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Blues News

The monthly newsletter of the
Kentuckiana Blues Society

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Louisville, Kentucky

KBS Website:

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DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

Keep up with the KBS by joining our e-mail list. No spam or junk mail, just up to the minute information on local bands, last minute shows and other **relevant** cool blues stuff. Of course, we don't share our mailing lists with anyone. To join, go to www.kbsblues.org.

Time to Renew?

Check your mailing label and please be sure to keep your membership current. And remember, it may take up to a couple of weeks to get your new card. If you need it sooner, leave a voice message for Natalie at 893-8031 or an email to membership@kbsblues.org.

Blues on the Air

The Saturday Night Blues Party with Kevin Yazell 91.9 WFPK, Saturday 9 PM - Midnight
radio.netRobb Morrison's Blues Brunch (webcast), Sundays 9 AM – Noon www.1073theroad.com
Bandit Blues Radio <http://www.banditbluesradio.com/>
<http://musicmoz.org/Styles/Blues/Radio/Links/>
http://www.electricbluesclub.co.uk/blues_radio_tv.html
www.aiiradio.net
www.live365.com

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
Louisville, KY 40201-0755

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 2008:

Gary Sampson – president
Debbie Wilson – vice-president
Keith Clements – secretary
Brenda Major – treasurer

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 at O'Shea's, 956 Baxter Avenue**) 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!

LETTER FROM THE PREZ

I am constantly impressed and amazed by the quality of the music in the Kentuckiana area. One of the things that I've been wanting to do for some time is compile a list of bands that play the blues and their corresponding websites for publication in an issue of *Blues News*. The web has created a way for many bands to find an audience and to let the public know where and when they are performing. Just go to MySpace and type in "Louisville blues" as your search and you will find pages of bands listed. Some are tried and true blues bands while others play a mix of music such as blues and soul, funk, etc. In this issue of the newsletter you will find this list of local/regional bands that play in our area. If your band is not listed and you play the blues, email me your website information to prez@kbsblues.org.

In addition to the list of bands in this newsletter I have put together a list of blues festivals and other events for 2008. At our January meeting the KBS board will meet to discuss blues society events for this year. In the next newsletter I should be able to provide a list of our yearly events and their dates such as the blues cruise, the blues contest, our 20th birthday party celebration and a KBS blues house party, if we decide to have one this year. Check out the February *Blues News* for more information.

One of those dates for the year that I want to highlight this issue is the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN January 31 through February 2. While it might be difficult for most of us to make the 400 mile trek to the volunteer state, KBS treasurer and board member Brenda Majors claims it's the most fun she has ever had at a blues event. Of course you can also cheer on our representative at the IBC - Velveeta Jones. And that Lexington-based band that makes an appearance in Louisville every now and then will be there too. The Stella-Vees make their return to Mr. Handy's Blues Hall on Beale Street on Friday and Saturday. This is their seventh time in a row to play host at the blues jam so you know they must be doing something right.

We also want to congratulate local harp player George "Harmonica Red" Heard for making the short list on the Blues Foundations Best Self-Produced CD of 2007. Harmonica Red's KBS entry "I Was Born in Louisiana" would be a welcomed addition to any blues fans collection and can be found on his website at <http://atndirect.com/harmonicared/> along with Red's other CD's. The winner of the best self-produced contest will be announced in February. We also want to applaud The Beat Daddys, whose entry "Five Moons" made the short list as well. They were sponsored by the Kentucky Blues Society. Kentucky provided two of the top ten best CD's for 2008 - quite an accomplishment for our state.

We want to welcome KBS member Les Reynolds to the Board of Directors for the blues society. You may have read one of Les' excellent reviews during the past year. He has been attending our board meetings regularly and always has some new information or thoughtful insight to provide our organization. Welcome Les and thanks for your support.

It is also my sad duty to report the loss of Don "Big Daddy" Pollard. Pollard was 58 years old when he passed away on November 28. Big Daddy was a fixture in the Louisville music scene for almost 40 years. He played with several bands including The Impressions, Jil Thorpe and the Beat Boys and Uncle Herman and the Kings of Love. For me living in Germantown it was convenient to catch his Tuesday night show at Lisa's Oak Street Lounge. He was an accomplished musician, a good human being and he will be greatly missed by those of us who were lucky enough to have known him.

Gary

Help Us Celebrate Our Twentieth Year!



Do you have any pictures, stories or memorabilia from past KBS events you'd like to share? We're working on a special exhibit for our twentieth birthday party and we need lots of input from our members. If you have any materials or ideas you'd like to see included, please contact Gary at prez@kbsblues.org or (502) 724-9971, Keith at info@kbsblues.org or (502) 451-6872, or Natalie at news@kbsblues.org or (502) 893-8031. Better yet, drop in on a board meeting, held every first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 at O'Shea's Irish Pub on Baxter Avenue.

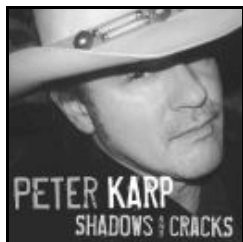
Kentuckiana Blues Society Band Websites List

Anderson: <http://www.myspace.com/astrogypsysounds>
Bella Blue Band: <http://www.bellablueband.com/>
Big Black Cadillac: www.myspace.com/bigblackcaddy
Billy Roy Danger & the Rectifiers: www.myspace.com/billyroydanger
Blues Cruisers: <http://www.thebluescruisers.com/>
Blues Incorporated: <http://www.myspace.com/bluesincorporated>
Bluestown: <http://www.hellolouisville.com/Music/Bluestown.Cfm>
Bryan Himes: <http://www.bryanhimes.com/>
CJ Vaughn and Highway 58: <http://www.myspace.com/cjvaughn>
Cole Stevens: www.colestevens.net
da Mudcats: <http://www.bluesparadise.com/mudcat/>
DJ Rice and the Payin' Dues Blues Band: <http://payinduesbluesband.com/>
Funky Bluesters: <http://www.myspace.com/thefunkybluesters>
George Brackens Blues Band: <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=204232875>
George "Harmonica Red" Heard: <http://www.harmonicared.com/>
Greg Clagett: <http://www.myspace.com/gregclagett>
Greg Foresman: <http://www.gregforesman.com/>
Gypsy Switch: <http://www.myspace.com/gypsyswitch2>
Hellfish/Lazy 11: <http://hellfish.home.mindspring.com/>
Honey Roy: <http://www.myspace.com/honeyroymusic>
Jaida Blues: <http://www.jaidablue.com>
Jimmy Davis Band: <http://www.garageband.com/artist/jimmydavisband/>
King Sonic: <http://www.myspace.com/12112560>
Lamont Gillispie: <http://www.lamontgillispieband.com/>
Leisure Thieves: <http://www.myspace.com/theleisurethieves>
Mark Stampley: <http://www.markstampley.com/>
Mike Estep Blues Band: <http://myspace.com/mikeestepbluesband>
Mississippi Adam Riggie: <http://www.myspace.com/wwwmyspacecomadamriggle>
Most Wanted Band: <http://www.myspace.com/ilovemostwanted>
Mr. Scratch: <http://www.myspace.com/mrscratchband>
MR2 Blue/Majik Jack: <http://majikjack.com/>
Nick "Hambone" Hamstra: <http://www.myspace.com/hamboneblues>
Obie "Harmonica Red" Cox: <http://www.myspace.com/theharmonicared>
One Shot Johnny: <http://www.oneshotjohnny.net/>
Pokey LaFarge: <http://www.myspace.com/pokeylafarge>
Pure Gravel: <http://www.puregravel.com>
Redstone: <http://www.myspace.com/redstoneband>
River City Blues: <http://myspace.com/rivercitybluesband>
Robbie Bartlett: <http://www.robriebartlett.com/>
Robby Cox: <http://www.myspace.com/robbycoxmusic>
Sacre Bleu: <http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Backstage/6756/SacreBleu.html>
Sheryl Rouse: <http://www.myspace.com/songbirdentertainment>
Stella-Vees: www.stella-vees.com
Stone Cold Blues: <http://www.myspace.com/stonecoldbluesband>
St. Johns Wort: <http://www.stjohnswort95.com/>
Tanita Gaines: <http://tanitagaines.com/>
Teneia Sanders: <http://teneiasanders.com/>
The Boogie Men: <http://www.myspace.com/theboogiemenlive>
The Dirty Church Revival: <http://www.myspace.com/theblackcatbonesociety>
Tim Krekel: <http://www.timkrekel.com/>
Tyrone Cotton: <http://www.tyronecotton.com/>
Velveeta Jones: <http://www.velveetajones.com/>
V-Groove: <http://www.v-groove.net/>
Willie Eames: www.myspace.com/willieeames
Yard Dogs: www.myspace.com/yarddogslouisville

Your band's not on the list!? Then let us know about it. Send an email to prez@kbsblues.org and we'll list it in a future *Blues News* issue and on our weekly email when you have a gig.



New Music Reviews!



Shadows and Cracks
Peter Karp
Blind Pig Records BPCD5115

This Blind Pig release is the first on the label by this artist, recommended to Blind Pig by Popa Chubby. I listened to this CD several times before I could classify the music. There are 12 songs on the CD and of those, 5 are definitely country music. I did a little research and found that there are 3 songs being played on XM radio by Karp. Two are on Bluesville (and incidentally, neither of those is on this CD) and the other one is on the country channel. I think I could attribute the ones on Bluesville to the marketing by Blind Pig.

This music is not bad. It would be better if Karp would choose a direction he wanted to go in and stick with it. One song, "Strange Groove", reminded me of Three Dog Night's "Mama Told Me Not To Come"

The thing that I think makes this a weak blues CD is that the lyrics are very intellectual and not very emotional (and the fact that some are country music). Save your money on this one.

Bob Brown



Putumayo Presents
Blues Around the World
Putumayo World Music PUT 253

The latest release by Putumayo World Music is a little misleading in its title. *Blues Around the World* does feature music from different countries but about half of it's titles are songs from the USA or are by American artists - such is the influence of this country on the world's blues music. But they are some decent overseas selections on the CD including *Listen My Son* by The Unseen Guest, a band composed of Irish and Indian musicians, *La Flaca* (The Skinny Girl) by Spanish musician Jarabe De Palo and a terrific slide blues tune aptly named *Slide Blues* by Botafogo from Argentina. I may not understand the lyrics to many of this songs but it did not take away from my enjoyment. I only wish they would have included even more international blues artists on the album. At least Putumayo's heart is in the right place because a portion of the proceeds from the CD go to support the **Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc.**, an organization that supports southern musicians with recognition and day-to-day expenses. For more information visit their website at www.musicmaker.org.

Gary Sampson



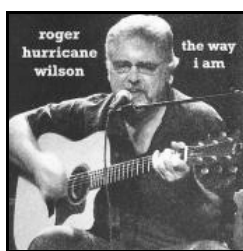
Mojo Burning
The Juvenators
Big Juv Publishing 2007

This group, from Mississippi, consists of Bob "Byrd" Lovell on vocals and guitar, Virgil "Big Juv" Brawley on lead guitar and vocals, George "Famous" Vance on bass and Guy "Animal" Wade on drums. There are several artists that sit in, the most notable being "Fingers Taylor" on harp. This is the group's 3rd CD. There are 10 songs on the CD, 7 of which are originals.

This group is a solid rock-blues group that produces a lot of good music. The music is solid, well recorded and includes a healthy dose of slide guitar. The least imaginative song on the CD is not theirs, but rather Bob Dylan's "Gotta Serve Somebody".

You really can't go wrong purchasing this CD. If you want to try out "Mojo Burning", go to their web site at www.thejuvenators.com to hear a sample and get to know the band.

Bob Brown



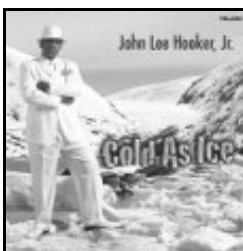
The Way I Am
Roger Hurricane Wilson
Blue Storm Records 731

This is Wilson's 7th CD and in his words is different than his previous CD's. I have heard some of his earlier music and it is nothing like this. It is all acoustic with the lyrics spoken in Wilson's very deep voice with fills by his Taylor guitar. His voice and delivery reminds me of a country music star who I cannot put my finger on.

Two of the songs on the CD are covers-"Don't Think Twice" and "Ring of Fire". On the song "Ring of Fire", Wilson's voice is deeper than Johnny Cash's and maybe he included this one because it is easy for him to sing. If you know that song, it is a good measure of whether you will like this CD.

All in all the CD reminds me of a cross between Johnny Cash, Gordon Lightfoot and William Ackerman. He is an excellent guitarist and his Taylor sounds really good. The songs though, are not remarkable.

Bob Brown



Cold As Ice
John Lee Hooker, Jr.
Telarc CD-83642

I was anxious to hear this CD as I am a big fan of John Lee Hooker, Sr. To get me in the mood, I put on a CD of Sr's greatest hits. Then I put Jr's CD in the player to juxtapose them. Well- my comparison was easy- there is no comparison. Junior's music is almost entirely overproduced jazzy blues music with him *talking* the lyrics. The 12 songs on the CD don't do his dad justice. One song is about his 4 hours of sexual prowess that is a bomb. To make it worse, the lyrics are terrible. This CD left me cold as ice. If you are undaunted by my terse write up and are compelled to get this CD, you can have mine.

Bob Brown



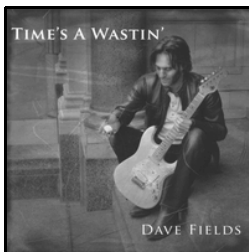
Land of a Thousand Dreams
Shawn Kellerman
Flaming Cheese Music 2007

This CD could well be called "CD of a Thousand Musicians" There are 24 musicians on the CD not including Kellerman, who by the way plays guitar, bass and sings. Kellerman's music is all originals and is blues based music inspired by soul, jazz and hip hop. The music is electric with plenty of horns and backing vocals. Some of his songs sound like Delbert McClinton, but with more guitar in the foreground. One song is definitely slow blues called "Wash My Back" and shows that Kellerman can make his guitar do the work.

"Whipsnap" is a jazzy horn-filled song with a funky groove and the bass lines to match. Other songs are more rock oriented, like "My Baby's a Gift" and "Never Give Up". The only song that is hip-hop oriented is called "Bug and Shawn". "Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior" is a slow guitar instrumental that uses a wah wah pedal throughout.

Shawn Kellerman is an up and coming artist. His musicianship and the recording really shine on this CD. The originality of his music helps too. I would rate this CD as a good buy to add to your collection.

Bob Brown



Time's a Wastin'
Dave Fields
FMI Records 2007

Dave Fields is a multi-instrumentalist do-it-yourself renaissance man of music. It might be tempting to also call him a bluesman, but the jury's probably still out on that one, even after hearing his second release.

Actually, it's highly recommended to not form an opinion on the first listen--twice should do the trick, however. This New York-City artist is all over the map musically, although most of what he does at least seems to go together...to a degree. There's rockabilly, big-band, blues, and Memphis swing influences and sounds throughout the all-original 12-tune CD. He did co-write four tunes (with Roxy Perry, Gioia Bruno and Kevin Brennan).

Overall, this CD is well done -- not outstanding, dazzling, incredible or any other superlatives which sometimes describe musical recordings. The instrumentation is well produced and executed, lyrics are pretty much what one might expect (especially on the more up-tempo and bluesy tunes: lots of "man wants woman, man gets woman, nature takes course -- or not" kind of stuff). And regarding vocals, you could call Fields a good singer, and you'd be correct. However, for a lot of this material, his voice is too smooth and gentle. The upside to that, however, is that every syllable is perfectly decipherable (i.e., no mumbling or slurring).

And while this may not be an amazing work of art, the CD has some very bright moments. The opener, "Let's Get Shakin'" is almost four minutes of pure Jerry Lee Lewis/Carl Perkins-style rockabilly fun, with some cool slide guitar thrown in for effect and some floor-shaking boogie piano -- all played by Fields.

Following that, "Keep it Up" is a mid-tempo number that's a bit more traditionally bluesy in sound and mood with some nice harmonica from Rob Paparozzi.

"Rabbi Blues" may very well be the funniest (depending on how you view things) blues tune ever written. This 6-minute tunes has Chicago blues melding with big-band in which Fields (no joke) launches into an entire sentence of HEBREW. Really.

The final cut almost doesn't "fit" because it's totally traditional I, IV, V blues on an acoustic (likely a resonator) guitar and some really tasty slide work (although slightly "buzzy" at times). But it's a nice tribute to Fields' blues influence nad well played.

All-in-all, not a bad effort. Fields seems as if he could be an entertaining live act, and the mix he provided in this CD arouses the curiosity about what might be coming next.

Les Reynolds



Stop the Game
Deborah Coleman
JSP Records 2007

Deborah Coleman has made quite a name for herself over the last decade-plus as a blues/roots/soul and funk artist (with some classic rock thrown in now and then). She's released another excellent CD called "Stop the Game," which showcases her soulful, throaty vocals, songwriting and excellent guitar playing.

Overall, this is a really good CD. Some of the tunes offer up some pretty standard stuff, although even when paring down to fundamentals, Coleman does it with as much skill as anyone and puts her own stamp on it as well. But when Deb Coleman is on, she is ON.

Some of those "on" moments (and there are several) are interspersed throughout this 10-tune CD (of which seven are Coleman originals), which is graced with some really nice photos of Coleman performing live in the artwork.

The opening cut "I Got to Know," written by Jimmy Morello, is a great kick-starter with Coleman's searing electric guitar weaving in and around this mid-tempo blues/rocker anchored by Neil Shull and Jerome Heitman's thumping rhythm & bass section. Actually, this is characteristic Coleman fare, with flawless guitar and a great sense of rhythm. Coleman is nothing if not a human groove herself.

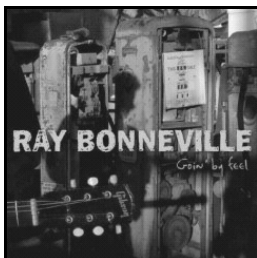
"Greezy" (mid-point on the CD) is a Coleman composition, which opens with a scratchy, old-fashioned-sounding acoustic slide guitar that gradually melds into Coleman's own playing of this jaunty country-blues-style tune backed by a fife-and-drum style beat. She even mixes the slide with a wah-wah effect a time or two for variety. And while the six-minutes-plus instrumental is a bit lengthy, it's pleasant melody and excellent guitar playing make it worth every second.

"Long Time" (written by Willie Edwards) is perhaps the most beautiful and melodic tune of the list. A bit sappy and corny lyrically, but Coleman pulls it off with her emotional vocals and equally soulful guitar.

And, finally, a great "bookend" to the opener is Coleman's own tune "Wagon Wheel" -- a finger-snappin', toe-tappin hypnotic groove with lots of repetitive notes and chords, some wicked fat-toned slide.

This CD was aptly named, because Coleman has always been, and is, a "game-stopper".

Les Reynolds



Goin' By Feel
Ray Bonneville
Red House Records 2007

Packed with a dozen smoky and groove-centered tunes, "Goin' by Feel" is Canadian guitarist/singer-songwriter Ray Bonneville's latest success story. Set for release in early 2008, this CD features haunting, percussive and sometimes minimalist guitar from Bonneville along with his tough and weathered vocals, sometimes delivered in a desperate near-whisper sounding at times like Dylan, Springsteen and even Chris Smither in other instances. Bonneville's folky blues are rootsy and sometimes gutsy, always entertaining to the ear.

Co-produced with bassist Gurf Morlix and Rob Heaney, this release allows Bonneville to be a storyteller, poet and bluesman all at once as he plays a warm, fat-toned six-string which sometimes conjures up comparisons to J.J. Cale. This is music which you can pull up by its roots and see, hear, smell and feel the dirt fall from it. Bonneville allows plenty of space between the notes so as to give the words and melody plenty of time to sink into the listener's ears. He also accompanies himself quite well on harmonica.

While there are no weak tunes on this CD, it's perhaps the first half which carries it. Arguably the most powerful tune on the list on track five is "I Am the Big Easy" -- his tribute to the resilience of New Orleans (where he lived for half a decade, according to a press release). This tune also features Bonneville's bluesy harmonica and the wonderful backup vocals of guest artist Eliza Gilkyson (who appears on two other tunes, as well).

Bonneville seems to have found the necessary ingredients to capture the essence of blues without being constrained by tradition or the ordinary.

Les Reynolds



Rocket Number 9
Jason Ricci and New Blood
Eclecto Groove

This CD is as different as one can get. The 12 songs on the CD start with a rocker with flashy harp work. The songs are all rock with some excellent harp work on most. Ricci's style does not fit into any category that we are used to. He is rock, blues, space music, and something that is neither- a Jimi Hendrix of the new millennium. He is a remarkable harpist applying his instrument to a new genre of music.

You won't find any similarities to anyone else on this CD. It is as original as it gets. Even the cover art is different- reminiscent of the 70's drug culture. You can look at it for hours and not see everything in it.

The band is tight and the recording is top notch. The musicians-Jason Ricci on harp, vocals and nose flute; Shawn Starsky on Guitars and backing vocals; Todd "Buck Weed" Edmonds on bass and clavinet, Hells Bells and back up vocals; and Ron Sutton on drums and vocals.

A couple of the songs are quite long. Two are over 10 minutes and six are over 5 minutes. This is not blues, but if you are a child of the 70's or 80's, you will probably like this CD. It is neither definable nor describable.

Bob Brown

Editor's note: Jason Ricci and New Blood will be appearing in Louisville at Stevie Ray's Tuesday January 22nd at 7:00 PM.



Just Like It Is
Monster Mike Welch
BGB Records

Mike Welch, at only 28 years old, has caught the blues bug in a big way. He was given the moniker "Monster Mike" by Dan Aykroyd at the opening of the first House Of Blues when he was only 13 years old. At that same opening, he met Bob Margolin and asked for Bob to show him some of Muddy Water's licks. Three years after that meeting, he released his first CD "These Blues are Mine" and by then, had played for Junior Wells, James Cotton, and Johnny Copeland and won the 1995 Boston Music Award for Best Blues Act.

Welch, an outstanding guitarist, is joined on the CD by Anthony Geraci on piano and organ, Brad Hallen on bass and Mark Teixeira on drums. All but two of the 13 songs on the CD are originals by Welch. His guitar work includes a traditional T-Bone Walker/Albert King sound, with just that right amount of reverb and great tone. This CD is all blues with Mike's great vocals and guitar a definite breath of blues fresh air. Geraci's piano adds some real zest to the songs too. His piano provides great fills that adds to the feel of the music.

The third cut on the CD, "My Baby Loves Me" is a slow blues song that just oozes with feeling. Another slow song, "Love that Burns" (which is a cover) reminds me of some of B.B. King's songs in its efficient use of few notes to convey a mood. These two slow songs are reason enough to buy the CD although all of the others are good too. This is one of the best CD's I have reviewed in the past year. It is available at CDbaby.

Bob Brown

BLUES LEGEND BUDDY GUY GIVES TOUR OF CHICAGO MUSIC HISTORY

Multimedia “Chicago Blues Audio Tour” explores Chicago’s musical roots; has been downloaded by nearly 100,000 listeners within the first six months

CHICAGO – Exploring the “Home of the Blues,” the Chicago Blues Audio Tour narrated by Chicago-local Buddy Guy has found an astonishing audience in just six months. The podcast has been downloaded more than 97,000 times and is currently averaging over 1,000 downloads per day. The free, 50-minute tour combines an interactive map, tour stop directions, archival photos, video, music clips, and interviews – a true multimedia experience unlike anything else available.

Listeners are able to follow the tour either by downloading to a portable media player or by virtually experiencing Chicago on a home computer. Available in Mandarin Chinese, English, German, Japanese, and Spanish, the tour is able to reach international visitors and devotees of Chicago blues wherever they are.

In September, the podcast was featured on the front page of iTunes, the most popular repository for podcasts in the world. The tour was also awarded a 2007 MUSE Award from the American Association of Museums recognizing outstanding achievement in museum media. According to the judges, “while [the tour] would offer an evocative introduction to a visitor on the streets of Chicago, it is strong enough to be educational and engaging no matter where the listener may be.”

As Buddy Guy explains about Chicago, “This is the place where people just like myself came from the South to create new lives and a new kind of music. The generation just before mine came up here playing folk music. But soon they traded in their acoustic guitars for electric instruments. And when they plugged them in, they created a new, urban sound, that we call Chicago blues.”

Through Buddy Guy’s insider perspective and interviews with blues musicians and historians, visitors experience the Chicago blues historic and societal relevance, the worldwide impact on music and culture, and the city’s contemporary scene. Incorporating archival photos, music clips, and video, the tour highlights ten historic locations including Maxwell Street, Chess Records, and Muddy Water’s former home. Listeners, from blues club aficionados to those less familiar with the Chicago blues sound, will discover something new from the explanation of Chicago blues and profiles of five Chicago blues innovators: Jimmy Yancey, Tampa Red, Willie Dixon, Muddy Waters, and Koko Taylor.

In addition, the tour illustrates how Chicago continues to influence the international blues sound. Visitors can experience “Sweet Home Chicago” at the city’s many music clubs, including Buddy Guy’s Legends. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this June 5-8, 2008, the annual Chicago Blues Festival is the largest free blues festival in the world and draws over 800,000 visitors. Also, the Chicago Blues Archives at the city’s Harold Washington Library preserves archival recordings of performances unavailable anywhere else.

The Chicago Office of Tourism produced the audio tour with the award-winning Acoustiguide, Inc. “We are pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the Chicago Office of Tourism on this project and are extremely happy with the results,” said Kathryn Glass, Acoustiguide vice president. “By the end of the first year, more than 150,000 people will have had the pleasure of hearing Buddy Guy talk about Chicago’s place in the history of the Blues, and that is something we are all very proud of.”

The Chicago Blues Tour is free and can be downloaded at www.downloadchicagotours.com or Apple’s iTunes. Media can find an electronic press kit for the tour at <http://www.downloadchicagotours.com/bluesmedia/>.

For information about the Chicago Blues Festival, the world’s largest free blues festival, visitors can call 312.744.3315 or visit www.chicagobluesfestival.us. Visitors and Chicagoans planning to entertain out-of-town guests can receive Chicago brochures, reserve hotel accommodations, and receive trip-planning assistance by calling 1.877.CHICAGO (1.877.244.2246) or visiting www.cityofchicago.org/tourism. Brochures and information on Chicago’s exciting events and activities are also available at the Visitor Information Centers. The centers are located at Chicago Water Works, 163 E. Pearson Street at Michigan Avenue, and the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street.

CHICAGO BLUES TOUR DESTINATIONS

1. Buddy Guy’s Legends – When Buddy Guy opened this club in 1989, he wanted it to have the feel of a dark, authentic storefront music joint, an experience like going to a club when the Chicago blues were born.
2. The Illinois Central Depot – Once Chicago’s largest train station, the Illinois Central Station became known as the

Black Ellis Island, where many southern African American's introduction to Chicago.

3. Maxwell Street – Alive with business in the Maxwell Street market, musicians congregated here and played the music that defined several eras of the Chicago blues.
4. Vee-Jay Records – Before Motown there was Vee-Jay Records, the largest and most powerful black-owned record label in America, recording the greats of R & B, doo-wop, and jazz in their studio on what was then known as 'record row' on Michigan Avenue.
5. Chess Records, Michigan Avenue – Generations of musicians have come to pay homage at the place where all the greats of the Chicago blues tradition – Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Koko Taylor, to name a few – recorded their hits. Today, the building is home to the Blues Heaven Foundation started by blues legend Willie Dixon, whose mission is to promote and document the blues, educate children about its history, and to support working musicians
6. The State Street Stroll – In the 1920s and 30s, people would dress their best and stroll down the street while music poured from the theaters, cafes, and "black and tan" nightclubs that lined the strip, notably the Pekin Theater, the Plantation Club, and the Apex Club.
7. 47th Street – Now known as the 'Chicago Blues District,' this was the location of the famous 708 Club, one of the creative incubators responsible for transforming a kind of rural country blues into the highly-charged electrified blues unique to Chicago.
8. The Blues Brothers Mural – Created for the well-known movie, "The Blues Brothers," this site was the home of "Ray's Music Exchange," run by none other than Ray Charles in the film. The mural is an homage to the neighborhood's musical heritage.
9. Chess Records, Cottage Grove Street – The Chess brothers built their company in several storefront locations, including this one where Chuck Berry cut his demo for "Maybelline."
10. The Original 'House of Blues' – Muddy Waters' house was a community center for the blues. Muddy often took in struggling musicians and would stage impromptu jam sessions on the front steps.

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Monday 12/31 New Year's Eve	Tuesday 1-Jan	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3	Friday 4	Saturday 5
Captain's Quarters - PS Willie Phoenix Hill - King Sonic 8:30 Picadome Clubhouse (Lex, KY) Robbie Bartlett Diamond Pub & Billiards \$50 ADV/\$60 DOS Smyrna Inn - Pure Gravel Blues Band Stevie Ray's - Predators 8:00 \$140/table Zena's - Tim Kredel & TKO 10:00 \$20/\$30 Peterson-Dumesnil House - Caretaker's Ball w/Lamont Gillispie & 100 Proof Blues 10:00	Happy New Year! Stevie Ray's - Blues/Jazz Jam 9:00	Cheapside Bar & Grill (Lex, KY) - Willie Eames Dugout - Blues Jam 9:00 Electric Lady - (Madison IN) Open Mic Night 9:30 - 1:00 Lisa's Oak St Lounge - Leisure Thieves 9:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues/Jazz Jam 9:00	Longshot Tavern - Blues Jam 9:30 Stevie Ray's - Open Mike Jam 9:00 Zena's - Mississippi Adam Riggle 10:30	Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:30- 1:00 Jim Porter's - Rock Bottom Blues 9:00-2:00 \$5 Stevie Ray's - Travelin' Mojos 7:30/ Voodoo Lounge Band 10:30 \$5 Syl's Lounge - Rick DeBow Quartet 9:00 Zena's - Don Harris R&B Band 10:30 \$5	Applebee's (New Albany) - River City Blues 9:00 Chatters - The Yard Dogs 7:00 Club Rio - Mr Wonderful Production Band 11:00 Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:30- 1:00 Jimmy & Richie - Robby Cox 9:00 Jim Porter's - Rock Bottom Blues 9:00-2:00 \$5 Stevie Ray's - Travelin' Mojos 7:30/ Voodoo Lounge Band 10:30 \$5 Zazoo's Pub - Nick "Hambone" Hamstra 9:00 Zena's - TBA
Stevie Ray's - Open Mic Jam 9:00	Stevie Ray's - Blues/Jazz Jam 9:00	Dugout - Blues Jam 9:00 Electric Lady - (Madison IN) Open Mic Night 9:30 - 1:00 Lisa's Oak St Lounge - Leisure Thieves 9:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00 Wick's Pizza (Baxter) - Nick "Hambone" Hamstra 10:00	Longshot Tavern - Blues Jam 9:30 Zena's - Mississippi Adam Riggle 10:30	Captain's Quarters - PS Willie Cheapside Bar & Grill - Robbie Bartlett 10:30-1:30 Coyote's - Cole Stevens and Chas Blakemore 9:00 Headliner's - Nick "Hambone" Hamstra/ Legendary Shack Shakers Jim Porter's - Bluestown 9:00 - 2:00 \$5 Phoenix Hill - King Sonic Stevie Ray's - The Boogie Men 7:30/ Marilyn Kington & 2 Loose 10:30 \$5 Syl's Lounge - Mr Wonderful Production Band 9:30 Zena's - Don Harris R&B Band 10:30 \$5	12 Cheapside Bar & Grill - Robbie Bartlett 10:30-1:30 Jim Porter's - Bluestown 9:00 - 2:00 \$5 Phoenix Hill - King Sonic Rudvard Kipling - Blue Meridian 7:30 Stevie Ray's - Clay Street Blues All Stars 7:30/ The Blues Brothers 10:30 \$5 Zena's - Pure Gravel Blues Band 10:30 - 2:30 \$5
Stevie Ray's - Open Mic Jam 9:00	Stevie Ray's - Blues/Jazz Jam 9:00	Cheapside Bar & Grill (Lex, KY) - Willie Eames Dugout - Blues Jam 9:00 Electric Lady - (Madison IN) Open Mic Night 9:30 - 1:00 Lisa's Oak St Lounge - Leisure Thieves 9:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00	Longshot Tavern - Blues Jam 9:30 Stevie Ray's - Unlimited Band 9:00 \$5 Zena's - Mississippi Adam Riggle 10:30	Captain's Quarters - The Blues Devils Cheapside Bar & Grill - Jon Justice Band 10:00 Jennica's - Nick "Hambone" Hamstra 9:00 Jim Porter's - Boogie Men Blues 9:00 - 2:00 R Place Pub - Robbie Bartlett 10:00 - 2:00 Smyrna Inn - Pure Gravel Blues Band 9:00 - 1:00 Stevie Ray's - Big Black Cadillac 7:30/ Eric Jerardi 10:30 \$5 Syl's Lounge - E&J All Stars Wick's Pizza (Middletown) - Robby Cox 9:00 Zena's - Don Harris R&B Band 10:30 \$5	18 Cheapside Bar & Grill - Jon Justice Band 10:00 Jim Porter's - Boogie Men Blues 9:00 - 2:00 Phoenix Hill - Nick "Hambone" Hamstra 9:00 Stevie Ray's - Big Black Cadillac 7:30/ Eric Jerardi 10:30 \$5
Stevie Ray's - Open Mic Jam 9:00	Stevie Ray's - Jason Ricci and New Blood 7:00 \$12	Dugout - Blues Jam 9:00 Electric Lady - (Madison IN) Open Mic Night 9:30 - 1:00 Lisa's Oak St Lounge - Leisure Thieves 9:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00	Longshot Tavern - Blues Jam 9:30 Stevie Ray's - Most Wanted Band 9:00 \$5 Zena's - Mississippi Adam Riggle 10:30	Captain's Quarters - Walnut Street Blues Band Mellwood A&E - Mr. Wonderful Prod Band 9:30 Sammy O's - Pure Gravel Blues Band 9:00 - 1:00 Seidentaden's Cafe - Tyrone Cotton 10:00 \$5 Stevie Ray's - Sue O'Neil & Blue Seville 7:30 V-Groove 10:30 \$5 Zena's - Don Harris R&B Band 10:30 \$5	26 Applebee's (New Albany) - Pure Gravel Blues 9-12 Stevie Ray's - Sue O'Neil & Blue Seville 7:30 V-Groove 10:30 \$5 Zena's - TBA
Stevie Ray's - Open Mic Jam 9:00	Stevie Ray's - Blues/Jazz Jam 9:00	Dugout - Blues Jam 9:00 Electric Lady - (Madison IN) Open Mic Night 9:30 - 1:00 Lisa's Oak St Lounge - Leisure Thieves 9:00 O'Neill's Irish Pub - Blues Jam 7:00 - 11:00 Stevie Ray's - Singers' Showcase 9:00 \$4	Longshot Tavern - Blues Jam 9:30 Stevie Ray's - Old School Band 9:00 \$5 Zena's - Mississippi Adam Riggle 10:30	1-Feb Stevie Ray's - King Sonic 7:30, The Predators 10:30 \$5 Zena's - Don Harris R&B Band 10:30 \$5	2 Applebee's - (New Albany) - Pure Gravel Blues 9-12 Stevie Ray's - Rock Station 7:30, The Predators 10:30 \$5 Zena's - TBA

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