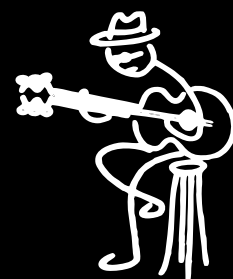


# BLUES

THE BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF

# NEWS

THE BLUES SOCIETY OF TULSA



## Blues Society of Tulsa Celebrating 16 Years! 2002 - 2018

Volume 16, Number 2

www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com

January/February 2018

### MARK CARPENTER:

#### *“All the Music is about Healing”*

By Bill Martin

Tulsa guitarist, singer-songwriter **Mark Carpenter** knows time is slipping away and these days just can't write songs fast enough. Mark, 61, wishes he had done this 30 years ago. Yet, one can sense his excitement in the wake of his album *2Shakerz*, released in 2017.



Mark Carpenter

He began playing guitar at age 10. By junior high Mark and his best friend and future *Oklahoma Blues Hall of Famer* **Steve Pryor** were learning to play guitar. Steve was taking lessons from Tulsa icon **Mike (Monk) Bruce**, then Mark would get free lessons from Steve. But it was seeing **Jimi Hendrix** in concert three months before Hendrix's death in 1970 that was “life changing.”

The class of 1974 at Nathan Hale High School produced four exceptional musicians. This is

where Mark formed *Light Year* with Pryor, guitar/vocals; and other classmates **Damon Daniel**, drums; and Mark's cousin, **Jim Strader**.

Among other bands during the '70s he was with **Steve Munson** in the group, *Big Frank*, as well as *Randy Crouch and the Flyin' Horse Opera*. By 1980, drummer **Jamie Oldaker** came off the **Eric Clapton** tour and gathered Carpenter, Strader and Pryor to form the band *The Shakerz*. There also was **Pat Murray** on keyboards and **Dick Sims** (**Eric Clapton's** B3 organ player) as well as other well-known musicians like **Pat “Taco” Ryan** on sax, **Jimmy Karstein**, **David M. Teegarden, Sr.**, **Chuck Dewalt**, **Billy Estes**, and cousins **Mike** and **Jerry Naifeh** who were drummers filling in for Oldaker when he was on the road. The original band members eventually went their separate ways in 1982.

(Continued on page 2)

### Mark Carpenter and Jamie Oldaker:

#### 2SHAKERZ

Here is what is great about **Mark Carpenter's** *2Shakers* album. Everything.



More specifically, *Great songwriting*: There are 10 originals and each song is as solid as your grandmother's faith in **Jesus**. *Great lyrics*: Unlike so many 12-bar feeling sorry for yourself blues tunes, Mark takes ownership of bad decisions in life, but so eloquently puts it into words. *Great vocals*: The first time I heard Mark sing, it gave me goosebumps not unlike the first time I heard **Jim Morrison**. There is a purity and vulnerability in the vocals. *Great guitar*: You are in junior high and your best friend is **Steve Pryor**, and both of you have unending talent, teaching and learning from one another.

*Beyond the Stars* is a wonderful, touching tune Mark wrote about his cousin, Tulsa iconic bass man **Jim Strader**, who died in 2009. With the passing of Pryor in 2016, it also now is about him. Mark sings, “Can you hear me up in the promise land?” He reminisces about things he'd wish he'd said and “...feeling your spirit when I pray....Every time I pick up this old guitar, I know someday I'll be with you in a band beyond the stars.”

Mark handles all the vocals, guitar and bass, with **Jamie Oldaker (Eric Clapton)** on drums.

The bad news is after 15 months, one album and a couple of gigs, Mark has moved on from *2Shakerz*. The good news is he has hundreds of hooks for potential songs and enough material ready for four albums. – **Bill Martin**

### INSIDE:

Blues Choice Award Winners, Chuck Blackwell, Billy's Blues. Officer Elections, Pete Marriott and Jennifer Marriott, The Disparrows, Johnny Oskam, Karen Lovely and more!

## Welcome Our New Members!

Bill Baird, Rogers, AR.

**Website:** [www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com](http://www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com)

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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.

## BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

are held the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. The January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the Cimarron Bar, 26<sup>th</sup> Street and South Memorial. The February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting is at the Centennial Lounge, 1109 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Nonmembers are always welcome! It's a fun and informative gathering for music lovers!

## LOCAL BIRTHDAYS

**January** 1 – Stan Reed (2016), 7 – Charlie Redd, 8- Tom Skinner (2015), 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 (1970), 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.

## Mark Carpenter ... (Continued from page 1)

In 1983 **Gus Hardin** was named *Top Female New Country Artist*. Carpenter was hired for her tour opening for **Alabama** and **Hank Williams, Jr.** When the tour ended in Los Angeles, Mark decided to move there and began working in the music and film industry for the next 8 years. He worked on movie soundtracks with **Dennis Dreith**. During this period Carpenter also played in local area bands with **Andy Doerschuk**, **Darrell Leonard**, **Gary Richwine**, **James Hutch Hutchison** (**Bonnie Raitt**) and **Marty Grebb**. He also worked in the studio with **Craig T. Fall**, infamous guitarist for **Glen Campbell**.

In 1991 he moved back to Tulsa, played in various bands including *The Kings*, which competed in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

He also played with **Windy Austin & the Hot House Tomato Boys**. However, the next 12 years would prove to be a continuously challenging time in Carpenter's life, as substances became a solid detour. After driving off a Rocky Mountain cliff in 1999 and the agonizing spiral towards the bottom in 2008, he began treatment in Tulsa and then moved to Joplin, MO for continued recovery.

He formed a band with fellow housemates called the *Velvet Poker Dogs* and recorded an album of high intensity rock and roll original songs that is uploaded to [myspace.com](http://myspace.com). Mark moved back to Tulsa in 2009 to be with his family.

In 2010 he met underground musician, producer, and engineer **Steve Thornbrugh**. It was an immediate brotherhood bond, and the songwriting and creativity exploded! Also in this tight brotherhood is mastering engineer **Seth Bove** of New York. The three worked and collaborated on songs together for the past 7 years as a solid team. Carpenter has 4 LP's of material in the works from all genre's imaginable.

In the spring of 2016, Carpenter and Oldaker's lives crossed paths again at Steve Pryor's heartbreaking funeral. A month later they met again, playing a memorial/tribute concert for Pryor at Cain's Ballroom. Carpenter asked Oldaker if he would be interested in playing on a few of his songs. Oldaker agreed and put drum tracks on the 10 song LP.

In November 2016 Oldaker and Carpenter formed the *2Shakerz*. In September of 2017 after 15 months, 2 gigs and 5 rehearsals, Carpenter decided to end the *2Shakerz* and focus on sending his original material to Los Angeles. He is recording an acoustic EP, and a rock n' roll blues EP of new original songs with Thornbrugh, and working with **Pride Hutchison** of *Explosive Records* in Tulsa. Speaking of his songs recently, he said, "All the music is about healing."

Carpenter cannot give enough praise for the album's producer, **Steve Thornburg**, as well as **Seth Bove** who mastered it, plus **Larry Shaeffer** for providing the vintage amplifiers.

Carpenter focuses the energy of his music around the concepts of recovery, healing, truth and compassion- healing the soul, the Earth, and ourselves. Awareness of the atrocities happening worldwide, his music is an exploration in love and survival from **Miles Davis** to **Jerry Garcia**, and a spiritual adventure in karma from **Jimi Hendrix** to the truthful brilliance of **Chris Cornell**.



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### *Music Soothes the Soul Until that Great Gig in the Sky*



**Bill and Vivian Martin**

member **Freddie Morrow**. In February 2003 I was elected the Blues Society's second president.

It has been a long and winding road leading to many new friends, including getting to personally know many of the fine musicians in Tulsa and across the country.

For a guy who can't carry a tune, much less sustain a note on a Stratocaster, being a part of this family of artists helped fulfill a need. My love of music has always been there from the hymnals growing up in church, to buying my first blues record, a used 78 rpm in the record bin for 33 cents at a North Tulsa grocery store. I was 12 years old when I forked out the change for *Leave My Little Kitten Alone* by **Little Willie John**. I had recently got a small blue turntable for Christmas.

Pardon the reflections as the Blues Society turns 16 years old and I complete my 15<sup>th</sup> year as your president.

It was November 2002 the first issue of the *Blues News* was published. It started out as a monthly newsletter with four pages, but soon expanded to six pages, then eight and occasionally 12 pages. In October 2003 it was changed to a bi-monthly, mostly to reduce publishing costs.

This is the 98<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Blues News* ever published. My alter ego **Billy Austin** has been its editor since day one. It also is Billy Austin's last *Blues News*. He has no regrets and simply knows it is time to move on.

A key to the Blues Society's early success was the Oklahoma Blues Festival which had been around several years when the BST was formed. Having a booth to sell merchandise and recruit new members helped make us financially solvent and gave us credibility. During this time we grew to 400 members, although the fun atmosphere and buzz of Budweiser no doubt contributed to fewer new members renewing their annual memberships.

With the last Oklahoma Blues festival in 2006, we had to work much harder to raise money by attending more, but much smaller events. While in more recent years we've had about 250 loyal members, those music lovers tend to stick with us and appreciate our goal of supporting the blues, local artists and live music.

Perhaps my proudest moment with the Blues Society came at the 2009 International Blues Challenge when Tulsa's **Little Joe** won the solo/duo competition where 64 acts from around the world had entered.

I was also very proud in 2010 when the **Dustin Pittsley Band** was crowned *Kings of Beale Street*. This competition involved 10 bands that didn't make the IBC finals, who were chosen by 10 Beale Street club owners. Ironically the competition was held at the *New Daisy Theatre* on the East end of Beale Street at the same time the IBC finals were being held at the *Orpheum Theatre* on the West end of Beale Street.

Needless to say, the *Kings of Beale Street* competition "mysteriously" disappeared after one year. Perhaps social media played a part as word quickly spread and a number of people left the Orpheum for the New Daisy that evening...

These two highlights of my presidency represent bedrocks of one of my goals the past 15 years. That is for the world of blues to be more inclusive. **Little Joe** is as traditional as they come with his Piedmont style blues. **Dustin Pittsley's** blues rock is at the other end of the spectrum. I see both as exceptional artists in the blues genre.

There no longer is a **Son House**, or **Muddy Waters**, much less a **Stevie Ray Vaughn**. So where does the blues go from here? Nowhere, if many of the hardcore traditionalists have their way. This was disgustingly displayed at the 2012 *Blues Music Awards* in Memphis when **Joe Bonamassa's** *Dust Bowl* won the *Rock Blues Award*. Some in the crowd actually booed him when the award was announced.

But like it or not, the traditional blues artists are not drawing the crowds. Bonamassa, age 40, is selling out mid-sized venues for as much as \$100 a pop. How many other artists in the blues genre are doing this?

Over the years I've addressed this issue, and felt I had to do it one more time.

In closing, I am so proud of the *Blues Society of Tulsa* and its members and officers, who make it what it is. The BST is one of 200 worldwide affiliates of the *Blues Foundation*. We also are one of the largest and most active of these affiliates with numerous programs and events to support the artists and their music.

There are too many people to thank, but I've done this in the past. So I'm limiting my thanks to my beautiful wife of 49 years Vivian. Without her, our Blues Society would not be where it is today. She is my rock, best friend, confidante and supporter.

What an exceptional journey! It is music that soothes the soul until that great gig in the sky. – **Bill Martin**

TRIVIA ANSWER FROM PAGE 8 PHOTO. Guitarist Danny McBride, 18, in his first band (he was Brooks and Dunn's first guitar player) and "Uncle" Pete Squires, "only" 48 years old back in 1981. Both are still playing and going strong!

## BLUES CHOICE AWARDS/BIRTHDAY PARTY:

# James Groves, Dylan Whitney Voted Best Groups for 2017

*Chris Kyle, Dustin Pittsley and Stephen White Also will be Honored at Ceremony March 24<sup>th</sup>.*



**The James Groves Band:** Gary Eldridge, James Groves, Matt Martin, David Teegarden Jr., and Stephen White. (Photo by Jim Groves)

**The James Groves Band** and the **Dylan Whitney Band** were voted Best Group by members of the Blues Society of Tulsa in its 14th Annual *Blues Choice Awards*, which is held to honor and recognize Green Country blues artists in Northeastern

Oklahoma. The awards ceremony will be held in conjunction with the BST's celebration of its 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary. All of the BCA winners have been invited to perform at the event set for Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at Soul City. Members of the James Groves Band are: **James Groves**, guitar/vocals; **Stephen White** – guitar/ vocals; **Matt Martin**, bass, **Gary Eldridge**, harmonica and **David Teegarden Jr.**, drums.

James and his band won the 2013 Tulsa Blues Challenge and in 2011 he won the solo/duo competition, both earning him trips to compete in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. James,

41, has been playing guitar since he was about 12 years old and has played in several bands. **The James Groves Blues Machine** was his first band and has recently changed its name to **The James Groves Band**. James' major musical influences are **Eric Clapton**, **Stevie Ray Vaughn**, **B.B. King**, **Freddie King** and **Albert King** as well as **Buddy Guy** and **Albert Collins**.



**Dylan Whitney**

**Dylan Whitney** started playing a ukulele when he one-year-old and about a decade later got his first guitar. He has always excelled in academics and during his junior year at Charles Page High School he won the All State Guitarist competition. Dylan, age 20, is now a junior at Northeastern State University, majoring in accounting. The band consists of: **Dylan Whitney**, lead guitar, harmonica; **Michael McLoure**, rhythm guitar, **Chris Matthews**, drums; **Chelsea Gann**, vocals; and **Wes Atkinson**, bass.

Dylan cites among his major musical influences: **J.J. Cale**, **Eric Clapton**, **B.B. King**, **Stevie Ray Vaughn**, **Los Lonely Boys** and **Lincoln Brewster**. In the past he has had special praise for local Tulsa musicians, including **James Groves**, who was the first artist to invite him on stage to play. (Continued on page 6)

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**TWO LATE GREAT OKLAHOMA HALL OF FAMERS:** We lost Steve Pryor in 2016 and now Tulsa drummer Chuck Blackwell, 77, who died October 23rd. Tulsa keyboardist Jim Downing wrote in part: He was the best rock drummer to ever come out of Tulsa and that's saying a lot. He kicked open the door for Tulsa musicians in the record business. As a teen, he was playing with Jerry Lee Lewis and the Everly Brothers. He was the drummer on ABC's "Shindig" music

show. He recorded with Joe Cocker, Freddy King, Jimi Hendrix, Taj Mahal, and many more. He was Leon Russell's favorite drummer. He was a natural. RIP.

## Blues Choice Awards.... (Continued from page 5)

**Best Vocalist:** Stephen White not only will be honored as a member of the **James Groves Band**, but will be recognized as *Best Vocalist* for 2017. Stephen was born and raised in Tulsa, played with **Gus Hardin** and many others, before fronting **Steve White and Supergroove** 1999-2004. He lived in Dallas from 2006 – 2016



before returning to his hometown. He also is a super guitarist and now has the **Stephen White Band**. Additionally, Stephen shares a Wednesday night gig at Soul City with his dad, Tulsa legendary musician, **Don White**.

**BEST LEAD:** Blues rock maestro **Dustin Pittsley** (photo) takes home his 9<sup>th</sup> Best Lead award for

his guitar prowess. He's also been named *Best Vocalist* three times. Additionally, the **Dustin Pittsley Band** has been voted *Best Group* 11 times, touring the Midwest, including multiple shows at *Buddy Guys Legends*.



**BEST RHYTHM:** Chris Kyle (photo) perhaps is best known as the keyboardist extraordinaire for the **Dustin Pittsley Band**, although he also fronts his own improv, funk, fusion instrumental band, **Ego Culture**, plus plays keys for the rock/blues group, **American Shadows**.

**Other artists receiving votes, in no particular order:**

**BEST GROUP:** Joyride Blues Band, Dustin Pittsley Band, Duo Sonics, Jennifer Marriott Band and Joshua Yarbrough and Memphis Bound.

**BEST VOCALIST:** Steve Antry, Dustin Pittsley, David Berntson, Pete Marriott, Jennifer Marriott, Polly Ess,, Wink Burcham and Wanda Watson.

**BEST LEAD:** Steve Antry, Junior Markham, Charles Tuberville, Dylan Whitney, Gary Eldridge, Pete Marriott, Jennifer Marriott, Chris Kyle, and Seth Lee Jones.

**BEST RHYTHM:** Nathan Alessi, Johnny Bean, Ron McRorey, Donnie Wood, David Teegarden Jr., Chris Matthews, Matt Martin, Mark Klassen, Harry Williams, Mike Peace and Dave White.

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# CD REVIEWS



## **Pete Marriott and Jennifer Marriott: DIGGING UP MY ROOTS** (Marpo Music)

Pete and Jennifer Marriott have been thrilling music lovers in Tulsa and the surrounding area for years. From Tulsa, Pete is a veteran, amazing guitar slinging, road dog - touring and performing all over the world with **Joe Cocker**, **Richie Havens**, **Ronnie Dunn** and others. Jennifer started performing at a jam night in Ontario Canada in 1989 and quickly became their star. She's known for her smokey vocals that can enchant anyone from a whisper to a growl with some fine guitar skills as well.

I'm guessing she and Pete probably performed together and eventually decided to team up and the rest has benefited Tulsa's awesome music history. Here's their third album of 17 original rockin' blues tracks. Stand outs include *Got Life*, *Change of Heart*, *I Want You So Badly*, *How Can I Say Goodbye*, and *Left Me the Blues*. This is an outstanding collection of songs and performances not only from Pete and Jen, but from the musicians that joined each session. Bravo! Excellent album! Pete and Jennifer have definitely kicked it up a few notches!! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



## **The Disparrows: WASTING TIME**

The Disparrows are an American based rock band that create, produce, and manage their own music. *Wasting Time* is album number three of all original music for this band comprised of three main

members; **Daniel Weber** on guitar/vox, **Stephen Tecci** on bass/vox, and **Grant Roosevelt** on piano/vox. This new album features a big guitar driven sound with plenty of piano. I'm pretty sure **Journey** had to have been an inspiration from the sounds and style of their compositions. Stand out tracks are *Believe in Me*, *Set Me Free*, *May Be Crazy*, and *Radio*. Definitely not a blues record but a good album of rock music! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



## **Johnny Oskam: IN MY SHADOW**

Here's some hard hitting, guitar driven, rockin' blues from a young band that's surprising critics and veteran blues stars alike for not only their youth, but intense and amazing performances

that belie their age. You can definitely hear **Hendrix**, **Zeppelin**, **Soundgarden**, and **Stevie Ray** in their sound and swagger with a lot of killer guitar performances throughout. This is Johnny's second album of all original music and I'd have to say a grand listening adventure of outstanding blues/rock music. Stand out tracks include *Badlands*, *Turn the Key*, *Waiting for the Rain*, *Drag You Down*, and *Limbo Lane*.

This entire album is awesome! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**

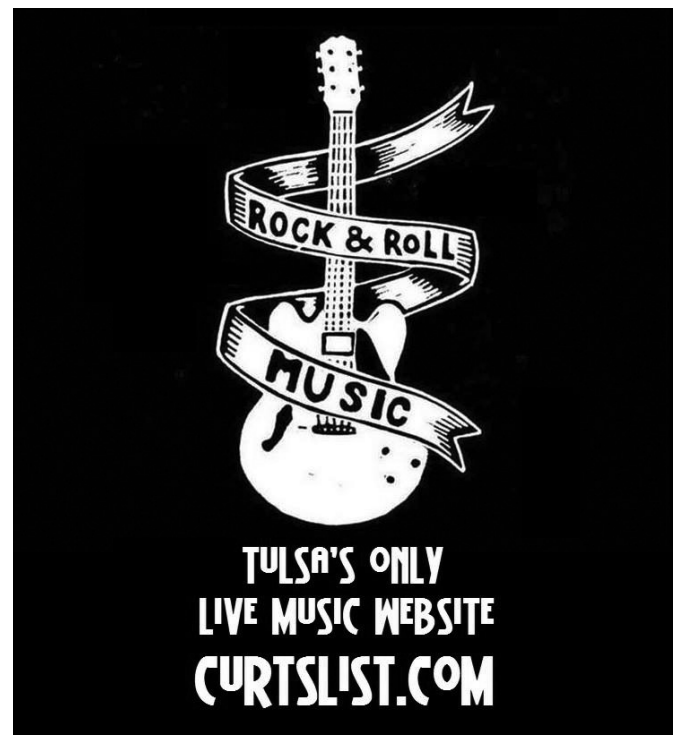


## **Karen Lovely: FISH OUTTA WATER**

**Lucinda Williams** immediately comes to mind listening to the first of these 12 tracks, an all original collection. This is album number five for American electric blues singer **Karen Lovely**. She follows the long standing blues tradition of sticking to current issues including social injustice, abuse, and homelessness with lyrics that grab your heart and music that moves your body. There's also a **K.D. Lang** element to these recordings the listener may notice as well.

This is electric and country blues all sweetly mixed together. Stand out tracks include the title track, *Waking Up The Dead*, *Everything Means Nothing*, *Next Time*, *Hades' Bride (There Was a Time)* and *Nice and Easy*.

There are subtle yet mesmerizing performances from everyone involved. Very Nice! A Definite Winner! Outstanding Vocals! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**

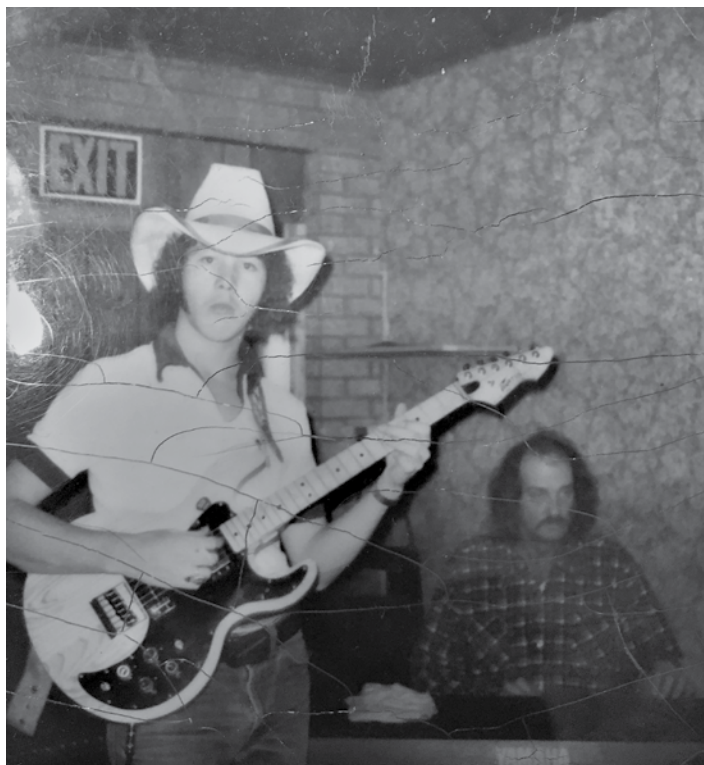


## **Annual BST Officer Elections are Scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup>**

The election of Blues Society of Tulsa officers for the posts of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer will be held February 12<sup>th</sup> at the monthly meeting, set for 7 p.m., at the Centennial Lounge, 1109 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St..

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 attend the meeting and cast your ballot.





Okay, all you Tulsa music history buffs, this photo was taken circa 1981 at the House of Blue Lights. Can you name the local guitarist and the local keyboardist in this photo? When you give up, the answer is on page 4.

# Blues Society of Tulsa

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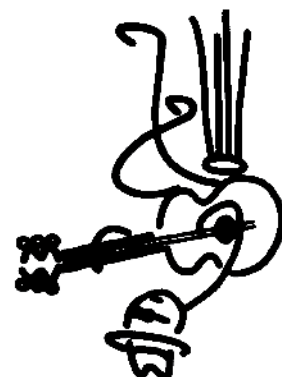
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