

The Motor City, the Windy City, the Music City, the River Cities and the Crescent City • Aug./Sept. 2023

BIG CITY Rhythm & BLUES



...and more

Chicks With Picks

Ruthie Foster and band

At the 2023 Blues On The Fox
Aurora, IL

ON THE ROAD
From Minnesota to Chicago
From Mississippi to New York



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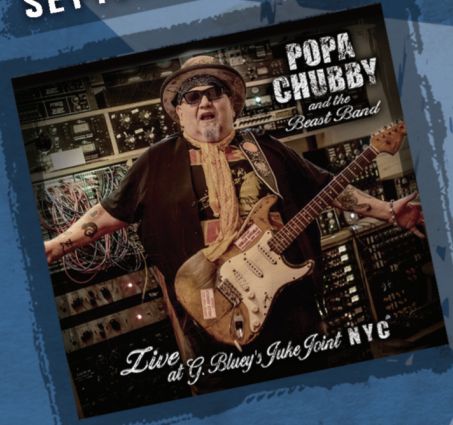


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RELEASE DATE
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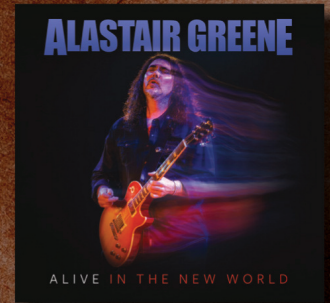
“Cheat the Devil is full of sass, funk, and high voltage guitar.” *Blues Rock Review*

“He has the perfect touch and vision for this type of music; it sets him apart from other bands that are just writing songs and taking solos. With Rosano, you always get the sense that there’s something deep inside him guiding him forward.”

- *Rock and Blues Muse*

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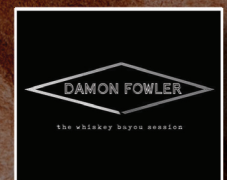
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8:30- THE CHITLINS
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5:30- GREGG WRIGHT
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DK Harrell
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Gregg Wright
The Chidins
Jonny Sansone
Mr Sipp
and more...



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BIG CITY **BLUES** VIEWS

I Ain't Complaining, I'm Just Explaining! In the woods in my shady grove!

Summertime and
the living is easy.

— George Gershwin

Summer, summer, summer is my favorite time of year! We are in our happy place. No people, no traffic and no AC is needed. It is 75 degrees here, not 100 and very lucky! We finally got the permit approved to live here! In the spring, summer and fall! There is music in the air up here like New Orleans or Woodstock. There are musical instruments and music lovers everywhere. As you will see on our CD Sampler 34 there are string benders here! Billy Strings and Larry McCray are Michigan woodsmen, fishermen and string benders. We have hope in a hopeless world here in Leelanau County (the "Little Finger"), come visit!

The festival season is cooking at full throttle! After **New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival**, we had the pleasure of attending and working at the **Blues On The Fox, Aurora, Illinois**. As usual we had a great booth and got to catch up with new and renewal subscribers from the **Fox Valley Music Foundation**.

The **Ruthie Foster Band** was kind enough to pose for our August/September 2023 "Chicks with Picks" that you are holding! **Miss Ruthie** has the warmest smile and the friendliest personality in the blues. The "Chicks with Picks" cover girl could not have been a better choice. Ruthie Foster was a monster of guitar in Austin, Texas and now the world. To hear her with a gospel choir behind her is something to behold. Roll on **Sister Ruthie!**

The only "Chick with Picks" that is absent here is **Samantha Fish**. She was on tour but we will soon see her at **The Ark** in Ann Arbor, Michigan on August 13th.

Photo courtesy of Underground Garage



Palmyra Delran, one of Philly's finest guitarists.

Junior with his two Memphis writers,
Julia Magness & Erin Vickers, in New Orleans.

Photo/Shirley Mae Owens



Aug/Sept 2023, Vol. 29 No. 4

INSIDE

Ruthie Foster and her band

Ruthie Foster
In the Beginning.....9

Larry Fulcher
Touching Base with a Touching
Bassist.....12

Hadden Sayers
Texas-Infused, Through and
Through.....14

Scottie Miller
Versatility is Key.....15

Brannen Temple
The Man Behind
the Drums.....16

**Female Blues Guitar
Pickers of the Past**.....18

Chicks With Picks
Ana Popovic
+ Power = Unity.....20

Gaye Adegbalola
Satisfied Blues Woman.....22

Radka Kasparcova
Radical Chicago Blues Guitar.....23

Laura Chavez
She Broke the Glass Ceiling!.....26

Debbie Davies
Guitar Master.....28

Joanna Connor
Defining a New Generation
of Chicago Blues Guitarists.....30

Ghalia Volt
Chick without a Pick.....31

Ivy Ford
Time To Shine.....32

Sue Foley
The Ice Queen!.....34

Hastings St Boogie
Paula Messner
Six String Stories.....36

ON THE ROAD

Minnesota.....38

Mississippi.....40

Basel, Switzerland.....43

Off Broadway.....45

Atlanta.....45

New Jersey.....47

Chicago.....48

Cleveland.....49

REVIEWS.....52

Blues Birthdays.....58

Junior's Art Page.....59

The Raven Speaks
Sampler #34.....60

Subscribe.....62

Sugar Mae.....64

Festivals 2023-2024.....66

On the cover: June 16th, 2023 at
Blues On The Fox by Robert Jr. Whitall

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Photo/Shirley Mae Owens

Two Ruthies and one Junior. (2016 Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise.

You can hear Samantha's "Kick Out The Jams" on **Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's new CD Sampler #34, "The Raven Speaks"** - Subscribe!

Kudos to **Laura Chavez** for being awarded Best Blues Guitarist by the **Blues Foundation**. She is so quiet and reserved but behind **Candy Kane, Vanessa Collier, Nikki Hill and Taryn Donath & others**, she runs the show. The pride of San Diego and Santa Barbara will be on the October **#39 Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise Mexican Riviera** that is sold out but get on the waiting list - www.bluescruise.com.

Congrats to our Dearborn, Michigan writers **Lisa & Eric Harabadian** for their new documentary "We Thrive!" Very good reviews so far and a very exciting time for our two documentarians.

And thank-you to our master distributor **Bob Monteleone** and **The Monteleones**. Bob is an editor, writer, producer, teacher and musical director. And thanks to our traveling correspondent, photographer and distributor **Mr. Bob Krause**. And big thanks to **Ted Boomer** and **Jimmy Jabo** for helping us to get **Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazines** to Glen Arbor.

Looking down the road, we have Nashville, Kansas City and Austin on our list. We will also be looking at my birthplace, Philadelphia - maybe a radio issue with my new favorite radio personality, **Sirius XM's Little Steven's Underground Garage** hostess with the mostess—**Palmya Delran** and her show "Trash Pop Shindig." Her band **The Doppel Gang** really rock the east coast but her musical knowledge and her musical selection is first rate. A real chick with a pick!

The **Mike & Laura Zito** story is quite a love story. The world has gotten

to know **Laura and the Zitros!**
RIP **Laura Duke Zito**.
Prayers and love from **Sugar & Junior**.

Please keep your subscriptions going and if you are not a subscriber, please subscribe to keep the magazine going. You subscribers make the magazine thrive and makes it so we can continue to tell stories and get them to your mailboxes. Subscribe! It is only a few dollars but means a lot to us.
www.bigcitybluesmag.com.

The Gulf Coast Boys and **The Burdickville Boys** mean **Sugar** and I have a team of musicians when we are in the Gulf Coast in the winter and when we are by Lake Michigan in the summer. We are pretty lucky. Check out **The Chitlins** and **The Burdickville Boys** when you get a chance.

"Happy to Have the Blues" - our book on the making of **Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine** and the stories about how I came up with the covers. Fantastic cover stories (I think) such as on how I got **Bobby Bland** and **B.B. King** to pose for my camera...the stories behind the covers is coming soon!

Music is love! I worked in that "rock and roll world" before I realized that all rock and roll comes from the blues. The Rock and Roll world was hard and mean. The Blues world was mellow and down home, full of love. Let's keep it that way. Music is love!

Love on you! My sweet **Sugar** has kept me alive (really), revived the magazine and is in the process of designing and building our studio-Shady Grove, Helms Deep, **Sugar Mae's Blues Camp** or **Sugar & Junior's Shout Out!** Choose the right name and you'll win a subscription.

Junior, Tommy Castro & Tom O'Connor on Freret St., New Orleans, 2023.



Photo/Shirley Mae Owens

Top 11 Songs in Junior's Jukebox

1. **Larry McCray** "Blues Without You"
2. **Samantha Fish & Jesse Dayton** "Death Wish Blues"
3. **Ana Popovic** "Power"
4. **John Primer** "Teardrops for Magic Slim"
5. **Buddy Guy** "Blues Don't Lie"
6. **Joanna Connor** "Rise"
7. **Mike Zito & Albert Castiglia** "Blood Brothers"
8. **Kingfish** "662"
9. **Lightnin' Malcolm** "Eye of the Storm"
10. **Johnny Rawls** "Going Back to Mississippi"
11. **Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's CD Sampler #34** "The Raven Speaks"

Back to the subscriptions; subscriptions keep us printing and is an important pillar to publishing **Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine**. If you have been featured in our magazine and was unable to afford an ad to help, you can afford a subscription to say thank-you! Thank-you! We cannot do it without you. Love on you!

Thank-you to the Farmacy and Ms. Jane for keeping the fight against cancer and cannabis prohibition. It doesn't get you high, it gets you happy.

See you down the road, take the high road, when you get to the fork in the road, take it, may the wind be at your back. may the river be with you, high tide, surfs up, mahola, aloha and don't forget to boogie!

All the best,
Love, happiness & peace,
Robert Jr. Whittall

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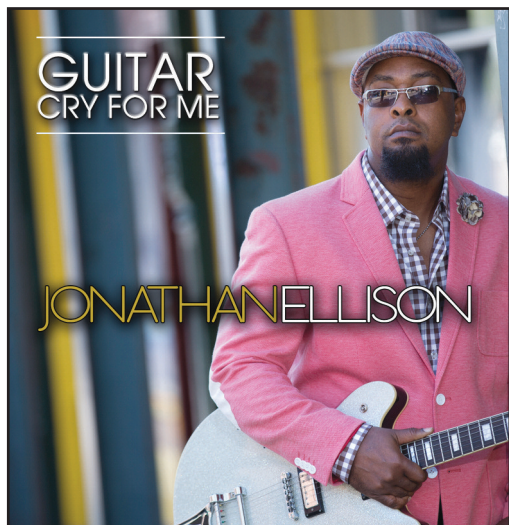
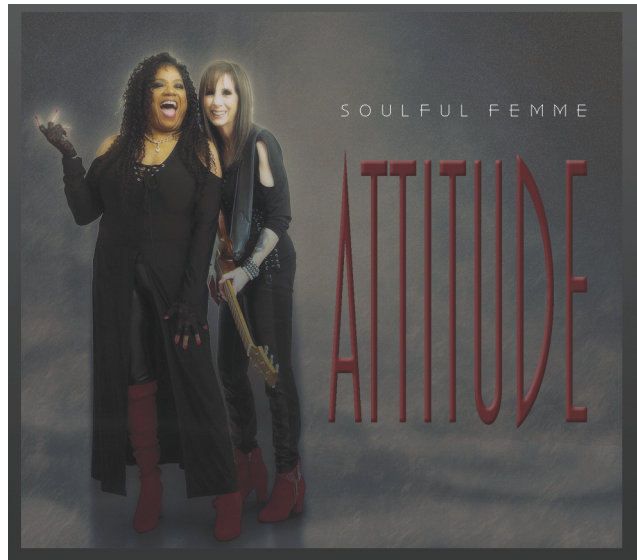
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is excited to announce the new album "Attitude" from Soulful Femme has been released! Get your copy today and you won't regret it! The album was produced by Albert Castiglia, engineered by

Dave Gross, and recorded at Fat Rabbit Studios. "Attitude" was also backed by Michael Bram and Matt Raymond! Featuring special guests Tommy Castro, Kevin Burt, Albert Castiglia, and Dave Gross!!



JONATHAN ELLISON

www.Jonathanellisonmusic.com

Booking:

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336-255-7109

info@tinaterryagency.com

for 2024 with her new band Mandalyn & The Hunters. Her last performance was at The Funky Biscuit where she received 4 standing ovations! Catch her on a tour near you!

We are also excited to announce the signing of Jonathan Ellison to our roster! Jonathan Ellison was crowned the new "King of Beale Street" in 2019. He released his debut album, "Guitar Cry for Me" to rave reviews from Living Blues Magazine and other outlets. Jonathan plans a fall 2023 release for a new single as well as a full album, "Rhythm and Soul Blues Man" in 2024. Mandalyn is also working on a new album

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