



# BLUES NOTES

www.omahablues.com

VOLUME TWENTY-TWO, NUMBER THREE • MARCH 2017

## CURTIS SALGADO



Wed. March 15th @ 6 pm • Zoo Bar, Lincoln

Thurs. March 16th @ 6 pm  
Chrome Lounge, Omaha

## COCO MONTOYA



Wednesday  
March 29th  
@ 6 pm  
Zoo Bar  
Lincoln

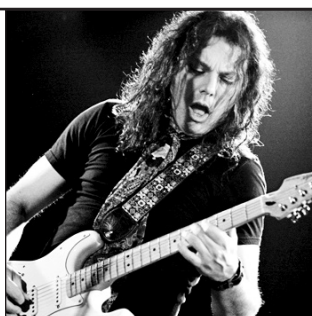
Thursday  
March 30th  
@ 6 pm  
Chrome Lounge  
Omaha

## ANTHONY GOMES

Friday, March 24th  
@ 5 pm (FAC)  
Zoo Bar, Lincoln

Saturday, March 25th  
@ 7 pm (\$10)  
NEW VENUE

Bourbon Whiskey Saloon  
311 S. 15th Street, Omaha



## DANIELLE NICOLE BAND



Wed. March 8th @ 6 pm  
Zoo Bar, Lincoln

Saturday, March 18th @ 5 pm  
Chrome Lounge, Omaha

## ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART



THURS. MARCH 23RD @ 6 PM • CHROME LOUNGE, OMAHA

## CHROME LOUNGE

8552 Park Drive, Omaha  
402 - 339 - 8660

The Blues Society of Omaha Presents

Thurs. March 2nd @ 6 pm..... Jason Ricci (\$12)  
Thurs. March 9th @ 6 pm..... The Claudettes (\$10)  
Thurs. March 16th @ 6 pm..... Curtis Salgado with  
The Brad Cordle Band (\$15)  
Sat. March 18th @ 5 pm..... Danielle Nicole Band (\$10)  
Thurs. March 23rd @ 6 pm..... Alvin Youngblood Hart (\$15)  
Thurs. March 30th @ 6 pm..... Coco Montoya (\$15)  
Thurs. April 6th @ 6 pm..... Mary Jo Curry (\$10)

## Why Join the Blues Society Of Omaha with Your Membership Donation?

The Blues Society of Omaha, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 1998. We are an all-volunteer organization with over 800 dues-paying members. BSO's mission is "Keepin' the Blues Alive". We are recognized as one of the top Blues Societies in the country. With the help of your tax-deductible donation we continue to promote blues music, blues musicians, and live music venues & events. Among our many projects and accomplishments are these:

- BSO promotes musicians and venues by maintaining a comprehensive live music calendar on our website, omahablues.com. BSO also distributes free monthly news flyers with calendars to numerous public gathering spots to inform the general community of live music shows in the area.
- BluesEd is a non-profit youth artist development program created and sponsored by Blues Society of Omaha. The BluesEd program began in 2001 to provide opportunities for young musicians to learn blues music in a series of workshops and to play with other students in a band format. Our BluesEd bands always are impressive and they have performed at some of the finest festivals & venues in and around Omaha.
- The Blues Society of Omaha has hosted an annual Nebraska Blues Challenge competition for local bands since 2011. All of the participating bands are showcased in judged public events as they compete for a package of prizes and the honor of representing BSO at the International Blues Challenge competition held in Memphis. All of the winning Nebraska bands have gone on to receive national attention and acclaim while making BSO proud!
- BSO produces and/or sponsors various music events throughout the year.
- BSO is a contributor to and supporter of Playing With Fire, a series of free outdoor concerts held each summer in Omaha since 2004.
- BSO provides support to The Zoo Bar, Lincoln's legendary and award-winning blues venue. BSO is a sponsor of the annual ZooFest music festival.
- In conjunction with Toy Drive for Pine Ridge, BSO hosts an annual toy drive and concert fundraiser for the children of Pine Ridge Reservation.
- BSO regularly produces charitable events for musicians in need.

### As a member and donor, you are entitled to great membership benefits:

- Free 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!
- E-blasts with late-breaking blues news.
- Special pre-sale and discounted tickets to select events.
- Discounts offered by generous local businesses.
- Pride in belonging to a group dedicated to "Keepin' 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 "Highway Blues" • 8:30-10:00pm "Radio Gumbo"

Thursday – 3:00-5:00pm "Blues Mix"

Friday – 1:00-3:00pm "Women's Blues & Boogie" • 3:00-6:00pm "Hudson Blues"

# JASON RICCI

Thursday, March 2nd @ 6 pm • Chrome Lounge, 8552 Park Drive, Omaha

"I am convinced that he (Jason Ricci) along with New Jersey's Dennis Gruenling is one of the best players of his generation."

— Adam Gussow  
(Author and member of Satan and Adam)

"Ricci links the jazz mastery of Howard Levy, with the blues precision of Jerry Portnoy and hits speeds that make John Popper look like he's standing still."

— Brad Kava (Mercury News)

Jason Ricci is well known for having one of the most exciting, energetic and unpredictable live shows on the circuit. His live performances are sweaty, sexual, intense and creative events. Ricci has been actively touring the Blues circuit in the USA and Europe for over twenty years. In 2005 The Mercury News listed Jason Ricci's show in a "Top Ten Best Shows" of 2005 list alongside acts such as Springsteen, Rush, Prince and Green Day for best concerts of the year. Jason's shows feature a variety of music from Blues, Punk, Jazz, R&B, and Fusion. He's just as likely to cover music by Little Walter, Otis Rush, Sonny Boy Williamson and Slim Harpo as he is The Misfits, Sun Ra, Lou Reed or Cheech and Chong. Ricci is an edgy performer, singer, songwriter and interview. Jason's career has been ripe with discussion, controversy and appreciation alike. He was/is the first and only male Blues performer in history to admit, interview, discuss and own the fact that he is openly gay/bi-sexual or "queer" as he calls it. His song "Broken Toy" is a testament to those struggles and a favorite amongst his

audiences straight, gay and otherwise.

As a sideman Jason Ricci has professionally gigged or toured with: Walter Trout, Nick Moss, Junior Kimbrough, RL Burnside, Big Al and The Heavy Weights, Damon Fowler, Sugar Ray Norcia, The Mark Hummel Harmonica Blow Off, The Johnny Winter Remembrance Project, Mike Zito, Big Chief Monk Boudreaux, Ana Popovic and many more.

As a recording artist Jason Ricci has released eight solo albums. His last two (Delta Groove/ElectoGroove Records) "Rocket Number Nine" (produced by John Porter) and "Done With The Devil" (produced by Phil Wolfe) both charted The Billboard Blues Charts in top five positions and both won numerous awards.

Additionally, Jason Ricci has one of the most popular harmonica related youtube channels with over 150 free harmonica lessons, 15,000 subscribers and well over 4,500,000 total million views.

From the Jason Ricci Facebook page



**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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With the closing of the 21st Saloon our heartfelt appreciation goes out to Scott Kirk and his team for their support of BSO, BluesEd, and Blues Music. Unfortunately, while Blues shows were generally well-attended, it was not enough to pay the bills.

The Thursday Blues Matinees have been moved to Chrome Lounge (8552 Park Drive).

The Thursday Blues Matinees and The Blues Society of Omaha both began in 1996 at 96th & L St., then known as The 18th Amendment Saloon. The series moved to The Music Box (7777 Cass St.) in 2000, returning to 96th & L as Murphy's Lounge in 2002. The series



moved to SHAG (707 N. 114th St.) in 2006, until noise complaints after a couple of months sent it back to 96th & L St., where it has continued ever since. The 21st Saloon operated 2012-2017.

Highlights of The Blues Matinee series included legendary artists Junior Wells, Buckwheat Zydeco, KoKo Taylor, and Magic Slim, Michael Burks, Smokin' Joe Kubek and many others.

The Blues Society of Omaha is thrilled that we have found a landing spot for the Blues Matinees series and hope you will be joining us at Chrome Lounge to support the shows.

## The 21st Saloon – The End of the Line (?#!#\*)

It came as quite a shock to me to learn that The 21st Saloon closed its doors for the last time on January 30, 2017; an abrupt and sad end for a great place. This establishment in one form or another has been an important part of my life for many years. I usually got rejuvenated or a nice mental reprieve from the stress or humdrum of everyday life at this place. Attending shows there was often the highlight of my week. I probably saw hundreds of shows at this venue and it was a very rare occasion indeed when I was disappointed by the performance. I often looked forward to scheduled shows weeks and even months prior to their arrival. One of my early remembrances there was seeing Storyville. Then the stage was in the back of the room near the Ladies restroom and there was an elevated platform in the

middle of the bar; I think it had a pool table on it. Over the years I have seen numerous high quality blues artists at this venue. I met most of the people in the Omaha area that I consider my friends at this joint or other BSO events in the area. Unfortunately attendance at shows waned some in recent times. My wife and I attended a very good show on a Saturday night in January and were perplexed that we were the only patrons seated at that long bar all night long. With sadness and great appreciation I offer my sincere thanks and best wishes to owner Scott Kirk (and formerly Terry O'Halloran) and all of their terrific staff and associates, including Terry Sedivy. Through their efforts they showed us all many great times for a very long time. We'll miss you 21st.

--Dan Betts

## From the BluesEd Program

On behalf of the nearly 200 BluesEd alumni & their families we are heartbroken of this news. Scott was a true partner to us in BluesEd. No venue owner was more passionate about BluesEd or live music than Scott Kirk. He always made our students feel comfortable and at home at his venue. We never had concerns about our students safety in his bar. Last summer alone, Scott let our student bands perform over 12 shows at his venue. We truly hope Scott knows how deeply he is loved & respected by our students & their families.

*Chris Begley Shouse, former director of the BluesEd program*

# DANIELLE NICOLE BAND

**Wednesday, March 8th @ 6 pm • Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th Street, Lincoln**  
**Saturday, March 18th @ 5 pm - \$10 • Chrome Lounge, 8552 Park Drive, Omaha**



A 2014 Blues Music Award winner, there's not a time in her life that singer/bassist/songwriter Danielle Nicole doesn't remember loving to perform.

Danielle comes from generations of singers. Her grandmother, Evelyn Skinner, was a big band singer. Danielle's mother, Lisa Swedlund, taught her everything she knew while growing up and listening to all different kinds of music from the Everly Brothers to the B-52s.

It wasn't until she was 12 that Danielle took to the stage for the first time singing, Koko Taylor's "Never Trust a Man" at a Blues for Schools program that her parents were playing at Englewood Elementary. From then on, she knew music would be her passion for the rest of her life.

Danielle began singing in coffeehouses and at open mic events at age 14, jamming with her parents whenever she could at clubs that would allow minors. At 16, she began singing lead in her father's band, Little Eva and the Works – until he became too sick to play. In March of 1999, she started her own band, Fresh Brew, with Kansas City music veterans Steve Gronemeyer, Steve Hicks, Chuck Payne and Terry Roney. They performed for four years and even represented Kansas City in the International Blues Challenge.

It was during this time that Danielle and her brothers Nick and Kris began talking about a family band that would eventually become Trampled Under Foot. Not only did she and Kris have to move to Philadelphia (where Nick was living), but she would have to learn the bass guitar to keep it a family band. It took a few years of lessons and saving money before that could become reality.

After several acclaimed self-released albums, Trampled Under Foot released *Badlands* on July 9, 2013 on Telarc, a division of Concord Music Group. Toughened by years of non-stop roadwork, *Badlands* revealed a musical sophistication well beyond the band's years.

On *Badlands*, the band worked with veteran producer Tony Braunagel at his Ultratone Studios in California. The drummer in the Phantom Blues Band, Braunagel played some percussion on the album and recruited veteran keyboardist Mike Finnigan (Jimi Hendrix, Bonnie Raitt, Etta James) to play keys. Johnny Lee Schell, who also recorded the album, added acoustic guitar to one track and John Porter mixed the final results at Independent Street Studios in New Orleans.

*Badlands* debuted at #1 on Billboard's Blues Chart and Trampled Under Foot performed live throughout the United States and Europe in support of the album.

As Trampled Under Foot wound down after 13 years, Danielle formed her own band and now makes her Concord Records solo debut with the release of a New Orleans-fla-

vored, blues-soul based EP, featuring GRAMMY®-winning producer-guitarist Anders Osborne, Galactic's co-founding drummer Stanton Moore and her regular keyboardist Mike "Shinetop, Jr." Sedovic.

The self-titled EP is an introduction to Danielle as a formidable solo artist. A full length album, *Wolf Den*, was released on September 25th, 2015, featuring more music created in New Orleans with Osborne, Moore and Sedovic.

*From the New Frontier Touring website*  
[www.newfrontiertouring.com](http://www.newfrontiertouring.com)



**Tuesday, March 7th**  
**BLACK JOE LEWIS AND**  
**THE HONEYBEARS**

**Friday, March 10th**  
**SACHEL GRANDE**

**Wednesday, March 22nd**  
**RAILROAD EARTH**

**Sunday, April 2nd @ 5 pm**  
**HECTOR ANCHONDO**  
**CD RELEASE PARTY**

**Tix and Info @**  
**[www.waitingroomlounge.com](http://www.waitingroomlounge.com)**



Wednesday, March 1st @ 6 pm  
**Selwyn Birchwood**

Wednesday, March 8th @ 6 pm  
**Danielle Nicole**

Sunday, March 12th @ 5 pm  
**Webb Wilder**

Wednesday, March 15th @ 6pm  
**Curtis Salgado**

Thursday, March 16th @ 6 pm  
**Billy Bacon**

Friday, March 17th @ 5 pm (FAC)  
**Billy Bacon**

Saturday, March 18th @ 9 pm  
**Billy Bacon**

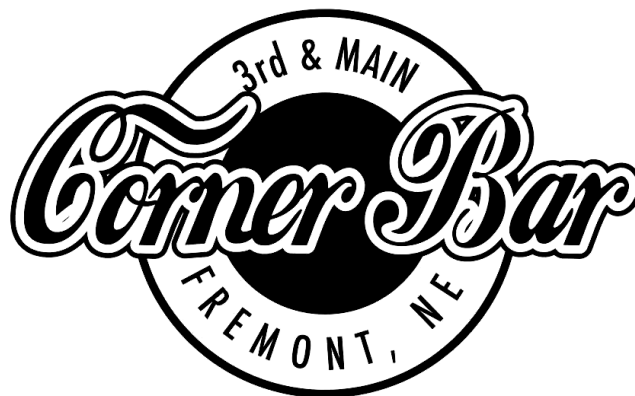
Friday, March 24th @ 5 pm (FAC)  
**Anthony Gomes**

Wednesday, March 29th @ 6 pm  
**Coco Montoya**

Friday, March 31st @ 5 pm (FAC)  
**Earl and Them**

Saturday, April 1st @ 6 pm  
**Earl and Them**

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



Saturday, March 4th @ 9 pm  
**Run With It**

Friday, March 8th @ 5 pm  
**Lou DeLuca & the Delta 88's**

Saturday, March 11th @ 9 pm  
**Top Spin Band**

Sunday, March 12th @ 5 pm  
**Scott Ellison**

Saturday, March 18th @ 9 pm  
**The Stone Breakers  
(From K.C.)**

Sunday, March 19th @ 5 pm  
**Andy Sydow**

Sunday, March 26th @ 5 pm  
**Swampboy Blues Band**

**All Free,  
No Cover Shows**

# THE CLAUDETTES

Thursday, March 9th @ 6 pm - \$10  
Chrome Lounge • 8552 Park Drive, Omaha

Heavyweight piano man Johnny Iguana, drummer Michael Caskey and singer-dancer Yana create a kicked-up mix of blues, jazz and soul you'll remember long afterward

— *Philadelphia Weekly*

"Like Keith Moon chasing a crazed, punked-up Little Richard..."

— *Blues Music Magazine*

"Like a ragtime White Stripes...One of the most refreshing musical experiences of the year."

— *Caught in the Carouse*



"Brother Ray meets the Ramones...Chopin meets Minutemen." So ventured Tony Sarabia of WBEZ radio (Chicago NPR) as he took a stab at describing the band in the studio with him. The Claudettes fuse Windy City piano blues with the full-throttle energy of rockabilly and punk, jazz-age echoes of burlesque and vaudeville and the sultriness of '60s pop-soul to write a thrilling new chapter in American roots music.

Recently—on tour and on their new album NO HOTEL—the Claudettes added 24-year-old Nigerian-American singer-dancer Yana. Bringing her flair for '60s pop-soul and French Ye-Ye songs to the band, she has lifted their live shows and studio recordings to exciting new heights.

Johnny Iguana and Michael Caskey didn't know what they were getting themselves into when they called a place called Claudette's Bar in 2010 looking for a gig in between Chicago and St. Louis. Not only did Claudette book them into her bar in Oglesby, IL (about an hour and a half southwest of Chicago's South Side), but she made them her house band and put them on salary. The duo—named "The Claudettes" by Claudette—kept the bar packed with their epic sets of spasmodic instrumentals. What Johnny and Michael didn't see coming was Claudette losing her bar in 2011—and still paying them weekly to be her house band at other bars, as well as chain stores (which she thinks of as high-level showcases).

In addition to touring and recording six albums with his cult-favorite rock band oh my god, pianist Johnny Iguana has played live or recorded with Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, Otis Rush, Koko Taylor, James Cotton, Lil' Ed, Carey Bell, Billy Boy Arnold, Lurrie Bell, John Primer, Billy Branch, Carlos Johnson, Sugar Blue, Dave Myers, Eddie Shaw and more. He has played on Grammy-nominated albums with Junior Wells and Chicago Blues: A Living History, has performed everywhere from Beirut to Bue-

nos Aires to the Montreux Jazz Festival and has had strange musical encounters with Van Morrison and Jeff Healey that he'd love to tell you about.

Drummer Michael Caskey (a.k.a. Bunny Patootie) graduated magna cum laude from Western Michigan University's school of music. He has played with everyone from Koko Taylor to Chuck Mangione to Marvin Hamlisch to John Sinclair. A Downbeat magazine award winner and five-time Detroit Music Awards recipient, he currently plays with Balkan fusion band Eastern Blok and teaches Music and Rhythm in Dance at Columbia College in Chicago. Michael has performed all across the U.S. and in France, Poland, Germany, Denmark and other countries.

Though just 24, Nigerian-American vocalist Yana has earned comparisons to Josephine Baker and Eartha Kitt. An alluring singer/dancer on stage, decked out in stunning dresses, jewelry and head wraps, Yana brings her seductive powers to the studio for the first time on the Claudettes' new album NO HOTEL.

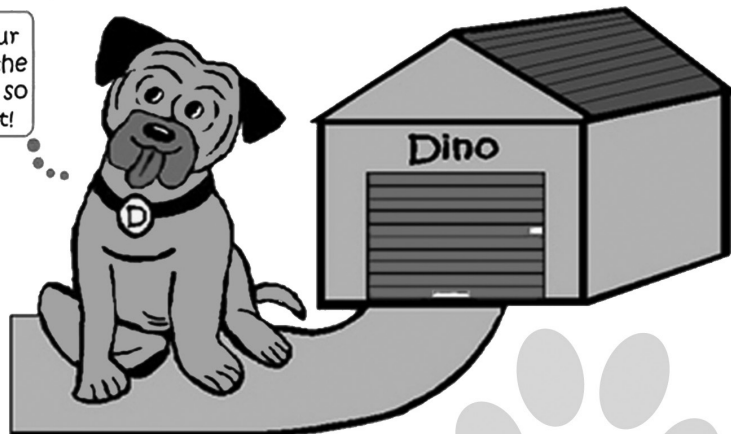
From the Yellow Dog Records website  
[yellowdogrecords.com](http://yellowdogrecords.com)

Lots of Buzz about this show, and the band is driving in direct from Chicago for their first appearance at Chrome.

— Jay A.

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# CURTIS SALGADO

**Wednesday, March 11th @ 6 pm • Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th Street, Lincoln**

**Thursday, March 12th @ 6 pm - \$15 • With the Brad Cordle Band opening  
Chrome Lounge • 8552 Park Drive, Omaha**

**"Inspired, powerful R&B showcases Salgado's exceptional range and muscular, soulful vocals"**

**--Billboard**

**Salgado has 3 BMA nominations in 2017 – Best Soul Blues Album for the Beautiful Lowdown, Best Soul Blues Male Artist and Best Song for "Walk A Mile In My Blues" written by David Duncan, Curtis Salgado & Mike Finigan performed by Curtis Salgado on The Beautiful Lowdown.**

**--" Blues Blast Magazine named THE BEAUTIFUL LOWDOWN the 2016 Soul Blues Album of the Year.**

With a career spanning forty years, Salgado is a one-of-a-kind talent whose music is as compelling as his story. From co-fronting The Robert Cray Band to leading his own band (and recording nine solo albums) to helping transform John Belushi into "Joliet" Jake Blues to touring the country with Steve Miller and Santana, he is a true musical giant. NPR calls him "a blues icon" with a "huge voice."

THE BEAUTIFUL LOWDOWN is the singer's most fearless and adventurous release to date. For the first time in his career, he wrote or co-wrote virtually the entire album himself. He co-produced it along with Marlon McClain and Tony Braunagel and contributed to the horn arrangements and background vocal parts. "My heart and soul are in this," he says proudly. "I worked my tail off and let the songs lead the way." As for the title, Salgado explains, "During a recent show, I turned to my guitarist and said, 'Play something lowdown. But make it beautiful.' Then I thought, 'Keep that.'"

By his early 20s, Salgado was already making a name for himself in Eugene's bar scene with his band The Night-hawks, and later as co-leader of The Robert Cray Band. Salgado quickly developed into a player and singer of remarkable depth, with vocal and musical influences including Otis Redding, O.V. Wright, Johnnie Taylor, Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson I and II, Lightnin' Hopkins, Howlin' Wolf, Otis Spann and Magic Sam.

In 1977, comedian/actor John Belushi was in Eugene, Oregon filming Animal House. During downtime from production, Belushi caught a typically ferocious Salgado performance and introduced himself during a break. Once Salgado started sharing some of his blues knowledge, a fast friendship grew. Salgado spent hours playing old records for Belushi, teaching him about blues and R&B. Belushi



soaked up the music like a sponge and used his new awareness to portray "Joliet" Jake Blues in The Blues Brothers, first as a skit on Saturday Night Live and then a best-selling record album (which was dedicated to Curtis) and finally as a major motion picture (Cab Calloway's character was named Curtis as an homage).

Once Salgado joined forces with his friend Robert Cray and began playing together as The Robert Cray Band, Salgado found himself sharing stag-

es with many of his heroes, including Muddy Waters, Bobby Bland, Albert Collins and Bonnie Raitt. After Salgado and Cray parted ways in 1982, Curtis went on to front Roomful Of Blues, singing and touring with them from 1984 through 1986. Back home in Oregon, he formed a new band, Curtis Salgado & The Stilettos, and was once again tearing it up on the club scene, where he honed his band to a razor's edge before releasing his first solo album in 1991. Salgado signed with Shanachie Records in 1999, putting out four critically acclaimed albums. He successfully battled back from liver cancer in 2006 and lung cancer in 2008 and 2012, reemerging stronger and more determined to share his music with the world.

Salgado joined Alligator Records in 2012, releasing the award-winning, critically acclaimed SOUL SHOT. Salgado won three 2013 Blues Music Awards including the coveted B.B. King Entertainer Of The Year. He also won for Soul Blues Male Artist Of The Year for the second consecutive year, and for Soul Blues Album Of The Year (SOUL SHOT). The strength of the record led to Salgado touring far and wide, with gigs in Manila, Guam, Brazil, Saipan and Panama. He has performed at major festivals including Portland's Waterfront Blues Festival, The San Francisco Blues Festival, The Chicago Blues Festival, Memphis' Beale Street Music Festival, The Tampa Bay Blues Festival, Denver's Mile High Blues Festival, Toronto's Waterfront Blues Festival, Thailand's Phuket International Blues Festival and Poland's Blues Alive Festival.

On THE BEAUTIFUL LOWDOWN, the deeply-rooted singer effortlessly blends classic soul sounds and funk grooves with up-to-the-minute lyrics. His full-force vocals-intense and uninhibited-bring an urgency and edge to his timeless original songs. Blues Revue, describing Salgado's performance style, declares, "He starts at excellent before segueing into goose bumps, ecstasy, and finally nirvana."

*From the Curtis Salgado artist website*



# BLUES IN MARCH & APRIL

## [Wed Mar 01]

Selwyn Birchwood at Zoo Bar (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Swampboy Blues Band at "On The Q" (7:30 pm) (On the Q)

## [Thu Mar 02]

Jason Ricci at Chrome (6:00 pm) (Chrome Lounge)  
Lucero @ Waiting Room (8:00 pm) (The Waiting Room Lounge)  
Open Blues Jam @ The Rusty Nail (8:00 pm) (Rusty Nail)

## [Fri Mar 03]

Mezcal Brothers @ Zoo Bar (5:00 pm) ()  
Grease & Power (Tribute to Tower of Power) @ 501 Bar (Lincoln) (9:00 pm) ()

## [Sat Mar 04]

Run With It @ The Corner Bar (9:00 pm) (The Corner Bar)

## [Sun Mar 05]

Matt Cox at Sugar Clay Winery (2:00 pm) (Sugar Clay Winery)

## [Mon Mar 06]

Zoo Bar House Band and open Blues Jam (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Blue Monday Open Blues Jam at Down Under (8:00 pm) (Down Under Lounge)

## [Tue Mar 07]

First Tuesday Fundraiser with Da Crabby Blues Band Featuring Bucky McCann (6:00 pm) (Shucks)  
First Tuesday Fundraiser @ Dundee Dell (6:00 pm) (Dundee Dell)  
Lake Street Dive at Slowdown (8:00 pm) (Slowdown)  
Open Blues Jam @ Barley St. Tavern (8:00 pm) (Barley Street Tavern)  
Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybears (9:00 pm) (The Waiting Room Lounge)

## [Wed Mar 08]

Danielle Nicole @ Zoo Bar (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Swampboy Blues Band at "On The Q" (7:30 pm) (On the Q)

## [Thu Mar 09]

The Claudettes @ Chrome Lounge (6:00 pm) (Chrome Lounge)  
Open Blues Jam @ The Rusty Nail (8:00 pm) (Rusty Nail)

## [Fri Mar 10]

Tijuana Gigolos @ Zoo Bar (5:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Lou DeLuca & the Delta 88's @ The Corner Bar (5:00 pm) (The Corner Bar)

## [Sat Mar 11]

Top Spin Band @ The Corner Bar (9:00 pm) (The Corner Bar)

## [Sun Mar 12]

Scott Ellisson @ The Corner Bar (5:00 pm) (The Corner Bar)

## [Mon Mar 13]

Zoo Bar House Band and open Blues Jam (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

## [Tue Mar 14]

Open Blues Jam @ Barley St. Tavern (8:00 pm) (Barley Street Tavern)

## [Wed Mar 15]

Curtis Salgado @ Zoo Bar (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Swampboy Blues Band at "On The Q" (7:30 pm) (On the Q)

## [Thu Mar 16]

Billy Bacon @ The Zoo Bar (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Curtis Salgado Band w/ Brad Cordle Band (6:00 pm) (Chrome Lounge)  
Open Blues Jam @ The Rusty Nail (8:00 pm) (Rusty Nail)

## [Fri Mar 17]

Billy Bacon @ The Zoo Bar (5:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

## [Sat Mar 18]

Andy Sydow @ Zoo Bar (5:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Danielle Nicole Band at Chrome (5:00 pm) (Chrome Lounge)  
An Evening with Buddy Guy at Lied Center (7:30 pm) (Lied Center Main Stage)  
Billy Bacon @ The Zoo Bar (9:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
The Stone Breakers @ The Corner Bar (9:00 pm) (The Corner Bar)

## [Sun Mar 19]

Andy Sydow @ The Corner Bar (5:00 pm) (The Corner Bar)  
The Infamous Stringdusters at Waiting Room (8:00 pm) (The Waiting Room Lounge)

## [Mon Mar 20]

Zoo Bar House Band and open Blues Jam (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

## [Tue Mar 21]

Open Blues Jam @ Barley St. Tavern (8:00 pm) (Barley Street Tavern)

## [Wed Mar 22]

Bel Airs @ Zoo Bar (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Swampboy Blues Band at "On The Q" (7:30 pm) (On the Q)  
Railroad Earth (8:00 pm) (The Waiting Room Lounge)

## [Thu Mar 23]

Alvin Youngblood Hart @ Chrome Lounge (6:00 pm) (Chrome Lounge)  
Open Blues Jam @ The Rusty Nail (8:00 pm) (Rusty Nail)  
The English Beat at Waiting Room (8:00 pm) (The Waiting Room Lounge)

## [Fri Mar 24]

Anthony Gomes @ Zoo Bar (5:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)  
Rickie Lee Jones and Madeleine Peyroux @ Rococo Theater (7:30 pm) (Rococo Theatre)

## [Sat Mar 25]

Anthony Gomes @ Bourbon Whiskey Saloon (7:00 pm) (Bourbon Whiskey Saloon)  
Matt Cox at Harney Street Tavern (9:00 pm) (Harney Street Tavern)

## [Sun Mar 26]

Swampboy Blues Band @ The Corner Bar (5:00 pm) (The Corner Bar)  
Billy Joe Shaver at Waiting Room (7:00 pm) (The Waiting Room Lounge)

## [Mon Mar 27]

Zoo Bar House Band and open Blues Jam (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)



## FIRST TUESDAY FUNDRAISERS

**With the Crabby Blues Band  
featuring Bucky McCann  
Tuesday, March 7th from 6 to 9 pm  
Shucks, 119th & Pacific, Omaha**

**NEW Dundee Acoustic show  
featuring Gunnar Guenette and  
Elwyn Moseman  
Tuesday, March 7th from 6 to 9 pm  
Dundee Dell,  
50th & Underwood, Omaha**

**10% of revenue donated to local  
Omaha charity, Operation Schoolbell**

## HEY BANDS & BARS

If you want your schedule printed monthly in  
BLUES NOTES and listed on omahablues.com,  
e-mail to bso\_calendar@yahoo.com All schedules  
must be received by the 21st of each month.  
Get calendar updates @ www.omahablues.com

# BLUES IN MARCH & APRIL

**[Tue Mar 28]**

Open Blues Jam @ Barley St. Tavern (8:00 pm) (Barley Street Tavern)

**[Wed Mar 29]**

Coco Montoya @ Zoo Bar (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

Swampboy Blues Band at "On The Q" (7:30 pm) (On the Q)

**[Thu Mar 30]**

Coco Montoya @ Chrome Lounge (6:00 pm) (Chrome Lounge)

Kris Kristoferson @ Rococo Theater (7:30 pm) (Rococo Theatre)

Open Blues Jam @ The Rusty Nail (8:00 pm) (Rusty Nail)

**[Sun Apr 02]**

Hector Anchondo Album Release Show (4:00 pm) (Reverb Lounge)

**[Mon Apr 03]**

Zoo Bar House Band and open Blues Jam (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

Blue Monday Open Blues Jam (8:00 pm) (Down Under Lounge)

**[Tue Apr 04]**

First Tuesday Fundraiser with Da Crabby Blues Band Featuring Bucky McCann (6:00 pm) (Shucks)

Matt Cox at Dundee Dell (6:00 pm) (Dundee Dell)

Open Blues Jam @ Barley St. Tavern (8:00 pm) (Barley Street Tavern)

**[Wed Apr 05]**

Katy G & The Girls @ Zoo Bar (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

Boyd Brothers Blues Band (7:00 pm) (TBA)

Swampboy Blues Band at "On The Q" (7:30 pm) (On the Q)

**[Thu Apr 06]**

Mary Jo Curry @ Chrome Lounge (6:00 pm) (Chrome Lounge)

Open Blues Jam @ The Rusty Nail (8:00 pm) (Rusty Nail)

**[Sat Apr 08]**

Katy G & the Girls – venue TBA (8:00 am) ()

**[Mon Apr 10]**

Zoo Bar House Band and open Blues Jam (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**[Tue Apr 11]**

Open Blues Jam @ Barley St. Tavern (8:00 pm) (Barley Street Tavern)

**[Wed Apr 12]**

Swampboy Blues Band at "On The Q" (7:30 pm) (On the Q)

**[Thu Apr 13]**

The Jimmys @ Chrome Lounge (6:00 pm) (Chrome Lounge)

Open Blues Jam @ The Rusty Nail (8:00 pm) (Rusty Nail)

**[Sat Apr 15]**

Jane Lee Hooker – TBA (2:00 am) ()

Zoso (Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience) @ Sokol Park (8:00 pm) (Sokol Park)

**[Mon Apr 17]**

Zoo Bar House Band and open Blues Jam (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**[Tue Apr 18]**

Open Blues Jam @ Barley St. Tavern (8:00 pm) (Barley Street Tavern)

**[Wed Apr 19]**

Swampboy Blues Band at "On The Q" (7:30 pm) (On the Q)

**[Thu Apr 20]**

Southern Avenue @ Chrome Lounge (6:00 pm) (Chrome Lounge)

Open Blues Jam @ The Rusty Nail (8:00 pm) (Rusty Nail)

**[Fri Apr 21]**

Hector Anchondo Band at Gray's Keg Saloon (Lincoln) (2:00 am) (Gray's Keg Saloon)

**[Sat Apr 22]**

The Iguanas @ Zoo Bar (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**[Mon Apr 24]**

Zoo Bar House Band and open Blues Jam (7:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

**[Tue Apr 25]**

Open Blues Jam @ Barley St. Tavern (8:00 pm) (Barley Street Tavern)

**[Wed Apr 26]**

John Nemeth @ Zoo Bar (6:00 pm) (Zoo Bar)

Swampboy Blues Band at "On The Q" (7:30 pm) (On the Q)

**[Thu Apr 27]**

John Nemeth w/ Tony Holiday and Hector Anchondo @ Chrome Lounge (6:00 pm) (Chrome Lounge)

Open Blues Jam @ The Rusty Nail (8:00 pm) (Rusty Nail)

## BLUE MONDAY BLUES JAM

**Monday March 6th & Monday April 3rd @ 8 pm  
DOWN UNDER LOUNGE**

3530 Leavenworth St. Omaha

**Come dust your broom**

**& shake your  
moneymaker.**

**BRING YOUR GUITAR, BASS, KEYS or HORN & DANCING SHOES**

**Jams Start at 8:00 pm**

## OPEN BLUES JAMS

### ZOO BAR

*Mondays @ 7 pm*

136 N. 14th Street, Lincoln

### BARLEY STREET TAVERN

*Tuesdays @ 6 pm*

62nd & Maple Street, Omaha

### DOWN UNDER LOUNGE

*Monday, March 6th & Monday April 3rd @ 8 pm*

35th & Leavenworth, Omaha

### RUSTY NAIL PUB

*Thursdays @ 8 pm*

143rd & Pacific St., Omaha

# ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART'S MUSCLE THEORY

Thursday, March 23rd @ 6 pm - \$15 • Chrome Lounge, 8552 Park Drive, Omaha

"Boy got thunder in his hands! Sure does!" ... "Alvin Youngblood Hart is that rare breed who brings cultural awareness and artistic expression into a vibrant, natural marriage. His skills as a multi-instrumentalist command attention. His grasp of the idioms, tone, humor, joy and breadth of the Afro-American acoustic music tradition is extraordinary. His music is pure pleasure and surprise."

—TAJ MAHAL

"Hart transcends labels and genres with his unique, soulful sound."

—GUITAR PLAYER

Known as a "musician's musician", Alvin Youngblood Hart's praises have been sung by everyone from Bob Dylan to Eric Clapton and Mick Taylor.

Born in Oakland, CA, Hart accompanied his parents during summer trips to his grandparents' home in the hills of northern Mississippi. It was there that his passion for acoustic blues was first sparked.

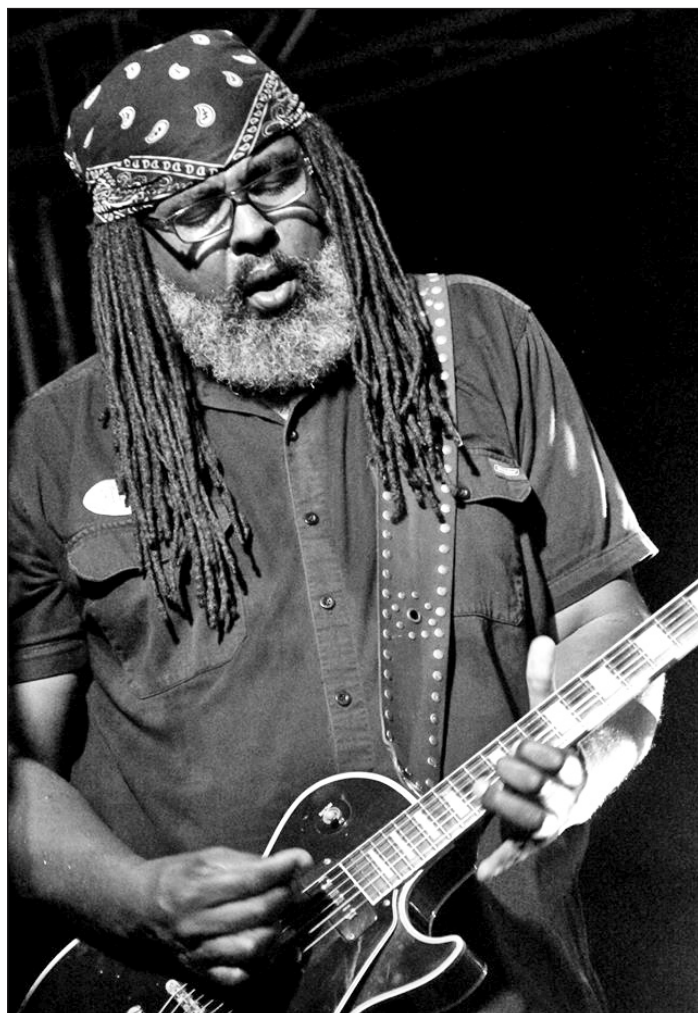
His first big break came in February 1995 while opening for Taj Mahal at an Oakland jazz club. His brilliant 1996 debut, *Big Mama's Door*, received widespread critical acclaim and got his career as an international touring artist off the ground. Based on the strength of his record debut and the allure of his live shows Hart received five nominations (Best New Artist, Best Acoustic Artist, Best Traditional Blues Artist, Acoustic Album of the Year, and Traditional Album of the Year) at the 1997 W.C. Handy Blues Awards. He also received two Living Blues Awards that same year.

Hart's follow-up album, *Territory* (1998) received Downbeat Magazine Critics' Poll Award for Best Blues Album. *Start with the Soul* (2000) was BBC's choice for Blues Record of the Year and his fourth album, *Down in the Alley* (2002) garnered him a Grammy nomination for Best Traditional Blues Recording. Hart then released the self-produced (and personal favorite) *Motivational Speaker* (2005) a rock guitar free-for-all, paying homage to fallen and missing rockers like Phil Lynott and Sly Stone.

Hart continued to diversify his audience touring as a member of Job Cain, a hard-rocking side project he assembled with guitarist Audley Freed (Cry of Love/Black Crowes) and Nashville musician Robert Kearns (The Bottle Rockets/Lynyrd Skynyrd).

In August of 2003, Hart was invited to fill in for Taj Mahal for five nights in Tokyo as a member of Kip Hanrahan's Conjure, the world's longest running jazz poetry ensemble. In 2004, Hart received a Grammy for his philanthropic contribution to the compilation *Beautiful Dreamer: The Songs of Steven Foster*. The proceeds of the album benefited American Roots Publishing, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving American regional culture through literature and art.

In 2006, Hart collaborated with several Memphis area musicians in the Craig Brewer cult hit film *Black Snake Moan* serving as a guitar tutor for Samuel L. Jackson, and recording a duet with Christina Ricci. In April of 2007, Hart's



extended and varied interests led him to participating on a tour of Mississippi high schools as a member of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. A personal career highlight occurred in the summer of 2008 when Hart met the late Irish guitar legend Gary Moore who invited Hart, a lifelong Thin Lizzy fan, on stage to jam with him and original Thin Lizzy drummer, Brian Downey.

In 2010 Hart joined forces with friends Luther Dickinson (North Mississippi Allstars, Black Crowes) and Jimbo Mathus (Squirrel Nut Zippers, Tri-State Coalition) to form The South Memphis String Band. The trio was quickly dubbed by the media as an "acoustic super group." Their debut record *Home Sweet Home* was nominated for Best Acoustic Album at the 2011 Blues Music Awards (The Blues Foundation). The group released their second album, *Old Times There...* in spring 2012.

From the Salmom Arm Roots and Blues Festival website, [www.rootsandblues.ca](http://www.rootsandblues.ca)

**Alvin Youngblood Hart is touring with a full band for this show. Muscle Theory is equal parts southern fried rock and hill country sounds.**



THE BLUES  
FOUNDATIONMONTH OF  
**HART**  
HANDY ARTISTS RELIEF TRUST

Due to your kindness and generosity the Blues Society of Omaha was able to raise \$600 to help support The Blues Foundation's "Month of HART" (Handy Artist's Relief Trust). The trust provides financial assistance to blues musicians in health crisis situations. The collection took place at the Chrome Lounge as part of the Lil Ed & The Blues Imperials show. Thanks to everyone that contributed to this worthwhile cause! For more information visit [blues.org/hart-fund/#\\_about](http://blues.org/hart-fund/#_about).

# ANTHONY GOMES

*Friday, March 24th @ 5 pm (FAC) • Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th Street, Lincoln*

*Saturday, March 25th @ 7 pm - \$10*

**NEW VENUE • Bourbon Whiskey Saloon (formerly Whiskey Tango) • 311 S. 15th Street, Omaha**

**"Gomes' formidable guitar chops and authentic singing place him in the forefront of modern blues."**

**— Blues Review**

Anthony Gomes has been creating virtuosic, burning blues since his recorded debut in 1998. 12 releases and numerous awards and ecstatic accolades later, his latest album, *Electric Field Holler*, crackles with bare wire passion. Gomes sings and plays with integrity and deeply felt emotion oblivious to fortune and fashion. The resulting music is a blazing cathartic experience radiating therapeutic heat for body and soul.

Gomes is a triple threat force as a guitarist, vocalist and songwriter. His high-energy shows and dynamic stage presence make him one of the top draws on the Rock/Blues circuit today. Gomes has headlined concerts in 17 countries and has had the honor of sharing the stage with B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Robert Plant, Joe Bonamassa, Heart, Jonny Lang and Kenny Wayne Shepherd.

Word of Gomes' electrifying performances has reached Eric Clapton, Morgan Freeman, John Goodman, Toby Keith, Jonny Lang, Ron White and Vince Vaughn who have all attended Gomes' concerts. After experiencing Gomes live, John Goodman referred to him as "a pure soul brother" and comedian Ron White declared his official endorsement of Anthony Gomes. Perhaps the greatest complement was offered by Morgan Freeman who jokingly professed that Anthony was, "not bad for a white boy."

In addition to performing, Gomes is an award winning blues history scholar, earning the University of Toronto's C.P. Stacey Award for the highest overall academic grade point average by a history major. Anthony completed his master's degree thesis on the racial and cultural evolution of blues music, graduating with high distinction.

Believing that music can inspire the human spirit, Anthony founded the Music Is The Medicine Foundation in 2010. This non-profit organization is dedicated to changing the lives of others through the healing power of music. Through private donations and winning sizable grants from State Farm Insurance and CVS Pharmacy, the foundation has funded

songwriting scholarships, offered music education programs, and donated musical instruments to those in need.

Born in Toronto, Canada to a Portuguese father and a French-Canadian mother, Gomes began playing guitar in his early teens and was drawn to the blues sounds of B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Eric Clapton and Jimi Hendrix. He relocated to

Chicago in the late '90s to learn from the blues masters. During his brief stint as a sideman for Magic Slim and the Teardrops, Gomes put together his own group and won the first annual Buddy Guy's Legends "Best Unsigned Blues Band" competition in 1998. Later that year, Gomes released his debut CD, *Blues in Technicolor*, which introduced him as a guitar-slinger loaded with impressive firepower.

On 2002's *Unity*, he accomplished the album's title with a heavy mix of styles leading *Bandit Blues Radio* to name it one of the "Top 30 Essential Blues CDs" of all time. Gomes was elevated to the top of the blues field just one year later when *BluesWax Magazine* named him "Artist of the Year,"

an award he would claim for several years in a row due to his endless commitment and touring. *Music Is the Medicine* (2006) peaked at number four on the *Billboard Top Blues Albums* chart, only to be outdone by *LIVE* (2008) debuting at number one. In 2012, Gomes received critical acclaim for his release of *Up 2 Zero*. The album was named the "Best Blues CD of 2012" by *A1 Blues.com* and the *Blues Underground Network* voted the album "Best Blues Rock CD of 2012." The accolades continued in 2013 with the release of Gomes' gusty acoustic album *...Before The Beginning*. *Blues 411* honored the release with the "Jimi Award" for best Blues/Rock CD of 2013 and it continues to make many "Best Albums of the Year" lists.

Gomes shows no signs of slowing down with the release of *Electric Field Holler*, a guitar driven blues infused rock 'n' roll album that showcases Gomes' blistering six string work and whiskey soaked voice. "I feel like this will be our pinnacle year in terms of creativity and artistic achievement," says Gomes, "it's time to turn it up."

*From the Anthony Gomes Facebook page*





## 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>		
Big Daddy Caleb & The Chargers.....	Caleb Whisenhunt.....	402-202-9895 / BigDaddyCaleb@yahoo.com
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
Tim Budig Band.....		503-719-3969 / budigtim@gmail.com
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
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.....	Jason Groenjes.....	directors@bluesed.com
Brad Cordle Band.....	Brad Cordle.....	702-533-2427 / funksoulbro@isp.com
Chuck Brown and the Basement Devils.....	Chuck Brown.....	402-610-1522
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
Johnny Reef & the Shipwrecks.....	Tommy Kriegshauser.....	402-517-8248 / tommykblues@yahoo.com
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 Delta 88's.....	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
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 Blues Band.....	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



# CIBS WINTER BLUES FEST 2017



This is the "Official" group picture of the BSO members who attended the Central Iowa Blues Society 2017 Winter Blues Fest. Seems we always miss a few in the group photo, as Jeff Malloy says it can be like herding cats. Thanks to all that came out to support the event as this is the CIBS big annual fundraiser.

*Photo by Richard Allen.*

## 2017 INTERNATIONAL BLUES COMPETITION

### What It's Like To Be At The Center Of The IBC's

Memphis was overall a great experience aside from the scams they run in private parking lots, but that's a different story (and maybe a song)!

Making it to the semi-finals was amazing. We got to see so many other bands, and being immersed in the competition was a blast. It's nice knowing how your band stacks up against others, even though music isn't inherently competitive. One thing I couldn't help but notice was the serious lack of traditional Chicago blues. I heard a lot of great funk, jazz, soul, rock, and even some Russian polka! It was a fantastic, but I was still a bit disappointed at the amount of real blues.

However, Nebraska was really represented well. Hector Anchondo and his band showed what talent this state is capable of producing, and Us & Them showed what phenomenal youth musicians we have. Michael Solberg and powerful Grace Giebler threw down absolute fire!! The whole band was A+ in my book.

I'm also very proud of the Tim Budig Band! We were going up against veterans and signed artists with management teams. Yet, this self-operated 1 1/2 year old band held it's own!! And

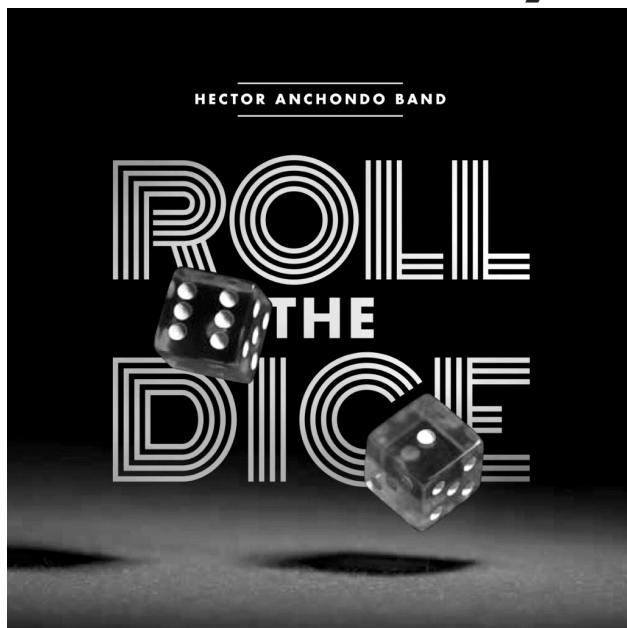
we didn't even have our secret weapon Jeremiah Weir playing with us!! The Blues Society of Omaha is a real gem. We're very thankful for backing us with their support.

*From Casey Hodgin, drummer for the Tim Budig Band*

**Thanks to the Tim Budig Band, Hector Anchondo Band, and Us and Them for representing Nebraska well!!**



## Hector Anchondo Band CD Release Party



The Hector Anchondo Band's coming out with a new CD "Roll The Dice" and having a CD release party Sunday, April 2nd @ 5 pm at Reverb Lounge in Omaha. The Ragabonds and Sebastian Lane open the show with Hector playing around 8 pm. \$10 cover for all three bands!!



Friday, March 24th @ 8:30 pm  
**MADELEINE PEYROUX**  
and  
**RICKIE LEE JONES**

Thursday, March 30th @ 7:30 pm  
**KRIS KRISTOFERSON**  
*Only seats still available: \$36.50*  
*(Balcony 3rd Floor Seated General Admission)*

See [www.rococotheatre.com](http://www.rococotheatre.com)  
for info and tickets



## OMAHA ENTERTAINMENT AND ARTS AWARDS

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

### 2017 OMAHA ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS WINNERS

#### BEST BLUES

**The Rex Granite Band featuring Sarah Benck**

#### BEST JAZZ

**Mitch Towne**

#### BEST AMERICANA / FOLK

**Jack Hotel**

#### ALBUM OF THE YEAR

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#### 3. EARN 5% FOR YOUR CAUSE AUTOMATICALLY

Whenever you visit a participating company, the company automatically donates 5% of your purchase back to your causes - without costing you an extra dime.

The Blues Society of Omaha is a registered non-profit at Proseeds. Please consider registering at [www.giveproseeds.com](http://www.giveproseeds.com)



# COCO MONTOYA

Wednesday, March 29th @ 6 pm • Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th Street, Lincoln

Thursday, March 30th @ 6 pm - \$15 • Chrome Lounge • 8552 Park Drive, Omaha

"Stratocaster-fueled, fierce slash-and-burn guitar work...dramatic, smoldering Southern soul-rooted intensity. Montoya's voice is as expressive as his guitar."

—*Washington Post*

"Montoya is a show-stopper...Heart-felt singing and merciless guitar with a wicked icy burn...he swings like a jazz man and stings like the Iceman, Albert Collins. He is one of the truly gifted blues artists of his generation."

—*Living Blues*

*Vintage Guitar* says, "Coco just keeps getting better and better...rockin' blues with guitar that cuts straight to the heart of the matter. His guitar playing is funky and blistering; it's perfect. Whatever he plays, he does it with fire and passion rarely seen in this day and age."

The old Willie Dixon adage, "blues is truth," perfectly describes the searing, contemporary blues-rock of world-renowned guitarist and vocalist Coco Montoya. Taught by the "Master of the Telecaster," Albert Collins, but with a hard-edged sound and style all his own, Montoya mixes his forceful, melodic guitar playing and passionate vocals with memorable songs, delivering the blues' hardest truths. He earned his status as a master guitarist and soul-powered vocalist through years of paying his dues as a sideman with Collins (first as a drummer) and then with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, before launching his solo career in 1993. Five years of constant touring with Collins and ten years with Mayall turned him into a monster player and dynamic performer. Montoya has released eight solo albums—including three for Alligator between 2000 and 2007—and has played at clubs, concert halls and major festivals all over the world. *Guitar Player* says Montoya plays "stunning, powerhouse blues with a searing tone, emotional soloing, and energetic, unforced vocals."

From his early days as a drummer to his current status as one of the top-drawing guitarists and vocalists on the blues-rock scene, Montoya earned his status through years of hard work and constant touring. It all started with a chance meeting in the mid-1970s with legendary bluesman Albert Collins, who offered Montoya a gig as his drummer. Albert took an immediate liking to Montoya, becoming his mentor and teaching his new protégé the secrets of Collins' "icy hot" style of blues guitar. Five years later, British blues icon John Mayall happened to catch Montoya at a jam session and was blown away. Mayall recruited him as his guitarist in the legendary Bluesbreakers, and Montoya spent the next 10 years touring non-stop, proving himself to be a world-class guitar master in one of the most renowned blues bands in existence. The rest is History!

Montoya is a self-taught guitar slinger who plays with an emotional intensity few string benders possess. Playing left-handed and upside down like Albert King, Mon-



toya learned his guitar techniques from his years with Collins. "I never had a lesson in my life. 'I would watch other guitar players to catch what they did. I would wait for that one moment when they would do it, and just stare at them and try and remember where their hand was, where their fingers were."

"People ask, 'Did you take lessons from Albert?' It's more from just hanging out in the hotel rooms. He would grab his guitar and I would pick up one and we'd play I

just learned by listening, all by ear. I just play it the way I hear it. He was always saying, 'Don't think about it, just feel it.' He taught me to tap into an inner strength. I don't know all the licks in the world, but I know the ones I can express happiness or sadness or emotion."

From 1976 until 1984, Montoya had lost some of the feel for music and worked bartender jobs to survive. In 1984, his second mentor, John Mayall, was celebrating his birthday in a bar where Montoya was performing. Montoya's from the hip version of "All Your Love" caught Mayall's ear and Coco was asked to pack his Strat and follow previous Bluesbreaker guitarists Eric Clapton, Peter Green and Mick Taylor in the Bluesbreakers. "I would never be doing what I'm doing now if I hadn't gotten the phone call from John Mayall."

After three records with Mayall as a member of the Bluesbreakers, Coco decided in 1993 it was time to take the lessons from his two musical fathers and begin to sculpt a solo career. In the early 1990's he was signed to Blind Pig Records and released three critically acclaimed discs, *Gotta Mind To Travel*, *Ya Think I'd Know Better*, and *Just Let Go*. In the middle of his Blind Pig days, Coco also received national recognition when he was named the Blues Foundation's Best New Blue Artist at the 1996 Blues Music Awards.

Returning to Alligator with his new album, *Hard Truth*, Montoya delivers one career-topping performance after another, the music immediately ranking among the best he's ever recorded. Produced by drummer Tony Braunagel, the album features eleven songs, each delivering a hard truth of its own. From the radio-friendly, gospel-inspired celebration of love, "I Want To Shout About It," to the haunting "Devil Don't Sleep" to the icy-hot cover of Albert Collins' "The Moon Is Full," *Hard Truth* covers a lot of emotional ground. Montoya's unpredictable guitar playing and smoking soul vocals blend effortlessly with a backing band featuring renowned musicians including bassist Bob Glaub (Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Jerry Lee Lewis), keyboardist Mike Finnigan (Jimi Hendrix, Etta James, Taj Mahal), guitarists Billy Watts (Eric Burdon) and Johnny Lee Schell (Bonnie Raitt), and Braunagel on drums. Slide guitar master Lee Roy Parnell guests on "Lost In The Bottle."

*From the Coco Montoya artist website  
and Alligator Records website*



# Josh Hoyer on "The Voice" and the Band's European Tour



Josh Hoyer can't say much about being on "The Voice."

Even though he's in the promo spot for the NBC singing competition that starts its 12th season Feb. 27, Hoyer can't confirm he's going to be on the show. He can only say he auditioned.

"Somebody in the industry encouraged me to try out for 'The Voice,'" Hoyer said

Tuesday, the day after the promo ads began to appear. "I did it for a reason. The goal was to hopefully get some national exposure for our band and the original music we write, to express what our music is about and the killer players we have.

"We play all over the country and hope to see more people come out to the shows -- it ('The Voice') is a really nice platform for that. The way I looked at it was back in the day, you had your 45, you got it to the right DJ, to the big radio station and that's how you'd take off. To me, 'The Voice' is the modern-day version of that, just get above the fray for a minute and hopefully, people will notice."

Hoyer's got another hope that could be realized from "The Voice." Even though he can't say, it's clear he's going to be on the show. He'd like to get a management or booking deal. "We're still independent artists," he said. "I spend probably 80 percent of my time booking the band, trying to keep us working. Not many people get to this point from Lincoln. I'm hoping to get somebody interested to take that over, so I can get back to writing and playing."

Hoyer probably won't see the audition. He leaves Lincoln on Feb. 27, driving to Chicago where, on the 28th, he and his band, Soul Colossal, will fly to London, then to Belgium as they begin their first European tour.

The tour, booked by an agency called Teenage Head Music, will take Hoyer & Soul Colossal to seven countries to play 28 shows in 31 days, beginning March 2 in Hamburg, Germany. "They reached out to us," Hoyer said of Teenage Head. "I still don't know how they heard of us. But they dug it and said 'Hey, we want to get you guys a tour here. At first, I didn't think it was real.'"

The shows, Hoyer said, will primarily be in 200- to 300-capacity rooms, although the final date, supporting Delta Saints in Belgium on April 1, will be in a 1,000-seat theater. Most of the shows will be 90 minutes long, which will be something of a break for the soul quintet.

"When we're in the States and we're gigging six days a week, a lot of them are four hours a night, for little money, to be honest," he said. "It's kind of nice to go someplace where they don't overwork you, provide a place to stay and treat you right."

Hoyer's "The Voice" appearance won't mean anything in Europe. The show isn't broadcast there. But he said that from Facebook feeds, website traffic and Twitter, it appears there will be good crowds at most of the band's European shows.

The trip will be Hoyer's first to Europe. But he and Teenage Head believe it won't be his last. "Our goal is to have this be the first time of many and really open some doors," Hoyer said. "Teenage Head, their goal is to build bands in Europe. They're looking at a followup in 2019. I'd like to get back sooner than that."

Before Hoyer & Soul Colossal head for Europe, they'll be playing a week's worth of shows that began in Denver and end at the Zoo Bar for their tour kickoff show. "We're hoping to get a packed house for that," Hoyer said. "We could use the spending money."

*Courtesy of the Lincoln Journal Star 2/14/17,  
written by L.Kent Wolgamott*

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# MARY JO CURRY

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"Mary Jo Curry is the real deal, from head to toe, beginning to end."

**Bill Wilson, *Chicken Wilson Blogspot***

"She manages to find that line between old school blues and modern songwriting."

**Professor Johnny P's Juke Joint**

Mary Jo Curry is an electrifying, engaging, entertaining, powerhouse blues vocalist based in Central Illinois. Legendary, BMA nominated, international recording artist, James Armstrong, said that "Mary Jo has a voice, confidence, and stage presence that is hard to find these days."

Mary Jo's newly released CD entitled "Mary Jo Curry" has been getting significant air play and rave reviews. Peter Merrett, PBS106.7, Melbourne, Australia said, "Mary Jo Curry was born to sing the Blues because this voice cannot be taught to you but rather has to come from deep down in one's soul. Apart from possessing a mesmerizing voice Curry can write one helluva' Blues song." Blues Blast Magazine said, "Mary Jo Curry is a powerful debut release of the first order." The CD was produced by the incomparable James Armstrong. The album provides the listener a great cross section of the type of music you will hear when you attend a Mary Jo Curry live performance. The CD features 4 original songs written or co-written by Mary Jo, and 5 outstanding blues compositions where Mary Jo puts her stamp on songs previously recorded by female blues greats that have inspired her.

The CD has been in the top 10 of the RMR Top 50 Classic Blues Album Chart for 24 weeks, 3 weeks at the #1 spot. The CD garnered the #5 spot on the Top Classic Blues Albums for all of 2016. Three songs from the CD have made it to the #1 spot on the RMR Top 50 Classic Blues Song Chart, with four songs landing in the Top 10 Classic Blues Songs for 2016.

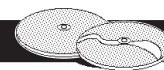
Mary Jo's talent has been recognized by the honor of receiving the Kankakee Area Music Awards, "Best Blues Artist" for 2016. The CD was selected to represent the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society in the Blues Foundation's Best Self Produced CD competition.

Ms. Curry's college training was in theater performance and voice. Her professional career started as lead singer in a popular rock cover band. While doing a show with a local theater group, Mary Jo was "discovered" by theater talent scouts who wanted Mary Jo to audition for a role in a major touring troupe; this audition led to a stint as a professional theater performer. Five years ago she fell in love with blues music, and was soon invited to join a Central Illinois blues band. The band quickly realized that Mary Jo was the real deal, and the band restructured itself to feature Mary Jo as the lead vocalist.

Mary Jo is joined onstage by her husband, Michael Rapi-er, who plays lead guitar, acts as band leader, and shares in the songwriting duties. The last 5 years have been the incubator to allow Mary Jo to shape her sound and her direction as a blues performer, and she is now ready to bring her blues to the world.

*From the Mary Jo Curry artist website*

## CD Review



### Tas Cru *Simmered & Stewed*

VizzTone



Tas Cru is a guitarist from up-state New York. On this outing, he has redone some his older material to great success. The cd has a laid-back feel with Cru's tight band. Cru plays mostly resonator, cigar box, and acoustic guitar giving the cd an old-time touch while retaining a contemporary feel.

The album opens with a lot of energy on the first two songs. Dat Maybe is the first song, with some fine harp work by Dick Earl Erickson. The second cut is entitled Grizzle N' Bone. Again, there is outstanding harp work, as well as exceptional piano supplied by Chip Lamson.

Cru is a creative writer that gives a touch of humor to many of his songs. He is an accomplished guitar player that has a unique and enjoyable singing style. I really like this cd!

I will always have a warm place in my heart for this band. They are very nice guys, and they let me sit in to play a little harp. But I will mostly remember them for being the last band to play the Thursday matinees at the wonderful 21st Saloon. Thanks for the memories, Scottie!

--A.J. Foyt



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The Blues Society of Omaha maintains a powerful calendar of events on its website, [omahablues.com](http://omahablues.com). We invite all venue and band managers to take advantage of this free opportunity for promotion. Since we are an all volunteer organization, we ask you to get an account and help us by maintaining your digital space on this calendar.

Our calendar has the following features:

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If you are interested, please contact Sid Sidner at [support@omahablues.com](mailto:support@omahablues.com) to learn more and to get registered for a free account today.

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