



BLUES NEWS

From your President...

Happy New Year

Well, we made it through another year. This past year has been fun and successful for the Blues Society. January saw us have to postpone the Joe Louis Walker show until February. Even with the postponement, when the doors opened at River City, a good crowd was waiting and ready for a good time. There have been numerous good shows in the area that we, as the Blues Society, supported but we cannot seem to get a crowd, exception being the EG Kight show in October, which was well attended.

Our Treasurer's Picnic was a success, as usual. That is always a bright spot. The idea of so many bands and musicians playing a gig like that for free is pretty awesome. Attendance at the picnic was right around 400, which is normal. We just can't seem to maintain that level of support for other shows. The Mississippi Railroad picnic was not the crowd one would expect for a free show.

The Christmas party was enjoyed by all who attended.

We could have publicized a lot more, but I honestly thought we were going to have trouble with the size of the crowd. It's not very often you get to see a band like Nick Moss's for ten bucks, or free. We weren't expecting a payback for that show, but with new members, merchandise sales, and donations, we did not suffer much harm. Hey, it was Christmas. Maybe we'll do it again, next year. If we could just generate the same amount of support and enthusiasm for the local shows, what a wonderful world it would be.

We have a big show planned for April. I'm telling you all now. We've got Mark Hummel and his Golden State and Lone Star Revue featuring Anson Funderburgh and Little Charlie Baty. It doesn't get much better than that! So we need you folks to get out and support this show. It's a big undertaking for your Blues Society.

It takes a lot of dedicated people to keep this thing going. I want to thank our Board of Directors for all the hard work that they do...and it is hard work. Like everyone else, they have lives too. The dedication, hard work, and love of the music is inspiring. You know, I got involved with BSCP a couple few years ago, I used to say there ain't nothing like blues folk. That's as true now as it was then. We really are one big dysfunctional family, and I love you all.

Buster





BSCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DEB CALLAHAN

"SWEET SOUL"

CD Review by Greg Hogg

"Sweet Soul", released September 1, 2015 on Blue Pearl Records, is Deb Callahan's 5th CD. Deb and her lead guitarist and co-songwriter, Allen James traveled to Los Angeles, CA this past February to record these tracks with producer/drummer Tony Braunagel at Ultrasound Studios. Joining Deb on vocals and Allen on lead guitar are many of the finer LA area blues musicians. CD producer Tony Braunagel on drums, CD engineer Johnny Lee Schell on slide guitar, Mike Finnigan on keyboards and Reggie McBride on bass. These LA guys have been around the block a few times having previously recorded and toured with Etta James, Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal. This California trip and CD recording studio session had to be a high point in Deb and Allen's musical careers!

Although steadily working with her Philadelphia based Deb Callahan Band, Deb had not been in the recording studio for

nearly 5 years as she has been busy being a Mom to her 4 year old son, Elijah. It is evident that family life and a loving home environment and changes that she's experienced have influenced the 8 original tracks Deb includes on this CD and the 5 cover songs were selected within this vein of thought.

As the CD title suggests, these songs are of the soul/blues genre with a touch of Deb Callahan/Allen James funkiness and written from the heart and mind of a happy and content young woman.

"Big Love", is a funky song about thrill of finding that special man.

"I Keep Things Running" is one of my favorite songs on this disc. Deb sings of confidently getting things done...and done right!

"Shackin Up", Sometimes flings of the past just aren't all you once thought they were.

"I Am Family", a slower heartfelt song about having to use "tough love" and stopping enabling a loved ones vices.

"Sweet Feeling" (Stanton/Carter/Daniel/Hall) is the 1st cover song and it speaks of a former failed love affair with some fond memories. I think we've all been there, huh?

"Born To Love You", That special feeling of finding the right one sung in a gospel style.

"Seven States Away" Deb sings of touring with her band but missing a loved one at home.

"Way Down In The Hole", cover of the Tom Waits classic.

"Step Back", a song about sorting out the priorities in your live. A slow tune of thoughtful retrospect.

"You Don't Know Your Mind" (Egan/Flett) A song of questioning the words and actions of someone close to you.

"Crazy 'Bout You Baby" (W. Williamson) Ever been love struck with someone that doesn't share the same feeling with you ?

"Slow As Molasses, Sweet As Honey", a slow steamy grinder about the contentment of true love.

"I Been Hoodooed" (Mac Rebennack AKA Dr. John) Ever felt hoodooed?

The Deb Callahan Band working out of Philadelphia, PA is Deb Callahan, vocals, Allen James, lead guitar, Garry Lee, bass and vocals, and Tom Walling, drums. Deb and the guys work regularly in the Mid Atlantic region and at times tour throughout the U.S. I encourage you to watch their schedule for a show near you and purchase "Sweet Soul" and Deb Callahan's other 4 CDs. Support live music and the artists that perform it!

MARK

Proudly Presented by the
BLUES SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PA

HUMMEL'S

Golden State Lone Star



SUNDAY April 17th
AT CHAMPIONS in Highspire PA
starts at **8pm** **\$15**



Ann Kerstetter Band



Ann Kerstetter Band in Concert

Imagine a vocalist with the velvet of Etta James and the gravel of Janis Joplin and you have **Ann Kerstetter**, a blues powerhouse that has performed at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, the Billtown Blues Festival and more. Don't miss her high-energy performance at the Colonnade, part of the Center's 2015-16 Indoor Arts & Entertainment Series.

WHEN: Friday, March 11, 2016, 7 pm

WHERE: Twin Valley Players Colonnade, 269 Center Street, Millersburg, PA.

ADMISSION: \$25 per person (includes cocktail buffet).
Members may use coupons for \$2 off admission.
Cash bar available.

REGGIE WAYNE MORRIS

Don't Bring Me Daylight

Blue Jay Sound – No #

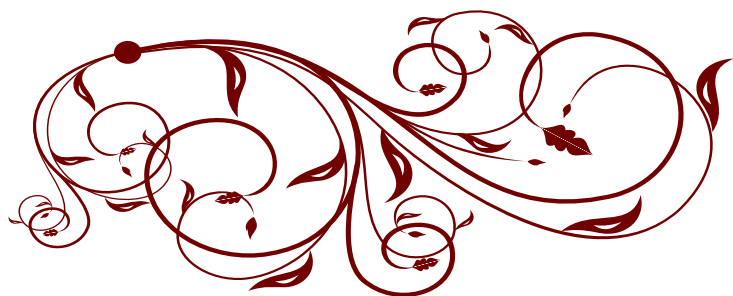


Baltimore-based guitarist/vocalist Reggie Wayne Morris cites both B.B. King and Jimi Hendrix as musical inspirations. King's influence is immediately evident in his linear, note-bending leads and his affinity for deep-pocket, twelve-bar shuffles (although on the final four songs, he expands his scope to include more varied pop-soul, funk and even reggae-flavored directions). The songs, mostly written or co-written by co-producer Gerald Robinson, tell eloquent slice-of-life stories with deep feeling, evocative imagery and a minimum of pretension.

Morris' voice evokes straight-ahead pop as much as blues, but it's packed with power and graced with plenty of nuance—on a song like *Oooooo Wee*, for instance, he manages to remain true to the overall feel of jaunty irony (infatuation hurts so good!) while infusing his delivery with a genuine sense of desperation. *She's Gone* is a minor-key, mid-tempo, pop-blues ballad that cuts deeper, but the emotions are complex and cliché is avoided—even as Morris' protagonist laments that he's "trying to drink my blues away . . . I'm gonna get stoned, 'cause she's gone," and his guitar leads sear, the propulsive cadence and sprightly rhythm guitar chording (apparently from Morris as well) hint at an underlying, life-affirming optimism of spirit that can't be defeated.

In fact, it's that varied and sophisticated emotional texture that really sets this disc apart. Morris and his band are more than competent, and everything here is deeply satisfying; nonetheless, there aren't a lot of new musical (or, for that matter, lyrical) trails being blazed. But in an era when too many blues and blues-based artists seem determined to bludgeon us with uncompromisingly one-dimensional emotional onslaughts, one who takes the time (and has the vision) to invoke complexity and even ambiguity without compromising the straightforwardness or musicality of his music is a welcome addition to the scene.

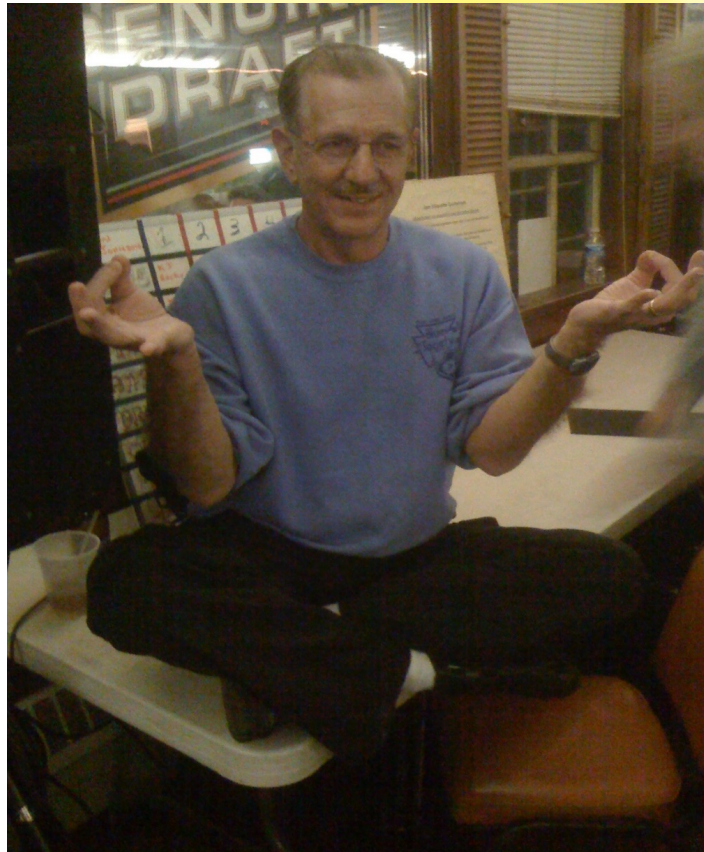
—David Whiteis





In the Spot Light...

GEORGE CARVER



This is the first in a new series of articles featuring musicians who regularly perform at the Thursday night blues jam, hosted by the BSCP at Champions Sports Bar & Grill in Highspire.

By ANDREW KEHE

Place drumsticks in his hands or 88 keys under his dancing fingers and George Carver transforms himself from a quiet, unassuming retiree to a funky, spunky, albeit humble bluesman with energy remindful of musicians half his 70 years.

He lays it all out there for everyone to toe-tap to every Thursday night at the weekly BSCP-hosted blues jam at Champions Sports Bar & Grill in Highspire and he has been at one venue or another for the better part of 30 years. And there seems to no slowdown in his giddy up either!

"I'll keep playing until the good Lord drops me right off the stool," Carver says, acknowledging that drums is his go-to form of musical expression. "Thursday night, it's my favorite night of the week. It's always been one of my favorite things to do to get up and play with other musicians."

"A lot of people asked me 'What are you gonna do when you retire?'; and I told them I'm going to try and



become a solid musician. I've put a lot of time and effort into it. At one time I wasn't that great. There were a lot of regulars who would swallow hard when they knew I'd be in the set."

That might have happened a time or two at the old Lochiel Hotel back in the early 1990s, maybe a time or two at the 40&8 Club where Carver and a slew of others cut their teeth in the local blues genre.

"George is great to play with because he doesn't play loud unless it is called for", said fellow jammer Rocky Rothrock. "He always pays attention to where the rest of the band is taking the song."

Another words, no one's swallowing hard anymore, unless

"I don't solo in anything but key of C", Carver says, issuing a memo to all band leaders when he's on keys. "I just don't. Maybe at some point, but no."

A grandfather of five and a native of Carlisle, he still lives in the same house he was born and raised in. Carver immersed himself in the blues, like never before, and the BSCP shortly after retiring 18 years ago from the phone company, for whom he worked for 30 years.

His contributions to the society during ensuing years and the Thursday jam have been immeasurable. Besides being a steady performer, Carver sets up equipment at most jams, serves as jam host, volunteers at just about every event hosted by the society and has held multiple positions on the BSCP board until recently stepping down.

"I don't know what we would do without George's help at the jam and other events", said Rothrock, former president of the BSCP. "We can always depend on him to help when we call him."

"The blues jam is one big happy family", Carver said. "Once I started coming and became a member I've learned to love everybody there. When people walk in the door, they don't just shake hands, they hug each other. It's the neatest thing I've ever encountered, this blues society. I'm so glad to be associated with it."

But like many jam musicians at Champions, Carver's playing pre-dates the BSCP jams or any jams that have sprung up in the area. It started in the garage as a kid playing mostly rock and country to 45s spinning on the turntable, figuring out beats and rhythms as he went along.

The transition to blues came gradually, and not full time until he got through some trying jams at the Lochiel Hotel and 40&8 Club.



"They used to turn back and look at me, you know, as if to say 'where you at?'" he said. "I played country music most of my life and took a heck of a chance going from old style country to blues and funk. I still make mistakes, we all make mistakes I don't care how good you are. You just get better at covering them up, that's all."

Carver credits Scott Powell for sharpening his drum skills, particularly in the blues genre, and Gary Harrington for showing him the ropes on the keyboard. He covets lots of friendships, but none more than the ones he's forged with Beverly McCormick and the late Dale Roat.

Over the years, Carver has downloaded nearly 2,600 blues songs on two iPods. He singles out "Thrill is Gone" as his favorite and he sharpens his skills at home by jamming along with a few selections until the lights flicker on and off...a sign that his supportive wife Linda has had enough.

"I just try and hear what the drummer is doing", Carver said. "You pick out the snare, the bass and then the high hat then just do what they're doing. Ironically, the shuffle pattern for some reason was the hardest to learn but I got it down good now."

Yeah, he's got it down. No one's looking back at George Carver now, unless they're just checking to make sure they've got a solid performer providing the backbeat groove.



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