

The Motor City, the Windy City, the Music City, the River Cities and the Crescent City • Feb./March 2024

BIG CITY *Rhythm &* BLUES

ON THE ROAD
From Cleveland
to Mississippi,
From Chicago
to Minnesota

Bluesin' Guitars & Soul

Down In Mexico on #39 Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise



USA \$5.95 Canada \$7.95



bigcitybluesmag.com

Photo by Shirley Mae Owens
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, November 1, 2023

The blues. It's still red-hot in Mississippi.

Hey, hey, the blues is more than all right here in Mississippi. Just a stone's throw from the legendary crossroads, you can catch performances from living legends and young sensations. And you can get deep down into the roots of American music at the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, the Delta Blues Museum, and GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi. Find your rhythm at [VisitMississippi.org/Blues](https://www.visitmississippi.org/blues).

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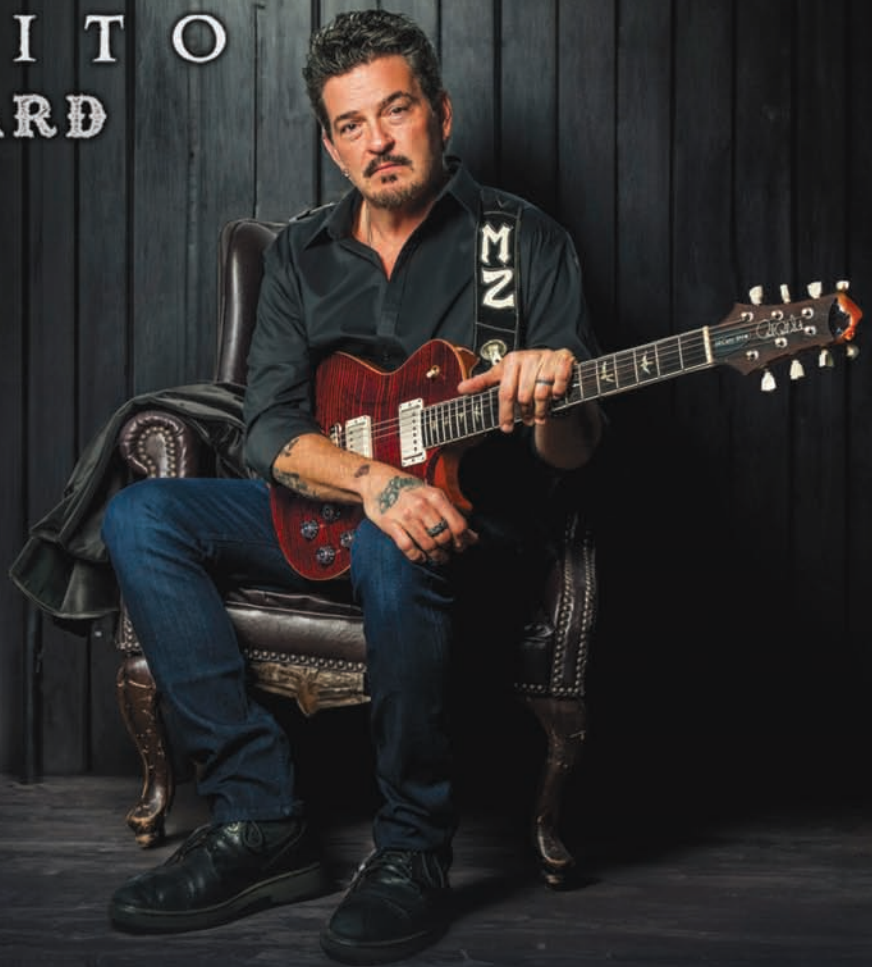


Jimmy "Duck" Holmes | Blue Front Cafe | Benton, Mississippi

MIKE ZITO

LIFE IS HARD

OUT FEB. 23



OUT JAN. 5

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THANK YOU BROTHER BILL



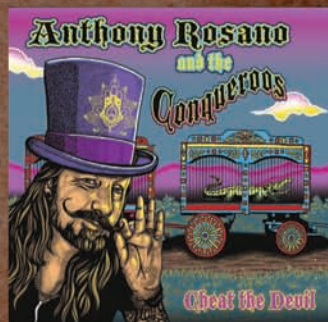
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ANOTHONY ROSANO

CHEAT THE DEVIL

CHEAT THE DEVIL DEBUTED AT #3 ON BILLBOARD



"Cheat the Devil is full of sass, funk, and high voltage guitar." *Blues Rock Review*

"He has the perfect touch and vision for this type of music; it sets him apart from other bands that are just writing songs and taking solos. With Rosano, you always get the sense that there's something deep inside him guiding him forward."

- *Rock and Blues Muse*

Ten bayou-inspired "live" tracks recorded over a six night "Takeover" at the City Winery in Chicago with Tab Benoit on drums and production credits.

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ALIVE IN THE NEW WORLD



LIGHTNIN' MALCOLM

EYE OF THE STORM

"A superb album, one of the best I've heard this year."
—*Music News*

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BLOODSTAINS & TEARDROPS

2022 GRAMMY NOMINATED

"Get ahold of this album as soon as possible and embark on a new and different world of music. Indulge in a whole new blues musical treasure."

—*Sound Guardian*



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ALASTAIR GREENE
THE NEW WORLD BLUES



ERIC MCFADDEN
PAIN BY NUMBERS



JEFF MCCARTY
STEP OUT



ERIC JOHANSON
BURN IT DOWN



JP SOARS
LET GO OF THE REINS



DAMON FOWLER
THE WHISKEY BAYOU SESSION

BIG CITY **BLUES** VIEWS

Cold! Cold! Cold Winter Blues!

I'm in love with my electric blanket. From minus zero degrees in Leelanau County to 88 degrees in Tampa, Florida. We traveled through the highway to hell. First our furnace died - it took a week to fix in zero degree weather. Then our pipes froze and then all the power in our neighborhood failed. It was time to move south! We got packed and moved to our old house in Royal Oak for our last visit with the Henry Ford doctors. Then as a polar vortex covered most of the U.S. we attempted to slowly go south. It was zero degrees all the way to Nashville that should have been completely shut down because they have no salt or snowplows, and inexperienced winter drivers. We stayed at a Hampton Inn in Columbia, TN south of Nashville which barely had heat (only a.c.) and no salt or snowplows but bed bugs and a complete nightmare! There was no snow in Alabama and onward to Florida to



Last sunset of the year! Empire, MI 12/29/23

RIP Dick Waterman

Photo/Laura Carbone



the welcoming home of **Patrick Caragher**. Here at last, in the sunny south! Our last leg was to Fort Lauderdale. I do not want to fly anymore and driving is challenging.

We have never been an obituary magazine. There are too many good men and women who are passing every day. Would it be called "Dead Blues?" We try to concentrate on the living while they are here. But recently three friends of mine and of the blues have

passed and I have to mention them.

Peter Andrews and I formally met when I was a bouncer at Mr. Floods Party and he asked me to be part of his security team at the 1972 Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Festival that he started with my friend **John Sinclair**. I was in charge of the west gates. On Sunday after watching two small hippie families politely sitting outside the gates listening to the music, we had already "lost" any money

Feb./March. 2024, Vol. 30 No. 1

INSIDE

Bluesin' Guitars & Soul

Christone 'Kingfish' Ingram

Even in LA, C*LA*rksdale
Surrounds His Soul9

Ric Whitney

"A King and I"11

DK Harrell

New Blood, Old Soul12

Mr. Sipp

Soulful, Secular and
Spiritual Blues14

Bernard Allison

"I Think the State of the
Blues is Great!"16

Big Llou

Living Large.....18

Cowboy Wilbert

Even Cowboys get the Blues.....20

Some of the Great

Pioneers of Blues Guitar22

Brooke Blackburn

It's All About the Axe.....26

Stephen Hull

Breaking Good.....27

Singa Bromfield

"Givin It All I Got"28

Sean McDonald

Mack Attack!.....30

Harrell "Rel" Davenport

Young Man with an Old Soul.....32

Hastings St Boogie

Billy Davis

Three Time Hall of Famer.....34

ON THE ROAD

Florida.....36

Mississippi.....38

New York City.....40

Chicago.....42

Minnesota.....45

Atlanta.....46

Cleveland.....49

Central California50

REVIEWS52

Blues Birthdays.....58

Junior's Art Page59

Got Mojo?

Sampler #3560

Subscribe62

Sugar Mae64

Festivals 202466

On the cover: Photo by Shirley Mae Owens

www.bigcitybluesmag.com



(l-r) Robert Jr. Whitall, J' Monque D, Bobby Rush & Sugar, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, May 6, 2018.

and these families obviously had none, I approached one family and asked if they had a light for my smoke, the obliged and I let them in. I approached the other couple and asked if I could have a beer, they obliged and I let them in. Peter Andrews caught me and I was fired. Years later I had a roofing/painting company called "Rockers With Rollers" and I hired Peter but when he didn't show up for a week I had to let him go. Karma! Love you, Peter! Hope you are organizing our shows in the great beyond! RIP Peter!

Mister Saturday Night—Louisiana's fountain of knowledge—**Mister J' Monque D** had to move on. An absolute prime source of blues trivia and experience. As a hands-on participator in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Italian blues! One of the first times I saw and heard him I was where he was, the house band at Benny's that was a famous juke in New Orleans run by the Neville family. Ironically this was the first time I laid my eyes on my sweet **Sugar Mae**. The surprise guest that night after **Jazz**

Fest was **Boz Scaggs**. I always had good times with J' Monque D and in 2023 I brought Tommy Castro to his house and made his day! Jazz Fest in the Blues Tent will never be the same without J' Monque D holding court with his little pats of butter.

Sugar always asked why I do my column last? Because Sugar, I want to catch the last minute news and today I was proven right! On Saturday, January 27th,

Robert Jr. Whitall & Peter Andrews, Ann Arbor, MI, May 16, 2016.



Top 11 Songs on Junior's Jukebox

1. Kevin Burt Big Medicine - Thank-you Brother Bill - a tribute Bill Withers
2. Sue Foley - Live in Austin, Vol. 1
3. Kingfish - Live in London
4. Coco Montoya - Writing on the Wall
5. Blood Brothers - Live in Canada
6. D.K. Harrell - The Right Man
7. Anthony Rosano - Cheat the Devil
8. Jason Rici and the Bad Kind - Behind the Veil
9. Blackburn Brothers - SoulFunk'n'Blues
10. Johnny Rawls - Walking Heart Attack
11. Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's CD Sampler #35 Got Mojo?

my friend and mentor, **Dick Waterman** moved on to join Son House with the elders. A leader of the blues world in photography and management, Dick cannot be replaced. I would see him at Jazz Fest in New Orleans a lot when we were young and later. When we were younger, we would both try to hit every stage - all nine of them! The last time I saw him he said, "My wheels don't work that good anymore." I only pick a few to shoot and that is it. One roll of film—one long shot and one close up! I know he was very happy in his home in Oxford, Mississippi and had glorious golden years with his wife, the lovely Cinda. RIP Dick Waterman. I didn't learn technical camera work, but I learned who you should take photos of and I always tried to photograph the unexpected and natural. Thank-you Dick.

Congratulations to **Roger Naber's** epic **40th Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise! Keep on Bluesin'!**

Spring's almost here! See you down the road. Take the high road, when you get to the crossroads - take it! May the river be with you, may the wind be at your back, surf's up, mahola, aloha and don't forget to boogie!

Hope, peace, love & happiness,

Best,
Robert Jr. Whitall

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and Travis Bowlin

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