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## Birthday Blues

### Happy Centennial Willie Mabon!

Blues, Rhythm & Blues pianist, keyboardist, vocalists, songwriter and harmonica player, Willie James Mabon aka Big Willie Mabon is another "centennial" birthday to celebrate as he was born on **October 24th, 1925** in Hollywood, TN (north side of Memphis). His early influences were Roosevelt Sykes and Big Maceo. Mabon moved to Chicago in 1942 where he started piano lessons but then joined the Marines to fight in WWII. Upon his return he was 20 years old and started a band in 1947 called The Blues Rockers that were popular in Chicago's "Black Belt."

Mabon first recorded on Aristocrat that later became Chess Records. In 1952 with his new band, Willie Mabon & His Combo, had his first huge hit, "I Don't Know," on the new Parrot label that was acquired by Chess. "I'm Mad" and "Poison" were other hits that followed. Mabon is cited as the first to record Willie Dixon's "Seventh Son." As his hits and popularity waned in the U.S., he moved to Paris in 1972 and released several LPs while touring Europe. Willie Mabon died in Paris on April 19, 1985 and is buried in Alsip, Cook County, Illinois.



## Libra

September 23 – October 22

10/1/1893 – Wesley "Kid Sox" Wilson, Jacksonville, FL  
 10/1/10 – Johnny Brown, Montgomery, AL  
 10/1/36 – George "Wild Child" Butler, Autaugaville, AL  
 10/2/40 – King Solomon, Jackson, MS  
 10/2/51 – Coco Montoya, Santa Monica, CA  
 10/3/20 – Jim Brewer, Brookhaven, MS  
 10/3/56 – Deborah Coleman, Portsmouth, VA  
 10/7/39 – Mel Brown, Jackson, MS  
 10/5/15 – Ala Mae Miller, Georgia  
 10/5/16 – Billy Diamond, New Orleans  
 10/7/39 – Mel Brown, Jackson, MS  
 10/16/22 – Blanche Thomas, New Orleans, LA  
 10/11/48 – Margie Alexander, Carrollton, GA  
 10/12/29 – Nappy Brown, Charlotte, NC  
 10/14/22 – Jimmy Liggins, Newby, OK  
 10/14/26 – Son Thomas, Eden, MS  
 10/15/1906 – Victoria "Queen" Spivey, Houston, TX  
 10/15/15 – Nellie Lutch, Lake Charles, LA  
 10/17/29 – Tina Mayfield, Stamps, AR  
 10/18/39 – Jesse Mae Hemphill, Como, MS  
 10/20/06 – Johnny Moore, Austin, TX  
 10/21/19 – Crown Prince Waterford, Jonesboro, AR  
 10/26/49 – Shirley King, West Memphis, AR  
 10/27/09 – Henry Townsend, Shelby, MS  
 10/31/1902 – Julia Lee, Boonville, MO  
 11/1/1898 – Sippie Wallace, Houston, TX  
 11/1/36 – Andre Williams, Bessemer, AL  
 11/3/30 – Mabel John, Bastrop, LA  
 11/4/06 – Willie Love, Duncan, MS  
 11/8/13 – Gatemouth Moore, Topeka, KS  
 11/10/33, Bobby Rush, Homer, LA  
 11/10/29 – Mojo Buford, Hernando, MS  
 11/10/36 – Hip Linkchain, Jackson, MS  
 11/11/29 – Lavern Baker, Chicago, IL  
 11/11/42 – Aaron Love, Jonesboro, AR  
 11/12/06 – Bukka White, Houston, TX  
 11/13/12 – Lu Barker, New Orleans, LA  
 11/14/42 – Rockie Charles, Boothville, LA  
 11/14/59 – Valerie Wellington, Chicago, IL  
 11/16/1873 – W.C. Handy, Florence, AL  
 11/16/31 – Hubert Sumlin, Greenwood, MS  
 11/16/39 – W.C. Clark, Austin, TX  
 11/17/1904 – Jack Owens, Senatobia, MS  
 11/21/13 – K.C. Douglas, Sharon, MS  
 11/21/40 – Dr. John, New Orleans, LA

## Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

11/23/26 – R.L. Burnside, College Hill, MS  
 11/25/14 – Eddie Boyd, Clarksdale, MS  
 11/25/41 – Percy Sledge, Leighton, AL  
 11/25/43 – Jerry Portnoy, Evanston, IL  
 11/25/48 – Jim O'Neal, Fort Wayne, IN  
 11/26/29 – Tina Turner, Nutbush, TN  
 11/27/42 – Jimi Hendrix, Seattle, WA  
 11/29/1894 – Lucille Hegamin, Macon, GA  
 11/29/28 – Big Bo McGee, Emelle, AL  
 11/29/33 – John Mayall, Macclesfield, England  
 11/30/09 – Robert Nighthawk, Helena, AR  
 11/30/16 – Brownie McGhee, Knoxville, TN

## Scorpio

October 23 – November 22

10/23/33 – Carol Fran, Lafayette, LA  
 10/24/11 – Sonny Terry, Greensboro, GA  
 10/24/25 – Willie Mabon, Hollywood, TN  
 10/25/71 – Rosie Ledet, Eunice, LA



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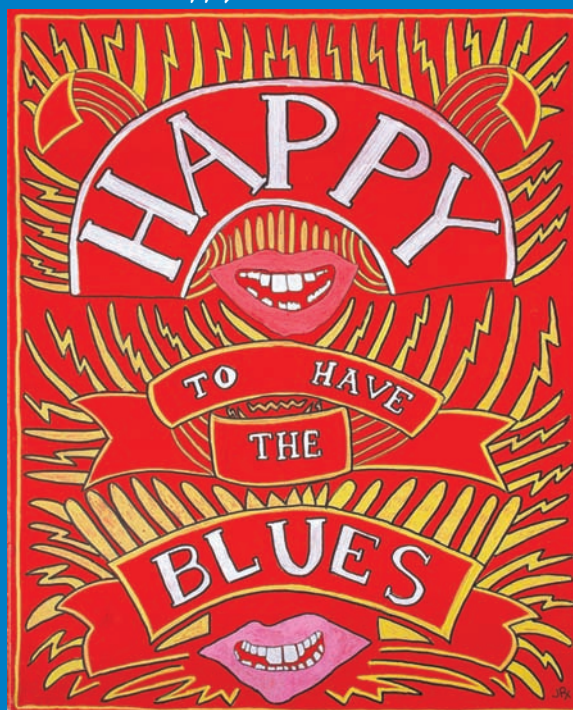


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# 30th Anniversary Double CDs

## Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine Sampler #37- 2025

**Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's** 30th Pearl Anniversary CD Sampler features 37 songs as a special bonus gift for our loyal subscribers! Big thanks to all - subscribers, record labels, musicians, advertisers, writers and founders-the late great Robert Jr. Whitall and Charlie Auringer. **Producers:** Sugar Mae Owens, Charlie Auringer & Bob Monteleone. Contact: blues@bigcitybluesmag.com 248-582-1544  
**For promotional use only; not for sale.** See artist social media/websites for more information.

### Disc 1



**1. BETTYE LAVETTE**  
"Plan B" (3:44)  
LaVette!  
@jayveerecords  
Bettye Lavette may not have a "Plan B" but she is in very good company with producer/drummer Steve Jordan and songwriter Randall Bramblett.



**2. JOHN PRIMER**  
"Born in Mississippi" (3:32)  
Grown In Mississippi  
BluesHouseProductions.com  
John Primer brings us back to his Mississippi roots collaborating with Blues all-stars



**3. CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE**  
"Storm Warning" (4:04)  
Look Out Highway  
FortyBelowRecords.com  
Get on the road with Musselwhite, dance, shake and watch out, you will not want to stop!

**4. TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS**  
"Crazy Woman Blues" (5:25)  
Closer To The Bone  
Alligator.com  
Castro knows Blues and he grabs your attention with this gut-wrenching song.



**8. BOBBY CHRISTINA'S CARAVAN**  
"Evil" (3:42)  
True Blues Brother-the Legacy of Matt "Guitar" Murphy  
Nola-Blue.com  
Bobby Christina's all star tribute to his friend Matt "Guitar" Murphy is a masterpiece!



**5. KENNY NEAL & MICAH WILLIS**  
"Devil's In The Delta" (4:28)  
VerdictMusic.com  
Father and son, Kenny Neal and Micah Willis unite their talents to bring us deep, soulful swampy Blues.



**6. LITTLE FREDDIE KING**  
"Coming Home To Jesus" (2:44)  
Going Upstairs  
Newville-Records.com  
New Orleans reigning Blues monarch, Little Freddie King is the real deal!



**7. VASTI JACKSON**  
"Voodoo Boogie" (3:07)  
Royal American Blues  
VastiJackson.com  
High energy, hard working, non-stop international Blues touring, Vasti Jackson is everywhere!



**9. RARE UNION**  
"Blues Be Strong" (3:27)  
Times They Always Change  
RareUnionBand.com  
Percussion-based Rare Union keeps the Blues flame lit and burning.



**10. BRANDON SANTINI**  
"Which Way Do We Go?" (4:11)  
Which Way Do We Go?  
MoJoRecords.com  
Memphis-based Santini has been going everywhere with his harp driven songs, touring non-stop.



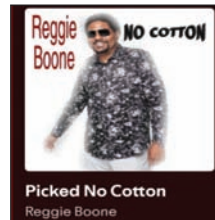
**11. CHRISTOPHER WYZE & THE TELLERS**  
"Cotton Ain't King" (4:36)  
Stuck In The Mud  
BigRadioRecords.com  
Wyze is an amazing songwriter who has exploded on the Blues scene with this authentic music.



**12. CHRIS VINCENT & THE RAW DEAL**  
"Midnight After All" (2:59)  
Good Crook  
ChrisVincentNewOrleans.com  
Vincent's talents has it all and what it takes to break out in the abundant New Orleans music scene.



**13. GOPHER BROKE**  
"Cloud Up and Rain" (5:30)  
It's About Damn Time!!  
GopherBroke.org  
Yes it is "Damn Time!" and the fun begins with Gopher Broke—boogie-based Blues.  
**14. REGGIE BOONE**  
"Never Picked No Cotton" (3:36)  
Never Picked No Cotton  
LoveInternetRecords.com  
Boone remixes Atlanta's favorite



DJ - Dr. Love's "I Ain't Picked No Cotton..." and makes it his own.



**15. OC SOUL & THE SOUL PATROL BAND**  
"It Don't Take All Night" (4:30)  
OCSoulBand.com  
Southern Soul is in the house, roll up the rugs, get down and groove with OC!



**16. CLEVELAND'S BACKSTREET BLUES BAND**  
"Ice Cold" (5:03)  
BackstreetBluesBand.com  
You will not feel "Ice Cold" after you jump up to this driving Blues beat song.  
**17. ALLISON AUGUST**  
"Afraid of Love" (3:14)



**August Moon**  
MoJoRecords.com  
What's not to like? Allison August has arrived and you will love what you hear!



**18. REDD VELVET**  
"Fish and Light Bread (The Juke Joint Song)" (4:03)  
ReddVelvet.com  
Simply delicious - Redd Velvet keeps you hungry for more tasteful tunes!



**19. LIZ PENNOCK & DR. BLUES**  
"Christmas Eve Present" (5:00)  
Christmas Eve Present  
LizPennock.com  
It's never too early to start shopping but to get you into the spirit, here's a "Christmas Present" just for you!

### Disc 2



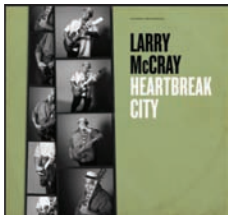
**1. BIG CHIEF MONK BOUDREAUX & SPY BOY JWAN BOUDREAUX**  
"Slip Don't Fall" (2:57)  
Slip Don't Fall  
WildHeartRecords.com



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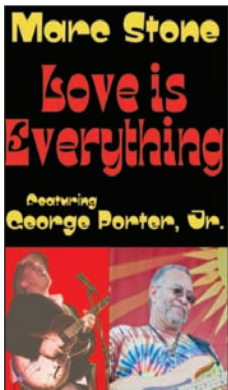
The Golden Eagles' Big Chief and his Spy Boy grandson captures the Mardi Gras Indian spirit.



**2. LARRY MCCRAY**  
"Heartbreak City" (7:23)  
Heartbreak City  
KTBARRecords.com  
McCray's guitar and vocals merge effortlessly with a moody organ and horn accents to give you his Blues!



**3. BRAD VICKERS & HIS VESTOPOLITANS**  
"Dumb Like A Fox" (1:59)  
The Music Gets Us Thru  
BradVickers.com  
Veteran Blues man Vickers brings together a little rockabilly and 12 bar Blues.



**4. MARC STONE WSG George Porter, Jr.**  
"Love Is Everything" (5:21)  
MarcStonePresents.com  
It is a good thing as Stone celebrates his musical passion with The George Porter, Jr. Trio and Joy Clark!  
**5. GARRETT COLLINS PROJECT**  
"Better Days" (4:24)  
BlackhatBlues.com  
This southern funky Blues Rock trio will take you there!



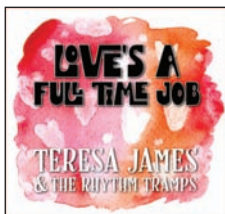
**6. CANNONBALL RED**  
"Put My Blues On You" (6:14)  
BlackhatBlues.com  
Multi-instrumentalist, singer songwriter, Cannonball blends modern Blues with his Gospel roots.



**7. BROOKS MILGATE**  
"I Should've Known" (5:03)  
Roll With the Punches  
MoMojoRecords.com  
Here is an expert keyboardist, singer and songwriter as Milgate channels his hero - Jimmy Reed.



**8. CANDICE IVORY**  
"Lookin' For My Baby" (4:14)  
New Southern Vintage  
Nola-Blue.com  
Look no further, you have the accomplished Ivory to sing the Blues for you.  
**9. MAX HIGHTOWER**  
"Double Bubble" (3:42)  
Nothin' But The Truth  
MoMojoRecords.com  
With growing vocals and a super harp, Hightower knows how to deliver.



**10. TERESA JAMES**  
"Love's A Full Time Job" (3:08)  
MoMojoRecords.com  
It's always a pleasure to listen to James, a gifted songwriter, singer and keyboardist.



**11. THE ALEXIS P. SUTER BAND**  
"God Gave Me The Blues" (3:48)  
Just Stay High  
Nola-Blue.com  
A mighty Blues shouter, Suter will capture your soul.



**12. THE BC COMBO FEAT. BEV CONKLIN**  
"Hooked On A Long Chain" (2:22)  
Glass Half Full  
MoMojoRecords.com  
BC aka Bev Conklin's rich and sultry vocals will get you hooked on her Blues.  
**13. ROBBIN KAPSALIS WSG JOE LOUIS WALKER**  
"The Blues Is In The House" (3:48)  
The Blues Is In The House  
BluesHouseProductions.com  
Newly signed to John Primer's label, Kapsalis' vocals soar with grit and spirit!



**14. D.K. HARRELL**  
"Liquor Stores and Legs" (3:28)  
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Need a break? Go out Bluesin' with D.K. and you will feel better!



O'Leary's soulful voice, clever lyrics with his talented harp makes the Blues jump!



**16. THE STUMBLING MICE**  
"Know You Rider" (7:17)  
The Stumbling Mice  
HanzieRecords.com  
The Stumbling Mice mix their modern Blues Rock with a popular traditional Folk song.



**17. CHRIS CAIN**  
"Fear Is My Roommate" (3:33)  
Good Intentions Gone Bad  
Alligator.com  
With his powerful vocals and guitar, Chris Cain always delivers.



**18. TORONZO CANNON**  
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Toronzo tells the truth with his timely lyrics and stellar guitar work!

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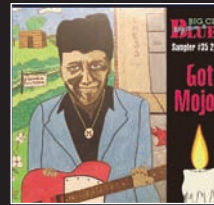
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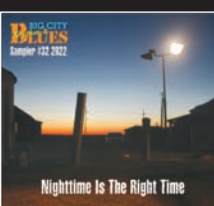
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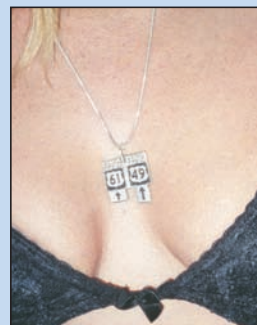
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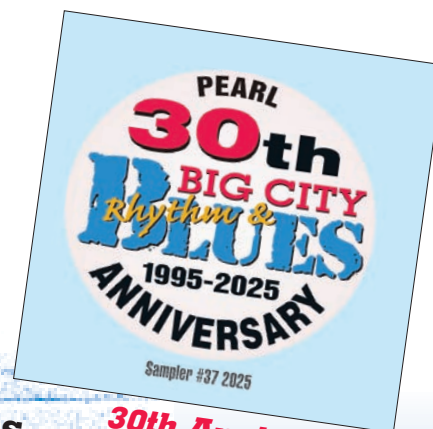


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# BIG CITY Rhythm & Blues SUGAR MAE

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Vasti Jackson greeting a Quantum Leap Music Fest fan! 8/16/25

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Sugar had a successful *Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine* East Coast tour in August beginning with making a "Quantum

Leap" across NYC's huge double decker George Washington Bridge to the **Big Chief Donald Harrison's Quantum Leap Music Festival**

Gaynelle & Cyril Neville strolling through the Borghese Vineyard, Quantum Leap Music Fest, 8/16/25



60 Big City Rhythm & Blues • Oct.-Nov. 2025



Early Times debuted at Saint Georges Country Store, Delaware. 9/5/24

(nola2nofo.com), Borghese Vineyard, Cutchogue, Long Island, NY aka North Fork. Sugar immersed herself in four days of New Orleans-inspired music curated by Big Chief Harrison Jr. who performed daily beginning with his **Nouveau Swing Experience** wsg Syndee Winters. Next up was the eclectic **New Orleans Kelzmer All-Stars** and then the **Headhunter Bill Summers! Quantum Leap Music Fest, 8/17/25**



Trumpeter Chief Adjua (formerly Christian Scott) joined Big Chief Harrison

**Zaccaï Curtis Cubop! Sextet.** Friday began with Big Chief Harrison Jr's Congo Square Nation Afro-New Orleans Group wsg Chief Adjua and BlaqNMild. The Quantum Leap All-Star Jam took the stage next followed by a **ANTWIGADEE DJ** set that got everyone ready for Erica Falls then CJ Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band. Saturday kicked off with the high energy of **Vasti Jackson** followed by a Quantum Leap All-Star Jam, **Leo Nocentelli** and **The Dirty Dozen Brass Band.** Sunday began with **Kyle Roussel** then Sugar enjoyed **Donald Harrison's Electric Soul Summit** wsg Tonya Boyd, **Preservation Hall Legacy Band**







**Congo Square Afro-New Orleans Spy Boy Dwain Hitchens is ready to take the Quantum Leap Music Fest stage. 8/15/25**

and **The Headhunters** with **Cyril Neville**. Thank you **Bennet Lapidus** for the fantastic Quantum Leap Music Fest experience.

It wasn't easy for Sugar to do a "Quantum Leap" back as she drove over the tall Verrazano-Narrows Bridge to Atlantic City, NJ's **Tony Mart's Mardi Gras on the Boardwalk** for **Devon Allman's Blues Summit**

with **Jimmy Hall, Sierra Green, Larry McCray & Ghalia Volt**. As Hurricane Erin threatened the music was moved from the beach to the Claridge Hotel. Thank you **Carmen & Nancy Marotta** for your hospitality!

Then Sugar returned to New York City's Central Park for **Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Festival** plus an afternoon at **Strawberry Fields** and an

**Devon Allman & Jimmy Hall, Atlantic City's Mardi Gras on the Boardwalk. 8/20/25**



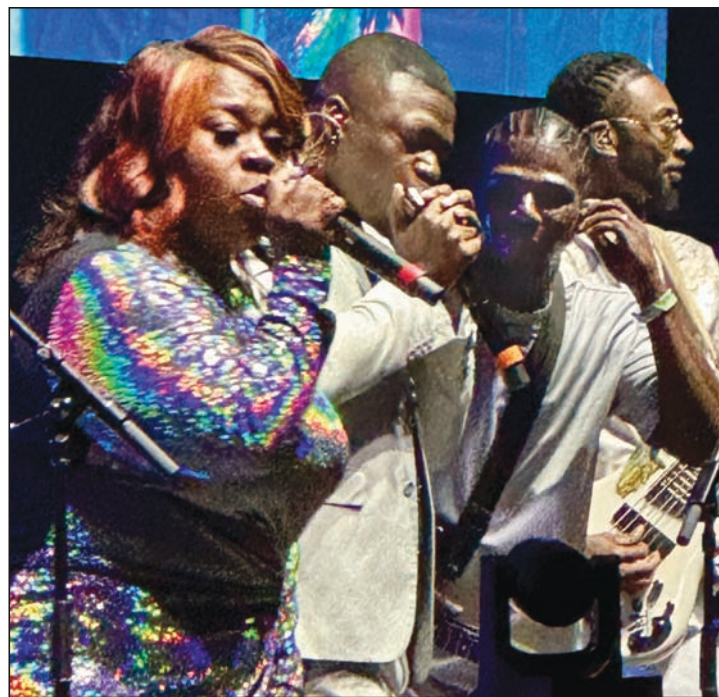
**Sierra Green, Carmen Marotta & Larry McCray at Devon Allman's Blues Summit, Atlantic City, NJ, 8/20/25**

evening with **Brad Vickers & His Vestapolitans** at the **Shrine** in Harlem.

For Sugar's East Coast finale she drove over the busy Delaware Memorial Bridge to make her debut at **Saint Georges Country Store** where

also making their debut was **Early Times & The High Rollers**. Thank-you **Geno Fontana** for the biggest crab cake that she has ever had! Love & happiness!  
**Sugar Mae**

**Lady Adrena, Keith Johnson, Anthony "Big A" Sherrod & Rev. Slim, Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues, Central Park, NYC, 8/27/25**





# On The Road with the Big City Rhythm & Blues SOCIAL & PLEASURE CLUB BLUES TOURS 2025-2026-2027 Festivals & Special Events

• **October 4th, 2025**  
**Bluesberry & Beer Festival**  
Nocross, GA  
bluesberrybeerfestival.com

• **October 10-11, 2025**  
**King Biscuit Blues Festival**  
Helena, AR  
kingbiscuitfestival.com

• **October 10-12, 2025**  
**Crescent City Blues & BBQ Fest**  
New Orleans, LA  
jazzandheritage.org

• **October 17-19, 2025**  
**NOLA Funk Fest**  
New Orleans, LA  
nolafunkfest.com

• **October 25- Nov 1, 2025**  
**#43 Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise**  
Sea of Cortez, MX  
bluescruise.com

• **January 13-17, 2026**  
**International Blues Challenge**  
Memphis, TN  
blues.org

• **January 18-25, 2026**  
**Big Easy Cruise**  
Ft. Lauderdale, New Orleans & Cozumel  
bigeascruise.com

• **January 24-31, 2026**  
**#44 Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise**  
Eastern Caribbean  
bluescruise.com



Happy Birthday Bobby Rush - November 10th!

• **February 27 & 24, 2026**  
**Poulsbo Blues & Jazz Festival**  
Poulsbo, WA  
poulsborotatory.org

• **April 10 - 12, 2026**  
**Tampa Bay Blues Festival**  
St. Petersburg, FL  
tampabaybluesfest.com

• **April 16-19, 2026**  
**French Quarter Festival**  
New Orleans, LA  
frenchquarterfest.org

• **April 23 - May 3, 2026**  
**New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival**  
New Orleans, LA  
nojazzfest.com

• **July 9-11, 2026**  
**Briggs Farm Blues Festival**  
Briggsville, PA  
briggsfarm.com

• **Oct. 31 - Nov. 7, 2026**  
**#45 Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise Mexican Riviera**  
bluescruise.com

• **January 16-23, 2027**  
**Big Easy Cruise**  
bigeascruise.com

• **January 31-February 7, 2027**  
**#46 Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise**  
Eastern Caribbean  
bluescruise.com

## Junior's Jukes-Big City Rhythm & Blues Clubs

• **Durham, NC**  
The Blue Note Grill  
• **Atlanta, GA**  
Northside Tavern  
Darwins  
Blind Willies  
Fat Matt's  
• **Ann Arbor**  
The Ark  
• **Austin, TX**  
Antones  
The Continental Club  
Skylark Lounge  
• **Lockhart, Tx**  
Old Pal Texas Tavern  
• **Bay St. Louis, MS**  
100 Men Hall D.B.A.  
• **Biloxi, Mississippi**

Ground Zero Biloxi  
• **Chicago, IL**  
Buddy Guy's Legends  
Rosa's Lounge  
Lee's Unleaded Blues  
Reggies  
Space  
Kingston Mines  
Taylor Street Tap  
• **Clarksdale, MS**  
Red's Juke Joint  
Ground Zero  
• **Detroit, MI**  
Third Man Records  
Raven Lounge  
Berts Marketplace  
Northern Lights  
PJ's Lager House  
El Club



The Shrine, Harlem, NYC

Token Lounge  
• **Florida**  
Skippers  
• **Fort Myers, FL**  
Buckingham Blues Bar

• **Indianapolis, IN**  
Slippery Noodle  
• **Berwyn, IL**  
Fitzgerald's  
• **Kansas City, MO**

Knuckleheads  
BB's Lawnside Blues & BBQ  
• **Los Angeles, CA**  
Harvelles Santa Monica  
Maui Sugar Mill Saloon  
Baby Blues BBQ  
• **Madison, WI**  
Red Rooster IN  
• **Memphis, TN**  
Rum Boogie  
BB Kings  
Wild Bills  
• **Milwaukee, WI**  
Mamies  
• **Nashville, TN**  
Bourbon Street  
Blues&Boogie  
Third Man Records  
• **New Orleans, LA**

Tipitinas  
House Of Blues  
B J's  
Little Gem Theatre  
Kermit's Mother-In -  
Law Lounge  
Maple Leaf Bar  
Broadside Chickie  
Wah Wah Rock N'  
Bowl  
• **New York, NY**  
Terra Blues  
Red Lion  
• **Ocean Springs, MS**  
The Shed  
The Julep Room  
• **Pensacola Beach**  
Paradise Bar & Grill  
• **San Francisco, CA**

Biscuits and Blues  
The Saloon  
Eli's Mile High Club  
Yoshi's Oakland  
• **San Jose, CA**  
Poor House Bistro  
• **St. Augustine Beach, FL**  
Cafe Eleven  
Pensacola Beach, FL  
Paradise Bar & Grill  
• **St Louis, MO**  
National Blues Museum  
Broadway Oyster Bar  
• **St. Georges, DE**  
St. Georges Country  
Store  
• **Woodstock, NY**  
Colony  
• **Zachary, LA**  
Teddy's Juke Joint



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*Our Artists Stay & Play, They Don't Hit & Run!*



## **LRBC #44 Eastern Caribbean Jan. 24 ~ 31, 2026**

Ft. Lauderdale to St. John (USVI), St. Maarten & Half Moon Cay **Holland America Nieuw Statendam**

**Taj Mahal & the Phantom Blues Band • Kenny Wayne Shepherd • Christone "Kingfish" Ingram  
Dumpstaphunk • Tommy Castro & the Painkillers • Ronnie Baker Brooks  
Danielle Nicole Band • Victor Wainwright & the Train • Vanessa Collier • Southern Avenue  
Billy Branch & Sons of Blues Revue • Nick Moss Band feat. Dennis Gruenling w/ Lil' Jimmy Reed  
Mr. Sipp • The Phantom Blues Band • Doug MacLeod • Monster Mike Welch • Zac Harmon & the Drive  
Jontavious Willis (Solo & Band) • Sierra Green & the Giants • Dylan Triplett • Ghalia Volt (Solo & Band)  
Mathias Lattin • Dave Gross & Pat Harrington • Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal ('25 IBC Winners)**

**Piano Bar:** Mitch Woods Club 88 • Rev. Billy C. Wirtz • Daryl Davis • Kelley Hunt • Eden Brent w/ Bob Dowell  
**Brooks Milgate Late Night:** Chuk Barber's Soul Lounge • Mr. Sipp's Sugar Shack

## **LRBC #45 Mexican Riviera Oct. 31 ~ Nov. 7, 2026**

San Diego to Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta & Mazatlan **Holland America Koningsdam**

**PREBOOK NOW! \$500 per cabin (not per person) fully-refundable deposit holds  
your space in line to book once the band announcement is made in early December!**

## **LRBC #46 Eastern Caribbean Jan. 31 ~ Feb. 7, 2027**

Ft. Lauderdale to Ports of Call TBA! **Holland America Nieuw Statendam**

**PREBOOK NOW! \$500 per cabin (not per person) fully-refundable deposit holds  
your space in line to book once the band announcement is made in early April!**



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