



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

Oct. - Dec. 2019

BLUES NEWS



REVEREND RAVEN PAGES 3-5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From your President	2
Reverend Raven	3
Blues Band Beat	6
Road Trippin'	8
In Case You Missed It	10
Introduction to Blues Radio	13
Gypsy Moon Blues Festival	14
Pianos of Lancaster	16
Upcoming Gigs	19



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Mission Statement

The Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation, promotion, support and enjoyment of the truly original American art form, the blues.

From your President...

Fall is here with all its earthy rich colors and invigorating crisp clear air, making me excited just to be alive. While I am thrilled when cooler weather comes, I find a bitter sweetness in saying good bye to summertime when I find it so easy to be outdoors enjoying good music and company.

Mike Knott made sharing his blues festival experiences a priority this past year in his newsletter series “Road Trippin’,” hoping to encourage others to attend these events that he is so passionate about. This current article is his last one in the series, but fortunately Nina Vacante archives all the newsletters on the BSCP website. So when you make plans to attend festivals, you can easily reference the past issues.

According to research by Melissa K. Weinberg and Dawn Joseph for Sage Journals, Mike must have a high level of well-being. Their findings indicate that those who attend concerts and commune with one another through music have the highest subjective well-being ratings. Being present with others sharing live blues music provides that wonderful sense of community.

Not only do big concerts provide these benefits, but you can get these good feelings in many settings. When I (re)posted the Weinberg/ Joseph study outcomes on Facebook, harp player James Day responded by pointing out some of the potential aggravations of attending big concerts: “overpriced tickets, humanity, crowds, can’t see, overpriced concessions.” As an alternative, he described the pleasures of smaller settings: “I’ll be at an intimate blues venue digging some great music and talking to the artist after the show without a mountain of security beef.” His point is well taken.

In addition to the regional festivals described in “Road Trippin’” blues lovers in our region are so fortunate to have multiple opportunities for live music. This summer BSCP held two shows at local picnic grounds, put on the Mitch Memorial Jam, and conducted regular weekly blues jams at Champions. And, as I write this, I am eagerly looking forward to attending the BSCP Fall show: Sugar Ray and the Bluetones and Blues on the Loose. And next thing you know, we will be dancing to Reverend Raven and the Chain Smokin’ Altar Boys at the Christmas Party at Hummelstown Fire Department on December 8th.

Andy Kehe has been working hard to keep BSCP members and the public informed about the local blues band events though the “Upcoming Gigs” schedule in the BSCP Blues News, averaging over 100 gigs in each issue. Andy is posting schedule updates on <http://www.bscpb Blues.org>. A further note of appreciation to the board members who each contribute to getting the information about blues events out to everyone through posters, flyers, emails, and the various forms of public media.

The BSCP board wants all of you to be able to enjoy listening to blues music, whether a large concert, cozy tavern, picnic grounds, festival, or just in your car, and to feel that sense of well-being and community that comes with sharing your love of the blues.

Keepin’ the Blues alive!
Kathy Gregoire
bluesmunga@gmail.com

BSCP PROUDLY PRESENTS REVEREND RAVEN

and the Chain Smokin' Altar Boys

at Our Annual Christmas Party

by ANDREW KEHE

Brats and beer. They've done a lot to make Milwaukee famous.

And Chicago, too.

And so has, in a musical way, Reverend Raven and the Chain Smokin' Altar Boys, who, by the way, go great with a brat and beer. A critically acclaimed Wisconsin staple and favorite all throughout the Midwest, because of their versatile, danceable, honest approach to classic blues, Rick Reverend Raven and the CSABs, featuring Grammy nominated harpist Westside Andy Linderman, are the featured attraction at the annual Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania Christmas Party Dec. 8 at the Hummelstown Fire Hall.

The all-you-can-eat, BYOB affair is free to BSCP members. Memberships costing \$15 will be sold at the door.

This band gets a lot of critics excited. And a few BSCP board members, too. A BSCP board meeting can be a pretty dull place to be, but the "wave" practically broke out when it was announced by events coordinator Mike Knott that he had booked Reverend Raven and the Chain Smokin' Altar Boys. And for good reason.

CSABs play traditional blues with passion, sizzling grooves and hot harmonica and guitar licks without being too overbearing or busy. They play original songs creatively influenced by the likes of Slim Harpo, Little Walter, Jimmy Rogers, Billy Boy Arnold and Junior Wells.

Their style and music consistently earn numerous top Wisconsin music awards. Their 2015 release "Live at the Big Blue" won Best Live CD from Blues Blast Music and Independent Blues Scene. In 2007, Raven earned a Grammy nomination for "Bamfest." His latest release "My Life" has been met with critical acclaim.

"On any given weekend, if I had to pick one band to go listen to, I would track down where Reverend Raven and the Chain Smokin' Altar Boys are playing and go out there and sit down to listen to them for some blues done the way they are supposed to be," wrote critic Steve Jones in Blues Blast Magazine.

"Rooted deeply in the sound of old school Chicago blues, Reverend Raven has spent the last two decades honing a sound that is unique, sublime and enticing. The vocals and instrumental work are



never over-blown or overdone. The solos are tasteful and authentic. The band knows what everyone is supposed to do and does it. No one steps on each other's toes and everyone works to make the sound better."

Born on the south side of Chicago, Rick Raven shelved his rock and roll licks and delved big time into the blues after being among a throng of people when Freddie King was performing in and among at the Kinetic Club in Chicago in 1971.

"Freddie was walking out into the crowd with a 100- or 200-foot (guitar) cord and man, he was just



rippin' ... standing like five feet away from me," Raven told Blues Blast Magazine. "Freddie just stole that show, standing out in the middle of 2,000 hippies. And that was it. I stopped listening to rock-n-roll, I stopped buying rock-n-roll records and I started learning to play as much blues as I could."

Raven amped up his performing after finishing a 15-year tour in the Navy in 1993. It was in the Navy that he got his nickname "Reverend," as one of his collateral duties was being a counselor for troubled sailors. After the Navy, he moved to Milwaukee and formed a friendship and musical relationship with Madison Slim, Jimmy Rogers harmonica player, which led to some time playing with Rogers as well.

When Rogers passed, Raven formed The Chain Smokin' Altar Boys, and it wasn't long before the band was being sought after beyond the boundaries of Wisconsin.

Aside from headlining on their

own and opening for some of the genre's biggest stars – B.B. King, Gatmouth Brown, Koko Taylor, Elvin Bishop, Magic Slim, Rod Piazza and Fabulous Thunderbirds among others – Reverend Raven and CSAB have been on the headliner rotation at Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago for the better part of two decades.

Raven characterizes his band's music as hard-driving, passionate blues.

"I'd like to say '50s and '60s inspired Chicago blues, and I've had bands and been in bands where we've done that, but we're really not like that," Raven told Blues Blast. "We try and present our music like what I saw back in the early '70s when I went to the clubs in Chicago to see these great blues bands. They were there to entertain you and make you have a great experience so you'd come back and drink more."

And, maybe order another brat, too.

Want to write for Blues News?

Editors of Blues News would like to hear from you if you'd like to be a contributor to the quarterly newsletter.

Editors are seeking compelling, accurate blues CD reviews, festival and show reviews, venue food and atmosphere reviews, playing tips, letters to the editor, short features or anything else you think Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania members would like to read. Photographs will also be considered.

Adhering to deadlines is very important. Contributors will be told well ahead of time what their deadline is. Final approval of all contributions is up to Blues News editors.

Please contact BSCP President Kathryn Gregoire with your idea. She comes to most Thursday night jams or can be reached by email at bluesmunga@gmail.com.

THE BLUES SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PA

**HUMMELSTOWN
FIRE HALL**

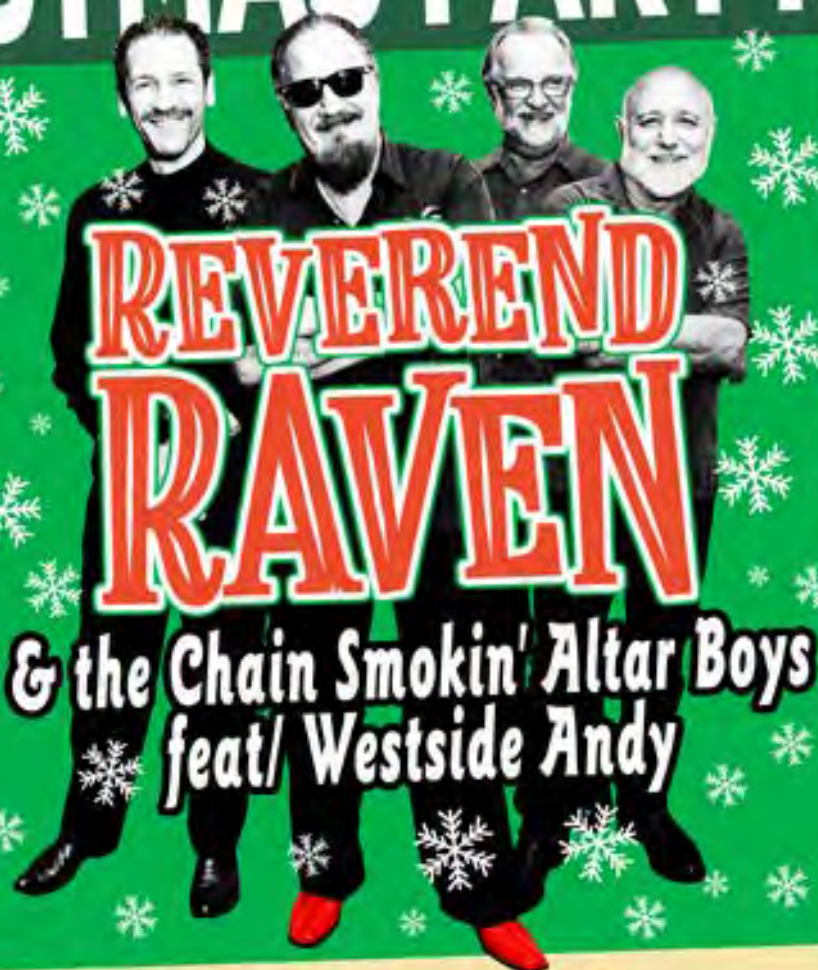
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the door for just \$15.



www.BSCPblues.org

We welcome side dishes and desserts

Blues Bands Beat

By Jack Roberts

Hey, Jack Roberts here with some more blues news you can use. So let's catch up on what's happening - or going to happen - with local blues bands.

Big news for **The Benjamin Vo Blues Band**. No, not their new album, "Blueberry & Country Sugar." That's old news. It came out in May. This is big new news, because not only did the album receive a positive review in the British publication "Blues Matters," but the album - and the band, of course - will be highlighted in a full article in the magazine's upcoming October/November issue. Good for you guys, Benjamin.

But the good news doesn't end there. The Benjamin Vo Blues Band will be playing for the first time at this year's Blues Pub Crawl in Marietta on October 12. Where, you ask? Well, you've heard of McCleary's Public House, haven't you? (If you haven't, you need to start keeping up on things!) They'll be on stage from 8-10 p.m. And you won't want to miss them.

And the good news doesn't end in Marietta, either. The Benjamin Vo Blues also will be playing at special show at The Genetti Hotel in Williamsport. "It's a show organized by the Billtown

Blues Association," Benjamin Vo said, "to help raise money for us to go down and compete in the IBC in Memphis this coming January." Sounds like a good cause - wait, make that a great cause - to us. And I'm sure we'll be reporting on both. Want to see them closer to home. Check out their gig listings on their Facebook page.

Meanwhile, things seem to be rolling in the right direction for Blues on the Loose. As many of you know, they were lying a bit low last summer, in part because their regular bass player had been recovering from an injury. Filling in for him were well-known Lancaster County bassist Mike Bitts and Miss T & the Mosquitoes bassist Randy Martin. But Doug will be back on the stage in October - and he'll help Blues on the Loose debut two new original songs at their November 8th gig at The Conewago Inn in Manchester. And will those two new originals be working their way onto a future album for Blues on the Loose? Could be, according to Lewis Bechtold, the band's front man, harp player, and go-to guy when you need info. Guess we'll have to see where things go from here. In the meantime, check out their Facebook page or website at

BluesOnTheLoose.com for gig

dates and other info?

Did someone say album? Oh, yeah, we did. And so did **Little Buddy**, aka The Little Buddy Blues Band. "My seventh CD, "Blue Zasu was released later year, recorded at Parallel Studios in Lancaster," said Little Buddy guitarist Mike Kormanik," and we are currently recording my eighth at the same studio, with Steve Puffer producing it." To listen to or download Little Buddy's CDs, all you have to do is go to their website, littlebuddy.rocks. How simple is that? And there's no shortage of videos either.

Acoustic Stew also is talking about a new recording project. According to Acoustic Stew founder and guitarist Rocky Rockroth, they plan to record several of their songs live and possibly make a CD out of them. "We have a CD for sale on our website," Rocky said after playing at The Gypsy Moon Blues Festival in East Petersburg last month, "but two of the people on it are no longer playing in the band. So that's why we want to do." Rocky didn't offer a timeline for the project, but you can check out the Harrisburg-based band's upcoming gig dates on their website at

www.acousticstew.net. And if you're lucky, you just might be

able to turn up for one of their recording sessions.

Finally, **Octavia** of **Octavia Blues Band** fame, is talking about her latest album - her ninth - as well. We don't have many details yet, but we know that it will be called "Talkin' 'Bout My Baby" - which sounds about as Octavia as you can get - and that it will be released on thumb drive. Meanwhile, if you're looking to buy any of her previous albums, including "River Sighs," you can buy them at her shows. Need more info? There's plenty of that on her website, including some song samples, at OctaviaBlues.com.

OK, that's it for now. If you've got a blues band or blues venue in Central Pennsylvania and want to get word out on your latest shows or offerings, please drop me a line at ragtime_willi@hotmail.com or message me on Facebook. I'm always happy to get the blues.

The Blues Society of Central PA is proud to announce the release of our new CD!



An outstanding collection of original music featuring 16 songs from 9 regional blues artists sponsored and produced by BSCP.



Just \$10 at our Thursday jam and other BSCP events Available for purchase, download or streaming at <https://bscp.hearnow.com>.

Road Trippin'

by Michael Knott

Lookin' in the rear-view mirror

Billtown Blues Festival, Hughesville, Pa. June 14, 15, 16

First time for this to be a 3 day festival. I wasn't able to attend on Fri. night but the word on the street was a smaller crowd than hoped for but everyone had a great time. I arrived on Saturday in time to be under one of the 2 large tents provided for cover. Saturday was protection from the sun and Sunday it was needed because of some rain. It had great sightlines to the stage and excellent sound. Saturday's crowd I would consider a nice medium size festival that's not over crowded. Sunday was a very light crowd because of the call for rain. Festival food sometimes can be a challenge. In most cases it's limited. This is by far my favorite festival for food with a limited but nice variety of good quality selections. So good that even though this is a bring your own food and beverage event, I buy my food from the vendors. It serves 3 purposes, one, I don't have to drag food, two, I'm supporting the vendors so they want to return and three, that supports the festival to continue having good food vendors available. There were also a large number of merchandise vendors. It is a well organized, medium size festival. Dates for next year are TBA.

New York State Blues Festival, Syracuse, N.Y. June 27, 28, 29

Once again, the beauty of this festival is, while it's a few hours' drive, it's all Rt 81 with no turns until you need to get off the highway to go into Syracuse. Did I say it's a FREE festival??? When you consider the quality of the lineup with national talent and Syracuse is a hot bed of excellent local talent, it makes that drive a whole lot easier knowing you have some extra cash toward the gas tank and refreshments. They had some pre-festival shows on Thursday night but Friday and Saturday were the 2 main days and you have a travel day on Sunday to get home so you can easily be at work on Monday. One of the very few negatives is that it's hot because the festival is held in a large concrete reflecting pool that is drained during the festival so there is very little shade. There was a nice crowd on Friday night but comfortable enough to move around. Saturday is always the largest day. It builds slowly and by the evening it is packed. This year may have been the most people I've ever seen there in my 18 years of attendance as the headliner was Little Steven and the Disciples of Soul. That would be Steven Van Zandt from Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band and of The Soprano's fame. The after jams are always a treat with the excellent local talent and some of the national artists always show up and sit in. Dates for next year are TBA.

Briggs Farm Blues Festival, Nescopeck, Pa. July 11, 12, 13, 14

Along with the Billtown Blues Festival, this is a festival no Central Pa. blues fan should miss, or anyone else for that matter. Both are within a reasonable driving distance from the Harrisburg region, where if you can only do one day, it's a comfortable drive home. This is a big league festival for many reasons. The lineups are consistently great and good hotels are within a 15-20 minutes drive. Craft and specialty vendors have expanded as well. Almost every fan has a piece from well-known artist Dane Tilghman and the ladies especially love to stop by The Forkman's (Ed Clopein) booth for his eloquent hand-crafted jewelry made from forks and spoons. Certainly, there are other vendors to browse as well. While this is a bring your own food and beverage event, you won't go hungry due to the good food vendors available.

This is a big field party so fresh roasted corn on the cob was a big hit with many. There is a reason they were awarded the 2017 "Keeping the Blues Alive" award for best festival of the year. Dates for next year are July 9-12, 2020.

Mississippi Railroad Picnic, (BSCP), Mechanicsburg, Pa. Sun. July 21

Woo-wee it was hot!!! Attendance was obviously down from previous years but we still had a nice crowd. There was a light breeze plus we had

fans helping to move the air around in the large covered pavilions that also provided shade. The blues society provided water bottles for those in need. Friends in attendance will tell you, having an artist every year from Mississippi and the fact it is free is a hard bargain to beat. This is a unique event we are very proud of, thanks to Dale Wise and Dave Groninger, who first started the tradition 20 some years ago. I'm not aware of any other blues society in the North East that does a free picnic with an artist from the Delta. The fact is, a few of the artists we have had in the past had never been out of the state of Mississippi but are Delta legends. Date for next year is July 19, 2020.

***Riverfront Blues Festival,
Wilmington, Del. Aug. 3, 4***

Two days of perfect weather made for a great time this year. Couple that with the always great lineups and the fact you can bring in your own food, where else would you want to be on an August weekend. Canopies were the way to go here unless you're fortunate enough to get a spot in the limited shade. There was a little snafu with only a few food vendors the first day (something about a food truck contest close by) but was quickly remedied for the following day which gave us more selections and of course the beer taps were flowing well both days. Dates for next year are Aug, 8-9, 2020.

***Heritage Music Blues Festival,
Wheeling W.V. Aug, 9, 10, 11***

Still one of my favorite festivals of all time. I park my car at the hotel on Friday and don't move it until Monday. The hotel is 2 blocks from the festival site. Some people prefer to stay out of town and take advantage of the shuttles. The amphitheater

on the banks of the Ohio River is all concrete so it is usually blistering hot but is easily overlooked because of the always stellar lineup of bands. This year we were blessed with mid-80's temperatures so it was quite comfortable from other years. Food vendors were plentiful with the most popular being a fired oven pizza that was to die for. Another big draw for this festival is the consistently strong lineups and this year the second stage had main stage quality included. Dates for next year are Aug. 7-9, 2020.

***Chenango Blues Festival, Norwich,
N.Y. Aug. 16, 17***

A few years ago, this festival moved into my "favorite festival of the year" slot and has remained there. Always stellar lineups and I love the setting at the county fairgrounds. Plus, it's hard to argue with a free Friday night where you can take your own food and drink in. Saturday is a ticketed event and you can't take food or drinks in. There was a good selection of food vendors and beer available and you can also go out to tailgate as well. I'm always impressed with how all the festivals handle unfortunate circumstances, as in RAIN. We had a torrential downpour that thankfully didn't last terribly long but they had to shut down due to lightning. Once we restarted the next main stage act moved into the second stage tent while the main stage was safely cleaned up and we were back outside for the remainder of the evening. This festival also comes with one of the better "after jams" held in 2 locations within walking distance of each other in town... and my hotel. Dates for next year are Aug, 21-22 2020.

Alonzo's Picnic (Baltimore Blues Society) Rosedale, Md. Sept. 1

This is the best end of summer picnic you'll find anywhere. Another BYOB & food event and everyone was sharing their specialties with each other. It's like a mini-festival with 5 bands that included local, region and national artists. It's a fast 1 ½ hours from Harrisburg that's well worth the trip. Evidence is the fact I counted 15 + members (and I may be missing a few) from the Blues Society of Central Pa. in attendance. Baltimore Blues Society could easily be considered our sister society as their members come up and support our events, some as far away as Annapolis and D.C. and we go down to many of their events and support them. Date for next year is Sept, 6 2020.

***On the Horizon:
Reading Blues Festival, Reading,
Pa. Nov. 22, 23, 24***

www.readingbluesfest.com

I can't really speak about this festival as I only attended last year for the first time and only 1 day. It is held in the ballroom of the DoubleTree Hotel as well as at a few venues around town. My understanding is there have been some changes made for this year. It's certainly close enough distance wise to go check it out.

This concludes my ROAD TRIPPIN' series for this year and actually forever. You see, I'm a traditionalist and attend the same festivals every year. This series has given you a number of opportunities to consider attending and to continue I would be repeating myself. My hope and purpose for this was to encourage you to get out and support these wonderful events which will help KEEP the BLUES ALIVE!!! I hope to see some new blues faces in the crowd!! Make sure you stop and say "Hello".

In Case You Missed It

MISSISSIPPI RAILROAD



JOHNNY RAWLS WITH THE CORNLICKERS
Photo by Larry Fogelson



JOHNNY RAWLS
Photo by Larry Fogelson

ALONZOS PICNIC



ANTHONY GERACI AND THE BOSTON BLUES ALL STAR
Photo by Bradley Alston



MUDCAT WARD
Photo by Larry Fogelson



BUSH LEAGUE
Photo by Bradley Alston



NICK MOSS BAND
Photo by Larry Fogelson



BAD INFLUENCE
Photo by Larry Fogelson

BRIGGS FARM BLUES FESTIVAL



CEDRIC BURNSIDE
Photo by Mike Knott



VANESSA COLLIER
Photo by Kirk Hansen



SLAM ALLEN BAND
Photo by Kirk Hansen



BOBBY KYLE & THE ADMINISTERS
Photo by Kirk Hansen



SOUTHERN AVENUE BAND
Photo by Kirk Hansen

CENTRAL MARKET



CEDRIC BURNSIDE
Photo by Bradley Abston

CHENANGO BLUES FESTIVAL



RICK ESTRIN & THE NIGHTCATS
Photo by Kirk Hansen



TAB BENIOT
Photo by Kirk Hansen



DANIELLE NICOLE
Photo by Larry Fogelson



JOE LEWIS WALKER BAND
Photo by Larry Fogelson



TOMMY CASTRO
Photo by Kirk Hansen



JONTAVIOUS WILLIS
Photo by Larry Fogelson



JOHNNY SANSONE
Photo by Larry Fogelson

HERITAGE MUSIC BLUES FESTIVAL



ELVIN BISHOP TRIO
Photo by Mike Knott



SEAN CARNEY
Photo by Mike Knott



RONNIE BAKER BROOKS
Photo by Mike Knott

NY STATE BLUES FESTIVAL



LITTLE STEVEN & THE DISCIPLES OF SOUL
Photo by Mike Knott



STEVEN VAN ZANDT
Photo by Mike Knott

RIVERFRONT BLUES FESTIVAL



TRUDY LYNN
Photo by Bradley Alston



LURRIE BELL
Photo by Bradley Alston



LARRY GARNER
Photo by Bradley Alston



CARL WEATHERSBY
Photo by Bradley Alston



BISCUIT MILLER AND DR LOVE
Photo by Bradley Alston

AN INTRODUCTION TO RCBC BLUES RADIO

Article by Greg Hogg



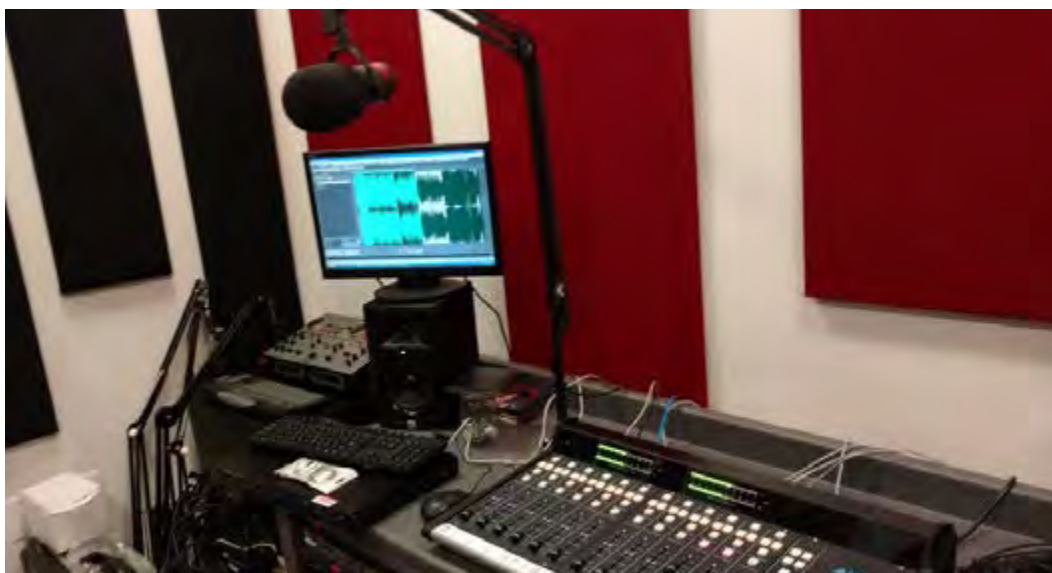
While many music loving folks enjoy the blues on Saturday evenings with Johnny Meister on WXPB radio, where can you enjoy it earlier every Saturday? Rowan College at Burlington County in Mount Laurel, NJ has been featuring their internet based blues radio show every Saturday since May 6, 2018 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The noon – 1:00 PM hour is dedicated to local blues, artists from PA, NJ, and DE. In fact, since RCBC Blues Radio received our BSCP “Backyard Blues” CD they have included tracks from it during this local segment. So far Bob Wineland, Roger Hammer, Blues on the Loose and Rose Hudson songs have aired. I listen each Saturday hoping to hear more Central PA blues music. You can join me online and listen at:

<https://tunein.com/radio/rcbc-radio-889-s27707>

The producer/host of RCBC Blues Radio is Greg Gaughan. Along with his local artist hour playlist, Greg’s Saturday shows feature an eclectic mix of blues from Texas, the Mississippi Delta, Chicago, the West Coast, the Midwest, the Northeast, Canada, the UK, Europe and from Down Under. Each week as I listen I hear blues from artists that I’m familiar with and also get introduced to new ones.

Every Saturday I get RCBC Blues Radio playing online and listen as I work elsewhere on my computer and around my home. I’m hoping you will give Greg’s show a listen and enjoy it as much as I do!

“So for Bob Wineland, Roger Hammer, Blues on the Loose and Rose Hudson songs have aired. I listen each Saturday hoping to hear more Central PA blues music.”



9th Annual East Petersburg Gypsy Moon Blues Festival

Article by Greg Hogg

Saturday, September 7th East Petersburg Borough (several miles north of Lancaster on Rt.72) once again brought the blues for the 9th year FREE to everyone that visited their lovely community park at 6051 Pine Street. Mother Nature must be a blues fan as she blessed the Gypsy Moon Blues Festival with perfect weather for a late summer day. In years past Mother Nature has been fickle in that aspect.

Hundreds of folks arrived with lawn chairs and blanket spreads to enjoy the nice weather and the 6 fabulous blues bands that graced the beautiful one year old Lancaster Toyota Amphitheater stage. Band booking, emcee chores and guest sax playing were once again masterfully handled by Randy Bucksner. Mountville, PA's Phil Kresge provided and manned the sound equipment which assured every band their opportunity to fill the air with sweet music. 50 or more BSCP members supported this festival both as performers and audience and BSCP Merchandise Committee Chair, John Rignani lugged our merch in to introduce and promote our blues society to new faces. He was a busy man.

By now you readers are probably thinking, "But Greg, enough background info, who were this year's featured bands?"

Kicking off the day of fun was the Little Buddy Band. "Little Buddy" Mark Kormanik on lead guitar and vocals, Tom Webb on drums and backing vocals, Ken McCoy on sax and backing vocals and Anton-Marc Clockson on bass guitar. A mixed set of both original "Little Buddy" written tunes and their own styling of cover tunes. They set the bar high for the remaining performers.



After a quick stage change and sound check, Acoustic Stew, a central PA favorite band strummed, fiddled and sang their sweet harmonies in their mellow perfection. Acoustic Stew is "Rocky" Rothrock, lead & rhythm guitar/lead and backing vocals, Bob Wineland, lead, rhythm and resonator guitar/lead and backing vocals, Marianna Schaffer, fiddle & percussion/lead and backing vocals, David E. Harris, bass guitar and David Nailor, cajon/vocals. The "Stew" were melodic, soothing and much appreciated!



Philadelphia based Bluestime, a four piece band added their mix of Chicago and Philly blues and returned to the Gypsy Moon Festival's new stage this year after performing indoors at their rain washed out 2017 visit to East Petersburg which forced the festival inside the Community building. Outdoors they spread their wings and rocked the place! Bluestime Band is Andy King, guitar and vocals, Bob King, guitars, Wes Kelley, bass guitar and "Chicago Steve" Buschbacher on drums.

Another Philadelphia band making their 2nd Gypsy Moon Festival appearance, also victims of the 2017 washed out indoor show is Tatter, Tucker, Moog and Jackson. This well seasoned keyboard and harmonica driven band is vocally strong and features Oklahoma born Zita Jackson's smooth jazzy blues vocals, Scott Tatter drumming and vocals, Paul Tucker on keyboards and vocals and Carol Moog's excellent harmonica. As refreshing as the beautiful weather of the day each band's varied styles of blues music kept the festival fresh as well.

Lancaster's Blues on the Loose brought their A game to East Petersburg's Lancaster Toyota Amphitheater stage and as a local favorite band they had their fans up and dancing on the lawn. As the evening was now upon us the stage was stunningly lit by the setting sun and the band was soaking up the energy! BOTL is Lewy Dean Beckett, harmonica/lead vocals, Tom Lowry, keyboards, accordion, lead and backing vocals, Jay McElroy, lead guitar/vocals, David Secunda, drums, and filling in for BOTL winged warrior Doug Porter healing from wrist surgery was Mike Bitts on bass guitar.



As darkness overcame the East Petersburg Community Park, festival headlining act of 9th annual Gypsy Moon Blues Festival, Rose Hudson and her band took the stage. Rose's strong soulful blues vocals put the icing on the cake! Rose's band for the day was John McGovern on bass guitar, "Rocky" Rothrock on lead guitar, Tom Lowry on keyboards, David Secunda on drums and Chuck Whiteman on sax.



Through nine years of East Petersburg Gypsy Moon Blues Festivals the BSCP has proudly been among the sponsors and we thank East Petersburg Borough and Randy Bucksner for keeping the blues alive in central PA



The Pianos of Lancaster

Article by Roger Hammer

Philadelphia may be known as the City of Brotherly Love, but Lancaster is the City of Pianos. On a recent visit there I thought it would be fun to play as many of their painted street pianos as possible. But wait a minute, what am I talking about? Painted pianos? On the streets?



Yes indeed. For those of you not living in Lancaster, a bit of background may help, which you can find at <https://musicforeveryone.org>. The organization Music for Everyone has been doing great things to promote art, music and community, including their Keys for the City project. In 2019, for the tenth straight year now, Music for Everyone and the city of Lancaster have hosted exhibits of pianos that are painted by local artists and are set up around the heart of the city for anyone to see and play. Shown here is the 2019 map.

To quote from their website: "The objective of Keys for the City is to provide access to musical opportunity, foster creativity and build a sense of community among the public and, in the process, raise resources awareness for local music and visual arts education initiatives."

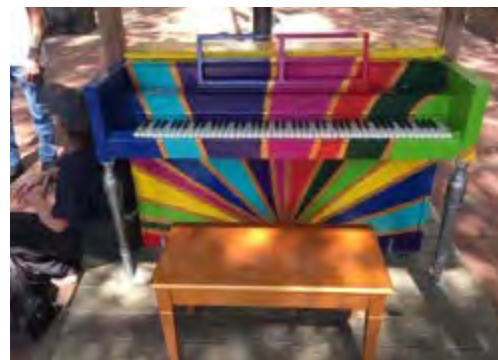
Map is © Music for Everyone

From my personal perspective, having started out taking piano lessons at an early age, the whole idea rang my bell. Instead of cities with the same old stuff on every corner, what about painted pianos, with love and music shared all around? This felt like a dream to me, idealistic for sure, but it can really happen. Read on.

This is a Blues newsletter, and if I may venture a guess, guitar is probably more often recognized than piano as being the dominant blues instrument. Harp players may disagree... but our purpose is not to argue, but to inform and entertain! In my early piano lessons based on classical stuff (you know, Bach, Beethoven, Brahms) I was lucky enough to veer off into the world of Boogie Woogie. The moving bass lines have stuck with me forever, and so with blues song writers and blues lovers. We must at least mention the influence of Ray Charles and somewhat lesser known piano greats like Pinetop Perkins and Otis Spann. Please go find their music, but meanwhile, back to visiting the painted pianos.

On a late summer day in August I hopped the train to Lancaster, where I met up with our 2019 BSCP President, Kathy Gregoire. A Lancaster resident, she was kind enough to help guide our walking tour to about a dozen of the painted pianos. A big thanks to her too for taking photos and videos to document the journey. In the following I'll share some of the piano encounters. The pianos mentioned here are in no particular order, although during the tour we tried

to save some steps to visit as many as efficiently as possible. You are encouraged to visit Lancaster to take your own tour - if not for the pianos, for the atmosphere and architecture of this city founded back in 1730.



Right across the street from the Central Market is this one, the Lancaster County Community Foundation Piano. This is a busy corner and there were some dudes hanging out there, so I had to take my turn to sit down. The presence of pianos in public places is inviting, to either marvel at the colorful artwork, or even sit down and play. Some of the pianos by late Summer are not in the greatest shape, but this beauty played pretty well and was located under a cover. If you do nothing else, visit the Central Market and this one. It is vividly painted... except for the bench, which maybe got replaced; not sure.



On N. Queen St. we found the Community Action Partnership (CAP) piano. Here there were sounds of buses and some personal problems going on, but I have to say just the presence of the piano only helped to calm and quiet the scene. Each of these pianos is painted by groups of artists, so you will see a lot of diversity in the color choices and themes. Even the benches show a lot of creativity. The interesting thing is that all are very different, and present different challenges to the player due to how they have been treated and have weathered outdoors. This is art and music in community life.



Outside of the library, the RKL piano is this a pretty white one with symbols suggesting high aspirations, maybe even atoms or the stars. I thought this one would play like a concert upright. But no. It was puzzling to me that many of the black keys that are normally raised up were not only broken off but some of the white keys were stuck too. Tired of too much homework? Reaction to something else? Are the geeky library types now vandals? This is the real life of these pianos. It seems that every street piano sees a lot of city life where they get banged around a lot. The player just needs to find enough working keys to make chords that work on some kind of song.



Pianos evolved from harpsichords, which you may hear in Baroque Music. The strings of that instrument are plucked when the musician plays the keys. Harpsichords used the familiar keyboard we know with larger flat keys and raised ones for sharps and flats. Then in the late 1700's, around the time of Mozart, the modern piano was developed, sounding more than one string per note with the strings struck by a hammer to produce a much more dynamic sound. Which is to say, the hammered piano could play really loud as well as soft. In those days in Vienna, the fortepiano (forte means loud) also became known as the hammerklavier, which is also the name of a famous Beethoven sonata. The author smiles at this namesake.



The modern piano carries on that evolution in various forms. The largest version today is the grand

piano, as used in orchestra concerts. There is also a baby grand which has a similar shape but is smaller. Except for the baby grand shown here on the second floor of Tellus, the street pianos are all an even more compact version that are called upright or spinet pianos.



Tellus, on King St. is quite a venue worthy of a story all its own. It spans from the basement to a great street level pub, to an upstairs pub, then to a rooftop area with greenery all its own. This baby grand is in the upper floor. Being inside, it plays quite well and exceeds my ability to do it justice. Actually this venue has another upright piano too, probably for serious partying and entertaining. Plus an old organ where you pump the pedals back and forth to activate the wind to play through its internal pipes. Grandma told be about playing one like that.

Although you are certainly free to wander around as you wish, we saw some numbered markers on the sidewalk like these, labelled Piano Path. It would be interesting to try to follow them in a numbered sequence in a future tour. I do not know for sure if the sidewalk markers are up to date but if you want a current, numbered list you can go to the Music For Everyone website. They also have a game called Piano Passport where you can answer questions about all 15 pianos to win a prize. Anybody interested?



Each location is as unique as the artwork itself. Some are easy to see, like the bright yellow one near a parking lot, or the lime colored one by the YWCA on (where else?) Lime St. I found myself trying to find a tune in my limited piano song list that would not only play with the condition of the keys, but that might fit in with artwork and surroundings.

Looking back on the tour it seemed to me that the organizers' objectives were definitely met. I hope a similar experience will be felt by many more residents and visitors to Lancaster. What a lot of fun!!

Closing with a few more pictures. Even the back sides can be beautiful.



We hope you enjoyed this story of our walking piano blues cruise. We are lucky to have so much good music and art around. Peace and Pianos forever !



Upcoming Gigs

Appearances in the coming weeks and months by Harrisburg-Lancaster-York area bands and touring notables who play some or all blues.

OCTOBER 2019

- 1—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 3—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 4—Nate Myers, McCleary's Pub, Marietta, Pa. 9:30 p.m.
- 4—Octavia Blues Band, The Porch Restaurant and Pub, Myerstown, 8 p.m.
- 4—Blue Voodoo Duo, Lucky Ducks Bar & Grill, Elizabethtown, 7 p.m.
- 4—Moe Blues Band, First Friday Oxford, Oxford, n/a.
- 8—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 10—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 11—Skyla Burrell Band, Elk's Lodge, Hanover, call.
- 12—Roger Hammer, 42+ Beers and Food Too, Fredericksburg, 6 p.m.
- 12—Blue Voodoo Duo, Shanks Pub Crawl, Marietta, 3 p.m.
- 5—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 17—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 18—Pair of Aces Duo, Downtown Lounge, Cumberland, 8 p.m.
- 18—Benjamin Vo Blues Band, 551 West, Lancaster, 9 p.m.
- 18—Skyla Burrell Band, Conewago Inn, Manchester, call.
- 18—Blue Voodoo, Etters VFW, Etters, 8 p.m.
- 19—Roger Hammer, Fall Furnace Festival at Fuller Lake, Gardners, 2 p.m.
- 19—Skyla Burrell Band, 551 West, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
- 19—Blue Voodoo, Amvets Post 153, Columbia, 2 p.m.
- 22—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 24—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 29—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 31—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2019

- 1—Blue Voodoo Duo, Lucky Ducks Bar & Grill, Elizabethtown, 7 p.m.
- 2—Blue Voodoo, Pappy T's, Hamburg, 9:30 p.m.
- 5—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 7—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 8—Blues On The Loose, Conewago Inn, Manchester, call.
- 8—Blue Voodoo, West Manchester VFW, York, 8 p.m.
- 9—Octavia Blues Band, with Mike Grisafi, Loxley's Restaurant at Heritage Hotel, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
- 26—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.

- 28—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 29—Blue Voodoo, Elks Club, Hanover, 7 p.m.
- 30—Blue Voodoo, 551 West, Lancaster, 9 p.m.

DECEMBER 2019

- 3—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 5—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 5—Pair Of Aces Duo, Crostwater Distillery, Lewisberry, 7 p.m.
- 6—Blue Voodoo, New Holland Legion, New Holland, 8 p.m.
- 10—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 12—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 13—Pair Of Aces Duo, Burd's Nest Brewery, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
- 14—Free Reign (Octavia & Mary Emelio Band) 551 West, Lancaster, 9 p.m.
- 17—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 19—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 20—Blue Voodoo, Ephrata VFW, Ephrata, 9 p.m.
- 21—Blues On The Loose, 551 West, Lancaster, call.
- 21—Blue Voodoo, Ancient Order of the Croaking Frog, Quarryville, 8 p.m.
- 26—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 27—Blue Voodoo, Lucky Duck's Bar & Grill, Elizabethtown, 7 p.m.
- 28—Blues On The Loose, Stoner Grille, Lancaster, 7:30 p.m.
- 28—Pair of Aces Duo, Castlerigg Wine Shop, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
- 31—Blue Voodoo, Columbia Elks, Columbia, 8 p.m.

This schedule is subject to change, may not be all-inclusive and may not include gigs out of state or beyond a 100-mile radius of Harrisburg-Lancaster area. All listings are in Pennsylvania unless noted otherwise. It's advised that you check with the venue in advance to confirm. The schedule will be updated on www.BSCPblues.org as needed. To be part of the Upcoming Gigs, please send an email to Andrew Kehe at kehe.ja@gmail.com



P.O. Box 453
Steelton, PA 17113

ELECTRIC JAM EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT AT CHAMPIONS IN HIGHSPIRE PA



STARTS AT 7 PM