



Eastern Iowa Arts Academy youth band entertains at the crowd at the 20th Annual Blues-
Buffet Chili Challenge. Almost \$12,000 raised! Photo by Phillip Smith

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John Primer and the Real Deal at CSPS

Sunday, March 1 at 7:00 PM



You could say John Primer's musical career was forged by the legends. As bandleader and lead guitarist for Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, Magic Slim & The Teardrops, Primer's virtuosity as a blues musician draws on the giants. To go even further back, he began his playing on Maxwell Street, the birthplace of Chicago blues. Before long he had taken over as bandleader at the infamous Theresa's Lounge, where for the next seven years he played alongside Sammy Lawhorn, Junior Wells, James Cotton and others. The two-time Grammy nominated artist has since gone on to play with a who's who of the greats, from Junior Wells and Gary Clark Jr., to Derek Trucks, Johnny Winter, The Rolling Stones and Buddy Guy. In 1995, John released his solo debut, *The Real Deal*. Since then he's released or played on more than a dozen albums, while touring extensively all over the world. A master storyteller and songwriter, Primer's catalog is endless. He's been recognized as both a Living Legend and Best Traditional Blues Artist by the National Blues Foundation. Considering his countless contributions to the history of Chicago blues, you'd be hard-pressed to find a critic, musician or fan who'll deny that John Primer is the real deal.

Get your tickets: Mississippi Heat coming to CSPS May 16



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: lcb.org

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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, coffee, donuts, Oreos®, or Bailey's® to the editor: Bluespaper@lcb.org

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 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. Better yet, save a stamp and email your changes to mailings@lcb.org

LCBS is looking for a

Scatting - LeChaim



Richard Finley

We experienced a Blues revival in the 1960s and now those who provided the music, and those who were awakened to that great sound so many years ago, are growing older. To put things into perspective - if you were 15 years old in 1970, you will be marking your 65th birthday this year. Just this last decade we lost so many famous and influential players including: BB King, Bobby Blue Bland, Honeyboy Edwards, Pinetop Perkins, Magic Slim, Johnny Winter, Lonnie Brooks, Deborah Coleman, and so many more. But it does not matter if the performer was a national star, or a local hero or heroine, the losses are real and are deeply felt.

Blues is a style of music that has a tradition of musicians performing well into the autumn of life. There is no stigma attached to being older and still playing the blues. Quite the contrary, age adds authenticity and underscores the presentation of a sorrowful outpouring, and fans resonate with the earned wisdom and truth of a mature performer. Many blues musicians never retire, they just slow down and work a reduced schedule, performing as well as (or better) than they always did - just less frequently, until as with all good things, we hear of their passing.

It is part of who we are that we wish to honor and celebrate those who have passed out of this life. It is common throughout the world for a wake to be held, and the form that this vigil takes in the community of music is the ritual of a performance dedicated to the departed. These are wakes with a twist, and the twist is the performance of music mixed with a reduced religious or solemn aspect. As an example, in the New Orleans tradition, the attendees at the wake accompany

the coffin of the dearly departed to the cemetery while a dirge is played. This dirge is an expression of the mourning that is poured out. Then on the way back from the burial (to a local drinking establishment) an upbeat celebratory march is played as an expression of the joyousness of a life well lived. The parade from the cemetery flows into the bar and the wake continues with mourning, celebration, and of course, music. Here in Iowa we seldom march to and from the cemetery, but we often will hold a benefit where we pay tribute to the one who is no longer with us. The music is usually provided by friends jamming, and the atmosphere is informal. At these times, it is the venue, the musicians, and the fans that come together for the shared remembrance. These send-offs are not funerals but are a communal honoring of the deceased.

Sadly, I have had the occasion to attend the musical wake of a local



star who I had admired. We had played together a time or two but we were not tight. I questioned whether I should attend the benefit, whether I was close enough to the departed; you know - the usual questions that go through one's mind when thinking about attending the funeral of a less-than-close friend. In the end I made the decision to go. I was so glad I did, because what I found was a community connected by the music of the one who was no longer with us.

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



THE BLUE DOG BAND

March 20, 2020 8 pm: Wildwood BBQ & Saloon

March 21, 2020 8 pm: The General Store Pub

@bluedogiwacity

The Blue Dog Band is Iowa City's very own old school blues band. They perform the classic sounds of artists like 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.

Chili Challenge Results: Everyone's a Winner (LCBS Prevails!)

\$11,903 raised to support HD Scholarship Prog. and Eastern Ia. Arts Academy

Steve Springer's report

Yet another very successful Chili Challenge with the LCBS taking the Overall Club Winner again this year and earning the highest % of the net for the Henry Davison Scholarship Program. This year the total proceeds were \$11,903, just \$100 from the \$12,000 record set last year.

The Eastern Iowa Arts Academy will receive \$5,832 and the Henry Davison Scholarship Program will receive \$6,070. Bob Dorr and Tammy Kluth did their usual outstanding job as MC, and DJ Johnson and Kevin Burt were judging again this year.

A big thanks to DJ for all the publicity prior to the event and to Kevin for adding an hour-long backyard gig to the silent auction. Two student bands from the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy performed after the Silent Auction ended which the crowd totally enjoyed.

Thanks also to Craig Erickson, Kevin and DJ for entertaining the crowd with an impromptu set at the very end of the event. These three put on their usual outstanding performance.

The LCBS and the Isle of Iowa Parrott Heads continue to partner in executing a super Community event. The Eastern Iowa Arts Academy spends their proceeds supporting K-12 youth to make sure they have access to arts and music at no cost. The Henry Davison Scholarship Program helps local youth finance their post high school education by offering five \$4,000 scholarships annually. This is a perfect partnership for both the clubs and the charities.

Judges Category	Club	1st	Club	2nd
Best overall chili (most judge's points)	LCBS	Manny Maldonado	IIPH	EIAA
Best Beef chili (highest judge's points for beef entries)	LCBS	Manny Maldonado	IIPH	EIAA
Best non-Beef chili (highest judge's points for non-beef entries)	LCBS	Rich Lyle	IIPH	Keith I Lou Ann
Best Vegetarian chili (highest judge's points for vegetarian entries)	IIPH	Amy Anderson	LCBS	Ben Sanders
Most Spicy chili (highest judge's points for spice)	LCBS	Rich Lyle	LCBS	Tani and Colin Sanders
Most Unusual/creative (highest judge's points for unusual/creative)	LCBS	Tani and Colin Sanders	LCBS	Ben Sanders
Best Presentation (decided by secret judge)	LCBS	Jennifer Leavy	IIPH	Mike & Paula Sion
Professionals				
Judges best overall (highest judge's points for professionals)		General Store		QDogs
People's choice chili (highest RED ticket count)		QDogs		Ramseys
People's most popular (highest RED & BLUE ticket count)		Ramseys		QDogs
Tickets				
Overall Club winner (highest total RED tickets/ decides money split)		LCBS		
Overall Peoples choice (1 winner based of highest total RED tickets)	LCBS	Rich Lyle	LCBS	HD Scholarship
LCBS most popular chili (LCBS highest RED & Blue ticket total)	LCBS	Rich Lyle	LCBS	Tani and Colin Sanders
IIPC most popular chili (IIPC highest RED & BLUE ticket total)	IIPH	East. Iowa Arts Acad. Heather	IIPH	Stacy Wellington



LCBS Wins Bragging Rights (Again!)



**Christopher Brees at the Chili Challenge
Photo by Phillip Smith..**



**Rich Lyle accepts his 1st of 4 awards
from IIPHC and LCBS. Photo by Dave Metz.**



**Craig Erickson, Kevin Burt and Dan Johnson.
Photo by Dave Metz.**

Over our 20 year run the Blues 'n' Buffett Chili Challenge has raised \$138,445 for our charities!!



**Judges Dan "DJ" Johnson and Kevin "BF" Burt chilling.
Photo by Phillip Smith.**



**Annika Chambers - Kiss My Sass
2019 – Vizztone
By Phillip Smith;**

Kiss My Sass, the third studio album from Houston blues artist Annika Chambers, is a dynamo of hot soulful blues. Chambers, who was deservedly awarded the 2019 Blues Music Award for Soul Blues Female Artist of the Year, has been nominated again for 2020. She certainly woos me over with her astonishing beautiful voice.

Immediately, I'm lured into the record with "Let That Sass Out", a tune written by R.B. Stone. Powerful vocals from Chambers is topped with a buttery rhythm from drummer Greg Brown Jr., and bassist Larry Fulcher. Searing guitar licks from The Mighty Orq seals the deal. Ruthie Foster makes a guest appearance on "What's Your Thing", with The Mighty Orq on pedal steel. This one is an absolutely fabulous cocktail of deep blues and heavy soul. I downright love her cover of the Etta James' classic "In the Basement". This party song puts such a big smile on my face with every listen. Chambers enlists her husband, the great Paul DesLauriers with acoustic guitar in hand, to join in a spirited duet on "I Feel the Same". They sound wonderful together. DesLauriers douses his guitar with gobs of delightful slide while the subtle booming thunder from percussionist Sam Harrison injects an unmistakable heaviness to the song.

Kiss My Sass truly is an album I've enjoyed from beginning to end. It's a terrific listen.



**Craig Taylor and co-emcee Bob Dorr
Photo by Phillip Smith.**



**Eastern Iowa Arts Academy youth band on the stage
Photo by Dave Metz.**

Local Music 2020

MARCH 2020 BLUES CALENDAR

Sun. 1 ★	Rumors Bar and Grill CSPS Hall	The Rumors Jam, 4-8PM John Primer and the Real Deal, 7 PM
Tues. 3	Parlor City Pub	Ryan Phelan Hosts Jam, 7-9 PM
Wed. 4	QDogs BBQ Co. Screaming Eagle	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM, Marion Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Thur. 5	QDogs BBQ Co. New Adventures Parlor City Pub J.M. O'Malley's	Billy Lee Janey, 6-9PM, Marion Limestone Blues Jam, 7-10PM Waterloo McMurrin & Johnson, 7-9PM Rush Cleveland, 8-midnight
Fri. 6	QDogs BBQ Co. Karma Coffee Cafe Whiskey Jo's Pub Checkers Tavern	Skeeter Louis Trio 6-9PM, Marion Mike Maas & Carlis Faurot, 7-9PM, Hiaw. Craig Erickson's Sky Train, 7-11PM Live Music!, 7PM
Sat. 7	Whiskey Jo's Pub Eagles Club IC	Skeeter Louis AllStars w Billy Janey, 4-8PM Homebrewed benefit for UI Vets, 5-8PM
Sun. 8	Gypsy Highway	John Resch and Doggin' Out, 2-6PM, Dav.
Tue. 10	Parlor City Pub	Doug Ducey Hosts Jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 11	QDogs BBQ Co. Screaming Eagle	Bryce Janey, 6-9PM, Marion Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Thur. 12	Parlor City Pub New Adventures J.M. O'Malley's	McMurrin and Johnson 7-10PM Limestone Blues Jam, 7-10PM Waterloo Charlie Morgan, 8-midnight.
Fri. 13	Checkers Tavern Lincoln Wine Bar	Live Music!, 7PM Nate Hines & Dan Johnson, 7-9PM Mt. Ver.
Tue. 17	Parlor City Pub Old Neighbor'd Pub Screaming Eagle	Craig Erickson hosts jam, 7-10PM McMurrin & Johnson Trio, 7PM Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Wed. 18	QDogs BBQ Co.	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM Marion
Thur. 19	QDogs BBQ Co. Parlor City Pub New Adventures J.M. O'Malley's	Billy Lee Janey, 6-9PM Marion McMurrin and Johnson 7-10PM Limestone Blues Jam, 7-10PM Waterloo Craig Erickson's Sky Train, 8-midnight.
Fri. 20	QDogs BBQ Co. Checkers Tavern Wildwood Saloon	DJ and Nate Hines, 6-9PM Marion Live Music!, 7PM Blue Dog Band Band 8PM Iowa City
Sat. 21	General Store Pub	Blue Dog Band Band 8PM Stone City
Sun. 22 ★	Indian Ck Nature Ctr. Maple Syrup Festival	Indian Creek Jazz Band: Mike Maas, Carlis Faurot, Denny Redmond, John O'Connell, Pat Smith, Rich Wagor 8-10AM
Tue. 24	Parlor City Pub	Brook Hoover hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 25	QDogs BBQ Co. Screaming Eagle	Bryce Janey, 6-9PM, Marion Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Thur. 26	Parlor City Pub New Adventures J.M. O'Malley's	Nate Hines & DaddyO 7-9PM Limestone Blues Jam, 7-10PM Waterloo Bryce Janey, 8-midnight.
Fri. 27	Checkers Tavern Lincoln Wine Bar	Live Music!, 7PM Craig Erickson, 7-9PM
Sat. 28	Mary Lou's	Deja Blue, 9PM-1AM, Cedar Falls
Tus. 31	Parlor City Pub	The Blue 2 host jam w Gibby & DJ 7-10PM

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!

Be sure to CHECK this out!

EVERY

Sun. - The Rumors Jam, 4-8PM
Tues. - The Parlor City Jam resumes 7-10 PM
Wed. - Screaming Eagle's Deja Blue Jam 7-10PM
Thur. - J.M.O'Malley's, TBone Giblin Jams, 8-midnite
Thur. - CR VFW, Wild Bill & Pony Express, 5-9PM
Thur. - McMurrin & Johnson at Parlor City 7-10PM
Fri. - Checkers Tavern, LIVE Music 7PM



Huston Rogers STEAKHOUSE

The LCBS meets on the 1st Monday of each month (with exceptions for holidays or special events) at The Best Western Longbranch PLUS.

The meeting will be March 2nd at 6:00PM for a soft-start. Business meeting begins at 6:30PM. Guests are always welcome!

90 Twixt Town Rd., Cedar Rapids • 377-6386.

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Alex Dixon's VINTAGE DIXON Presents:

"The Real McCoy" Featuring Lewis "Big Lew" Powell

By Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro © Feb 2020

There is so much I can tell you about Alex Dixon - Willie Dixon's grandson - and Dixon Landing Music; and with all the wonderful and valuable information provided on the two sided one sheet enclosed with the disc, I could fill up paragraph after paragraph telling you about what I just read as well. However, since all that is available online, I'd much rather let you read about it yourselves and go straight to telling you about the album and music I just heard instead.

"The Real McCoy" is the third release on Dixon Landing Music and I'm honored to say that I have had the pleasure of writing about all three. Of the disc's eleven tracks, six are Alex Dixon originals/collaborations and five were written by or collaborations of gramps and uncle Wolf - that would be Willie Dixon and Chester "Howlin' Wolf" Burnett.

In addition to being an extremely talented bunch, many of the musicians joining Alex Dixon - on bass - are lifelong friends who grew up together on the south side of Chicago as well. They include: Lewis "Big Lew" Powell on vocals; Alvino Bennett on drums and vocals; Steve Bell and Sugar Blue on harmonica; Melvin Taylor and Rico McFarland on lead and rhythm guitar; Gino Matteo on slide and rhythm; Joey Delgado on rhythm guitar; and, Leila Dixon and Whaia on background vocals.

The opening track - "Nothing New Under The Sun" (A. Dixon) - was recently released as a single on the same date (Jan. 7) that the Muddy Waters classic "Hoochie Coochie Man" (W. Dixon) was released, back in 1954....and that's not the only similarity. Just like Muddy did on that Chess release, "Big Lew" is belting and growling the hell out of the vocals; just like Little Walter did, Steve Bell's blowin' some serious blues on harp; just like Willie Dixon and Elgin Evans did, Alex Dixon and Alvino Bennett are rockin' the rhythm; and just like Muddy and Jimmy Rogers did, Melvin Taylor, Gino Matteo and Joey Delgado are killing it on the gui-

tars. That's what traditional blues sounded like then and thanks to these cats, that's still what traditional blues sounds like now. Don't fix it if it ain't broke! The track also features a fourth generation Dixon - Alex's daughter and Willie's great granddaughter, Leila, making her recording debut on background vocals.

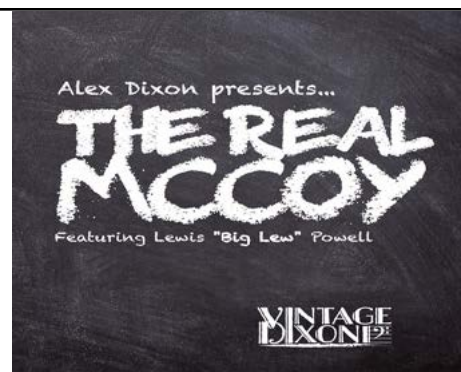
Another Willie Dixon Classic - which Buster Benton had a big hit with in 1973 - is "Spider In My Stew". Other than the fact that this time it's Sugar Blue and Rico McFarland laying down the killer blues licks on the harp and guitar, not much has changed. Just like when Willie said "Chicago is loaded with the blues", this track is, as well.

There are certain claims that certain legendary blues men can make that no one would dare dispute. When Willie Dixon says "I Am The Blues" who's gonna tell him he's not? When John Primer claims to be the "Real Deal", who's gonna tell him he isn't? Along those lines, Lewis "Big Lew" Powell has me thinking that when it comes to singing the blues, he may just be "The Real McCoy" (A. Dixon).

So here I am, four tracks into the disc and I've had something to say about all of them. If I'm not careful, two things could easily happen: the first is that as impossible as it seems, I've got to become a bit more selective or this will be a very long read; and secondly, with the abundant amount of incredible tradition blues, I'd hate for my descriptions to become redundant. That said, this being a track that features harp master Sugar Blue at his very best, makes telling you about "My Greatest Desire" (A. Dixon) a public service announcement.

The next two tracks are titled "Howlin' For My Darling" (W. Dixon & C. Burnett) and "Groanin' The Blues" (W. Dixon) and on them both, "Big Lew" clearly testifies that when it comes to howlin' and groanin', ain't nobody got nothin' on him. The latter track features Melvin Taylor, a long time favorite of mine, on the disc's most scorching guitar solo.

Hands down, the disc's smoker is "Chi-Town Boo-



gie" (A. Dixon & L. Powell). Other than Alex, Lew and Alvino occasionally harmoniously shouting out the songs name from time to time, the track is basically an instrumental which features everyone in all out jam mode. Think "Whammer Jammer" - but with Steve Bell doing the renowned harp work - highlighted by three guitarists.

Other tracks on what I'm calling a must have CD that's highly likely to appear on "Best Traditional Blues" ballots include: "When I Make Love" (W. Dixon); "10,000 Miles Away" (A. Dixon/A. Bennett/L. Powell); and two bonus tracks: "I Want To Be Loved" (W. Dixon); and the true instrumental version of "Chi-Town Boogie".

For more information, and to hear some music clips from "The Real McCoy", just go to www.vintagedixon.com and you can also check Alex out at www.facebook.com/alex Dixon band vintagedixon/ and wherever you track him down, please be sure to tell him his friend the Blewzzman sent you.

"The BLUES is my PASSION & THERAPY"

Peter "BLEWZZMAN" Lauro
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- \$20 Member
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2020

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Iowa City Eagles Club, 225 Highway 1, Iowa City

Tickets available at door or: <https://www.foriowa.org/form/uiiva-dinner.php>

ADULTS \$15 STUDENTS \$10

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