

**Preserving and Promoting the Blues in the Pacific NW**

A bi-monthly publication of the Cascade Blues Association | [cascadebluesassociation.org](http://cascadebluesassociation.org)

# bluesnotes



Mar/Apr 2025  
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Celebrating the Muddy Awards

~ Page 6

Debra Penk  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# Kevin Selfe and The Tornados Entertains at Tigardville

Story/Photos By  
Mike Todd

I was so pleasantly delighted with the atmosphere of the venue and joyfully entertained by the band that I offered to write a Board Pic article for the next issue of the BluesNotes highlighting their December 6th gig. I was very tired after a long week, but decided to freshen up and check out the show since the venue is so close to my home. I came in part way through the first set and the band was playing a montage of songs by my favorite guitar player of all time – Stevie Ray Vaughan – and they ‘nailed it’ to say the least! They continued to play a wide variety of cover tunes throughout the night and I headed out after the second set. I’m so glad that I made the effort to go out as the music and the band lifted my spirits and I was genuinely entertained.



Kevin Selfe and the Tornados play the Westside



Pete Moss laying down the grooves for the Kevin Selfe Band

Tigardville Station is located in downtown Tigard and offers a wide range of musical choices, a full bar, and delicious food. The staff is friendly

and attentive. They are not a Blues club, but you can find a Blues band there typically a few times per month. Kevin’s next gig will be there on

Valentine’s Day (2/14), but that will have passed by the time that this article is published. His next scheduled date at Tigardville Station will be on Friday, June 20th.

Kevin recently won the “Robbie Laws” Electric Guitar Award at The Muddy Awards January 26th. I was honored to be invited to present that award category at the ceremony. Kevin is also the vocal lead. The other foundational members of The Tornados include: Don Shultz (drums), Miyuki Hamanaka (bass), Pete Moss (sax), and Dennis Lusk (keys). The other two floating but regular members include: Jimi Bott (drums) and Allen Markel (bass). If you want to know more about Kevin, his life, and musical journey, you can check out his bio on Facebook or at his website.

Facebook.com/kevinselfe  
or visit KevinSelfe.com

## 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://cascadibluesassociation.org> today!

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# Bucks for Bones Benefit For Lisa Mann

## Board Bites

Love and joy turned out to support musician Lisa Mann on January 31st. The Blue Diamond in Portland held a benefit show titled “Bucks for Bones” to raise funds for Lisa, who is recovering from surgery to repair a fractured tibia at the knee. Lisa has always freely given her time and talent for benefit shows for others and Portland reciprocated for her.

All seats were filled by the 6pm start and more kept coming in throughout the evening for a standing room only audience. The show ran for over 4 hours with multiple performances interspersed with breaks for set changes, raffles, and merchandise sales, with all proceeds going to Lisa.

Tevis Hodge Jr. kicked off the evening with a delightful solo performance. His voice and resonator guitar always make me think of old blues tunes being played on scratchy 78rpm records, and I love it!

Next up was the “No Mann Band” with Kivett Bednar, Jim Solberg, Pat McDougall and Dave Melyan. Their performance included what was the most poignant moment of the evening for me. The song was “Jesus on the Mainline” which they dedicated to the lost-too-soon bassist Calen Uhlig. Jim Solberg had a bass solo which musician



Kivett Bednar Band

and Blue Diamond co-owner Sonny Hess video-recorded to send to Lisa. Truly a memorable moment.

The Strange Tones were next, with Jule Strange, Andy Strange, Suburban Slim and Dave Melyan. High energy music had the dance floor packed! They also performed one of my favorite Paul DeLay songs, “14 Dollars in the Bank” – really, who can’t relate to this song at some point in their life? I also got a nice picture of Andy playing harp with the painting of Paul DeLay playing harp behind him.

The final act of the evening was the NW Women Rhythm and Blues, with various musicians rotating on lead vocals. The core band was Sonny Hess and Leah Hinchcliff, with Kelly Pierce and Ward Griffiths taking turns on drums and Kevin Selfe on guitar for a few songs. Rotating on lead vocals were Lady Kat True Blue, the CBA Vice President Rae Gordon,

LaRhonda Steele (the 2024 CBA Muddy Award winner for Female Vocalist) and Arietta Ward. Wow, what a powerful line up! We had to leave after this set, so if others joined in a later set, my apologies for not mentioning them.

As always, the Blue Diamond food was delicious and the staff were great, even with so many people in the place. Thanks for hosting the event!

It was a fantastic evening, with everyone sharing good times and love and caring for Lisa. I know we’re all looking forward to seeing Lisa again when she’s back making music. If you’d like to donate online to Lisa, you can use the PayPal or Venmo QR codes below. ■



Story/Photos by Mike Day



Tevis Hodge Jr.



Rae Gordon



Lady Kat



venmo

# CBA Blues Calendar

Treat yourself to a local gig

## March Events

### Festivals

- Walla Walla Guitar Festival | Walla Walla
- Winter Music Festival | Milwaukie
- Clambake Festival | Coos Bay

### Rose City Book Pub

- 3/22 Dan Newton

### Alberta Rose Theatre | Portland

- 3/6 Vanessa Collier
- 3/16 Norman Sylvester Band - 40 Year Celebration
- 3/22 Etta James Tribute

### Artichoke Music | Portland

- 3/1 Saturday-Mardi Gras event-Richard Moore, Cal Scott & Gary Furlow , a Benefit for Music Cares
- 3/4 Tuesday-Madri Gras Dance Party - The New Iberians w/ The Reverb Brothers...yes there will be beads!



Blues Jammers at White Eagle by Rae Gordon

- 3/4 New Iberians
- 3/7 Lloyd Jones "First Friday" guest Peter Dammann
- 3/15 Hank Shreve Harmonica Workshop
- 3/21 Terry Robb Quartet
- 3/23 Brady Goss Trio-Benefit for Artichoke

### Billy Blues Bar and Grill | Hazel Dell

- Every Tuesday Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle
- 3/6 Kevin Selfe

### Blue Diamond | Portland

- Every Thursday Fenix Rising

### Everybody's Brewing at Northwood | Battleground, WA

- 3/22 Kevin Selfe

### Clyde's Prime Rib | Portland

- 3/8 Norman Sylvester

### Conway's House of Jazz | Clackamas

- Every Tuesday Ed Neumann

### Grand Theater | Salem

- 3/1 Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle

### Headliners Club | Lake Oswego

- 3/1 One Way Out PDX

### Ilani Casino | Ridgefield, WA



by Rae Gordon



by Rae Gordon



by Rae Gordon



by Rae Gordon

- 3/1 Kevin Selfe
- 3/1 Norman Sylvester
- 3/20 Norman Sylvester
- 3/22 Norman Sylvester  
Baby Boomers Dance Party

**The Manor Underground**

- 3/16 Jennifer Smieja and Peter Dammann

**McMenamins Edgefield | Troutdale**

- 3/13 Sonny Hess
- 3/21 Mojo Holler
- 3/27 Eric John Kaiser
- 3/28 Pete Krebs Trio

**McMenamins White Eagle Saloon | Portland**

- 3/22 The Brothers Jam
- 3/26 Kevin Dorin

**Mekong Bistro | Portland**

- 3/5 Cascade Blues Association Showcase
- w/Melissa Bee & the Keepers and William "Froggy" Hyland
- 3/19 CBA Musician Workshop
- Mississippi Studios | Portland
- 3/20 Tommy Prine



Michele Linn w/Rae Gordon

**Trails End Saloon | Oregon City**

- 3/2 Blues & Gospel with Rae Gordon

**April Events**

**Artichoke Music | Portland**

- 4/4 Lloyd Jones "First Friday" guest tba
- 4/27 Arlo Leach's Jug Band-CD Release

**Bargeway Pub | The Dalles, WA**

- 4/26 Kevin Selfe

**Billy Blues | Vancouver, WA**

- 4/24 Kevin Selfe

**Blue Diamond | Portland**

- Every Thursday Fenix Project

**Conway's House of Jazz | Clackamas**

- Every Tuesday Ed Neumann

**Ilani Casino | Ridgefield, WA**

- 4/12 Kevin Selfe

**Jack London Revue | Portland**

- 4/18 Seth Walker

**McMenamins AI's Den | Portland**

- 4/1 Thee Honeybuds

**Mekong Bistro | Portland**

- 4/2 Cascade Blues Association Showcase w/PDX Preachers and Low Maintenance
- 4/16 CBA Musician Workshop

**Trails End Saloon | Oregon City**

- 5/6 Blues and Gospel with Rae Gordon



This list may not include all the blues events in and around the area. For more detailed information, please find our calendar at [cascadebluesassociation.org/calendar](http://cascadebluesassociation.org/calendar)

To be included in the next printing of BluesNotes (May/June), email your show information to us by April 1st: [BluesNotes@cascadeblues.org](mailto:BluesNotes@cascadeblues.org)

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by Rae Gordon



by Rae Gordon

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## Celebrating the Muddy Awards

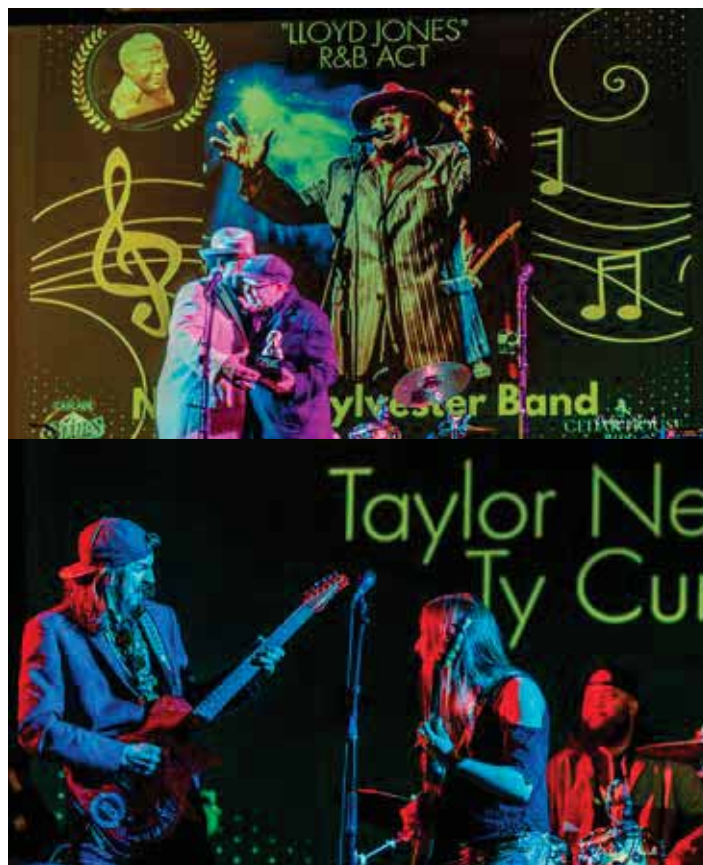
### A Night to Remember

After months of planning, we were beyond thrilled to see the Muddy Awards come to life Sunday, January 26th at Alberta Abbey. It was a night filled with music, camaraderie, and a deep appreciation for the blues community that we all hold dear. Seeing musicians, fans, and industry professionals come together to celebrate the heart and soul of blues in the Pacific Northwest was truly inspiring.

Some of the best in the region took the stage, reminding us all why we are so passionate about this music. With twenty-four categories recognizing outstanding contributions to the blues scene, the awards honored the talent and dedication that keep the blues alive.

### A Tradition of Excellence

The Muddy Awards have long been a cornerstone of the Cascade Blues Association, with members nominating and voting to recognize the musicians, bands, venues, and events that shape our community. After bringing the awards back in January 2024 following a hiatus, we are proud to make them an annual tradition once again. This event is a testament to the passion and resilience of the blues community, and we couldn't be more grateful to be a part of it.



**Photos:** Lloyd Jones Present Norman Sylvester with Muddy by Debra Penk (top), Taylor Neville and Ty Curtis Perform (bottom)

### The Winners

This year's Muddy Awards celebrated outstanding musicians across twenty-four categories. Congratulations to all the winners and nominees—you make our blues family what it is! For a full list of categories, nominees, finalists and winners, visit the Cascade Blues Association website: [CascadeBluesAssociation.org](http://CascadeBluesAssociation.org).

### Gratitude and Acknowledgments

This incredible night wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of so many people. They include, but are not limited to:

- Dave Spacek, who saved the day by stepping in as Master of Ceremonies just 15 minutes before showtime!
- Our amazing event volunteers, who kept everything running smoothly: Cristine Walker, Nancy Collins, Colleen Irwin, Samantha Hammerly, Dennis Kitch, Nolan Johnson, Marty Henninger, Jennifer Moriarty, Jane Roberts, Jennifer Kitch, Carolyn Marks, Sue Johnson, Ken Johnson, Paula Bunion, and Andrea Stellar.
- Our event coordinator Terri Stanford, whose

By Evelyn Silverman

skill and talent brought the event to a higher level and better experience for all.

- The stage crew, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes: James Patrick "Coach" Hurley, Pierce Johnson, Sheldon Phillips, Jon Pierce, Rick Doersch, Michael Hovden, and Rebecca Rutledge
- Cedar House Media for printing our beautiful posters and the programs and Marie Walters for saving the day and transporting them!
- Our fantastic presenters, including Peter Dammann, Tevis Hodge Jr., Sandy Gilman, Norman Sylvester, Jeff Frankel, Clint Carter, Mike Todd, Myrtle Brown, Lloyd Jones, Ben Rice, Felix Sanders, Kivett Bednar, Chad Rupp, Ms. Vee, Terri Stanford, "Coach" James Patrick Hurley, Brian Foxworth, Rob Shoemaker, Joey Scruggs, Terry Currier, Mike Day, and Rae Gordon.

### Performances

What an incredible lineup we had! Each act brought something special to the stage:

- Beacon Street Titans
- Chad Rupp, Brady Goss, and Mitch Kashmar
- Dave Fleschner
- Jim Solberg, Peter



**Photos:** Muddy Winner LaRhonda Steele performs by Kathy Rankin (left), James Coach Hurlley Receives Lifetime Achievement by Debra Penk (right)

Dammann, Jimi Bott, and Kim Field

- Myrtle Brown Band
- Kivett Bednar Band (Jeff Langston, Pat McDougall, and Edwin Colman III)

- Taylor Newville and Ty Curtis
- LaRhonda & Mark Steele with Ben Rice
- Johnny Wheels and the Swamp Donkeys (Johnny Wheels, Brandon Logan, Taylor Frazier,

William “Froggy” Hyland and Jimi Bott)

**We also want to give a huge shoutout to:**

- Chef Patrick Wilkins, Jamie Pemberton Hess and the Blue Diamond catering staff—that Mac and Cheese was the best!
- The Alberta Abbey staff for hosting us in such a special venue.
- And most importantly, all of you who attended and made this night so special!

**Looking Ahead**

As we roll further into 2025, we’re excited for everything

the Cascade Blues Association has in store. Some of the highlights you can enjoy are the monthly showcases, the Membership Appreciation Summer Picnic, the Journey to Memphis competition, and the annual Holiday Party, there’s so much to look forward to. And of course, we can’t wait to see you all at next year’s Muddy Awards! We invite you to get involved and become a member. To learn how, please reach out to [CBASTaff@cascadeblues.org](mailto:CBASTaff@cascadeblues.org) or visit [CascadeBluesAssociation.org](http://CascadeBluesAssociation.org).

**Thank you for keeping the blues alive! ■**

**CASCADE BLUES ASSOCIATION**

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# MONTHLY SHOWCASES

March 5th                      April 2nd

**Melissa Bee and the Keepers**

**PDX Preachers**

**William "Froggy" Hyland**

**Low Maintenance**

**RAFFLES DRAWINGS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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[CascadeBluesAssociation.org](http://CascadeBluesAssociation.org)

## An Evening of Blues and Soul with Curtis Salgado

Salgado's live shows are not to be missed!

Story by Mike Penk.  
Photos by Debra Penk

The evening of January 9th was one to remember at the Showdown Saloon in Portland, where the renowned blues artist Curtis Salgado brought his soul-stirring music to an enthusiastic audience. As a Portland resident and an internationally known musician and songwriter, Salgado has built a loyal following over the years, and his recent residency with alternating shows between the Showdown Saloon and the Jack London Revue was highly anticipated.

Curtis Salgado's performance was enhanced by the presence of his long-time guitarist, Alan Hager, whose intricate and emotive playing perfectly complemented Salgado's powerful vocals and harmonica. Joining them was John Wolcott on bass, whose deep, resonant tones provided a solid foundation for the evening's music. This trio of talented musicians created a rich, dynamic sound that captivated the audience from the first note to the last.

The show opened with an energetic instrumental that set the tone for the evening. Salgado's voice, a blend of raw emotion and refined technique, soared over the



crowd as he performed a mix of original songs and classic blues covers. Hager's guitar solos were nothing short of mesmerizing, weaving in and out of Salgado's vocals with masterful precision.

One of the standout moments of the night was Salgado's rendition of "Depot Blues", a Son House composition that showcased his ability to convey deep feeling and connect with his audience on a personal level. Hager's propelling guitar work on this track was particularly noteworthy, transporting the audience to a train station in rural America circa 1932. You can hear the train, and in your mind's eye, you can see it. As the train leaves, taking his love away, Salgado painfully exclaims 'I'm gonna miss rolling in my sweet baby's arms'. Salgado declared that Alan Hager is the best guitar player in the nation, and the direction of the evening's music was set.

The final song of the night, "The Longer That I Live", is



a song that perfectly encapsulated the night's themes of resilience and redemption and could actually become the theme song of the Baby Boomers. Salgado's connection with his audience was evident throughout the show. Between the songs, Salgado shared stories and anecdotes from his career. He's a historian, a teacher, and a musical shaman who, for a time, can deliver us from our worries. The crowd's enthusiastic response was a testament to the power of Salgado's music and the enduring appeal of what he likes to call the low down rotten blues.

Curtis Salgado's January 9th show at the Showdown

Saloon was a masterful display of blues musicianship and artistry. With the support of Alan Hager and John Wolcott, Salgado delivered a performance that was both technically impressive and emotionally moving. For those fortunate enough to attend, it was an unforgettable evening of music that left a lasting impression. Whether you're a long-time fan or new to his work, Curtis Salgado's live shows are not to be missed. ■

Come see Curtis Salgado at one of these amazing venues:

- Showdown Saloon
- ShowdownPDX.com
- Jack London Revue
- JackLondonRevue.com





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## Exciting changes coming to the CBA in 2025

### Right Here, Right Now

The year has kicked off with a bang, and I can feel the energy growing already. Changes are coming within the CBA and we are opening up some new paths to meet our membership and community needs. I want to take a moment and tell you about some of these changes in our priorities and plans.

### Promoting the Blues

In addition to our standing goal of preserving and promoting the blues as a genre, we will also be adding two other priorities to our list; increasing the CBA's tangible value to our musician community in general, and proactively seeking young blues musicians to support and mentor. Our regional musician community has always been a core part of our membership. It is our goal to reinvigorate our value to that community and revitalize our relationship with them. On the youth front, there is a generation of young musicians who are waiting to be exposed to the blues. Through our re-emerging Blues in the Schools program and other programs, we will be proactively seeking young



Timmer Presents Award to Curtis Salgado

blues musicians and building environments for them to receive mentorship, support, and guidance in.

### Muddy Hall of Fame

Over the next few months, in addition to reviewing the current rules and inducting into the CBA Muddy Hall of Fame any qualified performers that were missed over the past few years, we will be revamping and redefining the qualifications and requirements for the MHOFF. Our two primary goals in this action will be; to honor the regional founding performers who circumstantially may have been bypassed in the Muddy Awards process during their prime years with MHOFF status, and to open up the Muddy nomination lists by retiring from eligibility (and into the Hall Of Fame) those nominees whose names appear repeatedly year after year thus opening slots for new people to be

nominated and win. We will be establishing new guidelines which will be used to make these decisions, taking into consideration various tangible markers yet to be decided.

### CBA Newsletter

The CBA will begin sending a monthly news email in addition to the bimonthly Blues Notes. This is designed to keep the membership better informed on the monthly music happenings in our region, the changes happening internally with the CBA, and to create more opportunities to promote our local and regional artists.

### New Workshops and Jams

February marked the beginning of the Lightning in a Bottle records/CBA Musician Workshop and Youth/Mentor Jam. The third Wednesday of each month, this recurring blues clinic and open blues jam takes place at Mekong Bistro and is hosted by a different clinician/musician focusing on a different performance topic each month. This all ages event is designed to draw young blues musicians and put them in the company of potential mentors. Watch your CBA

news resources to stay updated on each month's guest clinician/host.

### Keeping in touch

We will be bringing you news updates through four primary resources, the Bi-monthly Blues Notes, the monthly newsletter, the CBA website [Cascadebluesassociation.org](http://Cascadebluesassociation.org), and our Facebook page. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and bookmark the website to be updated easily on your "must know" regional Blues news.

### Message to Bands

Bands; remember to share your band events, news, music releases, and pictures on the CBA Facebook page. Audience members; remember to tag your FB posts #CascadeBlues to enhance your efforts to spread the word about your favorite bands. Finally, I want to hear your ideas for making the CBA more responsive to your needs. Message me on Facebook and your voice will be heard.

*See you at the gig!*

**Timmer**

(CBA President)

**Not a member?** Join now so you don't miss out!"

Celebrating 14 Years!



# Winter Music Festival

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Lloyd Jones • Hank Shreve Band • The Revival Brothers Band

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