

Blues Society of Tulsa Celebrating 17 Years! 2002 - 2019

Volume 17, Number 5

www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com

September/October 2019

WE HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A MUSIC MECCA

by eLiz Hollis



Paul Benjamin's recent concert poster while in France on European Tour

If given the opportunity to welcome our own **Paul Benjamin Band** from a recent European tour, you would learn with certainty from Paul that "Blues are alive and abundant in Europe". American guitarist, Joe Bonamassa admits his main influence was the 1960s era of British blues players, and considers himself a part of that tradition rather than the earlier American blues styles. American blues became known in Britain from the 1930s on through a number of routes, including records brought to Britain, particularly by African-American GIs stationed there in the Second World War and merchant seamen visiting the ports. British Blues music derived from American blues originated in the late 1950s, and developed a distinctive and influential style dominated by electric guitar, creating international stars like **The Rolling Stones**, **The Animals**, **Eric Clapton**, **Fleetwood Mac** and **Led Zeppelin**. Two German promoters, **Horst Lippmann** and **Fritz Rau** arranged an American "Folk" Blues festival to tour England and the continent for over two decades. Just after 1963, Blues Society of Tulsa's own **Kerry Kudlacek** was writing articles for Britain's first monthly music magazine, *Blues Unlimited*. The culmination of blues came with **John Mayall**, who moved to London at the same time, forming the **Bluesbreakers**. Significantly, the blues boom in England and Europe led to a blues revival in America. This "British Invasion" enabled groups like the Rolling Stones, the Animals, the Yardbirds,

Van Morrison's Them and Rory Gallagher's Taste to cross the pond. This surprising re-exportation of American blues back to Americans was a re-evaluation, enabling white Americans easier access opening the doors to **Southern rock** and the development of **Texas blues** musicians like **Stevie Ray Vaughan**. It is interesting to see how American blues are still influencing England and the mainland today. There are 29 major Blues festivals scheduled between now and the end of the year throughout all of Europe. Closer to home and recognized as the capital of Route 66, Tulsa has many European and Asian blues enthusiasts traveling the Mother Road, looking to absorb this area's musical influences.

After an in-depth investigation of Europe's commitment to the blues, our organization needs assistance in creating what tourists, guests and locals expect to experience from the heartland of the blues and related genres. Tulsa needs serious representation as a blues community. What should that look like? Research revealed a Norwegian community of 15,000 people dedicated to the blues. The town has it's own BOK & **Blueshuset** (cultural center), comprised of a public library, world class music studio, blues juke house café, live stage, cinema, cultural blues school, conference halls and Europe's only museum dedicated to blues, the **Bluesium**. In less than 20 years and attracting more than 30,000 visitors each year, Notodden's unique atmosphere and Blues Festival has received the international award "Keeping The Blues Alive Award" for best international blues festival by the International Blues Foundation in Memphis! It is the largest blues festival in Europe, and it is widely known as "Europe's best blues experience" offering everything from small intimate club concerts with local artists to blues cruises and workshops in Europe Blues Centre to major concerts featuring the biggest international stars on the festival's main stage.

The Notodden Blues Walk of Fame was established in 2012 by the town square, created to honor artists who have appeared and assisted in recognizing the blues as an original art form. Honored blues artists include **BB King**, **Kåre Virud**, **ZZ Top**, the **Fabulous Thunderbirds**, **Steven Van Zandt**, **Charlie Musselwhite**, **Willie "Pinetop" Perkins**,

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Charles Tuberville, Blues Choice Awards Voting, CD Reviews and more ...

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

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

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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.

Blues Society of Tulsa

Annual Membership Application

Includes subscription to the bi-Monthly "Blues News"

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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!

continued from Front Page

Koko Taylor, Johnny Winter, and more. Their Blues Music Club of Notodden was started in 2000. The supply of blues records in music stores at the time was virtually zero. Today the club has more than 2,000 members, a member magazine and a record collection that can provide every blues enthusiast's urgent needs. In comparison, the Blues Society of Tulsa is a nationally well respected organization with an internationally recognized historian recently highlighted in the Tulsa World Newspaper for owning one of the largest Blues collections in the nation. Kerry Kudlacek is a former board member of the national Blues Foundation and annual judge. It is his desire to see his collection of over 20,000 items become part of something just as amazing as Notodden. Tulsa's own artists, community leaders, philanthropists and music societies have an opportunity to assist in sponsoring, digitizing and making literally thousands of musical pieces (many over 150 years old) available worldwide. With over a thousand historically relevant books and literary pieces locked away in climate controlled storage somewhere in Tulsa, it seems we are "hiding our light under a bushel basket" right here in God's country.



ANNOUNCEMENT:

Make plans to attend the 2019 Solo/Duo Competition at Soul City Gastropub, 1621 E. 11th St., Tulsa, Saturday, October 5th. The winner will represent Tulsa and NE Oklahoma at the 2020 International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN!! Entry deadline is Friday, September 6th by 6pm or postmarked by midnight. For entry form, rules and additional information go to our website: www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com

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, Alan Ransom; 21 – Elvin Bishop; 22 – Zac Hanson; 25 – Roger Roden, Scott Russell; 24 – Pat Murray (2012); 26 – Matthew Teegarden.

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS HELD THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH At Soul City, 1621 E. 11th St., Tulsa

Next two meetings are Tuesday, September 17th and October 15th @ 7pm. Tuesday Bluesday with Wink Burcham at 8pm.



CHARLES TUBERVILLE:

Reflecting on the Loss of a Dear Friend, a New Album and Promoting Area Music with BRT TV

By Bill Martin



Longtime friends and bandmates Jimmy Markham and Charles Tuberville.
Photo by L.D. Price

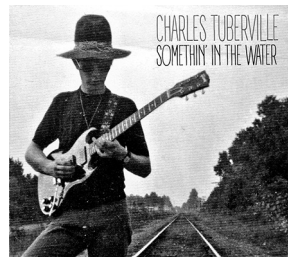
As a kid growing up in Camden, Arkansas, **Charles Tuberville** became hooked on the guitar after watching an older cousin plug his “machine” into an amp and began playing a song by **The Ventures**. Then when **The Beatles** took rock n’ roll by storm that changed everything. Charles got his first guitar, an electric Harmony Bobcat for Christmas in the 7th Grade. “At the time I was playing trumpet in the school band. The day I got my electric guitar that trumpet never again came out of the case,” he recalls.

Charles moved to Tulsa in 1979. He eventually began playing a few pick up gigs with Tulsa blues legend **Jimmy Markham**, but it wasn’t until the early 1990s, after changing jobs freed him up on weekends, that he began playing lead guitar with Jimmy on a regular basis. For decades Jimmy and his band The Caretakers were the epitome of the blues in Tulsa until his passing in September 2018. “Jimmy was a good friend... and I always loved his music,” Charles reflects. What does he miss most about his friend and bandmate? “Just talking with him. Sometimes when the phone rings, I still think it’s going to be Jimmy... He always had such good stories to tell,” Charles recalls.

As for his new album *Somethin’ in The Water*, (available at Starship Records and CD Baby online) he admits to never really planning to release one, but eventually did so at the urging of his wife **Johanna Tuberville**. Ironically, Charles observed Jimmy’s failing health the last couple of years of his life, and kept pushing him to release another album, which resulted in the gem, *Get Ya’ Head Right*. Both Charles’ and Jimmy’s albums are reviewed in this issue. Although Charles has released only one album, he has written hundreds of songs over the years. Besides being one of Tulsa’s most beloved and respected artists, Charles has a background in video computer graphics. As a result he created BRT TV on YouTube and Facebook. He writes a lot of songs with fellow Tulsans **Jim Byfield** and **Walt Richmond**; thus the acronym represents the three amigos. “I feel very fortunate to work with Walt and Jim on anything,” Charles states.

BRT TV features music and videos highlighting songs, music and videos from songwriters, musicians, artists and performers from the Tulsa area. He has produced some really cool and funny music videos for BRT TV, the latest being *Rockin on the River*. Check this site out on Facebook and/or YouTube.

In the meantime, Charles has given that old Harmony Bobcat to his son, played Les Paul guitars for a while, but then he got more into R&B and found Fender Stratocasters more to his liking. He has developed his own distinct style playing Strats, whether it is R&B, rock, or blues, much to the delight of countless fans.

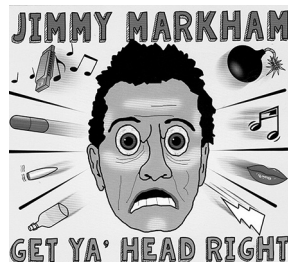


Charles Tuberville: **SOMETHIN’ IN THE WATER**

(Tulsa Blues Project Records)

This album of a dozen original tunes written by T-Town Okies is long overdue. But the wait was worth it as

Somethin’ in the Water is quite special in a number of ways. First of all, the songs are well written and Charles’ picking, as always, is so special. He also modestly never gives his vocals enough credit. Just listen to the beautiful tune *Soul Traveler*, for example. Second, this release features a who’s who of Tulsa’s finest. Joining Charles (guitar, bass and vocals) is **Jim Byfield** (guitar, bass and vocals), plus drummers **Robbie Armstrong** and **Jamie Oldaker** (**Clapton, Cale, Russell, Frampton, Seger, The Tractors**). There also are guest appearances by the late **Jimmy Markham** and **David Berntson** (harmonicas), **Alan Ransom** and the late **Jimmy Strader** (basses), the late **David Busey** (piano) and **Steve Hickerson** (guitar). Co-producing the CD with Charles is **Walt Richmond**, (**Clapton, Cale, Rockin’ Jimmy Byfield and the Brothers of the Night**), who also co-wrote 8 of the songs with Charles. *Somethin’ in the Water* isn’t a blues album per say, although on tunes such as the title cut and *Kitty Kat*, it’s certainly there. While Charles is an Arkansas native, he has absorbed plenty of that Tulsa Sound and the **J.J. Cale** influence is there. Charles designed the very cool album package, and yes, the photos of a feisty guitar playing teenager in 1996, is the man himself. – **Bill Martin**



Jimmy Markham: **GET YA’ HEAD RIGHT**

(Tulsa Blues Project Records)

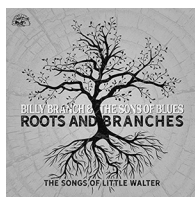
If you wanted to hear the blues in Tulsa, **Jimmy Markham** was at the top of the list. He was the blues through and through and no one did it quite like him. That distinctive voice bled the blues,

just like his harmonica playing exuberated with it. The great one left us September 21st, but not before leaving one special gift, *Get Ya’ Head Right*. Jimmy seemed to know everyone from **Eric Clapton** to **Jimmy Reed**, **The Rolling Stones** and the list is endless. This album has a dozen of originals written by Jimmy and his longtime buddy **Charles Tuberville**, and with **Walt Richmond** (**The Tractors, J.J. Cale, Bonnie Raitt**) co-writing on nine of the tunes. There’s also appearances by **Bobby Keyes** (**the Stones, Delaney & Bonnie, Clapton**), **Marcy Levy** (**Clapton**), **Johnny Sansone**, Tulsa music icons **Jim Byfield**, **Johnny Williams** and Jimmy’s son, **Chebon Markham**. I love this album as it gets straight to the point, with no bull and each song title is self explanatory – just like the blues. Produced by Charles and Walt, the sound is exceptional. Charles’ guitar playing, as always is superb. This album is special and will make you miss Jimmy’s smile, laughter, humor and talent more than ever. A special shout to the Tulsa Blues Project for making this gem possible. – **Bill Martin**





CD Reviews



Billy Branch & the Sons of Blues: ROOTS AND BRANCHES

**The Songs of Little Walter
(Alligator Records)**

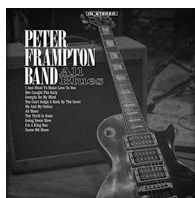
Billy Branch is a legendary, multi-award winning, blues harmonica player and singer of Chicago blues. At age 10 he bought his first harmonica at an L.A. Woolworth's, immediately began playing simple tunes, and was never without a harmonica from that day forward. Billy has performed on over 250 recordings and is still leading the band that he formed back in the early 70's. This new album of 14 harmonica driven covers is a great tribute to the late harmonica genius and Chess recording artist **Little Walter** and should definitely be added to any current harmonica players music collection. All the tracks on this album are standouts. The 15th track is spoken word memories by his daughter, **Marion Diaz**. Excellent! - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



Grady Champion: STEPPIN' IN: A TRIBUTE TO ZZ HILL

(Malaco Records)

Mississippi based **Grady Champion** is an IBC award winning electric blues harmonica and guitar player, singer, entertainer, songwriter, producer and the youngest of his father's 28 children. This 10th album of Grady's is a tribute to "King of Southern Blues"; the late, great **ZZ Hill**, and a perfect match for Grady's gritty, raspy, vocals. Twelve of ZZ's hit songs are covered as authentically as possible with back-up singers, Hammond organ, and a horn section when required. The standout tracks are understandably ZZ's biggest hits: Down Home Blues, Shade Tree Mechanic, I'm A Blues Man, and Someone Else is Steppin' In. I'd say Grady has a sure fire hit album that ZZ Hill fans are bound to enjoy and new blues fans will enthusiastically discover as well as another tasty treat for his own base of devoted, and growing fans. Well Done Grady! - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



Peter Frampton Band: ALL BLUES

(UMe)

Here's a new collection of blues covers from a familiar name that blew the minds of rock fans back in 1976 with his iconic live double album and the biggest selling live album in history with over 10 million copies sold, for over a decade; Frampton Comes Alive!. The 10 tracks within this album are Peter's personal favorite blues songs and were recorded in his own Nashville studio with his faithful road band and some very talented friends including **Kim Wilson**, **Larry Carlton**, **Sonny Landreth**, and **Steve Morse**. You'll find some unusual song choices on this album from blues instrumentals to blues jazz but all performed with Frampton's signature clean guitar infusion, and all the tracks on this album are at least four minutes long which makes for an even more amazing listening

excursion, especially if you listen, like I do, with the best earbuds (or headphones) you can find, on Spotify (which has better audio than Amazon Prime). Once again; this entire album is also a standout and complete pleasure to experience. It's also been in the No.1 spot on the blues charts since it was released; back in April. Congratulations Peter Frampton, Bravo!! - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



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Lata Gouveia: LIVE AT KUFA 2019

(Lata Gouveia)

Lata Gouveia is a singer/songwriter, guitarist, producer and filmmaker from Lisbon, Portugal. He is a well-known Red Dirt artist in Oklahoma, an honorary Okie, and a reference of Americana music in Luxembourg, Belgium and the north of France, and I'm also very proud to call him my friend. I met Lata during his last year visiting Oklahoma back in 2009, when CurtsList.Com had just begun, when he was hanging out with and filming *Rocky Frisco* and his many Red Dirt musician friends from here to Stillwater including **Tom Skinner**, **Randy Crouch**, **Adam Lopez**, **Steve Pryer**, **The Red Dirt Rangers**, **Dustin Pittsley**, **Jesse and Scott Aycock**, and many others, for the award winning, epic movie he had been working on for three years; "Red Dirt: Songs From The Dust", and was honored to be one of the people invited to the Original screening at the Circle Theater and got to jam with these folks at the after party. This new album "Live From Kulturfabrik" in Luxembourg; near Belgium, is a 5 track EP of Red Dirt, Rockin' Blues performed by Lata and his band, often sounding like **Mark Knopfler** sitting in with **Pink Floyd** with some Cross Candian Ragweed thrown in for good measure, and delivers in every area. Excellent performances across the board with Lata's guitar and vocals narrating the entire set. Watch out for the special effects in track 3 as Lata 'lets go' with some guitar wizardry. This album is an excellent listening experience and can only be obtained, by becoming a Lata Gouveia Fan on his FB page, so tell him Curt sent you! <https://www.facebook.com/EuroFolkRock> + <https://www.latagouveia.com>. You can listen to and purchase Lata's music on his website, Apple Music, Amazon Prime, and Spotify. Bravo Lata!! - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



Best Self-Produced CD Deadline is September 21

The 13th 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 Blues Society of Tulsa entry **deadline is September 21st**. It must either be postmarked by this date, or hand delivered to a BST officer or awards committee member by 6 p.m. on 9/21. Five copies of your entry are required. Please mail entries to: **Blues Society of Tulsa, P.O. Box 2836, Tulsa, OK 74101**.

BLUES CHOICE AWARDS - *It's 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 16th 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 Choice Awards ceremony. The event is typically held in March with a date and location to be announced.

There are numerous ways to vote because we want to make it easy as pie. **A BCA ballot is on this page 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 Blues Society of Tulsa officer. We've had votes submitted on beer napkins, paper plates; place your votes on 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**.



Jersey Swamp Cats: GO CAT GO! (Self Released)

The debut release by the Jersey Swamp Cats is titled "Go Cat Go!" and the disc is loaded with the bands own brand of jumpin' and swingin' blues and good ol' vintage rock 'n' roll. Now you too can

shake, rattle and roll to the sounds of the Swamp Cats just like the crowds in all the NY/NJ area hot spots have been doing since 2016.

The Jersey Swamp Cats are: **Gerry Gladston** on vocals and piano; **Don Leich** on vocals and guitar; **Larry Ghiorso** on vocals and bass; **Chris Reardon** on vocals and drums; with special guests **Anthony Salimbene Jr.** on tenor sax and **Patrick Dudasik** on trumpet. The nine tracks that you'll be shaking your booty toon "Go Cat Go!" include four band originals along with covers of classics by the legendary **Louis Prima**, **Fats Domino**, **Albert Collins**, and **Albert King**.

The disc opens with a song by a man who knew how to "Jump, Jive and Wail" better than anyone - the "king of swing" himself, Mr. **Louis Prima**. This is one of those songs that if the Jersey Swing

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16th 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.)

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Cats had a dollar for everyone who has ever performed it they'd all be rich. That said, their rendition does indeed do the song justice. The bands' co-founders, Gerry Gladston and Don Leich, do a fantastic job of sparring for the musical lead on the piano and guitar; Larry Ghioris and Chris Reardon are fittingly providing the fuel this one requires on rhythm; and with Gerry leading the way, all the Swamp Cats are real smooth on the vocals. Great start guys!

After hearing the infectious verse on this one, along with Don, Larry and Chris you'll surely become the fourth background singer. Every time Gerry sings the lines: "What's her name?"; "Who's to blame?"; "Ain't that a shame?" or "Don't let her change!" you and the guys will harmoniously shout..."CUPCAKE". This original track also features Don laying down some of the disc's best straight up blues guitar work.

Another one that serves the original well is the Jersey Swamp Cats cover of **Fats Domino's** "Blue Monday". Along with nailing the piano highlights, Gerry does an excellent job of emulating Fats' vocal swagger as well.

As long as you just ended a great rendition of a song by a great New Orleanian "I Don't Mind" if you keep the next one right down there on Bourbon Street. Along with the Jersey Swing Cats being in a funky groove, this original track features the horn section of Anthony Salimene (sax) and Patrick Dudasik (trumpet) throwing us their own mardi gras party.

When you're covering an **Albert Collins** classic and the bands' guitarist is also a vocalist, just give it to him and let him run with

it, right? Right! And on "Too Tired", Don Leich does exactly that. However, the Jersey Swamp Cats are a guitar AND piano-led band so regardless of it being a Fats Domino or an Albert Collins track you'll get your share of both smoking guitar and smoking piano leads...and that's always a good thing.

With **Albert King** being my all-time favorite blues artist, I had to mention this one. Of course, the fact that the guys do a hell of a job of his "I Get Evil" also came into play. With this being one of not a whole lot of uptempo songs of Albert's, it's easy to figure out why the Cats chose it. Like those kids on Bandstand might say, "it had a good beat and was easy to dance to" putting it right in the Jersey Swamp Cats wheelhouse.

Just like the disc started out, it closes with an original track that will not only get you jumping, jiving and wailing but rocking as well - it's titled "Shiny Gray Corvette". A la **Jerry Lee Lewis** and **Chuck Berry**, this smoker features the Swamp Cats in all-out jam mode.

Other tracks on "Go Cat Go!" are another original titled "Dance All Night" and a song made famous by the Preservation Hall Jazz Band titled "Tootie Ma Is A Big Fine Thing"

To contact the Jersey Swamp Cats just look them up on Facebook at Jersey Swamp Cats - Home. Also, should you have not yet received your copy of "Go Cat Go!" for airplay, please contact Betsie Brown at www.blindraccoon.com. BTW, whomever you contact, please let them know the Blewzzman sent you. — **Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro**, Blues Editor @ www.Mary4Music.com, 2011 Keeping the Blues Alive Recipient

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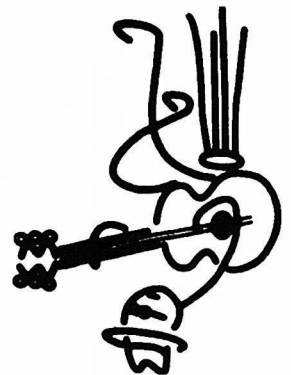
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