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Photo by Phil Smith

**Ghost Town Blues Band  
LIVE! Moline Viking Club**



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# Scatting

## “How did the sounds we so love come to be?”

Richard Finley

All of us love to go out for an evening of blues. From hot driving beats to the sweet laments of the story of a love gone wrong, the music washes over us. It entertains and even comforts. But how did the sounds we so love come to be? What events and inventions brought the blues up out of the south and transformed it into the modern music we enjoy at the local clubs today?

Historically, a wide variety of instruments have been used by performers to render the blues. The earliest blues recording feature horns and strings and Huddie Ledbetter even recorded a number of tunes with a button-style accordion, but the two most strongly surviving instruments from the journey north to Chicago are the harmonica and the guitar. In the early part of the twentieth century each would be transformed through technology and evolve to produce the sounds we associate with modern blues.

In the rural south, when one's soul craved to create music, materials at hand were often used to construct a simple one string instrument, the didley bow. A board, some baling wiring, nails, and a coke bottle for a bridge were used to create a single string, slide “guitar”. Sliding up and down on a stringed instrument to mimic the sorrowful wail of a human voice would forever be incorporated into the blues, and often when a musician acquired a guitar the slide techniques developed on the didley bow carried over to form the acoustic bottleneck style.

Acoustic blues playing is still around today, but the single most important influence in creating the modern blues sound was the adoption of electric amplification. Most American cities had electricity by 1930 and a trip north out of the rural south to try one's hand at playing in the big time meant a transition to electrified, amplified music. Patents from the 1910s show that even by then, telephone transmitters were adapted and placed inside stringed instruments to amplify the sound, and electric guitars were being manufactured in the early 1930s by

names that we still recognize today. There were Rickenbackers, Epiphones, Gibsons, and many others. The first solid-body guitar was offered by Vivi-Tone no later than 1934. Manufacturers also began the development of the portable amplifier to complement their guitar offerings and at this time the roots of the modern blues sound were formed.

The technologies that transformed the blues from acoustic-rural-southern to the urban-northern-modern were the electric guitar, the tube amplifier, and the dynamic microphone. These products were readily available by the 1940s. Amplification offered the guitarist the opportunity to develop the instrument as a lead, allowing new tonal qualities, and the exploration of new styles of play. The electric blues sound that we associate with Chicago style, was also heavily influenced by the electrification/amplification of the harmonica. A microphone plugged into a guitar amplifier allowed the harmonica to blossom into a powerful driving saxophone-like sound that complimented the electric guitar.

By the early 1950s the electric bass was being manufactured and the first renditions of the modern drum trap set (from contraption) were forming. The bass and drum rhythm section allowed even more freedom of expression for lead instruments such as the harmonica and guitar and musicians took advantage. The modern electric combo emerged in Chicago style blues at this time and its development and arranging is largely credited to Muddy Waters. The compliment of instruments is typically, guitar, harmonica, bass, and drums. This basic combination carried over to rock and roll but was first formulated in the early electric blues era in Chicago and is still used, largely unchanged, today.

So, the next time you are out listening to your favorite new blues band, you might want to take a little closer look at the equipment being used to produce those wonderful sounds. I would bet that the musicians would love to connect with you and tell you about their instruments and their dedication to the blues tradition.

*Richard Finley is the harmonica player and singer for The Blue Dog Band, and a blues historian.*

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)

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### Bluespaper Contact information

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**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.

A singer in a smokey room, the smell of wine and cheap perfume



# Ghost Town Blues Band

LIVE at Moline Viking Club, March 24

article and photos by Phil Smith

I was happy as a lark to see Ghost Town Blues Band return to the region on their latest Canada/Midwest tour. They truly are one of my favorite bands. Presented by the Mississippi Valley Blues Society, and hosted by the Moline Viking Club, the show featured two bodacious sets of riveting high-energy blues. Fronted by Matt Isbell on lead vocals and guitars, Ghost Town Blues band is also comprised of lead guitarist Taylor Orr, bassist Matt Karner, drummer Andrew McNeil, organist/keyboardist Cedric Taylor, and trombonist Suavo Jones.

As soon as the band kicked the first set into gear with "Hate to See Her Go", and "Memphis Blues", I knew it was going to be a sensational show. They broke out "Dust the Dust" and "Big Shirley" too, the latter of which sweetly rolled right into Led Zeppelin's "Rock and Roll". I loved the funky two-fer including "Shine" and "Givin' It All Away" from their latest album, Backstage Pass. Suavo belted out such a tremendous solo on trombone. It was



Andrew McNeil on drums. Matt Isbell on guitar.

absolutely amazing. Isbell pulled out his one-of-a-kind cigar box guitar he made out of his late grandmother's silver drawer for an enthralling performance of "Road Still Drives the Same".

With a Bourbon Street-style entrance, horns and drums in hand, the band marched back into the venue for the second set playing "When the Saints Go Marching In". That was so fun to watch. They played "Memphis Train" and "Tip of My Hat" soon after. When they broke into the Beatles' "Come Together" though, it was quite magical. Like sword-wielding knights, Suavo and Isbell squared off. While Suavo extended the outer slide tube of his trombone skyward, Isbell held his cigar box high in the air, nailing every note as the guitar neck maneuvered about the trombone as a slide. It's such a unique and amazing feat to witness. Afterward, Orr gave a smokin' guitar solo on "One More Whiskey", then the band wrapped up with a spectacular extended jam on "Whipping Post". It was such a wonderful evening of music, I can't wait to see them again.



Suavo Jones on trombone

*The King is gone but he's not forgotten.  
This is the story of Johnny Rotten*

*Wise men say only fools rush in.  
But I can't help falling in love with you.*



## The B.B. King Blues Band

*"The Soul of the King"*

Ruf Records 2019

Even though B.B. King has been gone for four years now, his spirit and legacy lives on. His band of over 35 years, The BB King Blues Band, with the support of several guest artists have created a wonderful blues album *The Soul of the King*. The band is comprised of lead vocalist/bassist Russell Jackson, guitarist Wilbert Crosby, drummers, Brandon Jackson and Herman Jackson, trumpeters, James Boogaloo Bolden and Lamar Boulet, lead saxophonist, Eric Demmer, saxophonist, Walter King, keyboardist, Darrell Lavigne, and trombonist, Raymond Harris.

The energy of the big band is exquisitely captured on "Irene Irene", an original tune featuring the great Kenny Wayne Shepherd on guitar. This smoking blues track is heavily steeped in the B.B. King sound. Hearing Mary Griffin and Taj Mahal pair up for a duet on "Paying the Cost to be the Boss" is indeed a special treat. Joe Louis Walker makes an appearance to perform his song "Regal Blues (A Tribute to the King)", making sure to throw in a sweet guitar solo. For the grand finale, the band delivers B.B.'s signature song "The Thrill is Gone" with Michael Lee on lead vocals. Lee, from Season 15 of *The Voice*, absolutely does this one right. Other special guests on the album include, Kenny Neal, Diunna Greenleaf, and John Del Toro Richardson.

*Soul of the King is an absolute gem and I highly recommend it for all blues fans.*

— by Phil Smith



Look for the LCBS  
on Facebook & Twitter!

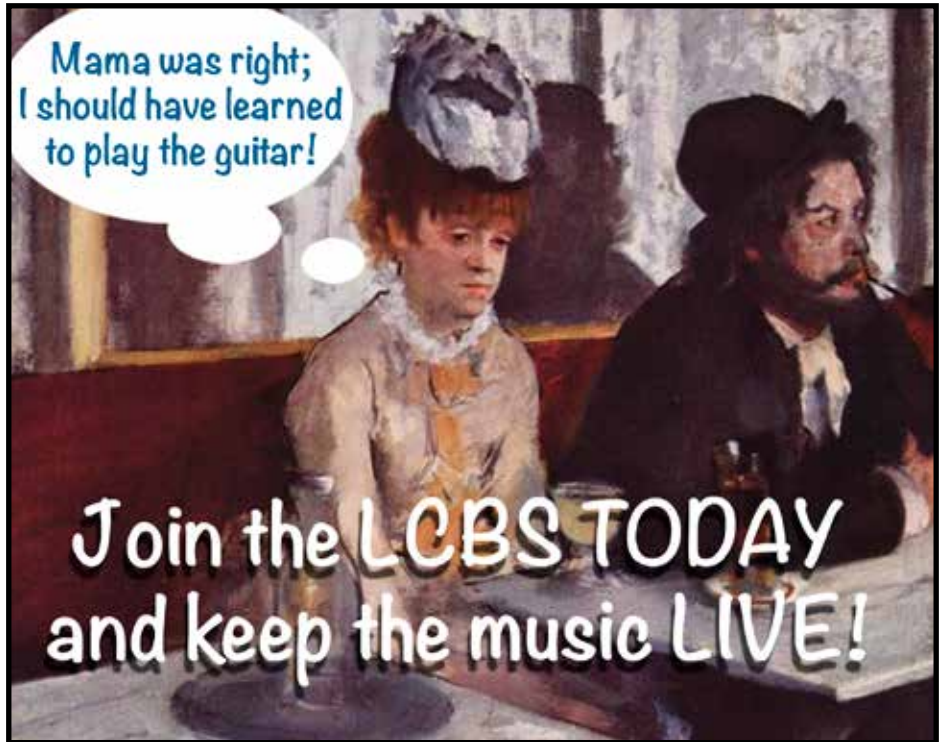




Pictured here is Bob DeForest holding one of his creations. Much more of Bobby D's artwork will be on display at Brewhemia through Memorial Day weekend. Be sure to check it out!

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*Just a song before I go  
To whom it may concern  
Travelling twice the speed of sound  
It's easy to get burned.*






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## Cloning Clyde on Friday Nights!

Hey, Clydemongers, Beaker Street Hour continues on KCCK radio between 9-10 CDT every Friday night. Responses to Beaker Street Hour have been overwhelmingly positive!. Be sure to listen to the Big Mo Blues Show while you're there. Clyde is how I got hooked on the Blues. Feel free to contact me on FB or at bigmo@kcck.org and thanks Clyde/Beaker fans! It's as close as we're gonna get to turning back the clock. kcck.org ~ Mo



*Be sure to extend your best wishes to "Big Mo" for his remarkable recovery and thank him for this great program on KCCK!*

I thought I was The Bally table king, but I just handed my pinball crown to him.



# AG Weinberger

## “Reborn”

Peter “Blewzzman” Lauro

Since it still holds true today, some twelve years and several releases later, I thought I’d share the opening paragraph from a review I did of an AG Weinberger CD back in January of 2007.....

“Anyone out there remember a singer - and I use the term loosely - by the name of Bobby Pickett? Here’s a hint - the band’s name was Bobby “Boris” Pickett & the Crypt Kicker Five. Well back in 1962, and every Halloween since then, he’s had a hit with a song called “The Monster Mash” - the dance that irked Dracula for replacing his “Transylvania Twist”. Well, they’re still dancing in Transylvania, but AG Weinberger - “The Transylvanian Blues Man” now has them doing the boogie-woogie to the blues. Apparently, over the last few years, the blues have taken Romania by storm. After listening to “NASHVILLE CALLING”, my bets on AG having a lot to do with that”.....

Although he’s often referred to as a blues musician, AG Weinberger prefers his music to be described as “related to the blues”. “Reborn”, AG Weinberger’s ninth release, is a testament to that. It features twelve tracks - of which ten are originals - that explore a wide range of styles yet never deviating that far from the blues.

On “Reborn”, AG Weinberger - on all guitars, lap steel guitars and vocals - is joined by: Cseke Gabor on keys, organ and piano; Pusztai Csaba on drums and percussion; Hars Viktor on bass and double bass; Voga Viktoria and Pusztai Kabelacs Rita on background vocals; and special guest Bob Margolin on slide guitar.

The disc opens with a song on which the lyrics will be quickly recognized but the music most likely

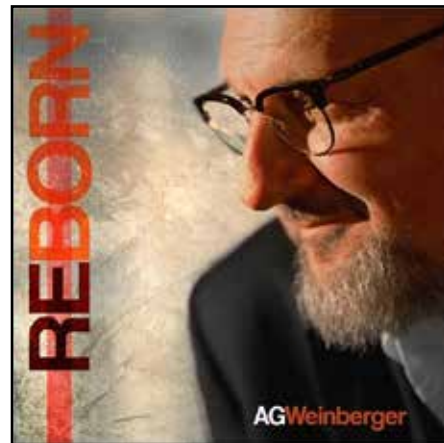
won’t. AG and the band took Willie Dixon’s classic “Wang Dang Doodle” and successfully wanged, danged and doodled a modern jazz sound into it. The track’s highlighted by Cseke, Pusztai, and Hars beautifully sounding like a three-piece combo you’d hear in your favorite local jazz lounge, and AG keeping it very bluesy on the vocals while laying down some quite jazzy guitar chords. This interpretation was perfectly pulled off.

The jazzy groove stays right in place on “Sweet Little Number” but AG gets a little down and dirty on some hot and bluesy guitar leads. You may think you recognize the song but be careful as you attempt to sing-along here. Just as you’re about to say “she’s barefootin”, you’ll be stopped in your tracks.

For AG, which side of the tracks he was born on isn’t an issue but being born “On The Wrong Side” of the blues is. Kind of makes you wonder if being born on the wrong side of the tracks may have changed that. As they’ve been all along - and unquestionably will continue to be, Cseke, Pusztai and Hars are magnificent on the piano, drums and bass and along with some heartfelt and melancholic vocals, AG does a fine job of channeling some of that pain he’s feeling right through his lap steel guitar.

If you want to highlight one of the tracks on your album with a slide guitar then use Bob Margolin and make it just that - a highlight! Hearing Bob’s masterful sliding throughout the track, culminating into a sparring session with AG on some closing licks, turns “The Fool’s Lucky Day” into the listener’s lucky day.

Since you already know my take on the outstanding musicianship involved here, and with this track individually highlighting all of them, let me simply



say that “Slippery Slope” will most likely be six minutes of some of the best jazz-blues fusion you may ever hear. End of story!

Being from Detroit could have been a reason Johnnie Bassett knew a thing or two about a Cadillac, and anyone who ever heard him play and sing certainly knows he knew a thing or two about the blues. Doing Johnnie’s song justice, AG knows a thing or two about those “Cadillac Blues”, as well. This one isn’t at all “blues related”, it’s straight up blues and you can feel comfortable calling AG a “blues musician” on this one.

Other tracks on what I’m calling a must have CD include: “It Wouldn’t Be Enough,” “Just One Minute,” “Shoot,” “Caroline,” “Reborn” and “I Am The Water.

To find out more about AG Weinberger, just go to [www.agweinberger.com](http://www.agweinberger.com). And if you’ve not yet received a copy of “Reborn” for airplay, please contact Betsie Brown at [www.blindraccoon.com](http://www.blindraccoon.com). Regardless of whom you contact, please tell them the Blewzzman sent you.

Bigfoot Records. Publicity: Blind Raccoon

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# Local Music 2019

## May 2019 Blues Calendar

Wed. 1	QDogs BBQ	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM, Marion
Thur. 2	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Lark Brewing QDogs BBQ	Rush Cleveland, 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestoners Blues Jam. 7-10PM Cedar Falls BillyLee Janey, 6-9PM Marion
Fri. 3	Famous Mockingbird QDogs BBQ	Chicago Farmer, 8PM Marion Jeff Banks & Dan Johnson, 6-9PM Marion
Sat. 4	Village Market QDogs BBQ	Jeff Banks & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM Jeff Banks & Dan Johnson, 6-9PM Marion
Sun. 5	The Shack Tavern Famous Mockingbird	Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey, 3-6PM Day of Magic! 3 Magicians. 3PM Marion
Tue. 7	Parlor City Pub	Brook Hoover hosts jam, 7-10PM
Thur. 9	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Valley Junction QDogs BBQ	Charlie Morgan, 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestoners, 6-8:30PM West DesMoines Robert One Man Johnson, 6-9PM Marion
Sat. 11	Village Market QDogs BBQ	Merrill J. Miller & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM Mike Maas, 6-9PM Marion
Sun. 12	The Shack Tavern	Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey, 3-6PM
Tue. 14	Parlor City Pub	Kevin Burt hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 15	QDogs BBQ	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM, Marion
Thur. 16	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Lark Brewing QDogs BBQ	Kevin Burt & DJ. 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestoners Blues Jam. 7-10PM Cedar Falls BillyLee Janey, 6-9PM Marion
Fri. 17	★ Cedar Ridge Distillery Kosek Bandstand QDogs BBQ Famous Mockingbird	FunkDaddies, 6-9PM Swisher Matt Panek Kool-Aid Trio & Gibby. Houby. 7-10PM Doug Ducey & Dan Johnson Duo, 6-9PM Marion Eddie Piccard. 8PM Marion 1/2 nights!
Sat. 18	Village Market QDogs BBQ Famous Mockingbird	Robert 1 Man Johnson & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM Nate Hines & Dan Johnson Duo, 6-9PM, Marion Eddie Piccard. 8PM 2/2 Marion
Sun. 19	The Shack Tavern Czech Village. Houby Old Neighborhood	Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey, 3-6PM Bryce Janey & DJ-10A. Ducey-DJ Duo. Noon-2PM Bryce Janey Trio w/ Dan Johnson. 5-8PM
Tue. 21	Parlor City Pub	Doug Ducey hosts jam, 7-10PM
Thur. 23	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Locals Res. & Live Music Famous Mockingbird	Matt (it's my birthday) Panek, 8-midnight. McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestoners Blues Jam. 7-10PM Waterloo Andy Frasco. 9PM Marion
Fri. 24	QDogs BBQ BoMacs Famous Mockingbird	Craig Erickson, 6-9PM Marion Nate Hines & Dan Johnson Duo, 7-10PM Brett Newski, 8Pm Marion
Sat. 25	Riverside Casino Village Market J.M. O'Malley's Famous Mockingbird	Bob Dorr's Limestoners w/ Joyann Parker Band Bob & Jovita Long & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM 4 BoxORocks Matinee Reunion. 5-8:30PM Beaker Brothers, 8PM Marion
Sun. 26	The Shack Tavern Red Lion	Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey, 3-6PM Flock O Funk w/ Bruce Chadima. 3PM
Mon. 27	FB & Co. BASH! ★	Limestoners & friends 2:30-6PM Waubeek
Tue. 28	Parlor City Pub	Jeff & Bob (Blue 2) Gibby & DJ, 7-10PM
Wed. 29	QDogs BBQ	Skeeter Louis, Johnson & Dorr on snare. 6-9PM
Thur. 30	J.M. O'Malley's QDogs BBQ Lark Brewing Parlor City Pub Famous Mockingbird	Craig Erickson, 8-midnight BillyLee Janey, 6-9PM Marion Limestoners Blues Jam. 7-10PM Cedar Falls McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Public Property, 9Pm Marion
Fri. 31	Lincoln Wine Bar	McMurrin & Johnson, 7-9PM. Mt. Vernon

Be sure to CHECK this out!

EVERY

Sat. - The Village Market w/ Dan Johnson 11-2PM  
Sun. - The Rumors Jam, 4-7PM  
Sun. - The Shack. Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey. 3-6PM  
Tues. - The Famous Parlor City Jam. 7-10PM  
Wed. - 5th Wednesday B. Dorr, Skeeter & DJ @ QDogs BBQ  
Thur. - Lark's Restaurant & Brewery, 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 Huston Rogers, formally The Longbranch, on May 6, 6:00PM for a soft-start. General meeting begins at 6:30PM. Guests are always welcome! 90 Twixt Town Rd., Cedar Rapids • 377-6386.

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May 3 - 10am - Wright  
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May 7 - 2:45 pm - Coolidge



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### Annual Membership Levels

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- \$500 Friend of the Blues
- \$1000 Sustaining Member

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We at the LCBS thank you for pledging your support for LIVE music in the Linn County area.

# 2019



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Bo Ramsey	Louis McTizic	J.C. Anderson
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Bob Dorr	Patrick Hazell	Kevin Burt
Bob Pace	Perry Welsh	
Bruce McCabe	Richie Hayward	
Catfish Keith	Rico Cicalo	
Chicago Rick Lussie	Ron DeWitte	
Craig Erickson	Ron McClain	
Darrell Leonard	Ronnie Brewer	
Dartanyan Brown	Rose Marie Webster	
Del Saxman Jones	Sam Salomone	
Dennis McMurrin	Scott Cochran	
Eddie Haywood	Sid Wingfield	
Ella Ruth Piggee	Speck Redd	
Elvin Bishop	Stephen Miller	
Ernie Peniston	Steve George	
Eugene Jackson	Steve Hayes	
Fred Walk	Tom Giblin	
Gary Gibson	Willis Dobbins	
Gary Jackson	Dwight Dario	
George Davis	Tommy Gordon	
Gilbert Davis	Robert "One Man" Johnson	
Grant Townsell	Philip "Bunky" Marlow	
Harlan Thomas	Rob Lumbard	
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James Kinds	Shaun Murphy	
Jim DeKoster	Jeff Petersen	
Jimmy Pryor	Dan 'DJ' Johnson	





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- 6-10 PM - The Big Mo Blues Show
- 10-11 PM - Backstage Blues
- 11 PM to midnight - KCCK Jams
- Midnight Blues CD

**Saturday Blues -**

- 6-10 PM - Da Blues with Bobby D
- 10-11 PM - The Crawfish Circuit
- 11 PM -midnight - The Melting Pot
- Midnight Blues CD