



# BLUES NEWS

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

Summer 2014 is well underway and we have been enjoying some great blues music in Central PA! Our annual BSCP Treasurer's Picnic was a great success with seven local bands and five acoustic acts filling the day with music and the BSCP kitchen crew filling our bellies with delicious food and beverages. Thanks to Mom I, Dot and all the other wonderful volunteers that make that happen. You guys are the BEST! As I write this, we are preparing for the 7th annual Dauphin County Music and Wine Festival at Fort Hunter Park. The weather forecast looks good and we are expecting a record crowd for an outstanding lineup including Dana Fuchs and Curtis Salgado. Many thanks to the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department; our partnership is stronger than ever and the Festival just keeps getting better.

The fun will continue on Sunday, July 13, at the Shellsville Picnic Grounds with our Mississippi Railroad show, which is free to all BSCP Members (and you can join at the door for just \$10!) This year features Anthony "Big A" Sherrod, one of the new generation of Mississippi Delta bluesmen. Sherrod plays regularly around Clarksdale, has been featured in films, and wrote and recorded the title song from the film "We Juke Up In Here." He will be backed up by our own Cornlickers, who also regularly play down in the Delta.

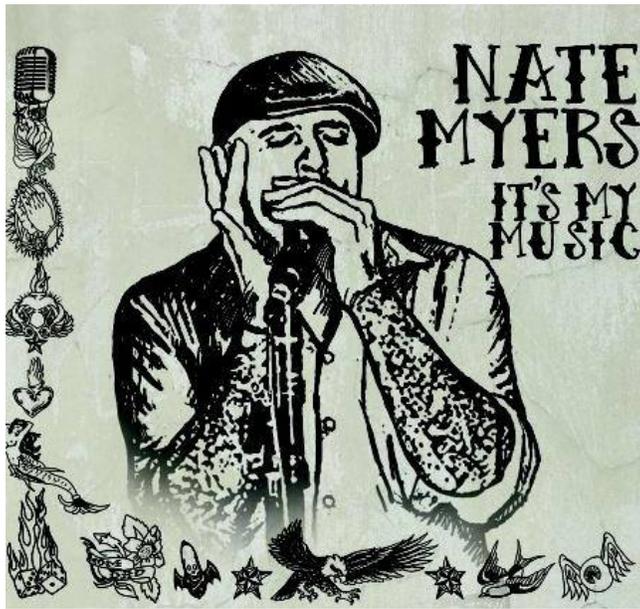
We are finalizing plans for our International Blues Competition, which will take place at Champions on Saturday, September 20. Check our website ([www.bscpblues.org](http://www.bscpblues.org)) for more information, including application forms for bands who want to compete.

In addition, there will be eight more blues cruises on the Pride of the Susquehanna riverboat from July through November (see the schedule in this issue) and we are eagerly anticipating the opening of a new blues club in Harrisburg in the very near future. And, of course, don't forget our Thursday blues jam at Champions in Highspire. Thanks to the efforts of our outstanding volunteers and members, the Blues Society continues to support great music in Central PA.

Keepin' the blues alive!

Rocky





# CD REVIEW

## NATE MYERS *"It's My Music"*

by Rocky Rothrock

The first thing you notice when you play this CD is how fat and sweet the mix is. Nate enlisted help of many friends to put this collection of original songs together, and the sound is anchored by the incredibly tight rhythm section of Pete "Cheese" Netznik and Mike Noll. These guys have logged thousands of hours playing together at live venues as Nate Myers and the Aces...and it shows. This production brings out the best of their performance and

that of the many others players featured on the album. Kudos to Nate, Cheese, and Jason Shaffer.

This CD is uniquely Nate Myers and reflects the many musical influences that shaped his sound. The songs vary from the great R&B feel of "Her Hand My Hand", complete with horn section, to blues shuffles and jazzy grooves, to X, a country 2/4 tune with pedal steel, to great dance grooves and beyond. As such, this is not strictly a blues album but it is infused throughout with blues influences, Nate's distinctive vocal style (that I would call the "Talkin' Blues"), and harp virtuosity. The sound is relaxed and unhurried, yet tight, and the song sequence keeps you guessing at what is coming next.

On this CD, Nate broke the mold, and while keeping the groove of the Aces, he has enlisted many great players to broaden and enrich his sound, including Trent Peechatka on keyboards; a great horn section; and cameo appearances by Marianna Doherty on fiddle, Henry Cassel on pedal steel, and Tom Dunn on reso-guitar.

The title song features Nate's best blues rap and tells the story of a roots bluesman (Muddy?) who comes up from the south, playing his own thing until he finds like-minded musicians and success in Chicago. Then he goes on to tie it to a young man today cutting his own path with beats and rhymes, playing his own thing. Sound familiar?

As Nate says in X, "Take the dog, grab the cats and the Cocoa Puffs", and buy this CD!

President: Gary "Rocky" Rothrock - Chair, Jam Committee and Bylaws Committee

Vice President: Buster Grubb

Secretary: Bob Hodgson

Treasurer: Bob Emrich

Dot Grubb – Chair, Membership Committee

Nina Vacante – Chair, Newsletter Committee, and Webmaster

Greg Hogg – Chair, IBC Committee

Mike Garrison – Chair, Merchandise Committee

Rocky Woodling - Chair, Public Relations Committee

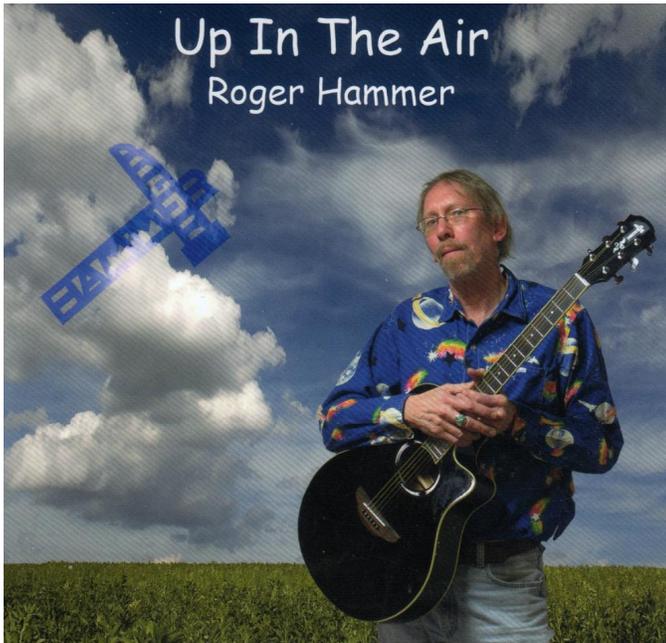
Virginia "Mom" Ivanoff – Member-at-Large

Hannah Sherman – Member-at-Large

Dale Roat - Member-at-Large

George Carver - Member-at-Large

**BSCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



# CD REVIEW

## ROGER HAMMER

### *"Up in the Air"*

*by Gregg Hogg*

Having had the privilege to listen to many CDs and write reviews of them for our BSCP newsletters, I have only on a few occasions been approached by weekly attending BSCP Thursday jammers with a completed project that they would like me give a listen to. Our long, tall, blonde

hair bassist, Roger Hammer, has just released his newest of three CDs, all of which are available on iTunes to sample and purchase. "Up In The Air" is the title of this one.

A bit of background about Roger that I learned recently by sitting and chatting before the jam is that he was born and raised in Nebraska. As a youth, Roger began his music education on a clarinet. Afterwards he began hearing and learning about American blues music from the British invasion bands of the mid-sixties...the same way many of us became acquainted to it due to American media's shunning of it. At around 16 years old, Roger began to "hold down the bottom" by picking up and learning bass guitar.

After leaving the heartland of this country, Nebraska, Roger lived and worked in Chicago. Now there's a place where a fellow can learn a thing or two about blues music! Several years ago Roger's career brought him east into the Harrisburg area where he learned of our BSCP Thursday jam from a local music store. He rarely misses a week, so sit down introduce yourself to him and share some stories.

With 13 tracks of original songs, "Up In The Air" includes tunes that were written by life situations that were inspirational to Roger. While all modern music today roots back to the blues of nearly a century ago, "Up In The Air" is not a blues CD...Roger wanted me to know that before I listened to it. I would consider the tracks on this disk to be more mid-sixties through early-seventies pop in genre. I really felt the poetry of the lyrics, and the rhythms and orchestration of the tunes took me back to that period. This is not a genre that I listen to very often anymore, but I did admire Roger's talents writing these songs that speak of things in his life, the singing of these tunes, and his capable handling of all the guitar work.

Many of these songs speak of love and relationship. Myself, being a 62-year-old bachelor, I could not tie Roger's life and love situations very much to my own. My personal favorite tracks on this CD were the final two. "Rhythm Engine" moves to groove that reaches me and shuffles my feet along. "Written In Your Mind" to me speaks of careers and goals we set for ourselves...and whether the headaches that go along with it are worth it. Just trust your instincts, follow them, and things will probably work out.

I mentioned earlier that Roger has two previous CDs. They are "BANG" and "BED OF NAILS". Get the "Hammer" connection? These CDs are also available on the iTunes site.

I encourage you all to get to personally know a few new friends each week when you attend our jam. You just never know what kind of interesting, creative and talented person might be sitting nearby. Your lives will be richer for it!

# CD REVIEW

## BILLY PIERCE & FRIENDS

### *"Take Me Back To The Delta"*

by Gregg Hogg

(especially the slide guitar playing of Billy's friend and mentor, Sonny Landreth) swept over him like the storm surge ahead of an approaching hurricane.

After many trips to Louisiana and rarely missing the opportunity to see the Louisiana musicians as they toured through the Mid-Atlantic area, Billy and his sweetheart, Bluesgirl Kelli ([www.FullMoonBlues.com](http://www.FullMoonBlues.com)), became very good friends with these great musicians. The songs that Billy began writing had distinct Louisiana flavor and his "Take Me Back To The Delta" CD project was released in early 2014.

Now...let's talk about this CD. "Take Me Back To The Delta" includes seven Billy Pierce written songs and four covers. The nucleus Billy Pierce Band is three-piece with Billy on guitars and vocals, Chris Miller on bass and Billy Meyers on drums. The "friends" included on this CD are a who's who of Louisiana all-stars.

"Happy Home" is a Billy original and gets this CD moving with Billy's peppy Sonny-style slide guitar licks and his smooth vocals.

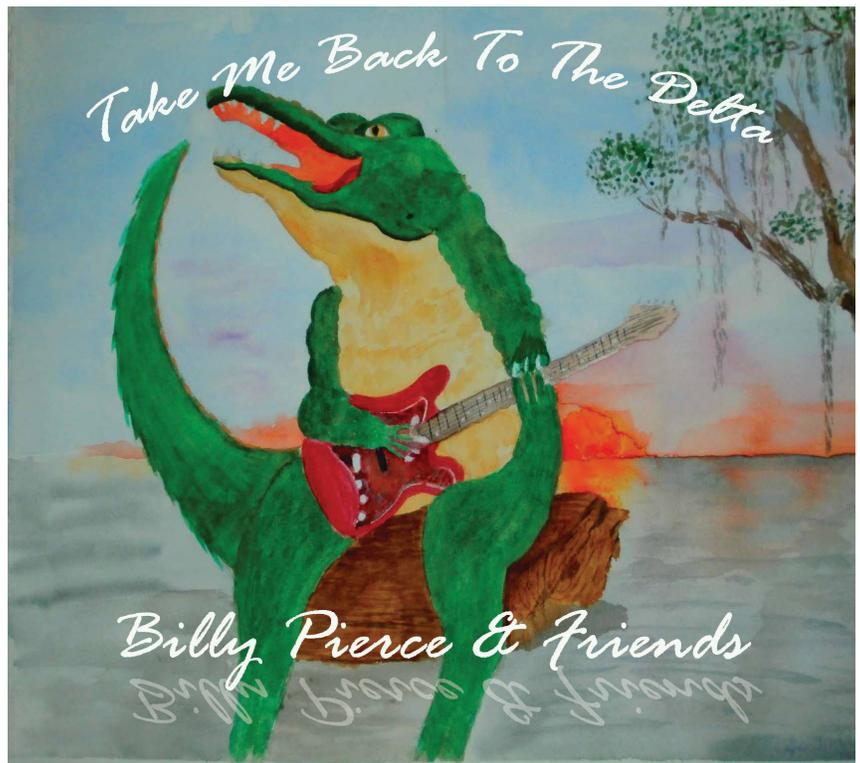
The title track, "Take Me Back To The Delta", speaks of the drawing power that southern Louisiana has on Billy. With a swift shuffle rhythm and lots of greasy slide guitar, I believe this title track is my favorite song on the disk. Oh yeah... Sonny Landreth himself helped his buddy Billy with the slide work on this tune. Also helping their friend here are the great Charlie Wooton on bass and Louisiana fiddle legend, Waylon Tribodeaux.

"Song For Sonny" is Billy's thank you to his mentor. You can absolutely hear Sonny's influence on Billy's playing here.

Big Bill Broonzy's "Key To The Highway" is covered nicely by Billy with friends Johnny Neel (Nashville songwriter and Allman Brothers Band alumni) and the New Orleans trombone attack of the Bonerama horns (Craig Klein, Mark Mullins and Greg Hicks).

Continued on page 5

Billy Pierce of Newark, DE, and I became friends about seven to eight years ago. Billy, having played guitar in many a band in Delaware over the years, was working sound at J. B. McGinnis Pub & Grille in New Castle at Diamond State Blues Society shows when we met. During the time that I've know Billy he was charmed by a pretty girl that loved the music of Louisiana..... and his life was changed. The blues, jazz, funk of New Orleans and the bayou's swamp pop

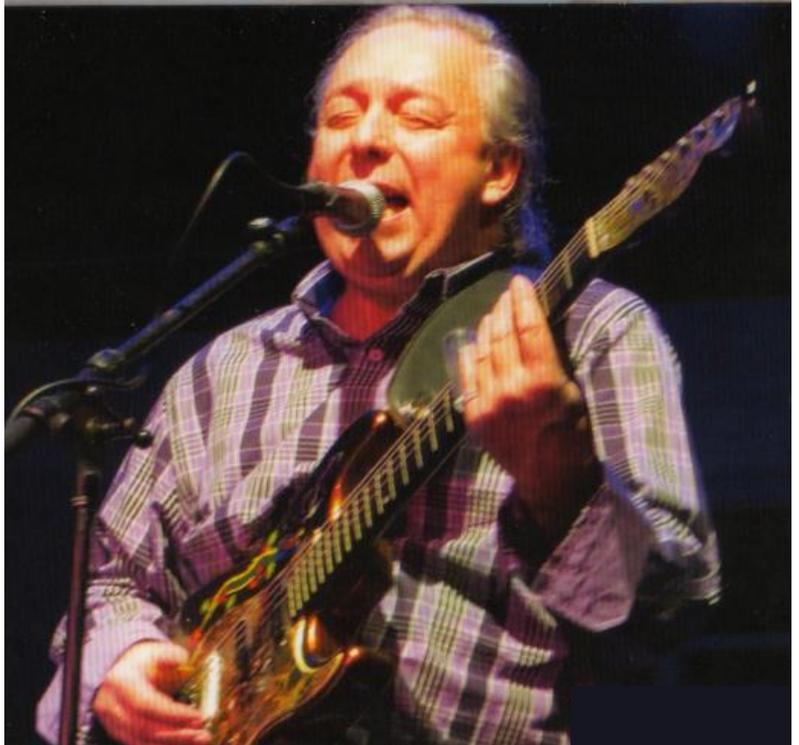


Track 5 is a Billy original, "Cajun Boy Blues"... it's a love song. Wonder who that's written for? (Rhetorical question!)

Could anyone possibly create a tasty Louisiana flavored CD without including Hank Williams Sr.'s "Jambalaya"? Fiddle added by Waylon Thibodeaux, accordion by Henry Ramato, and drums by Johnny Digiovanni. It's good to have talented friends!

"Tojo" is a Billy written tune about an eastern shore busker playing for tips to buy his cheap red wine.

Having played along with Johnny Sansone many times at the St. Georges General Store in DE, Billy borrows Johnny's "Give Me A Dollar" for track eight, and gets trombone and vocal help from his Bonerama horn buddies..."give me a dollar and watch me dance."



"Rooster" is a slower grinder, and Billy is gifted with great sax playing by his New Orleans friend Jimmy Carpenter, a 2014 Blues Foundation Blues Music Award nominee for horn. Wonderful sax work, Jimmy! I really like this one!

Masterfully covering Sonny Landreth's "Zydecoldsmobile", Billy honors his mentor. Joined by Waylon Thibodeaux on fiddle, Johnny Neel on piano, and Steve Ruth on accordion, Billy really throws the Louisiana spice to this one.

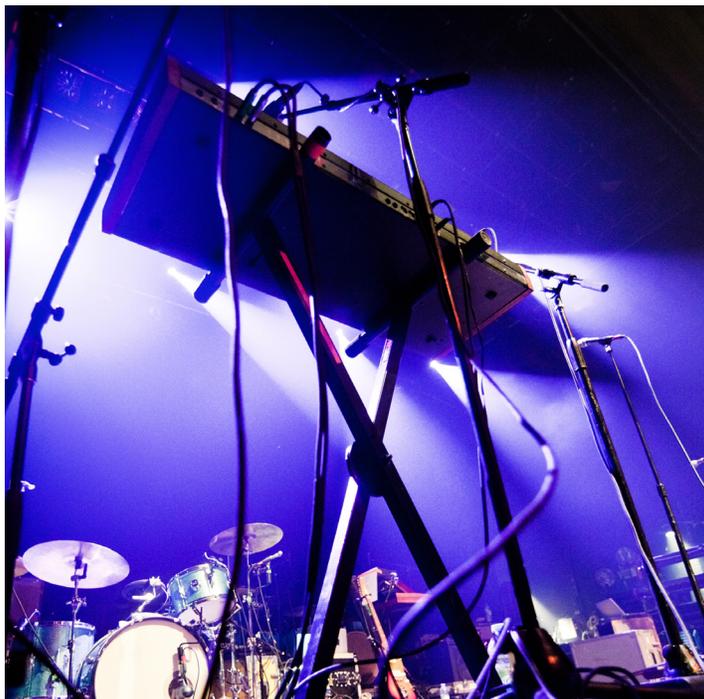
Wrapping up "Take Me Back To The Delta" is Billy's "Big Joe", which is very New Orleans/Mardi Gras inspired. Billy stacks lots of friends into this one (Charlie Wooton on bass guitar, Henry Ramato on accordion, backing vocals by his Delaware sidekick Garry Cogdell, and lots of Mardi Gras rhythms by Jonny Digiovanni on kenjira and Jimmy Crawford on dejembe).

What an accomplishment this CD is for Billy Pierce...and what a lucky guy to have so many very talented friends to spice this disk up! "Take Me Back To The Delta" can be sampled and bought from CD Baby (<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/bilypierceandfriends>). It's been getting very good international sales since its release. This disk definitely is worth checking out!

*SIDENOTE: Often traveling with my little camera, I got some nice shots of Billy performing last winter. Two of my photos were used and liner note credited to me on this CD. I'm honored to be included as one of Billy's friends!*

## REGISTER: 2014 BSCP IBC

The BSCP IBC Committee is now accepting applications from blues bands and solo/duos for consideration to compete in our 2014 BSCP IBC Competition. Should we receive a sufficient amount of applications, this event will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2014, at Champions Sports Bar, 300 North Second Street, Highspire, PA. Details and application info for the IBC Competition, as well as about other blues events, are available on the BSCP website [www.bscplblues.org](http://www.bscplblues.org).



### **The Humblers** A Band of Bluesmen



#### EVENTS

**July 20th**

Pride of the Susquehanna | *Harrisburg*

**August 2nd**

Sharpshooters | *Gettysburg*

**August 9th**

Bistro 19 | *York*

**September 20th**

Smokin' Blues & Brews Fest 2 | *Lancaster*



**2014 MISSISSIPPI RAILROAD EVENT**  
Featuring  
**Anthony “Big A” Sherrod**  
**and the Cornlickers**

Sunday July 13, 2014 --- 3 pm til ?  
Shellsville VFW Picnic Grounds  
North Crawford Road, Grantville, PA 17028

**Directions to Picnic Grounds:** East of Harrisburg from the intersection of routes 22 and 39 take route 22 east 1.8 miles to N. Crawford on left, .4 miles on N. Crawford to grounds on right.

**Free Admission to all BSCP Members**

For More Info: (717)979-0684 or visit our website [www.bscpblues.org](http://www.bscpblues.org)



# THE CROW MUSIC FESTIVAL

HOSTED BY SPYGLASS RIDGE WINERY  
JULY 19, 2014 | NOON – 7 PM

**FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**

**Muscle Car Rally**

Premium parking for muscle cars and free admission for drivers.

**Great Food, Wine, and Beer**

**Kid's Activities, Inflatables**

## **ARTIST LINE-UP**

12:00 Noon - Nate Myers

1:30 pm - Reverend Blue Jeans

3:00 pm - Frank Wicher

4:30 pm - PA Crude

6:00 pm - Anne Kerstetter

Tickets are \$20 pre-purchased and \$25 at the door. Tickets are available at our website: [www.crowmusicfestival.com](http://www.crowmusicfestival.com).

Kid's Prices: 0 to 4 years - FREE, 5 to 17 years - \$5

All Proceeds benefit North Union United Soccer.

Spyglass Ridge Winery - 105 Carroll Road, Sunbury, PA 17801  
For additional information email: [info@crowmusicfestival.com](mailto:info@crowmusicfestival.com)



Scan to view our website!

# VOLUNTEER FOR BSCP!



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

# “Nate’s Wonderful Rant”

in the www.PA Musician rag

by Nate Myers

I was in Williamsport yesterday for a multiband showcase. I tossed and turned a little last night because it got me to thinking.

I got my first exposure to real blues and roots music in Billtown and I have a lot of heavy memories...good and bad, but mostly good. I remember seeing Ben Andrews (go to Amazon right now and buy everything he put out under his name and the Blue Rider Trio). Ben isn't with us anymore, but he had the spark of God in him. Ben was made to play music. His versions of "Gallows' Pole" and "Be Sure that My Grave is Kept Clean" are unparalleled. The recordings are killer, but his live versions-divine. I digress...

Yesterday I got to see the mark of the Creator manifest in six different variations it prompted me to comment. You can go to <http://www.billtownblues.org/> for further info. I got to see Sean & Adam, Shawn Strickland and Larry Tickle, The Hyatt Howe Band, KG +3, the Jeff Fetterman Band, and One Hot Minute. Each of these units was KILLER...and I mean KILLER! I loved seeing the diversity and talent and humanity.

I just wanted to encourage my friends and family to support these guys and gals. We need you; in fact, without you we don't stand a chance. We all want to succeed on a local, regional, national, interplanetary, and intergalactic level. We've all invested different amounts of our lives into this music thing. Some have sacrificed family, health, mind, body, soul and even life to bring you what we bring you. We're your local artisans, artists, and craftspeople.

Musicians, we need to support each other as musicians, confidants, and friends. We need each other. We're all insecure and we all question our own validity as performers and artists. We can all be better as technicians, entertainers and song-smiths.

Finally, we owe our community a debt. We as musicians need to get involved; we need to support our local artisans, artists and craftspeople. Try to buy locally, try to get your gear from independent retailers, eat locally, drink locally, and get tattooed locally. We as a musical community owe the public our best. We're in symbiosis with everyone around us.

It's obvious, I hope, from this litany of verbiage that I am humbled by the music around me, I'm elated to be alive and involved, I'm challenged to be a better friend and supporter of my local/regional/national artists, and I'm finished with my rant. I love you...have a fab day!



Music begins at 5:30PM & the sunset cruise runs from 7:30PM - 8:30PM.

\$15 cover charge at the door (includes the one-hour cruise). **RESERVE ONLINE FOR ONLY \$13.00!**

Boarders under 21 must be accompanied by an adult. Please have your ID.

### DATES and BANDS

<p><b>June:</b> 6/1 5:30-8:30PM - <b>Blue Light Special</b></p> <p>6/29 5:30-8:30PM - <b>Acoustic Stew</b></p> <p><b>July:</b> 7/6 5:30-8:30PM – <b>Wake Up Call</b></p> <p>7/20 5:30-8:30PM - <b>The Humblers</b></p> <p><b>August:</b> 8/10 5:30-8:30PM - <i>TO BE ANNOUNCED</i></p>	<p><b>September:</b> 9/7 5:30-8:30PM - <b>Jeff Calvin Group</b></p> <p><b>October:</b> 10/5 5:30-8:30PM - <b>Acoustic Stew</b></p> <p>10/12 5:30-8:30PM - <b>Erica Lyn Everest Band</b></p> <p>10/26 5:30-8:30PM - <b>Nate Myers and the Aces</b></p> <p><b>November:</b> 11/2 5:30-8:30PM - <b>Wake Up Call</b></p>
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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Riverboat boards at the City Island Dock near Metro Bank Park. Parking is available on City Island. Boarding is anytime for the first two hours as the boat leaves promptly at the cruise time noted above. The Pride is handicapped and wheelchair accessible. Restrooms are available onboard. Advanced Reservations not required, but suggested. Admission at the door is available on a first-come, first serve basis.

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Steelton, PA 17113

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New Bloomfield, PA 17068

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