



# BLUES NOTES

www.omahablues.com

VOLUME TWENTY, NUMBER TWELVE • DECEMBER 2015



## TOY DRIVE *for* PINE RIDGE

**Sunday, Dec. 6 @ 3 p.m. • The 21st Saloon**

Little Joe & Big Trouble  
Lash LaRue & the Hired Guns  
Rex Granite Band featuring Sarah Benck  
The Hector Anchondo Band

Admission: \$10 or a new, unwrapped toy  
*The BSO will be having a Pot Luck Dinner, please bring a dish.*

**Friday, Dec. 11 @ 9 p.m. • Reverb Lounge**

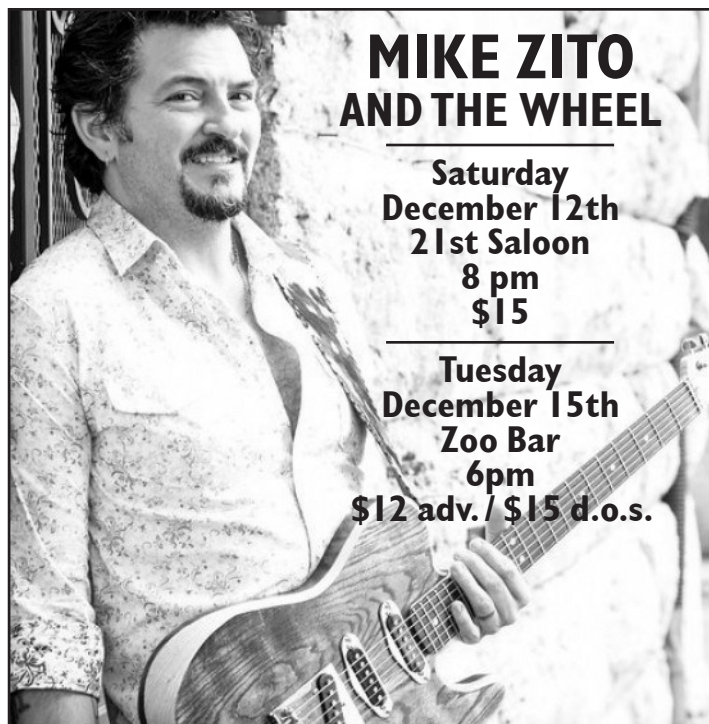
The Prairie Gators  
Matt Cox

Admission: \$10 or a new, unwrapped toy

**December 12th • Waiting Room Lounge @9:00pm**

Satchel Grande  
Vago  
Bazile Mills

Admission: \$10 or a new, unwrapped toy



**MIKE ZITO  
AND THE WHEEL**

**Saturday  
December 12th  
21st Saloon  
8 pm  
\$15**

**Tuesday  
December 15th  
Zoo Bar  
6pm  
\$12 adv. / \$15 d.o.s.**

## SWAMPBOY BLUES JAM

**Weekly Open Blues Jam**

**Wednesdays 8 pm to 11 pm**

**Black Eye Dive • 72nd & Harrison, Omaha**



**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
MORELAND & ARBUCKLE  
THURSDAY, DEC. 31ST @ 8 PM • \$15  
21ST SALOON**



### THURSDAY BLUES SERIES

4727 S 96th Plaza

*All shows 6pm – bands subject to change*



Dec. 3rd ..... Jim Suhler and Monkey Beat (\$10)  
Dec. 6th (Sun. 3 pm) ..... Toy Drive for Pine Ridge  
Dec. 10th ..... Charles Wilson (\$10)  
Dec. 12th (Sat. 8 pm) ..... Mike Zito and the Wheel (\$15)  
Dec. 17th ..... Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials (\$12)  
Dec. 19th (Sat. 8 pm) ..... Boondoggle (\$5)  
Dec. 26th (Sat. 8 pm) ..... Mojo Bag  
Dec. 31st (N.Y.E. 8 pm) ..... Moreland and Arbuckle (\$15)

Jan. 2nd (Sat. 8pm) ..... Watermelon Slim & the Hellhounds  
(\$10 / \$5 for BSO Members)  
Jan. 7th ..... Danielle Nicole Band (\$10)  
Jan. 9th (Sat. 8 pm) ..... Hamilton Loomis (\$12/\$15)

## ***Why donate to The Blues Society of Omaha?***

The Blues Society of Omaha, Inc. is a 501C3 Non-Profit Organization that was formed in 1998. We are an all-volunteer organization with over 800 members. BSO's mission is to "Keep the Blues Alive". We are recognized as one of the top Blues Societies in the country – a very cool thing for our great city. Through your support we continue to contribute to Blues venues and musicians and events in the area through our sponsorship and volunteer support:

- In 2001, BSO created BluesEd, a non-profit youth artist development program which provides opportunities for young musicians to perform with other students in a band format. Blues Ed has also gained national attention for Omaha.
- Regularly produces charitable events for musicians in need
- Provides support to The Zoo Bar – Lincoln's award-winning Blues venue
- "Jammin Away The Blues" – annual fundraiser for The Nebraska Mental Health Organization
- Operation Feed the Troops – fundraiser to provide free food to deploying and returning armed forces members and their families
- Annual toy drive for the children of Pine Ridge Reservation

### **Other Donor Benefits:**

- Free monthly subscription to "Blues Notes" – our monthly newsletter that will keep you abreast of Blues events in the area, Blues CD reviews and other articles of interest to Blues connoisseurs!
- Weekly e-blasts with late-breaking Blues news
- Invitation to special events and parties
- Special pre-sale and discounted tickets to select events
- Various discounts offered by BSO advertisers
- Pride in belonging to a group dedicated to "Keeping The Blues Alive!"

**Please consider switching to the GREEN VERSION of Blues Notes. You will be saving the planet while saving BSO some expense. Contact Sher Dostal at [membership@omahablues.com](mailto:membership@omahablues.com) to switch to e-mail delivery and get the scoop days before snail mail members!**



## **BLUES ON THE RADIO:**

Mondays 1pm-3pm on KIOS 91.5 "Blues in the Afternoon" with Mike Jacobs  
You can listen to the live stream at [www.kios.org](http://www.kios.org)

Sundays 9am-Noon on KIWR 89.7 Rick Galusha's "PS Blues"  
Pacific Street Blues & Americana podcast:  
[http://kiwrblues.podOmatic.com/entry/2010-02-03T11\\_00\\_49-08\\_00](http://kiwrblues.podOmatic.com/entry/2010-02-03T11_00_49-08_00)

Lincoln's KZUM Radio - Nebraska's only community radio,  
and you can listen to it on the web at [KZUM.org](http://KZUM.org).  
Monday – 3:00-6:00pm "World Gone Wrong Blues"  
Tuesday – 3:00-6:00pm "Group W Blues"  
Wednesday – 3:00-6:00pm "My Deja Blues"  
Thursday – 3:00-6:00pm "Every Kind of Blue"  
Friday – 1:00-3:00pm "Women's Blues & Boogie" • 3:00-4:30pm "Hudson Blues"  
Friday – 4:30-6:00pm "Highway Blues"

# LIL' ED & THE BLUES IMPERIALS

Thursday, Dec. 17th @ 6 pm • \$12 • 21st Saloon, 96th and L Street, Omaha, NE

Friday, Dec. 18th @ 5 pm • \$12 advance, \$15 day of show • Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE

"Full of fire, Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials hit the floor running and accelerate from there. High octane, expressive, fiercely articulated, harrowing intensity, raucous slide." —Living Blues

Mixing smoking slide guitar boogies and raw-boned Chicago shuffles with the deepest slow-burners, Lil' Ed Williams and his rip-roaring Blues Imperials bassist James "Pookie" Young, guitarist Mike Garrett and drummer Kelly Littleton deliver gloriously riotous, rollicking and intensely emotional blues. Currently celebrating 27 history-making years together, Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials ply their musical talents with skills that have been honed to a razors edge.

In 2013, the band was awarded the Living Blues Critics' and Readers' Awards for Best Live Performer. The band won this same distinction in the 2012 and 2011 Living Blues Critics' Poll.

The group won the coveted 2009 Blues Music Award for Band Of The Year, the same honor they received in 2007.

The band's wildly energetic and seriously soulful new CD *Jump Start* is Jam packed with Lil' Ed's incendiary slide playing and rough, passionate singing, as the ragged-but-right Blues Imperials cook like mad alongside him. Produced by Williams and Alligator president Bruce Iglauer, it is a Tour de force of untamed slide guitar, rock solid rhythms, heart-rending ballads and authentic deep Blues vocals. Williams wrote or co-wrote 13 of the album's 14 songs, which all overflow with the band's full throttle drive and serious sense of fun. *Jump Start* reveals a band firing on all cylinders and ready to spread the genuine houserockin' fever to their biggest audience yet. "It's all blues, really," says Lil' Ed. "Some of it will make you dance, some will ease your soul."

Lil' Ed boasts a direct bloodline to blues history. His uncle



and musical Mentor was the great Chicago slide guitarist, songwriter and recording artist J.B. Hutto. Live, Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials simply can't be beat as Ed breaks out the deepest back bends, the highest toe walks, and the most authentic electric slide-guitar blues being played today. Garrett's risk-taking rhythm guitar work and Littleton's conversational, old school drumming perfectly complement Lil' Ed's and Pookie's ram-bunctious playing.

Adding to the legend is Ed's storybook rise, taking him from working in a car wash to entertaining thousands of fans all over the world. He's made multiple appearances on *Late Night With Conan O'Brien*, and has brought his music to fans from Japan to Poland. According to *The Chicago Tribune*, "Williams represents one of the few remaining authentic links to pure Chicago blues."

Now, with *Jump Start*, Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials will continue bringing their seriously inspired and wildly fun Chicago blues to "Ed Heads" new and old, wherever they may be. After over a quarter century together, Lil' Ed, Pookie, Mike and Kelly have played thousands of gigs, logged tens of thousands of miles and have no plans to slow down anytime soon. According to Littleton, "The journey has been amazing. We melded right away and have kept growing." Garrett agrees, saying, "It's a perfect fit. And we keep getting better." Young adds, "We are way stronger now, and we're still having fun. My dreams have all come true."

"Long ago," recalls Lil' Ed, "Uncle J.B. told me, 'When you get the right guys in your band, you'll know.' When Mike and then Kelly joined up with me and Pookie, we just clicked. I knew. We are a family," says Lil' Ed, summing it all up. "And families stay together."

*From the Alligator Records website*

## BSO CORPORATE SPONSORS

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Chris & Brenda Hawkinson



# What's New with BluesEd?

## AUDITIONS FOR 2016 SEASON

Registrations are now open for auditions for our 15th season of BluesEd. BluesEd has established itself as the premier youth development program for young musicians in the Omaha area. Auditions will be held in February and bands will begin rehearsing in March/April. We already have many great performances and venues already lined up for our 2016 season.

Help us grow our program and recommend students who are:

- Proficient in their instrument
- Eager to perform in front of large audiences
- Willing to be mentored by fabulous musicians
- Have a strong desire to play in a band with other like-minded students
- Passionate about music
- Motivated and able to commit time to practice & rehearsals
- Currently taking private lessons
- Between the ages of 12-18

More audition information is available on our website at [www.BluesEd.com](http://www.BluesEd.com)

### IN OTHER BLUESSED NEWS

Three of our students, David Bredthauer, Bryn Groenjes, & Cole Palensky, were selected to perform with the Brad Cordle Band at the Holland Stages event on October 17th celebrating 10 years of the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha. Thanks to the Blues Society of Omaha for the opportunity to feature some of our talented students at the amazing Holland Concert Hall.

BluesEd band, Voodoo Vinyl, will be performing at the Youth Showcase in Memphis for the International Blues Challenge in January. Again, thanks to the Blues Society of Omaha for sponsoring BluesEd. Voodoo Vinyl will represent us very well and intends to show the world that Omaha clearly has the best youth

blues development program.

BluesEd alumni band, Mojo Bag, will have a reunion show on Saturday night, December 26th at the 21st Saloon starting at 8:00 p.m. Mojo Bag has been nominated as best Blues band for three years by the Omaha Entertainment & Arts Awards.

*Kevin & Chris Shouse*  
BluesEd Directors

**blues<sup>ED</sup>**  
**Auditions**

BluesEd provides talented middle school & high school musicians with multiple performance opportunities and professional musician mentoring in a band format.

Auditions for vocalists and instrumentalists held in February, 2016. Pre-registration required.

For audition information, please visit our website:  
**[www.BluesEd.com](http://www.BluesEd.com)**

Facebook icon, QR code, Twitter icon

**Blues Society of Omaha**  
ESTABLISHED 1998

**BluesEd is a non-profit youth artist development program sponsored by the Blues Society of Omaha.**

# JIM SUHLER AND MONKEY BEAT

Wednesday, December 2nd @ 6 pm • \$10 • Zoo Bar, Lincoln, NE

Thursday, December 3rd @ 6 pm • \$10 • 21st Saloon, 96th & L Street, Omaha, NE

Dallas native Jim Suhler has been making a big Texas-sized sound in and around his home state as well as all over the world for a lot of years with no signs of slowing down.

He's of the generation who cut their teeth on the classic bands of the day like The Allman Brothers, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin and ZZ Top. Then they worked their way back to the origins of the Blues-based music they grew up listening to.

"I got my first guitar when I was about 14," Jim recalls. "It was a little \$50 Harmony which I still have. I've been playing nearly 40 years now. The early rock bands were the ones I heard that really turned my crank. Like a lot of guys my age who do what I do. They're retroactive with the influences."

Many artists claim they came by the Blues as a matter of course. Some say they choose it and some say it chose them.

"I guess it chooses you," Jim says. "But I chose to listen to it and enjoy it. Once I was exposed to it. It's something that's familiar to me. I like arranged music a lot but I also like the most simple, direct thing. That gut thing. I don't mean simple-minded simple but there's a beauty in that. The simple, direct stuff."

After spending his formative years in and out of various bands in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area Jim started his long-lasting group, Monkey Beat, in the early '90s and still fronts them today.

"We went through a couple of drummers before we made our first recording in the spring of '92," Jim said. "It came out in '93. The bass player was Carlton Powell and the drummer was Paul Hollis. Paul was with the band up until about 2002 and Carlton, the bass player was with me until this year. He'd been with me for 23 years. Our new guy's name is Chris Alexander from Austin. We've played just a few gigs with him. We have some more booked. We love Chris. His energy. His ability. His musicality. His personality is wonderful. He's a real good addition to the band. His nice to have that new energy he brings. With all due respect to Carlton, we couldn't have done it without him. But this is another chapter and I'm excited about what we're gonna do."

To add another dimension to Jim's busy schedule, he's also the lead/rhythm player in the seminal Blues rock band George Thorogood & The Destroyers, a job he's held since 1999. George came on the scene in the early '70s and has stayed viable for more than 40 years.

Most guys just starting out never dream they will end up on stage with their heroes at any time during their careers. Many of them "get a haircut and get a real job" before any of that happens.

"I've definitely had a classic rock influence



with a Blues sensibility," Jim says. "I don't profess to be a great Blues guitarist or even call my band a Blues band but my style is probably more a rock sound. I want to bring something fresh from Blues and do it without desecrating it. (Laughs)"

Playing in two acclaimed bands might seem to be a daunting undertaking for some. Jim takes it in stride and says playing with Thorogood is nothing like his band and he is able to keep the two separate with little stress.

"George probably has a more narrow range musically," Jim said. "It's a rock show and it's entertainment. I have a lot more flexibility with respect to my band. George has a set of hit songs that he's expected to play. I don't have any hit songs so I can play whatever I want with Monkey Beat. George only does 12-13 songs in a set. You try to approach it professionally. Maybe you're tired or not feeling well you put on a good show no matter how I feel. Sometimes you just gotta dig in play. You just got some bad news or somebody just passed away or you've got a stomach virus. You've got to go out and play and not let it show. I come out and open shows for George. That might be the biggest challenge with only a 30 minute break between my set and then playing with him. But you're definitely warmed up when you start the George show."

It appears Jim Suhler has a handle on his life and his musical path. He's been mentioned by this magazine as one of the up-and-comers on the scene and he's steadily gaining momentum wherever he plays!

*From Blues Blast Magazine, written by Jim Crawford*

## Dino's Storage

Where your stuff's in the doghouse, so you're not!



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# 1200 CLUB LIVE AT THE HOLLAND

SPONSORED BY MUTUAL OF OMAHA

Omaha Performing Arts Presents

## Shemekia Copeland

January 30 | 8:00 PM  
Holland Center | Scott Recital Hall



Don't miss "The New Queen of Blues"

OMAHA  
PERFORMING  
ARTS **10** CELEBRATE

**TicketOmaha.com | 402.345.0606**

Sponsored by:



Wednesday, Dec. 2nd @ 6 pm  
\$12 adv. / \$15 d.o.s.

**Mike Zito and The Wheel**

Friday, Dec. 4th @ 5 pm (FAC), \$8  
**Earl and Them**

Saturday, Dec. 5th @ 6 pm, \$8  
**Earl and Them**

Wednesday, Dec. 9th @ 6 pm, \$10  
**Charles Wilson**

Friday, Dec. 11th @ 9 pm, \$8  
**The Bel Airts**

Saturday, Dec. 12th @ 6 pm, \$10  
**The Bel Airts**

Tuesday, Dec. 15th @ 6 pm  
\$12 adv. / \$15 d.o.s.

**Mike Zito and The Wheel**

Wednesday, Dec 16th @ 6 pm, \$8  
**Jon Dee Graham**

Friday, Dec. 18th @ 5 pm (FAC)  
\$12 adv. / \$15 d.o.s.

**Little Ed and the Blues Imperials**

Saturday, Dec. 19th @ 6 pm  
\$16 adv. / \$20 d.o.s.

**Brave Combo – "It's Christmas Man"**

Friday, Dec. 25th @ 9 pm  
**Lil' Slim on Christmas Day**

Thursday, Dec. 31st  
**Tijuana Gigolos @ 5 pm (NYE FAC)**  
**Lloyd McCarter @ 9 pm**

**For a full schedule see  
[www.zoobar.com](http://www.zoobar.com)**



# TOY DRIVE *for* PINE RIDGE

## 2015

**SUNDAY, DEC. 6 • 89.7 THE RIVER, 8 A.M. TO NOON**

**Toy Drive featured on P.S. Blues with Rick Galusha**

***Special guests and live performances — tune in or listen online!***

**SUNDAY, DEC. 6 @ 3 P.M. • THE 21ST SALOON**



**2014 & 2015 NEBRASKA BLUES CHALLENGE WINNER THE HECTOR ANCHONDO BAND**  
PHOTO BY RICHARD ALLEN

**Little Joe & Big Trouble • Lash LaRue & the Hired Guns  
Rex Granite Band featuring Sarah Benck • The Hector Anchondo Band**

**Admission: \$10 or a new, unwrapped toy**

***The BSO will be having a Pot Luck Dinner, please bring a dish.***

**FRIDAY, DEC. 11 @ 9 P.M. • REVERB LOUNGE**

**The Prairie Gators • Matt Cox**

**DECEMBER 12TH • WAITING ROOM LOUNGE @9:00PM**

**Satchel Grande • Vago • Bazile Mills**

The toy drive started in 2003 with Larry Dunn — an Omaha musician also known as Lash LaRue — a friend and a small pick-up truck. Dunn had become acutely aware of the extreme need of the residents after spending time on the reservation. The U.S. Census Bureau lists Pine Ridge as the most poverty-stricken area in the United States. It isn't unusual to see frost on the inside of reservation homes during the harsh South Dakota winters. Food and heat are often scarce. Medical care is limited and without easy access. Dunn also learned that because of all this, very often the children of Pine Ridge had no holiday gifts. Each year has added more concerts and other events, such

**2015 BENEFIT SHOW**

Sunday,  
December 6  
3:00 p.m.

10th Annual

**TOY DRIVE *for* PINE RIDGE**

Hector Anchondo  
The Rex Granite Band  
featuring Sarah Benck  
Lash LaRue & the Hired Guns  
Little Joe

**Admission \$10**  
or a new unwrapped toy

The Reader   Blues   THE LIQUID Courage

as a radiothon and concerts outside Omaha. Because of the growth of the Toy Drive, Dunn expanded its reach on Pine Ridge — providing resources to a medical clinic on the reservation, resources for the elders, including a heating fund, and educational resources for schoolchildren in Pine Ridge. What began as one person's wish to provide for children growing up in poverty became an official non-profit organization. An organization that has relied heavily on community donations to assist the residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

**See [www.toydriveforpineridge.com](http://www.toydriveforpineridge.com)  
for information on donating and  
attending these fundraisers**



**Saturday, December 19th at 21st Saloon!**  
**Show 8pm to 12 pm. Cover charge only \$5.**

**Classic Rock!**



# BOONDOGGLE

**We invite all of our Blues loving fans to a great night of Rock n' Roll**



## OMAHA ENTERTAINMENT AND ARTS AWARDS

//VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND LIVE MUSIC //

**The 10th Annual Omaha  
Entertainment & Arts Awards  
January 17, 2016 at the  
Downtown Omaha DoubleTree**

### BEST BLUES NOMINEES

Christy Rossiter & 112 North Duck  
 Clark & Company  
 Hector Anchondo Band  
 Mojo Bag • Steve Byam • Steve Lovett

### BEST R&B/SOUL NOMINEES

Dani Cleveland • Dominique Morgan  
 Edem • Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal  
 Jus.B • TJ Saddler

## SWAMPJAM

At



### BLACK EYE DIVE

**Wednesdays 8:00PM-11:00PM**

**Open jam hosted by**

**SWAMPBOY BLUES BAND**



**It's Always Hot In The Swamp**



# BLUES IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

**Tue Dec 01**

Brad Cordle & Friends – Blues Vocalist (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Wed Dec 02**

Jim Suhler & Monkey Beat (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Swampboy Blues Jam (8:00 pm) (Black Eye Dive)

**Thu Dec 03**

Jim Suhler and Monkey Beat (6:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)  
Hector Anchondo (9:00 pm) (Office Bar)

**Fri Dec 04**

Tim Koehn Solo (11:30 am) (Potbelly Sandwich Shop)  
Swampboy Blues Band (9:00 pm) (Lightning Bowl)  
Hector Anchondo (9:00 pm) (Micek's Bar)

**Sat Dec 05**

Swampboy Blues Band (9:00 pm) (Lightning Bowl)  
Hector Anchondo (9:00 pm) (Micek's Bar)

**Sun Dec 06**

Booker T. Jones with Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal (7:00 pm) (Bourbon Theater)  
Show Tune Sing Along (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Mon Dec 07**

Zoo Bar House Band (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**Tue Dec 08**

Brad Cordle & Friends – Blues Vocalist (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Wed Dec 09**

Swampboy Blues Jam (8:00 pm) (Black Eye Dive)

**Thu Dec 10**

Charles Wilson (6:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)

**Fri Dec 11**

Tim Koehn Solo (11:30 am) (Potbelly Sandwich Shop)  
Swampboy Blues Band (9:00 pm) (Copacabana)  
The Dust Jackets (9:00 pm) (Havana Garage)

**Sat Dec 12**

Mike Zito and the Wheel (8:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)

**Sun Dec 13**

Show Tune Sing Along (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Mon Dec 14**

Zoo Bar House Band (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**Tue Dec 15**

Mike Zito & the Wheel (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Brad Cordle & Friends – Blues Vocalist (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Wed Dec 16**

Jon Dee Graham (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Swampboy Blues Jam (8:00 pm) (Black Eye Dive)

**Thu Dec 17**

Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials (6:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)

**Fri Dec 18**

Tim Koehn Solo (11:30 am) (Potbelly Sandwich Shop)  
Lil' Ed & the Blue Imperials (5:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
The Dust Jackets (8:00 pm) (Doghouse Saloon)

**Sat Dec 19**

Boondoggle (8:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)  
Hector Anchondo (8:00 pm) (Vanguard Arts)  
The Dust Jackets (9:30 pm) (Bob's Tavern)

**Sun Dec 20**

Show Tune Sing Along (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Mon Dec 21**

Zoo Bar House Band (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**Tue Dec 22**

Brad Cordle & Friends – Blues Vocalist (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Wed Dec 23**

Swampboy Blues Jam (8:00 pm) (Black Eye Dive)

**Sat Dec 26**

Mojo Bag Reunion Show (8:00 pm) (Unnamed Venue)

**Sun Dec 27**

Show Tune Sing Along (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Mon Dec 28**

Zoo Bar House Band (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**Tue Dec 29**

Brad Cordle & Friends – Blues Vocalist (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Wed Dec 30**

Swampboy Blues Jam (8:00 pm) (Black Eye Dive)

**Thu Dec 31**

Moreland and Arbuckle (6:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)  
Swampboy Blues Trio (9:00 pm) (Havana Garage)

## HEY BANDS & BARS

If you want your schedule printed monthly in BLUES NOTES,  
e-mail to [bsc\\_calendar@yahoo.com](mailto:bsc_calendar@yahoo.com)

All schedules must be received by the 23rd of each month.  
Get calendar updates @ [www.omahablues.com](http://www.omahablues.com)

# BLUES IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

**Sat Jan 02**

Watermelon Slim & the Hellhounds (8:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)

**Mon Jan 04**

Zoo Bar House Band (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**Tue Jan 05**

Brad Cordle & Friends – Blues Vocalist (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Wed Jan 06**

Swampboy Blues Jam (8:00 pm) (Black Eye Dive)

**Thu Jan 07**

Danielle Nicole (6:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)

**Fri Jan 08**

The Dust Jackets (9:00 pm) (The Harney Street Tavern)

**Sat Jan 09**

Hamilton Loomis (8:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)  
The Dust Jackets (9:30 pm) (The Keg)

**Mon Jan 11**

Zoo Bar House Band (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**Tue Jan 12**

Brad Cordle & Friends – Blues Vocalist (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Wed Jan 13**

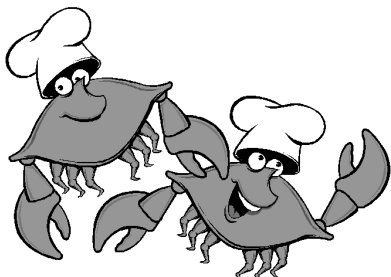
Swampboy Blues Jam (8:00 pm) (Black Eye Dive)  
Hector Anchondo (9:00 pm) (Saloon No. 10, Deadwood, SD)

**Thu Jan 14**

Hector Anchondo (9:00 pm) (Saloon No. 10, Deadwood, SD)

**Fri Jan 15**

Hector Anchondo (9:00 pm) (Saloon No. 10, Deadwood, SD)



## FIRST TUESDAY JAM

With Da Crabby Blues Band featuring  
Bucky McCann

Tuesday, December 1st from 6 to 9 pm

Shuck's, 119th and Pacific, Omaha

All proceeds to benefit the Sienna Francis House

**Sat Jan 16**

The Bel Airs 6-9 pm & Electric Church 9:30 pm (6:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)  
Hector Anchondo (8:00 pm) (Saloon No. 10)

**Sun Jan 17**

Drew Jude & the Cool Tones CD Release Party (6:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)

**Mon Jan 18**

Zoo Bar House Band (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**Tue Jan 19**

Brad Cordle & Friends – Blues Vocalist (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Wed Jan 20**

Swampboy Blues Jam (8:00 pm) (Black Eye Dive)

**Thu Jan 21**

Hector Anchondo – IBC send off party (6:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)

**Mon Jan 25**

Zoo Bar House Band (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**Tue Jan 26**

Brad Cordle & Friends – Blues Vocalist (7:30 pm) (The Omaha Lounge)

**Wed Jan 27**

Swampboy Blues Jam (8:00 pm) (Black Eye Dive)

**Thu Jan 28**

Biscuit Miller (6:00 pm) (The 21st Saloon)



# New Year's Eve at the 21st Saloon

## MORELAND & ARBUCKLE

Thursday, Dec. 31st @ 8 pm • \$15

**"Deeply satisfying...gritty soul and blues with garage overtones and fire-and-brimstone vocals"**

**--Living Blues**

Alligator Records is pleased to announce the signing of roots rock/blues band Moreland & Arbuckle. The self-described "roots and blues from the heartland" group (guitarist Aaron Moreland, harpist/vocalist Dustin Arbuckle and drummer Kendall Newby) will release their as yet untitled label debut – produced by Matt Bayles (Mastodon, The Sword) – in Spring, 2016. According to Moreland, "The new album is consciously more traditional than our last two, but still has the signature grit and power that we have crafted the past 13 years. We achieved that beautifully."

Since first joining forces in Wichita, Kansas in 2001, Moreland & Arbuckle have created an impressive body of work, releasing six critically acclaimed albums. With a broad musical vision and a deep sense of history, the band plays smartly written contemporary songs delivered with musical muscle and fifth-gear urgency. Relentlessly merging raw Delta and Mississippi Hill Country blues, folk, and traditional country with energetic rock and soul, Moreland & Arbuckle continually take their music in new, unexpected directions. *No Depression* says, "These guys have kegs full of talent. Their songs will keep you driving fast and long."

From the 2005 self-release of their first album, *Caney Valley Blues* to 2013's *7 Cities* (also produced by Bayles) on Telarc, Moreland & Arbuckle have grown from a fiery, crowd-pleasing duo to a genre-smashing three-piece band impossible to categorize but rooted deep in the blues. Together, Moreland's rhythmic and propulsive guitar work and Arbuckle's emotionally-charged harmonica and edgy vocals -- supported by Newby's tough drumming -- create a sound that is forceful enough to grab a listener's attention and nuanced enough to hold it. *American Songwriter* says the group's music is "swampy, sweaty and muggy....mixing a bluesy foundation with bits of country, folk and squawking American rock and roll." *WNYC's Soundcheck* says the band plays "gritty blues with a thoroughly contemporary bite."

Moreland says signing with Alligator is a perfect fit. "We are very happy to work with the Alligator team. To the best of

my knowledge, there isn't a single independent label on the planet who has been as successful for 45 years. That speaks volumes. One of our biggest influences ever, Hound Dog Taylor, was the very first Alligator artist. One of the reasons we have the non-traditional lineup of no bass player was inspired by listening to Hound Dog's music as we were coming up."

According to Alligator president Bruce Iglauer, signing Moreland & Arbuckle to the label known for its Genuine Houserockin' Music was an easy choice. "I've watched this band grow from talented interpreters of raw, traditional blues into creators of fresh, original roots-based songs. Live, the energy just pours out of them."



Upon first meeting at an open-mic jam in Wichita, Moreland and Arbuckle made an immediate blues connection, and soon after began making music together. They formed The Kingsnakes, a four piece unit, but couldn't keep a steady bass player. They soon found they made a better sound without one, as Moreland kept the rhythm thumping on his guitar while Arbuckle took the music into overdrive with his harmonica and vocals. The band quickly became local heroes, filling clubs beyond capacity. It wasn't long before they started touring larger cities around the country, earning new fans with every performance.

After three self-released albums and countless roof-raising tour dates, Moreland & Arbuckle signed with Telarc in 2010, releasing three more critically acclaimed CDs. They have logged hundreds of thousands of road miles (they recently replaced their van after driving it over 400,000 miles), performing in the United States, Canada and across Europe. In 2008 they spent 10 days in Iraq, playing for the troops. They've shared stages with ZZ Top, George Thorogood, Buddy Guy, Robert Cray and Los Lonely Boys. They'll return to the road in support of the new album in 2016, with dates in the United States and Europe already set.

*From the Alligator Records website*

**THE 21ST SALOON WILL HAVE CHAMPAGNE  
AVAILABLE FOR A TOAST TO THE NEW YEAR.**





**BluesEd students David Bredthauer, Bryn Groenjes and Cole Palensky pictured playing with the Brad Cordle Band at the Holland Stages Festival on Oct 17th.**

*Photos from Mary Elofson*

## **LOOKING FOR BSO MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR/ASSISTANT**

**BSO is seeking a volunteer to either take over the Merchandise Coordinator position, or, work as an assistant with our current Merchandise Coordinator.**

### **JOB DESCRIPTION/DUTIES**

Merchandise Coordinator-Order and maintain inventory

Stock displays / manage storage / manage event set-ups

Coordinate merchandise volunteers for events

Manage receipts and report to Treasurer-Report at BSO meetings

Merchandise Assistant-Stock displays / manage storage / manage event set-ups

Coordinate merchandise volunteers for events

Manage receipts and report to Merchandise Coordinator

*If you are interested in volunteering, or, if you have any questions, please contact Jeff Malloy at [ooobaby44@yahoo.com](mailto:ooobaby44@yahoo.com) or call 402-536-0739. Training will be provided.*



## **NEW BSO BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

**The BSO welcomes NANCY WALSH as a new BSO Board Member and would like to thank GREG LINDBERG for his many contributions to the Blues Society of Omaha over the years including being our first President.**

**The BSO also welcomes SHER DOSTAL as our new Membership Coordinator and ANNETTE JENSEN will be assisting her with the duties.**

# CHARLES WILSON

Wednesday, Dec. 9th @ 6 pm • \$10 • Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE

Thursday, Dec. 10th @ 6 pm • \$10 • 21st Saloon, 96th & L Street, Omaha, NE

Charles Wilson has been tagged as "The Crown Prince of Soul" for a reason. Being the nephew of the late great blues legend, Little Milton, Charles grew up in Chicago. He began performing at age seven and started singing as a teenager in Chicago area nightclubs. Blessed with his unique soul voice, Charles became a fixture on the soul circuit performing original songs, covering 70's music and Motown Soul classics. His most recent project "Sweet and Sour Blues" will be released in June of 2015.

His first break came when he got the opportunity to go on the road with legendary Bobby Rush. He waxed his first single in 1978, "You Cut Off My Love Supply," produced by Walter "Simtec" Simmons. His next effort, "Trying to Make a Wrong Thing Right" was produced by the late L.V. Johnson in 1984 on Alley Cat Records. This recording established him as a soul singer of note. He became more firmly established in the soul market cutting his first full album "Blues In The Key Of C" for Ichiban Records in 1990. His recording of "It's Sweet On The Backstreet" (1995 with Ecko Records) continued his success. This recording helped Ecko Records move forward as a new label with respectable sales and made inroads in soul radio with songs like "In The Room Next To The Room." He followed in 1997 recording "Why" on Traction Records for James Bennett. Returning to Ecko records in 1998, he scored his first major hit in the soul market with "Love Seat." Teaming with Ecko Records he continued with the risqué themes with two releases "It Ain't The Size" (1999) and "Mr. Freak" (2000).

Looking to expand his horizons, Charles recorded a bona fide blues project with Delmark Records, "If Heartaches Were Nickels". This recording received great acclaim earn-



ing Wilson a W.C. Handy nomination for Best Soul/Blues Album" in 2005. The recording featured his uncle, the late great Little Milton and Chicago mainstay Carl Weathersby on guitar.

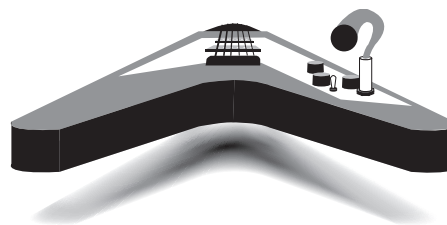
In 2009, he recorded a 60's type soul CD for Severn Records with entitled "Troubled Child" gaining yet another W.C. Handy Award nomination for Soul/Blues Album of the Year in 2010.

Wilson's music is as timeless as James Carr, Johnny Adams and Al Green oozing soul and blues. He has worked with or shared stages with all the greats including Bobby Bland, Junior Walker, O.V. Wright, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, Koko Taylor, Albert Collins, ZZ Hill, Edgar Winter not to mention his late great uncle Little Milton. Some

the notable venues in the United States include the Chicago Blues Festival, King Biscuit Blues Festival and the Waterfront Blues Festivals. Overseas appearances include the Piazza Blues Festival and the Lugano Blues Festival.

As can readily be seen by his accomplishments, Charles Wilson has the bloodline and the talent to deserve his title as "The Crown Prince of Soul". He comes from the old school and delivers in a big way.

*From reverbnation.com*




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**Check out B.J. Huchtemann's column Hoodoo Blues each week in the Omaha READER for info on upcoming shows and other news in the roots-blues music scene. Look for B.J.'s byline under the Music tab at thereader.com**

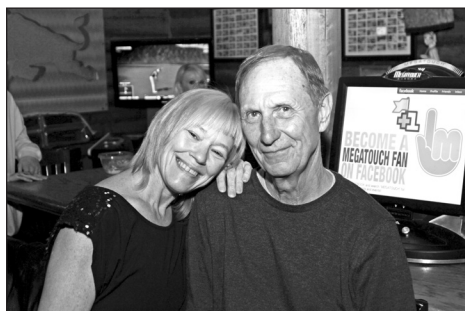
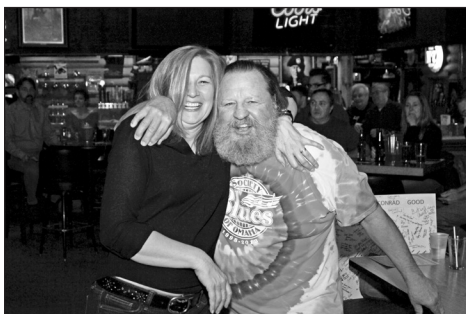
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## BSO BAND DIRECTORY

Band	Contact	Phone # / Email
<b>COUNCIL BLUFFS</b>		
The Packages.....	Rick Hillyard.....	712-420-1232
Street Level Band.....	Steven Rains.....	402-980-7898 / srains58@yahoo.com
<b>FREMONT</b>		
Punching Puppets.....	Lance Clark.....	402-727-1999 / lance.clark86@gmail.com
<b>HASTINGS</b>		
Peace Hogs.....	Rich Mattison.....	402-469-5818 / peacehogs1@gmail.com
Smokey B. and the XYZ's.....	Byron Starr.....	402- 462-5879
<b>KEARNEY</b>		
Kate Fly.....		308-627-3021 / kathryn1981@gmail.com
<b>LINCOLN</b>		
Blues Messengers.....	Jake Wiese.....	402-601-4959
Church House Blues Band.....	Danny Dakan.....	402-890-2533 / Firewarrior57@aol.com
The Dust Jackets.....	Travis Koester.....	402 560 8415 / www.dustjackets.com
Jared's GoodTime BluesParty.....	Jared Alberico.....	402-474-2473
John Walker and the New Hokum Boys.....	John Walker.....	402-466-7254
Josh Hoyer & the Soul Colossal.....	Josh Hoyer.....	402-416-3846 / jhoyerandtheshadowboxers@gmail.com
Jr. Stephens Blues Project.....	Lary Lehman.....	1-800-422-1340
Levi William.....	Levi William 402-310-2681, Cindy Patton 402-850-8549 / pattonpromo@gmail.com	
The Mezcal Brothers.....	Gerado Meza.....	402-438-5120
The Tijuana Gigolos.....	Marty Steinhausen.....	402-742-5892
Upstairs Blues Band.....	Caleb Long.....	402-430-1792
<b>OMAHA</b>		
112 North Duck.....	Michelle.....	402-210-9378 / je@112northduck.com
Back Alley Blues.....	Craig A. Hassa.....	402-594-9147
Backer's Blues.....	Jeff Kangas.....	402-650-8580
Banjo Loco.....	Blind Burrito.....	402-850-0245
Blue House with the Rent to Own Horns.....	Joe Putjenter.....	402- 658-2222 / joe@artisticsign.net
The Blues Explosion.....	Dave Skinner.....	402-330-7366
BluesEd.....	Chris Shouse.....	admin@bluesed.com / 402-578-3133
Brad Cordle Band.....	Brad Cordle.....	702-533-2427 / funksoulbro@isp.com
Chuck Brown and the Basement Devils.....	Chuck Brown.....	402-610-1522
Dilemma.....	Chris Shouse.....	shouse.cj@gmail.com / 402-578-3133
Drew Jude and the Cool Tones.....	Drew Jude.....	402-714-1244
Elwin James and the Way Outs.....	Patrick Peters.....	402-292-6435 / zappothesane@aol.com
George Walker.....	George Walker.....	402-871-1469
Hector Anchondo Band.....	Hector Anchondo.....	402-215-3956 / hectoranchondo@gmail.com
John Crews Blues.....	John Crews.....	402-714-7634
Johnny Reef & the Shipwrecks.....	Tommy Kriegshauser.....	402-517-8248 / tommykblues@yahoo.com
Jorge Nila and the Jazz Ninjas.....	Jorge Nila.....	402-932-JAZZ
The Kris Lager Band.....	Kris Lager.....	402-304-7269
Life of Riley.....	Rebecca Packard.....	402-699-0958 / lofriley@gmail.com
Little Joe and Big Trouble.....	Little Joe McCarthy.....	402-680-2924 / rodeo1@cox.net
Lou De Luca & the R & M Blues Band.....	Lou De Luca.....	402-677-7156 / Lou562016@cox.net
Luther James Band.....	L.J. Johnson.....	402-213-5234 / ljband@cox.net
The Matt Gagne Blues Experience.....	Matt Gagne.....	402-212-0694 / mgagne1@cox.net
The Mighty Sapphire Kings.....	Bill Ferleman.....	402-658-1785
Mojo Bag.....	Barb Fisher.....	402-968-1127
Neptunes.....	John Hartley.....	402-995-2926 or 402-391-4762
The Omaha Blues Society All-Stars.....	Craig Balderston.....	402-208-1068 / dudup@cox.net
Paul Scott Hoagbin Blues Band.....	Paul Scott Hoagbin.....	402-689-1183 / paulscotthoagbin@cox.net
The Rex Granite Band.....	Kevin Loomis.....	402-306-9342 / rexgranite@cox.net
Rhythm Collective Reggae.....	Frank Fong.....	402-556-3568
Rich Patton Blues and more.....	Rich Patton.....	402- 841-1110 / rpatton1947@gmail.com
Rich Mattison and the Peace Hogs.....	Rich Mattison.....	402-469-5818
Sailing In Soup.....	Gunnar Guenette.....	402 599-9255
Soulfinger.....	Barry Clark.....	thbear57@cox.net
Spike Nelson Trio.....	Mike Nelson.....	402-612-1250
Stephen Monroe.....	Stephen Monroe.....	402-699-5905
Steve Lovett Blues Band AND Steve Lovett-Solo Acoustic Blues.....	Steve Lovett.....	402-660-7146 / deerscry@aol.com
The Stimulus Packages.....	Rick Hillyard.....	712-420 1232
Sue Murray / The WILDFIRE Band.....	Sue Murray.....	402-533-4791 / songbird362@gmail.com
Susan Thorne Group.....	Susan Thorne.....	402 968-4991
Swampboy.....	Tim Koehn.....	402-830-0021 / tim@swampboybluesband.com
Thrift Shop Radio.....	K.C. Kelley.....	319-431-3508
Vintage.....	Charlie Ames.....	816-678-8360 / vintagevideography@gmail.com



## Scottie Miller Band Nov. 12th at the 21st Saloon



Great turnout for the recent Scottie Miller Band show.  
BSO member Chick Ganz was celebrating his 65th Birthday in style.  
The band had a great time, and it looks like the Blues fans did too!  
*Photos by Richard Allen*

## Keeping the Blues Alive



### **The Blues Foundation to Honor KZUM and the Central Iowa Blues Society at January Awards Ceremony in Memphis**

The Blues Foundation will honor 15 individuals and organizations with its 2016 Keeping the Blues Alive Awards during a recognition luncheon Friday, January 29, 2016, in Memphis, Tennessee. Each year, The Blues Foundation presents the KBA Awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to blues music. The KBA ceremony will be held in conjunction with the 32nd International Blues Challenge, which begins January 27 and features the final rounds of the World's largest and most prestigious blues music competition, as well as seminars, showcases, and receptions for blues societies, fans, and professionals.

The KBAs are awarded by a select panel of blues professionals to those working actively to promote and document the music. KBA Committee Chairman Art Tipaldi notes, "this year, the Board eliminated KBA categories as a way for the Committee to honor individuals who have excelled in a variety of KBA categories. Thus the slate of 15 winners includes individuals who have made a difference with their lengthy commitments to the blues. At the same time, the Committee made sure to continue to recognize larger, comprehensive entities like an affiliated organization, a North American festival, an International festival, a blues club, a record label, and a blues radio station."

#### **RADIO STATION, KZUM**

KZUM, the oldest independent, noncommercial, listener-sponsored radio station in Nebraska, has been bringing the blues to Lincoln since 1978. The air staff consists of around 90 volunteer programmers who work hard to bring great shows to the airwaves every week. There is a variety of popular programming on KZUM, but blues content is perhaps most closely associated with the station. KZUM has consistently put the blues at the forefront of its diverse schedule, having long dedicated afternoon drive time programming to the blues. Each week includes 28 hours of blues programming along with many more hours of roots music programs that include a healthy dose of the blues. The station's commitment to the genre extends beyond the airwaves, as KZUM has served for many years as the non-profit partner for Zoofest, the Zoo Bar's annual multi-day outdoor blues festival in the streets of downtown Lincoln, and has worked for the last two years to host a free community concert series in a local park. As the region's only outlet for regularly aired blues and roots music, KZUM continues to work hard to preserve and develop the fertile music scene in southeast Nebraska.

KZUM was nominated for the KBA by the Blues Society of Omaha, one of over 200 Blues Societies worldwide eligible to make nominations. Helping to boost KZUM into the winner's circle were heartfelt letters of recommendation submitted by a cross-section of blues performers, including Curtis Salgado, Tommy Castro, Walter Trout, Tinsley Ellis, Kelley Hunt, Kris Lager and others.

KZUM has consistently put the blues at the forefront of its diverse programming schedule, dedicating its afternoon drive-time programming to the genre for many years.

"We are beyond honored and thrilled that The Blues Foundation is recognizing KZUM with this award -- its significance isn't lost on us," said Ryan Evans, KZUM program director. "More than anything, it recognizes the good work done for many years by the station's hard-working volunteers and the best listeners in the world, who are just as passionate about music as any place in the country."

KZUM is extremely grateful to the Blues Society of Omaha, Mayor Chris Beutler, and the artists, business owners, journalists and others who submitted statements recommending the station for the award.

#### **CENTRAL IOWA BLUES SOCIETY**

The Central Iowa Blues Society was founded in October 1992 and has been affiliated with the Blues Foundation since 1993. During the course of its existence, the society has weathered many storms, including crises of finances, membership and leadership, and had witnessed countless partnerships, programs, venues, blues acts and members come and gone, but, standing the test of time, CIBS has remained committed to the same purposes and goals under which it was formed. Its programs include the Winter Blues Fest, which began in 1994 by bringing national and local musicians together at various indoor venues during the winter months, and the Iowa Blues Hall of Fame, which has inducted 59 deserving blues artists and industry supporters with Iowa ties since 1999. The Iowa Blues Challenge began in 1994, has been produced in cooperation with other Iowa Blues Societies since 1997, and was such a successful model that in 1999, the Blues Foundation adopted much of Iowa's challenge format to become the International Blues Challenge. Throughout its history, CIBS is very proud of its many partnerships with area charitable and community groups helping support worthy causes while spreading the news about the Blues.



# Mike Zito and the Wheel

Saturday, Dec. 12th @ 8 pm • \$15 • 21st Saloon, 96th and L Street, Omaha, NE

Tuesday, Dec. 15th @ 6 pm • \$12 adv., \$15 d.o.s. • Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE

...his fiery Strat playing elevates each and every song, as do the swallow-your-emotions vocals. —*Vintage Guitar*

...one of the finest, most creative musicians on the competitive blues-roots scene. —*Blues Revue Magazine*

His music flows into the veins and moves the body in ways that can only be described as free and wild...

—*Jazz Times*

The natural habitat of the true musician is not the gleaming studio, a glitzy showbiz party or a five-star hotel. It's the road. And if multiple Blues Music Award winner Mike Zito had a dollar for every mile of tarmac he's burnt since his breakout in the early-'90s, they'd be piled up to his chin. "There's just something in me," considers the solo bandleader and Royal Southern Brotherhood co-founder (with Devon Allman and Cyril Neville), "It's there in all musicians. You gotta love the road to be a part of this world. You're right there, looking in people's eyes, swapping stories, shaking hands..."

There's an undeniable romance about a life in motion – and an enduring magic about the moment when the house lights go down, the roar of the crowd goes up and the shadows take the stage. For Mike, who began touring the Midwest circuit at the age of eighteen, and has since crossed twenty-plus countries as guitarist with the Brotherhood, this is when things get serious. "In my band, The Wheel, if you're not already with us, you'd better get on board," he grins. "Because otherwise we're gonna knock you down!"

True enough. Ask Mike for his backstory and he'll give you the cold, hard truth. In his own words, the bandleader "grew up poor in St. Louis"; in a blue-collar family whose father logged 40-hour weeks at the local brewery. Ten years working at a downtown guitar shop, under the tutelage of an older employee, exposed him to titans like B.B. King, the Allmans and Eric Clapton (and from there, Joe Pass, Robert Johnson and Blind Willie Johnson), and though he was fired from early cover bands for refusing to mimic the solos, by 1997, he had released his debut album *Blue Room*. "The first time you hear yourself," recalls Mike, "you think, 'Wow, that almost sounds like music!'"

There were bumps in the road, of course. By the post-millennium, creeping alcoholism and drug abuse had threatened to rob Mike of his talent and livelihood. For a time, all seemed lost. But since the epiphany of meeting his beloved wife ("I give her all the credit in the world"), Mike has blossomed as both a man and musician, and in 2015, he can reflect on a run of thrilling solo albums, plus two universally renowned studio releases with the Brotherhood. "It's all working out," he beams, "and I couldn't be more thankful." "Gone To Texas is an old slang expression for the man of the house has split," Zito says with a smirk, "My life now couldn't be further from that."

Happy, successful, surrounded by his loving family and juggling a fistful of celebrated projects, perhaps you'd understand if Mike were content to rest on his laurels. Not a chance, that endless freeway is still a siren-call that this lifelong road-dog can't ignore. "The road is part of the sto-



ry," he concludes, "and that's why there are so many songs about it. When a tour ends, I can't wait to get home. But by the week after, I'm itching to get back out there. It's like the song says, the road never ends."

From the Mike Zito website

## LONG DISTANCE AWARD



BSO member Rozely Penzkowski was out for the October 22nd Cedric Burnside show at the 21st Saloon with her friend Ingo Kohler from Hamburg, Germany.

From Rozely, "I met Ingo 30 years ago in Lincoln, and he has not been in the Omaha area for 29 years. We last saw him when he flew to Paris 25 years ago to get together with Ron and I when we were there on our honeymoon. So, I packed 29 years of fun into his 7 day visit and the Burnside show was one of the highlights. Had I not recently broke my toe, we would've been cutting up the dance floor."

Photo by Richard Allen



# Watermelon Slim & the Hellhounds

Saturday, Jan. 2nd @ 8 pm • \$10 / \$5 for BSO members  
21st Saloon, 96th & L Street, Omaha, NE

The most exciting and authentic blues performer I've heard in years."

--A.W., *Paste Magazine*

2x Winner: 2008 Blues Music Award Band of the Year and Album of the Year

2x Winner: 2006 & 2007 MOJO Magazine's #1 Blues Album of the Year

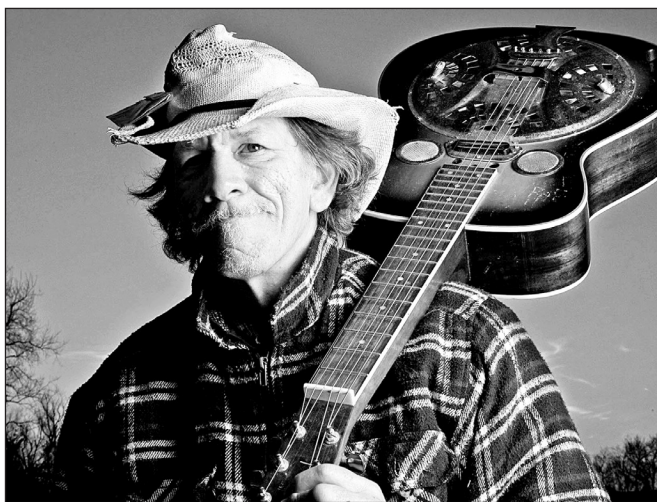
Winner: 6th Annual Independent Music Awards Blues Album of the Year

## ***An ever-expanding career of ramshackle grandeur***

Bill "Watermelon Slim" Homans has built a remarkable reputation with his raw, impassioned intensity. HARP Magazine wrote "From sizzling slide guitar...to nitty-gritty harp blowing...to a gruff, resonating Okie twang, Slim delivers acutely personal workingman blues with both hands on the wheel of life, a bottle of hooch in his pocket, and the Bible on the passenger seat." Paste Magazine writes "He's one hell of a bottleneck guitarist, and he's got that cry in his voice that only the greatest singers in the genre have had before him."

The industry agrees on all fronts. Watermelon Slim & The Workers have garnered 17 Blues Music Award nominations in four years including a record-tying six in both 2007 & 2008. Only the likes of B.B. King, Buddy Guy and Robert Cray have landed six in a year and Slim is the only blues artist in history with twelve in two consecutive years. In Spring 2009 he was the cover story of Blues Revue magazine. Now, Watermelon Slim is making more waves with *Escape From the Chicken Coop*, his first-person account of the days he spent driving a truck. It is just one of many instances of a life spent changing gears.

Two of Slim's records were ranked #1 in MOJO Magazine's annual Top Blues CD rankings. Industry awards include The Independent Music Award for Blues Album of the Year, The Blues Critic Award and Canada's Maple Blues Award for International Artist of the Year among others. Slim has hit #1 on the Living Blues Charts, top five on the Roots Music Report and debuted in the top ten in Billboard. One of Slim's most impressive industry accolades may be the liner notes of *The Wheel Man* eagerly written by the late legendary Jerry Wexler who called him a "one-of-a-kind pickin' n singing Okie dynamo." Slim has been embraced for his music, performances, backstory and persona. He has appeared on NPR's *All Things Considered*, The BBC's *World Service* and has been featured in publications like *Harp*, *Relix*, *Paste*, *MOJO*, *Oklahoma Magazine* and *Truckers News* as well as newspapers like *The London Times*, *Toronto Star*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *The Village Voice*, *Kansas City Star*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and Michelle Shocked's *JAMS Magazine*.



The Memphis Flyer led its terrific CD review with the question "Does anyone in modern pop music have a more intriguing biography than Bill 'Watermelon Slim' Homans?"

Slim was born in Boston, his father was a progressive attorney and freedom rider and his brother is a classical musician. He was raised in North Carolina listening to the housekeeper sing John Lee Hooker songs. Slim attended Middlebury on a fencing scholarship but left early to enlist for Vietnam. While laid up in a Vietnam hospital bed he taught himself upside-down left-handed slide guitar on a \$5 balsawood model using a triangle pick cut from a rusty coffee can top and his Army issued Zippo lighter as the slide.

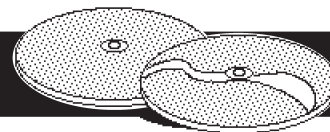
Slim first appeared on the music scene with the release of the only known protest record by a veteran during the Vietnam War. The project was *Merry Airbrakes*, a 1973 protest tinged LP with tracks Country Joe McDonald later covered. In the following 30 plus years Slim has been a truck driver, forklift operator, sawmiller (where he lost a partial finger), firewood salesman, collection agent, funeral officiator and at times a small time criminal. Due to aforementioned criminality, Slim was forced to flee Boston where he had played peace rallies, sit-ins and rabbleroosed musically with the likes of Bonnie Raitt. Recently Raitt singled out Slim to her audience as a living blues legend during a summer 2009 performance.

From Boston Slim landed in his current home state of Oklahoma farming watermelons - hence his stage name. Somewhere in those decades since Vietnam Slim completed two undergrad and a master's degree, started a family, painted art and joined Mensa, the social networking group reserved for members with certified genius IQs. When he's not on tour Slim loves to fish and at the age of 60 bowls a steady 240 in his local league.

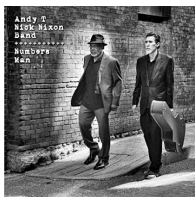
The big turning point was 2002 when Slim suffered a near fatal heart attack. His brush with death gave him a new perspective on mortality, direction and life ambitions and thus his second emergence as a performing musician. Five albums later he says, "Everything I do now has a sharper pleasure to it. I've lived a fuller life than most people could in two. If I go now, I've got a good education, I've lived on three continents, and I've played music with a bunch of immortal blues players. I've fought in a war and against a war. I've seen an awful lot and I've done an awful lot. If my plane went down tomorrow, I'd go out on top." And when you watch him perform, you know every word is true.

*From the Watermelon Slim artist website*

# CD Reviews



## The Andy T – Nick Nixon Band *Numbers Man*



Last August Blind Pig Records released the subject CD. Nick Nixon brings his smooth, strong vocals to all songs on the disc except for a couple of instrumentals. Andy Talamantez covers all the rhythm and lead guitar duties except for some contributions by Anson Funderburgh. Funder-

burgh also produced the album. Andy T plays a steady easy going guitar style throughout. There appears to be an even mix of covers and songs written by the two band leaders. Besides the contributions of Funderburgh, harmonica virtuoso Kim Wilson makes an appearance on one of the many good blues tunes on the disc. This is the third CD release on a major record label for the band. There is a very full complement of instruments involved in this project. Larry van Loon plays some very nice keyboards on every song using a mix of Hammond B3 organ and piano, some tracks with both. There is a nice trio of horn players on trumpet and tenor and baritone saxophones known as the Texas Horns that appear on most of the songs and add much to round out the full sound of the CD. A couple other songs include some rubboard and accordion. The horns tend to give a light swing style to a few of the songs. I find this to be an enjoyable blues CD with full sound and a fair amount of variety. This band appeared at the 21st Saloon sometime maybe last winter or so and I was very impressed by their show. Nick was playing rhythm guitar at the show but the credits on the album don't indicate he did that on this disc. I checked their website and note this band travels extensively. I will be looking forward to their return to our area.

—Dan Betts

## Charles Wilson • *Sweet & Sour Blues*

Blues Critic Records



Charles Wilson is a soul-blues singer from Chicago. He has worked with Bobby Bland, Bobby Rush, and Otis Clay. Little Milton was his uncle. The cd was produced by Travis Haddix. Haddix played guitar and wrote all the songs, as well.

The songs are all slow blues or shuffles in the twelve-bar form. There are inventive horn arrangements throughout that set this cd apart from many standard blues albums. Humor is incorporated cleverly by Haddix on most songs that have the usual blues themes of relationship difficulties.

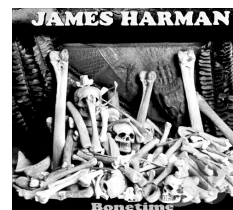
Wilson has a very soulful high range singing style that is quite enjoyable. People that appreciate music that is soul-blues flavored should give this cd a try. You can catch Wilson at the great 21st Saloon Thursday Blues Series on December 10th.

—A.J. Foyt

## A.J.'S TOP FIVE FOR 2015



1. Stacy Mitchhart ~ *Live My Life*: Great cd by an artist deserving wider recognition.



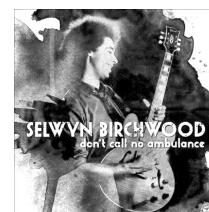
2. James Harman ~ *Bonetime*: Another exceptional cd by the living legend.



3. Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters ~ *Father's Day*: One of my favorite guitarists for many years.



4. AJ Ghent Band ~ *Live at Terminal West*: Very cool debut.



5. Selwyn Birchwood ~ *Don't Call No Ambulance*: Another outstanding debut, and people say that blues is dying- No way!





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