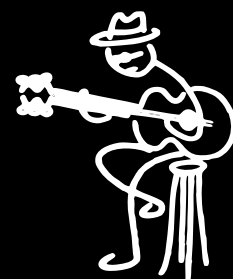


BLUES

THE BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF

NEWS

THE BLUES SOCIETY OF TULSA



Blues Society of Tulsa Celebrating 15 Years!

2002 - 2017

Volume 15, Number 5

www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com

July/August 2017

Major Blues Challenge Rule Changes are Implemented by Blues Foundation

Tulsa Band Challenge is August 26th; Solo Duos is September 30th



Joshua Yarbrough at Sun Records in Memphis. (Photo by Patrick McNicholas)

Documentary to Premiere

It's the Blues: Mission to Memphis

A two-day premiere of *It's the Blues: Mission to Memphis* will be held Friday, July 21st at 9:45pm and Saturday, July 22nd, at 3:45pm at Circle Cinema, 10 S. Lewis Ave.

A question and answer will be held with director **Patrick McNicholas** and Tulsa blues musician **Joshua Yarbrough** after both screenings.

Following the Friday event will be an after party at The Beehive Lounge (across the street from Circle Cinema), which will include a live performance by Yarbrough.

This film has a story focusing on Yarbrough, known for his traditional blues style vocals, guitar and songwriting talent. In October of 2015 he was awarded a third chance at competing in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN by
(Continued on page 2)

By Bill Martin

The **Dustin Pittsley Band** has competed in its last International Blues Challenge, while **Joshua Yarbrough** and **Wanda Watson**, if they win a local challenge, can compete in the IBC band competition only one more time under new guidelines announced recently by the Blues Foundation in an e-mail to its affiliates.

DPB has competed in the IBC after winning the Blues Society of Tulsa's Blues Challenge five times since 2005. The band's last IBC participation was earlier this year.

Tulsa's **Joshua Yarbrough** and **\$5 Sugar** won the Oklahoma Blues Society blues challenge and competed in the IBC in 2012 and he also was part of **The Boogie** that won the BST blues challenge and competed in Memphis in 2014. Then Joshua won the BST solo/duo competition and competed at the IBC in 2016.

A similar situation exists with Tulsa blues diva **Wanda Watson**. Her band has represented blues societies from Tulsa and Ft. Smith, AR, plus she represented Ft. Smith as a solo/duo act one year.

Under the rule changes Joshua and Wanda can compete in the IBC band competition one more, but could enter as a solo/duo act two mores, if they win a local blues competition. (Continued on page 5)

13th ANNUAL BLUES CHALLENGE:

BAND COMPETITION: Cain's Ballroom, August 26th. Deadline for entries July 26th.

SOLO/DUO COMPETITION: Soul City, September 30th. Deadline for entries, September 8th.

Winners represent Northeastern Oklahoma in the International Blues Challenge on Beale Street, Memphis, January 16 – 20. For more information and entry form, go to:
www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com, or call Bill 918.288.7574

INSIDE:

Morrow-Webster Lifetime Achievement Award, Pictorials: Chautauqua Hills Blues Festival and Bixby BBQ & Blues Festival, Antry, Bobby Messano, Selwyn Birchwood, Eric Bibb, Vintage #18, Coco Montoya, Cary Morin, Jamie and Mary Oldaker, and more!

Welcome Our New Members!

Jeremiah Davis, Dan S. Layman, Marty Thomas, all from Tulsa; Billy and Debra Hoppock, Bartlesville; Ted and Abby Darr, Broken Arrow; Jason and Kelli Foster, Dewey; Debbie and Pat Dutton, Sapulpa; Norman Jackson, Springfield, MO; Tom Leopold, Manhattan, KS.

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The Blues
Foundation
AFFILIATE

Blues Society of Tulsa, P.O. Box 2836, Tulsa, OK 74101, is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization with the purpose of preserving and promoting the blues in Tulsa and Northeastern Oklahoma. Blues News is published bi-monthly and encourages your support through personalized membership card and the Blues News newsletter. BST members are encouraged to submit articles, photos and other materials for publication. Deadline for both editorial items and advertising is the 1st of the month (30 days) prior to publication.

LOCAL BIRTHDAYS

July 2-Pat Moss; **4** - Big Al Downing (2005); **5** - Official J.J. Cale Day in Oklahoma; **9** - Bob Hendrix; **15** Kenny Cheek (2011), Frank McPeters (2009); **16** - Little Joe McLerran; **17** - Jimmy LaFave, Joe Lee Wilson (2011); **18** - David Teegarden Jr.; **25** - Jim Downing, Mike Weinbrenner, Wally Wallingford, Steve Parkhurst; **26** - Rocky Frisco (2015), JJ Cale (2013); **29** - Scott Mariner; Dave McKnight (2011); **August 9** - Ricky Preston, David McKnight; **10**-Michael MD Johnson, Rocking John Henry (2004); **12**-Pete Huckabee, Dick Gagle; **15** - Robert Wilson, (2010); **16** - Bob Taylor; **19**-Chuck Blackwell; **20** - Matt Martin, Mike Bruce (2005); **22** - Jim Karstein; **23** - Matt Kohl; **26** Ernie Fields (1997), Jimmy Rushing (1972).

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

held the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Both the July 11th meeting and the August 8th meeting will be held at the Cimarron Bar, 26th and South Memorial. Non-members are welcome!

It's the Blues.... (Continued from page 1)

winning a Blues Challenge sponsored by the Blues Society of Tulsa. The IBC event features artists about a dozen 12 countries beyond the U.S. and Canada with a total of 121 bands and 94 solo/duo acts performing. The film is a story of competition, friendship, commitment and the power of reinventing yourself.

Film Director McNicholas is an independent filmmaker from Tulsa who studied film and production in Nashville, TN working on over 21 titles, including the first student feature length film in Tennessee.

For more information check out: www.circlecinema.com and the Facebook Event page: https://www.facebook.com/events/652425624960268/?active_tab=about



Little Joe McLerran and Robbie Mack tearin' it up during acoustic night at Sedan's Gregg Theatre during the Chautauqua Hills Blues Festival. (More photos on page 4) - Photo by Tom Leopold

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2017 - Two Mighty Fine Area Blues Festivals!

Chautauqua Hills, Sedan, KS, May 27-28 - *Photography by Tom Leopold*



Jamie Morrison



Little John Lee McLerran



Fiona Boyes



Donnie Miller and Rude Awakening



Danielle Nicole Band

Bixby BBQ & Blues

Washington Irving Park, May 5-6 - *Photography by Jim Robinson*



James Groves of James Groves Blues Machine.



Rick Shortt, Norman Jackson, Norman Jackson Band.



Blues Divas: Jennifer Marriott, Wanda Watson and Heather Buckley.



Bixby Rotary Club's Jim Robinson and RadioIDL's eLiz present David Teegarden Jr. (center) with a \$500 check to assistant in medical expenses for his family. (Photo by Amber Pittsley)





CD REVIEWS



Antry: **DEVIL DON'T CARE**

(Tres Lobas Enterprises)

Steve Antry's background reminds me a bit of **Jim Allchin**, former Microsoft executive and world recognized leader in computer science,

who just wanted to play music. Similarly, Tulsa's own Antry has had phenomenal success in the energy industry, but he really wants to play the blues and recently formed the **Joyride Blues Band**.

In his first solo release, Antry's *Devil Don't Care* is laced with blues, but it is far more than a blues album. It has pop, tinges of jazz, soul, R&B and yes, is unabashedly a Christian themed record.

A favorite is *Devil Gone Fishin'* with blues rocker **Anthony Gomes** on a sizzling guitar.

Antry has some of best talent available for his first record from producer/drummer/manager **Peter Carson** to highly sought Nashville session guitarist **Pat Buchanan**.

Another favorite is *How Far Down* with the backing vocals of blues/R&B diva **Shaun Murphy** (**Little Feat**, **Moody Blues**, **Eric Clapton**, **Bob Seger**) on backing vocals. She's also on the **Leon Russell** penned *Prince of Peace*.

While the title cut, *Devil Don't Care* is the only original co-written by Antry and Carson, other songs on the album have not previously been released or have had limited exposure. For example, there is the beautiful ballad, *Always with Me* by **Darius Rucker**.

This album is a gem. Believers will love it, and it just might result in non believers taking a second look. From the scorching guitar

solos as one is caught between the forces of good and evil to the impeccable vocals of Steve Antry throughout this album, if one is not moved, then start searching for the answer why. The fond memories as a kid, to living in a far from perfect world, Antry reminds me of why God created man in the first place. – **Billy Austin Martin**

IBC Rule Changes...(Continued from page 1)

The new guidelines read in part: "An act may enter the IBC a maximum of 3 times, after which they are no longer eligible." Additionally, Joshua, Wanda or any other eligible blues act can no longer enter other blues challenges in other locations unless it is held within 250 miles of their hometown. BST has had acts from as far away as St. Louis and Lubbock, TX enter challenges in the past, but this will no longer be the case.

One of the more interesting rules requires acts from the U.S. and Canada to "...conduct an open, judged, live music competition during the year leading up to the IBC in which an act will be sent to Memphis to represent your organization. Affiliates in these two countries may not appoint an act." However, Blues Foundation affiliates in all other countries "...may appoint acts as long as they make The Blues Foundation aware of their plans." When queried about the reasoning behind this rule, Blues Foundation COO **Joe Whitmer** responded in an e-mail: "At the time the rule was approved, The Blues Foundation was attempting to solidify the organization's International status. It was important to the board for acts from outside of North America be included in the genres biggest competition." There are a number of other rules changes that can be read by going to the BST website at: www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com.

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CD REVIEWS



Bobby Messano:

BAD MOVIE

(The Prince Frog Record Company)

This is another one of those awesome guitar driven, rockin' blues albums, that I enjoy the most, by a legendary bluesman that's been around for awhile. In his eighth album here you'll find an entire catalog of different styles, sounds, and techniques using just as many guitars. Stand out tracks include the **Brian May** guitar sounding title cut, killer slide in *Road to Oblivian*, the anthem sounding *Unconventional Wisdom*, and some extra sweet tone in *The Girl That Got Away*. 15 excellent tracks, that I had to order, after listening and reviewing this one! -- **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**

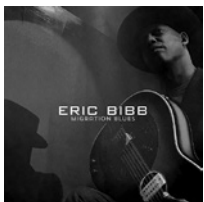


Selwyn Birchwood:

PICK YOUR POISON

(Alligator Records)

Here's an album of gritty blues with some jazz infusion, rockin' guitar, horns, some crazy lap steel and a lot of great energy. Winner of the 2013 International Blues Challenge and *The Albert King Guitarist of the Year*, Floridian **Selwyn Birchwood** has been building a reputation for not only being a great performer and guitar player, but as a talented songwriter as well, which is pretty evident within this, his fourth album. Even *The Saved Need Saving*, the title track, *Haunted*, and *Reaping Time* are just a few of the 13-track album stand outs. Very Nice! -- **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



Eric Bibb:

MIGRATION BLUES

(Stony Plain Recording Company Ltd.)

Eric Bibb is a renowned blues singer/songwriter currently living in Sweden, whom offers up his 37th career album for our listening enjoyment. This is an all acoustic, almost all original album of modern tales and stories set to some fine finger picking guitar playing, sometimes accompanied by nothing more than a harmonica. Often referred to as one of the purest forms of the blues; just a man and his guitar is about as simple as it gets. **Keb' Mo'** fans should love this album. Stand Outs: The beautiful *Prayin' For Shore*, the title track, *Brotherly Love*, and *Morning Train*. Very well done! -- **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



Vintage #18:

GRIT

Here's a brand new R&B take on the blues from a D.C. based band featuring female singer **Robbin Kapsalis**, and **Bill Holter's** scorching straight line guitar, with killer bass and drums, which create a fun and funky **James Brown** kind of vibe. Growing in popularity with each passing day, **Vintage #18** debuts their first 11-track album of nine originals and two covers. It's different, and it's real good! I especially like the mesh of different styles;

60's R&B meets 2017 Texas blues guitar. My album favorites are *Diamonds Are Optional*, *Is This Too Good*, *Just Got Back From Baby's (ZZ Top)*, *Pieces*, and *Good Eye*. This is an all around excellent album! -- **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



Cary Morin:

CRADLE TO THE GRAVE

(Maple Street Music Agency)

Cary Morin's latest record completes a three-album project of acoustic recordings, the previous which we reviewed in the Nov/Dec 2016 *Blues News* called *Together*. A favorite is *Trust*, something he learned a lot along life's highway. Cary is a wonderful, songwriter and his observations are very insightful. You realize through his songs how much he appreciates life, and he really comes across as a gentle, loving, peaceful soul. While there are eight originals here, three covers are included with an excellent rendition of **Prince's** *Nothing Compares 2 U*. This roots-based fingerstyle guitarist, who has performed around the globe, is talented beyond belief. He's played Tulsa, but not enough. -- **Bill Martin**



Coco Montoya:

HARD TRUTH

(Alligator Records)

Former member of **John Mayall's Bluesbreakers**, renowned blues guitar slinger, singer, and songwriter **Coco Montoya** offers up his 10th album of rockin', guitar driven blues. Did you know Coco is left-handed and plays a left handed guitar but with a right handed neck (Strings upside down)? Like previous Coco albums this new one is full of intense and powerful performances, not only from Coco but from an outstanding collection of session players including bassist **Bob Glaub**, keyboardist **Mike Finnigan**, guitarists **Billy Watts** and **Johnny Lee Schell**, drummer/producer **Tony Braunagel**, and slide guitar master **Lee Roy Parnell**. The entire album is a stand-out with notable tracks including lead-off: *Before The Bullets Fly*, *Lost In The Bottle*, *I'll Find Someone Who Will*, *Hard As Hell*, and *Truth Be Told*. With so much amazing guitar playing in this one I believe I'm going to have to make another blues cd purchase! Awesome!! -- **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**

Morrow-Webster Award is Announced

I am proud to announce the establishment of the Morrow-Webster Lifetime Achievement Keeping the Blues Alive Award.

This named for my father **W.V. Morrow**, who influenced me by taking me to see **Lightning Hopkins** and later **John Hammond**, as well as making me sit down and listen one Sunday night to a radio show *The Smokehouse Blues*. This award also honors **Mrs. Jeannie Webster**, who gave us many ideas and helped give a new Blues Society of Tulsa in 2002 instant credibility and status. To both, Rest in Peace; your legacy lives on. For 2017 I have chosen **Stewart Jeffers** of Langley, OK. Stewart was a harmonica player of some renown. He mentored under the great **Jimmy Markham**. Since we almost shared birthdays, he always came and played on my birthday. We will honor him July 15th at the Spavinaw American Legion, when once again the **Dustin Pittsley Band** will play my birthday party at 8 p.m. "Thank you to the Blues Society for allowing me to establish this award. This honor isn't necessarily for just musicians, but can be awarded to those who support the blues," says BST member Freddie Morrow



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Steven White





Drummer Jamie Oldaker (Eric Clapton, Peter Frampton, The Tractors) and his wife Mary Oldaker at the 2016 Tulsa Blues Challenge at Cain's Ballroom. The 2017 band challenge is August 26th at Cain's. (Photo by Bill Martin)

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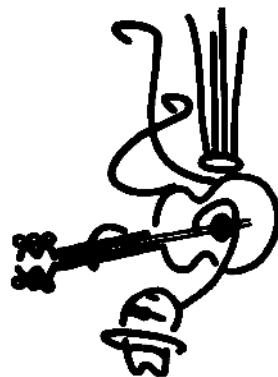
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