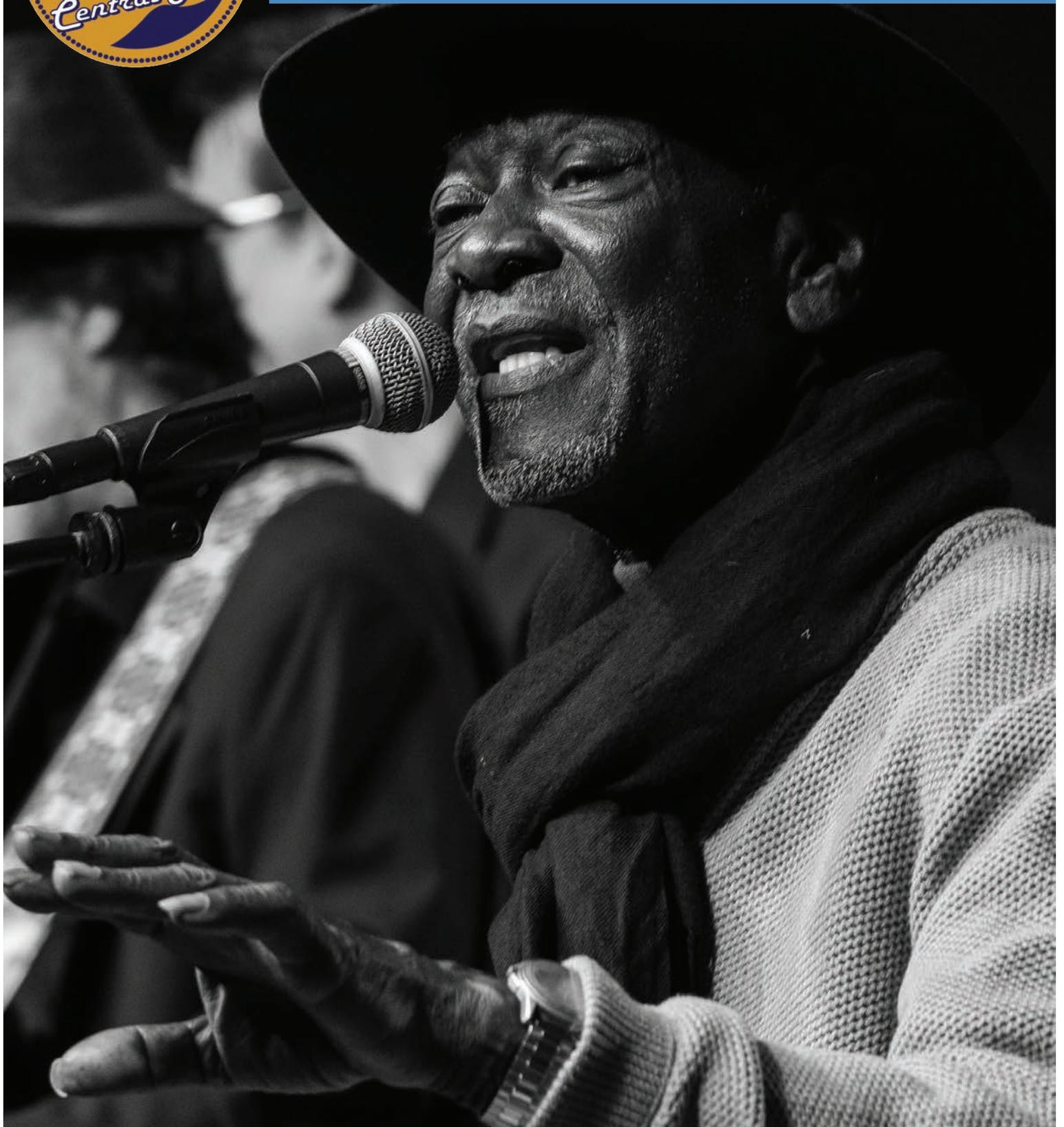




Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania  
<http://www.bscpb Blues.org>

April - June 2019

# BLUES NEWS



FRANK BEY PAGE 6 • PHOTO BY LARRY FOGELSON

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## BSCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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...

Last week a fellow blues traveler, Jeff Schmidt, sent me an online article "Science confirms: Dancing makes you happy." Of course, this is something we don't need "science" to let us know. We live it. But it did get me thinking about how important music and dancing are in our lives.

After reading the article, I googled "dance and happiness" and found lots more articles that confirmed and expanded my ideas about music and dancing and well-being. Researchers report that babies are born to dance. They love a beat and move in time to music before they even learn to speak. Dancing has been found to integrate the mind, body, and soul into one activity that provides a mental escape and improves memory, balance, and coordination. Studies report that it even reduces the onset of dementia.

Dancing is a direct line to happiness.

It amplifies the positive effects of music by releasing endorphins, such as dopamine and cortisol, creating feelings of comfort, satisfaction, and relaxation and promoting euphoria and high pain tolerance. One of my favorite sayings is "When troubles trouble you, all you gotta do is dance".

We are fortunate to be able to "keep on dancing" every Thursday evenings (7 pm) at Champions in Highspire, thanks to our many talented, dedicated, generous Central PA musicians who keep us in good health and spirits.

Your Blues Society has some exceptional events coming up that will stir your soul and get you dancing "like no one is watching." Sunday, April 28, at 2 pm at Champions in Highspire, we have a double thriller: Frank Bey (Back in Business) and special guest, Gabe Stillman (IBC Guitar award for best new performer). I was able to joyfully dance to both of these

performers at the Lancaster 2019 Roots and Blues Festival, and I am so excited to see them again!

And then Sunday, May 26, will be the Mom I's picnic in Mechanicsburg. This is always an outstanding event featuring local musicians, but this year it is very special as it will also be a BSCP Backyard Blues CD release party. Come celebrate with us!

Before I sign off, I just want to take a moment to honor Terry Eutz who passed away March 17, 2019, and to offer my condolences to his family members and to his blues family who already misses him so much. May his loving spirit always be with us.

Keeping the blues alive,

Kathy Gregoire  
[bluesmunga@gmail.com](mailto:bluesmunga@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATES

**Sunday April 28 – Frank Bey & Gabe Stillman**

**Sunday May 26 – Mom I's Picnic/BSCP CD Release Party**

**Sunday July 21 – Mississippi Railroad**

**Saturday September 28 – Fall Show**

**Sunday December 8 – BSCP Christmas Party**

Please visit our website @ <http://www.bscpblues.org/news&events.html> for further information when artists are confirmed and additional details on each function.

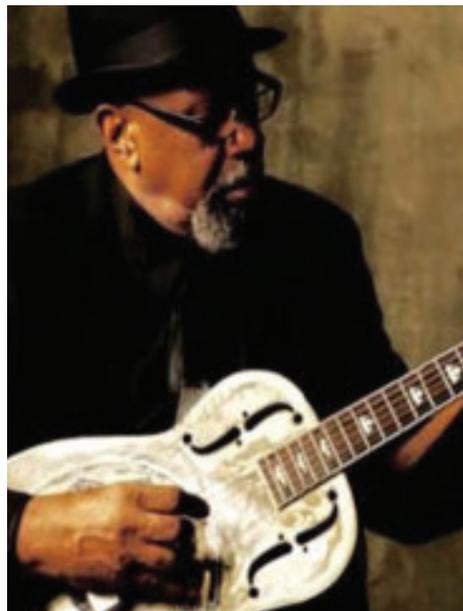
# In Memoriam



**Michael Ledbetter**

April 27, 1985 - January 21, 2019

Michael Ledbetter, a singer and guitar player whose powerful vocals wowed audiences in the U.S., Europe and Russia, passed away at age 33 on Jan. 21, 2019. Michael was a 2019 Blues Music Award nominee in two Blues Foundation categories, vocalist of the year and "B.B. King Entertainer." The Welch-Ledbetter Connection is also up for band of the year. In 2018, he and Mike Welch, his bandmate in the Welch-Ledbetter Connection, won a Blues Music Award for best traditional blues album for their Delta Groove LP, "***Right Place, Right Time.***" Michael performed for the BSCP at the 2015 Christmas Party as part of the Nick Moss Band.



**Bill Sims Jr.**

June 23, 1949 - February 2, 2019

William (Bill) Sims Jr. died at age 69 on February 2, 2019 at his home in Queens, NY. Bill Sims was an internationally respected "Master of the Blues" inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2012. He founded and led many bands over the years, most notably the Heritage Blues Orchestra. His most influential work however, as a mentor to countless up and coming musicians on the New York City music scene.



**Michael Mettalia**

June 27, 1962 - March 1, 2019

Michael J. Mettalia of Perkasio, PA passed away March 1, 2019 at the age of 56. Mike was a songwriter, harmonica player and vocalist in the band he formed in 2005, Mike Mettalia and Midnight Shift. They were well known in the Philadelphia region and released 4 albums. He was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2018. Founding member of Michael Mettalia & Midnight Shift. Michael was a good friend to the BSCP and played many shows in our area.



20th Anniversary of the Blues Society Picnic This Year!



# The Mom I Picnic Sunday May 26, 2019

**Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds  
199 Glendale Drive  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050**

**12 pm - 7 pm**

Proudly Presented By

**The Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania**

**SPECIAL EVENT! CD RELEASE PARTY!**

## Back Yard Blues

The Blues Society will celebrate the release of our second blues compilation CD featuring original music from our local artists including:



BLUES ON THE LOOSE

BUZZARD LUCK



ROSE HUDSON WITH BARRELHOUSE



ROCKY ROTHROCK

NATE MYERS TRIO

THE MIGHTY KLUCKS

BOB WINELAND

ROGER HAMMER



Come to the party and hear these artists perform this new music and more!

**Admission \$25/\$20 in advance - includes food and drinks**

# BSCP PROUDLY PRESENTS **FRANK BEY**

## with SPECIAL GUEST GABE STILLMAN BAND

by **ANDREW KEHE**

**K**idney dialysis on Friday. Rest. Travel west from Philly. Take the stage Saturday, then again on Sunday, impeccably dressed as always with cane in hand and a chair to sit on. Perform like there's no tomorrow.

Travel home Sunday night. Kidney dialysis again the next day.

That's how five-time Blues Music Award (BMA) soul blues nominee Frank Bey rolls.

It's been an uphill struggle, but since his burgeoning, some might say surprising, association began in 2016 with Buddy Guy's three-time Grammy winning producer/song writer Tom Hambridge, it's been rolling downhill for a change. – gaining steam on a collision course, possibly, with an elusive BMA next month.

Bey will artfully expose his Hambridge-inspired, soulful blend of blues on April 28 when he brings his Frank Bey Soul Blues Band into Champions Sports Bar & Grill for a show presented by the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania.

Regional draw, International Blues Challenge finalist and like Bey, Lancaster Roots & Blues hit Gabe



Stillman Band will open the show at 2 p.m.

If the BMA doesn't come, Bey's fifth nomination won't have gone for naught. He's telling his story now of persistence in the face of failing health, poverty and artistic setbacks through the lyrics of Hambridge, who wrote six of the tunes and produced the BMA nominated 2018 release "Back in Business," Bey's first solo release in 13 years.

"It's like the creator all of the sudden placed all these things together and it's brought my career to the front," said the 73-year-old Millen, Georgia native in a phone interview. "I'm not making lot of

money but I'm having one heck of a good time."

"I've been gone for a while, but I'm back in business now.

So many things have happened it's hard to believe I'm still around."

-- "Back in Business Now," title track from the 2018 release "Back in Business."

Bey, who got his break opening for Otis Redding when he was just a teenager, has approached stardom in the past, but circumstances got in the way each time. First it was bad record deal with James Brown that derailed a promising run with his funk band Moorish Vanguard.



That sent Bey into the depths of a different kind of funk – one that led him away from music for 17 years and in perpetual quest for satisfaction in the restaurant and cab-driving sectors.

Years after rekindling his career, Bey cut his first solo album in 1998, but kidney issues derailed any attempts to promote it. Dialysis, a transplant and recovery sidelined Bey for another eight years.

Healthy enough to travel, Bey cut another solo album in 2006 before hooking up with Anthony Paule out of San Francisco and his touring blues band. Together, they produced three CDs, two of them garnering two BMA nominations each, “Soul for Your Blues” in 2014 and “Not Going Away” two years later.

It seemed Bey had found the magic potion. But the relationship soon soured, as had his transplanted kidney. A restricting dialysis schedule, the miles between Paule and Bey - both geographically and artistically – and Bey’s ultimate desire to be the leader and not just a member of the band, led to their breakup.

Bey found himself still in demand but somewhat rudderless when he played a gig in Switzerland that Hambridge stumbled upon.

Hambridge, who has written and/or produced for a who’s-who list of iconic rock, country and blues artists including George Thorogood, ZZ Top, B.B. King, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Meat Loaf, Susan Tedeschi, Johnny Winter and Hank Williams Jr., invited Bey to Nashville to talk about cutting a CD. The two got together in Nashville and Hambridge offered a proposal.

“He said when you get back home, I’m going to send you some songs. If you like them, OK. If you don’t like them, don’t hesitate to say it,” Bey said.

“Two weeks later he sent like three songs. I loved them. They were actually about my life’s story. So, I was amazed. I’m a performer and I’d like to be a writer but I don’t have that gift. He has that gift and he told my story and give it to me to deliver.”

The same session musicians who played on Guy’s Grammy winners were hired to back up Bey on “Back in Business.” Hambridge himself played drums and Bey’s longtime guitarist Jeff Monjack wrote three songs and played as well.

“I love the CD,” Bey said. “I can sing it for a long time because it’s my life story.”

Hambridge’s tie to “Back in Business” is no doubt helping the CD get more plays and streams than what Bey has experienced before. Bey performed at Lancaster Roots & Blues in February, and appearances in general are up, said his manager Tom Dwyer.

Branching into a different medium, Bey is the subject of an unfinished

documentary titled “Ask Me How I Feel,” produced by Dwyer, who was so drawn to Bey and his story that he’s traveled the world with Bey shooting what now totals 140 hours of film.

“Three years ago, I met Frank and heard him perform and my sense was that this guy really has something worth recording,” said Dwyer, who acknowledged the project needs money to complete. A Kickstarter campaign has been established to to accomplish that. “He’s extremely articulate, photogenic and tells stories better than anybody I’ve ever heard.

“The more I get to know him, the more I like him. People who know him and have seen him play really will come great distances to see him perform.”

He will not emit this vibe, but Bey is not a healthy man. Nor is he a rich man, despite his always sharp appearance. It is Dwyer’s hope that the documentary will inspire someone to donate a kidney. But other medical issues, including dental, need to be addressed before Bey even qualifies to receive a kidney.

Bey requires exhausting dialysis three times a week. When on the road far away from home, he needs to arrange visits at a dialysis center.

“He’s hanging in there,” Dwyer said. “It’s truly amazing. He just killed it in Lancaster. It’s amazing how strong he is and how much he gives to the audience.”

Bey’s not about to let an old nemesis rob him of renewed hope and energy. His time is now, he says



– and it’s better late than never.

“When I come out there, you are gonna hear my new CD,” Bey said. “But most of all, you’re gonna hear me from the depth of my inner spirit. That’s the way I sing.”

To learn more about Frank Bey and to hear his music, go to [www.frankbeymusic.com](http://www.frankbeymusic.com).

To learn more about “Ask Me How I Feel,” and the Kickstarter campaign, go to [www.frankbeyfilm.com](http://www.frankbeyfilm.com).

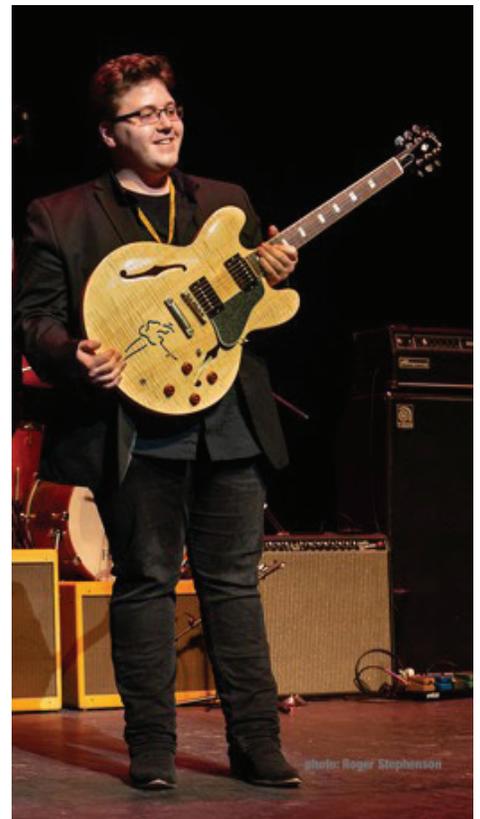
## GABE STILLMAN BAND

It’s only April, and it’s been a good year already for the Gabe Stillman Band, which came on strong in 2018 to establish itself as a solid festival draw and International Blues Challenge performer.

Hot off a finalist effort at the IBC in January, and a solid performance at the Lancaster Roots & Blues Festival, the band opens for headliner Frank Bey for the second straight night when he takes the stage at 2 p.m. on April 28 at Champions Sports Bar & Grill.

The band, based in Williamsport, is led by Gabe Stillman, a Berklee College of Music grad who took home the prestigious Gibson Guitar Award for best guitarist at the IBC in Memphis. The band is a Billtown Blues Festival staple after having won the Billtown Blues Challenge twice, and is a mainstay on the regional blues festival circuit.

For more on the Gabe Stillman Band, go to [www.gabestillman.com](http://www.gabestillman.com).



THE BLUES SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PA IS PROUD TO PRESENT

# FRANK BEY

**BACK IN BUSINESS**



# SUN APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>

AT CHAMPIONS SPORTS BAR

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

## GABE STILLMAN

DOORS OPEN AT 1 PM

SHOW STARTS AT

### 2 PM



photo credit Laura Carbone

## \$20

### BRING A FRIEND!

WWW.FRANKBEYMUSIC.COM  
WWW.GABESTILLMAN.COM  
WWW.BSCPBLUES.ORG

CHAMPIONS 300 2ND ST, HIGHSPIRE, PA 17034



poster design by www.RockyWoodling.com 2019



# In the Spotlight...

## Marianna Wright Schaffer

by Andrew Kehe



**M**arianna Wright Schaffer's musical journey began at age 6 when she joined the Beatles, who were invading America at the time.

She was Ringo.

Her all-girlfriend, make believe band didn't last long. Nor did her desire to be Ringo, or a rocker in general.

And aren't local country, blue grass and blues fans grateful? Not that she wouldn't have made a great Beatle, er . . . rocker.

She would have figured it out.

"Seeing the Beatles on Ed Sullivan had significant on me, and yet I played piano," said Marianna, the bass- and violin-playing Blues Jam regular and Acoustic Stew fiddler and crooner.

"I didn't even know I'd be a musician until I was 21. I went to a blues grass festival and loved it and came home saying, 'I want to play that instrument (fiddle).'"

Ringo was just a memory and Charlie Daniels became the man. Despite no formal training,

Marianna got so good over the 1980s and into the 90s that she found herself opening for Daniels, George Jones, Ricky Skaggs among others as a touring member of Matters of the Heart.

She accepted encouragement and advice and had figured it out.

Skip ahead to the late 90s when she discovers how cool it is to play bass. Her church needing one for its praise band provides the motivation to again reinvent herself.

She then gets talked into signing up for a Blues Society Jam in 2010 and uh-oh, now what? Ringo's drum fills were more familiar to her than the blues.

"I had no blues background and very little training. I was terrified!" Marianna said. "To prep for (the jam), I went to YouTube and looked up 'How to play 12-bar blues.'"

It took her maybe a song or two to get solidly in the pocket. Again, she had figured it out, much to set leader Don Judy's delight.

"When it was finally our turn, I remember he would turn around



while we were playing to keep an eye on me and let me know he was listening," she said. "The first few times a smile started spreading across his lips, and by the end he was in full-blown Don Judy smile."

It got Rocky Rothrock's attention too. When an opening for a fiddle player came up with Acoustic Stew, he knew just who to get.

"Marianna is one of the most



playing blues on the bass."

"When I was a newbie, I received direction from others more experienced than I, and I'm still learning. Now, when I play with less experienced players I try to encourage and guide."

talented musicians it's been my pleasure to work with," he said. "She has a beautiful voice and an amazing ear for vocal harmonies, but most importantly, she is a kind and spiritual lady who is great to work with."

That first jam, which Marianna acknowledged came during a very dark period in her life, provided a spark and triggered a true love affair with the jam and the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania, of which she became president.

"I'm so grateful for the people at the jam who have really welcomed me and encouraged me," she said. "I felt at home, like I was in a safe environment. As a woman and you go to a place like a jam by yourself, it's an awkward situation. I felt very much like I was with family, protected. I knew for a fact that several people were watching my back."

Because she plays violin at church and with Acoustic Stew, Marianna usually picks up the bass when at the jam, and won't hesitate to pay her knowledge forward to newer players.

"I love playing bass," she says. "I love

Marianna's life now as a newly-married, IT systems technologist at Dickinson College (itself a career reinvention), member of two bands, a violin teacher and blues jammer might have turned out quite different had it not been for a tough decision she reached, along with the rest of Matters at Heart, to disband.

They had it goin' on, with a record label, original songs that were getting lots of play in Europe, including one by Marianna, and a tour of Eastern Europe booked. But a severe flood derailed the tour, and when a country label subsequently said they wanted to bring on only the star of the band, forsaking the rest, they decided together to pass. Eventually, they went their own ways.



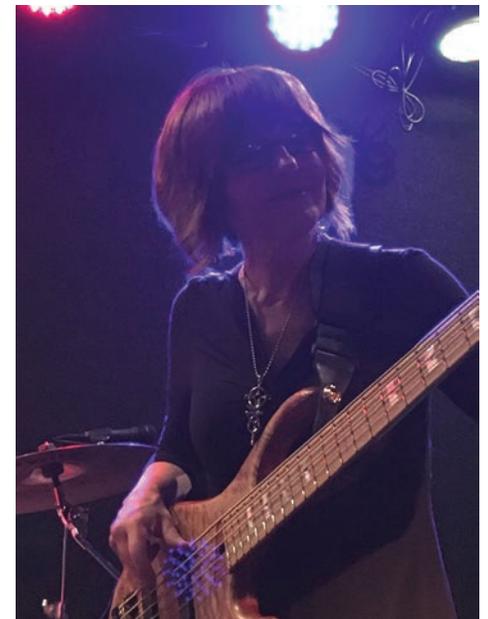
"We wanted to go on as a unit. That's not how it works in country music," Marianna said.

No regrets. Her devote faith and simple musical pursuits have served her well, including her now seven-year association with Acoustic Stew. Vocal cord paralysis and vocal cord surgery three years ago severely threatened her future as a singer. But again, she's figured out a way to belt out a tune, even though she says the full range isn't quite there.

Was it ever fully there for Ringo Starr? How many times has he had to reinvent himself? The awkward kid from Liverpool finding his way to enormous success in America.

"It Don't Come Easy," Ringo famously wrote.

Maybe it's not so curious that Marianna was drawn to him.



# Road Trippin'

by Michael Knott

## **Lookin' in the rearview mirror:**

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

The days start off with showcases, workshops and roundtables followed in the evening by the Quarterfinals, held in all the clubs along Beale St. on Wednesday and Thursday. Friday evening is the semi-finals and Saturday is the finals held in the beautiful Orpheum Theatre during the day with All-star jams that includes national artists in all the clubs every night until the wee hours.

As with any artistic competition, not everyone can win and judging can be somewhat subjective. There were bands I saw that I felt would make the finals but didn't and bands in the finals I thought might win but didn't. And sometimes you pick it right. This is the case every year. For the bands, the win is nice but lots of bands never won and went on to very successful careers, including Susan Tedeschi, Michael Burks and a bunch more. The beauty for fans is getting to see great bands from all over the world, most of which you'll never get an opportunity to see again.

This year's winners were: Bands: 3rd place, the Celso Salim Band (Santa Clarita Valley Blues Society). 2nd place, Sammy Eubanks & the Workin' Class (Washington Blues Society). 1st place, Ms. Hy-C & Fresh Start (St. Louis Blues Society)

Solo/Duo: 2nd place, Theresa Malenfant & Scott Medford (East Coast Blues Society) 1st place, Jon Shain (Triangle Blues Society).

Gibson Guitar Award: Gabe Stillman (Billtown Blues Association) ***See Gabe Stillman at our BSCP Show, Sunday, 2 pm, April 28, 2019, Champions, 300 2nd St., Highspire, PA.***

Memphis Cigar Box Guitar Award: Steve Strongman

(Grand River Blues Society) Lee Oskar Harmonica Award: Darryl Carriere (Santa Clarita Valley Blues Society) Best Self-produced CD: "Lock Up the Liquor", Little Red Rooster Blues Band (Central Delaware Blues Society)

## ***Lancaster Roots & Blues Festival, Feb. 22, 23, 24***

Another great weekend of music with many friends. It was not without the usual pitfalls of a multi-venue event. You can't be everywhere, the clubs were crowded and seats were scarce. The festival vibe and quality of music made it all worthwhile. The bands were great with a variety of styles represented. The clubs were the most crowded on Saturday, with Friday and Sunday also well attended but with more space to move around.

## **On the horizon:**

### ***Blues, Brews, & BBQ, Chambersburg, Pa. May 4***

[www.thecapitaltheatre.org](http://www.thecapitaltheatre.org) It doesn't get any easier than a quick run on 81 South to Chambersburg. I can't comment much because I've never attended but it would be my guess this is a smaller festival. I hope to attend this year; it's hard to go wrong with Blues Brews & BBQ.

### ***Mom I Picnic (Formerly, The Treasurer's Picnic) Mechanicsburg, Pa. May 26***

[www.bscpb Blues.org](http://www.bscpb Blues.org) This year our picnic will feature our ***BSCP "In Our Backyard 2" CD Release Party***, with local bands and solo/duo acts playing all day long and all you can eat BBQ chicken, burgers, dogs, and a million sides plus a beer truck, all included with the price of admission. Large covered pavilions make bad weather a non-issue. Highly recommended.

### ***Saint George's Blues Festival, Delaware City, Del. June 8, 9***

[www.diamondstateblues.com](http://www.diamondstateblues.com) This is a state park setting on the water. Canopies are welcome but no

outside alcohol. Beer and wine vendors will be available. Hotels appear to be approximately a 20 min. drive from the festival. Lineups have been consistently strong and I'm looking forward to my first time as this year could be one of their best. Strongly recommended.

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

[www.billtownblues.org](http://www.billtownblues.org) This festival has been a 1 day event for the last 29 years but for year 30 they are expanding to a 3 day event and camping is available on site. There is also shuttle service from the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport. Held in a quaint small town at the county fairgrounds, it's BYOB & food. There are plenty of good food vendors for those who want to keep all their cooler space for favorite beverages (no glass). There are no beer vendors, so pack that cooler. Lineups are consistently strong. Highly recommended.

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

[www.nysbluesfest.com](http://www.nysbluesfest.com) A straight shot up Rt 81 and a beautiful drive that goes fast. Syracuse is a hot bed of blues with great local/regional acts along with national acts. This is a FREE festival with strong lineups, good food and beer vendors. After the festival each night you can find music in various clubs with some of the main stage artists stopping by to jam or just hang out. Of course, you haven't been to Syracuse if you don't hit the Dinosaur BBQ, which is 1 block from the festival site and a packed after jam. Strongly recommended.

**Blast Furnace Blues Festival, Bethlehem, Pa.  
June 28, 29**

[www.steelstacks.org](http://www.steelstacks.org) There have been a lot of changes for this year including the date and most of the music will be held at the Levitt Pavilion SteelStacks. The festival is now free to attend. I must withhold any recommendation due to the changes and until I see the lineup. I'll be in Syracuse on this date.

## 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](mailto:bluesmunga@gmail.com).

## Marketplace coming to Blues News

In an effort to provide another benefit to Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania members, the BSCP is now inviting members to advertise their products or services in subsequent Blues News newsletters, free of charge, providing advertisers agree to offer a 10 percent discount to card-carrying BSCP members.

In future quarterly newsletters, beginning with the July edition, business-card size ads (2" x 3 1/2") will be bundled on the "Marketplace" page, or spread out throughout the newsletter, depending on how many are received.

There's no need to state the discount offer in the ad. However, advertisers who want to offer 15 percent discount or more will need to state so in their ad. Those ads can be up to 3" x 4 1/2".

Please mail **art-ready** ads or attach art-ready ads to an email and send to [kehe.ja@gmail.com](mailto:kehe.ja@gmail.com).

The assumption will be that ads will run in every newsletter unless the advertiser states otherwise.

Advertise for free and reach out to your fellow BSCP members!

# Local Band Wins the Billtown Blues Challenge

by Kathy Gregoire

The Billtown Blues Association (BBA) held the Billtown Blues Challenge on Saturday, March 23, in the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport PA. Local and regional musicians and bands competed to be sponsored in the 2020 International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis TN. Performers are judged for their blues content, originality, vocals, instrumental talent and state presence.

*The Benjamin Vo Blues Band* (Lancaster/Lititz PA) with Benjamin Vo (guitar/vocals), Joel Stolfus (drums), Jeff Pickle (bass), and Mike Titzer (keys) won the 27th annual band competition. The event emcee introduced them by noting they had the youngest average age in the competition. The band members recently played at the 2019 Lancaster Roots and Blues Festival. You can check out the BSCP Blues News "Upcoming Gigs" to see where they will be playing and the Blues Band Beats to learn more about the band.

Other bands performing at the Challenge included Becky Blue Band, A.C.'s Soul Medicine, JP Williams Blues Band, The Cadillac Cats, and Blues on the Loose (BOTL). BOTL is also a Lancaster band, with Lewis Dean Bechtold, Doug

Porter, Jay McElroy, Dave Secunda, and Tom Lowry. BOTL recently participated in the 2019 Lancaster Roots and Blues Festival and is on the upcoming BSCP Backyard Blues CD. Their band schedule is also posted in "Upcoming Gigs."

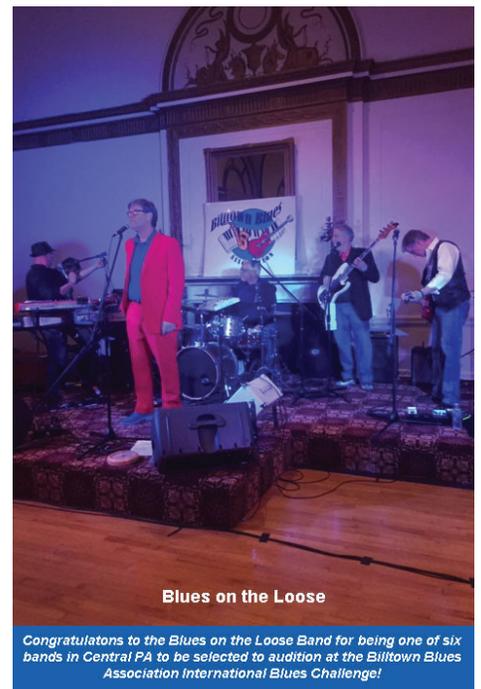
Mini Mojo (Shawn Strickland and Colin Beatty), both from Williamsport, won the solo/duo competition. Other entrants included The Blue Creakers and Jason P. Yoder.

Congratulations to the Benjamin Vo Blues Band and Blues on the Loose for being selected to audition for the Billtown Blues Challenge. Best wishes for continued success for the Benjamin Vo Blues Band at the upcoming IBC in Memphis TN. Thank you both for making BSCP proud!



Ben Vo Band

*Congratulations to the Benjamin Vo Blues Band winning the International Blues Challenge (IBC) audition sponsored by the Billtown Blues Association whom they will represent in Memphis, TN in the 2020 IBC. They are also invited to perform at the February 2020 Destination Blues, The 30th Annual Billtown Blues Festival, and the Exchange Listening Room.*



Blues on the Loose

*Congratulations to the Blues on the Loose Band for being one of six bands in Central PA to be selected to audition at the Billtown Blues Association International Blues Challenge!*

# Blues Bands Beat

By Jack Roberts

Hello out there blues fans. Some of you might remember me from my days at The Intelligencer Journal/LNP Always Lancaster, when I co-wrote a column on the local music scene for the Happenings/Entertainment Lancaster sections of the newspaper. That column focused on what local bands and music venues were up to – especially things they hadn't done before.

Well, I'm back, but this time I'm focusing my attention on blues bands and venues in Central Pennsylvania, as this column will be appearing regularly from now on - and, I hope, for a long time to come, in the BSCP's quarterly newsletter.

So are you ready to roll with me? I hope so. Let's count it down: three, two, one...

First up on our list for openers is longtime local blues queen **Octavia**, of the **Octavia Blues Band** and the **Octavia Blues Duo**, who has toured locally and internationally, recently dropped us a line, saying she has "recently released my 8th CD entitled "River Sigh," and am working on an all-blues CD that I will release on a thumb drive this year."

She's still writing album No. 9— sounds like something The Beatles would say, or sing, doesn't it?— there's no specific release date on the calendar yet.

Interested in checking out some

of her tunes? You should be. Just go to [Octaviablues.com](http://Octaviablues.com) and click on music. My recommendations include "Playing for My Keep" from "It Ain't What You Get, It's What You Keep"; "Naughty Girl" from "Down in the Hollow"; or her take on "Stormy Weather" from "Hand in Glove."

Want to see her perform live? Then check out the video on her website of "Cold Day in Hell," recorded at Tellus 360, or go to Youtube and catch her live at the 2011 Gypsy Moon Blues Festival in East Petersburg. Oh, you meant "live" live? Well, lucky you! She'll be playing on with the Octavia Blues Band on Saturday, April 6, at Market Cross Pub & Brewery in Carlisle at 9 p.m.; with the Octavia Blues Duo on Saturday, April 27, at Ad Lib Craft Kitchen & Bar in Harrisburg, at 9 p.m.; and again with the Octavia Blues Duo on on Friday, May 3rd, at Funk Brewing Co. in Elizabethtown, 8 p.m. For more gigs, check out the schedule on her website. There's no shortage of shows. Just one word of warning when you attend her shows, be prepared to spend some time. She's been known to hold a note on her mouth harp longer than most people can hold hands.

Also kicking some butt on the local music scene is **The Benjamin Vo Blues Band**. According to their vocalist and guitarist, Benjamin Vo, the band is currently recording a new album at Thornwall Studios in Lancaster. "It is our first professionally recorded work," Vo said, noting that "everything we've

done before is homemade."

Not that there's anything wrong with that, Vo noted, adding that his last album, 'Rain On My Window,' was recently featured in the latest issue of the British-based 'Blues Matters!' magazine," which came out in February. "The review was very positive," Vo noted, "and the writer also mentioned it was one of his personal favorite best albums of 2018." The band is hoping to release the album in April.

In the meantime, you can catch a bunch of his songs on his website, [benjaminvo.bandcamp.com](http://benjaminvo.bandcamp.com), or catch his band playing live at on Facebook by typing in Benjamin Vo Blues Band.

Prefer to hear the band live? Well, you've got some great choices: Locally, they'll be at The General Sutter Ballroom in Lititz from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on April 12th and The Pressroom in Lancaster from 10 p.m. to midnight on May 18, and, on the road, at Madam's Organ in Washington, D.C., from 10 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. on May 10.

Oh, that's it for now. Hopefully we'll have lots more Blues News You Can Use soon. And if you've got any, please don't hesitate to share it with us. You can reach me at [ragtime\\_willi@hotmail.com](mailto:ragtime_willi@hotmail.com) or message me, Jack Roberts, on my Facebook page. Always good to hear from blues fans, especially if they have blues bands.

# ***Turntable Delights***

## **“CIRCLING THE SQUARE”**

*An Audio and Video Project by Roger Hammer*

by Greg Hogg

**F**or centuries thoughts, tales and history have been chronicled by scribes, poets and minstrels. These efforts have enabled us envision the past in the eyes and minds of the creators.

Roger Hammer has been inspired to write music and lyrics and to create art to share aspects of his world as he has seen them. He has recently shared his solo project “Circling the Square” YouTube collage of 12 original songs and title artwork for all the world to see. You can find it all at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJPbklrBlIM> . A physical DVD can be obtained from Roger upon request.

After several listens to Roger’s “Circling the Square” my short interpretations of his songs are as follows:

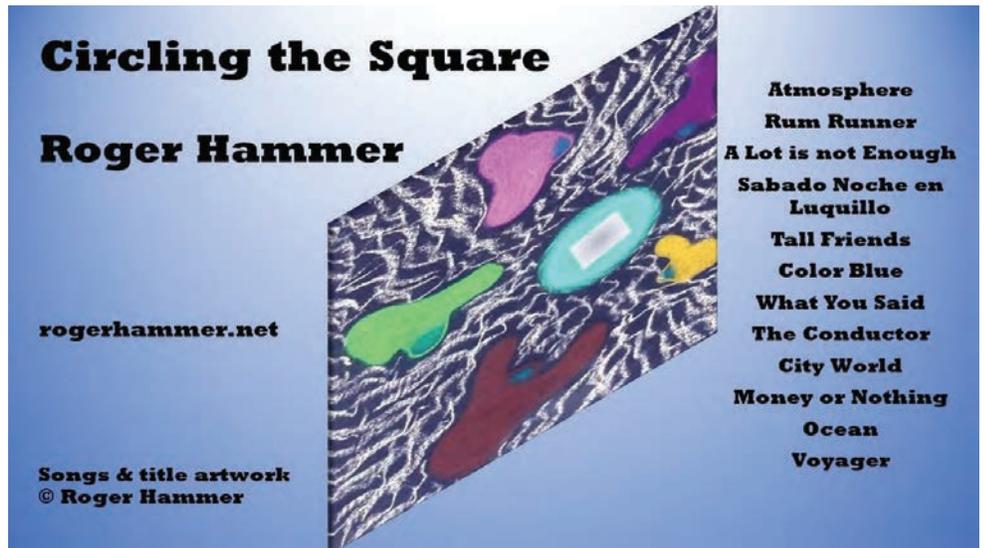
**ATMOSPHERE:** I felt this song’s upbeat tempo set the stage for the collection of tunes throughout this project.

**RUM RUNNER:** A Jimmy Buffetesque tale of an adventure to a tropical paradise saturated with lots of rum cocktails.

**A LOT IS NOT ENOUGH:** Examines the strong pull of greed and unfulfilled ambition that we feel from time to time.

**SABADO NOCHE ON LIQUITTO:** A Puerto Rico escapade to fun and music.

**TALL FRIENDS:** Reflections of traveling through tall forests and the feeling of need for their environmental protection.



**COLOR BLUE:** The most bluesy song of the mix speaks of uplifting low spirits by enjoying the beautiful colors in nature’s spectrum.

**WHAT YOU SAID:** How often have we been deceived by untruthful information?

**THE CONDUCTOR:** As we travel through life we face many uncertainties but yet we go on. This song borrows some phrases from the standard tune “I’m going to Kansas City...” but musically it’s all new.

**CITY WORLD:** Observations of a traveler with broad horizons. In any big city, certainly the Big Apple, every local scene is a small world, while the city at large seems like the world.

**MONEY OR NOTHING:** Explores the preoccupation of the idea that money will buy us happiness.

**OCEAN:** Likens the ocean’s mighty power to the human spirit of survival.

**VOYAGER:** To wrap up this project we think of man’s adventurous nature, where it’s been and where it might go.

The format of this project is something between just an audio only CD and a full motion video, and seeing visuals and the lyrics help you quickly get the feeling of each song.

I find it interesting to see the world around us through the eyes of others. We all have differing opinions and have traveled our lives on different paths but we’re all in this world together and need to help each other along. Thank you, Roger for sharing your thoughts with us here. His work here is definitely worth your attention.

To learn more about Roger Hammer please read the Jan. – Mar. 2019 edition of the BSCP Blues News “In the Spotlight” article written by Andy Kehe. <http://www.bscpblues.org/Acrobat%20Docs/BSCP%20Newsletter%20%20-%20Jan%20to%20Mar%202019.pdf>

# VANESSA COLLIER

## "SWEATIN' LIKE A PIG, SINGIN' LIKE AN ANGEL"

by Greg Hogg



I like cleverly written songs that make me smile and chuckle and make me turn up the volume when I hear them. High on my list of current favorites is Vanessa Collier's "Sweatin' Like A Pig, Singin' Like An Angel".

27 year old Vanessa was born in Clarksville, MD, graduated from Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA with a dual major in 2013 and currently resides in Philadelphia, PA. She was a Blues Foundation finalist in the 2016 IBC and has been nominated multiple times for Blues Music Awards. With her polished talents of singer, songwriter and saxophonist this young lady will be keeping the blues alive as many of our legends leave us.

Here are Vanessa Collier's lyrics to

### **"Sweatin' Like A Pig, Singin' Like An Angel":**

*When you're down in the southland  
and kneelin' in the church pew  
You got your fan in your hand,  
perspiratin'  
And you don't know what to do  
Well cry out, Lord have mercy and  
join in with the choir  
The devil won't be happy that you  
stoked his fire*

*Oh sweatin' like a pig, singin' like an  
angel  
Yes you're sweatin' like a pig, singin'  
like an angel  
If the funk is smellin' funky, you can  
be sure it'll sound real sweet*

*And if the stank get too stanky for ya  
And you're drippin' sweat out your  
drawers  
Well go 'head and do your dance 'til  
the sun sets  
You'll light up like a lightning bug in  
a mason jar  
When that breeze kicks up, praise  
hallelujah  
I wanna hear ya all the way to  
Chattanooga*

*Oh sweatin' like a pig, singin' like an  
angel*

*Yes you're sweatin' like a pig and  
singin' like an angel  
If the funk is smellin' funky, you can  
be sure it'll sound real sweet*

*Oh sweatin' like a pig, singin' like an  
angel*

*Yes you're sweatin' like a pig and  
singin' like an angel  
If the funk is smellin' funky, you can  
be sure it'll sound real sweet*

Several very well filmed videos of  
this song can be viewed here:

BluesBroad video filmed at  
Briggs Farm Festival 7/16.2018  
[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=MrC17WjqArQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrC17WjqArQ)  
Don Odell's Legends in Springfield,  
MA 2/15.2019  
[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=0AxRfNIIso8&t=0s&fb-  
clid=IwAR3Hi3qGIre098g\\_e3t5xV-  
VFQ-afK\\_tbdme81ZYzVSxFUM-  
5rNg-pO9Yy3ag](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AxRfNIIso8&t=0s&fbclid=IwAR3Hi3qGIre098g_e3t5xV-VFQ-afK_tbdme81ZYzVSxFUM-5rNg-pO9Yy3ag)

I hope you enjoy Vanessa and this  
little visit to church!

# An Introduction to BluesBroad Video on YouTube

by Greg Hogg

Hailing from Denville, NJ Joan Mallotides AKA BluesBroad is very possibly the premiere blues music fan and supporter of live music that I've ever come to know. By day she is a school teacher but out of school she's usually off to a blues show, festival or cruise with her Canon camcorder and a bag full of batteries and SD media cards. BluesBroad has been filming, editing and sharing her blues adventures with the world since 2006 on her YouTube channel.

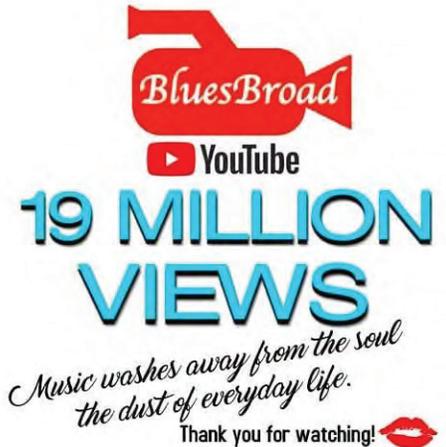


As of today March 4, 2019 BluesBroad has 4659 videos uploaded to YouTube, 37,365 subscribers and her videos had 21,510,065 views! And... these numbers keep growing regularly as she totes her camcorder and videographic skills out to capture the music at another live music venue.

Besides being a teacher, a wife, a mother and a videographer, BluesBroad also is the Social Media Director/Webmaster at Gulf Coast Records, Social Media Director/Webmaster for blues artist Mike Zito, Social Media Director/Promotion for blues artist Tommy Castro. When does she sleep??

BluesBroad describes herself as a "Music Lover who enjoys capturing live performances and sharing them with friends and fans. Love da BLUES, Rock, Funk, Soul.... Support live music! Available to capture-create-promote."

BluesBroad's YouTube videos can



be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/user/BluesBroad/videos?disable\\_polymer=1](https://www.youtube.com/user/BluesBroad/videos?disable_polymer=1)

I'm sure you'll find lots to like here but remember to also get out to support live music....use it or lose it!



# In Case You Missed It

## LANCASTER ROOTS AND BLUES FESTIVAL

*February 22, 23, and 4, 2019*

Lancaster Roots and Blues is a three-day music and arts festival in downtown Lancaster PA each year.





# Upcoming Gigs

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

*By Andy Kehe*

## APRIL

- 11--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 12—Mighty Klucks, Cliff's Tavern, Harrisburg, 9 p.m.
- 12—Don Johnson Project, Gary's Bar, Palmyra, 8 p.m.
- 12—Acoustic Stew, Downtown Lounge, Lebanon, 8 p.m.
- 12—Benjamin Vo Blues Band, General Sutter Ballroom, Lititz, 6:30 p.m.
- 12—Blues on the Loose, Conewago Inn, York Haven/Manchester, 8 p.m.
- 13—Roger Hammer, Casterligg Wine Shop, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
- 13—Slam Allen's Tribute to James Cotton. Berks Jazz Fest, The Inn at Reading, Wyomissing, 2 p.m.
- 14—Skyla Burrell, Zanelli's Blues Jam, New Cumberland, call
- 16—Nate Myers, Grotto, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 18-- BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 19—Buzzard Luck, Tattered Flag Brewery, Middletown, 8 p.m.
- 19—Blue Voodoo Duo, Dancer Winery, Wrightsville, 7 p.m.
- 19—Flyboys, Dukes, Hershey, 7 p.m.
- 20—Blues on the Loose, Columbia Kettle Works, 7 p.m.
- 20—Octavio Blues Duo, Heritage Hotel, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
- 20—Blue Voodoo, Pappy T's, Hamburg, 9:30 p.m.
- 20—Don Johnson Trio, Crawdaddy's, Harrisburg, 6 p.m.
- 23—Nate Myers, Grotto, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 25--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 26—Blue Voodoo, Winner's Circle, Hanover, 9:30 p.m.
- 27—Mighty Klucks, River City Blues Club & Dart Room, Harrisburg, 9 p.m.
- 27—Skyla Burrell, 551 West, Lancaster, call
- 27--Octavio Blues Duo, Adlib Café Kitchen & Bar, Harrisburg, 9 p.m.
- 28—Frank Bey and Gabe Stillman Band, Champions Sports Bar & Grill, Highspire, 2 p.m.**
- 30—Robben Ford, State Theatre, State College, Pa. 8m p.m.
- 30—Nate Myers, Grotto, Enola, 8 p.m.

## MAY

- 2--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 3—Dana Fuchs, Rusty Rail Brewing Company, Mifflinburg, 9 p.m.
- 3—Octavia Blues Band, Funk Brewery, Elizabethtown, 8 p.m.
- 3—Blue Voodoo, Hanover Elk's Club, Hanover, 7 p.m.
- 4—Acoustic Stew, Market Cross Pub, Carlisle, 8:30 p.m.
- 4—Skyla Burrell, Blues, Blues & BBQ, The Capital Theatre Center, Chambersburg, 1 p.m.
- 4—Blue Voodoo, 717 Social Club, Columbia, 1 p.m.
- 7—Nate Myers, Grotto, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 9--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 10—Don Johnson Project, Hershey Vineyards and Brewery, Middletown
- 10—Roger Hammer, Eagle Hotel, Fredericksburg, Pa., 6 p.m.
- 10—Blue Voodoo Duo, Shank's Tavern, Marietta, 8 p.m.
- 11—Don Johnson Project, River City Blues Club & Dart Room, Harrisburg, 9 p.m.
- 11—Blue Voodoo, Ancient Order of Croaking Frogs, Quarryville, 8 p.m.
- 14—Nate Myers, Grotto, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 16--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 17—Soul House, Vineyard & Brewery at Hershey, 7 p.m.
- 17—Voodoo Hotel, Columbia Moose, Columbia, 7 p.m.
- 17—Don Johnson Trio, Zanelli's, Cumberland, 6 p.m.
- 18—Skyla Burrell, Columbia Kettle Works, Columbia, call
- 18—Benjamin Vo Blues Band, The Pressroom, Lancaster, 10 p.m.
- 18—Blue Voodoo, Elizabethtown American Legion, Elizabethtown, 8 p.m.
- 19—Blue Voodoo, Columbia Kettleworks, Columbia, 2 p.m.
- 24—Blue Voodoo, Etters VFW, Etters, 8 p.m.
- 21—Nate Myers, Grotto, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 23—Savoy Brown, Nate Myers, Switch Fu, XL Live, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- 23--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 25—Blues on the Loose, Stoner Grill, Lancaster, 8:30 p.m.
- 25—Skyla Burrell, The Circle, Hanover, call
- 26—Blues on the Loose, Buzzard Luck, Rose Hudson with Barrelhouse, Rocky Rothrock, Nate Myers, Bob Wineland, Roger Hammer, Mom I's Picnic, Mechanicsburg Picnic Grounds, Mechanicsburg, noon.**
- 28—Nate Myers. Grotto, Enola, 8 p.m.

29—Don Johnson Quartet, Duke's, Hershey, 7 p.m.

31--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.

31—Blue Voodoo Duo, Lucky Ducks, Elizabethtown, 7 p.m.

## JUNE

1—Acoustic Stew, Cassell Vineyard of Hershey, 6 p.m.

1—Don Johnson Trio, Crawdaddy's, Harrisburg, 6 p.m.

1--Octavia Blues Band, 551 West, Lancaster, 9 p.m.

4—Nate Myers, Grotto, Enola, 8 p.m.

5—Don Johnson Trio, Dukes, Hershey, 7 p.m.

6--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.

7—Blue Voodoo, 551 West, Lancaster, 9 p.m.

8—Blue Voodoo, Red Lion Legion, Red Lion, 8 p.m.

9—Octavia Blues Band, The Beer Garden Series, Lititz, 3 p.m.

11—Nate Myers, Grotto, Enola, 8 p.m.

13--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.

13—Don Johnson Trio, Sunset Golf Course, Middletown, 7 p.m.

14—Buzzard Luck, Shy Bear Brewing, Lewistown, 7 p.m.

14—Don Johnson Trio, Cassell Vineyards Hershey, Middletown, 6 p.m.

15—Acoustic Stew, Champions Sports Bar Patio, Highspire, 6 p.m.

15—Blue Voodoo Duo, Moon Dancer Winery, Wrightsville, 2 p.m.

20--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.

20—Blue Voodoo Duo, Eppers VFW, Eppers, 5 p.m.

21—Octavia Blues Band, Porch Restaurant & Pub, Myerstown, 8 p.m.

21—Don Johnson Project, Chick's Tavern, Hummelstown, 9:30 p.m.

21—Blue Voodoo, McCLeary's Public House, Marietta, TBA

22—Blues on the Loose, 551 West, Lancaster, 9 p.m.

26—Don Johnson Quartet, Duke's Hershey, 7 p.m.

27—Blue Voodoo, Black Knight Tavern, Landisville, 7 p.m.

27--BSCP Blues Jam, Champions Sports Bar and Grill, Highspire, 7 p.m.

28—Blue Voodoo Duo, Lucky Ducks, Elizabethtown, 7 p.m.

29—Don Johnson Project, Wyndridge Farm Beer Garden Series, Lititz, 4 p.m.

*(This schedule will be updated weekly on the BSCP webpage ([bscpblues.org](http://bscpblues.org)), is subject to change and may not be all-inclusive. It's advised that you call ahead. If there is an error in this listing, or you have a date you'd like to add or have a blues band or a blues venue you'd like included, please send an email to [kehe.ja@gmail.com](mailto: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**