

Blues Society of Tulsa Celebrating 16 Years! 2002 - 2018

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September/October 2018

Dylan Whitney Band Captures 2nd Consecutive Tulsa Blues Challenge

By Bill Martin

The future of Tulsa blues may have come to fruition at the 15th Annual Tulsa Blues Challenge as the Dylan Whitney Band took home the top prize for the second consecutive year August 18th. The event was sponsored by the Blues Society of Tulsa and hosted by historic Cains Ballroom for the 7th consecutive year. Dylan's band, which placed 3rd in the 2015 competition that had 9 bands, will be sponsored by the Blues Society in the 35th International Blues Challenge January 22-26, held in Memphis, competing with bands from around the globe.



The Dylan Whitney Band (l-r): Michael McClure, Chelsea Gann, Dylan Whitney, Wes Atkinson and Chris Matthews. (Selfie photo by Chris Matthews)

DWB scored an impressive total of 570 points for a 43-point win over the 2nd place band. Four of the six songs performed at the challenge are originals written by the band or its bass guitarist Wes Atkinson that will be included in a new album targeted for an early October release. Those songs are Guaranteed, Someone Isn't Me, On My Own, and Green & Blue. The band's set also included Stevie Ray Vaughn's Empty Arms and Voodoo Woman by Koko Taylor. One judge commented, "Best (band) combo (combination)-Dylan style yet!!! Totally tight. Both music and Dylan (have) grown! Loved the shuffle (and) liked their (matching) black clothes (attire). Only standing ovation so far!" Another judge remarked, "Liked the original tunes. Keep it up!"

Besides his exceptional talent, Dylan, 22, is one of the most humble, polite and considerate musicians around. About the band's win, he said in part, "The band has worked hard writing/arranging the songs and just polishing the show to get to this point. To say it is an honor to represent our home Blues Society at the IBC would be an understatement. This being our first time at the IBC, we want to hit the stages on Beale and bring Memphis a taste of Tulsa and do our best to bring the win home. Continuing, Dylan said, "We would like to thank the Blues Society of Tulsa and the incredible audience that was at the challenge. The love and support everyone has shown, is

overwhelming & something we will never forget. "Late last year, as a band, we decided to take this year as a true building year. We felt this step was vital in our future success. This band really is a family and I am so proud of that." Besides Dylan on lead guitar, and Wes, other band members are Chelsea Gann, vocals; Chris Matthews, drums and Michael McClure, rhythm guitar.



Ronnie Pyle and the Drivers (l-r): Randy Ess (piano, vocals), Pat Wright (drums), Cheryl McGee, (clarinet), Ronnie Pyle (guitar, vocals), Irene Popa (harmonica) and Bruce Dunlap (bass). (Photo by Bill Martin)

Placing second among the 6 band entries was first time competitor, Ronnie Pyle and the Drivers, who included original songs in his set from a newly released album.

The other bands competing in the challenge were the Vox Squadron, Sunday Moan, Mojo Big Band (which had 19 members) and Avery Drive. Big Wheel Digital Media was also there to film for their upcoming Blues series to be aired on Oklahoma Music Shop. Visit the Blues Society of Tulsa's website at www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com for more photos of this event!

FROM EDITOR TO "EXPERT"

I want to thank all involved that offered me the opportunity to be one of the five judges of our local bands, competing for the 2019 international competition. We represented musicians, fans, venues and media. Six bands performed, not simply playing music, but putting on a show. Using the same judging criteria and standards as the IBC, we were able to categorize our numerous impressions in rating each band, even though a large part of the job requires a "critic with ethics" and unbiased reviews. Trying to weigh personal tastes against a critical examination of the elements of each performance was made possible by a Weighted Score. A band is scored in five categories, and weighted. Raw scores for Blues Content is multiplied by four, Talent and Vocals by three and Originality and Stage Presence are multiplied by two. The total equal the Weighted Score. The process is effective and the criteria is clear making this selection process admirable. - eLiz Hollis

INSIDE:

Upcoming Events: Dusk til Dawn, Stone River, Solo/Duo Challenge, and more ...

Welcome Our New Members!

Sam Simpson, Kelly Ray Caton, John & Tonja Cannon,
Lorena Byington, Clint Hardesty, Pam Shasteen, John Bell

BLUES CHOICE AWARDS: Time to Start Voting

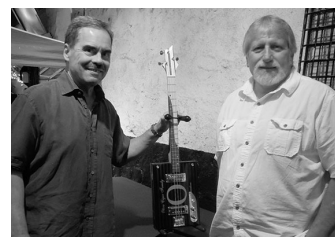
Have you listened to a local artist's record lately or caught their live act during the past year? How about someone that's been around awhile and you feel their body of work deserves recognition? It might even be a newcomer showing exceptional drive and talent. Then you need to vote in the Blues Society's 15th Annual Blues Choice Awards. However, **this is a ballot for BST members only.**

The winners will be announced in the January/February issue of the Blues News and will be invited to perform and celebrate at the Blues Society's 17th Annual Birthday Party/Blues event is typically held in March with a date and location to be announced.

There are numerous ways to vote. A **BCA ballot is on page 4 of this issue.** Ballots sent by snail mail must be postmarked no later than December 1st. You also can e-mail, private message, or even phone in your votes to a BST officer. We've had votes submitted on beer napkins, paper plates; Just about anything as long it doesn't stink, or pose a health hazard. The Blues Choice Awards are special because the BST voters love music, talent and the artists. It is another way the BST has of recognizing, honoring and supporting our Green Country blues artists. Any questions, contact **Christina at: 918.520-2453.**

Tulsan Tom Simpson made the high bid in the Blues Challenge silent auction and took home this custom cigar box guitar made by Mike Barton of Tulsa.

(photo by Bill Martin)



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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.

PAST BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

July 9th meeting of the BST

Myskoke Sunrise performed at The Centennial Lounge.

Left to right: Rick Rybski, bass guitar; Jonas Yahola, Rhythm guitar; Lewis Yahola, lead singer & lead guitar; Matt Kohn, drums.

Photo by Christina Rybacki.



August 13th meeting of the BST

The Stephen White Group performed at the Centennial Lounge.

Left to right: Matt Martin, drummer on bass guitar; Stephen White, lead singer & guitar; Damon Daniel, drums.

Photo by Christina Rybacki



LOCAL BIRTHDAYS

September: 2 – Jacque Garoutte; 5 – Jamie Oldaker; 11 – Peter Delesdernier, Leo Kottke; 14 – Steve White, Steve Gaines (1977); 21 – Jesse Ed Davis (1988); 25 – Mike Peace; 26 – Larry Bell.

October 8 – John Heatley; 18 – Jim Strader (2009); 17 – Barney Kessel (2004); 18 – Roger Tillison (2013); 19 – Les Moorman (2014); 20 – Danny Baker, Alanansom; 21 – Elvin Bishop; 22 – Zac Hanson; 25 – Roger Roden, Scott Russell; 24 – Pat Murray (2012); 26 – Matthew Teegarden.

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, September 10th @ 7p.m.– Centennial Lounge, 1109 E. 6th St., Tulsa. Performing: Hydramatics

October 16th @ 7p.m.– Soul City, 1621 E. 11th, Tulsa. It's Tuesday Bluesday at Soul City. Live music after the meeting.

Please note: Monthly meetings have been moved to the 3rd Tuesday of the month and will be held at Soul City (Tuesday Bluesday) beginning in October.



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Any Questions? Email:

bluessociety@peoplepc.com or snail mail:

BST, P.O. Box 2836, Tulsa, OK 74101.

If you want on the BST "what's happening"

mailing list, please include your e-mail address:

If you live outside the USA please add \$10 to the single and family memberships listed above.

☐ **ATTENTION:** A check mark in this box indicates that your annual membership payment is due. Thank You!

15th ANNUAL

BLUES CHOICE AWARDS - VOTE!

Voting is now underway in the Blues Society's Blues Choice Awards, which is open to BST members. The Blues Choice Awards are special because the winners are chosen by BST members, who have an exceptional appreciation and love for blues artists in Northeastern Oklahoma and their music, which brings so much joy to our lives.

The rules allow one vote per member in each of the 4 categories. **Deadline for voting is December 1st.** E-mail or send by U.S. mail your ballot to the address(es) found in the membership application box on this page. The winners will be announced in the next issue.

Best Group _____
(Band)

Best Vocalist _____

Best Lead _____
(any lead instrument, guitar, harmonica, keyboards, etc.)

Best Rhythm _____
(drums, bass, rhythm guitar, etc.)

Voting Member's Name _____

Phone#, or e-mail address _____



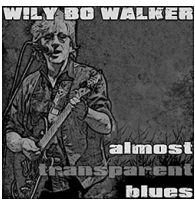


CD REVIEWS



Crooked Eye Tommy: **BUTTERFLIES & SNAKES** (Crooked Eye Records)

Crooked Eye Tommy is a new, and already, award winning, blues band out of Ventura, California featuring guitar slinging/singing brothers **Tommy & Paddy Marsh** that invite all music lovers to check out their first, rockin', guitar driven, blues record **Butterflies & Snakes**. This 2015 album contains some great new blues originals and some amazing dual guitar acrobatics in a southern rock kind of style with great performances by the assembled band. This album makes me think of the band **Poco** with every track standing out. A definite winner in every respect and an excellent listening experience. - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



Wily Bo Walker: **ALMOST TRANSPARENT** **BLUES** (Blind Raccoon)

Here's a blues album chock full of excellent rock guitar and excellent songs. The vocals, however, are a little bit hard to get used to. Imagine **John Mellencamp's** current singing voice with an extra decade or two of smoking thrown in crossed with **Joe Cocker** & you might get close to Wily's vocal sound. Wily is a Glasgow born solo artist, songwriter, performer and one of the few UK artists inducted to the **U.S. Blues Hall of Fame**. Wily has won many U.K. and U.S. music awards. The songs contained within this album (His 11th) are actually really good. I'd have to say the entire album is a unique listening experience and every track stands out. - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



Tom Hambridge: **THE NOLA SESSIONS** (Blind Raccoon)

Tom Hambridge is an American rock, country and blues producer, songwriter and multi award winning musician including two grammys.

His songs have been in **movies, television and commercials** and recorded by so many well known musicians I can't begin to list them all in the space provided. This may be Tom's 5th or 6th solo album and it's a definite winner, containing various styles of music but mostly rock; including horns, rockin' guitar, back-up singers, Hammond organ, a cello, a dobro, and lots of piano and drums. To me, there is only two kinds of music; music I will listen to in my car when I drive and a whole lot of music that will never be played in my car. I'd definitely be listening to this in the car!! All the tracks within this album are different and stand out on their own. I'm gonna' have to purchase this one. Excellent!! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



Russ Green: **CITY SOUL** (Blind Raccoon)

This is the debut album of Chicago harmonica player and blues singer Russ Green. A huge **Jimi Hendrix** and **Sugar Blue** fan; Russ didn't begin playing music until his adult years after a stint in the army and while working on big hit movies and television shows as an assistant director. He's even shared the stage playing harmonica with **Bruce Willis**. Russ' vocals are smooth and sweet, (sounding a bit like **Robert Cray**), as is the music on this record with amazing harmonica leads throughout. The record also has a definite R&B vibe to it. Harmonica players out there will have to purchase this one! Stand out tracks include **First Thing Smokin'**, **Train of Pain**, **Up from the Bottom**, and **Love to Give**. Very Nice!! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



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Kerry Kearney Band: **BLACK** (Dwaz Entertainment)

The multi award winning New York Blues Hall of Fame member Kerry Kearney Band has an outstanding new 7 track mini-album of brand new rockin', guitar driven, high energy, and mostly all original songs guaranteed to get you up and goin' and make your ears extra happy! Kerry has garnered an amazing reputation for his slide guitar playing and this new album, possibly his 15th (many out of print but still available on the Kerry Kearney Band website), certainly doesn't disappoint and is chock full of Kerry's incredible guitar and dobro slide playing as well as amazing performances from his 8 piece band of blues rockers. Stand out tracks include **Long Tall Mama**, **Wake Me, Shake Me, Bake Me**, **Goin' to the Mardi Gras** (with excellent trombone and harmonica solos), and **Girl From Memphis**. All in all; an excellent listening experience!! Well done KKB!! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



Levi Parham & Them Tulsa Boys and Girls: IT'S ALL GOOD

(Horton Records)

In August 2017 nearly a dozen of Tulsa finest artists, mostly under 40 years old, took a journey to Alabama for a week of recording at **Portside Sound Studios** in the historic Cypress Moon building, which was formerly Muscle Shoals Sound Studio B. It is hallowed ground for some of the greatest music to come out of America created by such artists as **Bob Dylan**, **Bob Seger** and **Widespread Panic**. The result is 10 original masterpieces by Levi Parham of McAlester and the album *It's All Good*. It's loaded with second generation Tulsa Sound music meshing blues, country and rock n' roll sounding as if it came from the 70's Slowhand era when Clapton's band was made up of Tulsans Dick Sims, Carl Radle and Jamie Oldaker.

Parham's new release is his fourth album and follows his previous gem, *These American Blues* (Blues News, March/April 2017). While I love this album, *It's All Good* is even better. A CD release party was recently held at Tulsa's Soul City and it was great most of the musicians on the album were there, plus Parham chose to play all the songs in the order appearing on the release. **Borderline** is a favorite featuring **Paul Benjamin**, **Jesse Aycock** (Hard Working Americans) and **Dustin Pittsley** on guitars. Turn Your Love Around is a nice blues song with Aycock on bleeding lap steel. One of the most impressive things about this album are the **Dylan Golden Aycock** drums with that back beat Tulsa Sound reminiscent of the playing of the late Chuck Blackwell and Jimmy Karstein. **My Finest Hour** is another album highlight where the Tulsa boys shine. **Pittsley** has Benjamin's Les Paul sounding like Dickey Betts. This song has one of the coolest endings with extended instrumentals where John Fullbright on keys joins the fun.

I've always seen Parham's songwriting, and particularly his lyrics being in the same vein as Wink Burcham and Fullbright. I'd be negligent not mentioning the wonderful backup vocals throughout this album by **Lauren Barth**; as well as **Aaron Boehler**, bass; **Michael Staub**, sax; as well as **Lauren Farrah** and **John Calvin Abney**, vocals. Parham is quite a story teller in his songwriting and is proving to be another most gifted Okie that must have heavenly smiles coming his way from the likes of Guthrie, Cale and Russell. — **Bill Martin**



Part of the crew performing in Muscle Shoals (l-r): Lauren Barth, Michael Staub, Jesse Aycock, Paul Benjamin, Dylan Golden Aycock, Dustin Pittsley, Levi Parham, John Fullbright and Aaron Boehler.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Make plans to attend:

2018 Solo/Duo Competition

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LAUNCHING 1ST ANNUAL STUDENT GRANT AWARD PROGRAM.

The Blues Society will be offering a \$500 Grant to promote the musical development of young Blues musicians in the Tulsa metropolitan area. The grant will be awarded to a student who is pursuing further education and musical development and has a genuine interest in the Blues genre. The Blues Society Student Grant Application includes various questions about the student's current musical interests, capabilities and goals. It will also include an essay portion asking the student to describe their interest in Blues music and what inspires their interest in Blues music. Applications will be reviewed, and the top five applicants will be required to attend a personal interview and complete a performance challenge. A committee will determine the recipient of a \$500 grant to be used by the student to further his/her musical career in Blues music, education, and advancement.

The student grant award is offered to students in grades 10, 11 or 12, for the 2018-2019 school year and who is enrolled in a bona fide school setting under Oklahoma state law. (Ex: public school, home school, academy, or other approved educational setting). Applications will be available on the Blues Society of Tulsa's website at www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com. Applications will also be made available to High School Music Directors and schools in the Tulsa area to distribute to interested students. Application deadline is **November 17, 2018**. The top five applicants will be chosen and notified in January 2019. An article on each of the five finalists will be included in the March/April issue. Personal interviews

and performances will be scheduled in March 2019. The winning recipient of the grant will be notified in April and invited to the April Monthly Blues Society meeting to be awarded and receive the \$500 grant. A feature article about the recipient will be included in the May/June 2019 issue.

BEST SELF-PRODUCED CD DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 22

The 12th Annual Best Self-Produced CD competition sponsored by the Blues Foundation is underway which honors artists that have achieved excellence in the studio. Acts can be bands, solo or duo acts, trios, full choirs or any other combination. The purpose of this award is to assist blues musicians in the pursuit of their professional goals. Your entry must have been released between **November 1, 2016 and October 31, 2017**. Judging is based on:

- (1) Blues Content (is this a blues recording)
- (2) Musical Performance (Musicianship)
- (3) Audio Quality of the Presentation (Production Values, Levels)
- (4) Cover Art and Design (Professional Packaging. Ready for the rack at your favorite music outlet)
- (5) Credit and Liner information (Informative, Professional)

Entries must be sponsored by a Blues Foundation affiliate. The entry **deadline is September 22nd**. It must either be postmarked by this date, or hand delivered to a BST officer or awards committee member by 6 p.m. on 9/22. Five copies of your entry are required. Please mail entries to: **Blues Society of Tulsa, P.O. Box 2836, Tulsa, OK 74101.**

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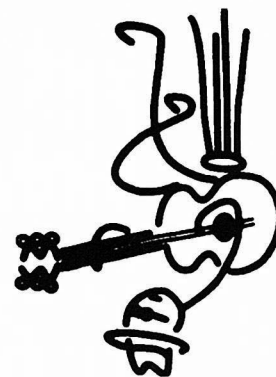
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