

Sunday, November 22nd @ Lettersong Calligraphy Studio/Gallery •1501 Story Avenue. Doors 4:30

Featured artists (not in order of appearance) Tanita Gaines • Robbie Bartlett • Laurie Jessup • Carla Reisert • Kim Weber • Artie Wells • Patty Cain • Amy Johnson • Sheryl Rouse • Susan O'Neil • Marilyn Kington • Judy Tyler, \$30 general admission, \$25 seniors. Assure your seats in advance by emailing Lettersong@icloud.com or call Jen Grove 502-819-1439. To become a sponsor, donate \$50 to the GoFundMe campaign <a href="http://www.gofundme.com/pi5bcd5d">http://www.gofundme.com/pi5bcd5d</a> & receive admission, t-shirt and recognition in the event program. A portion of the proceeds will go to STRIVE music therapy and education programs. More information can be found on Facebook at *Ladies Sing The Blues 2015*.

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Photo by Cheryl Jaggers

On Wednesday, October 7, the Kentuckiana Blues Society elected officers and board members for 2016. Officers for next year are Mark Sneed as president, Debbie Wilson as vice-president, Elaine Hertweck as secretary and Chris Grube as treasurer. I want to extend my personal thanks to Mark and Elaine for stepping up and filling the vacancies created by Les Reynolds and myself and to Debbie and Chris for continuing in your roles as VP and treasurer. Many thanks also to Mindy and Ray Current for their dedication to the KBS board. They are resigning at the end of the year and their presence on the board will be greatly missed.

The KBS has selected The Stella Vees' recording entitled *Don't Tell Me Your Name* as our choice for the Best Self-Produced CD of 2015. This will be our selection for the next International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis in January. Now is a great time to make your reservations for the IBC. You can find all the details online at <u>http://www.blues.org/</u>.

Notable events this month include Ray Fuller and the Bluesrockers of Columbus, OH at Stevie Ray's on Saturday, November 7. Robert Cray, winner of multiple Blues Music Awards and Grammys, will be at the Lyric Theatre in Lexington on Saturday, November 14. Guitar slinger Joe Bonamassa returns to the Louisville Palace on Tuesday, November 17. It's been two years since his last visit to Louisville. On Sunday, November 22, the Lettersong Calligraphy Studio & Gallery at 1501 Story Ave will host Ladies Sing the Blues, an evening devoted

to the women in our community who sing blues music. Performers include Laurie Jessup, Carla Reisert, Judy Tyler, Kim Weber, Tanita Gaines, Sheryl Rouse, Amy Johnson, Susan O'Neil, Patty Cain, Marilyn Kington, Artie Wells and Robbie Bartlett. More information is available online at http://www.lettersongstudio.com/.

KBS board member Natalie Carter was presented this year's Sylvester Weaver Award at the Garvin Gate Blues Festival on Saturday, October 10. It's been a while since the society has recognized one of its own and we couldn't pick a better person to receive the award. Natalie has been a strong supporter of the local blues community with her work as membership director and editor of the KBS newsletter for the past 15 years. Congratulations Nat and thanks for your continued support!

As the year draws to a close, the blues society will be looking forward to 2016, and discussing events and goals for the coming year and beyond. Over the next few months, we'll be planning next year's events, creating society committees and discussing ways we can follow through on our motto to help "preserve, promote and perpetuate the blues" in our area. The blues society is always looking for help and needs assistance in several areas. Are you good with fundraising? Promotions? Graphic design and desktop publishing? Put those skills to use for the KBS and help us spread the blues.



# A Proper Musical Apprenticeship An interview with Byron Davies by Nelson Grube Reprinted (with permission) from the October 2013 issue of Louisville Music News

Byron Davies, bass guitar player for the Lamont Gillispie & 100 Proof Blues Band was presented the Sylvester Weaver Award at the Garvin Gate Blues Festival on October 12th of this year. This prestigious award is presented to a deserving individual who exemplifies the goals of the Kentuckiana Blues Society. I recently met with this latest award winner at Heine Brothers Coffee Shop on Shelbyville Road. They were most gracious about our taking up a large table and sitting there for hours talking.

Byron began by talking about Lamont Gillispie and the fact that they both have cancer. Byron said, "I am feeling a lot better today and that's why I am going to the hospital to see Joey today. They've been getting him up to try to get him to cough and breathe deep breaths. I try to get him to sing with me 'So long, since you been gone.' I told him he looked like a little bird and he managed to give me a 'double bird' and that was the best bird I've seen in many a year."

The rest of this interview could be entitled: "A Proper Musical Apprenticeship."

Byron was born in Los Angeles and lived between Austin, L.A. and Monterrey. He played football in the sixth grade and throughout high school. At age five, he started playing drums. At 11 he was the singer and drummer for a band. When they got a new drummer, Byron became the drummer and the singer for the band The Nightriders. They made hundreds of junior and high school fans playing skating rinks and high school functions. His dad bought his first bass guitar, a Silvertone bass and amp - the Sears & Roebuck special. His favorite guitar later became an eight-string Haegstrom. Byron played it for five years – turned the treble off and finger picked it doing two part harmonies and chorded that bass like it was a guitar neck.

Byron's dad was a piano player. He would sit underneath that upright piano and watch his dad's feet work the pedals and figured out there was more than one way to sustain a note. His dad played everything



Photo by Cheryl Jaggers

from ragtime to Louie Armstrong to The Mills Brothers to classical Chopin (Polonaise #5 in B flat minor) to Jerry Lee's "Whole Lot of Shaking Going On." Byron thought his dad was a Green Beret in Special Forces but instead his dad was in Special Services. His dad was an Emcee and Comedian who introduced stars like Bob Hope to the troops and told jokes in between acts. When he got out of the service, he worked for Siegfield and Minsky's Follies doing reunion shows. One afternoon a showgirl showed Byron "where in the world they were" and that changed the reasons for everything , all things lined up, made sense – except how to get there.

Telling his parents that he was going to stay the night at a buddy's house, Byron and some friends took off for Texas some 300 miles away. They went all the way to Houston to meet up with a musician friend he had known before. They ended up seeing some of the top bands of that time: Fleetwood Mac (with Peter Green), Joe Cocker and the Grease band, and the Jethro Tull band with Glenn Clarke on bass. The next day they strolled into a skating rink and stood arms length from Frank Beard and ZZ Top as they played. He had his eyes opened to the three piece blues rock thing.

The Cellar Circuit meant playing in Fort Worth, Dallas and Houston. They played for a week in The Cellar Club in each city, moved on to the next city for the next week and the fourth week you had off. And then you started the Cellar circuit again. The guy who ran this operation had a huge house painted gray and all of the windows in the house were bricked up. Pat Kirkwood was their agent. The band was Fat Albert. Pat was a Herb Alpert freak so the band carried a trumpet with them at all times. When Pat came into where they were playing, the band would stop the music and break into "The Lonely Bull." Pat would give each member of the band a \$100.00 bill. But you couldn't do this with any success twice in one night.

Byron officially moved to Austin in 1967 or '68. Things were great – there cannot be a better place than this – it does not exist. The band house was on the second floor and there were two hookers that lived there. He never did learn their names (!) but one of them got nicknamed "Dirty Legs." That is what they called the band.

The 70's found Byron in a band called the Shades. They were quite well known and cut some, now lost to forever,

45's. They were exploring and experimenting with all different kinds of musical stuff. That band became Little Jimmy and the Skyscrapers. Playing at the Armadillo, they opened for the Police during their first trip to the States and opened for the Ramones and the Talking Heads first tours.

The Austin Opry House had rehearsal halls in the basement and Byron met Willie Nelson, Ray Benson of Asleep at the Wheel, Stevie Ray Vaughn, and the Thunderbirds. Stars like Chuck Berry and Kim Wilson could be seen walking those halls at 8 pm or 4 am –made no difference. At this time Austin's comradery was the strongest with all kinds of music being equal. They played at Antone's on Fourth Street and at Club Foot where The Thunderbirds and Jimmie (Vaughn) called up his brother to play. That was Byron's first exposure to Stevie Ray.

Byron was completely amazed by what happened to Tommy Shannon and John Turner who played with Johnny Winter. Well, they got fired from Mr. Winter. There they were playing all over the world with one of THE best players around and then Poof! Nothing! Tommy went from living in the heights to searching out his bottom. Byron was so sad for him. He thought Tommy would never make it back from there. But he did bounce back to play with Van Wilkes. Then, not surprisingly, he was playing with Double Trouble again. If he could bounce back from that low to that high again, anybody could.

Byron got a phone call from a fellow Texas drummer who had gone to L.A. and had a band. When the band needed a bass player they thought of Byron. They sent him a one way ticket on a Greyhound bus. His bass rig (a big dang 8 x 10 amp) had to go underneath the bus with everybody's luggage. It turned out that it would fit only on one end of the bus. Byron had to get off at every stop to get the luggage for those that got off and to load the luggage of the new people. And sometimes they changed busses, too. Austin to L.A. took three days with hardly any sleep.

There were two guitar players with this group. Clive Taylor, who had played in Amen Corner and had toured with the Beatles and with Hendrix, was from Brighton's industrial part of England. Count Ian Blair did all the lead work on "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and was from the London's artsy part of England. And Byron was a "pig farmer looking for a lawn mower!" They rehearsed together for three months and there were probably 30 fights among them all. Clive and Count never could see eye-to-eye because of their opposite upbringings. Byron tried to stay out of it but got sucked into the arguments one way or another. After three months Byron got back to Austin on a plane – notice not a bus – as they had been drawing good pay just for rehearsing – \$200.00 each weekly per diem - and the bass rig was sent back freight!

Byron was back in Texas for his next band. A bass player named Jesse Sublit had worked with a legendary Austin band The Skunks and also with The Violators an all girl band, except for Jesse. When Jesse left the Violators to be with the Skunks full time, Byron was asked to join the Violators. He says "we were the best unsigned band in Texas" for two years running. Carla Olson was the band leader and later was with Bob Dylan, Tom Petty and others. Cathy Valentine played guitar and later had a long career with the "Go-Go's.

Around this same time Stiff Records out of England would have their artists down in Austin. They managed Elvis Costello, Nick Lowe, and Paul Carrick – that whole scene - people like Patti Smith and Chrissy Hines of the Pretenders – all would be down in Austin. Jake Riviera owned Stiff Records and would bring all his groups to Austin. They would play Raoul's Club and be the "in crowd" while they were there.

The Violators wanted to move back to L.A. but Byron had to say no them due to his becoming a father. Byron married "his baby's momma" (they would separate and divorce six years later). Her family lived in Michigan and Louisville and her sister was Harvey Sloan's secretary. His "baby's momma" moved to Louisville and Byron followed them in 1990.

Before Bryon left Texas, he had quit playing music to make sure that he could pay his child support. He was a music promoter in Dallas for Townsend Productions, a division of EMI. He booked everyone from Greg Allman to Ronnie Montrose for a three state area. Montrose went on tour with Buster Brown and an unknown band out of Fort Worth, Pantera, a Glam Rock band who "played just for the fun of playing." Pantera was a very successful heavy metal band whose lead guitar player, later known as Dimebag, was murdered on stage. Their drummer kept asking Bryon to come play with them and he kept turning them down. But after six months without playing music he gave in and said yes. When he showed up the guitar player was Allan Phelps of Buster Brown. Allan was now the lead player for Crazy Train and he needed a bass player "right now." Byron had a month to listen and learn all of the band's songs. He learned every Black Sabbath and Ozzie Osbourne song that he'd never heard before! And they were on the road to Texas, Florida, and New York. Byron learned that when he got out of his comfort zone – that that was a really good place to learn. And they were voted #1 Ozzie Osbourne Tribute Band in the country. Byron did that tour for a year and a half and when his child support was all paid up – he quit the band and went to Louisville. From Austin to Louisville and he knew no one to play music with in the Louisville area.

Five weeks after leaving Allan and the tour, Byron was in the Dixie Music/Bass World Stores. He met his "to be wife" Debbie. They got together because she thought he was a bass fisherman, too, since he was toting a magazine with the name Bass on the front.

Byron met Larry Ferguson who was putting up an ad for a bass player. Byron said that he could play blues for the rest

of his life and that he'd had all the heavy metal that he could stomach. Fergie gave him the phone number of Mark Stein of Lamont Gillispie and 100 Proof Blues band. When Byron and Debbie sat down at Stevie Ray's Blues Bar they saw on stage Tony Tkac on drums, Mark on guitar and Rick 0'Neil on bass. Byron was hooked from the first song. He thought 100 Proof was on the edge of hard blues when he thought he heard Lamont sing "Ain't no needle that'll go in any further brother." He turned and told Debbie that these guys are pushing the envelope with songs like that. Then they figured out that the song was a Little Walter song named "Go No Further".

Byron was told that they wanted him in the band, but he got confused and stayed confused, because they never practiced. He wasn't sure that he was in the band so he asked Mark about it. Mark assured him that he was in and what time to show up for the next time that they played. That was 15 years ago, just about the time Lamont had his first surgery. He went to see him during his recovery and he told Lamont, "I want to be your bass player –no matter what – no matter how long it takes you to heal." And he says that Lamont said to him, "You are my bass player, Buck". Lamont calls Byron "Lil Buck" – a family name – and Byron likes it because it is more personal. Lamont introduces Byron as "from Dallas, Texas – Lil Buck Davies" – although Byron made his bones in Austin.

Byron is a family man. His son graduated from Atherton High School, also graduated University of Louisville, and now is a lieutenant in the US Navy. Byron is proud of his accomplishments and says that he is the "greatest thing that happened in my life." He moved where his son was – and got to see that happen. Byron met Debbie here in Louisville and they have been together for 20 years. She has seen all this stuff with him and has been with him since his son was five years old. Debbie is a native Louisvillian and would never move away – so Byron can never move away.

According to Byron, October 12th was, on many levels, one of the best days that he can remember. He played at the Garvin Gate Blues Festival and that is always special. This would be the last show Lamont and Byron would play together, until after Lamont's surgery. His wife, Debbie, son Simon, and Simon's mother Sally were there to see him play. He was selected as the 2013 Sylvester Weaver Award winner - which everyone kept a secret! The biggest thing about that whole day for Byron was that it was his dad's birthday...he had passed 17 years ago.

A memory shared by Byron: "I was in Fort Worth visiting my Aunt and Uncle that lived there and they took me to see a concert. Featured on the show were Little Jimmy Dickens and Porter Wagoner and at nine years old – seeing that show with all those "shiny" stars – "I knew that I wanted to be *on stage, in the band* instead of in the audience."

**Byron Davies** 

8/11/51 - 4/25/15





1). Mark Stein 2). Sarah Martin 3). Soul Impaelers 4). Prince Philip Mitchell & Wilson Pickett 5). Greg Foresman 6). Lamont Gillispie 7). Jim Masterson Band 8). Winston Hardy & The Roadmasters 9). Jeff McAllister





### Hot Roux Stranger's Blues Hi Hat Records & Entertainment

This CD is a Louisiana flavored blues and swamp rock and roll recording. The songs were written by Jerry McWorter (Drums) and Brent Harding (Bass). Various musicians contributed their talents to the recording. The band is well known in southern California and has made a strong name backing up other artists such as James Harman, Kim Wilson, Kenny Neal, Lynwood Slim and Albert Lee.

After listening to the CD for the first time I was ready to write my review immediately. I liked the recording right off the bat. However, I held off, feeling I should listen some more to make sure I was not

wrong in my first impression. I was not. Every time I listened I enjoyed it. The music reminded me of The Fabulous Thunderbirds and Kim Wilson's musical stylings. If you enjoyed that kind of music you should enjoy this CD also. The only drawback, if you want to consider it so, is that one of the songs is repeated with just a different mix. It is not an acoustical version and band version like many artists will do. It is just another mix. The first cut is called Seven Lonely Nights and the second is called Another Seven Lonely Nights. I guess they could not decide which mix they liked the best. But still I highly recommend this CD.

# **Ray Current**



### Reverend Raven and the Chain Smokin' Altar Boys Live at The Red Rocket Nevermore Records

While Reverend Raven might not actually be a minister, he can certainly preach the gospel of the blues. And while the Red Rocket is admittedly a fictitious venue (as so stated in the liner notes), it is a place where everything a blues band could want exists – a "church" of sorts where the Chain Smokin' Altar Boys can spread the message of great music.

This live CD of eight tunes (two of which are labeled as bonus tracks) was actually culled from an "A game" performance and recording takes at Kochanski's Beer Hall in the band's hometown of Milwaukee. Though not exactly presenting the most original of sounds, the show serves up plenty of excitement and enthusiasm, not to mention skillful musicianship from a tight band, consisting of keys player Danny Moore, harp player Benny Rickun, the Rev on guitar and vocals, and the rhythm section of bassist PT Pedersen and drummer Bobby Sellers, Jr.

Oh, and don't forget the slide guitar. Lots of slide guitar. In fact, the first half features that playing style quite prominently.

The CD begins with a great tune called "Hawaiian Boogie #3", an all-instrumental that melds swing, Chicago and danceable blues guaranteed to put a smile on your face and a spring in your step. Piano, guitar and blues harp solos round out an excellent first number. The Rev's big gruff baritone, more slide, and a bit later, a more slow-down style of blues, round out the rest of the set list.

This CD is not only really good, it is an accurate representation of what this band is like onstage at its shows. Get the CD, then, go on out and see them perform (they sometimes make it to the Slippery Noodle in Indianapolis). Support live music. Support good music. Support the blues. Go see the Rev.

# Les Reynolds



Sugaray Rayford Southside Nimoy Sue Records

I first heard Rayford singing for the Mannish Boys and then on his own CDs. He now has three CD releases to his credit. He was nominated for BB King Entertainer of the Year and Traditional Male Vocalist for the 2015 Blues Music Awards.

There are 9 songs on the CD, all originals co-written by Rayford or he and bass player Ralph Carter. His style is described as a "Memphis-Stax powered soul" influenced blues. A trumpet and sax adds proper depth to some of the songs. There are ten musicians and a host of vocalists that

contribute to these songs.

The opening track, entitled "Southside of Town" eases you into his big soulful voice as he tells of the side of town where the party is.

The second song, "Miss Thang" introduces a heavier rhythm section and introduces a hypnotic jazzy-guitar throughout, but still showcases Rayford's vocals in a relaxed mode that tells about Miss Thang, that "the church folk call her sassy" and no man can miss seeing as she walks by. He "likes it when you are walking to me baby, I love it when you turn and walk away."

The third song expands on his soulful side and laments the regrets of mistakes made in life, with lyrics "If I live to love again, I'll do it different next time. If I live to love again, I'll be a better man next time".

The fifth song "Take It To The Bank" consists of Rayford's vocals and guest Bob Corritore playing harmonica with some subtle acoustic guitar as Rayford talks economics. His "love is good as gold, so you can take it to the bank". This song "sounds" live as there is background chatter, and sounds as if it is recorded in a small club.

Even with Rayford's booming voice, he can be soft spoken. The song "Take Away These Blues" is a good example as he sings softly but gets loud and gravelly when needed for effect in this slow bluesy tune.

In summary, Rayford is a great vocalist and has proven it many times. This outing, has a good mix of toe tapping music and slow songs to kick back to. You cannot beat his soul-influenced voice, and a couple of songs that are exceptional. Visit <u>www.sugarayblues.com</u> for more information and to sample "South Side of Town".

**Bob Brown** 



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Louisville, get ready for the concert of the year, showcasing twelve of Kentucky's best blues singers in an intimate, living-room setting. \$30 general admission, \$25 seniors. Assure your seats in advance by emailing Lettersong@icloud.com or call Jen Grove at 502-819-1439. To become a sponsor, donate \$50 to our GoFundMe campaign <a href="http://www.gofundme.com/pj5bcd5d">http://www.gofundme.com/pj5bcd5d</a> & receive admission, t-shirt and recognition in our program. Portion of proceeds will go to STRIVE music therapy and education programs. For updates and other ways to support, look for us on Facebook, Lettersong Hosts Ladies Sing The Blues.

# Kentuckiana Blues Calendar

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Nov-1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pizza Place – Open Jam 7:00	Tee Dee's Blues &	Henry Clay's	Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN)	KY Center – Louisville Music Awards	Bistro 42 (Prospect) - Soul Circus	KingPin Lanes – Napoleon & the Beats
Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam	Jazz Club (Lexington)	House (Lexington)	Open Jam 7:00	Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00	Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00	<u>Old Talbott Tavern</u> (Bardstown) – Big Black Cadillac
Stevie Ray's – Hippie Reunion	Tee Dee Young Band	Northside Sheiks	Pizza Place - KBS Board Meeting	Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN)	Old Talbott Tavern (Bardstown) – Big Black	Planet Experience Bar & Bistro - Robbie Bartlett 8:00
Benefit for Paul Bennett	& Friends	Off Broadway Tap	Potbelly's (Downtown) –	Open Mic 8:00	Cadillac 9:00	Stevie Ray's – Jenny & Jets / Ray Fuller &
Willie's Locally Known (Lexington)		House (Madison)	Big Poppa Stampley 11:30 am	Potbelly's (Paddock Mall) -	Stevie Ray's - Old School 9:00	
Lee Carroll's Home Cooking Soul		Open Jam 8:00	Stevie Rav's - Blues & Grevs 8:30			
.lazz Trio 11.00 am		Stevie Rav's -	Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00			
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New Vintage – Open Mic & Jam 7:00	Tee Dee's Blues &	Henry Clay's	Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN)	Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00	Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00	Goose Creek Diner – Big Poppa Stampley 5:30
Pizza Place - Open Jam 7:00	Jazz Club (Lexington)	House (Lexington)	Open Jam 7:00	Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN)	Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00	<b>Jeff Ruby's</b> – Robbie Bartlett 9:00
Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam	Tee Dee Young Band	Northside Sheiks	Potbellv's (Downtown) -	Open Mic 8:00	Shortv's Den (Bedford IN) – Garv Applegate	Lvric Theatre (Lexington) – Robert Crav
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New Vintage – Open Mic & Jam 7:00	Tee Dee Young Band	Northside Sheiks	Potbelly's (Downtown) –	Open Mic 8:00	Snakehandlers Blues Band 9:00	Stevie Ray's – V-Groove 8:30
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		COMPANY MEMBERSHIP (\$150 ENCLOSED)		
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