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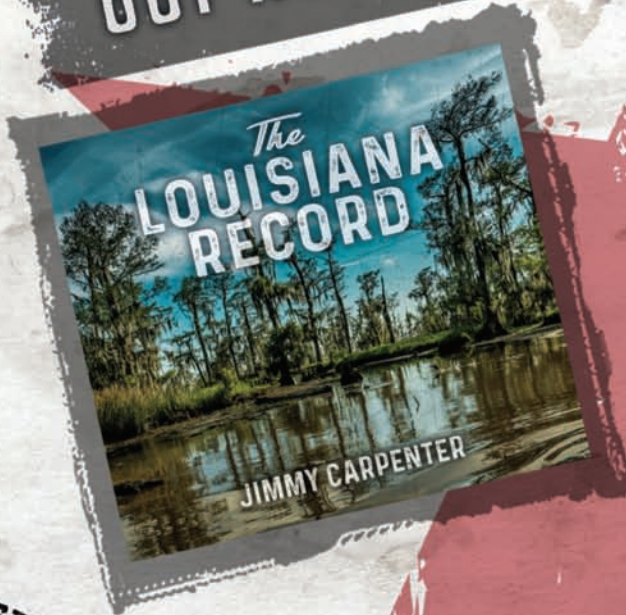


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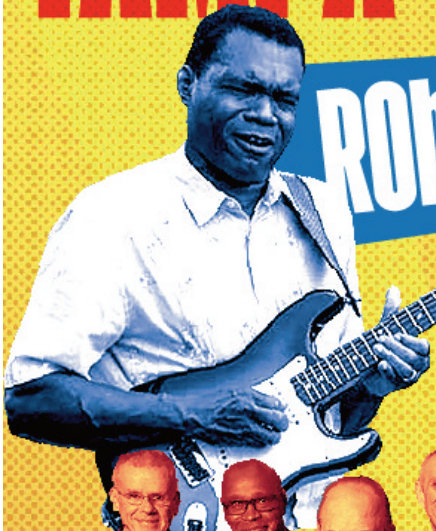
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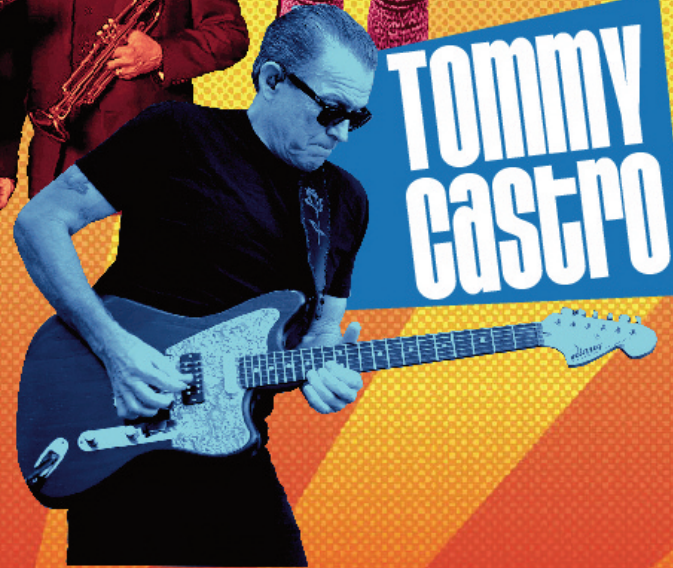
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BIG CITY **BLUES** VIEWS

I'm Not Complaining I'm Just explaining!

"My piano has been drinking!" -Tom Waits

Photo/Shirley Mae Owens

There was always a baby grand in our home while I was growing up but no one ever played it. I was not in charge of the music in my home. Engraved in my mind was the music of the organ master **Lenny Dee**. My dad loved him and I got sick listening to him. But as I have been studying Hammond B-3 players, I understand Lenny Dee and see my father in a different light. I wish I had gospel church organ music embedded in my memories. Not true, it was Lenny Dee! I really got close to pianos in the sixties at the **Blind Pig** in Ann Arbor where in the basement sitting, watching and listening to **Boogie Woogie Red**. Next to me was **Mr. B. - Mark Braun, George Bedard and Steve Nardella**. Later I was hypnotized by **Commander Cody** at Mr. Floods Party. I was a "student" at Eastern University Michigan and I was a roommate with Commander Cody's drummer **Lance Dickerson**. The Commander could rock those 88's!

We lost a whole bunch of piano wizards in the last two years - **Ellis Marsalis, Allen Toussaint, Dr. John, Mike Finnegan, Marty Sammon** and **Commander Cody**. We enjoyed and will continue to enjoy through their music. God speed gentlemen!

Onward into the future, in my time in Ann Arbor I got close to a lot of other piano players such as Steve Lucky from the Blue Front Persuaders, Andy Boller from the **Urbations** and of course



**Two Boogie Boogie Kings-Jimmy Voegeli of the Jimmys and the Commander!-George Frayne
Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise February 2, 2018**

Mr. B. And I cannot forget my old roommate at EMU, **Martin Simmons**, who played keys in many bands including **The Rabbits** and who joyfully planted the moniker of "Whitey" on me. Rest In Peace bluesman!

On October 2022 I gathered six piano masters who Sugar and I like and we hope you do too. **Jim Pugh** is the heart and soul of **Little Village**; **Sonny Leyland** is the **Hoagy Carmichael** of the keys; **Daryl Davis** is a wonderful storytelling piano stylist; **Lady Bianca** has the royal touch; the beautiful piano queen **Taryn Donath**

and following up another California golden light is **Sandy Haley**. These 60 fingers are amazing!

We got back from a beautiful California trip. We traveled to California on the Southwest Chief which was wonderful. All the Amtrak personnel was very kind and good. The **Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise #37** was perfect and probably had the best lineup yet. And then we took a red-eye flight home. Winter is here but we have a southern trip planned. Stay tune!

Now let's talk about CDs. There are many people say-

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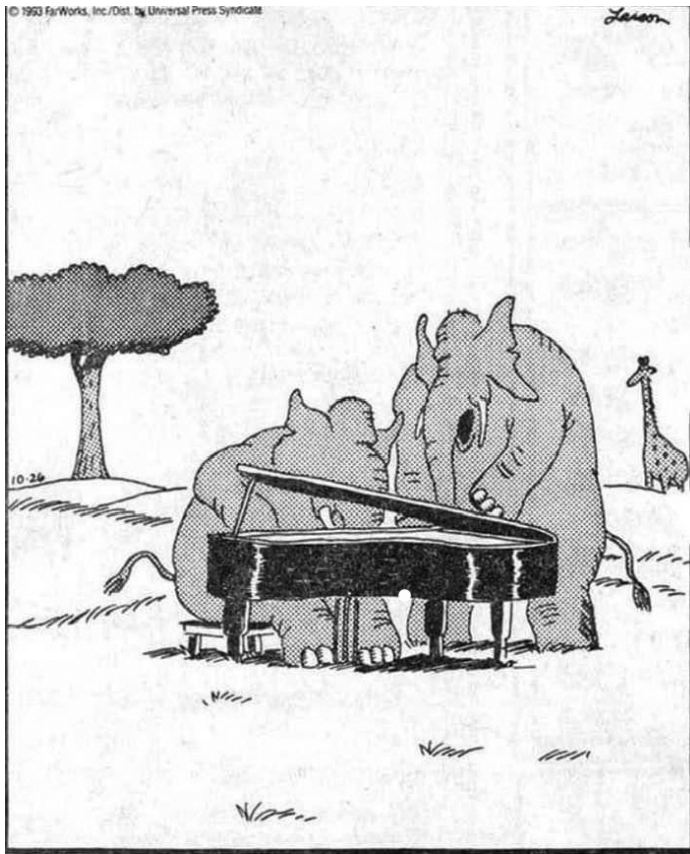
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On the cover: Photo taken by Robert Jr Whitall November 3, 2022 on the Mexican Rivera LRBC

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"Smash your left hand down about right here three times, then twice up in the area, then three times right about here. ...That's 'Louie Louie!'"

ing that everything is going to uploads. That new vehicles no longer have CD players anymore. But CDs are the best way for musicians to get their music out there and get paid for it. Please support your favorite musicians and buy their CDs. We are still plowing along with our next CD Sampler #32 Fresh and to get it you must subscribe! www.bigcityblues-mag.com The CDs rule!

In 2023 we say good-bye to **Buddy Guy** as his last tour is scheduled and in January he will be holding court at his home "Legends" - home of the

blues in Chicago.

We will be spending time again in Ocean Springs and we will have many adventures at Biloxi's number one new blues spot, **Ground Zero Biloxi** and many adventures in the **Big Easy - Mardi Gras** and the start of festival season. Bon ton roulette!

We are looking forward to road trips to Austin, Texas and Nashville, Tennessee. Looking forward to the sold-out January 2023 Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise #38 and my big birthday party on April 14th in St. Petersburg at the great **Tampa**



As He Wished, a Memorial Service for My Beloved Buddy Fox

Will be held at The Jewish Congregation of Maui Beit Shalom Synagogue

In-person and via Zoom Sunday, December 11, 2022 at Noon in Hawaii 2:00 pm in California ~ 5:00 pm in New York

634 Alulike Street. Kihei, HI 96753

In loving memory, Anne Marie Sternbach

TOP 11 SONGS IN JUNIOR'S JUKEBOX

1. Buddy Guy, Blues Don't Lie
2. Dr. John, Things Happen That Way
3. Ben Levin, Take Your Time
4. Larry McCray, Blues Without You
5. Shemekia Copeland, Done Come Too Far
6. Sandy Haley, Feels Like Freedom
7. Little Freddie King, Blues Medicine
8. Chris Canas, Detroit
9. John Primer, Hard Times
10. Patty Tuite, Hard Case Of The Blues
11. Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's CD Sampler #31, Night Time Is the Right Time

Bay Blues Festival. Winter is short if you let it be!

My only bad news is that our prices will go up next year, the first time in almost 30 years. The shipping to get the subscribers first class delivery has doubled and the price of paper has zoomed out of control. We really have no choice so we are pondering what to do. Please subscribe now. Our wonderful subscribers keep our lights on and the presses rolling and the post office humming. We really appreciate you all!

Congratulations to the winners of the **"Coolest Blues Song" of 2022 - Bob Angell and Emma Wilson!** Your song on our CD Samplers gets your music where you want it to go: to our subscribers who spend money and the blues cruisers who also spend money on blues music. Get on the Sampler, it helps promote your music!

Buddy Fox - our long-time blues friend from the streets of Manhattan recently passed in the arms of his loved one Anne Marie on Maui. Buddy was the heart and soul of blues in Manhattan running the Lone Star and Manny's Car Wash and had his fingers in many other clubs promoting blues. RIP Buddy Fox.

See you down the road, up the river, on the high road, on Willie's bus, adios, happy trails, surf's up, aloha, mahola and don't forget to boogie!

Hope, joy, peace, love and happiness,

Best,
Robert Jr. Whitall

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Photo by Adam Crown

Blues Blast Magazine Review:
"Feels Like Freedom, is a very impressive release from Sandy Haley...A highly enjoyable collection of superb modern-day blues and soul tracks."

Currently booking festivals.
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