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BIG CITY *Rhythm &* BLUES



ON THE ROAD
From Long Island
to California,
from Minnesota
to Mississippi



Vasti Jackson,
Giovanni Borghese,
C.J. Chenier, Bennet
Lapidus & Big Chief
Donald Harrison
Quantum Leap
Music Festival,
Borghese Vineyard,
Cutchogue, NY

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BIG CITY **BLUES** VIEWS

Music & Wine!

Vineyards 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 vineyards where I live Up North in the Leelanau Peninsula 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**

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



Photo/Capt. Dirk Wissbaum



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

Lapidus invited me to his time to jump in Lake Michigan, I jumped in my August being my favorite van instead to begin an East

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Photo by Shirley Mae Owens

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Cyril Neville autographed Robert Jr. Whittall'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



Top 11 Songs on Junior's Jukebox

1. John Primer - Grown in Mississippi
2. Mud Morganfield - Deep Mud
3. 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 Mardi 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,
Best,

Shirley Mae Owens aka Sugar

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