

Blues Society of Tulsa Celebrating 17 Years! 2002 - 2019

Volume 17, Number 1

www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com

January/February 2019

STEVE WHITE GROUP IS NAMED BEST BAND FOR 2018

Also to be Honored at Blues Choice Awards: Beau Robinson, Dustin Pittsley, and Dave White.

Story by Bill Martin



Steve White Group was voted Tulsa's Best Blues Group in 2018 by Blues Society of Tulsa members in the 15th Annual Blues Choice Awards. The band will be among several of Tulsa's finest musicians to be honored Saturday, March 23rd when the Blues Choice Awards event is held at Soul City. The event also will be a celebration of the Blues Society's 17th anniversary. The Steve White Group will be performing at the big party. Blues Choice Award winners from three other categories, Best Vocalist, Best Lead, and Best Rhythm also have been invited to accept the awards and perform.



Backing Steve are some of Tulsa's finest including **Robert Day, B-3; Matt Martin**, drums; **Matt Leland**, trombone; **Dylan Layton**, bass and **Travis Fite**, guitar.

Steve captured two BCAs last year, as Best Vocalist as a member of the **James Groves Band** that was named Best Group. A native Tulsan, Steve was guitarist for the late great **Gus Hardin** among others. He's also previously fronted his own band **Supergroove** and is the son of Tulsa music icon **Don White**.



BEST VOCALIST: Congratulations to **Beau Roberson**. Not only does he have a new baby girl, but he was voted 2018 Best Vocalist. He was part of the duo Beau and Wink (Burcham), but has become better known as founder and lead vocalist/ rhythm for Pilgrim. He has released two albums of original material.

BEST LEAD: Over the years no artist has won more BCAs than **Dustin Pittsley**. This is the 10th Best Lead award for the blues/rock guitarist to go with his previous Best Band (11) and Best Vocalist (3) awards.

BEST RHYTHM: Bassist and back up vocalist Dave White has built quite a resume over the years having been a part of the **Dwight**



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INSIDE:

Blues Choice Awards Voting, Student Grant Award, CD Reviews and more ...

Welcome Our New Members!

Shawn Roach, David Morrow

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

We don't want to miss "What's Happening." Send us pics and notes regarding events and performances.

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e-mail: info@bluessocietyoftulsa.com

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Tammy Hodges, Max Ishmal, and Mark Rauser.



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



November 20th meeting of the BST
Wink Burcham performed with Dustin Pittsley at Soul City..

Dustin Pittsley & Wink Burcham.
Photos by Christina Rybacki



December 22nd meeting of the BST
See page 3 for the Christmas Party event with pictures.

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Twilley Band, Brian Parton and the Nashville Rebels, Steve Pryor, Phil Seymore and Dustin Pittsley, among others.



Other artists receiving votes, are listed in no particular order:

BEST GROUP:

Danny Baker Band,
Dustin Pittsley Band,
Dylan Whitney Band,
Hydromatics, Jennifer Marriott Band, Levi Parham & Them Tulsa Boys, Poster Child, Selby Minner & Blues on the Move, Shawn Pittman and The Dirtboxwailers.

BEST VOCALIST: Chelsea Gann, David Berntson, Jennifer Marriott, John Fulbright, Polly Ess, Selby Minner, Shawn Roach, Stephen White, Wanda Watson and Wink Burcham.

BEST LEAD: Brad James, Charles Tuberville, Chris Kyle, Dale Armstrong, Dan Oklahoma Slim Ortiz, Dave Morrow, John Fulbright, Joshua Yarbrough, Paul Benjamin, Pete Marriott, Seth Lee Jones, and Shawn Pittman.

BEST RHYTHM: Bob Parker, Carol Lowe, Chris Kyle, Damon Daniel, David Teegarden Jr., Dustin Pittsley, Dylan Aycock, Dylan Layton, Harry Williams, Homer Johnson, Joe Modica, John Hoff, Mark Klassen, Pete Marriott, Scott Musick, and Shawn Roach.

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; 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, Marco Ogden (2009);
February: 2 – Tommy Tripplehorn; 7 – Jimmy Byfield, 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, Pete Squires; 20 – Buddy Jones (2011); 22 – Ron McRorey; 23 – Larry York, Ron Martin (2009); 28 – Don White

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

**HELD THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
AT SOUL CITY, 1621 E. 11th St., Tulsa**

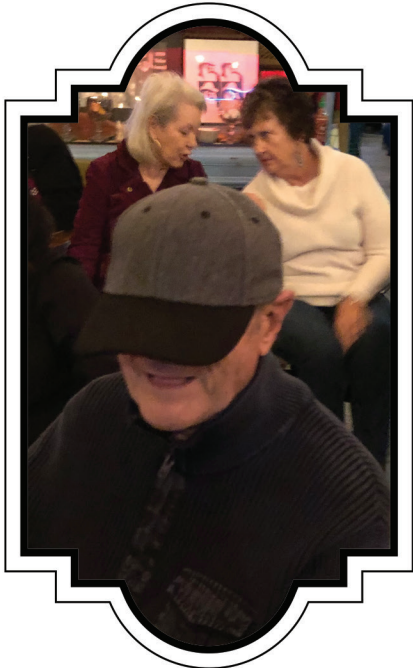
**The next two meetings are:
Tuesday, January 21st, 2019
Tuesday, February 18th, 2019**



Blues Society of Tulsa Christmas Party

BLUES SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY hosted by SOUL CITY 12/22 was so much fun. A huge thanks to The Dead Letter Kings and Pilgrim, for entertaining us, as well as our gracious hosts Kevin and Amy Smith and their great staff! To those who came out and made it such a great event, we thank you and appreciate you so much! Visit bluessocietyoftulsa.com for more photos of the festivities.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



URBAN – BIG CITY BLUES

Evolve or Be Left Behind

Story by eLiz Hollis



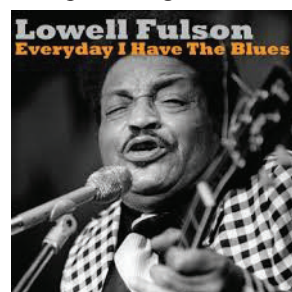
We know that sometime during the 1890's the Blues was born. The deceptively simple Blues became the most often used song structure. It's foundation was straight forward simplicity, sensuous familiarity and accepted openness.

The feeling of alienation transcended race and class in 20th century Urban America was given its voice by Blues singers.

URBAN Blues emerged after World War II. While the Delta-to-Chicago sounds of Muddy Waters and others clearly show an urban Blues style that evolved from a rural one, it is important to note that other city Blues developed parallel and apart from their country cousins. Deemed scandalous expressing urban experiences in lyrics with slang, shocking/journalistic matter-of factness reporting daily drudgeries, dangers and sensual pleasures of city slum life including drug abuse and prostitution. It also empathized with card punching steel mill laborers. Notable Urban Bluesmen appeared bluntly cynical about love with a citified coolness and ironic humor.

Urban Blues artists are defined by the adaptability while maintaining a signature sound, whether this addition is horns or an electric guitar. They can update fluidity without compromising the music personality and because of those changes the music appears timeless.

Lowell Fulson, aka Tulsa Red is a true example of an Urban Bluesman. This half Cherokee guitar artist was influenced by Texas Alexander, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Lonnie Johnson, Joe Turner and T-Bone Walker. His confident stage presence was



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CD REVIEWS



**Joe Louis Walker, Bruce Katz,
Giles Robson:
JOURNEYS TO THE
HEART OF THE BLUES**
(Munich Records)

Old timey blues is what this record is bound to make the listener think of, with three of the most gifted singer, songwriter musicians on the planet today, playing the award winning instrument of choice for each; guitar with vocals, piano and harmonica. No electric fireworks here, no drums, just a trio of musicians laying down some living room blues. The highpoints include some boogie-woogie style piano on You Got To Run Me Down And Chicago Breakdown. Another highlight is the amazing harp playing on G&J Boogie. Juke Joint Greatness. - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



**Peter V Blues Train:
SHAKEN BUT NOT
DETERRED**
(Peter V Blues Train)

Here's New Jersey guitarist, singer, songwriter Peter V's rockin', fourth blues release containing rock, jazz and funk elements on guitar, some amazing Hammond organ, and sax playing coupled with Peter's vocals on 13 tracks; of which, are 9 new and original songs. Standout tracks include: In Demand, Alibi, Rodeo (No Bs), and Been so Long. East Coast Blues is alive and well and expertly displayed on this fine blues record by Peter V Blues Train. - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



**Jim Allchin:
PRIME BLUES**
(Sandy Key Music LLC)

Jim Allchin is a Michigan born, blues/rock guitarist, computer scientist and former Microsoft executive currently promoting his fifth album Prime Blues. Two time Grammy winner **Tom Hambridge** not only produced this record but plays the drums and helped write the 14 songs within including; Enough is Enough with Rock Blues Artist of the Year; **Mike Zito** taking the mic, and Two Bad Dreams featuring Blues Hall of Famer **Bobby Rush** on vocals. The supporting session musicians are all notable in their own right and compliment every track. Jim's Previous album; last year's Decisions, stayed on the blues rock album charts for 14 weeks. This new one may reset all his previous achievements. Standout tracks include: Give It Up (with the Memphis Horns), Voodoo Doll, Enough Is Enough, And Lost My Mind. A Most Excellent Album of New Blues!! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



**Larkin Poe:
VENOM & FAITH**
(Trick-Woo Records)

That rockin' sisters blues duo has done it again! (Often referred to as the Allman Brothers' little sisters.) This album definitely tops the last great album they released which was 2017's Peach. (I reviewed that one too & it was awesome.) They were in Tulsa back in September performing during the opening week of the Gathering Place. Decendants of **Edgar Allen Poe**; The Atlanta born Lovell sisters, lead singer/guitar/mandolin/banjo/piano player **Rebecca** with harmony singer/lapsteel slide guitar player **Megan**; front the band and have taken their twist on contemporary blues to newer and greater audiences. It's southern style, acoustic rock, laced with unique percussion, beats and sounds, behind simply amazing vocal arrangements. Within just the past two or three years they have toured and opened for **Elvis Costello**, **Bright Eyes**, **Sugarland**, and **Keith Urban** among others. This entire album is a real joy to listen to. Every track is outstanding and you owe it to yourself to purchase this one. Purely Excellent!! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



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mirrored by those he influenced – Bobby Bland, Ray Charles, B.B. King, Magic Sam and Al. K. Smith. The Summer/Autumn 1971 edition of Living Blues Magazine printed two quotes about Tulsa's own.

"Lowell's heritage may be Indian, but he rides to the rhythm of a guitar ... and he comes into his own when he sings the Blues." Paul Oliver

"In 26 years of recording, Lowell Fulson has successfully coped with all the changing trends in Blues. Tulsa's Red adapts his very personal style to suit each successive generation." Mike Leadbitter





KERRY KUDLACEK: *Historian of the Blues Society of Tulsa*

Professor Kudlacek is a serious Americana collector since 1954. He believes knowing our musical roots is important – some is amazing – others not pretty – but all are important. A native of Oklahoma City, he moved to Tulsa over 40 years ago. He earned a B.A. and M.A. in Psychology with the majority of work completed for a Phd. His focus was primarily Clinical Psychology including 19 years at the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. His understanding of human nature and perception of sociological advances in music throughout American history is such an asset to our organization, as our historian. He is a “10” with us as truly an authority on Blues, Rhythm & Blues and those that gave us the Americana sounds.

- Monthly writer (1963-70) Blues Unlimited, England’s first Blues magazine
- Reviewer of Blues and Ragtime books since 1987

- Cited in print as an international contributor Blues, Gospel, Ragtime & Minstrelsy
 - Articles published in national publications in England, Belgium and USA
 - Citations in multiple Blues bibliographies
 - Written in liner notes for 25+ CD’s
 - Executive producer of Live telecast: Jump Blues, for OETA – 1993
 - Cohosted Rogers State Univ. Blues radio show on KRSC, Claremore, OK 1987 – 1996
 - Cohosting Blues radio show on RadioIDL, Tulsa, OK 2014 – present
 - Monthly Blues historical presentations for Blues Society of Tulsa 2005 - present
 - Emcee at 1st annual Blues Festival in Eureka Springs 1997
 - Emcee at Mississippi Valley Blues Fest (Davenport, Iowa) 1996 - 2005
 - Member of RIAA (formerly NARAS) Grammy voter since 1991
 - Panel member at Blues Foundation seminar, 1992
 - President of Tulsa Blues Club 1989-91
 - Board member of Blues Foundation 1991 – 1996
 - Board member of Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame 1989 – 2000
 - Chair of Induction Committee – Jazz Hall of Fame selection of all inductees
 - Board member of Greenwood Cultural Center 1989 – 2000
 - Board member of Ragtime for Tulsa Foundation 2008 – 2011
 - Board member, Oklahoma Folk Life Council 1989 – 2013
 - Board Historian for Blues Society of Tulsa 2005 – present
- If you have questions regarding Blues and its impact on our nation contact “The Professor” at Prof@RadioIDL.com. AND “Kerry On”
- eLiz Hollis

Blues Society of Tulsa

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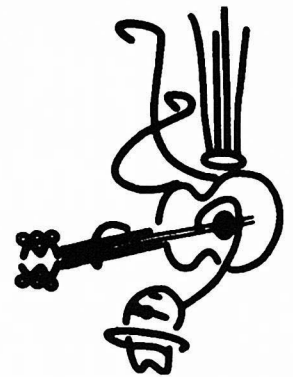
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