



Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania  
[www.bscpblues.com](http://www.bscpblues.com)

# BLUES NEWS

July-Sept 2020

## We've got the cure for the Quarantine Blues

A black acoustic guitar is centered in the background. The headstock has "ARGENT" written on it, and the soundhole has "TOMMI-17-1" written on it. A large, wavy blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the guitar.

Virtual Jam  
Thursdays 7:00pm  
Facebook Live

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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...

Right now, we are in the middle of two pandemics. Nearly 500,000 people worldwide have lost their lives due to Covid-19, and racism has led to more tragic deaths and civil unrest. Living amongst all this tragedy and loss sometimes feels like too much to bear.

An effective way to cope is to remind myself daily to be grateful, especially for something as basic as breathing - that I am not on a ventilator and that there is not a knee on my neck. I find that it gives me hope for good in these dark days, knowing that the air I breathe is now a little bit cleaner because of people driving less and that the world is demanding an end to class dominance in response to lost lives.

I am finding that technology continues to change our world in ways that help us during these difficult times. There are ventilators that make it possible to breathe even when our lungs are not functioning properly. There are cell phones that record criminal behaviors when our justice system is not functioning properly, making it possible that maybe, at last, something will be done to change the behaviors and institutional systems.

I also have a heightened appreciation for the technology that makes it possible for me to communicate with others in a way not available to humankind until very recently.

Every Saturday I am able to get on Zoom with my brothers and sisters who live across the country to share the latest news, tell stories, celebrate birthdays and graduations, honor deceased family members on their special days, and get the latest report on my mom who is in nursing care, giving me reassurance that she is OK today.

Another family I have been meeting with weekly on Zoom is my blues family. We have been

connecting every Thursday at 7 p.m. for the BSCP Virtual Jam on Blues Society of Central PA Group Facebook page (see page 4). After the music, I am able to talk with new and old friends on Zoom, which provides me with that sense of community so valued during days of social isolation. I am so grateful to all of you for making the virtual jam and social hour possible.

The next big event for the BSCP is the Mississippi Railroad (MS RR), a celebration of our connection with Clarksdale, Ms., the home of the Delta Blues, America’s original art form. I am happy to report that the event will still be happening this summer, most likely in a virtual format. As soon as details are finalized, our webmaster, Dan Mowery, will be posting the information on our website [bscpblues.com](http://bscpblues.com) and I will be sending out emails.

Finally, I need to express my sorrow for the passing of Frank Bey Jr., an exceptional blues talent. Many of you will remember him from the BSCP spring, 2019, show, and may have seen him at his final performance on Nov. 24, 2019, at the Reading Blues Fest. You can read a review of his most recent award-nominated CD, “All My Dues are Paid,” on page 12.



Keep safe and keep the blues alive,

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



# In Memoriam

## Hillard "Sweet Pea" Atkinson

July 20, 1945 – May 5, 1920

Flamboyant co-lead singer for funk pop group Was (Not Was), whose hits included "Walk the Dinosaur" and "Spy in the House." Atkinson sang with the group throughout the 1980s and into the 90s, finding success first in dance clubs, then breaking through into the mainstream with its 1987 release "What Up, Dog."

Atkinson released two solo albums and formed the band Boneshakers. He toured and recorded with, among others, Lyle Lovett, Bonnie Raitt, Elton John and George Jones.



## Lucky Peterson

December 13, 1964 – May 17, 1920

Child prodigy who flourished as an impassioned singer and instrumentalist, performing with a who's who list of iconic blues, pop, R&B artists. He released more than 30 albums under his own name, including a 1996 duet album with Mavis Staples, "Spirituals & Gospels."

Among the artists Peterson played guitar and keyboards for were B.B. King and Wynton Marsalis, who described Peterson as "the living embodiment of the blues."

Peterson was a kindergarten blues phenom, developing blues skills at the age of five. Willie Dixon discovered him in 1969, produced the song "1-2-3-4," which led to subsequent appearances on The Ed Sullivan Show, The Tonight Show and What's My Line.



## Frank Bey

Jan 17, 1946 – June 7, 2020

Promoting the 2018 release of "Back in Business," his first album in 13 years, Bey performed at Champions during a BSCP show on April 28, 2019.

Born and raised in Millen, Georgia, Bey was the seventh of eleven children born to gospel singer Maggie Jordan. Bey's early career included opening spots for Otis Redding among others. Over a 24-year off and on recording career, Frank cut eight albums and earned 10 nominations for Blues Music Awards and Independent Music Awards. He has been nominated for Josie Music Awards Album of the Year for the Jan, 2020 release "All My Dues Are Paid."



## Floyd Lee

August 20, 1933 - June 7, 2020

Ted Williams, a.k.a. Floyd Lee, was born 1933 in Mississippi. Early musical inspiration came from his father Guitar Floyd and Guitar Slim along with his mother's singing while working in the cotton fields of Tennessee.

Floyd was one of the first musicians to start the "Art for Transit," now called "Music Under New York." He played the blues at subway stations, including Times Square and Grand Central Station, as an official musician of MTA's Music Under New York. He performed at New York City mayoral inauguration. His cousin is John Lee Hooker. Floyd Lee is the subject of the documentary entitled "Full Moon Lightnin'" which won the Living Blues Award in 2009 for Best Blues Documentary in Living Blues magazine's readers poll.



## George Brock

May 16, 1932 – April 10, 2020

Born in Grenada, Ms., and raised in Clarksdale, Ms., Brock started blowing harp at age eight and grew up to be the brother-in-law to Big Jack Johnson, and uncle to James "Super Chicken" Johnson. He owned a series of blues clubs in St. Louis, Mo., released five albums, toured Europe, and is featured in the award-winning documentary, "M for Mississippi." Brock starred in the 2006 film "Hard Times," a documentary about his life. He played at the Blues Society of Central PA Mississippi Railroad picnic in 2008.



## Darick Campbell

Nov. 12, 1966 – May 11, 2020

Member of a Rochester, New York, family trio The Campbell Brothers, who brought sacred-steel to the secular scene from their Pentecostal House of God Church. The Campbell Brothers and their music are featured in exhibits on gospel music in the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington D.C. He toured five continents encompassing over 25 countries. The Campbell Brothers released five albums since 1997. Campbell and his brother Chuck signed on with the sacred-steel supergroup The Slide Brothers in 2012. They played on the Experience Hendrix Tour, alongside the likes of Randolph, Buddy Guy, Keb' Mo', Dweezil Zappa, Taj Mahal and Bootsie Collins.





# ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM . . .

"We want you in our room . . . let's spend the evening together"

## BSCP turns to the Internet to continue the Thursday jam

By KATHRYN GREGOIRE

Since about six weeks after Champions closed due to the pandemic, the Blues Society of Central PA (BSCP) has been holding a virtual jam on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom and Facebook.

Our virtual jam, watched by viewers all over the country, consists of five sets of musicians performing via Zoom but live-streamed on the Blues Society of Central PA Group Facebook page. The musicians, also from all over, including South America, perform solo, in duos or sometimes in trios. Virtual jam hosts include Zoom hosts which manage the required technology (muting, unmuting, livestreaming, sound and video adjustments, etc), and jam hosts, who are basically master of ceremonies.

Rocky Rothrock and Dan Mowery have served as jam hosts. JD Drudul, Kathy Gregoire, Marianna Schaeffer and Rebecca Young are our technology managing Zoom hosts.

Viewers access the Group Facebook

page through a Google search or by going on the [bscpblues.com](http://bscpblues.com) website. After the virtual jam, viewers can join the musicians and hosts on Zoom for a social hour.

### How did the virtual jam come about?

The BSCP held its last live Thursday night jam at Champions on March 12, hoping to return within a month or so. Once it became apparent that Champions was not about to reopen for quite a while, the BSCP Board decided to turn to the internet and Zoom, holding its first virtual jam on April 23.

### What is BSCP CARES?

One of the bi products of the virtual jam has been "BSCP Cares" to assist the staff at Champions. When the virtual jam started, BSCP member Mark Romeo asked if we could set up a way for the viewers to tip Champions bartenders and servers, Alisha, Cait, and Hilary, who always provide us with great service and a welcoming smile at the live Thursday night jams. The

BSCP webmaster, Dan Mowery, set up a page on the [bscpblues.com](http://bscpblues.com) for the month of May to collect tips. More than \$900 was raised.

### Can I view past virtual jams?

Yes, recordings of the BSCP virtual jams are on the Blues Society of Central PA Facebook Group page and are archived on [bscpblues.com](http://bscpblues.com). Here are the lineups for all virtual jams to date:

April 23: Dan Mowery, David "Dr. Mo" Moyer, Roger "Hammer" Franz, Jimbo Sage, Gary "Rocky" Rothrock.

April 30: John "JD" Drudul, Bob Wineland, Gary Sellers, Vince Miller, David "Dr. Mo" Moyer.

May 7: Hank Imhof, Chuck Sirko, Chris Purcell, Stacy Brooks, Bobby Gentilo, Derek Zelenka.

May 14: Joe Firth, Ann Kerstetter, Bob Wineland, The Mighty Klucks (Todd & Christina Klucker and Sam Welday), Gary "Rocky" Rothrock, Reed Brown.

May 21: Dovetail (John & Joreen Kelly),

Nate Myers, Hank Imhof, Ken Swartz.

May 30: Stephen Solotist, Andy Tolins & JT Thompson, Kevin Kline, Songsmith (Lynn Royer and Steve Davis), Carlos Elliot with Eduardo Oviedo.

June 4: Neil Tapp, Roger "Hammer" Franz, David "Dr. Mo" Moyer, Joe Firth, Gary "Rocky" Rothrock.

June 11: Tom Craig and Mikey Jr., Hank Imhof, Laura Cheadle, The Mighty Klucks (Todd & Christina Klucker and Sam Welday), Tommy Froelich, Lars Mitchell, Jeff Fish.

### What are some of the challenges?

To hold a successful virtual jam it is essential to recruit excellent musicians. Fortunately, there have been enthusiastic responses by numerous musicians to requests from JD Drudul, Kathryn Gregoire, Greg Hogg, and Rocky Rothrock for participation in the jam. Suggestions or inquiries about playing on the virtual jam can be sent to Rocky at rothr2017@comcast.net.

Initially, the quality of sound and video on Zoom was a major challenge. After extensive research on the equipment, electronic device settings, and the best structure for providing music, the virtual jam has reached an acceptable level of quality. Sending viewers to Facebook to watch the jam and thus reducing traffic on Zoom helped a lot. Our goal is to improve each week.

Sometimes musicians have limited online experience and need guidance,

which is provided in advance. Once the musicians are Zoom ready, JD, Dan, and Rocky will spend time with them before the Jam doing sound checks and making sure all of the equipment is working.

In addition to having good music at the Jam, BSCP recognizes that an important component of the regular Thursday night jam is the sense of community. To provide the opportunity for blues lovers to get together, BSCP invites people watching the live stream to join the Zoom meeting for a social hour when the jam session is over.

A final challenge is promotion of the virtual jam. BSCP sends out membership emails, posts on Facebook and on bscpb Blues.com, and encourages all of you to let others know about it.

### What have been some of the rewards of the virtual jam?

While nothing replaces the experience of in-person live music, BSCP has been able to continue to enjoy its weekly jam and the sense of community and family that comes with it.

Going virtual has made it possible for BSCP to expand our cadre of musicians from communities as distant as Myrtle Beach, S.C.; New Orleans, La.; Chicago, Ill.; Long Island, N.Y. and even Pereira, Columbia, South America.

BSCP is now able to reach a wider audience. For example, the June 11 virtual jam drew 401 blues lovers, and 48 hours later, the video drew 1,500 views. This

is many more people than could fit into Champions for a regular jam!

The social hour on Zoom has provided an opportunity for all viewers to get to know each other and the musicians more intimately.

It has been fun and satisfying for BSCP members to work together to learn new technology to bring America's truly original art form, the blues, to those who love it.

### What are expectations moving forward?

We look forward to returning to the Thursday night jam at Champions. The restaurant has told the BSCP that it is bringing back music to its patio only beginning June 25, with acoustic guitar on the patio. Rocky was working on lining up a few of our virtual jam musicians for the Champions acoustic jam. But beyond that, it's unclear, including when we'll be able to resume with the regular Thursday night jam. It's likely that when we resume, we will be following whatever social distancing and mask regulations the state requires.

We want to take what we have learned from the virtual jam and explore options to continue live streaming our music. Regardless of what happens next, BSCP is grateful to be able to have a virtual jam, thanks to all of you musicians and viewers. Whether online or at Champions, it takes each one of you to make the blues jam happen!



## A "thank you" from Champions

We just wanted to give all of you a huge shout out and thank you for donating money through these hard times! It means the world to each of us that you took the time out to do this for us. We miss you all and hope to see you all soon! --- Champions staff

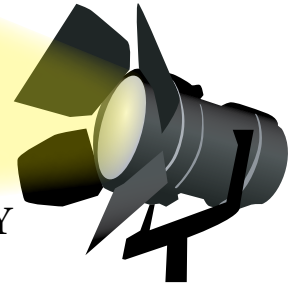




# In the Spotlight...

## Rocky Woodling

By DAN MOWERY



A beautification mural Rocky created on the riverfront in Harrisburg.

The BSCP is sad to announce that Rocky Woodling has stepped down as Member-at-Large board member of The Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania.

Rocky brought to the table an immense artistic talent and musicianship.

He is a true professional artist, demonstrating those talents in the amazing BSCP event flyers and artwork Central Pa. blues fans have been lucky enough to enjoy dating back to 2013.

That lucky streak gave birth to Rocky's thriving Lucky Streak Clothing Company ([www.luckystreakclothing.com](http://www.luckystreakclothing.com)). I'm the proud owner of three of his shirts, and they really are the softest (and coolest) around.

As a musician, Rocky is a first rate, self-taught harp player and has been

a consistent participant in the BSCP Thursday blues jams for many years. As a student of the blues, Rocky has evolved into a blues machine, throwing down some of the tastiest riffs around. On top of that, he brings to the table a humble demeanor, which is appreciated by his peers.

Outside the blues community Rocky is a man of many talents and ambitions. He's a passionate rock climber and paddle boarder, and chances are if you see someone paddling down the Susquehanna River, it's Rocky. I've proved that theory true on several occasions.

Moreover, Rocky really cares about his local community. In 2016, he took on a unique project, lending his artistic talents to beautify the Harrisburg Riverfront.

This project transformed an unsightly wall of concrete covered in graffiti near

the Harvey Taylor Bridge into a work of art. With the permission of the city, he created a beautiful stenciled mural visible from both shores and is maintained today despite recent vandalism.

Rocky has taken on another job, which might limit his appearances at the jam. I know I speak for the BSCP board and the blues community when I say his consistence contributions will be missed. He has a home with the BSCP and the jam, and we hope he can find the time and energy to make occasional appearances.

We also would like to wish Rocky the best of luck with his businesses and passions, both personal and professional. We are fortunate to have Rocky, a true class act and badass talent, as a member of our blues family.



Rocky paddle boarding on the Susquehanna River.



Rocky manning his Lucky Streak Clothing booth.



Rocky blowing on the harmonica at a jam.



Over the years, Rocky Woodling has been a valued contributor to the Thursday night jam at Champions.

## 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).



# The Mississippi Railroad

Brought to you by the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania

From Clarksdale, MS

## Cadillac John & Bill Abel

Friday August 26, 2005

40 and 8 Club

9 p.m. to Midnight

\$5.00 Donation Requested

Food Included



*Mike Donnell*  
*John Abel*  
*W. H. ...*



*Scarp*

For More Information Contact the BSCP:

**WWW.BSCPBLUES.ORG**

**888-771-BSCP (2727)**

*CADILLAC JOHN*

*Bill Abel*  
*Dal ...*



# A PEEK AT THE PAST: Snapshots of BSCP history

by Kathryn Gregoire and Hannah Sherman | Photos property of Buster Grubb

In July, thoughts turn to the Mississippi Railroad. To take us down memory lane, we are providing a few pictures and stories from the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania archives that document the early years of blues legends who rode the "MS RR" to Central Pennsylvania, giving birth to the BSCP's annual Mississippi Railroad picnic.

Thanks to the initial efforts of Dale Wise and Dave Groninger, the BSCP has been bringing musicians from Mississippi to Central Pa. since summer, 2005. The first were Big Jack Johnson and Terry "Harmonica" Bean who came from Clarksdale, Ms., to play at the first BSCP Mississippi Railroad event, July 10, 2005 at the 40 & 8 Club in Harrisburg.

That first year, there were two MS RR Picnics. Big Jack Johnson had a very special personal relationship with Central Pennsylvania for many years. He played at several venues in the area while touring the country. From time to time, Dale Wise, a Harrisburg Pa drummer, joined him on tours through the U.S., Scandinavia and Europe. That relationship was the impetus for the concept of the Mississippi Railroad.

Big Jack Johnson was a triple threat – singer, songwriter, and guitar player with a distinctive style and sound. Johnson is described by Paul Evans in Rolling Stone magazine as "Mississippi Delta authentic; his songs sweat with grown-up hurt."

Johnson was a member of the Jelly Roll Kings along with Frank Frost and Sam Carr. They have been described as the quintessential Delta Blues trio. Johnson played juke joints and festivals from Chicago to Maine and from France to China, but was never happier than when playing at his hometown juke joint, Red's Lounge. His last three CDs, *Juke Joint Saturday Night*, *Katrina*, and *Big Jack's Way*, were recorded with the Cornlickers. Big Jack came by on the MS RR in 2005, 2007, and 2009.

Terry "Harmonica" Bean, only 45 years old at the time of his first of five MS RR appearances, is one of 14 children who picked cotton and sang the blues along with their dad Eddie in Pontotoc, Ms. A

singer/songwriter dedicated to older style blues, Terry plays guitar and harmonica in one-man band. He maintains a busy performance schedule as both a solo artist and with a band, playing festivals across the nation and in Europe. Terry has recorded seven albums since 2001, his last three with the Cornlickers.

The poster you see on Page 8 marks the BSCP's second Mississippi Railroad event, Aug. 26, 2005, at the 40 & 8, featuring Cadillac John Nolden and Bill Abel. Nolden was in his 80's at the time and had never left the county of his birth. To give you an example of how they do it in Mississippi, he told his wife he was going "down to the corner to play some blues" and ended up in Harrisburg with nothing but the clothes on his back and his harmonica.

After playing gospel in his early years with his three brothers, and blues with his guitarist brother Jesse James Nolden, John stopped performing except for occasional solos at church. Then in 1970, he was inspired to take up the blues again to help alleviate the pain he felt after his wife abruptly left him. He bought a harmonica from the Simmons drug store in Cleveland, Ms., and "went to hummin' a little then...I just couldn't hardly hold it back."

In the 90s, Nolden performed with guitarist Monroe Jones, who introduced him to guitarist Bill Abel. They have performed regularly at venues in the Delta area, as well as at the King Biscuit Blues Festival, The Sunflower River Blues and Gospel Festival, the Highway 61 Blues Festival, and the Yazoo Blues Festival.

Abel has played with blues legends such as Honeyboy Edwards, Henry Townsend, Hubert Sumlin, Paul "Wine" Jones, Sam Carr, Terry "Harmonica" Bean, and Big George Brock. Abel says it has been his privilege to play authentic Delta Blues with many bluesmen in different settings from juke joints to blues festivals across the Delta, the Chicago Blues Festival, and all around the United States, Belgium, Italy, England, Wales and Switzerland.

Nolden's most recent CD, *Red's Juke*



**July 10, 2005, first Mississippi Railroad Picnic:** Big Jack Johnson jamming with two much loved and well-known Blues Society members Bill Carlisle and Mitch Ivanoff at the 40 & 8 Club. Whenever Big Jack came up from Clarksdale, Ms., Bill and Mitch would be there. Sadly, all three in this picture have passed, but not without leaving us with many fond memories.

Joint Sessions, Volume 1: Cadillac John Nolden and the Cornlickers, was recorded at Red's Lounge in Clarksdale, Ms.

After 2005, the MS RR rolled through Central Pa. each July. To learn more about the MS RR, go to [bscpblues.com](http://bscpblues.com) and click on "more – Mississippi Railroad".

Thank you goes out to Buster Grub and Hannah Sherman for maintaining the BSCP archives and sharing the photos and stories and to Tony Formica for his contributions. If you have pictures of the BSCP's early years, please contact Kathy Gregoire at [bluesmunga@gmail.com](mailto:bluesmunga@gmail.com).



**July 10, 2005, 40 & 8 Club:** Bill Carlisle loved being surrounded by the ladies. He was a sharp dresser and even smoother talker and dancer. One of the favorite stories Buster Grubb loves to tell about Bill is how he would go to the Rusty Nail (now the Underdog) and make a beeline to every table where there was a woman. He would say hi to the men sitting there and 'chat up' the ladies. After he made his rounds, he would spend the rest of the evening dancing.



**July 10, 2005, 40 & 8 Club:** From left to right are Linda Lou Formica, Dale Wise, Hannah Sherman, Mitch Ivanoff, and Tony Formica. Yes, you are right. It is a wedding picture. Turns out there were two events planned for July 10 as was discovered when BSCP asked the Slaughterhouse Blues band to be the opener for the Mississippi Railroad. It turned out that plans were already underway for the lead singer and guitar player, Tony Formica, to get married the same day.

Tony and Linda Lou were not about to miss the MS RR. They simply held their wedding at the 40& 8 picnic grounds right before the MS RR began. Then Tony and his Slaughterhouse Blues band opened for Big Jack Johnson. All in all, it made for a very special wedding day and a fun first MS RR.



**July 7, 2005, 40 & 8 Club:** Terry Terry "Harmonica" Bean joining in the Thursday Night Blues Jam, pre-MS RR picnic, with Dale Wise on the drums, Mitch Ivanoff on guitar, and Vince Hunter on bass.

## Important Dates in Blues History

### 100 YEARS AGO

#### *August 10, 1920: Recording of "Crazy Blues"*

Mamie Smith along with the Jazz Hounds recorded "Crazy Blues", considered by blues historians to be the first true blues recording by an African American vocalist. Prior to this recording there were other tunes recorded with "Blues" in the title, but they either had no lyrics or were better categorized in the vaudevillian tradition. An example was Egbert Williams' "Unlucky Blues" recorded in May, 1920.

Crazy Blues, written by Perry Bradford who played piano on the recording, sold more than one million copies in the first year and is credited with putting blues music on the map. It propelled the career of Smith, who wasn't necessarily a blues singer, and others such as Ma Rainey. Evolving from the song was a category of music known as "Race Music", used to describe African American Music.

Crazy Blues was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1994.

### 90 YEARS AGO

George Beauchamp invents the first mass produced electric guitar, called the "Frying Pan," which took blues music to a new level.

The lap style guitar, inspired by Hawaiian music, was constructed of aluminum and featured a pickup comprised of horseshoe magnets arched over the strings.

The Frying Pan, so named for its long neck and circular body, was manufactured by Rickenbacker Electro two years later as the Rickenbacker Electro A-22. The patent wasn't secured until 1937, at which point many guitar manufacturers created their own models.





## Important Statement from The Blues Foundation

*The Blues is an African American art form, originally created as an artistic expression and response to the oppression, dehumanization and hatred this population had to endure. The Blues Foundation stands with the musicians and members of our community past and present who speak truth through music. In sadness and outrage, The Blues Foundation pays homage to the memories of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and all others whose lives were abruptly, unjustly, and hatefully ended. Each of these human beings was taken because of the individual and systemic racism that has pervaded the psyche of America for 400 years. We grieve with the families, and we will join the greater conversation for the eradication of racism in deference to the legacy of the Blues.*  
*Board of Directors of The Blues Foundation*

### Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania response

The Board of Directors of the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania endorses the Blues Foundation's statement. We encourage all our members to elevate their awareness of systemic racism and engage in meaningful dialog and action to bring about sustainable change.

### Relief for struggling blues musicians

The Blues Foundation has created the Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund to assist full-time professional North American blues musicians during these difficult times. Please consider making a donation. To make a donation, go to [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org) and click Donate to Relief Fund.

# CD Reviews

## Meet Bill "nighthawk" Halaszynski, Blues News CD reviewer

Hello ladies and gentlemen. My twin brutha from anutha mutha, Mikey bluz (BSCP board member Mike Knott) asked if I'd like to add CD reviews to this newsletter. Not thinking twice. I blurted out a hale and hearty yes! It's been awhile since I've done this sort of thing, so I wallow here in the deep end of the pool while attempting to gather my thoughts, not to mention, breath.

I was a moderator on the Blindman's Blues forum for several years. My handle there was "nighthawk" so I've used part of that to name this enterprise "hawk Roosts" out of respect for that place and our late, lamented leader Billy 'the Blindman' Allardyce. My goal here is to neither sugar coat nor be too snarky with my opinions.

This first time out I include only two reviews since I'm doing this introductory "hi, how are ya?" In the future, I hope to have up to four recent release reviews and one throwback I call "the midnight list." This came about during lengthy post-surgical rehab/recoup after a life altering accident 20-plus years ago. Late at night, when painkillers could only bounce off the hurt, I began putting my cassette Walkman on continuous play. Blues were the salve that got me through.

My then young children would stack AA batteries next to the recliner on which I spent the better part of two years. I still spend most nights plugged into the best way I know how to keep on keepin' on. I will revisit some of what I consider to be the cream of the crop as a way of sharing some time-tested personal favorites.

OK, let's get this party started.



## Frank Bey All My Dues Are Paid

From the syncopated opening of Harlem River Drive's 1971 nugget, "Idle Hands," thru an emotional disc closing version of John Lennon's "Imagine," Mr. Bey and his intrepid backing musicians do a fine job of presenting his gospel tinged southern soul/blues with few missteps.

This strong blend of covers and original tunes were recorded at Kid Andersen's Greaseland studio, San Jose, Ca. Andersen, along with his Nightcats leader Rick Estrin, produced the sessions.

Standout cuts include the title track co-written by Kathy Murray, Bey, Estrin and Andersen. It's a declarative statement that combines the best facets of the man's sound and history.

Perhaps Bey's best use of his well-worn Baritone comes on Hank Jones' Country classic "He Stopped Loving Her Today."

"I'll Bet I Never Crossed Your Mind," by Estrin takes things deep into the blues, while the Percy Mayfield 1-2 punch of "Never No More" and "Ha Ha In The Daytime" brings focus onto West Coast swing and ballads, respectively.

The only swing and miss on the album is a cover of Lou Reed's "Perfect Day." By no means a total failure, it certainly has its solid moments at the end, but Bey struggles a little with the plaintive opening. That said, it's still worth inclusion here, just not quite up to the rest of the record.

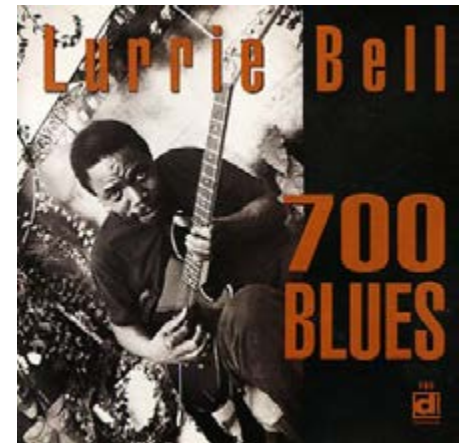
Finally, kudos to all the musicians and singers involved. Robert Cray Band veteran Jim Pugh is a particularly strong addition on keyboards. Great horns and arrangements, featuring Eric Spaulding, Nancy Wright, Jack Sanford, John Halbleib, and Ric Feliciano keep things swinging.

Kid Andersen not only does yeoman's work producing, recording, mixing and

mastering, but also adds his always tasty guitar work throughout. Lisa Leuschner Andersen, Loralee Christensen and Vicki Randle contribute spot-on backing vocals.

I got word of Frank Bey's passing while writing this review and decided to extend its length. Condolences to his family, friends, fans and all those who worked on this project.

<https://www.nola-blue.com/frankbey>



## Lurrie Bell 700 Blues

Lurrie Bell grew up in a blues family. He became a noteworthy guitarist at a very early age. As a young man, he helped form the Sons of Blues along with Billy Branch and Freddy Dixon, spending six years building a reputation for strong fretwork. He then did a four-year stint in Koko Taylor's Blues Machine. This groundwork marked Bell as a budding blues master.

Life, however, intervened. A decade on the road and personal demons combined to knock him down and out. He slowly struggled to regain what had been lost, signing with Delmark Records in 1996.

700 Blues was his second CD for the label, released in '97. This record was a big step forward in establishing Bell as a mature solo artist.

From the stunning opening solo that starts off B.B. King's "I've Got Papers On You Baby" throughout the entire disc, Bell is a man consumed by passion for the music. He rips, wails, stings and swings all along the way.

Ken Saydak (keys). Harlan Terson (bass) and drummer Kenny Smith keep up nicely and provide an uplifting counterpoint to Bell's emotional pleas and burning, yearning guitar.

<https://delmark.com/product/700/>



## CD Reviews



# Van Beek & The Tulsa Groove Heaven Forever

Review by Gary "Rocky" Rothrock

Casey Van Beek has a long history of backing major artists, including Peter and Gordon, Linda Ronstadt (along with two guys named Don Henley and Glenn Frey) and Bonnie Raitt. His fellow bandmates have broad experience, most recently including on JJ Cale's Grammy-winning Gold album collaboration with Eric Clapton, *The Road to Escondido*. The band has been a mainstay of the Tulsa, Oklahoma music scene for many years.

This record carries on the legendary

Tulsa sound of forerunners like Leon Russell, JJ Cale and Elvin Bishop, with the band adding their own new flavors while keeping that historic tradition alive. If you are a JJ Cale fan and have been missing him since his passing, this record is for you. It has a laid back, mellow feel like a cool breeze on a warm summer afternoon.

The title song is a dry, humorously twisted look at the afterlife; "what we gonna do with all that time...is it too late to change my mind?" "Roberta" is an up-tempo tune, complete with a New Orleans bounce. In a proper bow to their roots, they include JJ Cale's "Since You Said Goodbye." All of the

tunes on this album take me back to a simpler, slower time. There are no guitar pyrotechnics, screaming vocals or drum solos. Just smooth grooves that go from blues to Texas swing and keep your feet tappin'! It's wonderful American music that's fresh and new and simultaneously honors its Tulsa roots. And, it's the perfect balm for the stressed-out COVID blues!



My deserted island CD

# Rock This House The Hollywood Fats Band

Review by Andrew Kehe

"This House" and sent it to me. It quickly transplanted Albert Collins' "Cold Snap" as my favorite blues CD, and that's saying something because the Iceman is something else.

Mann is Hollywood Fats, so nicknamed by Buddy Guy, and his guitar riffs and rhythms are so fluent, rich, throaty and meaty that Albert King, legend has it, asked him to leave his band because he was stealing the show.

Why only one recording if he's that good? The band lasted only a year and Mann, who some credit as the architect of West Coast jump style blues, tragically

passed of a heart attack at age 32.

Three of his band members, bassist Larry Taylor, vocalist and harpist Al Blake and pianist Fred Kaplan regarded Fats as the best blues guitarist ever.

That's probably debatable, but give a listen to Fats' full-bodied blowouts of "Okie Dokie Stomp," "Rock this House" or any of the other 15 cuts on the album and tell me he doesn't belong in the conversation.

A giant jar of chunky peanut butter and Hollywood Fats Band.

That's all I need to survive.

Maybe a 7-iron and a walnut tree, too.

Self-titled Hollywood Fats Band, the only release (1979) by Michael Mann's Hollywood Fats Band while he was still alive, might be the best blues CD nobody ever heard of. I hadn't until around 1994 when my brother canvassed the Los Angeles basin for a rare copy of the 1993 re-release "Rock

# Word Search

## Blues Terms

L S T P K C G C E U D L P M U  
 L P O E I G O O W E I G O O B  
 E K N H T H P D P O C B Y L D  
 V V D R I H T T A L F Q R F J  
 M H Y X P Z D T N A N I M O D  
 C I N O T A T N E P R S F Q E  
 U E I A B R A B E V L E W T E  
 S E U L B P M U J R N L R I U  
 S L I D E V V B M H B M S N S  
 M L F S E V E N T H C H O R D  
 P R R S T U R N A R O U N D I  
 E S N O P S E R D N A L L A C  
 V I D Z G N I W S S U P D R T  
 S P B C S H U F F L E Y W F S  
 R W A L K I N G B A S S X N Q

TURNAROUND  
 PENTATONIC  
 CALLANDRESPONSE  
 BOOGIEWOOGIE  
 SHUFFLE  
 SLIDE  
 WALKINGBASS  
 SWING  
 DOMINANT  
 SEVENTHCHORD  
 FLATTHIRD  
 JUMPBLUES  
 TWELVEBAR

## Word Scramble Blues Geography

IAOCHGC

PIMSMHE

DCKALRAESL

ATSXE

OTWSACTSE





# MUSIC OUTDOORS

The following is a listing of known establishments who present music outdoors, but not exclusively blues music. It is likely not a complete list. The list of venues who present musical entertainment indoors and/or outdoors will grow or shrink depending on scale of Covid-19. Please check our website at [www.bscplues.com](http://www.bscplues.com) for updated listing and for specific upcoming gigs of local blues musicians. Please email [kehe.ja@gmail.com](mailto:kehe.ja@gmail.com) to add a venue to the outdoor list.

Champions Sports Bar & Grill  
300 2nd Street, Highspire, Pa.  
[www.championssportsbar.us](http://www.championssportsbar.us)  
(717) 939-0488

Cassel Vineyards of Hershey  
80 Shetland Drive, Hummelstown, Pa.  
Fridays & Saturdays 6 – 8:30 pm  
[www.casselvineyards.com](http://www.casselvineyards.com)  
(717) 533-2008

Marion Court Room  
7 E. Marion Court, Lancaster, Pa.  
Fridays 5 – 9 pm  
[www.marioncourthouse.com](http://www.marioncourthouse.com)  
(717) 399-1970

Moon Dancer Winery  
1282 Klines Run Rd #9120, Wrightsville, Pa.  
Fri 7-10 pm  
Sat & Sun 2-5 pm  
Red, Whites and Blues Festival (July 7-8)  
[www.moondancerwinery.com](http://www.moondancerwinery.com)  
(717) 252-9463

Spyglass Ridge Winery  
105 Carroll Rd, Sunbury, Pa.  
Saturdays 2-5 pm.. No fee.  
Some concerts  
[www.spyglassridgewinery.com](http://www.spyglassridgewinery.com)  
(570) 286-9911

Sunset Golf Club  
2601 Sunset Drive, Middleton, Pa.  
Thursday summer music series may open in August  
[www.sunsetgc.com](http://www.sunsetgc.com)  
(717) 944-5415

SpringGate Vineyard and Winery  
5790 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg Pa.  
[www.springgatevineyard.com](http://www.springgatevineyard.com)  
(717) 884-8048

Tellus 360  
24 E. King, Lancaster Pa.  
Music on rooftop almost nightly  
[www.tellus360.com](http://www.tellus360.com)  
717-393-1660

The Vineyard & Brewery at Hershey  
598 Schoolhouse Rd., Middletown, Pa.  
Fridays 7 pm  
[www.vineyardat Hershey.com](http://www.vineyardat Hershey.com)  
(717) 944-1569



Acoustic Stew performing at Champions Sports Bar & Grill. The band will perform again on the patio on August 3.

## Word Scramble Answer

Chicago, Memphis, Clarksdale, Texas, Westcoast



P.O. Box 453  
Steelton, PA 17113

ELECTRIC JAM EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT AT CHAMPIONS IN HIGHSPIRE PA

A promotional graphic featuring the Blues Society of Central PA logo centered on a close-up of a guitar neck. The logo is the same as in the top left. A large, red, 3D-style stamp with the words "COMING BACK SOON" is overlaid diagonally across the logo and guitar neck.

**COMING BACK SOON**

NOW STARTS AT 7 PM