blues Society officers for the posts of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer will be held February 8th at the monthly meeting, set for 7 p.m., at the Cimarron Bar, 26th and South Memorial. The one-year term of the elected officers will begin with the March meeting. All Blues Society members are eligible to vote and are encouraged to do so at the meeting.

Blues Society's IBC Representatives Set for World Stage in Memphis

Darell Christopher & The Ingredients and Joshua Yarbrough, the band and solo/duo entries, respectively, will represent Tulsa and Northeastern Oklahoma at the 32nd International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN, January 26-30. For the first time the Blues Society will be represented in the Youth Showcase, just prior to the IBC. The **Dylan Whitney Band** will be performing. The four-day event features acts and audiences from around the world.



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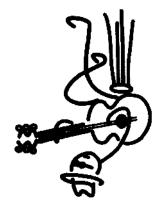
Norway's Papa Slide killin' it at The Shrine 10/22/15, presented by RadioIDL and The Blues Society of Tulsa. The big jam also featured The Dirtbox Wailers with Pete and Jennifer Marriott, Mark Miller & Cold Front, and The Heather Buckley Band. A big thank you to sponsors: Employees Federal Credit Union, Tulsa Roots Music, White Fang Production, Orca Media, Cirrus Hair of Tulsa and CTR Newspapers. (Photo by Bill Martin)

Blues Society of Tulsa

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