




# IBLUES NOTES

www.omahablues.com

VOLUME FIFTEEN, NUMBER TWO • FEBRUARY 2011

Draw out of the Winter Blues and into the Blues at...



*A benefit for Operation BBG For Our Troops*

**When: Saturday, February 26th**  
**Doors open at 6:00 pm**  
**Bands begin at 6:30 pm**  
**Featuring The Avey Brothers, 2010 Finalists**  
**at the International Blues Challenge.**  
**Where: "The Barn"**  
**located at 15220 Military Road**  
**(the intersection of Military & State Streets)**  
**www.operationbbgmw.org**



***The Big Head Blues Club and the Blues at the Crossroads Tour, a celebration of Robert Johnson's centennial.***

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH, 2011  
HOLLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**



This past October, we spent some time at Ardent Studios, down in Memphis. We recorded a new project with Grammy award winning producer Chris Goldsmith. The new record, 100 Years of Robert Johnson, celebrates the 100th anniversary of Robert Johnson's birth and will be released February 1st on Ryko Records/Big Records. We are calling our new alter ego the Big Head Blues Club (BHBC) and we will be playing with some very special guests including Hubert Sumlin, Honeyboy Edwards, Cedric Burnside and Lightnin' Malcolm, as well as a few

other special guests that we will announce soon.

*Stacey w/BHTM*

**We're turning 21!**



**21st Anniversary Party**  
**February 12th, 9pm**  
**at The Reef at Del Mare**  
 168th & Pacific

**PLAYING WITH FIRE 2011 • Saturday, July 16**



**Sharon Jones & the Dap Kings**

**Malford Milligan**

**More TBA**



**Live Blues at 5:30pm**

**THE NEW LIFT LOUNGE • 4737 S. 96TH**

Thu 2/3 ..... Davina and The Vagabonds

Thu 2/10 ..... Scott Keeton Band

Thu 2/17 ..... Mary Bridget Davies

Thu 3/3 ..... Joe Kubek & Bnois King



## BLUES ON THE RADIO:

Mondays 1pm-3pm on KIOS 91.5 Mike Jacob's "Blues in the Afternoon"

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.

Monday – 3:00-6:00pm World Gone Wrong Blues

Tuesday – 3:00-6:00pm Group W Blues

Wednesday – 9:00-11:00am The Ride-Rock & Blues from Dave Reece

Thursday – 3:00-6:00pm Flashback Blues

**Please consider switching to the GREEN VERSION of Blues Notes.  
You will be saving the planet while saving BSO some expense.**



[mamaspizzawest.com](http://mamaspizzawest.com)

15615 Pacific St  
933-5090

## DAVID ZOLLO

Feb. 18th and 19th • Havana Garage



Since bursting on the scene as a baby-faced 21-year-old with Iowa City's white-hot, road-chewing pub-rockers, **High and Lonesome** in 1992, Zollo has done just about everything you can do in the rock and roll business. Whether as a singer/songwriter/keyboardist with his own bands; as a sideman for an incredible array of roots music talent (**Todd Snider, William Elliot Whitmore, Greg Brown, Bo**

**Ramsey, The Pines**); as founder/owner/operator of legendary underground label, Trailer Records; or producer to up-and comers (**The Pines, Brother Trucker**) Zollo always maintained a ridiculously frenetic schedule, logging thousands of miles and 200+ gigs a year, doing all of these things at an incredibly high level.

## MARY BRIDGET DAVIES

Thursday, February 17th • The Lift Lounge

Seldom is there an artist that makes me stop in my tracks. Ms. Davies' voice explodes with a truth and passion seldom ever heard. Like a hurricane she obliterates anything coming before her and sets a new standard. Not only is she on pitch, but her delivery is perfect. She defines each song with such a command that it is almost hard to imagine anyone else singing them but her. Mary Bridget has the heart of the most intense rocker, the soul of gospel singer, the passion of a jazz singer, and the sublime aesthetic of a soprano singing a Puccini aria.



[www.marybridgetdavies.com](http://www.marybridgetdavies.com)

JERRY W. KATSKEE  
PARTNER

KATSKEE, HENATSCH & SUING

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

10404 ESSEX COURT, SUITE 100  
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[www.katskeesuinglaw.com](http://www.katskeesuinglaw.com)

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# What's New with BluesEd



Our BluesEd students love nothing more than interacting and playing with Omaha's professional blues musicians.



A shared stage experience provides the students with an enthusiastic audience, mentorship and encouragement from professional musicians, and a performance that will remain a fond memory for years to come.

On January 8, 2011, the Luther James Band invited BluesEd group Mojo Bag to open for them at McKenna's. Thrilled to say the least, everyone in Mojo Bag had a wonderful time. As if the generous gesture by the Luther James Band wasn't enough, they also publicly offered to sponsor a BluesEd student by covering tuition.



All of us at BluesEd want to thank the Luther James Band for their unyielding support of our youth artist program. It is because of all of our sponsors, clinicians, and volunteers that our students are able to have this once-in-a-life opportunity.

--Vicky DeCoster

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*Paul R. Waggener,  
President*

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# Insomniacs at the Zoo Bar 1-19-2011



A decent crowd braved yet another January snowstorm in Lincoln Ne to enjoy a great Jump Blues band out of the Great Northwest, The Insomniacs... Tonight Zoo Bar fixture Magic Slim sat in for 3 songs with them in the 2nd set and they looked liked a bunch of kids in a candy store looking at their first ever Peppermint stick.

The Insomniacs played the Lift in Omaha last week and are quickly becoming a favorite choice of the Zoo Bar, and I love their song title...

"I may be alone, but at least I'm not with you" sound like a chapter in my yet to be released Autobiography.

*Stay warm and dry all...*

*Live and local, if ya like it, ya better live it, or you'll lose it!*

CONRAD GOOD

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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.  
Find the new column online each Thursday at  
[www.thereader.com/hoodooblues.php](http://www.thereader.com/hoodooblues.php)**

MC <sup>BLUES</sup> BOOZE <sup>KENNA</sup>  
+BBQ

Saturday,  
February, 19th  
8:30pm - 1am

## Luther James Band



email: [ljband@cox.net](mailto:ljband@cox.net) Facebook/myspace: luther james band

with Special Guests :

Blues Legend

*John Crews*

BSO Blues Ed Band

*"Us and Them"*



leave your ego  
play the music  
love the people



# BLUES IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

[Tue 2/1]

Jazzocracy (06:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Thu 2/3]

Davina and The Vagabonds (05:30pm) (The New Lift Lounge  
(fka Murphy's))  
Ed Archibald and Concept (Ozone at Anthony's)  
Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Swamp Jam (Perry's Place)  
The Wailers (Bourbon Theatre)

[Fri 2/4]

Blind Dog Fulton (Gator Omally's Pub)  
Heart Murmurs Trio (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar FAC)  
Kris Lager Band (The Waiting Room Lounge)  
The Blues Orchestra (Roadhouse (Lincoln))

[Sat 2/5]

Blind Dog Fulton (Gator Omally's Pub)  
Levi William (Bobs Tavern)  
Swampboy Blues Band (Observatory Lounge)  
Wynton Marsalis (Holland Center)

[Mon 2/7]

Omaha Big Band (Ozone at Anthony's)  
Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Z Jam Open Stage (09:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Tue 2/8]

Jazzocracy (06:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Thu 2/10]

Cymbolton (Ozone at Anthony's)  
Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Scott Keeton Band (05:30pm) (The New Lift Lounge (fka  
Murphy's))

[Fri 2/11]

Brad Cordle Blues Band (09:00pm) (Cunningham's-Kearney)  
Learning to Floyd (The Waiting Room)  
Magic Slim (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
WGO Orchestra Revue (Ozone at Anthony's)

[Sat 2/12]

112 North Duck (McKennas)  
Blue House 21st Anniversary Show (Del Mare)  
Brad Cordle Blues Band (09:00pm) (Cunningham's-Kearney,  
NE)  
Todd Campbell (Havana Garage)

[Mon 2/14]

Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
The Toasters (The Waiting Room)  
Z Jam Open Stage (09:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Tue 2/15]

Jazzocracy (06:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Thu 2/17]

Mary Bridget Davies (05:30pm) (The New Lift Lounge (fka  
Murphy's))  
Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Fri 2/18]

Dave Zollo (Havana Garage)  
Magic Slim (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Sat 2/19]

Blue House And The Rent To Own Horns (Vintage Bar)  
Dave Zollo (Havana Garage)  
Harvey & Honeyboy Blues Duo (06:30pm) (Heartland Cafe,  
Elkhorn)  
Levi William (Heidelbergs, Lincoln)  
Luther James Band (McKennas)  
Son del Llano (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Mon 2/21]

Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Z Jam Open Stage (09:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Tue 2/22]

Jazzocracy (06:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Wed 2/23]

Kris Lager Band (P.S. Collective)

[Thu 2/24]

Camille DeVore Quartet (09:00pm) (Myth-Old Market)  
Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Fri 2/25]

Branford Marsalis (Lied Center, Lincoln)  
Heart Murmurs Trio (05:00pm) (Duggan's FAC)  
Levi William (The Roadhouse)  
Matt Cox (McKennas)  
Swampboy Blues Band (Jazz A Louisiana Kitchen)  
Wild Fire (Havana Garage)

[Sat 2/26]

Bel Airs (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Karrin Allyson (08:00pm) (Holland Performing Arts Center / 1200  
Club)  
Kris Kristofferson & Merle Hagard (Holland Performing Arts  
Center)  
The Avey Brothers (The Barn)

[Sun 2/27]

School Of Rock (06:30pm) (The Waiting Room)

[Mon 2/28]

Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Z Jam Open Stage (09:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Tue 3/1]

Jazzocracy (06:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Wed 3/2]

Smokin Joe Kubek and B'nois King (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Thu 3/3]

Joe Kubek & Bnois King (05:30pm) (The New Lift Lounge (fka  
Murphy's))  
Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Fri 3/4]

Blue House And The Rent To Own Horns (The Loose Moose)  
Brad Cordle Blues Band (09:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.  
Lincoln, 402-435-8754)



# BLUES IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

## — O.B.S. MAILBAG —

[Sat 3/5]

Big Head Todd and the Monsters with Special Guests (The Holland Center)  
Blue House And The Rent To Own Horns (The Loose Moose)  
Drew and the No Name Blues Band (Bob's Tavern)

[Mon 3/7]

Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Z Jam Open Stage (09:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Tue 3/8]

Jazzocracy (06:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Thu 3/10]

Debbie Davies (05:30pm) (The New Lift Lounge (fka Murphy's))  
Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Sat 3/12]

Blind Dog Fulton (Steel Horse Saloon)

[Mon 3/14]

Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Z Jam Open Stage (09:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Tue 3/15]

Jazzocracy (06:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Thu 3/17]

Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Fri 3/18]

Heart Murmurs Trio (05:00pm) (Duggan's FAC)

[Mon 3/21]

Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Z Jam Open Stage (09:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Tue 3/22]

Jazzocracy (06:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Thu 3/24]

Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Roomful of Blues (05:30pm) (The New Lift Lounge (fka Murphy's))  
Susie Thorne Band (09:00pm) (Myth-Old Market)

[Mon 3/28]

Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)  
Z Jam Open Stage (09:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Tue 3/29]

Jazzocracy (06:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

[Thu 3/31]

Piano Happy Hour (05:00pm) (Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Lincoln, 402-435-8754)

*Greetings,*

As we head into the new year, one can't help but reflect on 2010. Haiti earthquake benefits, CD release party at McKenna's, two trips performing in Wisconsin, the North Platte adventure, 30th consecutive months of "Swampjam"-open blues jam, over 200 gigs, Rogues and Bastards...in a Gentlemen's way with Steve Byam, the birth of SBB acoustic trio (Gayland on conga drums), many new friends in many new venues.

Special thanks to all of you who came out to listen and to the many musicians that participated in various ways. Special thanks to Dan Kletke (Trumpet/Harmonica/Flute), Michael Howard "the Duck" (Harmonica), Bucky McCann (Saxophone, Accordion, etc.), Jon Novak (guitar), Steve Byam, Elwin James Moseman, Doug Collins, Melanie Dickinson, Al Deitrich, Chad Perry, Andrew Radke, Dave and Matt Moore (Millard Music) and many others. You know who you are. Most of all thanks to Gayland Prince and Jerry Steinke for holding it down and keeping me grounded. You all make me really look forward to 2011.

Be well, be safe, be warm....and most of all  
LOVE EACH OTHER,

*Tim Koehn*

*(Swampboy Blues Band • Swampjam  
SBB Acoustic Trio)*

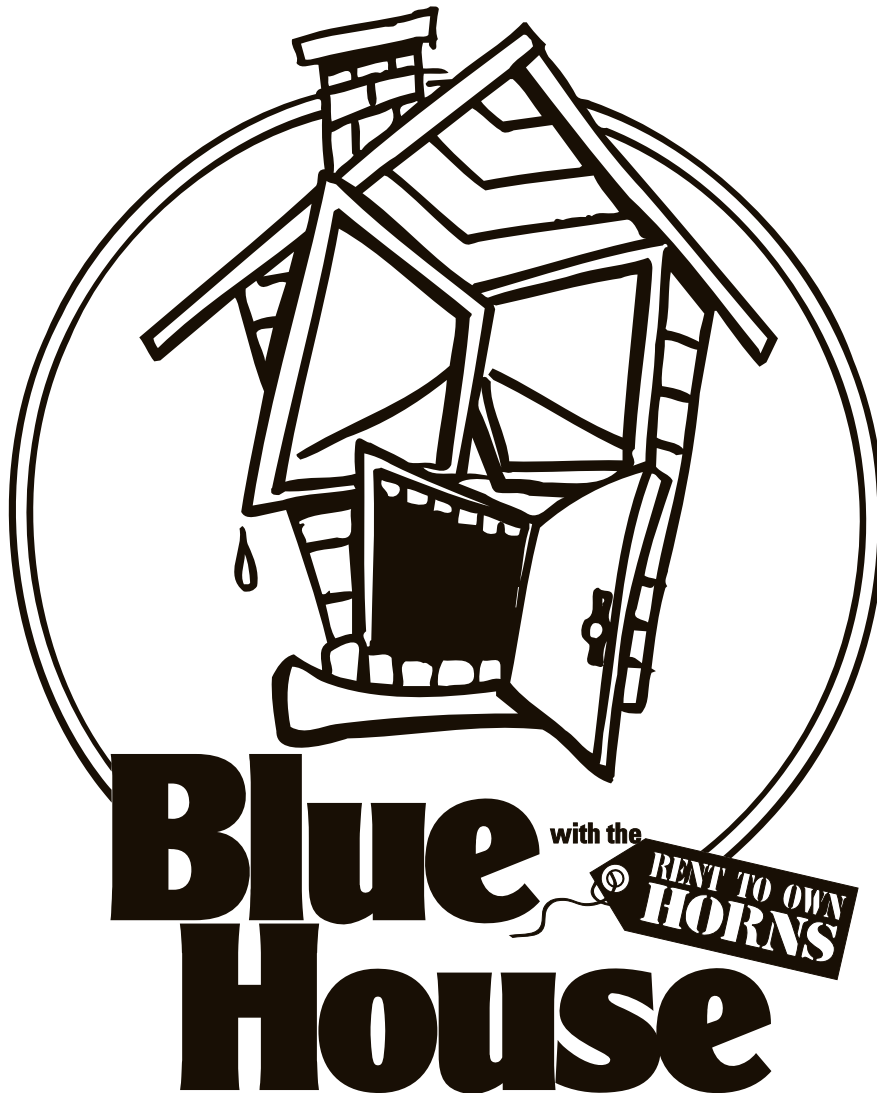
## HEY BANDS & BARS

If you want your schedule printed monthly  
in BLUES NOTES, call (402) 616-3159  
or e-mail to [tsedivy@yahoo.com](mailto:tsedivy@yahoo.com).

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



# We're turning 21!



Blue House is celebrating our 21st anniversary on Saturday, February 12th. Please come out and be part of our party.

Along with the band, we will have old friends and former members of the band sitting in with us in what should be another memorable night.

THE *Reef*  
AT *Del Mare*

**21st Anniversary Party**  
**February 12th, 9pm**  
**at The Reef at Del Mare**  
**168th & Pacific**

## OBS BAND DIRECTORY

<i>Band</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone #</i>
<b>COUNCIL BLUFFS</b>		
Dave Barger and the Jam Masters.....	Dave Barger.....	402-390-4239
Chasing Daylight.....	Rick Hillyard.....	712-420-1232
The Johnsen Brothers.....	Neil Johnsen.....	545-3564
The Joe Lidgett Blues Band.....	Joe Lidgett.....	712-813-1572
Tommy K & The OK Blues Band.....	Thomas Kriegshauser.....	712-520-1678
<b>KEARNEY</b>		
The OK Sisters.....	Mark Weinand.....	308-236-8844
<b>LINCOLN</b>		
Blues from the Five.....	Chris S.....	402-560-7808
Blues Messengers.....	Jake Wiese.....	402-601-4959
The Blues Orchestra.....	Harv Brindell.....	402-435-5297
Charlie Burton and the Dorothy Lynch Mob.....	Charlie Burton.....	402-476-9254
Jared and the Blues Teachers.....	Jared Alberico.....	402-474-2473
Jr. Stephens Blues Project.....	Lary Lehman.....	1-800-422-1340
The Kris Lager Band.....	Kris Lager.....	402-304-7269
The Mezcal Brothers.....	Gerado Meza.....	402-438-5120
The Tijuana Gigolos.....	Marty Steinhousen.....	402-742-5892
John Walker and the Nightcrawlers.....	John Walker.....	402-466-7254
Levi William.....	Cindy Patton.....	402-580-8549
<b>OMAHA</b>		
112 North Duck.....	Michelle.....	402-210-9378
2 Guyz and the Bluez Rendezvous.....	Paul Scott Hoagbin.....	402-689-1183
Accoustic Groove.....	John Rogers.....	402-991-2554
Backer's Blues.....	Jeff Kangas.....	402-650-8580
The Big Boys.....	Patrick Peters.....	402-544-1746
Blind Dog Fulton.....	Devon Fulton.....	402-312-4884
Blue House with the Rent to Own Horns.....	Joe Putjenter.....	402-658-2222
Blue Kazoo.....	Kazoo Tate.....	402-215-4027
The Blues Explosion.....	Dave Skinner.....	402-330-7366
The Blues Mechanics.....	Dr. Spit.....	402-451-5864
Blue Venue.....	Fred Schwery.....	402-733-2838
Burgundy and Gray.....	Regina Spellman.....	burgundyandgray@yahoo.com
The Confidentials.....	Stan Spurgeon.....	402-738-9225
John Crews Blues.....	John Crews.....	402-714-7634
Lou DeLuca and the R & M Blues Band.....	Lou DeLuca.....	402-677-7156
Drew and the No Name Blues Band.....	Brent Saltzman.....	402-676-6671
Drunken Intentions.....	Andy Dickinson.....	402-208-1231
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Elwin James and the Way Outs.....	Zap.....	(402) 292-6435
Just Plain Trouble.....	Tom Boller.....	402-669-3903
Little Joe and Big Trouble.....	Little Joe.....	402-680-2924
The Matt Gagne Blues Experience.....	Matt Gagne.....	402-212-0694
Mojo Po.....	Mojo Po.....	402-554-8521
Stephen Monroe.....	Stephen Monroe.....	402-699-5905
Jorge Nila and the Jazz Ninjas.....	Jorge Nila.....	402-932-JAZZ
Not the Hornets.....	Awesome Productions.....	402-681-9991
The Omaha Blues Society All-Stars.....	Craig Balderston.....	402-553-1995
Paul Anderson Trio.....	Paul Anderson.....	402-731-6649
The Prairie Gators.....	Steve Kunasek.....	402-734-6975
Repent House.....	Bob Zurek.....	402-733-1706
Rhythm Collective Reggae.....	Frank Fong.....	402-556-3568
Sarah Benck.....	Sarah Benck.....	sarah@sarahbenck.com
Shaky Boys Electric Blues.....	L.J. Johnson.....	402-213-5234
The Side Effects.....	Karen Porter.....	402-679-7538
Soulfinger.....	Barry Clark.....	thbear57@cox.net
Spike Nelson Trio.....	Mike Nelson.....	402-612-1250
Stovall.....	Jeff.....	732-915-6001
Swampboy.....	Tim Koehn.....	402-981-2574
Tres Equis/St. Elvis.....	Blind Burrito.....	402-850-0245
Susan Thorne Group.....	Susan Thorne.....	402-968-4991
Matt Wallace.....	Matt Wallace.....	402-551-1610
George Walker.....	George Walker.....	402-871-1469

Please send all new and updated band and contact information to [tsedivy@yahoo.com](mailto:tsedivy@yahoo.com).

# Terry O's Lift Swan Song... Brad Cordle Band Trampled Under Foot w/Kris Lager • 1-16-2011

The joint was packed and they were hoppin... As well they should have been, Terry O threw together a last benefit for the Blues Society Of Omaha and invited a few of his favorite folks to send him off with a Bang.

The Brad Cordle band kicked the evening off and is even tighter that the last time I saw them just a scant 3 weeks ago. I'm not sure Brad wants to be called a Blue Eyed Soul singer, but that is exactly what he is with a big powerful voice and he is surrounded by quite a talented group of musicians that have been at it a long time... Craig Balderson on bass, Dave Steen on Lead Guitar, Johnny "Rocky" Gomez Jr on Keyboards and the Hammond organ, they are also sporting a new drummer Drew Brookings. I can't wait for that special night when Brad and the boys "just for the hell of it" add a horn section to the group.

Trampled Under Foot made the 3 hour trek north from Kansas City and made it an even deeper family band as they had their Mother with them to help with the merchandising and she got up and did a pretty damn good job belting out an Albert Collins song or two herself. Today as I type this the TUF band is currently sailing the High Seas on the Legendary Blues Cruise, they have certainly came a long ways in the last several years and



deservedly so!

Adding to the evening entertainment was the sizzling fret work of Lincoln's Kris Lager who sat in with both bands and was clearly having a ball himself.

Since this show ended Terry O Halloran has announced that the new owner of the Lift will continue with the Thursday Matinee shows... Terry O will hold true to his word and book and promote the shows, now we as Live Music lovers need to put our money and support where we sit, and that is in the audience for these shows and continue to enjoy the top notch talent Terry O has given for so many years.

Live Blues/Roots music in Omaha has survived a "Standing Eight Count" with this decision to continue the Thursday's shows... lets not let Live Blues/Roots Music be knocked out of the Omaha Scene... Make the commitment to get to a couple of these shows a month and bring someone new with you like a neighbor or co-worker it just might help seal the deal!

Live and Local, if ya like it, ya gotta live it, or you'll lose it!

—Conrad Good





*Are you already afraid to see what this winter brings us? More snow?  
Possibly. But one thing is for sure, this winter will also bring the*

## 2ND ANNUAL WINTER BLUES & BBQ

**A benefit for Operation BBQ For Our Troops - Midwest Division**

The event will raise money and awareness about OBFOT while entertaining guests with music from two of Omaha's best blues bands and award-winning bbq.

Tickets will go on sale **January 2nd, 2011** for \$20 a ticket. Tickets can be purchased on-line by clicking the "Add to Cart" button to the right, by emailing [info@operationbbqmw.org](mailto:info@operationbbqmw.org). or by calling (402) 709-0153.

Tickets purchased prior to the event either by phone, email or through the website will be mailed to your home mailing address. **Tickets purchased after February 14, 2011 will be kept at will-call at the entrance to the event.**



Operation BBQ for Our Troops - Midwest Division is a branch of the national Operation BBQ for Our Troops organization which was established in 2002 with the mission "to honor those who protect our freedoms, and their loved

ones, with the hospitality of the uniquely American meal of BBQ." OBFOT is a non-partisan group of BBQ Competition Teams, Backyard BBQers, and BBQ enthusiasts that come together to show their appreciation by providing deploying or returning military members, their fami-



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When: Saturday, February 26th

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Bands begin at 6:30 pm featuring The Avey Brothers

Where: "The Barn"

located at 15220 Military Road  
(the intersection of Military & State Streets)

Cost: \$20 ticket



## CD Reviews



### Chris Cain • *So Many Miles*

Chris Cain is deserving of much more recognition. He is one of the best blues guitarists and singers working today. He records infrequently, and that may be part of the problem. This is his first cd in seven years.

The Robben Ford Band backs Cain on **So Many Miles**. The Ford Brothers have worked closely with Cain for many years, and it shows. They work well together. Larry Carlton also guests on one track.

Cain has a very fluid, polished guitar style that makes his playing seem effortless. His music is blues that has a strong



jazzy feel flowing through it. You can hear a B.B. King influence in Cain's singing, but he isn't mimicking B.B. It is his own expressive approach.

There are horns on several cuts and a song that has a fusion feel making the cd more varied and eclectic.

This is a CD that helps evolve the blues without getting too far from the heart of it. Cain is never over the top, but nuanced and subtle. I like this CD a great deal.

—A. J. Foyt

# CD Reviews



## Big Head Blues Club • 100 Years of Robert Johnson

On May 8, way back in 1911, Robert Johnson was born in Hazelhurst, Mississippi. He went on to become one of the founding forces of the blues genre and a recognized early influence in rock and roll. Its only fitting that someone throw a "Happy 100th Birthday" party for Robert (even though he won't be blowing out the candles as he's been dead for the last 73 years). This particular celebration is credited to the Big Head Blues Club, and what a club it is! The main force is Big Head Todd and the Monsters. They are joined by special club members: BB King, Hubert Sumlin, Honeyboy Edwards, Charlie Musselwhite, Ruthie Foster, Cedric Burnside and Lightnin' Malcom.

Ten of Robert Johnson's twenty-nine recorded songs are featured on this CD. It's hard to imagine that Robert Johnson originally recorded this great selection of songs during two sessions in 1936 and 1937. I'm sure that doing an album of such well-known, and previously "well-covered", covers offers more than a few concerns. Todd and his fellow club members did an outstanding job of interpreting Johnson's songs into a modern sound while, for the most part, remaining true to the feeling of the classic original recordings. A good example is the opening track - Come On In My Kitchen. The addition of backing B3 organ and Charlie Musselwhite's harp solo enhance but do not detract from its original delta sound.

From the remaining tracks there are several particularly enjoyable selections. When You Got A Good Friend is a simple blues tune featuring Hubert Sumlin's guitar and backing vocals by Ruthie Foster. Ruthie returns for a duet with Todd on an outstanding version of Kind Hearted Woman. The backing piano and acoustic guitar work contribute to the vintage sound of

this track. Charlie Musselwhite provides smooth harp backing and fills to Todd's vocal at the start of Last Fair Deal Gone Down. Although it starts with this easygoing sound, towards the end it changes tempo and the sound becomes almost frantic. Charlie's harp becomes more biting and forceful and then the song abruptly ends. Cross Road Blues, featuring B.B. King, is the only track that strays (probably too far) from the original Robert Johnson sound. This is a B.B. King song in its arrangement and the sound of his guitar and vocals.

The CD closes by getting back to the most simple of basics. Todd does a solo version of All My Love In Vain providing both the vocal and the acoustic guitar accompaniment.. It is very nicely done. Next is Sweet Home Chicago with just the duo of Honeyboy Edwards on guitar and vocals and Charlie Musselwhite accompanying. What a nice way to end this tribute.

**100 Years of Robert Johnson** is good listening. It might not be a favorite of all Big Head Todd and the Monsters fans but I think most of them would enjoy it. Its appeal will be more to Robert Johnson and blues roots fans.

—Charlie Johnson

(Closing Note: In association with this CD, the Big Head Blues Club is taking their centennial tribute to Robert Johnson out on tour. One of their stops will be the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha on March 5. Accompanying Big Head Todd and The Monsters on this tour are David "Honeyboy" Edwards, Hubert Sumlin and Cedric Burnside & Lightnin' Malcolm. Keep your eyes open for ticket information!)

## Tom Jones • Praise and Blame

Okay, everybody sing with me now, "Whats new Pussycat" "Whoa, Whoa, Whoa, Whoa, okay stop that crap! That was then, this is now. Tom Jones (yes, that Tom Jones) latest album is not your lame Vegas lounge lizard act, where ladies throw their panties at you!

(my ex-wife threw plenty of things at me but never her undergarments). The first hint that this record might be all right is that it is on Lost Highway records, the label that has Lucinda Williams, Willie Nelson, Ryan Bingham and other Americana roots acts. **Praise and Blame** is a great album, bluesy but mostly gospel with songs by Bob Dylan, John Lee Hooker, Sister Rosetta Thorpe, Jesse Mae Hemphill and Billy Joe Shaver. I can't believe that I love this record! The band consisting of Ethan Johns on guitar at times is smokin hot and Mr Jones vocals, other than a slow start on Dylan's "What good am I" are spot on terrific! A stellar line up of guest musicians such as Augie Meyers, Benmont Tench, Dave Rawlings and Gillian Welch, and Booker T Jones help



make this a great record. Be forewarned banjo haters, there is banjo on this record! I was lifted up by this record and then gently put back down. My cat "Neckbones" called it "Pure Bliss". (Sometimes I worry about him) Toms version of Hookers "Burning Hell" is just a plain flat out foot stomper! So forget about Vegas and middle aged ladies throwing things at the stage, take a chance on something I thought I would never buy and please let me know what you think. (and be kind) So, kids "Its not Unusual" to love this record! (sorry about that)

Sidenote..... Many thanks to Terry O.

"Got to own" blues classic this month is Willie Dixon "I am the Blues"

—Hogsquat Wallow

For advice to the lovelorn and other blues topics, contact me at [hogsquat@gmail.com](mailto:hogsquat@gmail.com)



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