

Issue 298 The Publication of the Linn County Blues Society - Icbs.org July 2019 photo by Paul Natkin **Inside this July 2019 issue-**• Toronzo Cannon headlines at CVB 2019!! • Charlie Morgan kicks off CVB! Phil Smith reviews: Big Daddy Wilson • Anthony Gomes coming to Czech Village Blues! • Blues In The Burgh 5 - Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro • Local music schedules 2019 Iowa Blues Challenge winners announced! 10th Annual Bourbon & Blues Fest at Cedar Ridge

# **Toronzo Cannon**

## Headlines 2019 CVB!

#### Jennifer Leavy

Then most people think about the Blues, the first thought that may come to mind is Mississippi and the deep South, but Chicago is no stranger to birthing incredible Blues talent. Chicago is the mecca of Blues greats like Buddy Guy, Muddy Waters to Howlin' Wolf to Koko Taylor, Hound Dog Taylor and Luther Allison. Toronzo Cannon is one such artist.

Growing up in Chicago, Toronzo was surrounded by the blues influence. Toronzo's home was in the tough Robert Taylor Homes area, where growing up there was the epitome of what blues was about. He was surrounded by blues, soul and R&B growing up in his grandfather's home and, as a child, Cannon would go to Theresa's Lounge and stand on the sidewalk outside the door, soaking up the live blues, trying to sneak a glance inside at legendary bluesmen like Junior Wells and Buddy Guy. You could say music influenced him early on.

Toronzo got his start playing guitar later than most. At age 22, he got his first guitar and his natural talent allowed him to quickly master the instrument. Although his initial focus was reggae, Cannon could not deny his Blues roots. "It was dormant in me. But when I started playing the blues, I found my voice and the blues came pouring out."

By 1996 Toronzo began working and "earning his dues" as a sideman guitar player. But his talent and stage presence was being noticed. People began encouraging him to step out on his own, so in 2001, Toronzo formed his band while still continuing to work as a sideman. By 2003, he was soley playing for himself. It didn't take long for Cannon to start producing music. 2007 was the debut album "My Woman".

This was followed up with the 2011 release of "Leaving Mood". It was during the making of this album that Cannon decided to quit collaborating writing music and write on his own from his own experiences. From that decision came Blues Music Award-nominated, John The Conqueror Root.



Toronzo Cannon

This recognition helped propel Toronzo in his career in music, but what helped him break through to the top was in 2015 performing at the world-renowned Chicago Blues Festival, right after announcing he had just signed with Alligator Records. The Chicago Tribune said, "Cannon made the most of his opportunity as a festival headliner to win over a new audience."

Toronzo's 2016 album, Chicago Way, was received with much praise. Blues-Blast Magazine said, "The Chicago Way is a smart album of original contemporary blues songs with just enough of the Windy City charm."

Cannon used not only his own life experiences to draw inspiration as a songwriter and performer, but also the stories of the people he encounters as a driver for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). The Pain Around Me is a song that he wrote while driving. But the song that personifies Toronzo is Strength To Survive. As he says, "That's my life!"

Toronzo has a new album coming out in September and he promises to share some of those songs with us August 10 at the Czech Village Blues Festival. It promises to be a show to write home about.

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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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;

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- Being a part of the groove!

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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 dimentia, severe cramping or diarrhea. Deadline for submissions is the 20th 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.

# **Charlie Morgan**

## Bonecrushers kick off Czech Village Blues

Jennifer Leavy

ailing from the deep South of Lexington, Mississippi, Charlie Morgan knows a thing or two about the blues. So it's surprising to know that Charlie never played music until after he was 30 and moved to Cedar Rapids. For Charlie, the blues is more than a hobby. It is the very expression of his soul. It sounds like he was born with a guitar in his hands.

Charlie has had an remarkable career in music with his band, Charlie Morgan and the BoneCrushers, bringing Mississippi and Chicago blues styling to Cedar Rapids and the Midwest. Charlie has played with some of the greats like John Mayall, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Leon Russell, Lil Ed & the Blues Imperials and many more and has also been a fixture of local blues for the past 3 decades with performances at Bluesmore and other community events. And even though the band members have changed through the years, there is no shortage of acclaimed artists wanting to play with Charlie. This August 10 at the Czech Village Blues, he will be sharing the stage with Iowa Blues Hall of Famer, Tommy T-Bone Giblin on keyboard, Dave Bader on bass, Butch O'Connell on drums and Bill Hanlon on harmonica.



Left to right; Butch O'Connell - drums, Bill Hanlon - harp, Tom "t-Bone Giblin playing the Hammond B3, Dave Bader-bass and Charlie Morgan on lead guitar.



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## **Big Daddy Wilson**

Deep In My Soul

Ruf Records 2019

Deep in My Soul, the latest album from the Big Daddy Wilson, is a magnificent platter of soulful blues. This North Carolina born bluesman who now calls Northern Germany his home, trekked back to the U.S. to begin working with Grammywinning producer Jim Gaines. Recording began at Gaines' Bessie Blue Studio in Stantonville, Tennessee, and wrapped up at the legendary FAME studios in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. With Laura Chavez onboard playing guitar, Wilson's killer rhythm section is comprised of Memphians Dave Smith on bass, and Steve Potts on drums.

With a soulful Memphis Stax vibe, the album begins with "I Know". Chavez immerses herself into Steve Cropper-mode and the rest of the band follows suit. With additional accompaniment from Brad Guin and Ken Waters, aka The Alabama Horns, the stage is perfectly set for Wilson's deep, engaging vocals. "Tripping On You" is another terrific track saturated in the funky, soulful sound of Stax. It is purely delightful. The inescapable hook of "Ain't Got No Money" keeps me on the line while I gush over the slide guitar. I absolutely love the funky riffs, soul-wrenching vocals, and an infectious groove on title track "Deep in My Soul". Ominous and seductive, "Voodoo" is one cool-ashell blues-soaked track. It's as if it were pulled right out of a Mississippi swamp.

This album from Big Daddy Wilson scores high on all levels, and I highly recommend it.

by Phil Smith

Then one fine mornin' she turns on a New York station. She doesn't believe what she hears at all. She started dancin' to that fine, fine music

## **Anthony Gomes**

## Coming to Czech Village Blues on August 10

#### Jennifer Leavy

nthony Gomes has earned his spot in blues infamy. After many years of paying his dues, Anthony Gomes latest album, Peace, Love & Loud Guitars, was named Best Blues Album of 2018 by Blues Rock Review and also SoundGuardian Magazine's Billboard Blues Artist. This is not the first accolades Anthony has received. In 1998 he received Buddy

Cray and Kenny Wayne Shepherd, and most recently George Thorogood at the Hoyt Colosseum in Des Moines, but to Anthony, the highlight will always be B.B. King. He even wrote a tribute the late King "Come Down" that can be heard on his album Peace, Love, and Loud Guitars.

Gomes is a triple threat force as a guitarist, vocalist and songwriter. As a singer, Anthony has a style that is along with him. His cat like prowess as he comes down from the stage to sing amongst the fans makes it seem like you are having a personal music moment.

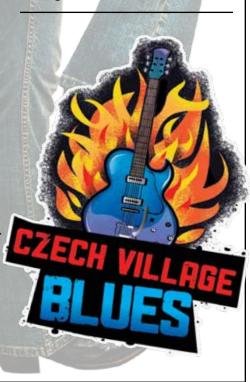
You typically won't hear AG play cover songs like traditional musicians. Anthony believes that to be a true artist, you must write and perform your own songs. The inspiration for his songs come from a deep emotional events or funny experiences. The music experience takes you from the tender and emotional with "Darkest Before the Dawn" and "Take Me Back Home" to the fun and spirited with "White Trash Princess" and "The Whiskey Made Me Do It".

Gomes is an eclectic and wildly talented performer. If you have never had the opportunity to see him live, you should add it to your bucket list. He will be performing at Lefty's in Des Moines June 9, and locally here at our very own Czech Village Blues on August 10.



Guy's Legends "Best Unsigned Blues Band" award. And in 2003 he won Blues Wax artist of the year award.

Anthony had played with many of the blues legends, the likes of B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Robert Plant, Heart, Sammy Hagar, Joe Bonamassa, 38 Special, Jonny Lang, Robert uniquely all his own. With the soul of a poet, a heart and spirit of Blues, and the style of a rocker, he blends all into a musical masterpiece. Yet it is more than just the music that makes Gomes one of the best Blues performers around. He has the ability to engage the audience so you feel the music



# **Blues In The Burgh 5**

## A CD compilation celebrating the music of W.PA

#### Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro

"Blues In The Burgh 5" is a compilation CD that contains thirteen tracks by thirteen different bands. Although all the tracks are original, some of them are not actually performed by the writer and although some of the bands may not actually reside in Western PA - or anywhere in PA for that matter, they are all indeed member bands of the Western PA Blues Society.

Since this is a compilation CD I want to make sure that I touch on all the tracks and mention all the bands and their members. That said, my comments will have to be brief.

"Accidental Theft" (Barbara Blue) is performed by "The Queen Of Beale Street" and now "Blues Music Award Winner" Barbara Blue on vocals; Scott Scharrad, Will McFarlane and Dave Smith on guitar; and Buernard "Pretty" Pudie on drums. With a world-class line-up like that, you gotta know there's some serious rhythm, lead and slide guitar and blues-belting going on. Yeah! There really is.

"Xtra Xtra" (Jill West) is performed by Jill West on vocals; and Blues Attack, who consist of: Greg Krupa on guitar; Hank Refetto on bass; Nick Crano on drums; and Steve Binsberger on keyboards. Being a fan of Jill West & Blues Attack for about twenty-five years now, I knew this would be a smoker. Just like Barbara did in the above track, Jill is belting the hell out of the blues on the vocals, Greg's laying down some crazy good blues guitar licks and a non-credited harmonica is absolutely on fire.

"Bad Attitude" (Max Schang) is an allout rocker by a power trio consisting of Max Schang on guitar; Tim Graziaon on bass; and Jim Richley on drums. Make sure you're dancin' shoes are on for this one.

"Bed And A Bottle" (Cheryl Rinovato) is a concert hall quality performance put on by: vocalist Stevee Wellons; guitarist Cheryl Rinovato; keyboardist Steve Binsberger; bassist Jim Spears; and drummer Allen Muckle. I'm only four tracks into the field here but I'm call-

ing this masterfully done ballad one of the front runners for the disc's best track. Steve and Steve nailed the vocals and the organ leads.

"Bottle Full Of Blues" (Jeff Fetterman) is a scorching slow blues number by the Jeff Fetterman Group that includes: Jeff on guitar and vocals; John McGuire on drums; Ralph Reitinger III on bass; and Anthony Brown on keyboards. With the guys in that oh so perfect slow blues groove behind him, Jeff takes this one and runs with it. His emotion-filled vocals and stinging blues guitar licks are totally masterful. It's songs like this that I often say are "Song Of The Year" worthy. WOW!

There is no question in my mind that when this one comes on you will "Shake That Thing" (Dan Bubien) of yours - and if I'm wrong, you should call a doctor. This one features Dan Bubien on slide guitar & vocals; Shawn Mazzer on guitar; Christian Caputo on bass; Mark Pollern on drums & percussion; and Charlie Barath on harmonica. Collectively they are absolutely on fire.

"Ordinary Guy" (Bubs McKeg) is performed by the Aces: Bob "Bubs" McKeg on guitar & vocals; Terry Bates on drums; Mike Sweeney on bass; John DeCola on keyboards; Frank Glove on lead guitar; and Charlie Barath on harmonica. This is a well done medium tempo shuffle that I really would love to hear the original version of. Somehow the mix on this just didn't do the well-performed song justice.

This next track is done by another fabulous "Lady Of The Blues" (Steve Nestor) - Miss Freddye. Joining this fabulous Blues Music Award nominated vocalist are: Kid Anderson on guitar; Endre Tarezy on bass; June Core on drums; Eric Spaulding on tenor & baritone saxes; John Holblaib on trumpet; and one hell of an unnamed organ player. Since I can use one word, being brief on describing a song has never been easier....POWERFUL!

"Ease Me Down" (Mike Sweeney) is performed by: Jimmy Adler on guitar

and vocals; June Core on drums; Kid Anderson on bass and Jim Pugh on keyboards. When a talented vocalist and guitarist like Jimmy Adler surrounds himself with three Blues Music Award nominees/winners you should expect nothing less than perfection. FYI - by clicking this link you can read my review of Jimmy's 2015 release titled "Grease Alley" - which also features these same band mates...http://www.mary4music.com/CD66.html#CDJimmyAdler1.

"We Walk On" (Mike Sweeney) is performed by Hoodoo Drugstore and they are: Bob "Bubs" McKeg on lead vocals; Robert Peckman on vocals & percussion; Larry Seifers on harmonica; Jim Daugherty on slide guitar; and Mike Sweeney on bass. This is a percussion powered call and response/Gospel style song that was very easy to sit back and get peacefully lost in.

"Mama She Knows" is soulfully performed by Lori Russo & The Uppercuts who are: Lori on vocals; Frank Glove on guitar; Larry Seifers on piano and organ; Mike Sweeney on bass and Bob Breide on percussion. It's a foot tapper, sing-along type song that features outstanding harmony vocals.

"Down To Memphis" is an original by The Nied's Hotel Band and they are: John Vento on vocals; Tim Hadley and Jim McCullough on guitar; Russ Oblinger on bass; Ron Beitle on drums; Fred Delu on keyboards; and Ed Jonnet on saxophone. If the term "Memphis Soul" means something to you then you'll know how good this one is

"You Can't Fix Lonely" is smoking original by The Aris Paul Band who consist of: Aris on guitar and vocals; Johnny Rooster on harmonica; Alexander Peck on drums; and Tyan Masters on bass. Ya know those kinds of songs where the band goes full throttle from start to finish causing the audience to go absolutely nuts? Yeah, this is that song.

As brief as I may have been, here's a sentence that applies to all thirteen tracks. Every track was excellent and worthy of airplay.

To find out more about "Blues In The Burgh 5" and the bands that were a part of it, just go to bswpa.org, and if you'd like a copy for airplay, just contact Jonnye at 2golfers2@ comcast.net. As usual, please tell them that you were referred by The Blewzzman.

I'd rather live in his world than live without him—in mine

# **Local Music**

## July 2019 Blues Calendar

Tue. 2 Parlor City Pub Brook Hoover hosts jam, 7-10PM  Wed. 3 QDogs BBQ Skeeter Louis Trio. 6-9PM Marinon  Thur. 4 J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub QDogs BBQ BillyLee Janey, 6-9PM Marinon  Sat. 6 Village Market Merrill J. Miller & DJ, 11-2PM  Sun. 7 Cedar Ridge Winery The Shack Tavern  Tue. 9 Parlor City Pub Parlor City Pub Lark Brewing  Thur. 11 J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Lark Brewing  Fri. 12 Courtyard Park Village Market Nillage Market Village Market St. Plus SummerFest Farmers Market Earmers Market Busses Dan Johnson, 11-2PM  Sat. 13 N.L. Blues & BBQ Village Market Village Market Dogs BBQ St. Plus SummerFest Farmers Market The Blue2 (1:30-4) onlonson, 6-9PM Marion  Sun. 14 The Shack Tavern  Tue. 16 Parlor City Pub Doug Ducey hosts , 7-10PM  Wed. 17 Grimes Farms QDogs BBQ  Thur. 18 Parlor City Pub Doug Ducey hosts , 7-10PM  Wed. 17 Grimes Farms QDogs BBQ  Thur. 18 Parlor City Pub Doug Ducey hosts , 7-10PM  Wed. 17 Grimes Farms QDogs BBQ  Thur. 18 Parlor City Pub Doug Ducey hosts , 7-10PM  Wed. 17 Grimes Farms QDogs BBQ  Thur. 18 Parlor City Pub Doug Ducey hosts , 7-10PM  Wed. 17 Grimes Farms QDogs BBQ  Thur. 18 Parlor City Pub Doug Ducey hosts , 7-10PM  Wed. 17 Grimes Farms QDogs BBQ  Thur. 28 Parlor City Pub Doug Ducey hosts , 7-10PM  Wed. 17 Grimes Farms QDogs BBQ  Thur. 29 Parlor City Pub Doug Ducey hosts , 7-10PM  Wed. 17 Grimes Farms QDogs BBQ  Thur. 29 Parlor City Pub Doug Ducey hosts , 7-10PM  Wed. 17 Grimes Farms QDogs BBQ  Thur. 29 Parlor City Pub Brok Hover Hosts Jam, 7-10PM  Med. 20 QDogs BBQ  Fri. 19 The Chrome Horse Ped Mail. lowa City Shullsbury City Park Nate Hines & Dan Johnson, 7-10PM  Med. 24 QDogs BBQ  Thur. 25 J.M. O'Malley's Gunder Hosts Jam, 7-10PM  Wed. 24 QDogs BBQ  Thur. 25 Limestoners +1. 7-8-30PM Ames James Harmam & Bruce Katz, 6PM Des Moines James Harmam & Bruce Katz, 6		July	
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Parlor City Pub Lark Brewing  Fri. 12  Courtyard Park QDogs BBQ Sat. 13  ★  N.L. Blues & BBO Village Market QDogs BBQ St. Pius SummerFest Farmers Market  Tue. 16  Parlor City Pub J.M. O'Malley's QDogs BBQ Thur. 18  Fri. 19  The Chrome Horse Ped Mall. lowa City Sat. 20  Village Market Noce  Tue. 23  Parlor City Pub Brook Hoover hostst jam, 7-10PM  Wed. 24  QDogs BBQ  Thur. 25  J.M. O'Malley's Lark Brewing Lark Brewing Parlor City Pub Brook Hoover hostst jam, 7-10PM  Med. 24  QDogs BBQ  Thur. 25  J.M. O'Malley's Lark Brewing Parlor City Pub Brook Hoover hostst jam, 7-10PM  Med. 24  QDogs BBQ  Thur. 25  J.M. O'Malley's Lark Brewing Parlor City Pub Brook Hoover hostst jam, 7-10PM Limestoners Blues Jam. 7-10PM Limestoners & Gibby. 8-12 Bryce Janey, 3-6PM Nate Hines & Dan Johnson, 7-10PM Limestoners & Gibby. 8-12 Bryce Janey, 3-6PM Limestoners & Gibby. 8-12 Bryce Janey, 3-6PM Limestoners & Gibby. 8-12 Bryce Janey, 3-6PM Limestoners & Dan Johnson, 7-10PM Limestoners Blues Jam. 7-10PM  Med. 24  QDogs BBQ  Bryce Janey, 6-9PM Marion  Fri. 26  Market Grill Hy-Vee Cedar Valley Arboretum Dayton Blues Festival Lefty's Live Music  Mike Maas Trio, Mt. Vernon Rd. 5:30-8:30PM  Mike Maas Trio, Mt. Vernon Rd. 5:30-8:30PM  Mike Jan. 20  Kevin Burt & Dan Johnson. Dayton, Ohio Nikki Hill, 8PM University Ave. Des Moines  The Shack Tavern Sutliff Cider  Fri. 19 Bryce Janey, 3-6PM The Invisible Band, 3-6PM Lisbon	Wed. 10	QDogs BBQ	Bryce Janey, 6-9PM Marion
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Lefty's Live Music  Sun. 28  The Shack Tavern Sutliff Cider  Tue. 30  Nikki Hill, 8PM University Ave. Des Moines  Jeff Craft & Bryce Janey, 3-6PM The Invisible Band, 3-6PM Lisbon  Bob Dorr & Jeff Petersen hosts jam, 7-10PM	Fri. 26	Cedar Valley Arboretum	Dorr's Limestoners, fund raiser. 5-8PM Waterloo
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oncottol, dollinoon, both (urumo/marp). 0-31 Marion	Wed. 31	QDogs BBQ	Skeeter, Johnson, Dorr (drums/harp). 6-9PMarion



Mississippi Valley Blues Festival. July 5 - 6 at Murphy Park at The Bend. 900 Bend Boulevard, East Moline.

Check our website, mvbs.org, or our Facebook page-The Mississippi Valley Blues Society, for more information.

## **Be sure to CHECK this out!**

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

Wed. - Screaming Eagle, Deja Blue hosts Jam. 7-10PM JULY

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 "Dadddy-O" McMurrin at Parlor City 7-10PM

Fri. - Checkers Tavern & Asian Massage, LIVE MUSIC! 7PM



# Huston Rogers STEAKHOUSE

Local favorite for dining since 1968, now also featuring our new Huston Rogers Steakhouse. Nightly we feature mid-western USDA choice steaks, award winning BBQ pork ribs, slow cooked tender prime rib of beef (Friday & Saturday nights), and seafood. We also offer delicious sandwiches, burgers, pizza, and much more.

You can also join us for our popular full lunch buffet with deluxe salad and soup bar Monday-Friday 11am-2pm.

The LCBS meets on the 1st Monday of each month! See you at Huston Rogers, formally The Longbranch, on July 1, 6:00PM for a soft-start. General meeting begins at 6:30PM. Guests are always welcome! 90 Twixt Town Rd., Cedar Rapids • 377-6386.

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

- Chappy's Safari
- The Longbranch
- KCCK 88.3
- Village Meat Market
- · J.M. O'Malley's
- · Dudley Bros. Const.
- Checkers Tavern
- Home Town Restyling
- · Tomaso's Pizza

- · Dr. Ronald W. Miller
- · Ron Schantz Const.
- Susan Novak

#### **Corporate Sponsors**

- Sports Clips
- · Q Dogs BBQ
- Wired Production Group **DBA 16th Avenue Music**

## 10th Annual Bourbon & Blues Festival!

Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery! • All Ages Free!



July 4th - The John Paul Jones Group, 1-4pm July 5th - Cristina Vane, (Nashville, TN) 5-7pm July 5th - Otis (backwoods of Kentucky), 8-10pm July 6th - The Janeys, 1-4pm. The Tanya English Band, 5-7pm Davy Knowles & His Band of Friends, 8-10pm July 7th - The Funk Daddies, 4-7pm



# **Iowa Blues Challenge Champions!**

## Winners announced

Jeff Duskin

ongratulations to the 2019 Iowa Blues Challenge champions: Avey/Grouws Band - Chris Avey, Jeni Grouws, Randy Leasman, Nick Vasquez & Bryan West in the band category and Generation of Blues - Hal Reed & Kent Burnside in the Solo/Duo category. Both acts will represent the state of Iowa at the 36th Annual International Blues Challenge to be held January 28 - February 1, 2020 on historic Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee. Runners up were Tom Buckmiller & the Tone Tailors (band) and Billylee Janey (solo/duo) and third place went to the Brothers Ruckus (band) and the Cedar County Cobras (solo/duo).

**Friend of the Blues** 

\$1000 Sustaining Member



Photos by Michael Rolands



Generation of Blues - Hal Reed & Kent Burnside

We at the LCBS thank you for pledging your support for

LIVE music in the Linn County area.

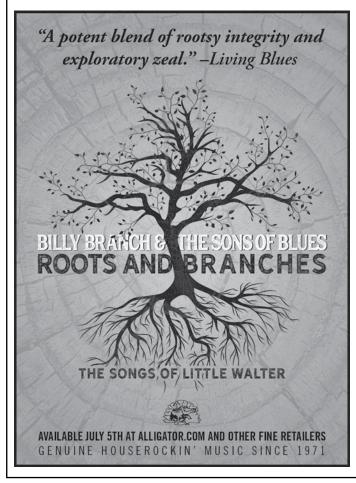
Linn County Blues Society Membership Application		
Name (Please Print)	Phone /	
Street	City/State/ZIP	
Email (Please Print Clearly)		
Annual Membership Levels	2019	
\$20 Member \$100 Blues Booster/ Corporate Sponsor \$250 Blues Contributor	Please mail form & check to: Linn County Blues Society, P.O. Box 2672, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2672.	





## Czech Village Blues: August 10, 2019







• Midnight Blues CD