

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

OSM BLUESLETTER

APRIL 2023

YOUR ULTIMATE SOURCE FOR THE BLUES



EST. 1991

BERNIE JOHNSON

INTERVIEW & STORY BY GEORGE HUNT

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THE APRIL BSO BLUESLETTER

FROM THE BSO PRESIDENT



Hello Everybody,

Our BSO has some great momentum this year. Our D.R.Y.M.S. scholarship is helping sponsor several young musicians, who are excelling at their chosen musical endeavor. Our first D.R.Y.M.S. recipient is Alyssa Galvin. We have sponsored Alyssa to go to Pinetop Perkins Workshops, The IBC workshops, and the Women in the Blues showcase at the IBC. She will be going to Europe

this summer with The International Crossroads Project. This band also features youth from all corners of the globe. I am very proud of the BSO! We are doing things that no other Blues Society is doing. There are only a few who have a B.I.T.S. program, let alone our D.R.Y.M.S. scholarships. Bob Bledsoe and I have done Blues in the Schools (B.I.T.S.) at Ozark North Elementary, Jeffries Elementary, and Fremont school last month. We are giving away harmonicas, teaching some harmonica, teaching Blues basics, and letting the kids play the snare drum through a 12 Bar Blues progression. Our three Jams a month are going great guns. Our sign-up board is full every time we have a jam. We are very excited. The second Thursday jam this month, April 13th at Galloway Station, will feature Sister Lucille from 7-8 pm. Their new CD is riding high on the Billboard Blues charts. Their new CD, Tell The World will be available to purchase. This is a special feature we have done twice. Last month we featured Ernie Bedell's group Just Us. They were fabulous!!! Come out and support our local artist.

George Hunt

BSO President ↑

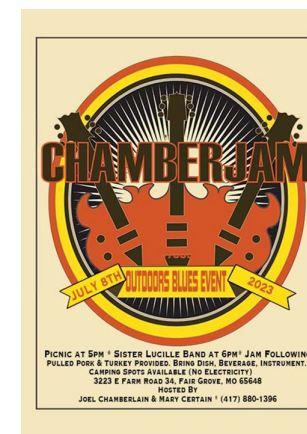
BSO MISSION STATEMENT

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.

BLUES SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS
P.O. BOX 8133
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65801
<https://ozarksblues.com/>



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ON THE COVER: BERNIE JOHNSON - COVER PHOTO PROVIDED COURTESY OF **GEORGE HUNT**. ADDITIONAL PHOTOS PROVIDED COURTESY OF **MUSIC MAN PHOTOGRAPHY & MEMBERS OF THE BLUES SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS**.

BERNIE JOHNSON

INTERVIEW & STORY BY GEORGE HUNT



His name is Bernie Johnson, or B.J., as he is more commonly known. B.J. was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1941 and grew up in the Bangor, Maine area. He started school in Maine and finished in California. That is the way life has been for this man, one extreme to another.

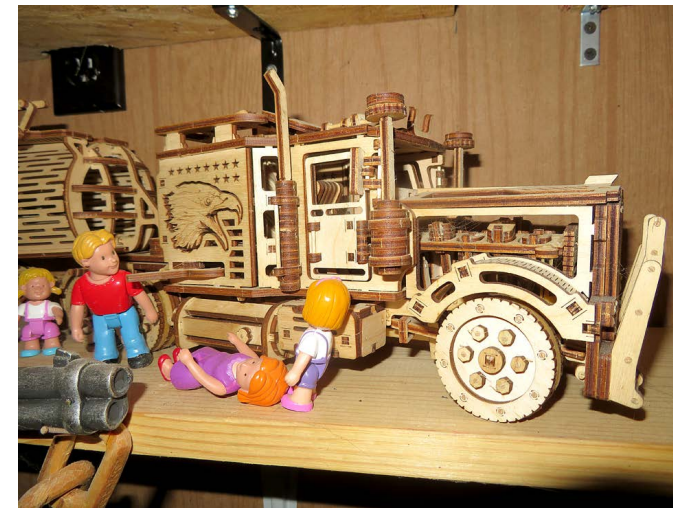
In California, a brief career as a baseball catcher started. Then, through a series of unfortunate events, he had to move with his mother out of state. The baseball career was left behind. This is when B. J. started playing guitar. Duane Eddy and Chuck Berry were his beginning guitar heroes. "Everybody's influence was Chuck Berry. Even to this day modern guitar players sight Chuck as a learning influence. No one knew what he was doing." B.J. took a regular set of guitar strings and moved them all down. He threw



away the low E string. For the first string, he took the fifth string from a banjo. He had his first set of light gauge strings! Light gauge strings were not made for the public until the 60's. Now, it was easier to bend an unwound string. Like Chuck Berry, he did not tell anyone how he did it. This secret was kept to himself for a long time.



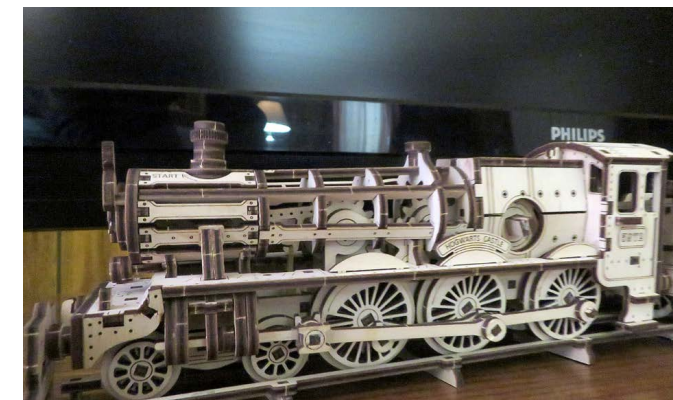
At the age of 25, he worked in a big music store in Bangor Maine. He also attended a computer collage and was in his first marriage. He then got a call from a drummer in Nashville, asking B.J. to go "on the road" playing country guitar. He did this for quite a few years. B.J. then ended up in Minnesota for a few years, playing guitar. He was certified as a chemical dependency instructor and worked that job for 10 years. Then, another marriage and a move to the Ozarks was in order. He played Beverly's, The



Pump Boys and Dinettes show in Branson, and other small venues at this time. Then, at the ripe old age of 60 he became a police officer in Merriam Woods and Rockaway Beach. He had a wonderful time doing that for 13 years. "To come up on a car and shine a light in, you would see clothes flying everywhere. Lol!"

B.J. has been doing woodworking for about 3 years now. Pictured are some of his incredibly detailed works.

I asked B.J. what his favorite thing about music is. "It allows me to be free of everything. You know all through my life, and most people's lives, they're restricted by something. I find that music does not restrict me at all. I play what I feel. If I feel bad, it probably comes out that way. I can pick up vibes of other players, especially you (George). When you're honking on that harp, and it is really happening,



something happens to me. I get on a different level of my playing. It has a contagious effect to the whole band when I play with you guys. When I'm with you guys and I'm sitting in, the other guys tell me they play

better when I'm there. When we hit it all together. We play different things, when we hear different things." He is referring to sitting in with the BSO Jam Band.

When B.J. was playing in Branson and first came to the jams, he had a midi-guitar. It was quite a handful. But you will never hear anything like it. During the pandemic he sold that "animal", as I called it. B.J. expressed concern that he may not be accepted without the "animal". Of course, nothing could be farther from the truth. He did take the midi-guitar as far as he thought possible. "People in Branson had no idea how to play a midi-guitar. Terry Bethel was a steel guitar player with Mel Tillis for years. He heard me play it and fell in love with the synthesizer guitar. He had



me featured at steel guitar conventions, demonstrating that midi-guitar. When you pull up a piano voicing, you have to play it like a piano. A lot of guitar players bought them and did not have much luck. That is why some people could not play a midi-guitar. You have to play the saxophone patch like a saxophone, or it will not sound correct." The guitar that he wishes he still had today was a 1961 Gretsch White Falcon. B.J. also played pedal steel guitar for many years.

Being 80 years old B.J. is happy he can still get out and play. Catch B.J. at the open jams around the area; The Paddlewheel in Branson, Jo's Gathering Place Monday jam, the BSO 2nd Thursday jam at Galloway Station, or the BSO 4th Sunday jam at Carries. 🎸



BLUES HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

STORY BY MARY CERTAIN



Irene Joy Gibbons was born in St. Louis, MO. on January 22, 1895, as one of twelve children. She adopted the stage name of Eva Taylor, but also worked under her birth name.

On stage by the age of three, she began touring in reviews. Before she was in her teens she had already been to New Zealand, Australia, and Europe. She also toured extensively with Josephine Gassman and her "New Zealand Pickaninnies", a vaudeville act.

program in the 1920's for NBC. She began recording around 1922; first for African American owned Black Swan Records and eventually for other labels that included Columbia, Okeh, and Bluebird. Taylor was christened by Black Swan Records as the "Dixie Nightingale".

She settled in New York City by 1920, establishing herself as a performer in Harlem nightspots. Within a year she wed Clarence Williams, a producer, publisher, and piano player. The newlyweds worked together through 1930. Their legacy includes numbers made as the Blue Five in the mid 20's, which included such luminaries as jazz clarinetist and saxophonist Sidney Bechet, trumpet



Eva Taylor broke new ground as an African American vocalist during the early part of the 20th century. She was among the first whose talent was broadcast on radio programs of the day, and she held down her own

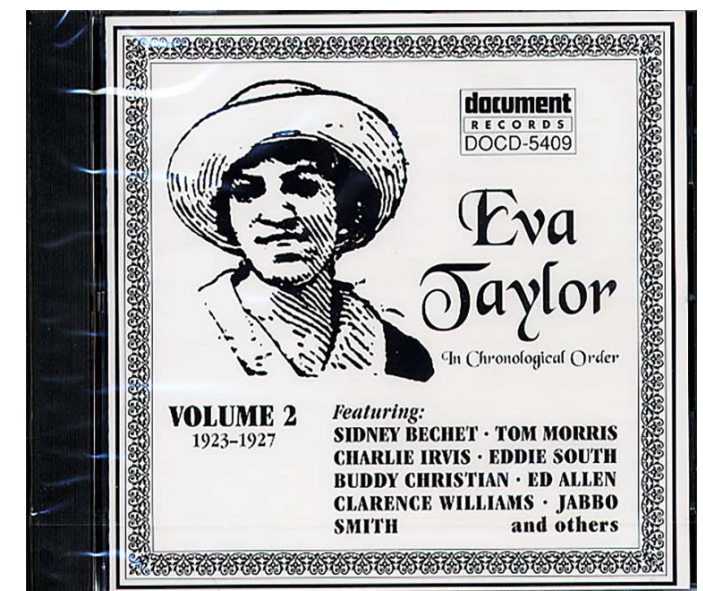
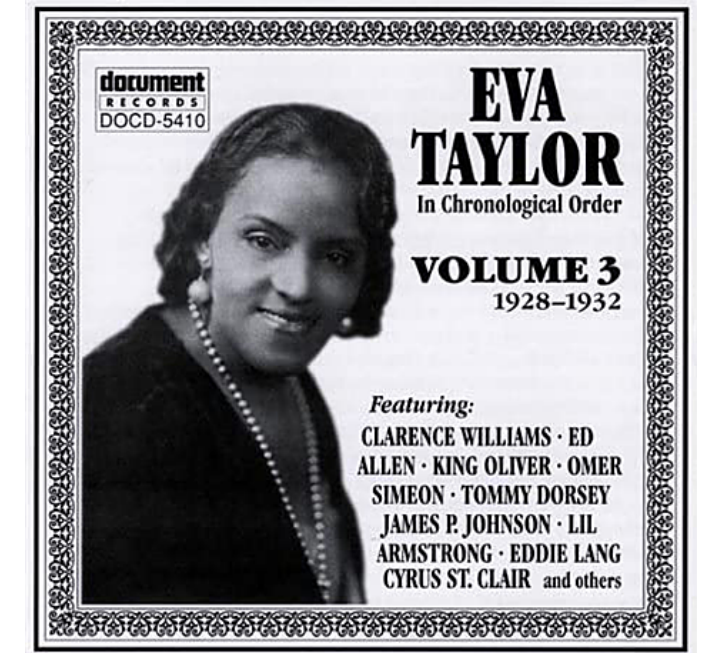


virtuoso Louis Armstrong, and such singers as Sippy Wallace and Bessie Smith.

Taylor stopped performing during the 1940's, but she returned in the mid 1960's following her husband's death. Her last tour was in Stockholm, Sweden in 1976.

Taylor's son Clarence Williams Jr. was the father to their grandchild Clarence Williams III, an actor whose work includes appearances on television in Mod Squad, Tales from the Hood, and The General's Daughter. Their daughter Joy Williams (1931-1970) was a singer and actress, performing under the stage name of Irene Williams.

Eva Taylor died of cancer in 1977 in Mineola, New York where she was interred next to her husband, Clarence Williams, under the name Irene Joy Williams in Saint Charles Cemetery, in Farmingdale, New York.





BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS

News from the BSO BITS PROGRAM

REPORT BY GEORGE HUNT

George and Bob spent a week at Ozark North Elementary, and Jeffries and Fremont Elementary, with the Blues in the Schools program. The schools continue to be in full swing as we approach the Spring of the calendar year.

The BITS program continues to educate people of all ages about the blues as a historic music form and how a simple harmonica can become an expressive instrument .

To learn more about the BITS program and its impact in the schools and our community, contact George Hunt at georgehuntbluesman@gmail.com, or (417) 353-9180. You can also find George on [Facebook](#) .



This beautiful new Sire T Series guitar can be yours. This guitar is being raffled off to benefit Blues in the Schools. You can buy your tickets at Ernie Williamson Music or at any Blues Society Jam for only \$10. Sire is a new guitar company and causing quite a bit of talk. Guitar great Larry Carlton endorses these guitars. This guitar has locking tuners, the neck is roasted maple, with gloss fingerboard and abalone inlays. Come get a chance to own this guitar and help support Blues in the Schools (BITS).



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

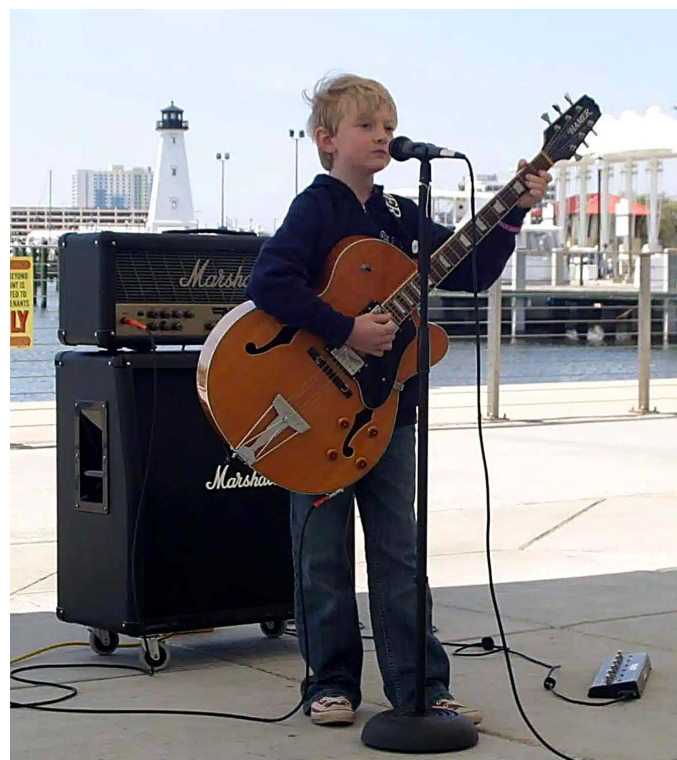
CATCHING UP WITH "SIX-STRING" ANDREW

STORY BY ANDREW SULLIVAN & MARY CERTAIN



Andrew Sullivan was the first youth to send in a youth article about his music journey to be published in our BSO Bluesletter. We thought it would be great to catch up with him by sharing an article by Cherie Ward, from ourMShome.com. The Blues Society of the

up to the blues legend at a club in the delta and told him he wanted to play onstage with the eight-time Grammy award winner. The guitarist and singer who has influenced generations of artists including Eric Clapton, Jimmy Hendrix, and Keith Richards, must have been impressed, because his reply was to meet him backstage and grab a guitar.



Ozarks sponsored Andrew to be in the International Blues Challenge Youth Showcase for two years, when he was 14 & 15 years old. A link to the YouTube video is at the end of this article.

When guitarist "Six String Andrew" Sullivan had a chance to meet his guitar idol Buddy Guy, he was not going to waste a single second of the chance he'd been dealt. The Vanclave native walked right



Six String Andrew was only 13 years old at the time, and there he was ripping up the stage with a blues icon. "I told him I wanted to play his original song 'Ms. Ida B' and he told me he didn't remember the lyrics. Then he said to me, 'you sing it, and I'll string it.' When I got on stage he said into the mic, 'I don't remember the lyrics', and everyone laughed. Then he looked over at me and quietly asked, 'What key is it in?'. I said, 'G' and then we started the song. He traded solos with me, which was like getting a guitar lesson in front of a thousand people."

Six String Andrew's obsession with guitars began way before that night, that he said he will remember forever. While most three-year-old boys are learning to bait hooks or trap bugs in jars, Six String Andrew was jamming out in his living room, while watching classic rock DVDs with his mom and dad.

"I always liked watching the guitar players," said Six String Andrew, who is now 17 and getting ready to go to college. "Especially Queen. It was



always an interesting concept to me that you could get so many cool sounds out of that one instrument."

From that tender age of only three, his obsession with the stringed instrument with a smooth body and notes, with crisp clear edges, took him on an unbelievable journey that has landed him gigs at Ground Zero Blues Club Biloxi and a spot in the 20-piece orchestra, Coast Big Band. He and three friends have even put together the band, Test Drive, and they play Gulf Coast venues such as Margaritaville, Ground Zero, First Friday, Fat Bottom BBQ, and others.

Thanks to his parents, his musical genre range appears to be endless. When he was only six, his father began taking him to Clarksdale so he could immerse himself in a true blues culture, and it was there he learned real guitar licks from authentic delta blues artists.



"I am inspired by a wide range of artists," he said. "Old blues and folk legends like Lead Belly and Robert Johnson. I'm also inspired by a lot of 70s soul artists such as Dionne Warwick, Stevie Wonder, Frankie Beverly, and The Gap Band. As far as classic rock goes, Cheap Trick has been a massive influence on me. They have been my favorite band since I was six and they even let me play with them a few times. B.B. King's soulful guitar playing is very inspiring to me, and Eric Gales' fast style of playing is also a huge inspiration for my playing."

Test Drive

Six String Andrew along with twin brothers Kaden and Jaden Bilbo - the bass player and keyboard player, and Brody Hyde - the drummer, formed the band Test Drive in high school. Since they were all musicians and had been friends for years, a band seemed like a natural progression. "And we like playing all kinds of music, from old-school blues, to soul, to rock, to Drake," he said.



Coast Big Band

He joined the Coast Big Band more than a year ago, when Dr. Arthur Matthews extended a seat to him with the orchestra, which has given him new elements to focus on while playing guitar.

"In most settings, I am the lead guitar player, and the guitar is the main focus of the songs I do," he said. "However, with Coast Big Band, I do a lot more background playing, that is meant to be more of an accompaniment to the horns rather than a lead riff." He does get guitar solos with the orchestra, such as "Solo Flight" and a few others. "It's a great experience, and it teaches me a lot, and I appreciate everybody for welcoming me in."


Ground Zero

Six String Andrew said Ground Zero is one of the best venues on the Gulf Coast for musicians, because music is their main focus. "At a lot of places, the music is more of background music, so people have something to listen to while they eat or get drinks. Ground Zero makes it the focal point. The sound guys, Reid, and Mick, make the place sound incredible and are very accommodating to the musicians. They are real professionals who know what they're doing. I also want to acknowledge Hobbs for booking my band and other great acts there. And I want to thank the owner Lee, for always being so hospitable to the band and me."



These days Six String Andrew is keeping up with his guitar commitments while dedicating time to planning his future. He knows he wants to attend a music college but is still weighing his options. "I have been accepted into Belmont's music program, which is a really great place," he said. "The guitar instructors are some of the best players I've seen, and the college is right in Nashville, so it is definitely one I am considering. Whether I'm on stage performing in front of a lot of people or doing studio work, I want my profession to be in music."

And what was that very first song Six String Andrew learned to play, and spent hours practicing until his little juvenile fingers bled and had calluses? It was 'Edge of Glory' by Lady Gaga. "I learned the basic chords to it when I was six years old on a Squier acoustic guitar that was almost as big as me," he said laughing while he recalled the memory. "She was and is still one of my favorite singers."

So, you might just say this amazingly talented guitarist is on the edge of glory, and the entire Magnolia State is cheering him on and can't wait to see what more he achieves. 
<https://youtu.be/MXRvtovXj-8>


BSO JAM DEBUT - JUST US

PERFORMANCE REVIEW BY GEORGE HUNT



Ernie Bedell and the Bedell Family have been a staple in Springfield, Missouri music circles for generations. The Blues Society of the Ozarks was proud to showcase this new group, **Just Us**. The group consist of Ernie Bedell Sr. on bass and vocals, Steve Ragsdale on guitar and vocals, and Richie Allen Jr. on drums and vocals. We were treated to an hour of great music with loads of soul. These veteran musicians sounded like they had played together forever. I would pay just to hear Ernie snap his bass strings. Steve's guitar playing had every guitar player in the room



Be sure to purchase Ernie's new book Generation B Music and Melodies, when you see him. The BSO would again like to thank Just Us, for showcasing their new band. 

leaning forward to see "what he's doing". Richie can play drums and sing at the same time, like a soulful bird. I got to play with Richie at Norman Jackson's jams a few years ago. I can tell you that he can put a hole in the wall with his foot and his bass drum.



BSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY MARY CERTAIN



The BSO Jams continue to bring out area musicians with the debut of "Just Us", Ernie Bedell's new Blues trio. A great turn out and book signing with lots of BSO friends and new members.

The D.R.Y.M.S. program is now offering T-shirts for \$20.00 each with all proceeds going to the Debra Rule Youth Music Scholarship program. (See page 15)

There is not a better time than now to join or renew your BSO membership. Individuals and bands can join. Go online to Ozarksblues.com or use the membership application on the back page of the BSO Bluesletter.

Hey music lovers, it's time to mark your calendar on July 8, 2023 for the 16th annual Chamberjam Blues Party and Picnic. The address is 3223 E. Farm Road 34, Fair Grove, Missouri.

We are out in the country off of Highways CC & 173. Contact us for directions at (417) 448-1396. 2023's dinner starts at 5:00 p.m. We will provide the basics such as pulled pork and turkey, and buns. It's a pot luck, so please bring a side dish if you wish.

Sister Lucille band will play from 6:00-7:30 p.m., with an open jam to follow. Musicians, please bring your guitar or instrument of choice. A backline 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!

Upcoming Events:

April 13-2nd Thursday **BSO Jam** at Galloway Station, 6:00-9:00 p.m. **Special Guest: Sister Lucille** from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16-**BSO Acoustic Jam** at Hold Fast Brewing 3:00-6:00 p.m .

Sunday, April 23-Carrie's 4th Sunday **BSO Jam** from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 8-**IBC** at Galloway Station 6:00-9:00 p.m

Saturday, June 10-**Stomp the Blues Out of Homelessness**

Saturday, July 8-**Chamberjam**

Monday, October 23-**D.R.Y.M.S.** Fundraiser at Ernie Williamson Music 8:00-9:00 p.m. Facebook Live Event.

Date changed: **Jingle the Blues Away**-Saturday, December 2 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Galloway Station.



RENEW YOUR BSO MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Membership in the Blues Society of the Ozarks (BSO) is easy! You can complete a membership form on line at ozarksblues.com/ or use the convenient form at the last page of the BSO Bluesletter.

By renewing your membership or joining as a new member, you become part of a growing, mature organization and community that is an official affiliate of the Blues Foundation; preserving blues heritage, celebrating blues recording and performance, expanding worldwide awareness of the blues, and ensuring the future of the unique American art form. Your local BSO provides a forum in the Ozarks region for performances of blues at live events, live streaming events with a commitment to educate and entertain all the people of the Ozarks."



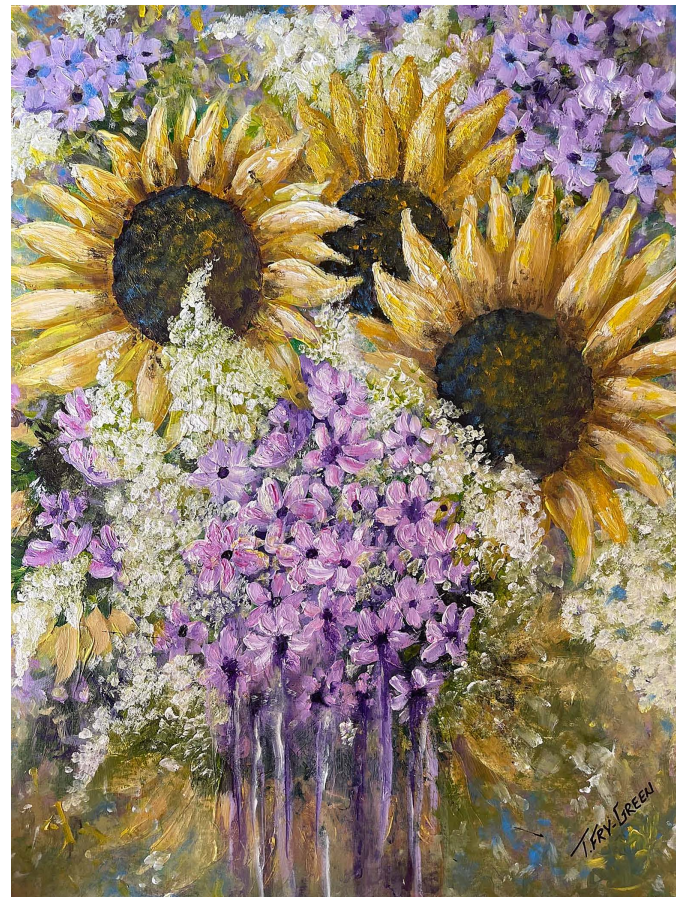
BSO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

STORY BY VICKY JACOBSON

I am honored to introduce you to Teresa Fry, a gifted artist from Springfield Missouri. Russ and I met Teresa thru a mutual friend, David Hoover, a talented musician, where they like us attend open mics around town.

Teresa is a homegrown Missouri girl, born in Mansfield, the youngest of three kids by 20 years... quite a gap there. She was raised in a close-knit family and as a plus, her grandma lived next door to them. Her dad was a police chief in Mansfield, who unfortunately was killed while on duty. Teresa was 10 years old at the time - quite a tragedy for the family.

Teresa and David Hoover lived next door to each other. David drew a picture of a tree



one day and she followed suit and continued to be an accomplished artist. Her and David have remained good friends all these years.

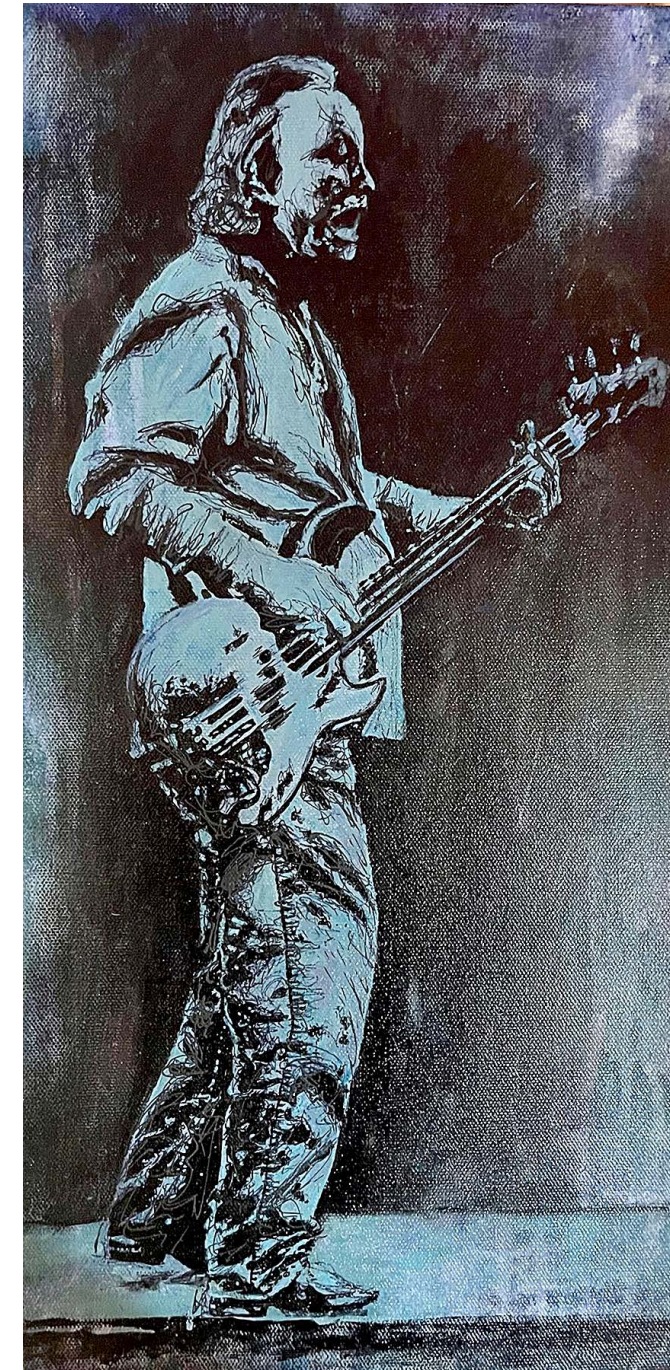
Teresa and her mom moved to Springfield when she was 13, mainly due to the great art scene and the exposor for her. She graduated from Glendale High School.

She spent the first 20 years creating landscapes and still life paintings in a realistic style. About 15 years ago she felt the need to



switch her painting style to be more abstract. Teresa was looking to put the fun back into her art, and really wanted to feel the excitement of simply creating much like a child with a new box of crayons.

For about 10 years she owned a decorative business (Brush Strokes), that offered murals and specialized finishes to



DR Randolph playing his Bass

both commercial and residential customers. Some of which are still in existence. Eventually she opened a small art gallery that helped to promote local artists in southwest Missouri. From there Teresa moved to Georgia, where her abstract colorful paintings were shared with numerous galleries in the Atlanta area.

Teresa moved back to Springfield in January of 2020, with the aspiration of painting simple designs. She now has a vision to combine the visual arts and the local music scene. Her desire would be to promote the

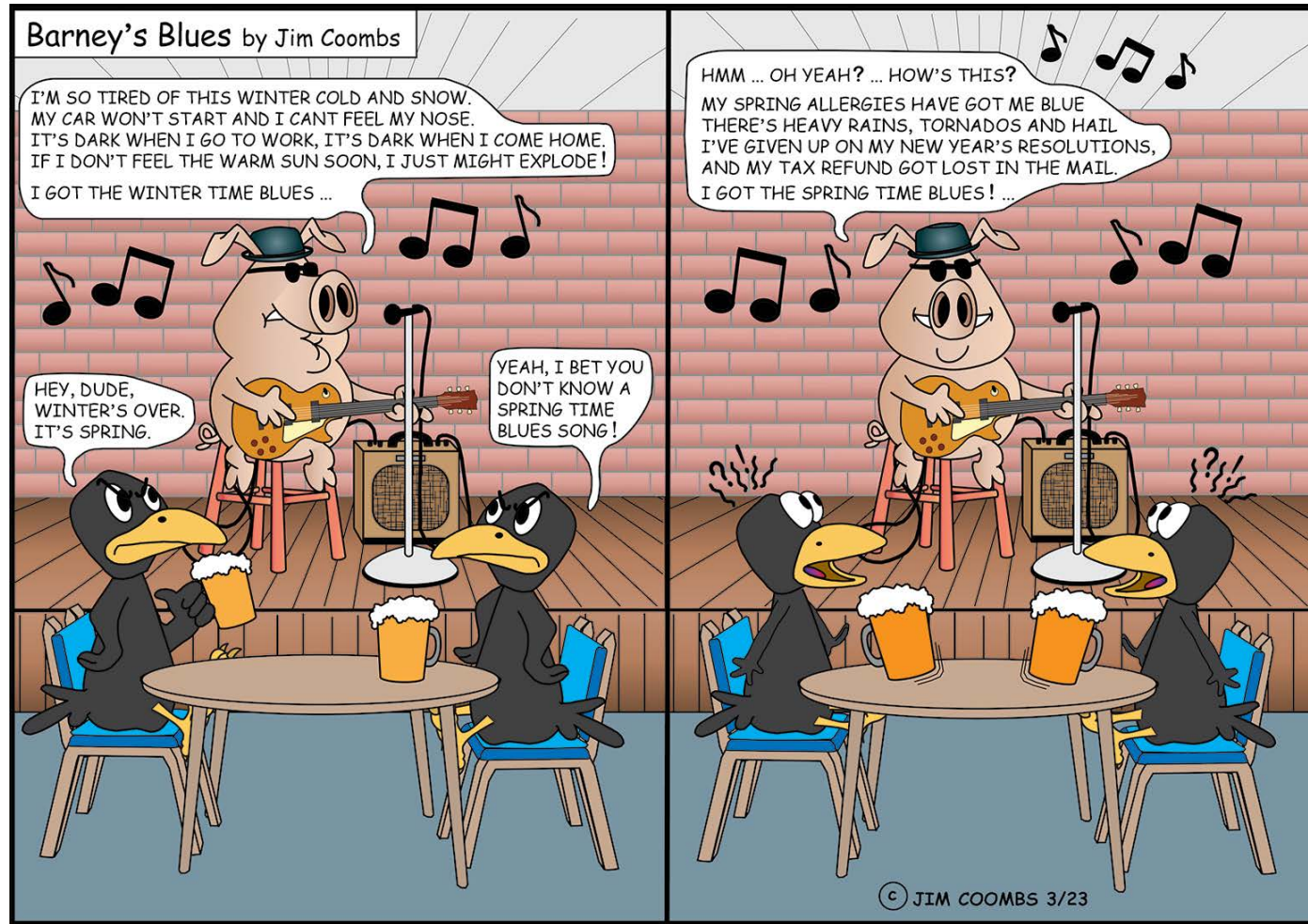


Corey Reeves with his harmonica.

outstanding musical talent in Springfield. Teresa is looking forward to working on this ongoing project of paintings over the next few months, hoping to have an exhibit of 30-40 local musicians.

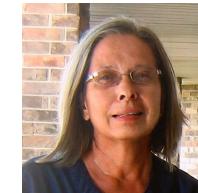
In addition, if you would like to contact Teresa, she has a [Facebook](#) page and an Instagram page (teresafry-art,) with many photos of her amazing paintings. [↗](#)





D.R.Y.M.S. APPLICATION FORM

BLUES SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS P.O. BOX 8133 SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65801-8133



Debbie Rule Youth Music Scholarship (D.R.Y.M.S.) Application and Agreement

D.R.Y.M.S. was established in 2021 by The Blues Society of the Ozarks, to honor Debbie Rule's love for the Blues and music in general. D.R.Y.M.S. provides financial assistance to aspiring young musicians of all musical genres, whose limited financial resources might prohibit them from attending a music learning opportunity. The scholarship will award up to \$500.00 per year to selected applicants, preferably from Springfield, Missouri or the surrounding Ozarks area.

D.R.Y.M.S. is available to those under the age of 21, to study their instrument of choice by attending reputable camp seminars, or workshop programs in the United States. The scholarship could also be used to fund individual music lessons or tuition. D.R.Y.M.S. is a one-year scholarship, but recipients may apply for the scholarship again in any subsequent year, prior to the age of 21.

A letter of recommendation must accompany the application. Recipients receive a free Blues Society of the Ozarks membership, in exchange for which recipients are requested to write an article for the BSO Bluesletter, about their experience with the workshop or lesson session, once completed. All decisions regarding the awarding of scholarships are the sole discretion of the Blues Society of the Ozarks D.R.Y.M.S. Committee. Payment of scholarship awards are made by the D.R.Y.M.S. Committee directly to the person or organization providing the musical learning experience.

Applicant's name: _____ Age: _____

Contact information - Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Program type (such as instrument lessons, workshop or other): _____

Frequency of program or lessons (recurring, one time, etc.): _____

Anticipated fee or fees (can be funded up to \$500): _____

Signature of applicant (parent or guardian, if applicant is under 18 years of age) _____ Date _____

Send this completed form and the letter of recommendation to: ozarksblues@gmail.com or The Blues Society of the Ozarks, P.O. Box 8133, Springfield, Missouri 65801

The Blues Society of the Ozarks is a 501(c) non-profit organization. The Blues Society of the Ozarks does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities.

Form created 1/16/2023



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Beginning in 1991, the goal of the Blues Society of the Ozarks (BSO) is to encourage the appreciation of the Blues, an original American music style. 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 any BSO Board Member or Mike Fisher at mikefisher@missouristate.edu.

We accept electronic files in high resolution (300 DPI) in PDF, JPEG, PSD, PNG, or AI (Adobe CC). We cannot accept artwork or compositions created in word processing programs. Images should be CMYK color format. We can not guarantee color accuracy if RGB format images are converted. Ad sizes may be slightly modified to facilitate publication content flow and placement. The BSO Bluesletter will not knowingly place, reproduce, or publish content or images that are secured through copyright without expressed or written permissions. 

Full page inside	*8X10 inch.	\$525.00
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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the April 2023 BSO Bluesletter. This issue begins the Spring with a spotlight of our activities and events that give value back to our membership and the Blues community. Also in this issue, is a BSO Member Spotlight showcasing the amazing talent of a painter that is finding area musicians on her canvas. Included in this issue is our new membership Form and a new D.R.Y.M.S. Scholarship Application Form. Please give serious consideration to renewing your BSO membership and a commitment to continue supporting Blues Society of the Ozarks events and Jams. Please discover how you can make a positive impact on these events, D.R.Y.M.S. recipients, and this year's charities we support. You can make a difference. Our goal for 2023 is to continue our focus on recognizing the extraordinary, talented musicians of the region. Live music continues to provide opportunities through the week and weekends to gather and enjoy the Blues, Classic Rock, Jazz, and more.

Please support the area venues that keep the spirit of music and the Blues alive.

If you are not a member yet, now is the time to become a member of a mature organization that has a clear focus for the future. Be it keeping the Blues alive through monthly music Jams and live venue events, Blues in the Schools (B.I.T.S.), 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. 



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Membership Form

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 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 foregoing goals.



Membership Benefits

New members receive:

- BSO T-Shirt
- \$10 Gift Certificate to Ernie Williamson Music
- Bi-monthly Bluesletter (newsletter)
- Free inclusion in ticket drawings for select events

Membership Dues

Please check your applicable payment

- \$20/year
- \$30/year - Band
- \$100/year - Corporate Member

Interests

Please check all areas of interest for volunteering

- Events
- Fundraising
- Public Relations
- Bluesletter Publishing
- Bluesletter Writing
- Bluesletter Advertising Sales
- Website Maintenance
- Performance
- Other (please explain)
-

Please mail check and form to: Blues Society of the Ozarks, PO Box 8133, Springfield MO 65801

Contact Information

Name.....

Date.....

Address.....

City/State/Zip Code.....

Email.....

Phone Number..... Birthday (Month-Day).....

May the BSO publish your name in the Bluesletter publication? Yes..... No.....