

bluesnotes

January/February 2023
Volume 37 | Issue 1 (FREE)

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"Preserving and Promoting the Blues in Portland, OR"

A monthly publication of the Cascade Blues Association | cascadebluesassociation.org



Come see **Ms. Vee** perform
at our January member meeting (Wednesday, 1/11, 6pm)

PDX Music Month

by Shelley Garrett

Event Calendar



Artichoke Music is proud to participate in the 2023 2nd Annual Portland Music Month. Your ticket for these shows include a donation to MusicOregon's Echo Fund, which provides creative project grants for local independent musicians. Your check-in at the show will also enter you in a sweepstakes to win prizes!

January 5

Thursday Night Coffee House- Showcasing half hour sets from Dan Dover, Avery Hill, John Lee & Rich Waggoner, 7pm

January 6

"First Fridays" with Lloyd Jones

Thanks to a very generous sponsor, Lloyd is now presenting a special unique show each month,

one time only! January's guest is Ty Curtis and in February Peter Dammann, 7pm

January 12

"Texas to Oregon" Randy Lewis Brown, Ken Gaines & Carl Solomon-Listening to Randy Lewis Brown is like reading a great Southern novel. A down home, laid back style filled with sharp contemporary edges, 7pm

January 14

Dylan May & the Message- Original funk, soul, jazz and rock, 8pm



January 22

John Bunzow Band - Roots Rock, Denny Bixby (Oregon Music HOF, Rodney Crowell), Paul Brainard (Decemberists, Alejandro Escovedo),

Jeff Donovan (Paladins, Dwight Yoakam) The band plays a mix of John's originals and classic songs from artists like Steve Earle, John Prine and the Band, 7pm

January 27

We welcome Great Aunt (from Australia) Together, songwriter/instrumentalists Megan Bird and Chelsea Allen draw inspiration from the traditions of old-time, bluegrass and gospel music, and their diverse backgrounds in punk and jazz, to craft modern musical stories.

January 28

Join us for a fundraiser for the Red Cross with Corky Coreson's "CD Release, " artists included as of press time...(and subject to change) Cal Scott, John Bunzow, Jack McMahon, Jim McMartin, Steve Hoyt, Marty Henninger and Corky Coreson!

February 17 & 18

Cafe Artichoke will host two special shows during the "PDX Jazz Festival" (performers tba)

February 25

The Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble

February 5

Johnny B. Connolly/ Sean Gavin Duo, From Shore to Shore is an exciting new tour series of 'pure drop' traditional Irish Music, 7:30pm

February 19

We start a new series "Artichoke Afternoons" Music from 3-5pm with this month's show by Cal Scott!

Remember, we are an ALL AGES venue with ample and free street parking!



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!

Managing Editor: Michael Wong
Copy Editors: John Taylor
Advertising: Anni Piper
Primary Writer: Anni Piper
Webmaster: Buko
Calendar: Robert Umali Evans

bluesnotes

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Contact:

PO Box 6566, Portland OR 97228
president@cascadeblues.org

Board Members:

- President: Rae Gordon
- Vice-President: TBD
- Membership Secretary: Mike Todd
- Treasurer: Mike Day
- At-Large: Betsy and Clay Clayton, Anni Piper

Board Meetings: 3rd Thursday after membership meeting. All are welcome!

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CBA officer election results

by Anni Piper

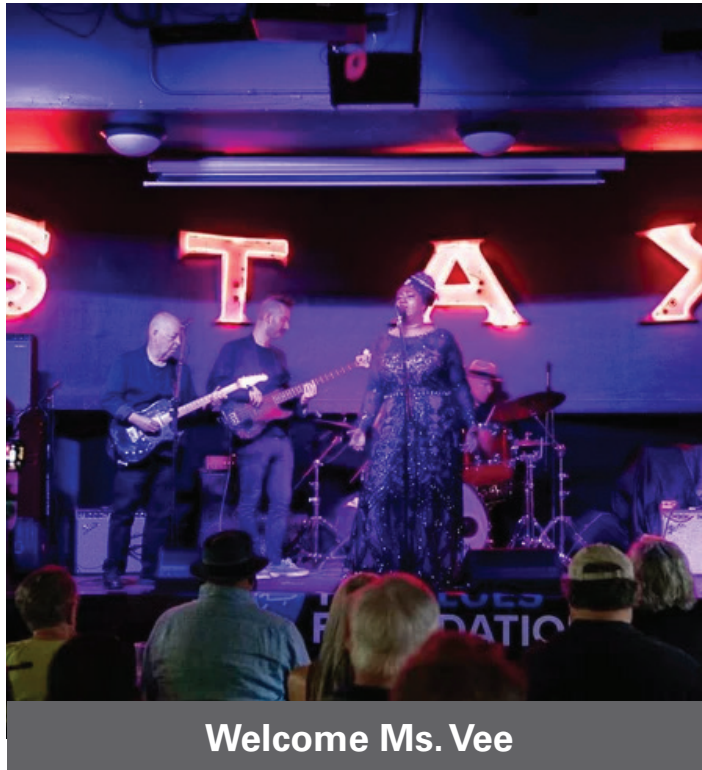
Ramblings on my mind

Welcome to the January/February 2023 edition of Blues Notes!

This will be my last 'Ramblings' column for the Cascade Blues Association as I chose not to run for President this year. I'm certain our members will give a warm welcome to our new board.

Congratulations to the candidates that ran unopposed

- President: Rae Gordon
- Treasurer: Mike Day
- Membership Secretary: Mike Todd.



Welcome Ms. Vee

The election results for the remaining candidates can be found on our

website.

This edition features more pictorials from our

fantastic photo contributors, Kelly Ralph and Kathy Rankin. And of course, gracing the cover and gracing us with her presence at the January member meeting, give a warm welcome to blues sensation Ms Vee, new in town from New Hampshire.

In conclusion, it's been a wild ride as President. To paraphrase the legendary Rick Estrin,

"I hate to see you go, but I love to watch you walk away" ~Peace out – mic drop.

Anni Piper

CBA President
president@cascadeblues.org

CBA Member Meeting, January 11, 6pm

by Anni Piper

Help us give a warm Portland welcome to the talented Ms. Vee!

Join us on January 11 for the Cascade Blues Association monthly member meeting. Don't forget the new location is the back room at Catfish Lou's in Beaverton. Entry is free for CBA members and \$5 for non-members.



Andrew Matthews: CBA youth representative at the International Blues Challenge, 2023

All ages are welcome.
The opening act is

Andrew Matthews, our youth representative at

the International Blues Challenge 2023. Come support him before he leaves for Memphis!

Our band for the evening will be Ms Vee. Fresh to the west coast from New Hampshire. She's been blowing folks away at the blues jams in town and we can't wait to welcome her to the stage.

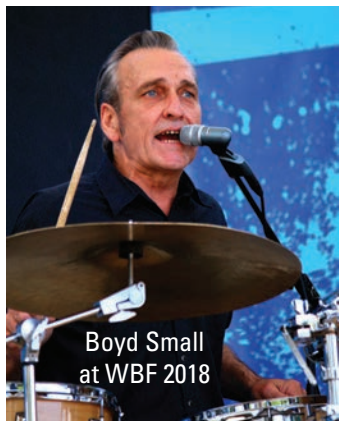
The fun starts at 6pm.

Hope to see you there!

Celebration of Life - Boyd Small

Story and photos by Kathy Rankin

Gone but not forgotten



Boyd Small
at WBF 2018

Boyd Small peacefully passed away in his sleep on August 2, 2022. Boyd battled early-onset dementia for several years but remained happy and played music when he could. Eloise Donovan, loving soulmate says: “Boyd had a huge personality, a great sense of humor, a kind man with a beautiful soul. Even with dementia, Boyd always knew who his son Lucas, myself, and my Sister Georgia was. Boyd lives on in all our hearts forever, we miss him so much!”

Boyd’s friends and family are surrounded by music, laughter, memories, and tears in Boyd’s Celebration of Life on September 11, 2022. Lucas, Boyd’s son, sang and played guitar. (His son Lucas was born in



Amsterdam to him and Anita Donk). Terry Currier says: “Seeing Lucas play was a highlight, he did not fall far from the tree as his exceptional vocal ability was in a similar vein to his father’s.” Lucas has Boyd’s handsome good looks! Other musicians who played that day included Andy Strange, Henry Cooper, Randy Haines, Julie Strange, and others. “Boyd was smiling down on us.” Says Eloise. Leon Knapp, a longtime friend, wrote Boyd’s Eulogy and Eloise shared her heartfelt poem, holding back the tears as she struggled through each word.

Boyd Small, an accomplished musician, won five out of six Muddy Awards for Best Drums, a 1995 Cascade Blues Association Hall of Fame Inductee for Best Drums, recorded three critically acclaimed albums, including two with the 9-piece Boyd Small Band entitled *This Time No Lies*, *So Easy*, *Diamond Boy* and he recorded one with his 4-piece band titled *Boyd Small Four + One*. In 2005, a collaboration with Monti Amundson brought the release of *Something Happened To Our Love*, a new collaboration by Boyd Small and Monti Amundson for Rounder Europe. Small

also co-founded Cool Buzz, alternative roots and Modern blues label. He co-produced albums for both Dutch and American Artists, such as Monti Amundson, Jim Wallace, Drippin’ Honey, and the Cuban heels. Later, Boyd became the band leader in his new venture, The Boyd Small Big Band. Small toured with Monti Amundson in 1997 and moved to Amsterdam to join the Benelux blues scene. From 2007 to 2013, Boyd established himself as a singer, drummer, and producer with his Dutch band. In 2014, Boyd Small went back out on tour and released *More Love And Trouble* featuring USA artists and International artists Monti Amundson, Josh Fulero, Roelof Meijering, Arthur Ebeling, Kai Straus, and Marc T.

Terry Currier of Music Millennium recalls how he met Boyd Small. “When Henry, from Eugene, moved to Portland, he played guitar in the Explorers. Henry introduced me to Boyd Small. Boyd Small really liked Henry’s guitar work and after the Explorers broke up, Henry and Boyd went on to form the Falcons.” When Boyd moved to Portland to join Henry along with another Eugene transplant, Andy

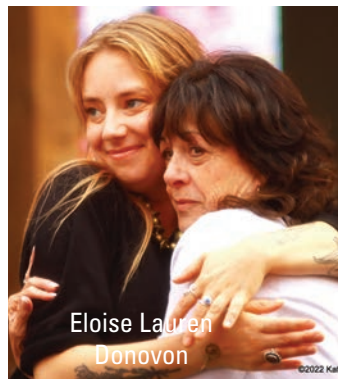


Julie Strange

Strange. They became the Terraplanes. The Terraplane's included Eugene guitarist Jimmy Cochran (later replaced by Rockin' Razorbacks guitarist Chris Miller). The Terraplane's were a weekly band at the Belmont Inn and The Terraplanes stayed together for 11 years." When Chris left for Texas to play and record with other artists, Cory Wheeler replaced him."

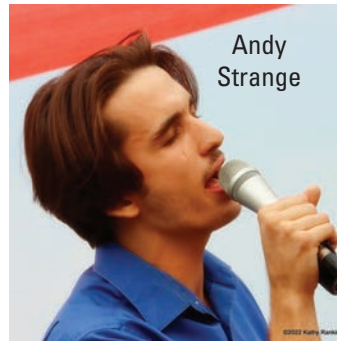
Henry Cooper spoke fondly about Boyd Small. "At 22, Boyd was already

a talented and educated musician. He studied percussion with the legendary Charles Dowd at the University of Oregon. Boyd also played country music on the weekends. Boyd was particularly fond of an old Johnny Guitar Watson and Larry Williams LP I had, we wore that record out. We formed a band called The Milkmen including Randy Haines on guitar, and vocals and Carl Lohse (then later Michael Miller) on bass, myself on guitar, and harp vocals, and Boyd on drums, and vocals. The Milkmen were a good-time



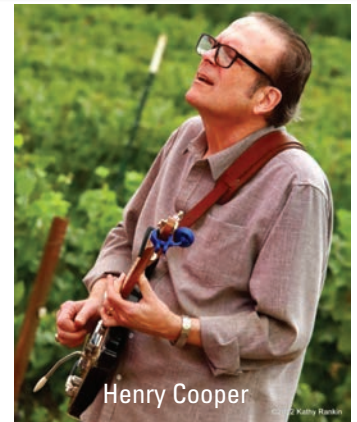
Eloise Lauren Donovan

party/dance band, always working. Boyd, a great lead singer, harmonizes so well, he earned the nickname "Harmony Man." Later, they formed the Los Falcons. Henry recalls: "It was New Years' Eve 1986, The Los Falcons were hired to play at The Pine Street Theater in Portland.



Andy Strange

Michael Quinn of Monqui Productions needed a backup band for Screamin' Jay Hawkins, The Lost Falcons with Boyd Small, Andy Strange, John Barley, and myself. I am very thankful he thought of us! After that amazing night, The Los



Henry Cooper

Falcons were Jay Hawkins' backing band for many great adventures. Backing up Hawkins, The Los Falcons played the legendary Palomino Club and The Whiskey, as well as touring Europe playing throughout Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and Finland. I could write a book about it. That was the beginning of Boyd's fame in Europe which lasts until this day.

**RIP old pal,
Love Ya!"**

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New CD Reviews

by Anni Piper

Keep on!

LIL' RED & THE ROOSTER – Blue Heart Records

Any of you hip cats and kittens feeling saxy tonight? If you're a sucker for a honking great big baritone, you're going to love the vibe of this album. Everything about it screams effortless cool, especially the appealing retro artwork. Lil' Red and the Rooster are Jennifer Milligan and Pascal Fouquet, a guitar-slinging blues duo who base themselves in France and the USA. Keep On! is their sophomore album, and their impressive bio includes earning a place in the finals at the 2019 International Blues Challenge.

Milligan and Fouquet work together like a song-writing tsunami on this project which features ten originals and one cover.

Several of their compositions – 'Back of the Bus', 'Bootstraps Break', and 'Little Girl' - feature a timely message about equality and social justice. Jean-Marc Labbé on baritone sax is an oh-so-tasteful addition to the duo, alongside rhythm section Felton Crews on bass and Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith on drums. Lil' Red & The Rooster are the kind of band that wears sunglasses with their pajamas and makes you wish you could too. Focus your audio, daddy-o, because these folks know their groceries.

Total time: 42 minutes

Cool trap boogie / whiskey sip of time / keep on lovin' you / love the hell right out of ya / shakin' em up / bootstraps break / nobody's fault but mine / back of the bus / american made / little girl / step it up

Local Blues Jams

Where to go in Portland



Patrick Stilwell

Tuesday

- Host Patrick Stilwell, The Garages, 730pm-1030



Toby Worthington

Wednesday

- Host Toby Worthington, Jack's Taproom, 7pm-10
- Bub's Pub, Centralia, 7pm-10

Thursday

- Host Chad Rupp, The Lair, 8pm-midnight
- Host Kerry Stickler, Celebrities, 7pm-10
- Host Dennis Monroe, Old World Deli, first



Ben Rice



Robbie Laws

and third Thursdays, 7pm-10

- Host Dan Hess, Ti-gardville Station, 730pm-10



Kevin Selfe

Sunday

- Host Froggy, Calapooia Brewing, 4pm-6
- Host Kevin Selfe, The Blue Diamond, 5pm-8
- Host Robbie Laws, Trail's End Saloon, 7pm-10
- Host Scott Steele / Kirk Bryant, Montavilla Station, 8pm-midnight

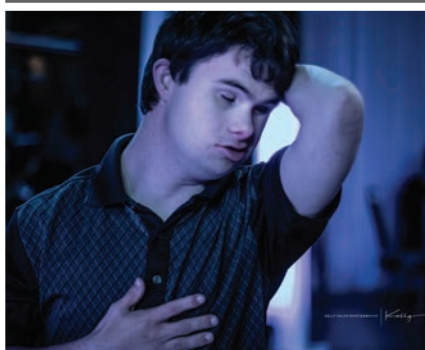


Scott Steele

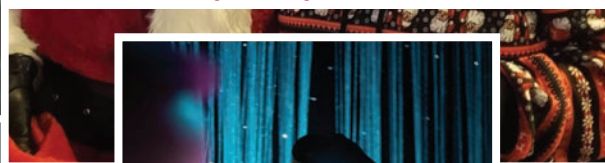
Successful Benefit Concert for Marlena Masterson

The Mekong Bistro saw a cavalcade of PDX blues stars perform on November 13. This benefit concert was to assist our dear friend Marlena with her ongoing medical expenses. Performers included Ty Curtis, Norman Sylvester, Karen Lovely and more. A willingness to help in times of trouble is one of the great strengths of our blues community (see page 9).

Photos by
Kelly Ralph



**Santa & Carol are wishing Marlena
a very Merry Christmas!**





New CD Review

by Anni Piper

Better Days

Cliff Stevens – Self Release

Some guitarists get labeled as a clone of Stevie Ray Vaughan. Honestly, I'm still wondering why that's a bad thing if you're able to channel a Texas guitar god whose virtuosity has become an enduring part of the blues lexicon. SRV was one of my early inspirations, and serendipitously the love of his life Janna became my yoga teacher for several years. But I digress – Stevens is no clone. He has a sound all his own, and it's worth listening to this album for the superb guitar playing alone.

Hailing from Montreal, Stevens has performed at events such as Tremblant International Blues Festival and Montreal International Jazz Festival. He has undertaken numerous Canadian and European tours including opening for Wishbone

Ash in Europe.

Stevens wrote all twelve tracks and also produced this self-release. He struts his way through a variety of feels, from Texas blues to funk to ballads. Wrapping up the album is the deeply Delta instrumental "Slim Picking". Pat Loiselle on harmonica adds that authentic bluesy touch to several of these tracks, along with backing band Serge Dionne on bass, Eric Sauvé on organ, Sam Harrison on drums and Kim Feeney on backing vocals. Stevens is also a published author so check out his book "The Stroll", co-written with his brother, about life as a cab driver in Toronto.

Total Time 42 Minutes

Better Days / Passion / No Room Left / I Believe / Heard You Knocking / Time For Me To Go / Light Of An Angel / I Love You Still / True Love / You Hurt Me / I Been Thinking About You / Slim Picking



Message from Rae

CBA President for 2023

It is an honor to step up and serve as the next president of the Cascade Blues Association. Thank you to last year's board for their hard work and service.

I found welcoming souls in the CBA and its members when I was new to the area. I will always be grateful to late president, Greg Johnson, musicians and audience members who helped me find my musical home.

Opportunities to Volunteer

I look forward to continuing that tradition of helping others find their own musical home here in the Portland area and within this organization. Whether they find

themselves on or off stage or just passing through.

I want to personally ask you to help us make this happen. We have an opportunity to do great things with your help and it will be fun! We are developing committees, events, workshops and are looking into bringing back some programs that put the CBA at the forefront of Preserving and Promoting the Blues.

When there is an opportunity to volunteer on a committee in some way (even remotely!), build partnerships, help at an event AND of course... go out to see live music, don't hesitate. Better yet... grab a friend or family member and make it a musical memory.

***Your partner
in the Blues, Rae***

Behind the scenes at Marlena Masterson's benefit

by Anni Piper
and Betsy Clayton

There are a lot of folks to thank for the benefit gig to assist Marlena Masterson, held at Mekong Bistro in November 2022.

Ben Rice was the mastermind behind it all. His skills in wrangling musicians are unmatched and it is thanks to his efforts the day was such a success.

2023 Cascade Blues Association President Rae Gordon donated her time as MC.



The performers who shared their musical talents were:

- Ty Curtis, David Kahl, Peter Dammann, Steve Kerin
- Mary Flower
- Sonny Hess & Kathryn Grimm
- Norman Sylvester Band
- Brady Goss, Johnny Wheels, Doug Rowell
- Lisa Mann & Karen Lovely

Supporting performers included Mark Banner, Dave Melyan, Pat McDougall & Timmer Blakely.

Event supporters:

- Carol Alcon,
- Teri Stanford,
- Paula Bunion and
- Betsy Clayton.

You can share your support by contributing to Marlena's fundraising efforts



Marlena's GoFundMe link:
<https://bit.ly/HelpMarlena>

Benefit Gig for Tracey Fordice

by Anni Piper (Photos by Kelly Ralph)

The Garages in Lake Oswego hosted a benefit for musician Tracey Fordice on October 9 to assist with medical expenses. Tracey has long been a popular vocalist and keyboard player in our local scene. She currently performs as a duo with husband Randy Yearout on guitar. Support Tracey by purchasing her music or donating to her fundraising campaign at traceyfordice.com.



African Sources of the Blues

The Origin of the Blues (part 2)

African musical traditions are many and diverse. So, in addition to looking at African music generally to find the African roots of the blues, we need to look, too, at those areas from which most slaves came.

Most slaves in British North America came from coastal West Africa, west central Africa, and the sub-Saharan steppes and savannahs. The musical evidence indicates that the traditions of the savannah and coastal west Africa came to dominate the music of Africans in North America.

During the slave trade, music was integral to African life, including work, ritual, worship, the transmission of history, dance, and entertainment. African scales most often contained 5, 6, or 7 notes. Notes were more indeterminate than in western music: You could



African Sources of the Blues

go much higher or lower than the tonal center in African scales and still be on the note than you could in western music. Bending notes was common, too. And where western music insisted on pure musical textures, most African musics allowed rough textures, such as buzzes, growls, shrieks, and cries. Communal singing, using call and response patterns, was widespread, as was improvisation to extend and fill in performances and to decorate melodies. Ring dances, including juba dances and ring shouts, were also part of African musical life.

African music

emphasized rhythm and melody over harmony. Music in west Africa was polyrhythmic, with simultaneously-played rhythmic lines that crossed each other and evolved by shifting positions relative to each other. Rhythm and melody blended together: Melody instruments and voices were rhythmic and carried some of these polyphonic rhythms, and rhythm instruments were often tuned and carried melodic lines.

Savannah music used a great variety of stringed instruments, xylophones, reed instruments, horns, and flutes. Savannah string instruments could be played

percussively and often used bent notes. Melisma, the use of multiple notes for one syllable of text, was common, as was the use of drone notes. One important savannah tonal system may have included a scale derived from dual tonal centers a fourth apart (upward). This scale may have been the basis for the blues scale used in African-American music.

When African and western musics collided, the shock wave was epochal. We're still riding it today. From that collision, the blues inherited polyrhythms, scales, note indeterminacy, note bending, melisma, rough textures, percussive strings, and improvisation from African sources.

Next time (part 3), the secular music of slavery.

J.F. Walsh, Jr. is a music historian and ex-New York streetfighter. Questions? Email me at VitoJW51@gmail.com

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president@cascadeblues.org



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- Blue Diamond
- Bounty Hunter Saloon
- Cafe Destino
- Catfish Lou's
- CI Bar and Grill
- Compass Coffee
- Cooper Mountain Ale Works

- Goose Hollow Inn
- Jack's Tap Room
- Mekong Bistro
- Montavilla Station
- Music Millennium
- Niche Wine Bar
- Portland Music Co
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