

BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS - INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE - REGIONAL BLUES NEWS  
LOCAL ARTIST FEATURE - MUSIC REVIEWS - LOCAL BLUES VENUES - MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

# THE BLUES LETTER

JULY 2022

YOUR GO-TO SOURCE FOR THE BLUES



EST. 1991

## TOMMY CASTRO AND THE PAINKILLERS

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW & STORY BY DEBRA ROONEY

# THE JULY BSO BLUESLETTER

FROM THE BSO PRESIDENT



Dear valued members of the Blues Society of the Ozarks,

Hello everyone!

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and safe as we approach the summer.

The BSO Board will be meeting in July to discuss plans and schedules for BSO Jams, BITS, D.R.Y.M.S., IBC, and our annual charity fund raisers. Our membership is growing and we're meeting new Blues enthusiasts around the region. Feel free to browse through this issue of the BSO Bluesletter to learn all the exciting things we have in the works for the Blues Society of the Ozarks.

In this issue, you'll read our exclusive interview with Tommy Castro and the Painkillers (by Debra Rooney), along with their performance at the 12th Annual Stomp the Blues Out of Homelessness. Also our regular features; Blues History Spotlight (Mary Certain), Youth in the Blues, Sound From the Street (O'Neill Blues), BITS-Blues in the Schools (George Hunt), and much more.

Kudos to everyone on our board. Every member on the board contributes their timeless efforts, experience, valuable insight, and love for the blues to bring this publication together. It is an honor to be able to collaborate with such talent. I am blessed.

In closing, thank you to all of you for your support and we look forward to providing you the best in blues entertainment and information in the Ozarks. As always, any member of the Blues Society is welcome to attend our monthly board meetings at Skybox Lounge. It is the second Wednesday of every month and begins promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Have a wonderful day and I will see you all out and about as we go Blues'n in 2022.

Sincerely,  
O'Neill Blues, President, Blues Society of the Ozarks

## BSO MISSION STATEMENT

*Since 1991 our goals have been to encourage appreciation of the Blues, an original American music; to provide a forum in the Ozarks for performance of the Blues at live events and on radio and television; to educate and entertain the people of the Ozarks; to provide an organization through which people can share their common love of the Blues; and to join with similar organizations to accomplish the forgoing goals.*

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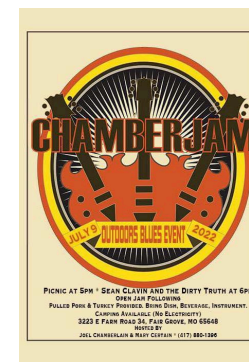
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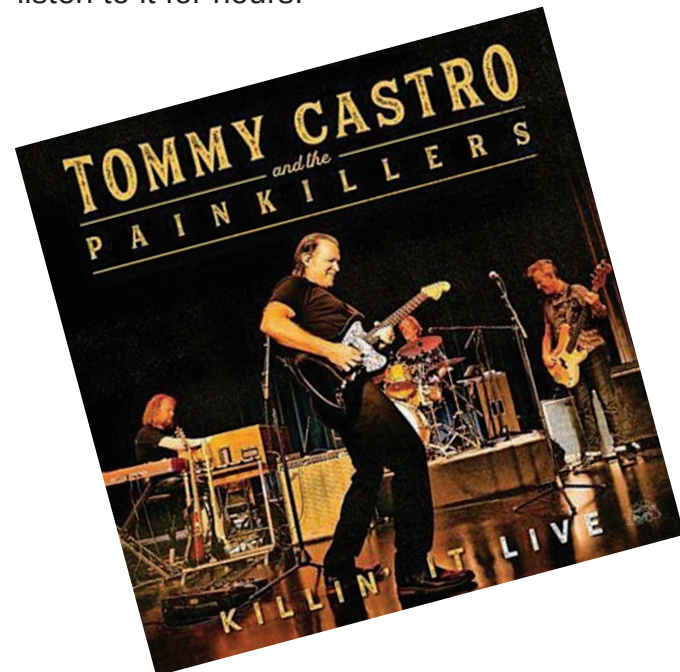
**ON THE COVER: TOMMY CASTRO** - PHOTOS PROVIDED COURTESY OF MARTY JONES, MUSIC MAN PHOTOGRAPHY. ADDITIONAL PHOTOS PROVIDED COURTESY OF BSO BOARD MEMBERS.

# TOMMY CASTRO AND THE PAINKILLERS

INTERVIEW & STORY BY DEBRA ROONEY

I am so thrilled to be able to bring everyone this personal email interview with Tommy Castro. After many attempts to get in touch with him through Facebook posts and Messenger posts, I was finally able to hook up with him through email!

I have been following Tommy for a few years now and was able to meet him at a performance at Nathan P. Murphy's where he autographed his album *"Can't Keep A Good Man Down"*, from 1997 on Blind Pig Records, for me! I also picked up the 2019 Alligator Records CD *"Killin' It Live"*, which is the epitome of his gritty live sound with his band The Painkillers. One of my favorite songs on the album is *"Calling San Francisco"*, which absolutely drips with so much Blues I could listen to it for hours!



So, let's get right into my interview and find out a bit about Tommy Castro, the performer, as well as the man behind the scenes!



I started at the beginning: Where were you born and what are your parents' names?

**TC:** Born in San Jose, California. My mother's



name was Rose and my dad's name was Gabe. My dad was out of the picture most of my life.

**Debra:** Are you currently married? Have any children? Where do you call home now when you are not on the road?

**TC:** My partner, Deanna Bogart (another extremely talented Blues artist, who plays an amazing grand piano, as well as saxophone. Check her out on Google! I did and now own 2 of her amazing CD's!) and I now live together in Palm Springs, California. I have 4 grown kids, 2 boys, and 2 girls. Being their dad is still my favorite job.

**Debra:** How old were you and what was the first instrument you picked up?

**TC:** I was about 10 when I first started playing my big brother Raymond's guitar. On a side note, my brother Ray's daughter, Kelly lives in Missouri not far from Springfield. Hope to see her when we come to town. Well, eventually I got my own guitar and I am STILL working on it!!!!

**Debra:** Did you sing before you began playing? Take lessons from anyone special? Do you have time to give lessons now to aspiring performers?

**TC:** I started playing first, but didn't sing till years later. Songs like *"Party Till The Cows Come Home"* by Elvin Bishop, *"Fishin' Blues"* by Taj Mahal, and my BIG number in the garage, *"Goin' Home"* by Ten Years After. Didn't take many lessons. A few here and there when I was an adult. Studied with a guy named Tal Morris when I was living in Marin. I have passed some of my guitar skills on to my sons, but I don't really teach.



**Debra:** Who were you most influenced by as you began in the music world?

**TC:** That's a tough one because it's hard to pick one. If I have to pick one, it would be B.B. King.

**Debra:** What is your favorite instrument?

## ON THE COVER - TOMMY CASTRO

**TC:** The guitar of course!

**Debra:** How long have you been performing?

**TC:** About 40 years now.

**Debra:** Who is your all-time favorite musician/ band and why?

**TC:** It's hard to pick one, but if I had to, I would say Ray Charles. He is the most soulful as well as a genius.

**Debra:** How many bands have you started?

**TC:** I only started one band, really. A couple of garage bands and cover bands when I was young.

**Debra:** How many bands have you played with?

**TC:** I played with a few local Bay Area bands in the early days. Toured with a band called the **Dynatones\*** for a couple years before starting my band. (\*Dynatones - Tommy played with during the late 1980's and they recorded with Warner Brothers.)

**Debra:** When did the Painkillers become your band?

**TC:** It was the Tommy Castro Band for years. Decided to name the band The Painkillers in 2012 with a change in the sound and the lineup. ([tommycastro.com/about](http://tommycastro.com/about) says - here Castro stripped his music down to its raw essence, creating a high energy, larger than life sound with the Painkillers.) "I like to keep things fresh and interesting!" says Castro.

**Debra:** Can you tell us the names of the band members and what they play?

**TC:** Randy McDonald (bass) Bowen Brown (drums) Mike Emerson (keys)

**Debra:** Where is your favorite place to perform when you come to Springfield and why?

**TC:** Nathan P. Murphy's! Dr Bob and Wanda have been good friends of ours for many years. Bob was the first DJ in the area to play me on the radio. He always has a gig for us when we come through this part of the country.

**Debra:** Any special advice to give 'up & comers' in the Blues world?

**TC:** Take any gig that comes your way. Play out as much as possible and work social media.

## ON THE COVER - TOMMY CASTRO



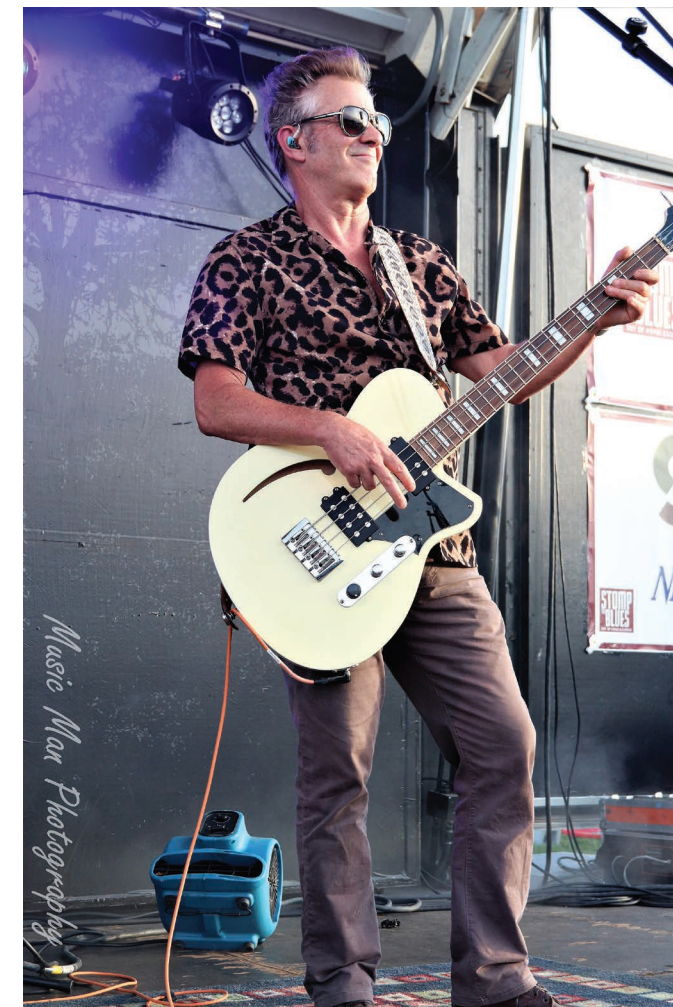
**Debra:** Tell us about the successes you have just accomplished from the BMA's (Blues Music Awards) in Memphis. How many awards and what categories?



**TC:** Entertainer of The Year, Band of The Year, and Album of The Year. We feel quite honored by all of that.

**Debra:** Your latest album, "**A Bluesman Comes to Town**" has blown me away! In fact, when I got word from you that you would do this interview, I was driving in my car jammin' to "Child Don't Go"! One of my very favorites. Do you have a favorite song from the album?

**TC:** "Draw the Line" is one I like a lot and "You To Hold On To". A fun one to play for me is "Blues Prisoner". Again from [tommycastro.com/about](http://tommycastro.com/about) - Tommy says, "**A Bluesman Comes To Town**" (2021 - Alligator Records) isn't a story about me. It's pulled from some of my friends and my experiences though. I've





seen first-hand for a lot of years what it's like out there on the road."

**Debra:** Can I ask you some questions about Tommy Castro the man offstage? Do you have time for any hobbies and what are they?

**TC:** Hiking, stand up paddle boarding, mountain biking - when I find the time.

**Debra:** Are you in to sports at all? Basketball and ice hockey finals are going on now. How about baseball? I am a diehard St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan and have been since 1964! Do you get time to watch any games?

**TC:** I'm not a big sports fan. I don't know why, but it never caught my interest. I do follow the San Francisco Giants some. The guys in my band are huge baseball and basketball fans. They follow the Giants and the Warriors.

**Debra:** Have you got a favorite food? Local, US, or worldwide? What is your favorite restaurant?

**TC:** Good Tacos! My favorite restaurant is The Red Iguana in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Debra:** Have you heard about Springfield, Missouri's claim to food fame? Cashew Chicken originated right here in our very city

in the Ozarks! You HAVE to eat some while you are here for the Stomp the Blues Out Of Homelessness Festival! I will personally make a Cashew Chicken run for you and the band if you like!

**TC:** I never heard of it, but it sounds great! It would be awesome if you could bring us some. I'm buyin'!

As I wrap this email interview up, I would just like to say it has been a complete pleasure for this to become a reality! I am 'Over the Blues Moon' with excitement as you have taken the time to personally answer my questions. Thank you, Tommy Castro.

Tommy ended the interview on a personal note as well:

**TC:** Thanks Debra, see you at the fest!

By: Debra Rooney 🎸



## MORE ABOUT TOMMY CASTRO AND THE PAINKILLERS

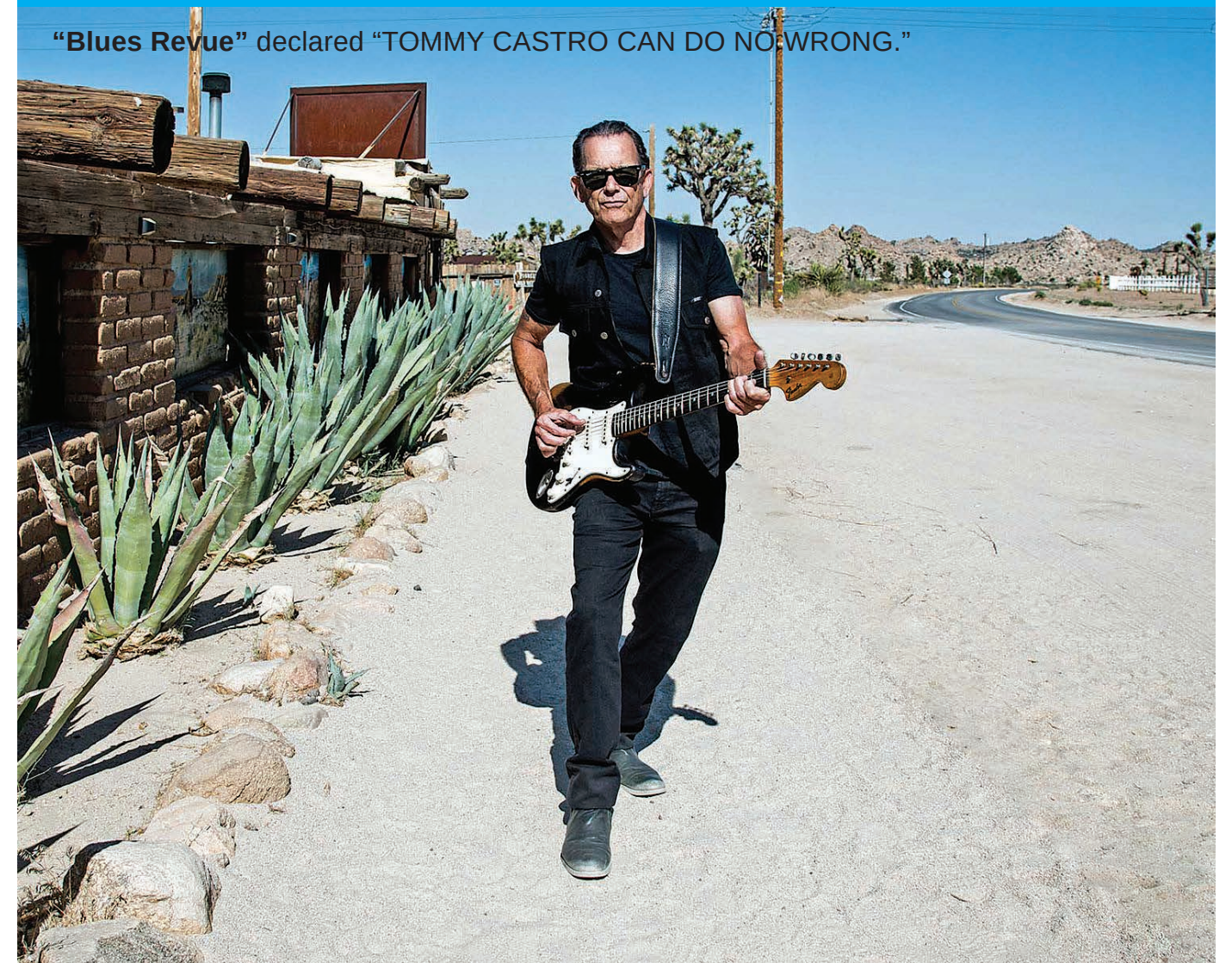
### From Biscuits and Blues - San Francisco, 2019

Live on stage, Tommy Castro and The Painkillers road hardened musicianship brings an unmatched passion to Castro's blue-eyed California soul and hard rocking, good time songs.

**The San Francisco Chronicle** describes Castro's music as "Funky, Southern soul, big city blues and classic rock...silvery guitar licks that simultaneously sound familiar and fresh. "No Depression" says Castro plays gritty, string bending blues like a runaway soul train...a glorious blend that rocks the soul and lifts the spirits." "Killin' It - Live" from 2019 captures the live power and raw passion of Tommy Castro and The Painkillers. It's the next best thing to being there!

**From tommycastro.com/about...** **Tommy** says he's made 7 albums with Alligator, and I've never made the same album twice. I will always try to be my most authentic self. I give it all I've got every time we hit the stage!

"Blues Revue" declared "TOMMY CASTRO CAN DO NO WRONG."





STORY BY DEBRA ROONEY

The 11th Annual Stomp the Blues Out of Homelessness Festival is under our belts and what a dandy time it was. Even the searing heat didn't put a damper on the high energy flowing through the crowd and the performing bands. I was there throughout the duration of the fest from 12:30 to 10:00 p.m., and was able to work my way through the blues fans there and ask some questions for this article.

Working in the merchandising tent for the first time was a treat. Shout out of thanks to Joy Hubbs, Ron Smith, Dee Kent, Mary Certain, and Renee' Hunt on your invaluable help in the selling of the four band's CDs, Vinyl's, and DVDs. After each band performed, they would come to the merch tent, sit down, and sign many an autograph! So much fun getting to meet them on a personal level.



The first couple who came up to the tent was a longtime friend of mine, Eugenia & Tom Williams. Eugenia came up and said, "You don't remember me, do you?" I had to say no, and Eugenia said we went to church together as kids! She certainly surprised me as she also said they were some the first members of the Blues Society of the Ozarks. She was the President in the early 1990s as this organization was being built.



As the first band, Josh Hoyer and the Soul Colossal, completed their set, I made my first trek through the crowd and talked to Christina and Mary. They were very excited to hear Josh Hoyer and were not letting the heat bother them. The soothing smell of sunscreen was prevalent as I walked the crowd, and many umbrellas were opened to shield the sun. Next, I talked to Kim, who made the trip from Kansas City to experience this festival. Kim informed me

that Josh had been a contestant on "The Voice" a few years back but said he didn't win. I know he won over the crowd at this festival, as he and his band played some dynamite blues!



I sauntered back to one of the beverage trucks and sat down at a table with Alyssa and Brittany, both from Springfield, and enjoyed a cool one with them. They said they weren't huge blues fans; they just enjoyed all music and were having a good time at the festival. As I made my way back to the merchandise tent, the Cate Brothers were setting up to perform. Randall Willoughby was in the tent looking over what was offered. I noticed he had an older BSO cap on and asked him if he was a member. He said he was a former member and had known the Cate Brothers since 2007.



Jeno, a lifelong Springfield resident, had come out to hear the Cate Brothers and Tommy Castro and the Painkillers. He was so enthused, that we got him to sign up to become a member of the BSO! Bringing our total new member count for 2022 to 103. The Cate Brothers sound was true blues, complete with saxophone solos, and they really brought a lot of the crowd out of their chairs and on to the dance area to get their blues on.

Mark Alred came to the tent wearing a 1998 Eureka Springs Festival baseball cap. We all gathered round him as he showed us all the incredible autographs, he had collected on it. There was Pine Top Perkins, Billy Earhart, and even one of the Cate Brothers twins, Ernie Cate! What an awesome cap he proudly wore.

I met up with Jim Payne - so integral in putting together this amazing festival.



He was seen sporting different shirts throughout the day. I caught up with him early in his Alabama Crimson Tide hat and shirt, and he said, "everyone has been perfect." I saw him later in the evening with a Tommy-Bahama-look shirt on jamming with Tommy Castro's band, with his cow bell and drumstick. He looked like a happy man! I believe Paige Payne got a kick out of her husband's antics as well!



Cynthia from Knoxville, TN came to the tent and said they were here to see the Cate Brothers and were enjoying their seats in a highly coveted shaded area!

What a complete joy when Kimberly Dill (aka Sister Lucille) came over to our tent and struck up a lively conversation. She was looking forward to seeing the Cate Brothers and Tommy Castro and the Painkillers. Kimberly said the bass player for Tommy Castro's band was a riot. If you ever get a chance to catch Sister Lucille and her band perform you won't be disappointed, as she is one amazing lady blues singer.

Andy from Branson came by, and when I asked him who he wanted to



hear most he replied, "I want to hear and experience it all. I came here for the fund raiser because it is such a good cause."

Our very own Renee' Hunt told me she came to rub elbows with all the bands and was very excited to hear Toronzo Cannon. She also worked hard in the Merch tent!

As I made another round through the crowd, I realized I was getting woozy from hunger and made my way over to Buckingham's BBQ tent. What a life saver they were, as I enjoyed a fabulous pulled pork sandwich. I sat at a table to eat and met Rick and Sandy, also enjoying the BBQ. They were most anxious to hear the Cate Brothers, but said they were enjoying the entire festival.



Toronzo Cannon's band was just beginning as I came back from break, and they were rocking the socks off the crowd. The drummer, Pooky Styx, had the most gut-wrenching drum solo I have heard. Pooky said he's been playing the drums since he was 7 years old and is now 52. Toronzo is Chicago raised and has been playing killer Chicago Blues for 27 years. They were a real crowd pleaser.

I even got a chance to talk to one of the employees from ESG (Event Services Group), Dave. He said he loved his job, as he got to see a lot of performances that he normally wouldn't get a chance to see! Their employees did a great job at the festival, even keeping the "overly zestful Blue's fans" from getting too close to the stage!!

All the pictures you see in this article, and in my interview with Tommy Castro, were taken by **Music Man Photography - Marty Jones**. I can't thank him enough for all the wonderful photos he caught from the festival.

The last couple I spoke with in the merchandise tent was Eddie (yes, that's HER name!) and her husband George, who came down from St. Louis. They really summed up the feel of the entire festival. They have been coming for several years and said the main reason was for the good cause the Stomp is for. Helping homelessness in any way, is a good thing.

Finally, I'll close with the absolute giant highlight of my being a Blues Society of the Ozarks member! As I stated earlier, I was able to get an interview with Tommy Castro through email. During our interview, I



found out Tommy Castro and the Painkillers had never tasted Springfield's claim to fame, the original Cashew Chicken! Asking him if he would like to dine on some of it after his performance he said, "Sure, I'm buying!". (I must thank my husband, Dan Rooney, here for being our pickup and delivery man!)

After, Tommy was gracious enough to come to the merchandise tent, sign autographs, and pose for photos. Then, I was personally escorted to Tommy's private RV, sat down at the dining table, and had dinner with him and his band. It was an honor and a privilege to dine with them. And guess what? They liked the Cashew Chicken, Shrimp Fried Rice, and especially the Crab Rangoon! Tommy and his band were true gentlemen and we talked like we had been friends for years.



I left them to finish up about 10 pm and as I drove home, I thought to myself, "I could die right now and go straight to heaven"! It was a long hot day, but truly a festival I would never want to miss. Stomp the Blues Out of Homelessness is one of the premier festivals for this cause.

Thank you to the Community Blood Center for providing the venue, all the many people who helped pull this together, especially Jim & Paige Payne, and most of all, thanks for letting the Blues Society of the Ozarks help.

Can't wait until next year! 🎸



# BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS

## News from the BSO BITS PROGRAM

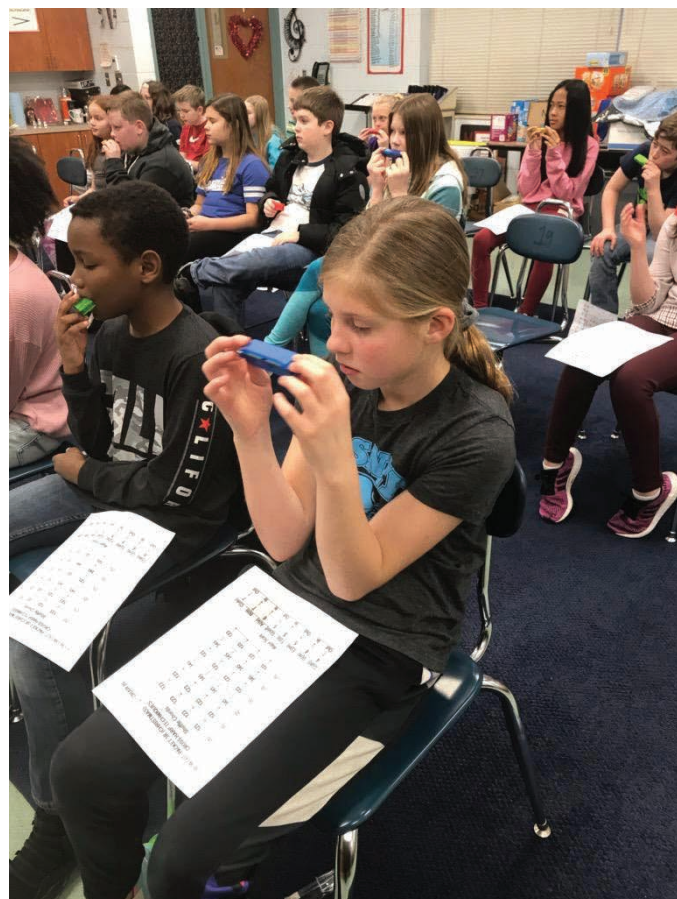
STORY BY GEORGE HUNT

### Blues in the Schools (B.I.T.S.) is alive and well in 2022!

This year we have been to seven schools. We have given out 550 harmonicas. We teach the students a twelve-bar blues pattern on the harmonica. Then there is a Train Boogie that is taught also. When time permits, we will try to write a collaborative song. We play and sing the songs to our twelve-bar blues pattern.

The topics are chosen by the students. Here are two examples that were written this year. At Saint Elizabeth Seton School, Renee' Hunt is a Paraprofessional. This song was written to Mrs. Hunt: "She is so fun, She always has some puns, She helps us read, She makes us feel free, She's what we need." How cool is it that to have one of our own have a song written for them! This is another song titled The Blues. *"The Blues are sad, They can be upbeat too, They can make me mad, They can be cool."*

All kinds of subjects have come up over the years.



On a deeper level... sometimes when we give out harmonicas, and they start blowing and drawing air through them, I can see some magic happening. Students have said things like; "this is fun," "I am never putting this down," and "show me how you do that". They create curiosity, which is a good thing.

I would like to thank the music teachers, who facilitate us into their schools. Julie Burke at York and Bissett, Courtney Wright at Sequiota and Great Circle, Karen Harvey at Jefferies, Megan Elwood at Westport, and Kristy Norris at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Saint Agnes.



Ernie Williamson Music (formerly Springfield Music) has donated a new Fender Telecaster to be raffled, \$10 per ticket. All proceeds will go to benefit Blues In The Schools. ↑



## What is Blues in the Schools?

Blues in the Schools offers the opportunity for students of all ages to engage in multidisciplinary, whole-language learning using the study of music, math, language arts, history, anthropology, and sociology in a hands-on approach celebrating creative self-expression. By bringing the blues genre into the classroom, students are exposed to these traditional subjects, while breaking down racial barriers and opening dialogue about cultural diversity.



# YOUTH IN THE BLUES

## DANNY GARWOOD

STORY BY DANNY GARWOOD & MARY CERTAIN

They say everything happens for a reason. In fact, I learned this at a really young age. Unfortunately, my biological father has a severe addiction to both drugs and alcohol. I was two with a newborn baby brother, when mom made the tough decision to leave and started raising us on her own as a single mother. He would be in and out, where we would see him sometimes, and then not at



all for a lot of years. When I was seven my mom met Mike Garwood, our now adoptive dad. In fact, he is a real dad in everything he does, even being super hard on us. When he stepped into our lives, he gave it a whole new meaning and made us an even better family. He's the reason I love the blues so much and if it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be playing guitar. He introduced me to a lot of artists which led to my influences: Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Stevie Ray Vaughan, BB King, John Lee Hooker, and many more.

In December of 2019 I had the best day of my whole life. I was adopted by Mike



and I will forever remember that moment. I can connect with the blues because of my life before and after Mike stepped in, because no matter what emotion I feel, I can take it all out on my guitar, and that's why I find the blues to be so great.

The blues is like a best friend to me. And when I feel lonely, stressed, happy, angry, no matter what I'm feeling, the blues has always gotten me through it. My first year of



middle school was a terrible experience. I was picked on, teased, and bullied; you name it. I wasn't known because I played music but because I was shorter than pretty much every kid at that school. I was known as the short kid, and had not a single friend. I later realized that I did have a friend, the blues. Every emotion, everything I felt at school I held in, and when I got home, I expressed all of those feelings on my guitar. I absolutely hate being shorter than everyone else. I look like a 10-year-old rather than a 13-year-old.



I realized it didn't matter how tall or short you are, or how much you weigh, no matter what, you can always connect with blues music. "Blues is easy to play but hard to feel."- Jimi Hendrix. I will forever remember and live that.

Being a kid with an old soul always made me feel left out at school. I didn't have any kids my age who had a passion for music like I did. I realized that I didn't need a kid who was very similar to me. I looked back and noticed my opportunities, the gift that God has given me to play the blues. When I play the guitar, I feel like I'm in the right place. My level of confidence is fully released. Music, guitar, and my emotions have allowed me to meet great people in the music industry.

When I knew I wanted to play guitar I was 8 years old and my Dad had shown me a couple of his six strings that he barely touched. At the moment I pressed my fingers against the frets of his Squier Stratocaster it sparked an interest. I started taking lessons and eventually spent some time at The School of Rock.

When I was 10 my parents were supportive enough to take me to my first ever open jam in Wisconsin. In fact, I had so much fun playing with the House band, that the



front man, Steve Godfriaux, "Mr. G" eventually became my Teacher/Mentor.

Mr. G. taught me a lot about etiquette, especially when playing with bands. He taught me the basics of what you need to know at an open jam: what certain signals meant, the Nashville number system, when necessary to bust out a guitar solo, and letting other musicians have their moments as well. It led me to a really good spot within my music journey and I wouldn't be where I'm at today without that man. We played a ton of gigs together and he is a huge part of my journey through the music.

In 2020 my family moved from Illinois to Tennessee. I was 11 years old at the time and that was when I met another great mentor,

Jake Taylor. To this very day, I have taken lessons with Jake and let me tell you, he is a very skilled guitar player! Jake has taught me things beyond my knowledge and things I wouldn't expect myself to learn. He has pushed me to challenge myself which makes me an even better musician. Without him, I have no clue where I would be. His advice, support, and lessons have pushed me, and they make me better every week.

Since I moved to Nashville, I've met a lot of great people and have improved so much because of it. For a while when I played at these jams around Nashville, I never felt the urge or had enough confidence to start singing. Although, I pushed myself to a point where I didn't care what people thought in the crowd. That stage, that microphone, and guitar all became my comfort zone. Singing definitely helped a lot and has opened more opportunities for me to play with some of the most talented musicians here in Nashville. Being invited to play with them and the mentorship and things they show me will be with me forever.

Between the ages of eight and nine, I had the honor to play with such artists as Joanna Connor and the son of blues legend Lonnie Brooks, Wayne Baker Brooks. I will forever remember those days and am still shocked I had the opportunity to play with these legends.

So thankful for all the amazing people that invite me to play: Chris Auston, Tommy Marsh, Donnie Miller, Jim Gustin, Ricky Godfrey, John Prestia, Bart Pike, along with Donnie Clark who has opened their jams and have given me tons of knowledge on pretty much a weekly basis. There are many more that I'm sure I'm forgetting to mention, but thank you to everyone that have supported

me from fellow musicians, fans, friends and of course.....family.

I'm looking forward to becoming a part of the Pinetop Perkins foundation and carrying on their tradition supporting the blues and young musicians.

I'm very excited for this upcoming summer. I'll be playing at the Crooked Eye Tommy Blues Fest in Nashville, Friday after 5 in Kentucky, I'll be at the IBC's taking different workshops, and at more clubs and jams around the Nashville area.

Another thing I'd like to mention is how appreciative I am of my parents' support. They're the ones finding the jams, finding places I can play, but in general, they are raising me so well. They've pushed me, challenged me, and are downright hard on me, but it's for a good purpose. They've both introduced me to all kinds of artists and given me the life that I would've never expected. Not to mention my brother Jack who has taken the time to come to almost every single one of my jams. I am truly blessed for his support. Although we do argue, fight, name call, you name it, he's still a great brother and I am beyond thankful for him.

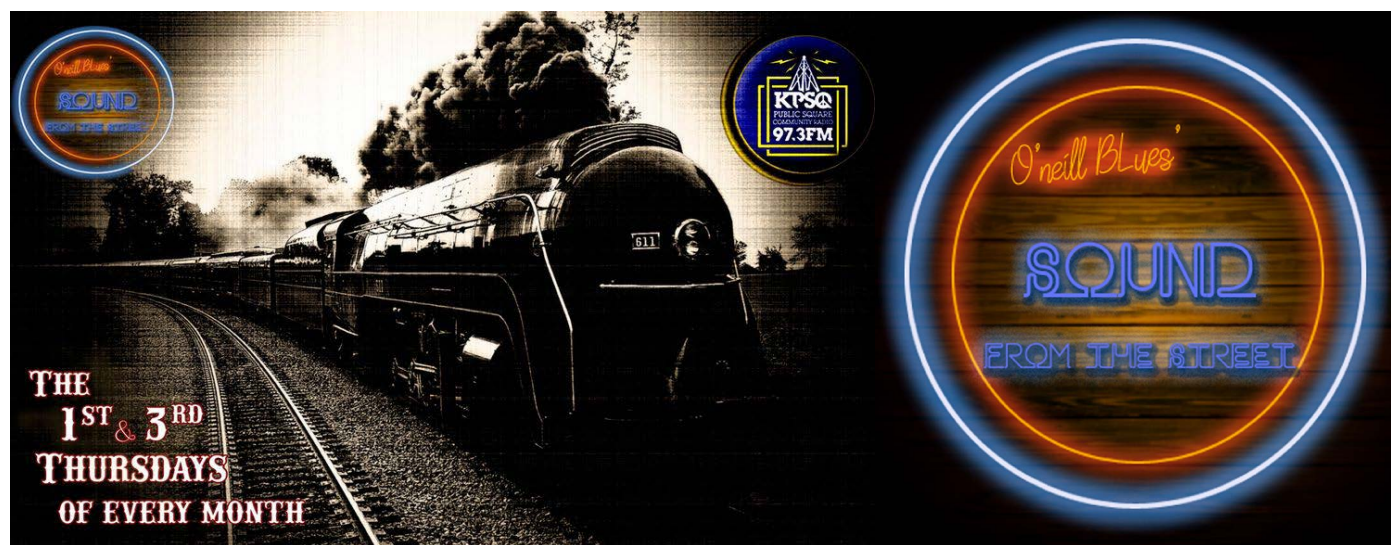


I can't explain how grateful I am for where my passion has taken me and am super excited for my future. Music has been a big part of my life and I can't imagine where I'd be without it. Thank you to everyone that has helped along my journey.

My name is Danny Garwood and my purpose in life is to keep the blues alive. 🎸

<https://www.facebook.com/dannyguitarwood/>





BY O'NEILL BLUES

Hey everyone it's O'Neill Blues' **Sound From The Street**, a new radio show airing the first and third Thursday of every month on KPSQ 97.3 FM. Thank you so much for tuning in. Here is the latest word from the street.

**Finding your inspiration:**

I came across a picture the other day of an oil painting that has always spoken to me. The painting is of an old rusted out steam train being pushed on a barge in choppy water by an old steam powered tug boat. I can always look at this painting and find something to motivate me to create. I ask myself, what is the backstory of these two machines? How did they come together at this moment in time in this painting? What is their destination?

The beauty of art is the transferral of ownership from the artist to the audience. The piece, whether music, paintings, literature, etc. is created and then given to us - the public.

The piece is no longer the artist's, it is ours. And, my interpretation of a piece can be completely different from someone else's and neither of us are wrong on how we perceive it.


What a beautiful gift.

I encourage you today to turn off your phone for a moment. Take in a painting and find your own story in the nuances of color and shading, and see where the road takes you. You never know what you will find.

Enjoy your journey my friends.

**Meanwhile off of Dickson Street...**

It will be an honor for me to MC an event for a new friend of mine in my adopted hometown of Fayetteville, Ark. More details to come, but the opportunities are exciting and I am happy to be weaving myself into the artistic culture of this great town.

Well, that's all for now. So, stay tuned because we will have a lot more for you in the months to come... This is O'Neill Blues', **Sound From The Street.** 



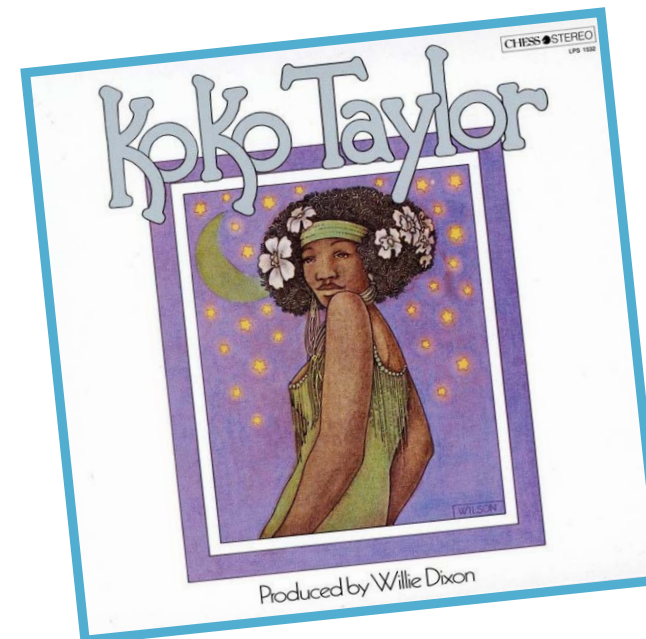
# BLUES HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

STORY BY MARY CERTAIN



**KOKO TAYLOR** was born Cora Walton on a sharecropper's farm just outside of Memphis TN, September 28, 1928, gaining the nickname 'Koko' for her love of chocolate. She fell in love with music at an early age, inspired by gospel music and WDIA blues disc jockeys, B.B. King, and Rufus Thomas. Koko began belting out the blues with her five brothers and sister, accompanying themselves on their homemade instruments. In 1952 Koko and her soon-to-be husband, the late Robert 'Pops' Taylor, traveled to Chicago with nothing but, in Koko's words, "thirty-five cents and a box of Ritz Crackers".

In Chicago, Koko cleaned houses and Pops worked for a packing company. Together they frequented the city's blues clubs nightly. Encouraged by her husband, Koko began



to sit in with the performers and was soon in demand as a guest artist. One evening in 1962 she was approached by arranger/composer Willie Dixon, who was so impressed by Koko's performance that he landed her a recording contract with Chess Records, where he produced several of her singles and albums. He also penned her 1965 million selling single "Wang Dang Doodle", which would become her signature song.



After Chess Records was sold, she landed a contract with Alligator Records in 1975 and released her Grammy nominated album "I Got What It Takes". She recorded eight more albums for Alligator and received seven Grammy nominations.

Over her 40-plus year career, Koko received about every award that the blues world has to offer, including the Blues Foundations Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009, as well



as performing at the Kennedy Center honoring Morgan Freeman. She took her music from the south side of Chicago to festivals all over the world.



Koko's last performance was May 7th, 2009, at the Blues Music Awards in Memphis, where she sang "Wang Dang Doodle". She died June 3, 2009, in Chicago, as a result of complications following a surgery to correct a gastrointestinal bleed.

Koko Taylor is known world-wide as the Queen of the Blues, and broke many barriers that blues women faced in the male dominated blues world. 🌐



# BSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## NEWS FROM THE BSO PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

BY O'NEILL BLUES



Hello fellow Blues Society of the Ozarks members! I am happy to report from the board that we are gearing up for the second half of the 2022. At the time of this writing, I am happy to announce that Justin Coble and Mike Snow won our regional IBC Challenge and will be representing us in Memphis in January. Be on the lookout for our Fundraiser we will be having for Justin and Mike in the very near future.

Also, some other events to keep in mind are **ChamberJam** on July 9th, The D.R.Y.M.S. Fundraiser in October and also our annual **Jingle The Blues Away** in December.

We are excited to closing out this year with a bang. Thank you to all of you for your support.

O'Neill Blues - President  
Blues Society of the Ozarks

Blues in the Schools - BITS has a separate report in this issue, with an exciting school year taking shape this Spring and Summer. BITS has provided over 550 harmonica's to elementary students so far this year.

Members of the BSO volunteered for the Annual Stomp Out the Blues of Homelessness Festival again this year. See the Festival recap in this issue.

International Blues Challenge attendee and D.R.Y.M.S. recipient, Alyssa Galvan

participated in a one-on-one vocal workshop with Reba Russell. Alyssa dedicated her performance for Women in the Blues to D.R.Y.M.S. and Deb and Al Rule.

Additional information on the IBC this year is forthcoming.

The Board also heard discussions on additional updates to the BSO web presence to facilitate e-commerce capabilities for BSO merchandise and to improved online membership enrollment.

Mary Certain reported on efforts with the BSO membership drive with over 100 members since January. Special thanks go out to Mary for her commitment and exceptional contribution in growing our membership. Also, Special thank you to QuikPrint Printing for their continued support and service in producing the full-color BSO Bluesletter magazine.

The BSO is committed in providing a forum in the region for performance of the Blues at live events, and to educate and entertain the people of the Ozarks. The BSO exists to provide an organization through which people can share their common love of the Blues; and to join with similar organizations to accomplish those goals.

As always, thank you all for your support. To learn more about the BSO, feel free to come to our Board Meetings, every second Wednesday of each month at Skybox Lounge at 6:00 p.m. We'd love to see you.

# BSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

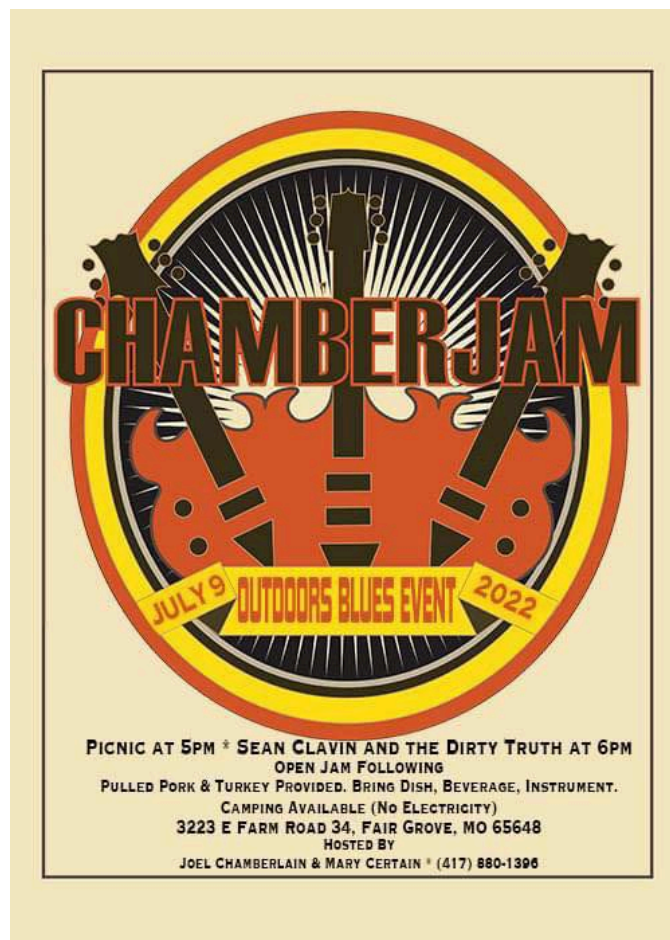
Have a wonderful day and we'll see you all out and about as we go Blues'n in 2022. Hey music lovers, it's time to mark your calendar for **July 9** and the **15th annual Chamberjam blues party and picnic**.

We are out in the country off of CC & 173- 3223 E. Farm Road 34, Fair Grove, Mo. Contact us for directions. 417-448-1396

2022's jam starts at 4:00 p.m., dinner starts at 5:00 p.m..

We provide the basics such as pulled pork and pulled turkey, buns. It's a pot luck so please bring a side dish if you wish. Sean Clavin and the Dirty Truth will play from 6:00-7:30 pm with an open jam to follow.

Musicians please bring your guitar or instrument of choice. A back line of a P.A., drums, amps will be provided on a stage.



There's lots of room for parking & camping if you please. It's a good idea to bring a chair, although we will have some chairs available. An above ground pool is also available should you want to swim or cool off.

**Come see the UFO and Joel's Street Rods too.**



# BSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Sunday, March 27th at Carrie's Bar, the Springfield Music Community came together to support our fellow musician, Burl Williams.

Below are a few comments and memories of the event from attendees.

A great time was had by all who attended Burl's fundraiser. It was so great to see everyone! The music was the best in town. A big thanks to all who when asked to volunteer, stepped up and made it all happen! Heather at Carrie's was an essential part of the success! Our music community is the best! -- Joy Hubbs

The Burl Williams fundraiser was such a success. Carries Bar, The Blues Society, local artists, and fans got together and helped their friend/ local musician during a rough time. Makes you proud to know everyone involved and that we can gather to support others in need. --Mark Guy



The music community and friends were in shock to hear that Burl Williams had been in a bad wreck. I had the thought that someone will do a fundraiser for Burl. Before I knew it Brenda Seely had messaged me that Brad Williams wanted to be involved in a fundraiser for Burl. The wheels were turning, and I was thinking of venues to have this benefit. I got a message from Heather Dietz, manager of Carries. She expressed that she wanted to do a benefit at Carries on the BSO's 4th Sunday Jam. I said yes and we were in benefit mode. The three other bands I contacted said yes as soon as schedules were checked. **The lineup was set;** Brad Williams and the Dance Hall Profits, Nathan Bryce and Loaded Dice, Papa Green Shoes, and Sister Lucille. The BSO jam band provided the backline. Mike Hauk provided lights. I provided the PA and ran the sound.

The atmosphere was a great party of friends. People I had not seen in a while. Yes, people came out for this event that



had not been out in a while. They told me so. The Springfield, Mo music community are the best people on this planet. We are always willing to give our time, talent, and money to a good cause. This touched my heart as well as everyone else. Everyone

# BSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

was great to deal with. Everyone was in the spirit to help a fallen musician. Great job everyone. --George Hunt

The show me state certainly showed their love and support, by not only the



musicians in the Springfield area, but also fans and friends of Burl's, as well as Carrie's Bar. Blues Society Vice President George Hunt sprang into action, contacting several bands to play for a fundraiser. People came forward with silent auction items to sell and food poured in to help feed the packed house at Carrie's. It was a successful fundraiser for Burl Williams. --Mary Certain

Wow, just wow! That's the only way to describe the incredible outpouring of support that I witnessed at the fund-raising event for Burl Williams at Carrie's. So,



wonderful to witness all the BSO members, musicians, friends, fans, and Carrie's staff coming together to make the event such a success! --Michael Hawk

"A tremendous moment when creativity, camaraderie, and compassion gelled in harmony. The love was felt throughout the room and was a perfect example of the positivity and support our community has for one another". --O'Neil Blues

In about two weeks Heather, Carrie's Bar, and George Hunt - BSO President-Elect, scheduled this event. After the date/time, bands, and venue was secured, BSO members jumped in to make sure the event would have food, paper products, silent auction items, and promotion. What a privilege to be able to support one of our local musicians. --Renee' Hunt



## SPECIAL LETTER TO THE BSO MEMBERSHIP

Burl and I would like to thank each and every person who was involved with putting on the benefit with The Blues Society of the Ozarks, to help us with expenses after his accident on March 9th. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support and love shown to us and the donations that came in to help us. We love our Blues family and all the bands that took time out of their schedules to participate in the benefit at Carries.

Burl continues to recover and make strides in his recovery. Every day brings something new he is able to do. He has a positive attitude, and he is working hard with therapy to get back on his feet again. Before you know it, he will be playing his guitar again.

Our sincere thanks once again, Burl and Brenda



Barney's Blues by Jim Coombs

WOKE UP THIS MORNING	CROSS ROADS	BIG LEG WOMAN	BOOGIE CHILLIN'	BACK DOOR MAN	GOT MY MOJO WORKIN'
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\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000



# HEART SO BLUE - ART BENTLEY

NEW CD REVIEW BY DEBRA ROONEY

Art has done it again, folks! He has created an outstanding CD that is entirely acoustic, and it is riveting. He made a few trips to Memphis to record this CD and along with the backup singers he incorporated into it, came up with **"Heart So Blue"**.


For an acoustic sound this CD really rocks the Blues! Art has put his heart and soul into his singing and grinds out a fine sound. He has a unique way of singing in one key, then throwing his voice up an octave or two, and surprising one with a couple of high tones. Check out **"Slow Ride"**

or **"My Mama Said"** to get the full feeling of this.



I talked with Art Bentley and asked him what his favorite tune on this CD is and he had to think about it for a while. Finally, he said, **"Motor City Blues"** is my fave, but I like them all! It's the first song on the CD and sets up what continues to be a rocking Blues sound throughout, with the help of his studio backup singers. My personal favorite on this **"Heart So Blue"** CD is **"Hi-Low Blues"** as it reminds me of Lonnie Mack's old blues song **"Oreo Cookie Blues"**, it just oozes the Blues.

Many of the tunes on this CD have some excellent blues harp solos and the wonderful sound of his acoustic guitar solos. The last song on the CD is **"What Ya Gonna Do?"** and it has it all from his backup singers (sounding like the Supremes!) to solos on harmonica and guitar. Not to be outdone by Art's wonderful voice just totally belting out his Blues!

**"Heart So Blue"** is one to add to your Art Bentley collection. Sit back, relax, grab your favorite beverage, and let Art lose you in the Blues. 



## SPOTLIGHT ON BSO MEMBERSHIP

# RUSS & VICKY JACOBSON

STORY BY VICKY JACOBSON

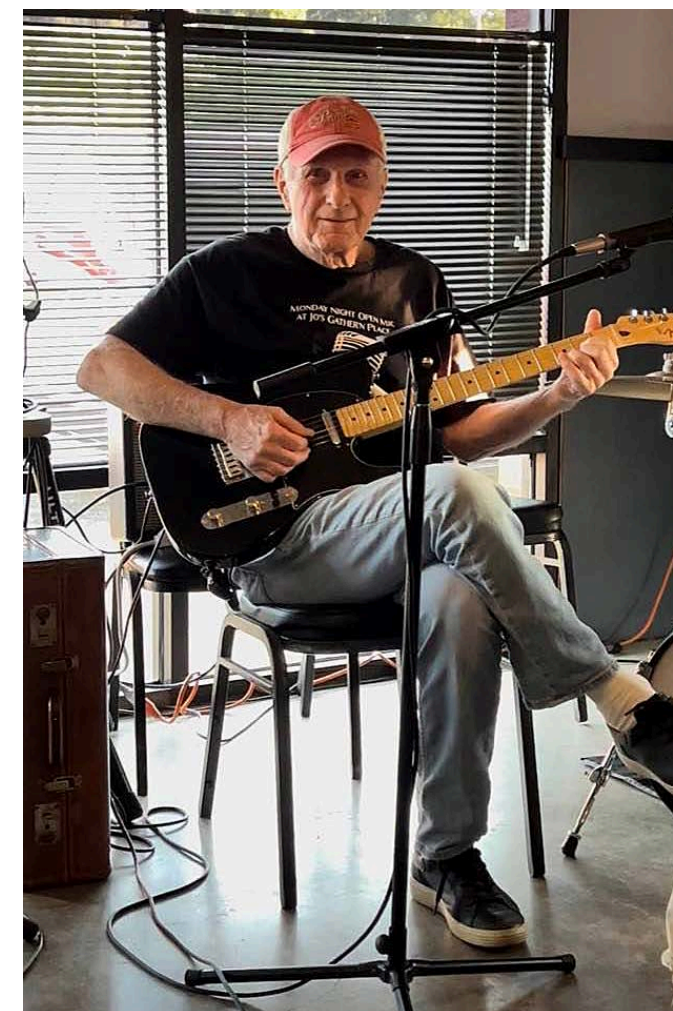
*Russ and I moved here from Minnesota about a year and a half ago, without knowing anybody.*

We went to the Galloway Station on E. Republic one night for a bite to eat... "Lucky Us", Rory Joyce was hosting an open mic night. Different musicians were going on stage doing what they do, playing an instrument or singing. Nothing like this where we came from. It was so

much fun that we stayed till the end and made some new friends. Rory also hosts an open mic on Wednesdays at Bub's Distillery in Republic.

Then we discovered another open mic at Carrie's on E. Meadowmere, hosted by The Blues Society of the Ozarks. It was amazing listening and more new friends were made. The BSO also hosts an open mic at Galloway Station.

The Yetis - George Hunt and Ron Love, also host a BSO open mic at Hold Fast Brewery on N. Kimbrough. Didn't think it could get any better!



Another addition to our open mic travels, that we happened on to, was at Jo's Gathering Place on E. Chestnut Expressway. This one is hosted by Les Gallier. This jam has been held on Monday nights for over ten years with the same band members. All of the musicians were awesome!



Justin Larkin hosts an incredible open mic on Sunday nights at SBC's The Cellar on W. Walnut. FYI... Justin has a newly released CD titled "Nowhere is a Place".

Lastly, Brian Pitts has just started his own open mic "Pickin' on the Patio" at Pappy's Place BBQ on Main St., on Wednesday nights. Great listening and lots of dancing.

Not only do we go to open mic's, Russ and I also go listen to different bands around the area.

We have found Springfield's musicians are a community in itself, with so many of

them are in numerous bands. Everyone knows everyone, and in turn we have made so many great friends.

Russ has started jamming at most of the open mic's with his guitar. This has made our move to Springfield even better. 🎸

Vicky Jacobson



# BLUES VENUES ABOUT TOWN PLACES TO GO...PEOPLE TO SEE

1906 E. Meadowmere St.  
(just East of Glenstone)  
Springfield, MO 65804  
(417) 863-8977

"THE LONGEST BAR IN SPRINGFIELD"

- July 1 - **Brad Williams & The Dance Hall Prophets** 8:00 p.m.
- July 2 - **WheelHouse** 8:00 p.m.
- July 8 - **Nathan Bryce & Loaded Dice** 8:00 p.m.
- July 9 - **Vic Vaughn & Souled Out** 8:00 p.m.
- July 15 - **Uncle Buster** 8:00 p.m.
- July 16 - **Rock Mob** 8:00 pm
- July 22 - **James' Birthday Shindig** 8:00 p.m.
- July 24 - **BSO Blues Jam** 6:00 -9:00 p.m.
- July 29 - **Identity Crisis** 8:00 p.m.
- July 30 - **CoverCharged** 8:00 p.m.
- August 6 - **Sean Calvin & The Dirty Truth** 8:00 p.m.
- August 12 - **Ancient Stone** 8:00 p.m.
- August 20 - **N2Deep** 8:00 p.m.
- August 27 - **Tom's Birthday Show** 8:00 p.m.
- August 28 - **BSO Blues Jam** 6:00 -9:00 p.m.
- Sept. 3 - **Labor Day Weekend-Shared Sychosis** 8:00 p.m.
- Sept.9 - **Black Note** 8:00 p.m.
- Sept. 24 - **Uncle Buster** 8:00 p.m.

Watch for addition bookings on [Carrie's FB Events](#)



- July 16 - **Uncle Buster** 7:30 p.m.
- August 11 - **BSO Thursday Jam** 6:00 -9:00 p.m.
- August 13 - **Stone Assembly** 8:00p.m.
- August 20 - **Ancient Stone** 8:00 p.m.
- Sept. 10 - **Stone Assembly** 8:00 p.m.

Watch for additional bookings on [Galloway Station FB Events](#).



- July 1 - **Kicking Jacksie** 7:00p.m.
- July 2 - **Molly Healy** 7:00 p.m.
- July 6 - **Beercasso - Paint & Brews** 6:00 p.m.
- July 9 - **Devlin Pierce** 7:00 p.m.
- July 15 - **Bryan Copeland** 7:00 p.m.
- July 16 - **Seth Darby & Co.** 7:00 p.m.
- July 22 - **Route 358** 7:00 p.m.
- July 23 - **Matteson Gregory** 7:00 p.m.
- July 29 - **Alyssa Galvan** 6:00 p.m.

Watch for additional bookings on [Hold Fast Brewing FB Events](#).



# The Blues Society of the Ozarks and AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support. The Blues Society of the Ozarks as a 501(c)(3), is a qualifying public charitable organization and has the registered listing as "Blues Society Inc", Fairplay, MO.



If you're an Amazon online shopper, switching to AmazonSmile, at no cost, is easy way to support your local Blues Society through your online purchases. On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation. AmazonSmile will occasionally contact you about donation amounts disbursed to your chosen charity or about the program.

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Springfield, MO 65804  
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"THE LONGEST BAR IN SPRINGFIELD"

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## BECOMING A BSO SUPPORTER

Beginning in 1991, the goal of the Blues Society of the Ozarks has been to encourage the appreciation of the Blues, an original American music. The BSO provides a forum in the Ozarks for the performance of the Blues at live events, and on radio and multimedia platforms, with a commitment to educate and entertain all the people of the Ozarks."

The BSO Newsletter is a full-color digital publication distributed in both electronic and print formats. And, as organizational membership continues to grow, the BSO Newsletter provides their readership with local and regional opportunities to connect with the Blues community. Sponsorship and advertising revenues provide marketing support for the organization.

The BSO Bluesletter has a significant bimonthly digital distribution of six issues per year. With several size and placement options available, your paid ad placement supports your business, as well as the efforts of the BSO Blues community.


Please join our advertising supporters and partners in keeping the Blues an active cultural contribution to the musical heritage of southwest Missouri.

The available ad spaces available are provided below for your convenience. With several options to choose from; business card size, banner, to a full page layouts, etc.

To learn more about the BSO, and new opportunities for an active role in the Blues community, please contact any BSO Board member or visit the BSO FaceBook page, or visit the BSO web site at <https://ozarksblues.com/>

For additional information regarding opportunities to advertise your business in the BSO Bluesletter, contact Mike Fisher at [mikefisher@missouristate.edu](mailto:mikefisher@missouristate.edu).

Full page inside	*8X10 inch.	\$ 525.00
Full page inside	8X10 inch	\$ 500.00
Half page landscape	8X5.25 inch	\$ 300.00
Half page portrait	4X10.5 inch	\$ 300.00
1/4 page banner	2X8 inch	\$ 115.00
Business card	2X3.5 inch	\$ 50.00
*Note: A full page inside front/back cover is a Prime placement.		

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To learn more about the BSO, and new opportunities for an active role in the Blues community, please contact any BSO Board member or visit the BSO [FaceBook](https://ozarksblues.com/) page, or visit the BSO web site at <https://ozarksblues.com/>




## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We're publishing this July issue following an absence of a May edition. This issue offers a new feature; Spotlight on BSO Membership. If you have a positive experience at a BSO event or enjoy the music of a BSO jam, please consider sharing that experience with your peers, with a brief article for the BSO Bluesletter. It takes a village. The BSO Bluesletter is produced to connect BSO membership and the Blues Community with news, feature artists, community information, and each other.

Our goal is to continue our focus on recognizing the extraordinary, talented musicians of the region. Summer is here and live music continues to provide opportunities through the week and weekends to gather and enjoy the Blues. Area venues are bringing back the songs and friends, we are eager to see and hear. Please support area venues that keep the spirit of the Blues alive.

The BSO continues to add value to the benefits of BSO membership, now is the time to become a member of an mature organization that has a clear focus for the future. Be it keeping the Blues alive through monthly music Jams and live venue events, or Blues in the Schools, or our upcoming fund raisers, the BSO has a need for you. Please consider being a member of the growing BSO family.

Look for area musicians and groups performing in the Ozarks and let us know what you see and hear. Until then, let's keep the music going and growing.

Now is the time for you to take that step and start writing your contribution to the next BSO Bluesletter. Feel free to contact me, Mike Fisher at [mikefisher@missouristate.edu](mailto:mikefisher@missouristate.edu). 

# MEMBERSHIP WITH THE BLUES SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS

Since 1991, our goals have been to encourage appreciation of the Blues, an original American music; to provide a forum in the Ozarks for performance of the Blues at live events and on radio and television; to educate and entertain the people of the Ozarks; to provide an organization through which people can share their common love of the Blues; and to join with similar organizations to accomplish the forgoing goals.

Becoming a member and playing an active role in the BSO is easy. As a volunteer organization, there are numerous volunteer opportunities and membership benefits.

- BSO merchandise: Tee-shirts, scarves, earrings, etc.
- Social networking with meeting other people who also love the blues.
- Opportunities to volunteer at BSO fundraisers and sponsored events.
- Ability to attend meetings and have a voice on upcoming organizational issues and elections.



## BSO MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sign up at [ozarksblues.com](http://ozarksblues.com) or remove and complete this form, and send with check or money order to:  
**Blues Society of the Ozarks, P.O. Box 8133, Springfield, MO 65801**

First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

*(Two adults at same address, please list both names)*

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birth day \_\_\_\_\_

- INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS - ONLY \$20/YEAR PER PERSON
- BAND/ENSEMBLE MEMBERSHIPS - ONLY \$30/YEAR

As an active member in the **BSO**, I would be willing to help in the following areas:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
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