

DEC 2019



# BLUESPAPER

The LCBS Bluespaper - for your listening pleasure!

Issue 303

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

December 2019



**Happy Holidays from all of us at the LCBS!**

**Don't Miss**

**Orchestra Iowa Pops II Holiday Extravaganza with guest Special Kevin "B.F." Burt  
Friday - Sunday Dec. 20, 21 and 22 at the Paramount Theater**

## **Inside this December 2019 issue - ★**

- Henry Davison Scholarship & Blues 'n' Buffett Update by Steve Springer
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- Alicia Monee & Invisible Jazz at Opus Concert Cafe, Fri Dec. 6
- Phillip Smith reviews Biscuit Miller and the Mix "Chicken Grease"
- Live Music Calendar
- Peter "BLEWWSMAN" Lauro reviews Theresa James and the Rythm Tramps "Live"

# Henry Davison Scholarship Program Update - Board Chair Steve Springer

Thanks again for your continued support of the Henry Davison Scholarship Program. Henry was the founder of the Linn County Blues Society and he was always proud of all you have accomplished and the support that group gave to the community. He would be especially proud of the latest events in Czech Village.

As I'm sure you are aware, the building that housed the HD Youth Center has been sold and the proceeds are being used to support students in Linn County via educational scholarships. The Board is now finalizing the scholarship application forms, the actual application process and working very hard to make this process objective with equal opportunity to all, which is exactly how Henry would have insisted the process work. Bob Randklev and his company Cyberinnovation has been a great help setting up the web and the electronic transactions that make this possible.

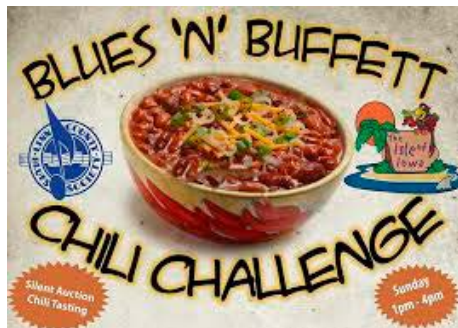
The plan is to open applications on December 1 and award 5 scholarships of \$4,000 each. I will keep you posted on our progress. Board Chair Steve Springer.

## 20th Annual Blues 'n' Buffett Chili Challenge

Won't be long now!

The 20th annual Blues 'N' Buffett Chili Challenge is just around the corner and we have two more spots open for LCBS contestants. The date is Sunday, February 9 from 1 to 4 PM at the Cedar Rapids Marriott (1200 Collins Rd NE, Cedar Rapids). Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door, seniors \$5 (65 and over). Taste over 20 chili recipes which includes at least 6 professional entries along with another great silent auction. There will be celebrity judges, including local television and radio personalities who will taste and vote on the Overall Best Chili as well as Best Chili in one of four categories. (Understand, however, there are no "losers". All the competitors from both clubs are real winners and the Committee appreciates their loyalty, dedication and support). Tickets are available on line. Just "Google" Blues and Buffett Chili Challenge.

A big part of the Chili Challenge has always been the terrific silent



auction. We have been able to accumulate many unique and one of a kind items which has helped boost donations to our charities. All proceeds go to the Henry Davison Scholarship Program and the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy.

The first year for this event was 2001 and that year the profit divided between the charities was \$537. To date, this event has donated over \$121,000.

Please attend and help us make this another record year. Again, all profits go to the charities and the charities are located right here in Cedar Rapids.

Please attend the event and help us support our community.

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

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Membership - Open  
Merchandise - Anita Skelton

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Bluespaper Editor - David Antin  
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Photographers - see bylines  
Staff Writers - see bylines  
Distribution - Bill Graham & Members

### 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"  
\$60.00 - Half page ad - 4.75" x 7.25"  
\$75.00 - 2 columns (2/3) - 4.75" x 9.75"  
\$100.00 - Full page - 7.5" x 9.75"

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.

# Scatting

## About ... *The Tip Jar*



Richard Finley



Well, I have finally reached the point in my musical career (if I may call it a career) where I have made my own Tip Jar. I intend to bring it to a Sunday afternoon performance that a local municipality is sponsoring. As I readied myself and my equipment for the upcoming gig, going through the list that I keep in my head, I suddenly thought, "Tip Jar" and added it to the items.

I had a suitable clear plastic container and I took one of our band's cards and wrote "Tips" on its back and taped it inside the jar. Over the years I have noted a de facto standard for tips jars and I felt that my creation certainly had the right look.

For quite some time our band did not put a Tip Jar on stage with us, even if the venue offered one. I felt that the act of begging (albeit passive) was not appropriate. Street musicians play exclusively for tips, but we were a band - playing a gig. Heck, sometimes we even had a written contract. Without giving it much critical thought, I reasoned that there were some types of performances where, no matter how good the music or how much a listener is moved, tipping is not done. For example, church musicians are not tipped, nor are classical orchestras, nor big name performers. Our band does not fall into any of these categories but I still resisted putting out the jar. Maybe I was just fearful that it would be empty

(or nearly so) at the end of the night.

It was the well-meaning folks at the smaller venues that we were playing who began to erode my resolve to keep the Tip Jar from the band's performance space. A club where the band is face-to-face with the audience is a setting where tips are more likely to be proffered, and as we were setting up at these smaller venues, one of the fine people who would later be serving food and drink would haul out the Jar and offer it. At first, I would still put it aside and keep it hidden. I treated it like some piece of good advice that my mother may have given me about my blues playing technique. It may have been a good idea but I couldn't get past some notion that I was too "cool" to accept it.

Then I happened to view a rerun of a clip of John Lee Hooker playing on Maxwell Street in Chicago. As I watched, I saw it... there it was, at his side, out in front - the Tip Jar. One of the most authentic and iconic (and certainly "cool") bluesmen ever, was laying it down for tips. And then I began to understand...

He wasn't begging. Not in the least. His Tip Jar was being utilized as an age-old method of connecting to the audience. The small offerings (often accompanied by a request for a song) were the original "like" button. The contributions were similar to commenting an approval on social media. John Lee's Tip Jar was a further

way for the audience to be a part of the performance. And there is nothing more American than showing love and approval by offering money (think grandparents, tooth fairy, money for good grades, etc.).

My eyes had been opened. I began to see. The small offering placed in the Tip Jar provides a means for the audience to engage more closely in the musical performance, and to get a chance to maybe call the tune in the bargain.

Now I have learned to do my part when playing by putting out the Tip Jar. And when I go see live music, I put an extra couple of \$5s or \$10s in my pocket so that I am ready to express my love and approval.

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



## Alicia Monee & Invisible Jazz

Playing Dec. 6 at The Opus Concert Café on Friday, Dec. 6 from 5 to 7 pm.



Alicia Monee & Invisible Jazz offer a fresh take on elegant, sophisticated vocal jazz in the styles of Etta James, Whitney Houston, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Michael Buble, Nneena Freelon and Jennifer Hudson. Enjoy virtuoso performances of contemporary and smooth jazz by Lee Ritenour, George Benson, Chick Corea, Pat Metheny, and Herbie Hancock to jazz standards from the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker and Thelonious Monk. Add a delightful mix of original jazz compositions, and you have a deliciously intimate jazz event!

Alicia Monee - Vocals, John Reasoner – guitar, vocals, John Hall – bass,  
Ken Duncan – drums, vocals, Dave Shawver – saxes, flute, keyboards

The Great Jazz Nightclub experience returns with Alicia Monee & Invisible Jazz.

Tickets are available at [artsiowa.com/](http://artsiowa.com/)



Biscuit Miller and the Mix  
 “Chicken Grease”  
 2019 – American Showplace

Chicken Grease, the latest release from Biscuit Miller and the Mix is absolutely fabulous. Miller, who took home the Blues Music Award for Bass Player of the Year in 2012 and 2017, fronts a tight band steeped in Chicago blues. Their music is smothered in grease and fortified with funk. The Mix consists of Doctor Love on drums, Bobby B. Wilson on guitar, Alex ‘Southside’ Smith on guitar, and John Ginty on Hammond B3, Vintage Vibe electric piano, and percussion.

The funky groove of “Here Kitty Kitty” pulls me right in with its playful energy. This one always puts a grin on my face. “Two Legged Dog” keeps the funk flowing with a righteously contagious riff, and killer beat. With lap-steel in hand, Marcus Randolph makes a couple of outstanding appearances: the first on “609”, and the second on title-track “Chicken Grease”. Both are superb tracks, and Randolph sounds amazing.

Biscuit’s smooth-as-silk vocals are front and center as he suavely slows it down with the soulful “Watching You”. “Get Ready”, a song of peace and love, sweetly brings the album to a close with brilliant keys and a hot buttery baseline.

Chicken Grease is a must hear for blues and soul music aficionados. It’s such an enjoyable listen from beginning to end.

By Phillip Smith; Oct. 19, 2019

## Des Moines Road to Memphis Fundraiser

12/8/19 Lefty’s Live Music, 2307 University Ave, Des Moines



2019 Iowa Blues Challenge Winners Avey/Grouws Band and Hal Reed of Generations of Blues are holding a fundraising concert to help support their trip to the 2020 International Blues Challenge in Memphis! Sunday, December 8 at 3-7PM at Lefty’s Live Music - \$10 Suggested Donation.



## THE BLUE DOG BAND

December 21, 2019 Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon  
 8 pm/\$10 cover

@bluedogcity

The Blue Dog Band is Iowa City’s very own old school blues band. They perform the classic sounds of Howlin’ Wolf, B.B. King, Muddy Waters, and Little

Walter, along with the more modern fare of Stevie Ray Vaughan. Honoring the original electric styles of the blues pioneers who left the Mississippi Delta and

brought their music to clubs in Memphis, St. Louis, and Chicago, The Blue Dog Band plays nothing but pure, raw blues.

# Local Music 2019

## DECEMBER 2019 BLUES CALENDAR

Sun. 1	Gypsy Highway Rumors Bar and Grill	John Resch and Doggin' Out 2-4PM Dvpt Dbl drum Blues Jam w/DJ & Eric Douglas
Tue. 3	Parlor City Pub	Brook Hoover hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 4	QDogs BBQ Co. Screaming Eagle	Skeeter Louis Trio. 6-9PM Marion Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Thur. 5	J.M. O'Malley's QDogs BBQ Co. Parlor City Pub New Adventures	Craig Erickson, 8-midnight BillyLee Janey, 6-9PM, Marion McMurrin, Johnson & Douglas 7-10PM Limestoners Blues Jam 7-10PM Waterloo
Fri. 6	Opus Concert Café Lincoln Wine Bar Sanctuary Pub Spicoli's Reverb	Alicia Monee & Invisible Jazz 5-7PM McMurrin & Johnson 7-9PM Mt. Vernon Mike Maas & Carlis Faurot, 8-10PM IaCty Deja Blue, 9:30-11:30PM Waterloo
Sat. 7	Village Meat Market QDogs BBQ	McMurrin & Johnson (Final) 11AM-2PM Hines-Johnson-Douglas, 6-9PM Marion
Sun. 8	Rumors Bar and Grill	The Rumors Jam, 4-8PM
Tue. 10	Parlor City Pub	Craig Erickson hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 11 ★	QDogs BBQ Co. Screaming Eagle River Music Exp - Redstone Room	Bryce Janey, 6-9PM Marion Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo John Resch & Doggin' Out opening for Victor Wainwright, 7:30 PM Davenport
Thur. 12	J.M. O'Malley's QDogs BBQ Co. Parlor City Pub New Adventures	Matt Panek, 8-midnight Robert 'One Man' Johnson, 6-9PM McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestoners Blues Jam 7-10PM Waterloo
Fri. 13	QDogs BBQ Co. Lincoln Wine Bar Famous Mockingbird Checkers Tavern	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM Marion Mike Maas Trio, 7-9PM Mt. Vernon Joyann Parker, 7:00 PM Marion Live Music!, 7PM
Sat. 14	Village Meat Market Famous Mockingbird New Adventures	Merrill Miller last appearance, 11-2PM Eddie Piccard Quartet, 8PM Marion Deja Blue, 8-11PM Waterloo
Sun. 15	Old Neighbor'd Pub	Daddy-O Trio, 5-8PM
Tue. 17	Parlor City Pub	Doug Ducey hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 18	QDogs BBQ Co. Screaming Eagle	Skeeter Louis Trio. 6-9PM Marion Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Thur. 19	J.M. O'Malley's QDogs BBQ Co. Parlor City Pub Famous Mockingbird	Merrill Miller, 8-midnight. BillyLee Janey, 6-9PM Marion McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM two many banjos, 8:00 PM Marion
Fri. 20	Checkers Tavern Famous Mockingbird	Live Music!, 7PM Marbin w Craig Erickson's Sky Train 8PM
Sat. 21	Village Meat Market Fat Cup Coffee Co Famous Mockingbird	Skeeter's last appearance, 11AM-2PM The Blue 2, 3-4:45PM Waterloo Beaker Brothers, 8PM Marion
Sun. 22	Old Neighbor'd Pub Rumors Bar and Grill	Bryce Janey Dan Johnson Trio, 5-8PM The Rumors Jam, 4-8PM
Thur. 26	J.M. O'Malley's New Adventures Parlor City Pub	Charlie Morgan, 8-midnight Limestoners Blues Jam, 7-10PM Waterloo McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM
Sat. 28	Famous Mockingbird	Aaron Kamm and the One Drops, 8PM
Tue. 31 ★	Parlor City Pub Waterloo Ctr for Arts Famous Mockingbird	New Years Eve jam w/ Craig Erickson 7PM Bob Dorr's Iowa Music Revue, 7PM Kris Lager Band, 9PM Marion

Be sure to CHECK this out!

EVERY

Sat. - The Village Market w/ Dan Johnson 11-2PM  
Sun. - The Rumors Jam, 4-7PM  
Tues. - The Famous Parlor City Jam. 7-10PM  
Wed. - Screaming Eagle's Deja Blue Jam 7-10PM  
Thur. - New Adventures, Limestoners, 7-10PM  
Thur. - J.M.O'Malley's, TBone Giblin Jams, 8-mid  
Thur. - CR VFW, Wild Bill & Pony Express, 5-9PM  
Thur. - "Daddy-O" McMurrin at Parlor City 7-10PM  
Fri. - Checkers Tavern, LIVE Music 7PM



Huston Rogers  
**STEAKHOUSE**

The LCBS meets on the 1st Monday of each month!  
See you at The Best Western Longbranch PLUS  
on Dec 2 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!

- Cedar Ridge Winery
  - The BW Longbranch
  - KCKK 88.3
  - Kings Materials
  - J.M. O'Malley's
  - New Leader Mfg.
  - Checkers Tavern
  - QDogs BBQ
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  - Strategic Print Solutions
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- Sports Clips
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  - Wired Production Group

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!

# Teresa James & The Rhythm Tramps



## “Live!”

Jesi-lu Records (10/25/19 Release date)  
Publicity: Blind Raccoon

By Peter “Blewzzman” Lauro © Oct 2019

“Live!” is the eleventh release by Teresa James & The Rhythm Tramps. It was recorded live at Bogie’s, over four different nights with four different lineups. The disc contains thirteen tracks that include seven originals and six covers of some of Teresa’s favorite songs. Many of these tracks are from some of the band’s earlier releases of which one - “Here In Bablyon” - garnered a Grammy Award nomination, and another - “Bottom Line” - earned Teresa a nod for “Contemporary Female Blues Artist of the Year” at the 2008 Blues Music Awards. Not only did I have the pleasure of reviewing that CD but it was at those awards where I also had the pleasure of meeting Teresa for the very first time.

The players responsible for the wonderful music on “Live!” are: Teresa James on lead vocals and keyboards; Terry Wilson on bass and background vocals; Billy Watts on guitar, background and lead vocals; Herman Matthews, Jay Bellarose, and Tony Braunagel on drums; Lee Thornburg and Darrell Leonard on trumpet; and Joe Sublett, Paulie Cerra and Ron Dziubla on saxophone.

The story Teresa’s telling on the opening and original track could very well be told by many of us blues fans, as well. As she tells it, since she found the blues, she’s been “In The Pink”. As a matter of fact, it took all of the track’s first five seconds to put me in the pink. The funky horns of Lee and Ron; the smoking rhythm of Terry and Herman; and Teresa’s boogie piano playing; immediately had me dancing in my chair and there was no looking back from there. Teresa started belting out the names of those who helped her find these blues; the horn and piano highlights became powerful solos and things just kept getting pinker.

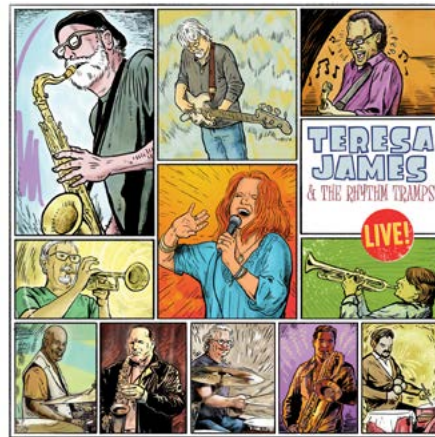
The next track - “I Like It Like That” (L. Pauling) - could not have been more of a perfect segue. Musically, it’s another one for the movers and the shakers, and it features Teresa showcasing those sassy vocals of hers. At tracks end, it’s obvious the crowd liked it like that.

Back in February of 2008, while reviewing the bands “Bottom Line” CD, these are the exact words I used to describe the next original song: “As Teresa begs ‘(Please) Put The Squeeze On Me’, she does it in such a soulful and sultry way it made me wish it was me she was asking”...and nothing has changed. I’m sure it’s throw back fifties style presentation makes it a favorite for the slow dancers.

Another of the original songs is one called “She Has A Way With Men”. With that in mind, it’s Teresa’s plan to make sure she’s not getting a way with her man. Not that that would ever happen, right Terry? Great old school soul sound with Lee and Paulie leading the way on the horns and Jay joining Terry for the hard driving rhythm.

On this duet, not only does the track come from Etta’s songbook but on their rendition of “If I Can’t Have You” (H. Fuqua/E. James), Teresa James and Billy Watts seem to have nailed the song in a way that Etta and Dr. John did on some of their many duo performances. That, along with some low down blues piano and guitar leads from them as well, easily make this one of the disc’s best.

The last of the originals is titled “The Day The Blues Came To Call”. It’s a song off of the bands Grammy nominated release titled “Here In Babylon” - and as far as I’m concerned the song should have garnered a “Song of The Year” nod as well. Vocally, musically, lyrically and delivery wise, the blues just don’t get any better than this.



Other tracks on “Live!” - which is pretty much a “best of” Teresa James & The Rhythm Tramps release - include: “Easier Said Than Done;” “Forgetting You;” “Don’t Make A Habit Of This” (all originals); “Shoorah Shoorah” (A. Toussaint); “Everyday Will Be like A Holiday” (W. Bell/B. Jones); “I Want It All” (G. Clark. B. Swan); and “Long Way From Texas” (T. Klemperer).

To find out more about Teresa James & The Rhythm Tramps just go to [www.teresajames.com](http://www.teresajames.com), and should you have not yet received your copy for airplay, please contact Betsie Brown at [www.blindraccoon.com](http://www.blindraccoon.com). Remember, wherever you go and whoever you contact, please let them know The Blewzzman sent you.

### “The BLUES is my PASSION & THERAPY”

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## ★ Linn County Blues Society Membership Application

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

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

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

### Annual Membership Levels

- \$20 Member**
- \$100 Blues Booster/ Corporate Sponsor**
- \$250 Blues Contributor**
- \$500 Friend of the Blues**
- \$1000 Sustaining Member**

Please mail form & check to: Linn County Blues Society,  
P.O. Box 2672, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2672.

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

# 2019

Linn County Blues Society  
PO Box 2672  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
52406-2672



scan for LCBS web info

*Happy Holidays!*

## Current list of members of the IBHOF

Andre Mosqueda  
Ardie Dean  
Big Mike Edwards  
Billylee Janey  
Bo Ramsey  
Bob DeForest  
Bob Dorr  
Bob Pace  
Bruce McCabe  
Catfish Keith  
Chicago Rick Lussie  
Craig Erickson  
Dan "DJ" Johnson  
Darrell Leonard  
Dartanyan Brown  
Del Saxman Jones  
Dennis McMurrin  
Dwight Dario  
Eddie Haywood  
Ella Ruth Piggee  
Ellis Kell  
Elvin Bishop  
Ernie Peniston  
Eugene Jackson  
Frank Strong  
Fred Walk  
Gary Gibson  
Gary Jackson  
George Davis  
Gilbert Davis

Grant Townsell  
Greg Sutherland  
Harlan Thomas  
Hawkeye Herman  
J.C. Anderson  
James Kinds  
Janey Hooper  
Jay Sieleman  
Jeff Banks



Jeff Petersen  
Jeff Taylor  
Jim DeKoster  
Jimmy Pryor  
Joanne Jackson  
Joe Price  
Kevin Burt  
Louis McTizic  
Mel Harper  
Patrick Hazell  
Perry Welsh  
Philip "Bunky" Marlow

Richie Hayward  
Rico Cicalo  
Rob Lumbard  
Robert "One-Man"  
Johnson  
Ron DeWitte  
Ron McClain  
Ronnie Brewer  
Rose Marie Webster  
Sam Salomone  
Scot Sutherland  
Scott Cochran  
Shaun Murphy  
Sid Wingfield  
Sonny Lott  
Speck Redd  
Stephen Miller  
Steve George  
Steve Hayes  
Tom Giblin  
Tommy Gordon  
Tony Blew  
Vicki Price  
Willis Dobbins

**all that jazz**

Friday Blues-

- 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