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Photo/Shirley Mae Owens



Sheryl Youngblood



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Blues Songbirds!

Bia Marchese, Dylan Triplett, Lil' Scrap,
Keeshea Pratt & Rebekah Todd



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BIG CITY **BLUES** VIEWS

Songbirds & Lovebirds - Songs of Love

Little Bluebird, "I know a little bluebird, I sure wish she would sing for me. She's been flyin' around so long, I wish she would land in my tree." — **Johnnie Taylor** (Written by **Isaac Hayes**, **David Porter** and **Booker T. Jones**, Stax, 1966)

Lastly I haven't been able to stop listening to my favorite living songbird **Rev. Al Green** and his "new" recording, "To Love Somebody," that was written by the **Gibb** brothers originally for **Otis Redding** but he died before he could record it due to that fatal plane crash on 12/10/1967, so **The Bee Gees** recorded it and it became a hit. **Rev. Green's** new interpretation makes it his own and brings it like most of his songs do. Songbirds are lovebirds spreading their wings across all genres and who does it better than **Bettye LaVette**? "I took my broken wings and learned how to fly," wails **Bettye LaVette** a great interpreter of not only **Paul McCartney's** "Blackbird" but transforms



Sugar & Yazmine Jay, #44 LRBC, 1/28/26.

so many songs. The cover photo came together on the last day of

the recent #44 **Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise** (Thanks to **Gerado Lopez** better known as "G" for your assistance in the **Crow's Nest!**). Thanks to all who show up and supports **Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine**. I cannot do this work without you!

"The Mothership has landed!" **D-Vibes & C-Note**, #44 LRBC, 1/31/26



Sugar & Johnny Rawls, **Monterey Court**, **Tuscon, AZ**, 3/5/26



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INSIDE

Blues Songbirds!

Dylan Triplett
St. Louis Songbird.....9

Frank Limil Robinson
A New Old Soul on the Scene.....12

Keeshea Pratt
Houston Songbird Delivers
the Goods14

Songbird Rebekah Todd
After 20 Years of Touring – There is No
Limit16

Bia Marchese
A Brazilian Bluebird
in Love with the Chicago Blues18

Sheryl Youngblood
Workin' Hard!.....20

Alexis P. Suter
Just Stay Live, Just Stay High – Just
Stay!22

Lady Adrena
A Mississippi Powerhouse
Songbird24

The World's Oldest Instrument:
The Voice26

Hastings St Boogie
Eliza Neals
Thunder In The House28

ON THE ROAD

Mississippi.....30
Cleveland, Mississippi.....33

Seattle34
Minnesota.....35

Atlanta36
Cleveland.....37

Austin39
Maryland40

Song of the Songbird
a poem by Mike "Mojo" Griffin.....41

New Jersey.....42
Wisconsin.....43

Carolinas.....43
Somers Point, NJ44

Memphis46
Chicago.....48

Broadcast.....49
REVIEWS.....50

Blues Birthdays.....54
Junior's Art Page55

30th Anniversary
Double CD Sampler #3756

Subscribe58
Sugar Mae.....60

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On the cover:
Group Photo by Shirley Mae Owens
Insert photos Peter Hurley (Sheryl
Youngblood) & Tom Hazeltine, Jr.
(Alexis P. Suter)

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S.E. Ellis & Sugar, Arizona Blues Hall of Fame Showcase, Monterey Court, Tucson, AZ, 3/7/26

The North Mississippi Allstars - Dickinson brothers- Luther & Cody, Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival, 3/1/26



Selwyn Birchwood, Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival, 2/28/26

Spring is here and I hear songbirds in the air everywhere as I recently traveled to work at the **Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival** and to Tucson for **Arizona's Blues Hall of Fame Showcase**. I returned to northern Michigan ("Up North") just in time for an epic blizzard. I'm packing again and ready to get on the road to work at the **Tampa Bay Blues Festival, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival** and the **Blues Music Awards** as well as all points in between. See you out there!

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

Top 11 Songs in Junior's Jukebox

1. Buddy Guy, "Ain't Done With The Blues"
2. Selwyn Birchwood, "Electric Swamp Funkin' Blues"
3. Al Green, "To Love Somebody"
4. Duke Robillard, "Blast Off"
5. Mavis Staples, "Sad & Beautiful World"
6. Alexis P. Suter, "Just Stay Live"
7. Omar Coleman & Igor Prado, "Old New Funky & Blue"
8. Robin Kapsalis, "Blues Is In The House"
9. Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials, "Slideways"
10. Tinsley Ellis, "Labor of Love"
11. Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine CD Sampler #37 "30th Anniversary"

BIG CITY Rhythm & Blues

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