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BLUESPAPER

The LCBS Bluespaper - for your listening pleasure!

Issue 308

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April 2020



**John Primer and the Real Deal performed at CSPA Hall
March 1, 2020
Photo by Jennifer Leavy**

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John Primer and the Real Deal at CSPS

March 1, 2020. Review and photo by Jenifer Leavy

On March 1 The CSPS Hall welcomed back John Primer and the Real Deal to a sold-out show. The crowd came expecting greatness from the legendary musician who's music was influence from playing with great musicians like Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, and Magic Slim. The traditional blues artist brought the house down with the Chicago Blues sound accompanied by the Real Deal Blues Band and the incredible harmonica of Steve Bell, on bass with Danny "Smoke" O'Connor, and drums with Lenny Media.

The music flowed throughout the night from one great song to another. Hits like She Won't Gimme No Lovin', Still Called the Blues, I Called My Baby, Mannish Boy, and Forty Days and Forty Nights. The highlight of the show came when John played Slip Away. It was mid song when he did just that, slipping away into the audience to play up close with the audience. The personal connection that John Primer made with his fans is what the blues is all about. Blues music is about connecting through words, the sounds, the emotion. Primer is a master bringing all that into his music and performance and he let it all pour out as he wound his way through the crowd.



Primer is well respected in the blues community having played and recorded with many of the blues greats such as Derek Trucks, Buddy Guy, Johnny Winter, Junior Wells, Gary Clark Jr, and even the Rolling Stones. John has also been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Currently he is nominated for Traditional Blues Artist of the Year 2020 by The Blues Foundation Blues Music Awards. Win or lose at the awards, John Primer will always be a winner when it comes to the blues.

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

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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;

- 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@lcbs.org

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\$15.00 - Business card size - 2" x 3.5"
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\$60.00 - Half page ad - 4.75" x 7.25"
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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 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@lcbs.org

Support our Artists in Other Ways

Buy a CD or digital download, watch a streaming show

While we cannot enjoy live music until we receive the all clear to resume our social activities, we can still enjoy and support our local artists.

KCCK 88.3 FM is planning on doing some short interviews with artists which will be aired with video shared on social media.

Visit the KCCK website KCCK.org often to see how this develops.

Check out the [LCBS Facebook Page](#)



Scatting - Euterpe loves Hephaestus

Richard Finley

The guitar is a superb example of science, technology, and engineering being applied to an existing instrument, and expanding its capabilities. The Fender Telecaster was the first mass-produced solid-body electric guitar; however, it is well known that Leo Fender was an engineer, not a musician. Fender approached his guitar development project like a good engineer. He made a conscious decision to apply technology to the design in order to achieve engineering goals. When a product moves from the realm of art to the realm of engineering, technology is applied and infused into the design. Fender had a set of requirements: Usable interface (hold/tune/play), sufficient volume, durable, portable, quality, low price, and (of utmost importance) producibility. Fender recognized the potential for an infusion of technology into the basic design of the guitar. The instrument got easier to play, became louder and tougher. The new design remained easy to transport, with high quality and low price; and the bolt-on neck (combined with the solid body) made them easy to manufacture.

But the guitar is not the only instrument (maybe not even the best example) of technology and music mixing. At about the time of the civil war, metallurgic technology made advances that allowed for the specification and manufacture of designs within very exact tolerances. Very intricate designs could be cast, forged, and keenly finished. Many types of machinery benefited from this technological advance, such as, steam engines, guns, and of course, musical instruments. The saxophone is a “musical machine” designed and created to meet a set of requirements. It was born with a pedigree in the form of its 1846 patent that described 14 dif-

ferent versions of the instrument in various sizes and keys. Before Adophe Sax’s engineering project there was no such thing as a saxophone. The patent lays out the user interface (keys and how to hold it), and all other build details. Mr. Sax made certain that there was sufficient volume, durability, portability, quality, low price, and of course producibility in his design.

Another well-known instrument that has been forever altered by technology is the piano/keyboard. The modern keyboard has left the acoustic piano so far behind that the only thing the two have in common is the layout of the keys. Speaking as one who has helped the band set up with a keyboard player, it is my opinion that the most important result of technology-applied is a considerable reduction in weight. Portability of the piano is not its strong suit. Due to the continued microprocessor development, new more capable keyboards are still being engineered.

So what instruments are out there waiting for the engineer to provide an infusion of technology? If I could look into the future I would be playing the lottery instead of writing about musical technology. But... I would like to see some smart engineer combine a theremin with a virtual reality



interface. The theremin is a device which has two sensors that track the position of the player’s hands. One hand controls the frequency (pitch) while the other hand controls the volume. The player’s hands never actually touch the sensors but are free to move in space. The actual instrument is invisible, and I believe that virtual interfaces could be configured to aid in the visualization. It is beyond my imagination what the virtual instrument may look like. However, I can see a day when a musician with a theremin and a virtual reality helmet is up on stage, waving her hands in the thin air, and laying down a groove. Even if I am wrong about the theremin, one thing I am certain of is that there will be a “next” infusion of technology into the world of musical instruments. We just need a set of requirements.

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



Three reviews by Philly Cheeze!

Sister Lucille - "Alive"

2019 – Endless Blues Records



Hot and seductive vocals from Kim Dill coupled with gobs of dynamic guitar from her husband Jamie Holdren fuel Alive, the debut album from Springfield, Missouri's Sister Lucille. They sound great together as their voices blend in southern-style harmony. The other half of the band is comprised of a fantastic rhythm section featuring drummer Kevin Lyons, and bassist Eric Guinn. Alive, produced by Holdren, and mixed by Grammy Award winner Jim Scott who produced Tedeschi Trucks' Revelator album, makes for one hell of a bluesy listen.

Holdren pours out a cool funky groove on "Won't Give It" as the soulful keys from Chris Stephenson on a Hammond B, join with attacks of brass from saxophonist Peter Climie, trumpeter Jared Dover, and trombonist Andrew Earle. It sounds great. I love the swampy, delta blues style slide Holdren dishes out on "See My Baby". For a nice big helping of blues at its authentic best, "Respect Your Woman" features Eric Hughes, a Memphis blues artist who I hold high regard for, making a guest appearance on harmonica. It's always a delight to hear him play.

I adore the Stax vibe hanging out in "Wanna Love You". Dill sings this infectious tune with sexy persuasion as Holdren absolutely rips it up on guitar. The Stax vibe keeps trucking on as they cover "99 Pounds", a song written by Don Bryant, and originally recorded by his wife Ann Peebles. This one is a big-time favorite indeed and it's songs like this which I fall head over heels for. Etta James' "W.O.M.A.N", the other cover song on this record is a splendid showcase for Dill as she pours everything into her performance of this wonderful classic.

Sister Lucille serves up a marvelous mix of blues, rock, and soul with Alive. I certainly hope we hear more from them in the near future.

By Phillip Smith; Feb. 8, 2020

Griff Hamlin and the Single Barrel Blues Band - "I'll Drink To That"

2019 – Griff Hamlin



I'll Drink to That, the debut album from Griff Hamlin and the Single Barrel Blues Band is absolutely terrific. Hamlin, known to many through his Blues Guitar Unleashed instructional website, has built an outstanding band to back him on this new release. A smokin' guitar and smooth vocals puts him front and center with a remarkable rhythm section comprised of keyboardist Ty Bailie, bassist Mark Smith, and drummer Chris Atchley. The Single Barrel Blues Band also contains a splendid horn section made up of Jonathan Bradley on trumpet, Eric Letta on alto/tenor sax, Kevin Hicks on trombone, and Laura Hamlin on baritone sax. This release is composed of ten tremendous blues tracks which are sure to keep the record on heavy-rotation.

I love the opener "Almost Level with the Ground". It has an instant familiarity and reminds me of what I admired about the music of Stevie Ray Vaughan. Hamlin's vocals are fearless, and his guitar is flawless. Smith and Atchley steer the bus with astonishing precision as the backing horns and keys give the song body and soul. "Don't Lie", another go-to song for me, is another fine example of Hamlin's exquisite mastery of the blues. This song fabulously highlights his sensational shredding skills.

"Someone" is slow and beautifully captivating. Bailie plays this one with a soulful finesse and the horns effortlessly blend right in, making it a pure joy to listen to. I yearn for another trip to the 'Big Easy' when I hear "Louisiana Holiday". It's funky, fun, and best served with an ice-cold Abita beer. Hamlin's expertise when it comes to writing authentic blues songs, is rightfully exhibited on "Bourbon and a Pistol". It's a very cool song to close the album with.

Griff Hamlin and the Single Barrel Blues Band is a band on top of their game. I really appreciate what they are doing with the Blues, and immensely enjoyed this album.

By Phillip Smith; Feb. 2, 2020



Bai Kamara Jr. & The Voodoo Sniffers "Salone"

2020 – Moosicus Records



It didn't take but one listen to Salone, the latest release from Bai Kamara Jr., to turn me into an instant fan. This was my first exposure to Kamara and his music, and to put it bluntly, his songs have swept me off my feet. Born the son of a former Sierra Leone ambassador, Kamara who grew up in the UK and moved to Brussels where he has lived for over twenty-five years. For Salone, his sixth album, he embraces his African heritage with fifteen fantastic all-original, self-produced songs rooted in blues, jazz, and funk.

Kamara, with his six-string acoustic guitar, reminds me a lot of the current delta blues players. His songs are intriguing and poignant. He begins with "Can't Wait Here Too Long". The song is highly infectious. Kamara's vocals are suave as he sings of empowerment on "Lady Boss", a cool and funky blues track. One of Kamara's songs which have burrowed deep into my brain is "Black Widow". Spider-like percussive sounds are at the forefront of this deep-blues track which I utterly adore. "Don't Worry About Me" is an absolutely stunning song of overcoming hardships. It reminds me a lot of the music of another favorite, Sixto Diaz Rodriguez.

Salone is a downright fascinating piece of work which deserves to be heard, and Bai Kamara Jr., with his brilliant songs, has definitely won me over.

By Phillip Smith; Feb. 2, 2020

Isn't it funny that red, white and blue represent freedom, unless they're flashing behind you?

Cory Luetjen And The Traveling Blues Band

"Just The Blue Notes"

Self Released

Preface

By Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro © Mar2020



JUST THE BLUE NOTES

Whenever I offer advice to bands competing in the International Blues Challenge the thing that is on top of my list is to stress the importance of networking. Sure winning is great but for the other ninety-eight percent of the bands involved, returning home with hundreds of representatives from the industry and new fans knowing about you, your band and your music - that is winning! As a matter of fact, it was Cory Luetjen's networking skills that led to us meeting. As a mentoring session in which IBC participants got to mingle with various industry reps (of which I was one) came to an end, Cory - who was on a mission - politely and confidently introduced himself to as many of us as he could while handing out business cards and copies of his CD. I remember thinking to myself that if the music on this disc was on the same high level as this young man's enthusiasm - and it is - that he'd have a bright future ahead. Well done, Cory!

Review

The Traveling Blues Band consists of: Cory Luetjen on vocals and guitar; Deon McNeill on drums; Patrick Harrison on bass; Jonathan Link on saxophone; Glenn Bickel on B3 and keys; and special guest Dwight Martin on harmonica. "Just The Blue Notes" is the band's second release, all eleven tracks were penned by Cory.

I've always been a firm believer that the two best ways to make an already good blues band much better are to add a saxophone or a keyboard. Cory did both, and on "Stop" - the disc's opening track, that decision is immediately paying dividends. The chemistry Cory, Jonathan and Glenn share while collectively playing, then individually passing the lead around from the guitar, to the sax and to the B3, makes for one hell of a masterful musical presentation. Throw in the profound rhythm Deon and Patrick are pushing out and a raspy, early Johnny Lang sounding vocal delivery, and The Traveling Blues Band add up to one hell of well rounded group.

With the four piece rhythm section set-

ting into a solid groove behind him, Cory takes "I'm Gonna Love You" and absolutely runs with it. It's a nearly seven minute love ballad that's kind of separated into two parts. Half of the song features Cory emotionally and passionately professing his love to his lady, while the other half features him stepping out and crushing it on several relentless blues guitar outbursts.

On this humorous track, with Cory playfully singing about all the instruments his lady doesn't like, as he mentions the ones that appear on the track, those players each take a quick (probably not to upset her) solo. On the other hand, when he claims that his baby is "Crazy About A Saxophone" Jonathan gets to light it up on several well done solos. Fun song.

"My baby left me all alone, turned my happy house into an empty home. Broke my heart in two, and gave me these Same Old Blues".....

Wearing his heart on his sleeve, Cory's emotional and heartfelt vocals have a way of transferring his pain right to the listener. When you talk about 'selling the song' Cory nailed that.....with a sledge hammer! By songs end I found myself hoping it wasn't written from a real life experience. The musical accompaniment on the track could not have been more perfect. The stinging guitar leads, the solemn organ leads, the sensitive sax leads and the remorseful rhythm all made the hair on my arms stand up. Each and every time I replayed this song (and it was many) it gave me "The Same Old Blues" and each and every one of those times I swore I just listened to a song worthy of "Song Of the Year" in any blues competition.

Yeah, it's a blues song but at least it's a "Suitcase" Cory is hoping his clothes fit into and not a matchbox. This one has all the energy of high speed locomotive and that right there tells you that it's a rhythm fueled smoker. Adding Dwight Martin's skillful harp blowin' to this one was an extra added boost.

The lyrics on "The Way You Move" are all about how turned on Cory gets watching his lady dance. That said, this smooth shuffle will have just about everyone in the place moving. This dance floor filler is highlighted by another phenomenal

rhythm performance led by Deon and Glenn at disc's best on drums and piano.

Apparently, Cory doesn't know how thrilled I get while listening to a slow and low down blues song that happens to also be the longest track on the disc - because if he did, I think he would have actually pointed out in the jackets liner notes that this track was dedicated to me. Because of it's length, Cory, Jonathan and Glenn all get to take extended guitar, sax and organ solos, and with Deon and Patrick in that precise rhythm groove mandated by a song like this, "Whiskey Drinking Woman" was nine minutes of pure blues bliss. The blues do not get any better than this!

Other tracks on "Just The Blue Notes" include: "Love You 'Til Your Blues Are Gone", "I Thought I Knew the Blues", "Do It For Me", and "Left Me With The Blues".

If my enthusiasm thus far has not made it clear, let me come right out and say it - "This is a must have CD!" Cory Luetjen may be one of the best new vocalists; The Traveling Blues Band may be one of the best new blues bands; and "Just The Blue Notes" may be one of the best new releases; that I have heard in years.

To find out more about Cory Luetjen and the band; to purchase the CD; or to request a copy for airplay; just go to www.travelingbluesband.com. While you're there, please tell Cory that the Blewzzman - his newest biggest fan - sent you.

"The BLUES is my PASSION & THERAPY"

Peter "BLEWZZMAN" Lauro

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Local Music 2020

APRIL 2020 BLUES CALENDAR

Live Music Postponed

The Governor issued a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency | March 17, 2020

A. Restaurants and Bars: All Restaurants and Bars are hereby closed to the general public except that to the extent permitted by applicable law, and in accordance with any recommendations of the Iowa Department of Public Health, food and beverages may be sold if such food or beverages are promptly taken from the premises, such as on a carry-out or drive-through basis, or if the food or beverage is delivered to customers off the premises.

B. Fitness Center: All fitness centers, health clubs, health spas, gyms, aquatic centers are hereby closed.

C. Theaters: All theaters or other performance venues at which live performances or or motion pictures are shown are hereby closed.

D. Casinos and Gaming Facilities: All casinos and other facilities conducting pari-mutuel wagering or gaming operations are hereby closed.

E. Mass Gathering: Social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people are hereby prohibited at all locations and venues, including but not limited to parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers. Planned large gatherings and events must be canceled or postponed until after termination of this disaster.

F. Senior Citizen Centers and Adult Daycare Facilities: All facilities that conduct adult day services or other senior citizen centers are hereby closed.

Until we know when our live music venues will open again, you can continue to support our Blues artists by streaming their music on-line, buying their CD's and save up for bigger tips for the days we can see them live.

Let's all pitch in to keep safe and keep the Blues Alive.

Be sure to CHECK this out!



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

Correction to the March 2020 Bluespaper photo on page 4



The monthly LCBS meeting is being postponed until we receive the all clear to end the social distancing necessary to contain the Coronavirus pandemic.

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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- Dr. Ronald W. Miller
- Acme Electric
- Strategic Print Solutions
- Village Meat Market

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Local Band profile of the Month - Deja Blue

Bob Dorr, an Iowa Blues icon and Iowa Blues Hall of Fame member, was hosting a blues jam in the basement of the upscale restaurant in downtown Waterloo, Iowa. Six seasoned musicians show up one by one. They were Craig Bravender, lead singer and member of the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; Randy Jones, lead guitarist, who owns and operates Tenor Madness, an internationally known custom saxophone shop; Clark Kilgard, keyboardist and former church music leader; Kip Rolfsema, a full-time drum teacher at West Music in Cedar Falls; Brian Elzey, bass guitarist, who teaches guitar and bass in Independence; and Mark Mahler, rhythm and slide guitarist and bluesy vocalist. They are joined by Shirley Jones, lead and background singer, who has paid her dues on the road and operates the sax shop with her husband Randy. After a couple of rehearsals, the decision is made to become a classic rhythm and blues band – hence the name: DEJA BLUE.

The band gets started playing for drinks and tips and then does a private party for real money. Several bar gigs follow. They mix in some saxophones played by Nolan Schroeder and Simon Harding. Then they are asked to host a weekly blues jam at



Déjà Blue All Over Again

the Screaming Eagle in Waterloo. It is still going on. Bob Dorr invites them to play at his Music Review at the Riverloop Amphitheater. They open for Kevin Burt, 2018 International Blues Challenge Winner and entertain outdoors at My Waterloo Days and at the Big Grove Brewery Backyard Blues Fest. Meanwhile, the Déjà Blue logo, a fedora-wearing guitar-playing skeleton starts to appear on banners, posters, magnetic signs and hundreds of black T-shirts. Going full circle, they end the year 2019 hosting a New Year's Eve bash with Bob Dorr and his Music Review. 2020 is shaping up to be a great year for the band.

DEJA BLUE stays tuned up by rehearsing frequently and adding new tunes to their repertoire of classic blues and funky party songs. They cover

B.B. King, Albert King, and Freddie King. The band doesn't do any Yardbird's songs, but they give Jeff Beck and Eric Clapton their due. They cover Stevie Wonder and Stevie Ray Vaughn. Matt Schofield's version of "Black Cat Bone" rubs up against a few songs by the Stray Cats. Some Gary Moore can be heard along with "Shout for More" by Big Al and the Heavyweights. Déjà Blue does a lot of Allman Brothers and covers some other brothers in the blues: Jimi Hendrix, Carlos Santana, Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding, Johnny Lange, James Brown, and Joe Cocker. No wonder you can hear an echo of Marcia Ball's "The Party's Still Going On!"

Contact::

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clarkkilgard@aol.com

★ 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.

2020

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 Cedar Rapids, IA
 52406-2672



scan for LCBS web info

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 Bo Ramsey
 Bob DeForest
 Bob Dorr
 Bob Pace
 Bruce McCabe
 Catfish Keith
 Chicago Rick Lussie
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 Dan "DJ" Johnson
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 Sonny Lott
 Speck Redd
 Stephen Miller
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 Steve Hayes
 Tom Giblin
 Tommy Gordon
 Tony Blew
 Vicki Price
 Willis Dobbins

2020 Inductees

Hal Reed
 Scott Eggleston
 Radoslav Lorkovic
 Butch Edmonds



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