

# BLUES NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY  
 "...PRESERVING, PROMOTING AND PERPETUATING THE BLUES."

Louisville, Kentucky

April/May 2004

Incorporated 1989



Photo by Keith S. Clements

Louisville's own Songbird of the South", Mary Ann Fisher, shown here performing at the CoffeeStop at Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church on September 21, 2003. Mary Ann passed away March 12th at Norton Hospital. More about Mary Ann on page 6.

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**Blues News**

The monthly newsletter of the  
Kentuckiana Blues Society

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Louisville, Kentucky

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**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU SEE IT COMING DUE. THE GRACE PERIOD FOR RENEWAL IS THREE MONTHS PAST THE DATE OF EXPIRATION. THE GENEROUS GRACE PERIOD IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS ARE SENT TO A POST OFFICE BOX AND MAY NOT BE PROCESSED FOR UP TO SEVERAL WEEKS. SO IF YOU ARE NEW OR ARE RENEWING IN THE GRACE PERIOD, AND YOU NEED YOUR NEW CARD ASAP FOR ADMISSION OR OTHER KBS MEMBER DISCOUNTS, JUST LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 502-893-8031 AND WE'LL GET YOUR CARD OUT RIGHT AWAY. BETTER YET, COME TO A MEETING AND RENEW IN PERSON. WE' D LOVE TO SEE YOU! PLEASE KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT AND HELP US KEEP ON KEEPIN' THE BLUES ALIVE.**

We appreciate your support and welcome your input. If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas, etc., contact us at this address:

**Kentuckiana Blues Society**  
**P. O. Box 755**  
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As usual, please check your mailing label to see if your membership will expire soon. Our Single membership is a bargain at only \$15.00 US per year. Double membership (two members at the same address, two membership cards, one newsletter) is only \$20.00 US per year. If you see a notice on your mailing label, that means that it's time to renew!

### **KBS LEADERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2004:**

**Brenda Major – president/treasurer**  
**Debbie Wilson – vice-president/treasurer**  
**Martha McNeal – secretary**

### **KBS MONTHLY MEETING**

If you are interested in reviewing new blues releases, come on out to the KBS monthly meeting (held the first Wednesday of each month at **7:00 PM** in **The Germantown Café** at **1053 Goss Ave.**) and take your pick! We receive promo releases from the major blues labels as well as regional and local bands. If you review a CD, it's yours to keep!

# A LETTER FROM THE PREZ

It seems that every time I sit down to write my letter these days I have a death to report. During March we lost Mary Ann Fisher. Mary Ann was 81 and a true blues legend in this town. She toured with Ray Charles in her youth and spent the bulk of her life singing. Mary Ann was born in my home town of Henderson and I consider myself fortunate to have known her, no matter how slightly. She always had a smile on her face and was always ready with a song. One year she joined us on the Blues Cruise and we had music on the bus as well as in the clubs. Mary Ann was a special lady that enhanced the lives of those she touched. She will be missed.

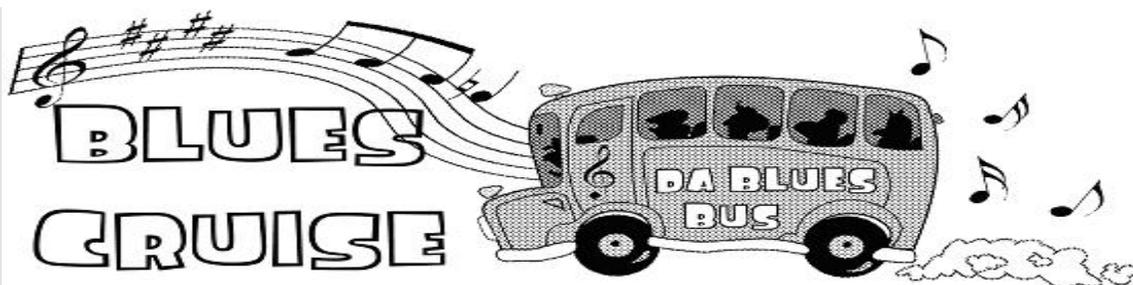
The Blues Cruise is being held on May 15<sup>th</sup> this year and looks to be a blast as usual. Once again we start at Stevie Ray's for a great band and some super food prepared by Bootleg Barbecue. Then we're off to Churchill's to catch some more music. We finish at Ballatore's on Preston Highway where we hope to have a really special treat for you. Come one, come all, it's a treat not to be missed. But reservations are limited so catch all the details elsewhere in this newsletter and let us hear from you pronto. (We definitely need Jell-O shot volunteers; it's become a local tradition.)

Since the last newsletter I've gotten more information on the lineups for the Henderson Handy Festival as well as the Madison Ribberfest. Both have some great talent. Henderson basically starts on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, with two bands, has Creole Stomp and Chubby Carrier for Cajun night on Thursday and kicks into full swing on Friday and Saturday. The full lineup can be viewed at [www.handyblues.org](http://www.handyblues.org). The headliner on Friday is Carl Wethersby which will be a real treat. And Saturday features John Mooney, Bernard Allison, and Ronnie Baker Brooks among others. I already have my reservations for a place to stay. Hope to see lots of you there. The Madison Ribberfest is August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and has some great talent as well. Friday kicks off at 6:00 with Magic Slim which is one great way to get started. Following him are Sean Costello and Tab Benoit. Talk about fun. Saturday features The Blues Devils, Greg Schaber, Kid Ramos, Mark Hummel, and Long Tall Marcia Ball. Marcia doesn't play in this area nearly enough to suit me so I'm really excited about the chance to see her again. Not that the rest of the lineup is shabby by any stretch of the imagination. Details on tickets and other info can be found at [www.madisonribberfest.com](http://www.madisonribberfest.com). Add these two gigs to the talent featured at Morehead over Memorial Day weekend and we have one great festival season shaping up for the area. I still don't know the lineup for Carrollton but the Carroll County web page lists September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> as the dates to mark on your calendars.

I've had a pretty quiet blues month with the exception of seeing W.C. Clark at Stevie Ray's the other night. I was really glad to see a big crowd there for W.C. I'm really looking forward to the festival season to get me back on track listening to live music.

Our regular board meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at The Germantown Café on Goss Avenue at 7:00. If you know of any upcoming festivals or blues events we'd love to spread the news about them so let us know. Either drop by the meeting or contact one of us by phone, e-mail or snail mail. Hope you have a great festival season.

Brenda



**DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MAY 5th!**  
**SEND \$25 (members) or \$30 (non-members) to:**  
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**PO BOX 755**  
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**(Phone 893-0173)**

## Cave Run Rock 'n Blues 'n BBQ Festival Schedule

The 1st Annual Cave Run Rock 'n Blues 'n BBQ Festival will take place at the Twin Knobs Recreation (Beach) Area at Cave Run Lake in Morehead, Kentucky on Friday and Saturday, May 28 and 29, 2004. Tickets are priced at \$20.00 for Friday or Saturday and \$35.00 for a weekend pass. Advanced tickets are priced at \$30.00 if ordered before April 30, 2004. Student rates are \$10 per day. Children ages 12 and under are admitted free. The festival will be outdoors with tents, parking, concessions, picnic areas and camping available. The festival grounds will be handicap accessible. Coolers will be permitted (no glass containers). Pets will not be allowed on the festival grounds.

### Friday, May 28 (gates open at 2pm)

4:00pm DeBellefeuille Brothers Band (DB3)  
5:30pm Kentucky B3 Four  
7:00pm Greg Schaber Band  
8:30pm Renee Austin  
"Rock 'n Blues Showcase"  
10:00pm Kentucky Headhunters, featuring Johnnie Johnson

### Saturday, May 29 (gates open at 11am)

2:00pm DeBellefeuille Brothers Band (DB3)  
3:30pm Greg Schaber Band  
5:00pm Tanita Gaines Band  
6:45pm BBQ Awards Presentation  
7:00pm Michael Burks  
8:30pm Anson Funderburgh & The Rockets, featuring Sam Myers  
"Legend of Blues Showcase"  
10:00pm W.C. Clark

For more information, contact the Morehead Tourism Commission at (606) 784-6221 or visit the website at [www.caverunblues.com](http://www.caverunblues.com).

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## New Music Reviews



### Times Like These Darrell Nulisch Severn Records

If you like your blues with a dose of soul this CD is for you! Dallas, Texas native Darrell Nulisch has a great resume to his credit. He was one of the founding members and lead vocalist of Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets before Sam Myers. He did stints as vocalist for Mike Morgan and the Crawl, and Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters. Plus, he handles the vocal duties whenever James Cotton tours now that James can no longer sing due to throat problems.

On "Times Like These" Darrell plays blues originals, such as the harmonica heavy "Something Else" which showcases his great harp chops and also covers some great rhythm and blues classics. Among them Smokey Robinson's "Don't Look Back", Otis Redding's "That's a Good Idea" and Ray Charles' "Snow is Falling". Darrell is backed by a great cast of musicians including Rob Stuka on drums who tours regularly with Jimmy Thackery, Steve Gnomes on bass, and a great horn section.

So if you like your blues with a shot of soul it doesn't get any better than "Times Like These" and Darrell Nulisch.

**Steve Walls**

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## "Nora Jean Bruso Sings the Blues"

**Nora Jean Bruso**  
**Red Hurricane Records**

I first saw Nora Jean Wallace (now Bruso) perform in the early 1990s with the Jimmy Dawkins band at a place called Brother Jimmy's in Chicago. Her performance was electrifying. I can remember standing at the foot of the small stage at Jimmy's, looking up at Nora Jean, who was no more than a few feet away from me, spellbound. After her second spine-tingling set, which was accompanied by Dawkins' sizzling guitar, I walked up and introduced myself to Nora Jean. I said, "Nora Jean, you can make a man find God and feel the devil all in the same song."

Nora Jean performed a few more times with Dawkins and then disappeared. I assumed she returned to her gospel roots and went back to singing in the church instead of in juke joints and blues bars. I was convinced that I had seen one of the greatest unknown female blues singers. Nora Jean had never recorded her own album, appearing only on a few tracks on two Jimmy Dawkins CDs.

Nora Jean did return to singing gospel music and took time off to raise her two boys. After almost ten years away from performing on a regular basis,

Nora Jean reteamed with Billy Flynn, who in association with Nora Jean's husband, Mark Bruso, produced her first album, "Nora Jean Bruso Sings the

The album is a tribute of sorts from Nora Jean -- a tribute to the music she grew up with and the musicians she played with over the years, many of whom perform

Nora Jean was strongly influenced by the music of Howlin' Wolf. Her father Bobby Lee Wallace and uncle Henry "Son" Wallace knew all the Wolf classics and taught them to Nora Jean when she was growing up in Greenwood Mississippi. Four of the tracks on this album are Wolf tunes. I particularly like her versions of "Howlin' for my Baby" and "Killing Floor." "Howlin' for my Baby" is a rockin' blues tune, and Nora Jean sings it beautifully. Both songs feature the great sax work of Eddie Shaw, a Chicago blues veteran.

The years have added an edge to Nora Jean's voice. She has developed the "growl" that is all too common in the today's female blues singers. The softer, soulful nature of her voice from years before is still there but is sometimes overpowered by the strength of her singing on most tracks on this CD. A glimpse of the old Nora Jean is heard on the track "It Makes Me So Mad" by Denise LaSalle. This is one of the songs on the album that Nora Jean seems to perform with great ease, and the blues just flow from her. This song reminded me of the Nora Jean I had seen ten years earlier.

Two of the best tracks on the CD are those with Jimmy Dawkins. Nora Jean's singing is a great musical complement to Dawkins' guitar. On "Can't Shake These Blues," Nora Jean sings a duet with Jimmy. This is blues chemistry at work, and the mix is pretty explosive. I also liked "Untrue Lover" a composition jointly created by Nora Jean Bruso and Jimmy Dawkins.

Nora Jean shows she can still hit the high notes in "He Belongs to Me," a Magic Sam cover. Her performance of this song is another honest effort. Almost all the songs on the album are cover tunes, but it seems they are near and dear to her heart and that is why she chose them. Besides the songs mentioned, Nora Jean also covers Etta James and John Lee Hooker songs. She's included several fan favorites from her live concerts over the years. The best of this group is "When You Leave Don't Take Nothing," the first track on the album.

This album is definitely a good first effort by Nora Jean Bruso. Now that she has one under her belt, maybe a follow-up album will be even stronger. You can find more information about Nora Jean Bruso and her new album at [www.NoraJeanBlues.com](http://www.NoraJeanBlues.com).

**Gary Sampson**

Get More Blues News From  
the Keith S. Clements Monthly Feature  
*"I've Got a Mind to Ramble"*  
in the  
**Louisville Music News**



## New Music Reviews



### Front Porch Blues Little Johnny Kantreed ANJ Records ANJ0285

Born and raised in the Nashville area, Little Johnny made the rounds, doing the Florida beach-bar thing and the traveling DJ thing before deciding there's no place like home. After playing in a couple of hometown bands, he followed his instincts back to the blues.

Now a veteran of the stages at Ground Zero in Clarksdale, King's Palace on Beale Street and the Slippery Noodle in Indy, his debut CD is a blend of acoustic and electric guitar, with eight original songs and Little Johnny playing all of the instruments on the first nine tracks. "M'ssippi Blues" is one that stands out, featuring great slide and harp work. The Americana front porch is a perfect reference point for this collection; I could smell pork chops frying and taste sweet tea just by listening.

But it's not all rockin' chair. On the final cut, the live version of "Good Woman Blues", recorded at Lady Godiva's Pub in Lebanon, Tennessee, Johnny takes the song in a whole different direction. Hearing the live version makes me sure that as soon as I get the chance, I'll be checking out Little Johnny live.

Sample some tracks from "Front Porch Blues" on Johnny's website, [www.littlejohnnykantreed.com](http://www.littlejohnnykantreed.com), You can purchase the CD there too, or at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com).

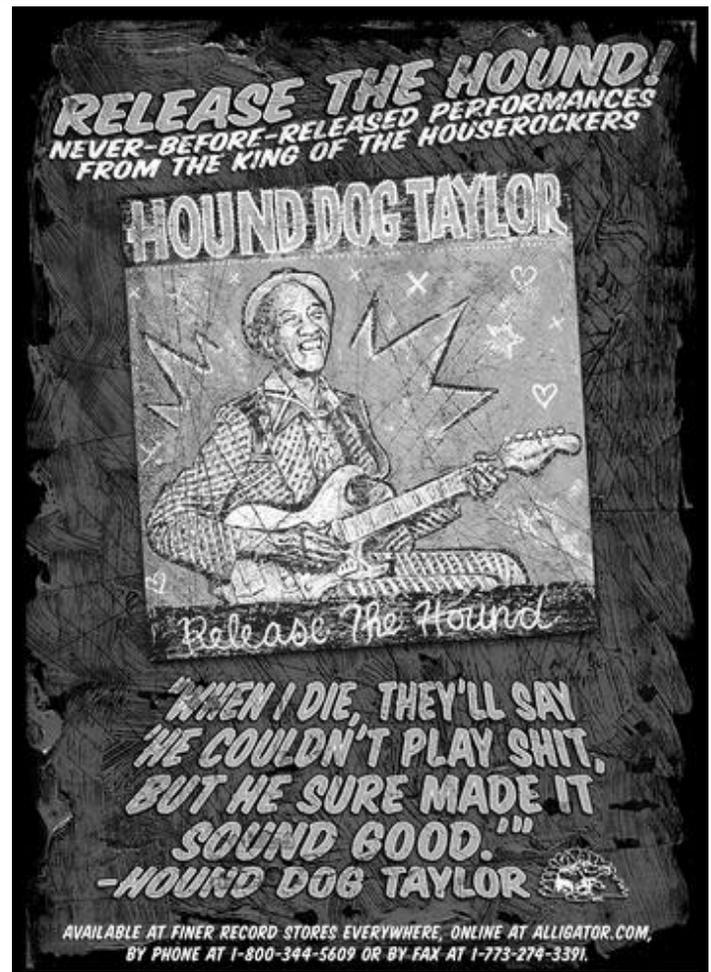
Natalie Carter

### Ellis Hooks Up Your Mind Evidence Music ECD 26129-2

Although Ellis Hooks has an album out in the U. K. entitled *Undeniable*, this disc, *Up Your Mind*, is his debut U.S. release. Even though he's a relatively young man at 29, he has traveled a long difficult road to get where he is. He grew up hard in Alabama as the 13<sup>th</sup> child of an African-American father and Cherokee mother. Since he had 15 siblings life was hard and he spent his youth working and singing in the Baptist choir. He left home at 14 when he discovered he liked singing Sam Cooke tunes more than the hymns in the church choir and his strict Baptist parents didn't approve. From that point on he supported himself by doing odd jobs and singing in the street. He got his big break when he accompanied a friend to an audition with producer Jon Tiven. The friend didn't have much of a voice but Ellis sure did. And the rest, as they say, is history.

All the songs on this disc are original and Ellis' acoustic guitar is joined by the electric sound of Jon Tivens as well several other stellar musicians. In Ellis' own words, "If you listen to my music, it's not really strict Blues. It's not the traditional Blues. It's a crossover between Rock, Country, Folk, and Blues." But what it is is an emotionally charged album from an extremely talented young man.

Brenda Major



**A Few Degrees Warmer  
The Eric Steckel Band  
(Live at Cafe Classics, Doylestown, PA)  
Muttlee Records**

My feelings about 12 year olds -- no disrespect intended -- are usually that they should be seen and not heard. However, ERIC STECKEL is one 12 year old that should definitely be heard -- often and loud. At the very young age of twelve, ERIC STECKEL is an absolutely amazing blues guitarist and I do mean amazing. I've listened to "A FEW DEGREES WARMER" several times now and I'm more and more in awe after each listen. I'm not one to make comparisons, but this kid has a lot of the licks and a lot of talent similar to some of the blues greats he covers on this CD.

Musically, ERIC STECKEL has his instrument and the blues down pat. Had this been an all instrumental CD you'd never, in a million years, guess this player's age. However, having hardly reached the age of puberty, his adolescent voice acknowledges his youth. Yet his singing and, since this is a live CD, his banter with the audience is all quite interesting. His vocals actually put a smile on my face. This young man has a lot of heart and a lot of feeling.

It certainly surprised me to see three originals on this CD - I mean c'mon, the kid's only 12. "JAYWALKIN", "WHERE I PLAY THE BLUES, and "BAD DOG BLUES" were all written by ERIC STECKEL. The rest of the CD features covers, custom made for this young mans style of play, written by several of his obvious influences - JIMI HENDRIX, FREDDIE KING, and STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN. ERIC does a particularly great job on "RED HOUSE", "THE SKY IS CRYING", "HIDEAWAY" and "CROSSROADS". Joining ERIC on this CD are BETHANY GUERRERO on bass and WAYNE SMITH on drums. The band has a new CD, "HIGH ACTION", due out real soon and I am hoping to be one of the first to review it.

At this young age, I don't know if ERIC STECKEL will look to a career in the blues, but this fan is sure hoping he does. The blues needs a youth movement to keep it alive and I think that this young man may be able to do for the blues in the 00's what STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN did for it in the 80's. Wouldn't that be nice?

This review was sent to your newsletter, with compliments, by www.Mary4Music.com, where you can find many more CD and live show reviews - with pictures - plus lots of other interesting blues resources. I am the Blewzzman and I can be reached at Blewzzman@aol.com

**Peter Blewzzman Lauro**

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## 2004 Blues Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

The following esteemed individuals and recordings have been selected for induction into the Blues Hall of Fame by The Blues Foundation's Hall of Fame committee, chaired by Jim O'Neal, founding editor of Living Blues magazine. The induction ceremony will be conducted in association with the Foundation's Charter Members Dinner, Wednesday, April 28, in Memphis Tennessee, the night before the 25th W.C. Handy Blues Awards.

**Performer:** Bo Diddley Ellas Otha Bates McDaniel, better known as Bo Diddley, was born in McComb, Mississippi in 1928, and moved to Chicago in the mid-'30s, where he eventually would shock the music world in 1955 with his 2-sided hit "Bo Diddley"/"I'm A Man" on Chess Records. The distinctive syncopated rhythm of his self-titled song captured the primal spirit of restless youth of those times. He followed that success up the next year with "Who Do You Love," solidifying his place in history as the originator of what has since become known around the world as the "Bo Diddley Beat." Other Diddley classics include "Pretty Thing," "Mona," and "You Can't Judge A Book By The Cover."

**Performer:** Blind Boy Fuller Fulton Allen, also known as Blind Boy Fuller, was one of the most influential and popular Bluesmen of the 1930s. Born in Wadesboro, NC in 1908, Fuller was one of the pioneers of the Piedmont style of Blues that helped define the sound of the Southeast Atlantic coast of the United States. He recorded an impressive collection of songs in a short span from 1935-1941 on his National steel guitar. He was a master of deep Blues, but was best-loved for his Rag-time influenced hits like "Rag Mama Rag," "Trucking My Blues Away," and "Step It Up and Go."

**Non-Performer:** J. Mayo Williams Besides being one of the three pioneering African-American men of early pro football, the multi-talented J. Mayo Williams managed to have a long career of 35 years in the record business beginning in the late '20s. He is best known for his production work for the Paramount, Brunswick, Vocalion and Decca labels. He produced and recorded many top Blues artists, including Blind Boy Fuller, Louis Jordan, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Ma Rainey, Tampa Red and Muddy Waters, among others, playing a large hand in bringing Blues music to the world. . He was owner and President of both Harlem Records out of New York and Ebony Records in Chicago.

**Classics of Blues Literature:** Juke Blues magazine Juke Blues magazine was founded in 1985 in London, England by John Broven, Bez Turner, and current Editor Cilla Huggins. A prime source for articles, interviews, reviews, discographies and photos, Juke Blues is a treasure trove of facts, info, and stories that illuminate the lives of the artists that create the Blues, Soul, Zydeco, Gospel and Jazz music that we love. Many Blues aficionados contribute their expert writing to the magazine, making Juke Blues one of the most respected Blues periodicals of all-time.

**Classics of Blues Recordings - Singles or Album Tracks:** Jimmy Reed, "Baby What You Want Me To Do" Like so many other Bluesman, Jimmy Reed, was born in Mississippi, but made his mark after moving to Chicago. But no other Chicago Blues artist had more success than Reed at churning out hits, even crossing over to the Pop charts 11 times. Reed's unique, lazy loping style of vocals, guitar and harmonica would go on to strike a chord in listeners' hearts for years. Perhaps no other Reed tune has been covered by other artists more often than "Baby What You Want Me To Do." Many folks know the song by other titles such as "You Got Me Runnin'" and "Peepin' and Hidin'." Interestingly, the words Jimmy sings are "Baby, why you want to let go" and this title can be heard on the introduction of the song on the original session tape.

**Classics of Blues Recordings - Albums:** Slim Harpo, Raining In My Heart No one defined the Louisiana Swamp Blues sound of Baton Rouge better than Slim Harpo. Born James Moore in 1924, he would go on to have almost as much success as Jimmy Reed, his chief influence. Moore began his career as Harmonica Slim, but upon beginning his relationship with the Nashville-based Excello label under the direction of producer J.D. Miller, his name was changed to Slim Harpo. His first single, "I'm A King Bee," was released in 1957, starting a string of singles that eventually found their way onto the classic album 1961 Raining In My Heart. It featured the infectious, mid-tempo ballad title track which was his first chart record.

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# Swan Song for the Songbird

This isn't going to be easy. Saying good-bye to a dear friend I have known for 12 years is tough. Mary Ann Fisher (Porter) peacefully left us on Friday, March 12. She was under Hospice care at Norton Hospital when she slipped into a coma just two days before she passed on. It was hard to believe less than three weeks earlier Mary Ann was paid a once in a lifetime tribute at Stevie Ray's on Sunday evening, February 22. This house party was arranged by Leslie Graham and Marjorie Marshall. Relatives, friends and musicians came together for an evening to honor the Songbird of the South. Project, Mr. Wonderful Production Band, and Louisville Connection traded off as the house bands, playing in a funky 70's groove most of the evening. Mary Ann was treated like royalty wearing a regal crown. She received numerous awards and honors, plus singing and verbal tributes from Camille Davis, Mr. Jones, Latania Jones (Mrs. Apollo), George Burney, Donna Mason, Harvey Cook, Ruby Hyatt and Butch Williams, to name a few. Mary Ann was supposed to get up to sing only one song in her frail condition, but buoyed by the love in the house, she sang two sets, finishing with my favorite "I'll Sing the Blues for You." This was a night to remember, closing the last chapter of her colorful 81 years.

Just three nights before on February 19, Mary Ann was singing in front of 2000 people at the Frankfort Convention Center. She opened the show for the 2004 induction ceremonies to the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame. Mary Ann sang "Down Home Blues" that segued into a few other medleys. She was striking in her tan buckskin suit and carved walking cane, while everyone else wore tuxes. While Mary Ann was backstage before the ceremonies, she had the chance to meet country/bluegrass master, Ricky Skaggs who was one of the inductees.

There are so many chapters to Mary Ann's fascinating life of heartache and joy that need to be told.

1. Experiencing the tragedy of her father fatally shot in a poker game dispute in Henderson.
2. Going to Louisville to stay at Miss Bessie Allen's orphanage, the Kentucky Home Society for Colored Children.
3. Enduring a traumatic childhood back in Henderson with her mother and upon her death living in Indianapolis with her aunt.
4. Getting a reputation as a blues singer in Louisville performing with the Morgan Brothers, Elmo Tucker, Doc Green, Cliff Butler and winning a talent show at the Lyric Theater.
5. Meeting Ray Charles at Fort Knox and traveling on the road with him from 1955 to 1958. These experiences could be a book in itself.
6. Leaving Ray Charles and going off to New York for a solo career with Joe Louis, the prize fighter, managing her.
7. Recording several great R&B songs on the Segway label in New York.
8. Adopting Tracy, her son, and her relationship with jazz singer, Little Jimmy Scott, in Los Angeles.
9. Mary Ann's encounters with R&B and jazz legends like Marvin Gaye, Sam and Dave, Clarence Carter, James Brown, Moonglows, Earl 'Fatha' Hines, Little Esther, Bobby Bland, B.B. King, Jackie Wilson, Dizzy Gillespie, Lou Rawls, Dinah Washington, David 'Fathead' Newman, Mickey & Sylvia, Peggy Lee, KoKo Taylor and the list goes on and on.
10. Returning to Louisville to resume her career, raise Tracy, work at GE, sing in Zion Baptist Church choir, participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Midnight Ramble with Jimmy Scott and featured in a KET program.
11. Returning briefly back to New York for one last try at a new career, performing in clubs with Ron Wolfe.
12. Mary Ann's last glorious year with the release of her CD "Songbird of the South," the dedication of her exhibit in the Kentucky Music Museum in Renfro Valley, opening for the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame 2004 induction ceremonies in Frankfort, and the Tribute House Party at Stevie Ray's.

The stories she could have told would be an inspiration to all of us. Joyce Barnett started a rough draft for a book in 1996, but due to not receiving any grant money, it never got completed and published.

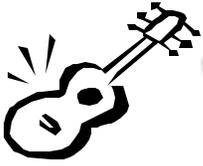
When I came to Louisville I had heard so much about Mary Ann but didn't get the chance to see her perform until February 1993. Pen Boert arranged a concert at the Western Branch Library with Mary Ann, Boogie Morton, Kid Pete and himself as a Black History Month event. I have kept close touch with Mary Ann ever since. In 1996 Mary Ann was unanimously selected to receive the Sylvester Weaver Award by the Kentuckiana Blues Society. It was a special honor to present the award to her at the Garvin Gate Blues Festival. Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church had a monthly fundraising event called the CoffeeStop from 1994 through 2003 where we featured local musicians. Since I booked the acts, I would have Mary Ann perform every couple of years. She always brought an interesting mix of musicians with her. Billy Rudolph backed her up on keyboards for the first concert. Ernie Threlkeld was in the audience and ran home to get his sax to sit in for the second set. In 1998 Mary Ann brought an amalgamation of veteran musicians called Bar-B-Que, Booze and Beer that included Marshal Anderson on guitar, Don Harris on keyboards, Lee Wales on bass and Ellie Paige drumming, plus Donnie Fugett assisting on vocals. The CoffeeStop in 2001 included the late Ron Wolfe playing keyboards with Peter Rhee, Ed Chestnut, Jr. and Jerry Harshaw on violin, guitar and drums. Mary Ann's last concert in September 2003 had the same band that played on her CD. Each of those CoffeeStop concerts were special moments and I was able to tape most of those shows. Mary Ann was our special guest on two of the KBS Blues Cruises, singing at the various stops along the way. She so loved to sing she would often break out in some chorus of an old song she recalled while talking to you. Every Thanksgiving she treated my wife and me to a homemade sweet potato pie. Nobody makes a sweet potato pie as good as Mary Ann. I would slice it up into little wedges to make it last as long as possible.

The visitation and funeral services were at G. C. Williams Funeral Home on March 16. The long chapel was filled with people whose lives Mary Ann had touched with her voice and spirit. The recording of David "Fathead" Newman's "Precious Lord" and her own version of "God Bless the Child" never sounded so good. Her pastor from Zion Baptist Church closed his remarks saying, "Mary Ann has not left us, for the song may be over but the melody lingers on." Tracy plans to take Mary Ann's ashes back to her birthplace in Henderson, Kentucky. Following the service, my wife and I toasted all the wonderful memories of our Songbird with a stiff swig of scotch and milk, her favorite drink.

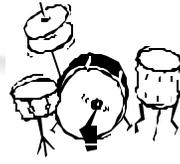
**Keith S. Clements**

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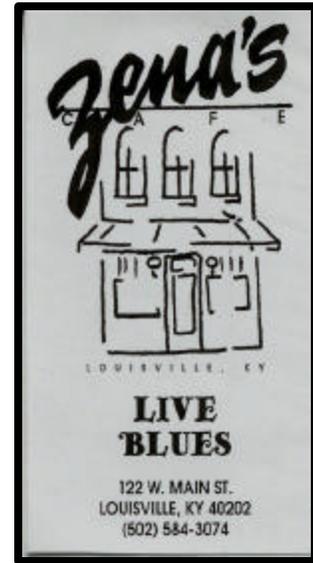
Previously published in the "Louisville Music News"



**KENTUCKIANA BLUES CALENDAR**  
**All Shows Subject to Change**  
**Best to Call Before Hitting the Road**



APR	14	Stevie Ray's Lisa's Oak St Lounge	Blue Drifters 9PM \$5 Blues jam with Lamont Gillispie & Steve Ferguson (1004 Oak St)
	15	Stevie Ray's	No Regrets Blues Band 9:30 PM \$5
	16	Phoenix Hill	Rock Bottom Blues Band
	16-17	Stevie Ray's	7:30 King Bees 10:30 The Predators
		Zena's Cafe	(16th) B B Taylor (17th) Black Cat Bone
		Jim Porter's	The Funky Bluesters
	17	The Alternative	Robbie Bartlett and Company 1 PM – 2 AM (1032 Story Ave)
		Massey's Bar & Grill	Most Wanted
	18	Jollymons	Blues jam 8:30 – 11:30 PM (6121 Bardstown Rd in Fern Creek)
	19	Stevie Ray's	Delicious Blues Stew Zydeco Band 8 PM \$8
	20	Stevie Ray's	Blues jam 9-11:30 PM no cover
		Zena's Cafe	Tanita Gaines and Grilled Cheez
	21	Stevie Ray's	Blue Swing Shooz 9 PM \$5
		Lisa's Oak St Lounge	Blues jam with Lamont Gillispie & Steve Ferguson (1004 Oak St)
	22	Stevie Ray's	Junkyard Jane 9:30 PM \$5
		Air Devils Inn	Tyrone Cotton
	23	O'Shea's	Robbie Bartlett and Company 10:30 PM – 2:30 AM
	23-24	Stevie Ray's	7:30 Hellfish 10:30 Roger 'Hurricane' Wilson
		Air Devils Inn	Junkyard Jane
		Zena's Cafe	(23rd) B B Taylor (24th) B B Taylor
		Jim Porter's	Rock Bottom Blues Band
	25	Jollymons	Blues jam 8:30 – 11:30 PM (6121 Bardstown Rd in Fern Creek)
	26	Stevie Ray's	The Amazing Rhythm Aces 8 PM \$15
	27	Stevie Ray's	Blues jam 9-11:30 PM no cover
		Zena's Cafe	Tanita Gaines and Grilled Cheez
	28	Stevie Ray's	River City Blues 9 PM \$5
		Lisa's Oak St Lounge	Blues jam with Lamont Gillispie & Steve Ferguson (1004 Oak St)
	29	Stevie Ray's	Kelly Richey 9:30 PM \$5
	30	Air Devils Inn	Hellfish
APR/MAY	30-1	Stevie Ray's	7:30 Sue O'Neil and Blues Seville 10:30 V-Groove
		Zena's Cafe	(30th) BB Taylor (1st) BB Taylor
		Jim Porter's	Dr Don and the Love Dogs
	2	Jollymons	Blues jam 8:30 – 11:30 PM (6121 Bardstown Rd in Fern Creek)
	8	The Alternative	Robbie Bartlett and Company 9:30 PM – 1 AM (1032 Story Ave)
	10	Stevie Ray's	Deborah Coleman



KBS members get \$1 off admission  
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**14th Blues Drifters**

**21st Blue Swing Shooz**

**28th River City Blues**

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**All Dates Subject To Change**

**NOTICE TO MUSICIANS AND BANDS!!**

Get the word out to your fans and the rest of the blues world about where you're playing. The new sletter and website calendar pages are free services to blues musicians. Call Natalie Carter at (502) 893-8031 or e-mail our webmaster at kbsblues@aye.net with your schedule. Send us photos of your band and we'll put them in the *Blues News*.

<b>Air Devils Inn</b>	<b>2802 Taylorsville Rd.</b>	<b>454-4443</b>	<b>Phoenix Hill Tavern</b>	<b>644 Baxter Ave.</b>	<b>589-4957</b>
<b>Billy's Place</b>	<b>26th &amp; Broadway</b>	<b>776-1327</b>	<b>Stevie Ray's Blues Bar</b>	<b>230 E. Main St.</b>	<b>582-9945</b>
<b>Jim Porter's</b>	<b>2345 Lexington Rd.</b>	<b>452-9531</b>	<b>Zena's Cafe</b>	<b>122 W. Main St.</b>	<b>584-3074</b>
<b>Jollymon's</b>	<b>6121 Bardstown Rd.</b>	<b>231-9511</b>			

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Photo by Keith S. Clements

We lost nother local favorite, Lexington's Ron Harris, last year in December. Ron and the Knott Brothers were regulars at clubs and blues jams all around the state .



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