

BLUES NEWS

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

Louisville, Kentucky

July 2007

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The Stella-Vees

Last Minute Blues Band

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Cole Stevens and the People of Interest

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www.blues.org

Blues News

The monthly newsletter of the
Kentuckiana Blues Society

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Louisville, Kentucky

Apologies to Joe DeBow

For incorrectly identifying him as Butch Williams on last month's cover. It's actually Joe in the picture with Revaneu at May's J'town Crusade Blues Festival. Joe will be playing at River Bend Winery this month on the 13th and 27th.

**The Kentuckiana Blues Society 2007 Blues Contest
Stevie Ray's Blues Bar + Sunday September 30**

Stevie Ray's Blues Bar
230 East Main Street 502/582-9945

Doors open 3:00 p.m.
Admission \$5

Dinner will be available
in the Voodoo Garden.

Order of play will be decided
by a blind draw at 4:00 p.m.
Competition starts at 4:30 p.m.
with each entrant playing
20 minutes.

Winner receives an automatic berth in the Blues Foundation
International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN, January 2008,
\$500 cash and local recording studio time.

Eligible entrants must be 21 years or older and have never
appeared on a final Handy Music Award ballot.

Entry fee is \$25. Deadline for application is August 31.
Further details and application forms are available at kbsblues.org
or by calling Gary Sampson at 502/724-9971



LETTER FROM THE PREZ

Our annual blues cruise was held Saturday, June 2, and thanks to the thirty-four individuals who attended this year's ramblin' style cruise in downtown Louisville. We enjoyed a number of different groups this year from the high-energy rock blues of Scott Holt to the laid-back acoustic blues of Double Dog Dare. We hope all the cruisers enjoyed themselves and look forward to another adventure next year. Speaking of Double Dog Dare, they play occasionally at River Bend Winery. Steve Matthews and Ron Van Treuren make up the band and do a great job. If you are into acoustic blues you might want to check them out.

The Louisville Blues-n-Barbecue Festival at the water tower will be held Friday through Sunday, July 13, 14 and 15. This is the area's premiere blues festival and Jennifer Washle and the Bisig Impact Group will make it a good one. The all-blues festival has been expanded to three days this year and is highlighted with appearances by the Stella-Vees, winners of the KBS 2006 blues contest, the Walnut Street Blues Band and the 2003 International Blues Challenge winner Fiona Boyes. See the ad in this issue of *Blues News* for the complete line-up and times. So bring a blanket or folding chair and an appetite for some good barbecue and join us at this year's festival. Free tickets for KBS members will arrive by mail shortly before the festival and we will have a booth set up at the water tower.

The 10th Street Blues Band was rained out Derby weekend for their show at Vault Liquors located at 1270 Bardstown Road so they are going to try again. The store is next to the Mid City Mall and across from Carmichael's Bookstore. They're having a summerfest beer tasting complete with food and music on Friday and Saturday, July 6 and 7. The band will play both days, weather permitting, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. 10th Street plays predominately Memphis blues of the 1930's, 40's and 50's.

The 2007 KBS Blues Contest will be held Sunday, September 30 at Stevie Ray's Blues Bar. We had a great turnout for last years' contest and look forward to another exciting competition. Admission is \$5 with doors opening at 3:00 pm. A blind draw at 4:00 will determine order of play and the contest will start at 4:30. If you have a blues band and would like to enter the contest fill out an application form available at kbsblues.org and send it in with the \$25 entry fee by Friday, August 31. You can also call me at 502/724-9971 for more information. We will also take submissions this year for the Blues Foundations Best Self-Produced CD competition. Official rules can be found at www.blues.org/ibc/selfcdrules.php.

Kenny Lee and our friends at the Kentucky Blues Society are seeking submissions for a Best of Kentucky Blues compilation CD. Their goal is to have one track from every blues band in the state. If interested send your CD to KY Blues 917 Meadowwood Lane Bowling Green, KY 42104. Call 270/784-0757 for more information. Kenny and company are also hosting the first Kentucky Blues Festival to be held Saturday, August 4 in Bowling Green. See their website at www.kyblues.com for more details.

If you enjoy listening to your favorite radio station over the internet I encourage you to contact your congressional representative and senator by July 15 and urge them to support the Internet Radio Equality Act. Royalty fees for internet radio streaming are scheduled to increase as much as 150% and basically put these services out of business. For more information including how to find your particular elected official go to www.wfpk.org.

Richard "Kush" Griffith passed away on Monday, June 18 just two weeks after a benefit was held in his honor at Bobby J's nightclub. He was a world class trumpet player who performed with James Brown in the 1970's and later formed his own band called Bottom & Co. Our sincere condolences go out to his family and friends.

Gary

Featured Artist Louisville Blues & Barbecue Festival



New Music Review



The River City Blues Band
Live at the Grand Theater
Frankfort, Ky. Sept. 2006
www.myspace.com/rivercityblues

This live album showcases the combined talents of Mark Stein on guitar, Denny Thornberry on harmonica – and handling the vocals, with Tim Dennison on bass and Dave Schmitt on drums. The boys in the band open with tune penned by Mr. Stein and features Mark playing this instrumental with a Leslie slurred guitar doing most of the work. A nice opener to get your feet moving. Cut #2 is a Jimmy Reed favorite: "Ain't That Lovin' You Baby" and is probably the best tune here for showcasing Denny Thornberry's vocals and harmonica playing, which ain't shabby by anybody's standard. Filling out the CD is a Mark Hummel song – "I Love My Baby"; the traditional "Bad Boy", which allows Mr. Stein to show off his 6 string shooter picking abilities; #5 is "Cause of It All", a familiar Howling Wolf song; cut #6 is a Little Walter song, "That's All Right" that is my favorite on this CD; cut # 7 is a song penned by Jimmie Vaughn, "Tilt a Whirl"; cut #9 is a T-Bone Walker song, "Evenin"; and the final cut is "Goin Home", a John Lee Hooker song.

Give me "Bad Boy", "That's all Right", and "Goin' Home" and I'll be happy – but let 'em play all the rest of these and more songs – because River City Blues is one of my favorite bands to get out and see. And you can see them at the Louisville Blues-n-Barbecue Festival scheduled for July 13-15 at the Water Tower on River Road. Last year's crowd was a record setter and this year's will probably be bigger. See ya there ! !

Nelson Grube

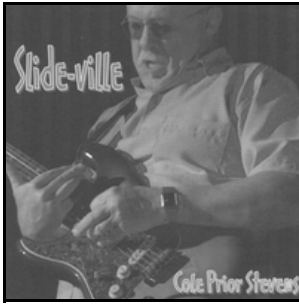


Photo by David True

River City Blues Band



New Music Review – Featured Artist Louisville Blues & Barbecue Festival



Cole Prior Stevens
Live at O'Shea's May 26, 2007
Slide-Ville (CD)
Self Produced

Many KBS members may remember Cole Prior Stevens from two KBS events he has performed at for us. First, he performed at the Bardstown Presbyterian Church with his friend Dan Stevens (no relation), back in February 2005. On May 20, 2006, Cole and his band performed at Uncle Pleasant's for the KBS Blues Cruise and brought the house down. Keith Clements reviewed his first CD "Out of the Blue" in the April/May 2005 issue of the *Blues News*.

On May 26, 2007, Cole was on the stage at O'Shea's on Baxter Avenue with his friends Steve Boros (harp) and Mike Alger (drums). Mike is a regular with the Tim Krekel Band. Steve is a high school teacher. Although a small crowd, there were a few Cole fans there (including the author) and he turned a few heads of people that were unfamiliar with him. From the very first song, he made his slide whistle and sing to some of his original music. Cole is an original himself and is one of the only dedicated slide players in the area. His skill is unmistakable as he proved that night. Steve Boros gave the crowd something to talk about too. No one seemed to mind that there wasn't a bass guitar- it wasn't needed which is what makes Cole's playing so unique.

At the break, I purchased Cole's just-released CD called "Slide-Ville". The next day, I played it hoping it would be as good as what I had heard live. After a quick listen, I was not disappointed. This CD is great. It is electric slide guitar through and through. There are 11 songs on the CD and one "bonus" song not listed on the notes.

At O'Shea's I was so impressed by Cole's music, I got his contact information so that I could talk to him outside his work and find out more about him. I spoke to Cole on June 14 and asked him a few questions about his music, his background etc. The following is what I found out:

Cole is originally from California and has lived in Louisville since 2001. He and his wife decided to move to a different, and slower life style than what they had been in. There was no real reason for picking Louisville, but it fits him well. He is a professional musician who has a late summer tour coming up which will take him to Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and in general the whole south region for festivals and gigs. This fall he has another tour scheduled in which he will hook up with his friend Billy Gibson, on harp, from Memphis to tour the south some more

Cole is a left handed guitar player and strings all his guitars right handed. This means he seems to play backwards. Many people have asked him if it isn't more difficult to play this way to which he replies, it's the way he learned to play (a leftie whose first guitars were right handed models).

"Slide-Ville" was originally supposed to be an acoustic set. He always composes his songs on the electric first to get the feel of the songs. When he went to record the music, it sounded so good he decided to do it with an electric guitar. He asked his drummer to listen to what he had recorded to see where drums needed to fit in and his drummer told him that he didn't need drums on the CD. So.... there are no drums on it. Cole also plays the bass on the CD. He is an accomplished bassist and even built his own five string bass guitar.

Like many musicians, Cole writes songs from his personal experiences. One song on "Slide-Ville" is titled "Red Light Blues" and is about an accident that he was in where he was "T-Boned" in an intersection, through no fault of his own and then the other driver sued him. Another song, "Willy Peter Blues", is actually about White Phosphorous, used in Fallujah as a weapon of mass destruction. "Dirty Little Water" is about Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, or PTSD, which Cole has strong feelings about, possibly due to former jobs of his - a medic in the Air Force in Viet Nam and a drug and alcohol counselor in California.

Cole's talents aren't limited to playing guitar. He is educated in and formerly worked at welding and gunsmithing. He also was schooled at the ABC Records Company Recording School and now records and produces his own work. The mastering of his latest CD was an easy task by the mastering engineer since Cole had already done most of the work.

On May 9, Cole performed at Henderson at the W.C Handy Festival. He said that there were about 500 people there and he had a wonderful time. The set went fine and the people enjoyed the music. On July 13, he will perform at the Water Tower Blues Music Festival and hopes to have another new CD at that event. That CD is actually a re-release of some other work that he has recorded over the years. His long time friend from California, Michael Butler, who performed on "Slide-Ville", is planning on being there. Cole has released 6 CD's but 4 are out of print. The two that are in print are "Slide-Ville" and "Out of the Blue".

On discussing music gear, he states emphatically, that it is not about the gear, but the person behind the gear. He has quite a collection of gear that he uses to get the sound that he wants, but it is what comes from him, not the gear, that makes the song. You can see his gear on his website. I recommend that you visit his website as it is one of the best I have seen. It is www.colepriorstevens.net. If you go to that site, you will also find links to his music and can listen to samples.

All that being said (or written), I have three recommendations:


1. Go see Cole at his performance at the Louisville Blues and Barbecue Festival at the Water Tower .
2. Buy his new CD (or CD's if he has both at the festival)
3. Visit Cole's website.

Bob Brown

The following supporters of the blues offer KBS members discounts (10% off on blues CDs at ear X-tacy and \$1 off admission from Stevie Ray's, Zena's, Lisa's and Vito's) with your current membership card. Give them your support!

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Lisa's Oak Street Lounge – 1004 East Oak Street – 637-9315
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All Dates Subject To Change

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Attn: Membership Chairman

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