



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

Jan - Mar 2019

BLUES NEWS

From your President...

HAPPY

Seems like Happy is the opposite of the Blues, but we all know the blues is what makes us happy. And what a great time was had by all at the last two blues society events: The Cash Box Kings with opening band Buzzard Luck, and the Christmas Party with the Brandon Santini Band. On the happiness scale, I would rate both of these events as 10s.

For all those moments of happiness, I am so grateful to the many BSCP board members and the general membership volunteers who generously gave of their time and talents to arrange for and take care of the bands and facilities, to provide food and service, to manage the merchandize, to conduct the raffles and membership/tickets tables, to keep the finances in order, to promote and record the events, and, most importantly, to attend and support keepin' the blues alive!

A special shout out to Stephen Solotist who generously donated a BootLegger guitar, gig bag, T- shirt, hat, whiskey flask, and an A.C. Steel & The Galvanizers CD for Greg Hogg to raffle off at the Christmas Party. Check out the band on YouTube. Congratulations to winner Bill Lang!



NEW

We love January 1st! It is a chance to revive old dreams, an opportunity to create new visions. Something about having fresh beginnings in our lives inspires us, giving us focus, hope, and an extra boost of energy to elevate our lives and communities. Your BSCP board is no exception. Right now we are in the process of reviewing our mission, purpose, and committees to keep improving how BSCP meets the needs of membership and the blues community. We know that in order to have a healthy blues society we need lots of committee volunteers; many hands make for light work and more fun.

YEAR!

As I reflect on 2018, I am so grateful for all of the magical moments of blues music. And I see that offering to volunteer for our blues society opened the door for me to get to know so many wonderful, fun, hard-working people who love the blues as much as I do. The sweet irony is, as you know, one generally gets much more in return than one gives, and that certainly has been my experience with our blues society. Want to have a Happy New Year? Volunteer!

To paraphrase the famous JFK quote, "Ask not what your Blues Society can do for you, but what you can do for your

Blues Society." If you have some time to contribute, please consider volunteering; no amount of time is too little. Please contact me by email or phone, or talk with me or other board members at a Jam or event to volunteer or to learn more about doing so.

Keepin' the blues alive!

Kathy Gregoire
bluesmunga@gmail.com
717-799-8604

Roger Hammer Music



www.rogerhammer.com



Friday Feb 22, 2019 - 8:45
**2019 Millennium Music Conference
Showcase Concert**
Al's Pub
409 North Enola Road
Enola, PA

Saturday, March 16 - 5:30-8:30
Moo Duck Brewery
79 S. Wilson Ave.
Elizabethtown, PA

Saturday April 13 - 7:00-9:30
Castlerigg Wine Shop
110 S. Hanover St,
Carlisle, PA

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Annual BSCP Spring Music Event

Sunday, April 28, 2019

DETAILS FOLLOWING SOON ON OUR WEBSITE

@www.bscpb Blues.org

BSCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kathy Gregoire

Vice President: Mike Knott – Chair, Events Committees

Secretary: Andy Kehe

Treasurer: Gary "Rocky" Rothrock – Chair, Jam Committee

Dot Grubb – Chair, Membership Committee

Virginia "Mom" Ivanoff – Member-at-Large

Nina Vacante – Chair, Newsletter Committee, & Webmaster

Hannah Sherman – Member-at-Large

Greg Hogg – Chair, IBC Committee

Sherman Smith – Member-at-Large

John Rignani – Chair, Merchandise Committee

Rocky Woodling – Member-at-Large

Buster Grubb – Chair, Bylaws Committee

ELECTRIC JAM EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT AT CHAMPIONS IN HIGHSPIRE PA



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT BSCPBLUES.ORG FOR EVENT LISTINGS

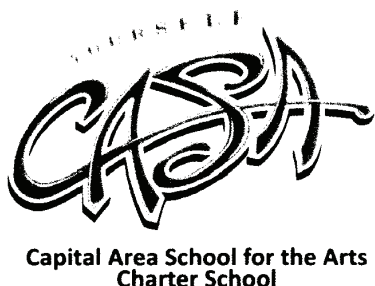
NOW STARTS AT 7 PM

CHRISTMAS PARTY with BRANDON SANTINI BAND

December 2, 2019 @ Hummelstown, PA
(Pictures courtesy of Greg Hogg and Larry Fogelson)



Blues Society of Central PA
supports
Capital Area School for the Arts!!



Board of Trustees
Sean Galloway, President
Fina Salvo, Vice-President
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Karen Degenhart
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Chris Healy
David Herman
Connie Kindler
Elizabeth P. Mullaugh
Christine Pavlakovich
Audrey Sanders
David Skerpon
Glenn Zehner

December 11, 2018

Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania
c/o Gary Rothrock
2017 Plain Mill Court
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Mr. Rothrock:

On behalf of Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School, I would like to extend our utmost appreciation and gratitude to you and the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania for the generous donation of the live audio equipment, the Shure Drum Microphone Kit, and the Washburn bass guitar to the music program. Such a donation contributes to our ever-growing program and ensures that the students have access to appropriate resources and tools. With the growing interest in music recording and production, we've begun to do more studio-style recording projects and incorporate more live sound reinforcement to our presentations. Your contribution will surely benefit our students, giving them the opportunity to work with professional equipment.

Thank you again, and we appreciate your support of arts education.

Sincerely,

T. J. Boyer
Music Teacher

Road Trippin'

by Michael Knott

Fasten your seat belts!! Back in the day we would get through the holidays anxiously awaiting any little tidbit of information on confirmed dates and lineups we could find out about the upcoming "Festival Season". Those days are over for the most part as "Festival Season" has become a year-round thing.

We are fortunate living in the Central PA area to have a few indoor festivals that are held in the winter. I often tell people we live in the perfect place for blues festivals as there are many within a short drive or only a few hours away. There are really good festivals in Pennsylvania itself and you can hop in the car and be in New York, Delaware or Maryland in less than a day's drive.

Here are the ones I will be headed to during the next three months:

International Blues Competition, Memphis, TN, Jan. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

www.blues.org

January 2019 will find me in Memphis TN for the International Blues Competition (IBC). While it is a long-distance trip, I mention it because it is a one of a kind event worth the time and travel. Blues bands from all over the world come to compete by winning their local competition. Some of those bands will continue to climb the blues ladder and appear at a festival near you. Others you may never get to see again but will be glad you had the chance. Highly Recommended.

Lancaster Roots & Blues Festival, Lancaster, PA, Feb. 22, 23, 24

www.lancasterrootsandblues.com

The first festival of the year in our local area and is held at various venues in the downtown Lancaster area with the main stage at the Lancaster County Convention Center. This is not strictly a blues festival and there is something for everyone. Shuttle buses run on a regular schedule from venue to venue. It is guaranteed to break the winter blahs as the lineups are consistently strong. Strongly recommended.

Destination Blues Festival, Bloomsburg, PA, Mar. 2

www.destinationblues.org

A short drive and you can be in the Bloomsburg area for this great little festival. It is also held at various venues with the main stage downtown at the Caldwell Consistory. There are always excellent national artists on the lineup. Strongly recommended.

I hope to see you on the Blues Highway soon!

THE CASH BOX KINGS

with opening act BUZZARD LUCK

October 6, 2018 @ Champions, Highspire, PA

(Pictures courtesy of Greg Hogg)



“The Greatest Wish”

A song by Curtis Salgado and Alan Hager

by Greg Hogg

In early 2018 Curtis Salgado and Alan Hager released the album “Rough Cut” on Alligator records. Arguably the most heard song from this disk is “The Greatest Wish”. It’s my favorite and I love it!

Perhaps Santa brought you a new puppy for Christmas or maybe a loveable older pooch has family status in your home. We love our pets...whatever breed or species they are, but dogs have often been referred to as a man’s best friend. Certainly this is the case for Curtis. If you’ve never heard this tune I’ll share it with you here.



“The Greatest Wish” written by Curtis Salgado vocals, Alan Hager guitar

“I wish I could read the minds of women
Wish I had gills for swimmin’
Wish I had movie star looks
I wish I knew every trick in the book
I’d like to feel first love again
...be twenty years younger
But the greatest wish I want to come true
I want my dog to live longer.

Wish I was the king of rock & roll
Wish I was cool and in the know
And I wish I’d wrote ‘Blowin’ in the Wind’
I’d like to see my late mother again
I’d like to stop poverty
Save this world from hunger
But the greatest wish I want to come true
I want my dog to live longer.

I want my dog to live longer
‘cause when he goes I’ll be blue
And if I had the power
Oh, I’d have him live as long as me and you
‘cause God’s got a reason for everything
And in the Lord I trust
But this ain’t right
God’s got to see the light
‘cause dogs don’t live long enough.

He cheers me up when I’m sad
He’s the best friend I’ve ever had
And I don’t care where his nose has been
I let him lick my face again and again
His love is unconditional
And that just makes me stronger

So the greatest wish I want to come true
I want my dog to live longer.
Oh, the greatest wish I want to come true
I want my dog to live longer.”



See the YouTube video here” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0liGeg9BIs>

As we begin 2019 I’m hoping that we can all set aside our differences and resolve to be as loving to others as our pets are to us. Happy New Year, friends!



In the Spot Light...

Roger Hammer

by Andrew Kehe



Like his 80s hip-hop name sake on a national scale, when a tall, lanky, blond-haired Nebraskan takes the stage around these parts, it's Hammer Time.

For patrons at the Thursday night jam at Champions, it means a set of solid low-end sounds are coming their way from the skilled bass playing of Roger Hammer. Always consistent, never overbearing, Roger sets a standard and represents the essence of what the blues jam is all about. "Roger seeks out every opportunity to play his music and has made a great contribution as a regular at our Thursday jam," said frequent jam host and performer Rocky Rothrock. "He's a well-rounded musician with a strong creative streak."

And at coffee houses, wineries, lounges, Susquehanna Folk Music Society and BSCP events, and festivals all over the area, Roger picks up an electric acoustic guitar and joins his guitar playing partner John Drudul, better known as JD, forming the Roger Hammer Music Duo. The duo chooses from a collection of more than 100 original, blues-inspired folk-rock tunes Roger has written, culled from his life experiences, the outdoors, science and causes close to Roger's heart. "I'm a tree-hugger. I like green stuff, taking care of the environment. I'm kind of a peace-nick and I'm proud of it," he says.

He's more than that. Hold on to your 12-bar blues.

There's another academically and technically diverse world in which Roger lays down the hammer, in which he has and still does put to use his Master's degree from prestigious Northwestern University to help companies solve issues ranging from environmental technology and data management strategies to integrating materials technologies to achieve sustainable business results.

He's currently an engineering systems analyst for TE Connectivity. He spent 22 years at Motorola, 10 at Shure, the microphone and turntable needle people.



In the business world he is known as Roger Lee Franz – yes, Hammer is a stage name, just as MC Hammer is for Stanley Kirk Burrell. In that universe, Roger is a published author of more than three dozen technical journal articles and has on occasion been sought out to speak on various technical and environmental challenges facing companies. Honestly, you can't touch this.

"I've not risen to the top of one thing, but tried to climb the ladder on a few," says Roger, who often jets off to his Chicago suburban home in Mundelein, Ill. to spend time with his wife Nancy, his three grown children and two dogs. "Hundreds of years ago, there was a so-called Renaissance Man, who cut across specialties and was fairly good at some of them. That's me. "If I'm proud of anything, it's playing for local events for real people. If they get some of what I'm singing about, which often crosses many barriers, I'm thrilled."

JD has witnessed first-hand the many sides of his partner and admits to sometimes being challenged by the arrangements Roger comes up with.

"Playing with Roger the past four years has been both enjoyable and a challenge due to his unorthodox musical arrangement style," JD says. "Sometimes his arrangements are off the charts. Maybe that's what makes him unique. He keeps my guitar playing moving forward." At the jam, it's different, for both. There's some overlap, but for the most part the jam offers a setting in which Roger says he can relax, get in the pocket and just play.



"I love playing the bass," he says. "I don't have to think about it, I don't have to be the biggest shredder on the block, but when the tune builds then I try to play with more emotion."

Like the majority of long-time jammers, Roger can play a multitude of instruments (piano, sax, clarinet and slide among them) and has played in dozens of bands over time as he's hopscotched from Nebraska to Iowa to Chicago and now Harrisburg – community orchestras, rock bands, folk bands, rock-folk, country, disco, and yes, biker. "I'm lucky to be alive," he says of his biker band ride.

He's been influenced by bands who were heavily influenced themselves by the blues – Bob Dylan, The Stones, The Beatles, The Animals and others. At age 15, he and a few buddies formed The Statesmen, and he's been making statements with his music ever since.

“There’s really nothing but tomorrow. Worrying about what you don’t know is never going to be a better way. Nothing about tomorrow should make you feel afraid. Keeping looking out the window tomorrow’s just another day. Get up off your past and move ahead.”
 - - - “Tomorrow” off Roger’s third CD “Up in the Air.”

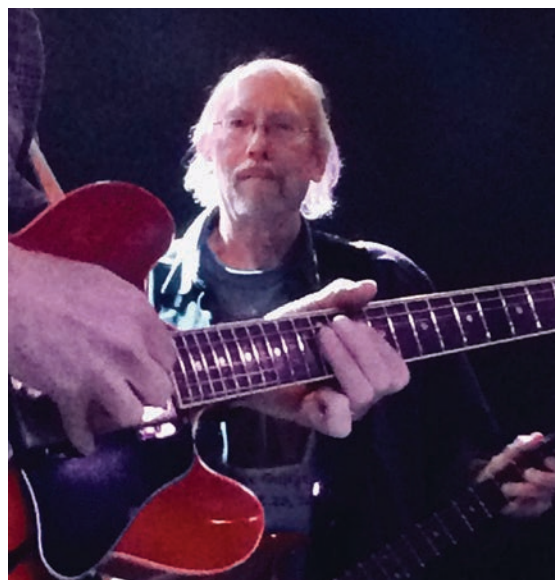
“Those words pretty well explain the way I was feeling at the time,” Roger said. “Don’t feel sorry for yourself. It’s kind of an anthem saying, ‘hey let’s do it. Get off the past, get off your ass and move on to the next thing.’”

Roger has pretty much taken his own advice and moved forward when the previous set of circumstances ran its course. The vibe in Harrisburg was almost immediately promising when he was directed to the Blues Society jam at Liquid 891 by a music shop keeper a week after arriving.

“So, I went and didn’t bring anything, but a guy lent me his bass so I got up and played,” Roger said. “It was exciting. There were people there who would lend me their instrument. Back in Chicago you can’t find anybody who would do that. I found family there. I felt right at home.” “I love playing the jam and love playing out with JD.”

In his late 60s, there seems to be no turning back Hammer Time. Not on stage, not in the business world, not in the universe of social change.

He’s just, well . . . too legit to quit.



The Roadhouse Podcast

by Greg Hogg

Needing a little more blues music in your new year? Well here's a great place to find some. Every Saturday afternoon Tony Steidler-Dennison posts a new one hour blues podcast on the internet. Tony's byline for his Roadhouse Podcasts is "The finest blues you've never heard." These little gems are free and Tony has been creating and sharing them each Saturday since February 2005 from his "little house on the prairie" in beautiful downtown Iowa City, Iowa. By the time you're reading this article Roadhouse Podcast #722 will be online. These podcasts are created by Tony with somewhat of a theme for each one. He includes newly released songs by established artists and introduces us to new up and coming artists. He also digs out previously released songs, many new to us or other's we haven't listened to in quite awhile. These Roadhouse Podcasts are found online at www.roadhousepodcast.com



If you listen to a Roadhouse Podcast and wish there was more music, never fear as all of the past Roadhouse Podcasts are archived here:

<http://roadhousepodcast.com/2008/02/03/archive/>

In addition to Tony's love of sharing blues music with us, he is an avid marathon runner. He trains and travels to compete.

As I mentioned, these podcasts are free online each Saturday but upgraded versions of them can be purchased here: <http://roadhousepodcast.com/subscribe>

I hope you enjoy the music. Happy New Year!





DON JOHNSON PROJECT (DJP)
and **3D TRIO**
and **Soul Solution**

JANUARY 2019

Wed. 2nd 7 PM **3D TRIO @ Duke's**, 1715 E. Chocolate Ave., Hershey

Sat. 5th 7 PM **Soul Solution @ Lancaster Amvets**, 715 Fairview Ave., Lancaster

Sat. 12th 7:30 **Soul Solution @ Lawnton Legion**, Derry St., Harrisburg

Fri. 25th 9 PM **Soul Solution @ Champions**, Highspire

Wed. 30th 7 PM **Don Johnson Quartet @ Duke's**, 1715 E. Chocolate Ave., Hershey

FEBRUARY 2019

Fri. 1st 7 PM **Soul Solution @ York Elks**, George St., York

Sat. 2nd 9 PM **DJP @ RIVER CITY BLUES CLUB**, 819 S. Cameron St., HBG

Wed. 6th 7 PM **3D TRIO @ Duke's**, 1715 E. Chocolate Ave., Hershey

Fri. 15th 8 PM **Soul Solution @ Lancaster Legion**, 1388 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster

Sat. 16th 8 PM **DJP @ American Legion Post 1001**, 225 Greenawalt Lane, Harrisburg

Sat. 23rd 7:30 **Soul Solution @ Lawnton Legion**, Derry St., HBG

Wed. 27th 7 PM **Don Johnson Quartet @ Duke's**, 1715 E. Chocolate Ave., Hershey

MARCH 2019

Wed. 6th 7 PM **3D TRIO @ Duke's**, 1715 E. Chocolate Ave., Hershey

Fri. 8th 9:30 **DJP @ Chick's Tavern**, 120 E. 2nd St., Hummelstown

Sat. 9th 9 PM **Soul Solution @ River City Blues Club**, 819 S. Cameron St., HBG

Fri. 15th 7 PM **DJP @ York Elks**, George St., York

Sat. 23rd 8 PM **Soul Solution @ Progress FCHA**, 28 Short St., HBG

Wed. 27th 7 PM **Don Johnson Quartet @ Duke's**, 1715 E. Chocolate Ave., Hershey

NOTE: Schedule always subject to change.

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