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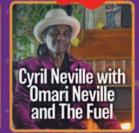






























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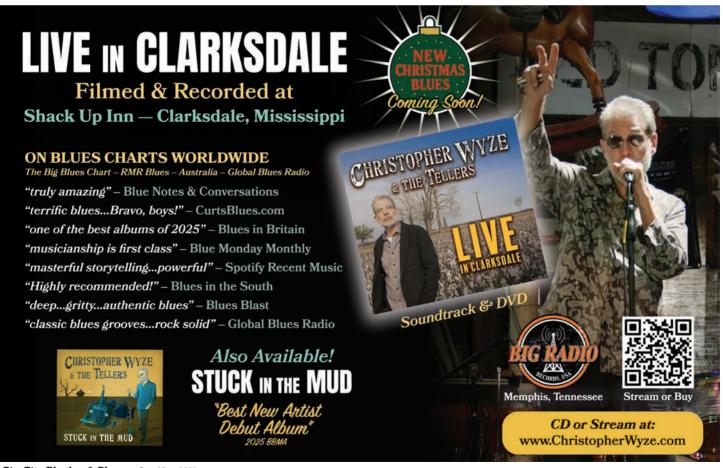
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("Special appearance by Galactic ft. Jelly Joseph at Tipitina's in NOLA)







BIG CITY VIEWS

Music & Wine!

inevards and music go together so well that some winemakers believe that musical vibrations can actually enhance the grapes' growth and often the wine tastes even better depending on the song you are listening to. No matter, music & wine are a popular combination across the country. There are over 25 vinevards where I live Up North in the Leelanau Pennisula on the west coast of Michigan. I visit the vineyards year-round that have music, do tastings and pairings. In fact, I just enjoyed a wine pairing with tomatoes while listening to live music! (Thank you Glen Arbor Wines!)

Thus, the cover shoot theme was conceived at Borghese Vineyards on Long Island at Big Chief **Donald Harrison's Quantum Leap Music** Festival. Last April, during the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Bennet



Sugar loves sailin' on the high seas! Lake Michigan, 9/20/25

Lapidus invited me to his Quantum Leap Fest. Despite August being my favorite

time to jump in Lake Michigan, I jumped in my van instead to begin an East

(I-r) VD King, Bill Rankin, Margey Peters, Sugar, Ousman & Brad Vickers, The Shrine, Harlem, NYC, NY, 8/29/25.



Oct./Nov. 2025, Vol. 31 No. 5

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Vasti Jackson

No Plannin	g Required	
Donald	Harriso	n

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Photo by Shirley Mae Owens

On the cover:



Cyril Neville autograhed Robert Jr. Whitall's portrait of Cyril, Big Chief Donald Harrison Quantum Leap Music Festival, 8/17/25.

Guy Powell & Larry McCray, Devon's Blues Summit, Tony Mart's Mardi Gras On The Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ, 8/20/25



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Top 11 Songs on Junior's Jukebox

- 1. John Primer Grown in Mississippi
- 2. Mud Morganfield Deep Mud
- Maria Mulduar One Hour Mama The Blues of Victoria Spivey
- 4. Roomful of Blues Steppin' Out
- 5. Christopher Wyze & The Tellers -Live In Clarksdale
- 6. Marc Stone Love Is Everything
- 7. Big Chief Monk Boudreaux & Spy Boy Jwan Boudreaux - Slip Don't Fall
- 8. Vasti Jackson Voodoo Boogie
- 9. Chris Vincent Good Crook 10. Cannonball Red - Put My Blues
- On You 11. Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's CD Sampler #37- 30th Anniversary Sampler

Coast tour at the Quantum Leap Music Fest where the cover shoot evolved.

Besides Long Island, I also popped into NYC for Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues, Atlantic City's Tony Mart's Mardis Gras on the Boardwalk and Saint Georges Country Store in Delaware. Because I live my life for music and friends, I am tempted to drive south to the King Biscuit Blues Festival, the Crescent City Blues and BBQ Festival and NOLA Funk Fest but I am torn and my time is tight as I begin packing for the upcoming #43 **Legendary Rhythm & Blues** Cruise, 10/25-11/1/25. "Let's Go Bluesin'!" says Roger Naber!

"Mojo is broken and I don't have a spare!" wails Bettye LaVette from "Plan B," the opening song on the #37 Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's 30th Anniversary CD Sampler featuring two discs and 37 songs - a thank you gift for our subscribers! Enjoy! Big thanks to Bob Monteleone and Charlie Auringer and of course all the record labels and musicians!

Take the high road, when you get to a crossroads take it, may the river be with you, may the wind be at your back, surf's up, mahola, aloha, don't forget to boogie & big love!

Hope, peace & happiness,

Shirley Mae Owens aka Sugar



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