



**Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania**  
<http://www.bscpblues.org/>

*April - June 2014*

## BLUES NEWS

### FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

There are events in life that serve to give one pause. For me, Rob Porter's funeral service was one of these. The most touching part of the service for me was hearing his daughter, Nicole, tell the things she would say to her Dad if he was still here, like how proud she was of him and how much she loved him.

I am sorry to say that I did not know Rob very well; to me he was just a nice guy and excellent bass player who sometimes came to the jam. Sadly, I learned more about him at the service than I had ever known before and I realized I had missed a chance to get to know someone very special.

Our lives seem very full and busy, but as we rush through them we tend to miss many opportunities to share ourselves and our time with other people. People who could enrich our lives can just slip past unnoticed.

I felt I had missed an opportunity to know Rob Porter better, and then I realized that without the jam, I probably would not have known Rob at all. Or most of the other members of our unique blues family. Our jam and our other events create an opportunity to take time and share our love of music together, and get to know each other better.

So I hope we all will appreciate and take advantage of these opportunities for fellowship with like-minded souls in the months ahead. We have our Spring Fever event on April 13, our Treasurer's Picnic, the Music and Wine Festival at Fort Hunter, our Mississippi Railroad event and who knows what other events we can cook up after that. So please plan to join us and when you do, give some hugs, share a kind word and some smiles. Rob's sudden departure, far too young, should remind us all there are no guarantees in this life and that each new day is precious. Don't waste a single one.

Your Brother in Blues,  
Rocky



# UPCOMING BSCP EVENTS

## BSCP Spring Fever Show April 13, 2014

featuring Long Tall Deb & The Werewolves of Alabama @ Champions Sports Bar, Highspire, PA

## BSCP Treasurer's Picnic May 18, 2014

@ VFW Picnic Grounds, Shellsville, PA

## Dauphin County Music & Wine Festival June 14 & 15, 2014

@ Ft. Hunter, Harrisburg, PA

Please note the BSCP Treasurer's Picnic will not be on the Memorial Day weekend (as it usually is). Also, we will need a lot of help this year on the day of the picnic since we are not able to have the picnic grounds the day before to prep. If you are interested, please contact Virginia Ivanoff (MomI) at 717-979-0684 as soon as possible.

Commissioners Jeff Haste Mike Pries George P. Hartwick, III



**June 14 - 15, 2014**

**3:00 - 9:00 pm**

**2 stages, 6 National Acts, 12 bands**  
Wine Tastings by the Hershey Harrisburg Wine Country

Curtis Salgado • Dana Fuchs • Lisa Chavous & The Philadelphia Messengers • The Cornlickers • The Humblers • Ben Brandt & Co. • Wake Up Call • Big Sam's Funky Nation • Maxwell Project • The Passionettes • The Urban Souls • No Last Call

**\$25 in advance/\$30 at the door**

Fort Hunter Park  
5300 N. Front Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
717-599-5188

More information and tickets available online at  
[www.DauphinCounty.org](http://www.DauphinCounty.org)







# CD REVIEW

**JOHN McVEY**

***"Meet Me in Houston"***

*by Gregg Hogg*

Texas blues guitarist/vocalist John McVey, having worked as a blues musician for well over 20 years, is a bit of a gypsy. Having worked the blues Chitlin Circuit across Texas and the south central U.S. states and an

early 1990s tour which took John and his guitar to Russia, he returned to the U.S. and decided to settle into the Austin, Texas music scene for a stretch of time. After a spell John's seemingly unrootable feet wandered on down the blues highway to Houston.

With John McVey's 2013 Artist's International Inc. release of "Meet Me In Houston" we're treated to 8 of John's newest original songs along with 4 tasty covers of songs by Lonesome Sundown, Memphis Slim, Willie Dixon and Earl Hooker. Working with John on this CD recorded at Sedgwick Studios in Asheville, NC are Frosty Smith on drums, James Cloyd Jr. on bass and James Price on Hammond organ and piano.

"Bayou Boogie" is a toe tapping guitar instrumental with steamy Gulf Coast tasty licks. Adding to the gumbo is some nice piano work by James Price. Always a good thing to start a CD with a number that has you drooling for more!

"I'm Yours" is a Texas shuffle tune and our first chance to hear John's vocal talents on this disc.

John sings of a heartbreaking failed romance in track 3, "Thief"

"Wish Me Well", a Memphis Slim cover, shuffles along to tell of a moving on farewell to a past lover.

"Blue Guitar", an Earl Hooker cover, is a slow blues instrumental allowing us to enjoy the big fat tones of John's Telecaster.

"Through The Tears" features a slow Cha Cha rhythm and lyrically speaks again of heartbreak.

Track 6 is a cover of Lonesome Sundown's "Dealing From The Bottom Of The Deck". This song has a hypnotic slow rhythm.

"I Don't Stutter", a slow blues, speaks of being direct and to the point.

"Meet Me In Houston", the CD's title track, has a fetching slow groove going on that lures us to consider joining John in his new hometown.

Track 10 has John McVey covering the great Willie Dixon's classic "Same Thing".

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### John McVey signing autographs at his CD Release Party at The Shakespeare Pub

"Freddie King Goes Surfing" is John's Texas spin on surf guitar music.

The 12th and final track on the CD, "Walking In The Footsteps", is an acoustic guitar tune paying homage to the makers of the footsteps that John has followed as he's traveled about over the years.

You can check out more about John McVey and listen to some of these tracks by clicking on this link: <http://www.reverbNation.com/johnmcveyandthetumble>. If you enjoy what you've sampled here, please consider helping this Texas guitar slinger out by buying his CDs. And remember to get out and support live music and the artists that bring it to you!



# 10 hours of non-stop music on two stages



## SUNDAY June 8





**EG Kight featuring Sean Farley, Andy Seal, Jeremy Jaffe**

**Brandon Santini**

**The Kelly Richey Band**

**Shawn Holt and the Teardrops**

**Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials**

*Audition winners TBA and more!*




**Lycoming County Fairgrounds**  
East Lycoming Street, Hughesville, PA  
Noon-10:00 pm ~ Rain or Shine  
Gates open at 11:00



**Info: 570-584-4480 or  
BILLTOWNBLUES.ORG**



Supported in part by the  
Lycoming County Visitors Bureau  
& PA Council on the Arts



# The 30th International Blues Challenge Gets Underway

by **JOE BOONE**  
January 23, 2014



Memphis will host the 30th International Blues Challenge (IBC) this weekend. The event started on Tuesday and concludes Saturday, January 25th, at the Orpheum. The contest is a mainstay of downtown, a boon to the local economy, and a source of fun and community for folks from all over the world.

"There's going to be a lot of people in town," said Joe Whitmer, deputy director of the Blues Foundation. "That's the big thing: how much people out of Memphis really love coming to Beale Street and hearing the blues. That's always exciting. And it's the time of the year to walk into any club on Beale and hear blues music."

Those people come from all over the world, from 14 countries, in fact. Blues may seem obscure to those who don't listen to

the genre in the age of electronic dance music. But there is a dogged fan base around the world. And by all measures, it appears to be growing.

"We've got 14 countries represented this year," Whitmer said. "The latest is from Colombia. They are our newest affiliate. The international affiliates continue to grow by leaps and bounds. We've got more people coming in earlier and staying later, which is great for all of Memphis, specifically downtown. We've sold more tickets year-to-date than we did last year. That's a record."

Whitmer attributes the success to the community of players and listeners who follow the genre around the globe but hold Memphis special.

"[It's] the importance that up-and-coming blues musicians put on being part of the community of blues and the community of blues organizations," he said. "They want to make as much money as they can. So they see the opportunity to come to Memphis as a way not only to show off their skills but to pick up more skills. I think just the artists getting together locally probably promotes the vibe to come to Memphis."

Bands will compete for more than \$40,000 in cash and prizes. They will play clubs on Beale and compete for the finals that will be held Saturday at the Orpheum. The high stakes are part of what drives the growth and the development of the genre.

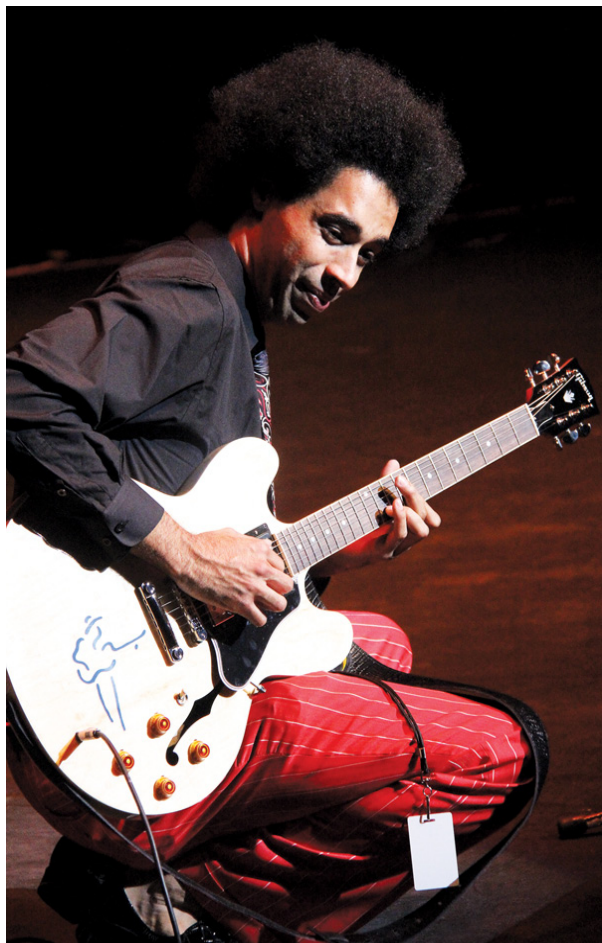
"We have several acts that have come over years. They continue to grow. But their support and their fan base grow. All of this comes together in getting to IBC in the first place."

I'm not gonna lie. When the prospect of French blues came across the desk, I curled my lip like any Gallic boulevardier looking at a fat Kansan mouth-breathing in jogging shorts. Quelle horreur!

But Manu Lanvin was a pleasant surprise. Lanvin is able to dodge the clichés and be authentically French while working within the blues idiom. Lanvin's sound has elements of pop that are not necessarily pure blues.

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But he synthesizes several key aspects of the music in an interesting way. On his 2011 album *Faible humain*, Lanvin keeps the energy up. "Je suis une machine" is a rollicking number that hurls forward along a road or a rue in a way that much contemporary, European, synth-driven pop just can't. There's something magic in the fast mess of blues time: something akin to sneaking around or running from the consequences of sneaking around. Lanvin also running from the consequences of sneaking around. Lanvin also excels at rendering the tone palette of blues. His guitar tones are idiosyncratic like they should be. He's not aping the classics. He's comfortable in his skin.



Carlos Elliot Jr. and the Cornlickers hail from Colombia, but he sounds like he's from Holly Springs. The hill-country vein seems to get less attention than it deserves. There's something lively in that rhythm that Chicago didn't want. We're glad to keep it warm down here, and it's inspiring to see it affect people of different cultures. Elliot's guitar phrasing has that half-cocked madness of R.L. Burnside, and Muddy Waters' solo style is apparent too: feel and intensity take precedence over technique — like it should.

Memphis is represented in the band division by the Ghost Town Blues Band — who were finalists last year — and by D&G Boogie BLUES in the solo/duo competition. The STAX Music Academy will compete in the youth competition. Lucious Spiller is another entrant with hometown ties.

Whoever wins, Memphis benefits from this gathering and its respect for our regional culture. Welcome to Memphis, everybody. Enjoy your stay.

The International Blues Challenge continues this week. Quarterfinals are Wednesday and Thursday night on Beale. Youth Showcase and semifinals are on Friday night. The finals are Saturday night at the Orpheum Theater. For more information, visit [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org).

# VOLUNTEER FOR BSCP!

If interested, email  
[bluesmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bluesmembership@gmail.com)!







## Carlos Elliot Jr. & The Cornlickers Top #9 in The National Charts in Colombia!

Thanks to all Blues lovers and to Radiónica, the most important radio station in Colombia. We have reached the position #9 in the national charts. Carlos Elliot Jr. & The Cornlickers are pleased to thank everybody for vibrating with our music. We are bringing Blues music to the mainstream and commercial territories...let's keep expanding frontiers for the Blues all over our America!

[www.CarlosElliotJr.com](http://www.CarlosElliotJr.com)

**radiónica**  
FM/WEB

### BSCP Board of Directors

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Hannah Sherman – Member-at-Large

Dale Roat - Member-at-Large

George Carver - Member-at-Large

## Article Highlights Carlos Elliot Jr. & the Cornlickers Music in the Participation in the IBC in Memphis.

During the last U.S. tour we offered different shows including our participation in the IBC in Memphis. There, our music among 254 acts from 16 countries caught the attention of the local news "Memphis Flyer", which in the "Living Blues" article by Joe Boone talks about Carlos Elliot Jr. & The Cornlickers music. Thanks to Joe Boone, Jay Sielman and Joe Whitmer.

Read the article at <http://www.memphisflyer.com/memphis/living-blues/Content?oid=3593184>.



# *Destination Blues* **RECAP**

MUSIC FESTIVAL  
*winter blues heaven on route 11*

On February 7th & 8th, 2014, Columbia & Montour counties heated up with the first annual Destination Blues music festival, "Your Winter Blues Heaven on Route 11." Organized by two non-profit organizations - Downtown Bloomsburg Inc. (DBI) and the Moose Exchange - in partnership with the Briggs Farm Blues Festival and the Billtown Blues Association, Destination Blues featured international, national, and regional blues performers at multiple venues, as well as bus transportation among the venues and participating hotels.

On February 6th and 7th, 2015, we'll do it again!

This year, Friday's activities included "Brews & Blues" - music all evening long at four area brew pubs: Old Forge in Danville, Berwick Brewing, and Marley's and Turkey Hill in Bloomsburg. Attendees rode dedicated buses among the venues and to and from their hotels. Performers included the Blind Chitlin Kahunas, Miz Ida and The All-Nightas, Symphonic Haze, Steve Gilliland, Nate Meyers, Ed Randazzo and Bret Alexander, and Ham and Eggs. All four venues had standing-room-only crowds.

Next year, we will expand the number of venues throughout the two counties, especially in all three downtowns - Berwick, Bloomsburg, and Danville - with many more bands playing.



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On Saturday the 8th, "Bluesburg" - an afternoon and evening of music at the Caldwell Consistory, a landmark gathering place in Bloomsburg for over a century. The line-up included Moreland & Arbuckle, the Alexis P. Suter Band, Clarence Spady, Lonnie Shields, John Sweeney Blues Revue, Steve Gilliland, and the Black Strat Blues Company, a blues performance project of some of Williamsport's Uptown Music Collective students. The \$20 advance ticket covered admission to the Exchange and bus transportation both evenings, and more than 700 people attended.

"Bluesburg" would have happened at the Moose Exchange on Main Street in Bloomsburg, but the fire at that location in late January caused the last-minute change of plans. Thank you to the Caldwell Consistory for stepping in. We will have music back at the Exchange as soon as we can - stay tuned!

Destination Blues could not have happened without the involvement of two of our area's longtime blues impresarios: Richard Briggs of the Briggs Farm Blues Festival and Bonnie Tallman of the Billtown Blues Association. The Briggs Farm and Billtown Blues Festivals have made summertime blues cool in central Pennsylvania; now Destination Blues makes the Winter Blues HOT!

WNEP TV Channel 16, the News Station, served as the first festival's media partner, and the EconoLodge in Bloomsburg as the festival host hotel. Other sponsors included the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau, Kornerstone Custom Builders, Service 1st Federal Credit Union, and Twin Bridges Storage. M.S. Bond Busing provided the bus transportation.

Destination Blues has received significant support from Montour and Columbia Counties' Tourism Funds as administered by the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau. The Exchange and DBI thank Montour Commissioners Trevor Finn, Jack Gerst, and Jerry Ward and Columbia Commissioners David Kovach, Rich Ridgway, and Chris Young for their vision and enthusiasm.

For more information about the Exchange, visit [www.MooseExchange.org](http://www.MooseExchange.org), or contact us at 570-317-2596 or 203westmain@gmail.com.

For more information about Downtown Bloomsburg Inc., visit [VisitBloomsburg.com](http://VisitBloomsburg.com), or contact us at 570-784-2522 or dbimanager@columbiamontourchamber.com



# **BSCP Electric Blues Jam**

## **Champions Sports Bar • Highspire, PA**

### **Every Thursday!**

### **from 8 to midnight-ish.**

friends, food & blues.  
what more do you need?

The Blues Society of Central PA presents

# SPRING FEVER

**Sunday, April 13**  
from 4:30 - 9:00 PM at  
**Champions Sports Bar**

300 N. Second St. Highspire, PA.

**Long Tall Deb**  
& The Werewolves  
of Alabama

**Dane Paul Russell**

**& Colin John**

**THREE AMAZING  
BANDS FOR**

**\$15**





# BSCP SPRING FEVER SHOW

by Greg Hogg

Is anyone possibly as tired of this seemingly unending winter as I am? I'm looking forward to robins, budding trees, tulips and daffodils, even mud!! Oh ....and the upcoming BSCP Spring Fever Show! Through this bitter cold, snowy winter your BSCP Board of Directors have been busy working up a great blues show to celebrate spring's arrival.

Here's the scoop! On Sunday, April 13, 2014 the BSCP will be taking the chill out of Champions Sports Bar, 300 N. Second St, Highspire, PA with a 3 act smokin' hot blues show featuring our headliner, Vizztone Recording artist Long Tall Deb & The Werewolves of Alabama, The Dane Paul Russell Band, and a solo opening set by 2014 Memphis IBC semi-finalist Colin John.



Long Tall Deb

Long Tall Deb will be bringing her Werewolves of Alabama Band into Champions from their home base in Columbus, Ohio to perform a 90 minute set for us. Their 2013 Vizztone released CD "Raise Your Hands" has been charting well in the blues music genre and tunes from this CD are regularly receiving airplay on SiriusXM Bluesville radio. You may recall that I wrote a CD review of this disc in the July/August 2013 BSCP Newsletter. What a voice!! You won't want to miss seeing her!

Our central PA friend, Dane Paul Russell, will be bringing his band to turn the heat up with a 60-minute set before Long Tall Deb's show. Dane Paul Russell Band has performed in the past at KClinger's Tavern in Hanover and The Moondancer Winery in Wrightsville, among other places. Dane Paul also worked for years as the late great Bobby Parker's band as his blues harp sideman.



Dane Paul Russell

Opening our BSCP Spring Fever Show we will feature a 30-minute solo set by Colin John. Colin represented Northeast Ohio Blues Association in the solo/duo category in Memphis at the 2014 IBC. His immense talent advanced him into the semi-final round of the competition. Now living in Ohio, Colin John, the Transpacific Bluesman, is originally from the Big Island of Hawaii.

The BSCP will be opening the room at 4:30 PM, and admission will be \$15. The show will begin at 5:00 PM and be wrapped up by 9:00 PM. Champions Sports Bar will be offering their full menu for dining and drinks, both alcohol and non-alcohol will be available for purchase. Join the fun!!



Colin John

## QUICK DETAILS

**BSCP Spring Fever Show | \$15**

**Sunday, April 13, 2014 @ 5:00pm**

**Champions Sports Bar | 200 N 2nd | Highspire**

Blues Society of Central PA  
P.O. Box 453  
Steelton, PA 17113

<<name>>  
<<address 1>>  
<<address 2>>  
<<city>>, <<state>> <<zip>>

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