



bluesnotes

July/August 2022 **(FREE)**
Volume 36 | Issue 7

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A monthly publication of the Cascade Blues Association | *"Promoting and Preserving the Blues"* | cascadebluesassociation.org

Gone but not Forgotten

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Greg Johnson was the best friend of the blues
community in Portland (cover story page 2)

(Photo by Bill Cleghorn)

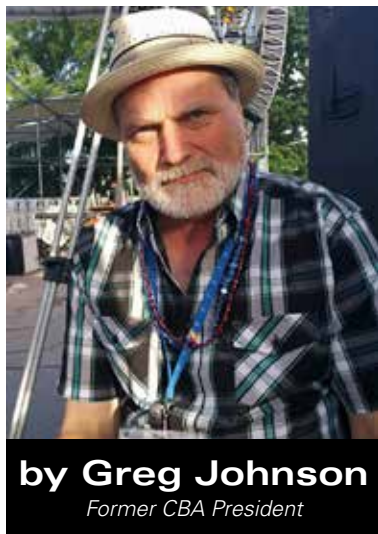
R.I.P. Greg Johnson - He was an inspiration to us all

And will truly be missed!

By Terry Currier

The Portland Blues Community lost its No. 1 advocate, Greg Johnson, on March 24. Greg had been the president of the Cascade Blues Association for several decades and helped keep Portland as one of the top blues cities in the United States. His efforts were recognized far beyond the region as he was a recipient of the Blues Foundation's "Keeping the Blues Alive" Award in 2016, which he was presented with in Memphis, Tenn.

Supporting blues music was a passion of his and he became respected by both artists and fans. He lived and breathed the blues and did whatever it took to promote and preserve it. He was a big champion of new artists and helped put on the "Journey to Memphis" competition that



by Greg Johnson
Former CBA President

selected a new artist in the area to represent Portland at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis each year. And Greg took time off from his job each year to go to Memphis and help with the competition as a judge. He was also the stage manager for seven years for events at the Orpheum Theater.



Greg was like an "ambassador of blues" and was at most live blues music shows by national and international artists, welcoming them to our city and in many cases, becoming longtime friends with many of them as they returned over the years.

He was presented with the George Page "Back What You Believe" award in 2021 by the Cascade Blues Association, an award he had received three previous times. It's an award given to a person within the blues community who really has stepped up to the plate during their life to support the blues and the

Cascade Blues Association. These bookend his "Lifetime Achievement" award in 2008.

His other passion was photography, and you could usually see him shooting photos at most blues events in the city. Along with that, he loved writing and was a regular contributor to the Cascade Blues Notes, which many of his photos accompanied. Much of this has documented much of the Northwest's blues history over the years. Greg also co-authored the book, "Blues On Beale Street: Memoirs of the International Blues Challenge."

Being a Cascade Blues Association member myself since its inception in 1987, it's hard to think of anyone who has put as much effort as Greg into the blues community. He was considered the "best friend of the blues community" by everyone who was part of it. He fought a hard battle against cancer and a stroke this

past year with the help of the love of his life, wife Cherie. He was an inspiration to all of us and will truly be missed.



Join us in supporting Blues in Portland.

Become a member today!
Visit
cascadebluesassociation.org

Support Greg's memory and passion as we work hard to grow the Cascade Blues Association. Become a CBA member or advertise in the Blues Notes!

Ramblings on my mind

WBF, Journey to Memphis & more!

Welcome to the first print edition of Blues Notes since COVID. Blues Notes is the official publication of the Cascade Blues Association. We are a registered 501(c) nonprofit dedicated to the promotion and preservation of blues and roots music in the Pacific Northwest. Our front cover is a remembrance of Greg Johnson, who recently passed away after serving as Cascade Blues Association president for 20 years. Greg continues to be deeply missed by our community.

Cascade Blues Association has had a long relationship with the Waterfront Blues Festival. We hope to see you on-site at our merchandise booth, where you can join or make a donation. On July 4, you can catch our "Journey to Memphis" band competition finals. The winner will represent the CBA at the International Blues Challenge in January 2023, one of the world's

largest band competitions that takes place every year in Memphis Tenn. This is a prestigious international event where musicians from Portland have been incredibly successful and we are pleased to be able to support them.

If you have an appetite for more blues, our member meetings are currently held the first Wednesday of the month starting at 6 p.m. at The Garages, Lake Oswego. Expect 90 minutes of music and dancing, plus some awesome raffle prizes, like CDs and concert tickets. On behalf of the board, we hope to see you at one of our events soon.

- **Anni Piper** - President
- **Robert Umali Evans** - Vice President
- **Mike Day** - Treasurer
- **Mike Todd** - Membership Secretary
- **Ben Rice, Betsy Clayton, Clay Clayton, James Ortega** - At-large board members

By Anni Piper

Key Events – Save The Date!

July

- 7/1-4 - Waterfront Blues Festival (see page 3)
- 7/15-17 - Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival

August

- 8/7 - Little Feat with Hot Tuna, Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall
- 8/12 - Rick Estrin, Jack London Revue
- 8/26-27 Peninsula Rhythm and Blues Festival

October

- 10/14 - Carvin Jones, Lincoln Performance Hall



Blues Notes is a publication of the Cascade Blues Association

Help us promote and preserve the lyrical emotion and sultry sounds of blues music in Portland, become a member! Visit <http://cascadebluesassociation.org> today!

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bluesnotes

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Board Members:

- President: Anni Piper
- Vice-President: Robert Umali Evans
- Membership Secretary: Mike Todd
- Treasurer: Mike Day
- At-Large: Ben Rice, Betsy Clayton, James Ortega

Board Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Tuesday after our membership meeting. Contact us to confirm details. All are welcome!

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Waterfront Blues Festival - Schedule of Events

Stage Legend

- South = South Main Stage
- North = North Main Stage
- FP = Front Porch Stage
- CS = Crossroads Stage
- PS = Portland Spirit

Thursday, June 30

Hoodoo Moon Cruise, 7:30-10 pm PS (Memphissippi Sounds, Silent Partners w/ Anjelika ‘Jelly’ Joseph Marina Crouse w/ Ben Rice Band)

Friday, July 1

The BrassRoots Movement (at festival gates) 10:00-11:15 am

Josh Makosky 12:00-1:00 North

Tevis Hodge, Jr. 12:00-1:00 FP

Andrew Matthews Band w/ Brady Goss, 1:00-2:00 South
Lo Steele, 1:00-2:00 CS

The BrassRoots Movement (parade), 1:00-1:20 FP

Loveness Wesa 1:20-2:30 FP

Bottleneck Blues Band 2:00-3:00 North

The Fenix Rising Band 2:50-3:50 FP

Pat Stilwell’s Blues Alliance 3:00-4:00 South

Rae Gordon w/ Brady Goss & Stan Street, 3:00-4:00 CS

Chubby’s Birthday Bayou Cruise 3:00-5:00 PS

The BrassRoots Movement (Chubby Carrier & The Bayou Swamp Band, Bayou Boyz w/ Kris Deelane)

Silent Partners, 4:00-5:00 North

Wamba, 4:10-5:10 FP

Marina Crouse w/ Ben Rice Band, 5:00-6:00 South

Tevis Hodge, Jr. 5:00-6:00 CS

Memphissippi Sounds, 5:30-6:30 FP

The Suffers, 6:00-7:00 North

Devin Phillips, 6:50-8:00 FP

Robert Randolph Band 7:00-8:00 South

Tony Coleman & Russell Jackson: The Rhythm Section 7:00-8:00 CS

Galactic featuring Anjelika ‘Jelly’ Joseph 8:00-9:00 North

Kris Deelane & the Hurt 8:20-9:30 FP

Grace Potter: 9:00-10:15 South

Memphissippi Sounds, presented by The Leslie Fund 9:00-10:15 CS

Farnell Newton & The Othership Connection: James Brown Tribute, 9:50-11 FP

Saturday, July 2

The Jesters (festival gates) 10:00-11:15 am

To join the CBA, visit <http://cascadebluesassociation.org>



Zydeco Dance Instruction: Janine & Roland Jemerson 11:40-12:20 FP

Johnny Wheels & the Swamp Donkeys 12:00-1:00 North

Too Loose Cajun/Zydeco Band 12:20-1:50 FP

The Sugar Roots 1-2:00 South

Friends of Noise 1:00-2:00 CS

The Jesters (parade) 1:50-2:10 FP

Zach Person 2:00-3:00 North

Soul Creole 2:10-3:40 FP

John Bunzow 3:00-4:00 South

Friends of Noise 3:00-4:00 CS

Sail on Sister: A Blues Fest Cares Cruise, 3:00-5:00 PS (Lauren Sheehan & Cyd Smith, Northwest Women in Rhythm & Blues, Shelly Rudolph)

Son Little 4:00-5:00 North

Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Band 4:00-5:30 FP

Diuna Greenleaf 5:00-6:00 South

Zach Person 5:00-6:00 CS

Horace Trahan & the Ossun Express 5:50-7:20 FP

Lady A 6:00-7:00 North

The War & Treaty 7-8:00 South

The Strum Broads 7:00-8:00 CS

Mason Trail & Zydeco Rhythms 7:40-9:10 FP

Duffy Bishop 8:00-9:00 North

The Wood Brothers presented by Buick GMC of Beaverton, 9:00-10:15 South

Son Little 9:00-10:15 CS

Kevin Naquin & the Ossun Playboys, presented by Cascade Zydeco Assn. 9:30-11:00 FP

Sunday, July 3

River City Riot! (festival gates) 10:00-11:15 am

Cajun Dance Instruction: Ali & Adam Grimshaw 11:40-12:20 FP

Ty Curtis Band w/ Hank Shreve 12:00-1:00 North

Swamp Thang 12:20-1:50 FP

Hillstomp 1:00-2:00 South

Friends of Noise 1:00-2:00 CS

River City Riot! (parade) 1:50-2:10 FP

LaRhonda & the Steele Family Band 2:00-2:55 North

Mason Trail & Zydeco

Rhythm 2:10-3:40 FP

Memorial Second Line - Mysti Krewe of Nimbus, 2:55-3:05 The Bowl

Big Monti 3:05-4:00 South

Friends of Noise 3:00-4:00 CS

Driftin’ Blues’: A Blues Fest Cares Cruise 3:00-5:00 PS (Brett Benton, Cedric Burnside, Ty Curtis)

Adia Victoria 4:00-5:00 North

Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Band 4:00-5:30 FP

Bobby Torres Ensemble w/ Claudia Lennear, 5:00-6:00 South



Mary Flower 5:00-6:00 CS

Ron Artis II & The Truth 6:00-7:00 North

Kevin Naquin & the Ossun Playboys presented by Cascade Zydeco Assn. 5:50-7:20 FP

Curtis Salgado presented by The J&J Foundation 7-8:00 South

Hillstomp 7:00-8:00 CS

Lloyd Jones 8:00-9:00 North

Soul Creole 7:40-9:10 FP

Taj Mahal & The Phantom Blues Band 9:00-10:15 South

Adia Victoria 9:00-10:15 CS

Northwest Bone Gang / Mysti Krewe of Nimbus Mardi Gras Parade 9:10-9:30 FP

Horace Trahan & the Ossun Express 9:30-11:00 FP



Monday, July 4

Bloco Alegria (at festival gates) 10:00-11:15 am

Journey to Memphis Finals presented by the CBA: 11:30-11:55 FP (The Fabulous Badcats)

Jersey Soul 12:00-1:00 North

Journey to Memphis: 12pm - 12:20pm FP (TJ Wong Trio)

Journey to Memphis Finals: TBA, 12:45 - 1:05 FP (James Ortega Y Los Demon Drivers)

Norman Sylvester Revue 1:00-2:00 South

Brett Benton 1:00-2:00 CS

Journey to Memphis: TBA, 1:15 FP (Pat Stillwell Band)

Toby Lee & Timothy James 2:00-3:00 North

Buffalo Nichols 2:30-3:25 FP

Phantom Blues Band w/ Curtis Salgado 3:00-4:00 South

20 Feet from Stardom: Claudia Lennear, Judith Hill, Judy Tint 3:00-4:00 CS

“Rollin’ On The River” Cruise 3:00-5:00 PS (Mary Flower, Kim Field & Albert Reda, Outer Orbit w/

‘Jubu’ Smith, Bon Bon Vivant

“Bring the Heat” Blues Dance Contest: Cedric Burnside 3:45-4:45 FP

Lisa Mann, Karen Lovely, Ben Rice, Dave Melyan 4-5:00 North

Femi Kuti & the Positive Force featuring Mádé Kuti 5:00-6:00 South

Toby Lee & Timothy James 5:00-6:00 CS

“Bring the Heat” Solo Dance Contest: Kevin Selfe Big Band 5:10-6:10 FP

Judith Hill 6:00-7:00 North

“Bring the Heat” Jazz Dance Contest: Smut City Jelly Roll Society, 6:35-7:35 FP

Andy Stokes 7:00-8:00 South

Buffalo Nichols 7:00-8:00 CS

Bon Bon Vivant - Parade 7:35-8:00 FP

Kim Field’s Harmonica Blow-off 8:00-10:00 FP

Cedric Burnside 8:00-9:00 North

Lettuce 9:00-10:00 South

Christopher Worth & David Jacobs-Strain 9:00-10:00 CS

National Anthem: LaRhonda Steele & Andy Stokes, 10:00 South

Fireworks! 10:05 South



Waterfront Blues Festival Returns

Looks who’s coming by Randy Murphy

After the cancellation of the Waterfront Blues Festival in 2020 (due to the COVID pandemic) and 2021’s successful, albeit scaled-back, stint at the Zidell Yards, Portland’s premiere music fête will return to its traditional home at Tom Mcall Waterfront Park. For four days alongside the beautiful Willamette River, (July 1-4) this year’s superb lineup boasts an eclectic mix of national and international acts

Looks who’s coming:

- Taj Mahal & The Phantom Blues Band,
- Grace Potter,
- The Wood Brothers,
- Lettuce,
- Galactic featuring Anjelika ‘Jelly’ Joseph, Cedrick Burnside, and our own Curtis Salgado.



Many other favorite local artists are also slated to perform:

- Johnny Wheels and The Swamp Donkeys,
- The Kevin Selfe Big Band,
- LaRhonda & the Steele Family Band,
- Lloyd Jones,
- and The Norman Sylvester Revue.

Zydeco fans can look forward to a potent lineup of Cajun music with the return of:

- Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band,
- Terry & the Zydeco Bad Boys,
- Mason Trail and Zydeco Rhythm,
- and The Too Loose Cajun/ Zydeco Band.

I'm playing for you, my friend

by Kevin Selfe

RIP, Greg Johnson

Greg Johnson was a wonderful man with a passion for the blues and a gift for bringing the community together.

He spent countless, unheralded hours building up the blues community, not only here, but around the country. From writing articles for the Blues Notes, reviewing new releases, checking out new bands and venues, being a stage manager at IBC venues, putting on benefit shows ... the list goes on and on.

Most importantly he was a good, genuine man. A man who cared about people and their stories.

I met Greg the first week I moved to Portland back in February 2007. It was at the CBA meeting at the Melody Ballroom. We exchanged IBC stories, discovered we had many mutual friends, and talked about our favorite blues artists in the scene. He asked me to play a meeting and I was so grateful of how welcoming he was to me.

From that day on, we



became great friends. Greg would stop by my shows regularly, and sometimes it would be his third or fourth stop of the night. He always wanted to do his absolute best to support and encourage all of us musicians to be the best we could be. He never asked for anything in return, he just genuinely cared for us and enjoyed our music.

Every time I'd see him, he'd

give me a big bear hug and we'd just sit and chat about anything and everything. He truly was family.

I know I would not be the musician I am today without him, his support and this amazing blues community he helped build. I'm going to miss him so much.

Greg, I'll keep on playing the blues for you, my friend.



RIP Jimmy Haggard

by Rainy Day Blues Society, Board of Directors

It is with great sadness that we share with you the unexpected passing of our dear friend, Jimmy Haggard in May 2022. He passed peacefully at home with his wife, Robin.

As president of the Rainy

Day Blues Society, Jimmy was a primal force in keeping the blues alive. He was a good friend to us all and will be forever missed.

Please keep his wife, Robin and the Haggard family in your thoughts and prayers.

Contact us for a link to the FB memorial fundraiser, should you be interested in a donation.

Stop by the Cascade Blues Association merchandise booth at the Waterfront Blues Festival this July 4 weekend



Meet our **2022 President, musician and model Anni Piper**

Find blues gigs in Portland all year long



cascadebluesassociation.org/event-calendar/

Greg "Slim Lively" Johnson, R.I.P.

March 15, 1959 -
March 24, 2022

by Shelley Garrett

Portland's music community is mourning the loss of one of its hardest working and most beloved family members.

Greg Johnson, 63, fought the good fight against cancer and a stroke for a long year with the strong support of his wife, Cherie, and the uplifting help of the blues community at large. One can only imagine how difficult it was for him to lose the power of speech with all his great memories locked up. But Greg's was a life fully lived.

Greg is survived by Cherie, his mother, Pat, and many dear friends who will miss him terribly. A dedicated music lover and devoted husband, Greg spent decades in service to the local and national blues community and encouraged countless musicians. His legacy won't soon be forgotten.

Some of Greg's local and national accomplishments:

- Board of Directors Cascade Blues Association 1998-2001



- Cascade Blues Association President 2002-2021 (president emeritus 2022)
- Muddy Awards Committee chair 1998-2020
- Keeping the Blues Alive Award from the Blues Foundation 2016.
- Blues Music Awards (Memphis, Tenn.) stage manager for seven years
- International Blues Challenge Orpheum Theater Stage Manager
- Club 152 (at the IB) stage manager for 13 years
- Muddy Award, George Paige "Back What You Believe In" (4)
- Muddy Award "Lifetime Achievement"

- Waterfront Blues Festival emcee
- Blues historian and photographer
- Blues Notes main contributor
- Cascade Blues Association official photographer
- Journey to Memphis co-founder and chair

I served on the board with Greg for the past several years and was struck by how calm he was, often under extreme vitriol. He listened to all opinions with respect. Greg's love of the music and the people who make it guided him. He was so proud of the local musicians who had made it out of our beloved little town! Greg valued their accomplishments and seemed truly humbled by the friendships he made through the CBA.

So many of the tributes posted on Facebook in the first few days mention his mentorship, guidance and support. We've included a small sample here - do visit the CBA website to hear all the voices mourning Greg's loss: <https://cascadebluesassociation.org/category/r-i-p/>

Journey to Memphis, 4 bands in the running

Only one will be chosen

Meet the finalists in our Cascade Blues Association 'Journey to Memphis' competition. One act will be chosen to compete at the 2023 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee



TJ Wong Trio

TJ Wong Trio

TJ Wong is what many would call a phenomenon. At the age of 20 he has already achieved accomplishments that many musicians

never will in their career. With two albums under his belt, a third on the way and an endorsement from Brazil's largest guitar manufacturer, he is on his way to the top. Not to mention the fact that he has been to the International Blues Challenge two times as a youth representative for the Cascade Blues Association -- first as a duo in 2017 and then again with the Portland Blues Revival in 2018. Combine all that with the excellent musicianship of Timmer Blakely (Bo Diddly, Ry Cooder) and Chandler Bowerman (The Diamonds, Ben Rice), and you have the TJ Wong Trio. Delivered directly to you is a mix of blues and rock that is unique, and a sound that is new, but calls on classics for inspiration.

The Fabulous Bad Cats

The Fabulous Bad Cats formed in late 2002. Starting as a four-piece band, they started playing shows all over the Northwest, with over 80 minutes of original blues material



The Fabulous Bad Cat

mixed in with danceable covers.

Currently they perform as a five-piece group, with original front man and bassist Toby Worthington still carrying out the litter box. In the mid-2000s, legendary guitarist, GIT graduate and author Joel Jackson joined the band, along with the incredible Eric Rabe, who's well known in the Northwest on saxophone, plus drummer Alan Wicks of Kenny Lee and the Sundowners fame. The band soon developed a smooth and polished sound. With the recent addition of keyboardist Wiley Wynne, just home from touring in Europe, there's no

telling where this band is going next. A new CD is currently in the works.



Pat Stillwell Band

Pat Stillwell Band

The Pat Stilwell Band is a four-piece lineup consisting of Pat on vocals, guitar and electric violin, Michael McGinty on keys, Kevin Kelley on bass and Joe Trump on drums. PSB is a high-energy blues-rock outfit centered around Pat's skillful original songwriting, soulful vocals, and expressive guitar and electric violin. The music ventures from straight-ahead blues-rock and funk to rootsy Americana and straight-ahead

Chicago blues. The band is composed of hands-down some of the finest musicians in the Pacific Northwest.

James Ortega Y Los Demon Drivers

It's not about bringing the demons in, it's about driving them out in this high-energy show featuring Christophe Bourdiseau on bass and Jimi Hardin on drums. James has been strutting his stuff on stages in the Pacific Northwest for decades. He brings his guitar and vocal talent to the forefront in this power trio lineup with a little Latin fusion flavor.



James Ortega Y Los Demon Drivers

Portland Blues & Jazz Dance Society - PB&J is back!

Come dance with us!

by Emily Millman

Portland Blues & Jazz Dance Society (aka "PB&J") is thrilled to bring our dances back for 2022! After a long COVID-cautious hiatus, you can now find us at Tango Berretin in Portland dancing it up to blues on Tuesdays and blues-friendly fusion every Friday.

During the pandemic, PB&J hosted a number of lectures featuring experts on blues and blues dancing. We treated our community to a special dance lecture and workshop from Grey Armstrong, an interview with Lady A (check it out for some great life advice and to find out her favorite type of pie!), a lecture on sexy dancing with Breai Michele, and even a Damon



Stone lecture spotlighting his favorite Black influential artists. If you missed out on these, we saved you some recordings on our education page ;) PDX-Blues.com/Resources.

PB&J has gone through a few changes over the pandemic. This year finds us with an entirely new board and a renewed energy to highlight

local musicians at our dances and drive community education around the Black music and dancing that we love to see thriving in the Portland area. You may already have encountered our fearless leader, the colorful Robert Umali Evans, who also serves on the board of the Cascade Blues Association, and a number of our other board



members (James Thornton III, Sammy Manim, Rose Richland, Emily Millman, Kevon Jones) out at local blues events. We are working hard to inspire and teach new generations of blues enthusiasts to bring out to shows! PB&J's new board is still filling positions and expects to expand our offerings for the community as we rebuild and revitalize our scene. We're off to a good start!

In order to minimize the impact of COVID on our dance

scene, PB&J is determined to host some of the safest (mandatory N95s) dances around and is excited to host outdoor dances with live music this summer out in the warm evening air. All of PB&J's dances are beginner-friendly, feature a dance lesson in the first hour and are open to anyone fully vaccinated. Come dance with us and share our enthusiasm for blues! You'll find that we are friendly, welcoming and already like the same music. A full list of our upcoming dance events can be found on PB&J's website at PDXBlues.com. (More are in the works.)

And definitely come say hi to us at the Waterfront Blues Fest this July! Rumor has it that a gang of PB&J folks will be busting moves on at least one of the cruises.

Get your tickets at WaterfrontBluesFest.com.

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New CD Reviews: by Anni Piper

The McNamarr Project



"Run With Me" (Bahool Records) By Anni Piper

"Run With Me" is a slick soul blues album, the second collaboration from this Australian songwriting team.

As an Aussie myself, I had the pleasure of crossing paths with lead vocalist Andrea Marr many times on the touring circuit before I moved to the USA. It's wonderful to hear how she has matured as an artist.

Don't get me wrong, Marr was always amazing, but there is such depth to these compositions they could stand up against anything by Sam Cooke or the Holland / Dozier / Holland hit machine. Often compared to Betty Lavette and Tina Turner, Marr collaborates with songwriting partner John McNamara on vocals and lead guitar. Dave Reynolds certainly deserves a mention as another amazing guitarist on this album, and co-writer on a handful of the songs. Based in Melbourne, a city that, like Portland, experiences frequent drizzly precipitation, it's a great town to get the blues in.

Nine original tracks take us through a variety of moods from pensive to joyful.

"Love Starts With Me" is a

standout track, written in response to the death of George Floyd. "Save It Till I See You" was inspired by the separation experienced by many lovers due to COVID lockdowns and restrictions. The closer is a medley from Otis Redding, Etta James and Sam Cooke. They are a class act, and this is one classy album.

Total time 41 minutes

Save It Till I See You / Run With Me / More of You / The Right Temptation / Stand Up / Love Starts With Me / Brighter / Dangerous Thing / You're the Reason / Soul Medley

Richard Ray Farrell



Kilborn Alley – "Takin' Time" ((Run It Back Records)) By Anni Piper

I'm just taking a moment to remove my jaw from the floor before I start to write. All I want to say is holy frijoles, Batman, who are these villains? Because admittedly, I have never heard of them, and I'm feeling very invigorated that that is no longer the case.

Kilborn Alley possesses a pedigree akin to a champion show dog. Multiple Blues Blast winners, and Blues Music Award nominees, I don't know why they are not headlining damn near every single blues event in the nation.

The concepts in this recording are deeply rooted in blues, but they have such a unique spin on an ancient framework. You don't hear a lot of soundscape introductions to songs in this genre. But "Introducing Granny" is a great way to roll into "Pusher Grandma," a fascinating tale of a drug-dealing senior. Some of this material, I'm sure, has to be semi-autobiographical, like the aforementioned song, as well as the sentiments expressed in the beautiful duet "County Line Motel" – although I sure hope no one actually delivered a baby under a neon sign.

As I said before, the thematic material here is unique, and the lyrics are instantly memorable. The grooves, as in "Do Your Dance," are so infectious you can't help but give a little shoulder shimmy before you realize people on the bus are starting to stare.

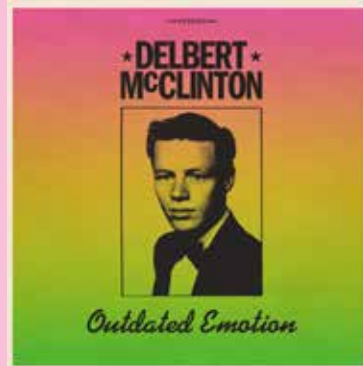
Hailing from Illinois, Kilborn Alley has been performing together since high school, and has continued their musical relationship over 22 years. This is an exquisite album, featuring original compositions only, which just makes it more impressive. It leans toward soul blues, but I'm not quite sure how to categorize it.

Featuring Chris Breen on bass, Andrew Duncanson on electric guitar and lead vocal, Josh Rasmussen-Stimmel on electric guitar and Aaron "A Train" Wilson on drums, this band seems to be in a league of its own. This is my favorite album so far of 2022, and since we're halfway through already, it's going to be difficult to top it.

Total time: 44 minutes

Do Your Dance / Takin' Time / A Gobble a Goo / Come Back to Our Love / County Line Motel / Pop's Lunch / Demonstrate My Love / Illinois / Lonely Window / Introducing Granny / Pusher Grandma

Delbert McClinton



"Outdated Emotion" (Hot Shot Records) By Anni Piper

McClinton has certainly found the key to my heart with this offering. Although I can't stand modern popular country music, I love Hank Williams Sr. and Johnny Cash.

Therefore, I found myself listening to this album with utter delight from commencement to conclusion. We go on an epic journey through blues, rock 'n' roll and two-step country, with many a nod to my Uncle Hank with classics like "Jambalaya" and "Move It On Over." Delbert McClinton needs no introduction to blues lovers, but Delaney McClinton on vocals might deserve a shake and a howdy from all of us. McClinton's daughter comes perilously close to showing up her daddy with her impeccable vocal harmonies.

One of the things I really loved about this recording was that, although it is incredibly polished, nobody sounds like they need to prove anything. Their musical expression is one 100% authentic, and they know it. The simplicity of "The Sun Is Shining" is so refreshing. There is no showboating or flashiness, just pure unadulterated groove. It's the same with "Settin' the Woods On Fire." It

somehow just makes me want to fold my arm like a chicken wing, and perform lateral hoedown motions with my elbow.

Approximately one-third of this material is original, and yet none of it sounds out of place with the selected cover songs. "Hard Hearted Hannah" and "Connecticut Blues" are the standout original compositions. Both of them tell a story and tell it well, with some unique turns of phrase in the lyrics that just make this album more and more appealing. Kevin McKendree on piano adds some Chick Corea flavor, if only for a few seconds, to the stripped-down "I Want a Little Girl."

The artwork features bold Rastafarian colors, with what I assume to be McClinton's high school yearbook picture on the front cover. It looks very modern, and certainly not dated. "Outdated Emotion" is an album that is sure to stand the test of time.

Total time: 42 minutes

Stagger Lee / Settin' the Woods On Fire / The Sun Is Shining / One Scotch, One Bourbon, One Beer / Long Tall Sally / Two Step Too / I Want a Little Girl / Ain't That Lovin' You / Jambalaya / Connecticut Blues / I Ain't Got You / Move It On Over / Hard Hearted Hannah / Sweet Talkin' Man / Money Honey / Call Me a Cab

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There's entertainment, dancing, drinking, and delicious meals to be had. Build community with like-minded folks. All are welcome!

We are a friendly bunch and want everyone to join us. Yes, that means you! We don't care about your nationality, race, politics, sexual orientation, age, wage, or whatever. We just want to see you have a good time. It's a classy venue that accommodates and encourages under-21s to attend.

Our July meeting features Shelly Rudolph duo and AC Porter band. August is the Mick Schaefer duo and Kevin Selfe band.

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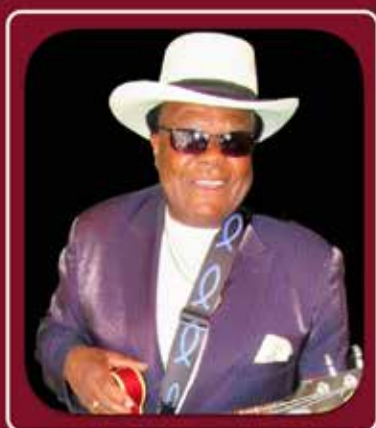
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