

NOV2018



Issue 290

The Publication of the Linn County Blues Society - lcb.org

November 2018

# LCBS Party at Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery!

★ The Linn County Blues Society, Keepin' the Blues Alive in Eastern Iowa  
Presents

**Bob Dorr & Friends a.k.a. The Parlor City Jam Band!**

Bob Dorr, Jeff Petersen, Tom "T Bone" Giblin and Dan "DJ" Johnson

Four Iowa Blues Hall of Famers come together to help LCBS celebrate! ★

**Friday, November 2 from 6-9PM • Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery**  
1441 Marak Rd NW, Swisher, IA

Show us your tickets for Bruce Hornsby and save \$2 on a brick oven pizza!

## Inside this November 2018 issue —

- LCBS to vote on bylaws
- Limestoners find new home!
- Sears and American blues
- Phil Smith reviews: Amanda Fish, FREE
- Vanessa Collier-Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro
- Savoy Brown with local stars at Veterans Memorial
- Local music schedules
- Harvesting The Arts 2018



# Time to Vote!

## LCBS to Vote on New Bylaws



Vote on revised LCBS Bylaws  
at the November 5th Meeting!

The LCBS has been reviewing and updating our Bylaws and have drafted changes which reflect our operating practices. These will be up for a vote at the next monthly meeting. The key changes are:

- Language affirming the LCBS tax status as a non-profit charitable corporation.
- Membership period of 12 months from the date of sign-up or renewal. The old bylaws had an annual renewal in July of each year.
- Addition of higher contribution and honorary levels of membership.

All LCBS members in good standing are encouraged vote at the meeting on November 5, 2018 at the Longbranch. We have been having a "soft start" to the meeting at 6:00 PM with 30 minutes of music with the business meeting starting at 6:30 PM.

# Blues jam now at Lark's Restaurant

## Wandering Limestoners find new home!

Bob Dorr

**B**ryan has landed on his feet with the Barmuda Corp. and has asked The Limestoners to be part of launching a brand new restaurant / micro brewery in Cedar Falls.

So the Thursday Night Blues Jam started last Thursday, October 18 at the new Lark Restaurant and Brewery, (currently Beck's on Main St). Same 7-10PM time frame.

So please help spread the word about this latest move. We hope we're at Lark Brewery for decades to come on Thursdays. Come and jam it this Thursday!

A note  
from  
Dorr!



The Shack Tavern  
Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey  
Every Sunday 3-6PM

★ The Limestoner's  
Thursday night jam is now at  
Lark's Restaurant & Brewery  
in Cedar Falls!

Support  
your local, live music  
venues!

The Linn County Blues Society is a way cool, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Blues music in Eastern Iowa as well as to provide charitable contributions to other community organizations. LCBS is an Affiliated Organization in the Blues Foundation's international network. The BLUESPAPER is a monthly publication of the LCBS. Website: [lcbs.org](http://lcbs.org)

### LCBS Officers

President - David Antin  
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Director of Development - Mark Rowell  
Web Administrator: Kerry Cutsforth  
Photographers - see bylines  
Staff Writers - see bylines  
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### Membership

To learn more about the Linn County Blues Society or to join, see the membership form in this Bluespaper or the LCBS website. Your membership includes;

- Discount admissions to many local Blues activities.
- Monthly LCBS Bluespaper.
- Voting rights in the LCBS elections.
- Being a part of the groove!

### Bluespaper Contact information

Send news, band or club live entertainment schedules, advertising, donuts, Oreos®, or Bailey's® to: Evan Vulich at: [evulich@mchsi.com](mailto:evulich@mchsi.com).

### Bluespaper Ad Rates

\$15.00 - Business card size - 2" x 3.5"  
\$35.00 - Quarter page ad - 3.5" x 4.75"  
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**Submission Requirements-** All ads, photos or scanned images, either color or black/white, need to be 300ppi. Native Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, JPG, TIFF, EPS, PDF, BMP accepted. Ads created in MS Word may cause dementia, severe cramping or diarrhea. **Deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**Moving?** Send your new address to; LCBS, PO Box 2672, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2672 so you won't miss a single issue of your Bluespaper.



# American blues thanks Sears

## Blues musicians now have an ax to grind

Corky Siemaszko

Article submitted by Bill Ray

Sears is currently singing the bankruptcy blues — but it's a little-known fact that the retail giant also helped nurture the musical genre spawned in the Deep South.

Because that quintessentially American form of music was created and disseminated by Delta bluesmen wielding steel-string guitars purchased from the Sears catalog — which leveled the shopping playing field for blacks in the Jim Crow era, according to music experts.

“There was an amalgamation of a number of things that led to the development of the blues and the acoustic guitars being bought through the Sears catalog was certainly one of them,” said Michael Roberts, who teaches a class on the history of the blues at DePaul University in Chicago. “It was inexpensive enough that the blues artists were able to save up the money they made as sharecroppers to make that purchase.”

Michael Stryker, director of the jazz studies program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said the catalog was likely a mecca for musicians in the Mississippi Delta.

“It makes complete sense given the pervasiveness of the Sears catalog,” he said. “That catalog went everywhere across the country and folks would mail order all sorts of goods.”

The role that Sears and their famous catalog appears to have played in revolutionizing American music is just one of the strands of the much larger story about how the company enabled blacks in the Jim Crow South to overcome the discrimination they faced in local stores.

The discussion comes as Sears Holdings, facing extinction and buckling under a massive debt load, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Monday — and after Louis Hyman, an associate history professor at Cornell University, weighed in on the catalog in a Twitter thread that was shared more than 16,000 times and attracted the attention of The Washington Post and other news organizations.

In my history of consumption class, I teach about #Sears, but what most people don't know is just how radical the catalogue was in the era of #Jim Crow. #twitterstorians— Louis Hyman (@louishyman) October 15, 2018.

“The Sears catalog played a radical role in combating the Jim Crow laws,” Hyman told NBC News. “Whether it was a guitar or a gun or a nice suit, it enabled African-Americans to buy what the white people bought and at prices that were cheaper than in the local country store.”

Most African-Americans lived in rural areas back then, and “the only place they had to shop was the local store, which was often owned by the guy who rented them the land,” said Hyman.

While these stores were one of the few places where blacks and whites could freely mingle, African-Americans had to endure humiliations like being served last or denied credit, he noted.

“So the Sears catalog was an opportunity to buy at city prices and maintain some dignity,” he said.

Local white store owners were resistant, Hyman said, “and not just because they were losing business.”

“The Sears catalog helped blacks push back against white supremacy and Jim Crow capitalism,” Hyman said.

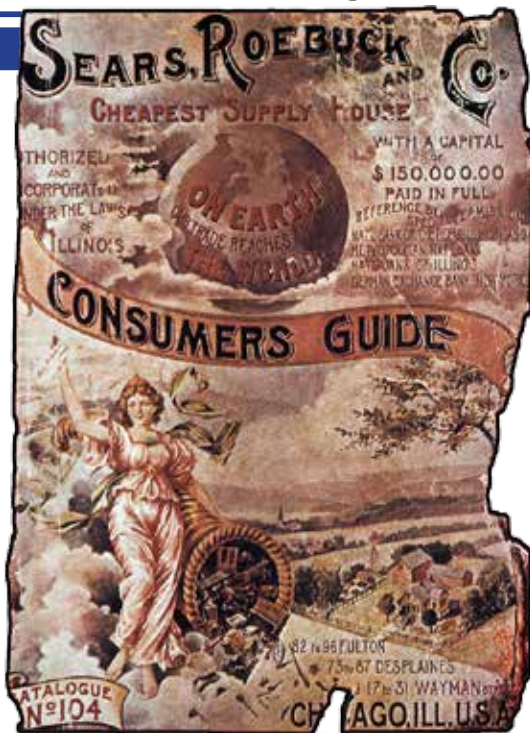
Guitars made their debut in the Sears catalog in 1894, six years after the company began publishing them. The cost? Four dollars and fifty cents, or about \$112 in today's dollars, Chris Kjørness, a Michigan-based musician wrote in Reason magazine.

“Throughout the 1910s Delta blacks routinely ordered a wide assortment of goods from Sears, Roebuck, including the instrument that would define them,” he wrote. “There was no Delta blues before there were cheap, readily available steel-string guitars.” Sears began selling those for \$1.89 in 1908.

“Soon sharecroppers throughout the Delta were ordering guitars from Sears in hopes of supplementing their income on weekends,” Kjørness wrote. “The catalog is frequently mentioned in the biographies of Delta bluesmen.”

One of them was Muddy Waters, often called the “father of modern Chicago blues,” who bought a used Sears “Stella” guitar in 1930 and embarked on a legendary career that would land him in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

*The blues comes right back to a person's feelings, to his daily activities in life. But rich people don't know nothing about the blues, please believe me.*



A vintage Sears and Roebuck catalog cover circa 1897



## Amanda Fish

FREE

Vizztone 2018

Free, the latest album from Amanda Fish has a sense of earnest purity in both the writing and presentation. The music, delivered with the swagger of an outlaw poet, is a heart-stopping head-turner. Amanda not only holds court as vocalist on this terrific blues-rock record, but she also plays bass (all tracks), acoustic guitar, electric and 12-string guitar, mandolin and piano. This artist is extremely talented to say the least. Drummer Glen James backs her on all the tracks. Also appearing on this disc, are guitarists Dave Hayes, Ken Valdez, Coyote Bill and Lois Nadal, Chris Hazelton on keys, and vocalist Sara Morgan. Special guests include Alastair Greene, “Steady Rollin” Bob Margolin, Tyler Morris, and Richard Rosenblatt

One of the most amazing songs I've heard this year is the blues ballad “Any more”. Fish's vocals are heartfelt and soulful. Hayes' contagious guitar riff, and Hazelton's funky keys sign, seal and deliver this wonderful track. I love the swampy southern twang of “The Ballad of Lonesome Cowboy Bill”. Like an old Marshall Tucker record, this one sets up shop with a tale to tell and a fistful of fiery guitar licks. Fish's powerhouse vocals are nicely framed by Margolin and Morris. Alastair Greene kicks the door in and takes no prisoners with a dynamite guitar performance on “Going Down”. This is one bad-ass house-rockin' song. The infectious driving rhythm on “Not Again” charges along like a freight train on a mission. Rosenblatt sweetly accompanies on harp, and Hays on guitar. “You Could Be” is beautifully played. It's got such a robust sound rooted in the wonderful instrumentation of Fish on guitar and piano, Hazelton on organ, and Coyote Bill on guitar.

Amanda Fish grabs my full attention with Free. It is one hell of a spectacular listen. That's for sure.

— by Phil Smith

# Vanessa Collier

## "Honey Up"

Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro

So to say that Vanessa Collier, who is still a few years south of the age of thirty, has done it all would be an outrageously ridiculous statement.... or would it? Yeah, it probably would be - but saying she's doing it all would be hitting the nail right on the head. In a genre where recognition usually comes after your social security checks start arriving, the name Vanessa Collier is already common place on many different organizations and foundations awards lists; She's pleasing very large audiences in clubs and festivals all over the world; she's talented enough and, equally as important, confident enough to play alongside, and going toe to toe, with some of the genres giants - as her recent stint on The Blues Cruise just proved; and as "Honey Up", her latest release also proved, besides her already established singing/songwriting/instrumentalist prowess - Vanessa is now quite an accomplished music producer as well. Throw in a glowing personality and and ever present beautiful smile and attitude, and Vanessa Collier's checklist of requirements for success looks like this: check, check check, check, check...

On "Honey Up", her third release, Vanessa Collier - on: lead and background vocals; alto, tenor and soprano saxes; acoustic and resonator guitars; and snaps is joined by: Nick Stevens on drums, percussion and shuitar; Nick Trautmann on bass; Sparky Parker on electric and resonator guitars; William Gorman on organ, piano, Rhodes, Wurlitzer and clavinet; Laura Chavez on electric guitar; Quinn Carson on trombone; and Doug Woolverton on trumpet. In addition to producing the album, Vanessa also wrote nine of its ten tracks.

On the opening track, Vanessa takes us to church - and I mean that literally, as well as musically. It's an original of hers that describes what it's like to be singing in a choir, in an non air conditioned church down south. That's exactly why the song is titled "Sweatin' Like A Pig, Singin' Like An Angel". Now I'm assuming that since this track was recorded in a comfortable atmosphere at

Hearstudios in Maine, that there was very little sweatin' goin' on. On the other hand, between her lead and own backing vocals, Vanessa's sure singin' like an angel. With this being one of the five tracks that feature Quinn and Doug making it a full three piece horn section; Laura, as she always is, killing it on lead guitar; and monster rhythm led by some crazy good piano work by William; it's musically masterful as well.

Featuring the exact same ensemble - with the pace amped up a bit - the music segues into another original track titled "Don't Nobody Got Time To Waste". The only differences are that it's the organ that William's sounding crazy good on and the monster rhythm is being fueled by some fierce drum and percussion work by Nick Stevens. Very hot stuff.

So when something percolates, it permeates gradually and gains energy along the way. If, like me, you're old enough to remember that Maxwell House Coffee commercial where the coffee perks real slow at first then morphs into full throttle percussion, that's a perfect example. So is "Percolatin'", a very funky instrumental that builds up slowly as it goes along. Nick Trautmann's dominating bass lines, William's enthusiastic organ leads and Vanessa's a tenor sax solos all highlight this one.

"Don't call me sweetheart. Don't call me baby. Don't call me anything but my name. You must be foolish, because I ain't your woman, your daughter or your friend. There's a saying in the south and the south's real sweet, bless your heart you poor thing". Now Vanessa may be saying "Bless Your Heart" to this poor dude but with lyrics like those - and the subsequent verses - I'm getting the feeling she really mean "kiss my ass and get the hell out of here!" Although somewhat mellow, with Vanessa on the resonator and Laura on the electric guitar, the guitar work on this one is absolutely beautiful. So is the smooth and sassy way Vanessa's telling this guy to get lost.

The title of this one, "Love Me like A Man" (Chris Smithers), pretty much sug-



gests it will lean towards a seductive direction and just about every rendition I've ever heard has lived up to that suggestion. So, don't let that innocent smile on that youthful face of hers fool you - Vanessa will give you all the sultry and seductive you can handle - vocally and with her sax. Being one of only three tracks he appears on, Sparky does a hell of a job on an extended lead guitar run midway through the track.

Other tracks on what could be Vanessa Collier's best release yet include: the title track, "Honey Up," "Icarus," "The Fault Line," "You're A Pill" and "You Get What You Get."

By now, most of the blues radio host should already be spinning "Honey Up". With that said, should you need a copy for airplay, or are a fan who'd like to purchase a copy, please go to Vanessa's website - [www.vanessacollier.com](http://www.vanessacollier.com).

When you do, please tell her that her friend the Blewzzman sent you.

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# Savoy Brown w/ The Satterfield • Erickson Project

*LIVE at Veterans Memorial Building*

photos & article by Phil Smith

Sunday, October 7th, The Artisan's Sanctuary in Marion, Iowa, presented Savoy Brown live at the Veterans Memorial Building in Cedar Rapids. I've been a big fan of the legendary Kim Simmonds and Savoy Brown for quite a while, and was absolutely thrilled to have finally caught one of his live shows. Playing as a trio, Simmonds was accompanied onstage by his bassist Pat DeSalvo and drummer Garnet Grimm, both of whom have been playing with the band for the past several albums and worked with Simmonds on prior solo albums as well.

Opening for Savoy Brown was The Satterfield–Erickson Project, composed of master guitarists Billy Satterfield from Chicago, and Craig Erickson from Cedar Rapids, bassist John Hall, and drummer Tim Crumley. I loved their fabulous tribute to the great Otis Rush (April 29, 1935 – September 29, 2018) with “I Can't Quit You”. It was indeed a real treat to hear. Their performance of the classic Allman Brothers song, “Whipping Post” had me totally captivated too. The dual guitar jam was magnificent.

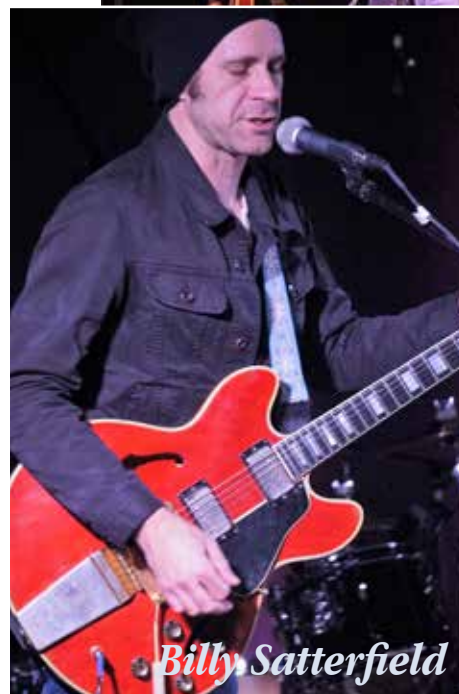
Kim Simmonds and Savoy Brown grabbed my attention quickly, opening their set with a pair of wonderfully swampy blues-rockers: “Hoodoo Me” and “Living on the Bayou”, both tracks from the recent 2017 *Witchy Feelin'* album. That is such a terrific album, and those were definitely excellent songs to lead off with. Digging a little deeper, Simmonds delivered the goods with “Poor Girl” off the 1970 album *Lookin' In*. This was followed by the deliciously heavy electric blues of Willie Dixon's “I Ain't Superstitious” and Bukka White's “Shake 'em on Down” from



*Kim Simmonds and Pat DeSalvo*



*Billy Satterfield, Craig Erickson and John Hall*



*Billy Satterfield*

the 1967 *Shakedown* album with Simmonds breaking out the harmonica. It was a pleasure to hear the title track of the 1972 album *Hellbound Train* too. The groove was intense and hypnotic. Simmonds wound things to a close with “Memphis Blues”, and the cool slide boogie-induced riffs of “Tell Mama”.

The music was superb and I walked away from the venue wearing a smile. I would love to see more shows like this in the future for Cedar Rapids. 🎸

# Local Music 2018

## November 2018 Blues Calendar

Thur. 1	Cedar Ridge Winery ★ Parlor City Pub J.M. O'Malley's QDogs BBQ Lark's Restaurant	The Invisible Band, 6-9PM Swisher McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Rush Cleveland, 8-midnight BillyLee Janey, 6-9PM, Marion Limestoner Blues Jam. 7-10PM Cedar Falls
Fri. 2 ★	Cedar Ridge Winery	LCBS Celebrates w/ Hall of Famers. 6-9PM
Sat. 3	Village Market The Sanctuary	Bryce Janey & Johnson, 11-2PM Mike Maas & Carlis Faurot, 8-10PM Iowa City
Sun. 4	Cooter's The Shack Tavern	Slide Williams hosts jam, 4-7:30PM Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey, 3-6PM
Tue. 6	Parlor City Pub	Tom Bruner hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 7	QDogs BBQ	Skeeter Louis Trio w/ Rob Haskell, 6-9PM Marion
Thur. 8	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Lark's Restaurant	Charlie Morgan, 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestoners Blues Jam. 7-10PM Cedar Falls
Fri. 9 ★	Cedar Ridge Winery Lincoln Wine Bar	The FunkDaddies, 6-9PM Swisher McMurrin & Johnson, 7-9PM Mt. Vernon
Sat. 10	NEWBO City Market Village Market QDogs BBQ	FunkDaddies, 6:30PM "Sleep Out" Fund Raiser Special guest & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM Mike Maas & Carlis Faurot, 6-9PM Marion
Sun. 11	The Shack Tavern Cooter's Noce	Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey, 3-6PM Slide Williams hosts jam, 4-7:30PM Bruce Katz, 6PM Des Moines
Tue. 13	Parlor City Pub	Doug Ducey hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 14	QDogs BBQ	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM Marion
Thur. 15	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub QDogs BBQ Lark's Restaurant	Bryce Janey w/ Dan Johnson, 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM BillyLee Janey, 6-9PM Marion Limestoners Blues Jam. 7-10PM Cedar Falls
Sat. 17	Parlor City Pub Village Market White Star Ale House Lefty's Live Music	The Agency Band, 8-11PM Special guest & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM Jeff Craft, 9:30-12:30. downtown Cedar Rapids Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling, 8PM
Sun. 18	The Shack Tavern Cooter's Hawkeyes Elks	Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey, 3-6PM Slide Williams hosts jam, 4-7:30PM Blues On Grand Rewind feat. Johnny Rawls, 6PM
Tue. 20	Parlor City Pub	Brook Hoover hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 21 ★	QDogs BBQ Lefty's, Des Moines	Skeeter Louis Trio w/ EG Madison, 6-9PM Marion Limestoners w/ Lamont Cranston's, Pat Hayes
Thur. 22	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Lark's Restaurant	The Magnetos, 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestoner Blues Jam. 7-10PM Cedar Falls
Fri. 23	QDogs BBQ Parlor City Pub Lefty's Live Music	Craig Erickson, 6-9PM Marion Limestoners Blues Jam. 2:30-5:30PM Danielle Nicole Band, 8PM Des Moines
Sat. 24	Village Market J.M. O'Malley's	Doug Ducey & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM DDOG & The BBITS reunion, 5-8:30PM
Sun. 25	Cooter's The Shack Tavern	Slide Williams hosts jam, 4-7:30PM Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey, 3-6PM
Tue. 27	Parlor City Pub	Bob Dorr, Jeff Petersen (Blue2) host jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 28	QDogs BBQ	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM Marion
Thur. 29 ★	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub QDogs BBQ Riverside Casino	Craig Erickson, 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM BillyLee Janey, 6-9PM Marion Blue Band Jam. 7-10:30PM Show Lounge
Fri. 30	QDogs BBQ	McMurrin & Johnson 6-9PM Marion

## Be sure to CHECK this out!

**EVERY**

Sat. - The Village Market w/ Dan Johnson 11-2PM  
Sun. - The Rumors Jam, 4-7PM  
Sun. - Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey, Shack Tavern 3-6PM  
Sun. - Cooter's Jam w/ Slide Williams. 4-7:30PM  
Tues. - The Famous Parlor City Jam. 7-10PM  
Wed. - 5th Wednesday B. Dorr, Skeeter & DJ @ QDogs BBQ  
Thur. - Lark's Restaurant, Limestoners, 7-10PM  
Thur. - J.M.O'Malley's, Tom T-Bone Giblin Jams, 8-midnight  
Thur. - CR VFW, Wild Bill & Pony Express, 5-9PM  
Thur. - Dennis "Daddy-0" McMurrin at Parlor City 7-10PM  
Fri. - Checkers Tavern & Asian Massage, LIVE MUSIC! 7PM



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The LCBS meets on the 1st Monday of each month!  
See you at the Longbranch on November 5, 6:30PM  
for the LCBS general meeting. Guests are welcome!  
90 Twixt Town Rd., Cedar Rapids • 377-6386.

### A very special THANK YOU to these businesses who Keep the Blues Alive!

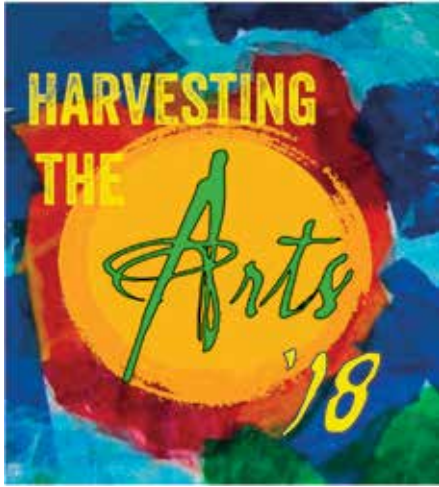
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Notice: Sometimes there just isn't enough room for all the submitted schedules in the Blues Calendar. Please be sure to check the EVERY MONTH box above to see regularly scheduled gigs that are always on for each day of the week. We certainly don't want to exclude anyone from our schedule. Thanks!



# Harvesting the Arts 2018! *Join Us!*

## Dinner & Auction Supporting Local Artists



Dinner and Auction  
 November 16, 2018  
 6:00 - 10:00 pm  
 Veterans Memorial Building -  
 Coliseum  
 50 2nd Avenue Bridge,  
 Cedar Rapids



Admission \$40.00.  
 Entertainment - Ryan Phelan,  
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The Linn County Blues Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, promotion and perpetuation of Blues music in Eastern Iowa, as well as to provide charitable contributions to other community organizations. The LCBS is an affiliated organization in The Blues Foundation's international network. The Bluespaper is a monthly publication of the LCBS.

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*Spread out! —Moe Howard*

## ★ Linn County Blues Society Membership Application

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Please Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Membership Levels

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 We at the LCBS thank you for pledging your support for  
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# 2018



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