



## TGGBS President's Message:

As I peruse the Bay Area looking for interesting places to listen to blues, I luckily received an invitation from singers **Earnestine Barze** and **Wanda Diamond**. They brought me to two old school classics in Oakland: [Eli's Mile High](#) Club on MLK Boulevard and [Everette and Jones's Q's Lounge](#) on Broadway. Earnestine was jam leader for the Monday Night Blues Jam series at Eli's and told me "get there around 6" to get good parking close by. A fabulously skilled band backed awesome singers all night at Eli's, including stalwart regulars, **Fillmore Slim**, who performed his new CD "Sons of The Seven Sisters." Ninety plus years **YOUNG Nat Bolden**, who duets with powerhouse singer **Sharon Davis**, was also there--the real deal here folks. Earnestine is a very special entertainer, with a hot wardrobe and a voice unique in the way she uses phrasing. She sent goosebumps throughout the crowd, letting us know we were hearing the BLUES. **Wanda Diamond** was sitting in with The Caravan who host at Q's every Saturday night. Parking is handy at the garage over Yoshi's. The BBQ there is awesome, and the only grease is on the stage. Ribs, links, beans and cornbread along with great voices all night tell me we are well taken care of in the Bay Area with venues worthy of the most jaded tourists and locals alike. Treat yourself to these two historic gems. Everett & Jones Barbeque will have a plaque on Oakland's Walk of Fame. **"The Music They Played on 7th Street, Oakland Walk of Fame"** pays tribute to the great musicians, club owners, record companies, related independent businesses and others that put 7th Street on the map as a top entertainment destination. A total of 88 brass plaques — the number of keys on a piano — will be embedded into both sides of the sidewalk along 7th Street, between Center and Wood Streets. The plaques will honor those that helped earn 7th Street the nickname "Harlem of the West." **Ronnie Stewart** is the man behind this project and it took him years to see it become a reality.

With the death of bluesman **Ron Thompson** and tireless promoter **Jack Cohen**, I have been reminded how precious our existence is. I appreciate our community more and more. With blessings, we will survive and enjoy a future filled with great music. I am also looking forward to embracing some very special programs and worthy causes. Last Saturday I was invited to attend the **7th Annual "Girls Got the Blues"** fundraiser for [Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence](#) at [Tabard Theatre](#) in San Jose. Parking is convenient in an adjacent city garage which is free with a validation from the theatre or from the many fine restaurants that line the street. We took a fun ride in the freight elevator which brought us to a large room with a very long bar, tiered soft seating, and a gigantic stage that circles out well into the room, bringing the performers very close and intimate. Great lighting and sound complete a very cushy setting where we were offered spare seats in the VIP section by a generous patron, Judy Marlin. The show was very well done with fine musicianship and excellent vocals from the special guests. What was even more impressive is how dedicated the organizers are, how hard they work, and how deeply involved they are in their cause. They found a fabulous venue, negotiated a big savings, booked a superb well-rehearsed line-up, and managed to pack the place with an enthusiastic, generous crowd that loved every minute of the afternoon. Congratulations to Event Coordinator, **Marianne Adoradio**, Executive Director **Esther Peralez Dieckmann**, and Development Director, **Beth Williams**. They have inspired me to try a few of these worthy shows ourselves--volunteers?

Yours Bluely,  
Richard MacLaury, President of TGGBS



## HERE ARE OUR FEBRUARY 2020 TOPICS:

- 4 Ticket Giveaways for Colin James @ Yoshi's in Oakland
- Notable Blues Jams in the Bay Area (by Cathy Lemons)
- Top Show Picks for Bay Area Blues
- Ron Thompson Remembered (two memorial shows coming up)
- Wee Willie Walker Memorial Celebration in Photos by Bob Hakins
- Article on Wee Willie Walker by Robert Feuer
- Article on S.E Willis by Joseph Jordan
- Biscuits & Blues Update
- Blues Music Awards May 7<sup>th</sup> 2020--Get Your Tickets
- Call For 2020 IBC Participants from The Bay Area
- Call for Volunteers & Donations

## **TGGBS TICKET GIVEAWAYS**

TGGBS has **4 SINGLE tickets** to give away – no strings!



THU 3.12  
Joyfully tangled up in the blues

**COLIN JAMES QUARTET**

DOORS: 7:30 PM SHOW: 8 PM

**4 FREE TICKETS**

Yoshi's  
oakland

**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>:** Colin James Quartet, Yoshi's, Oakland, CA  
Doors 7:30 PM/ Show 8 PM

Contact [membership@tggbs.org](mailto:membership@tggbs.org) and the **first 4 people to email us will receive ONE ticket each.**

These are WILL CALL TICKETS. I will need your full name, and you will need an I.D. at the box office.

Learn more about the show [HERE!](#)

## **NOTABLE BLUES JAM'S IN THE BAY AREA**

by Cathy Lemons

Every night of the week except Saturdays, blues jams take place in the San Francisco/ Bay Area! I have picked just a few true blues jams to highlight, and I picked these jams due to their longevity & reputation or because they are new.

### ***Mondays:***

**Murphy's Law Monday Night Jam with Host Mike Phillips (weekly)**



Photo David Hull

8:30 PM – 12:30 AM

[Murphy's Law](#)

135 South Murphy Ave. Sunnyvale

408-736-3822

Free

Since the late 1990's—20 years

With Dennis Dove, drums; Johnny Cat Soubrand guitar; & Mike "Pops" Phillips, bass.

This blues jam has been going on for two decades! Everyone is welcome and Mike Phillips has done a fabulous job keeping it going. For 2 decades Mike, Dennis and Johnny Cat, have been gracefully supporting musicians and creating great music. The beauty of a jam is that young artists that are still developing can come in and get some guidance. This is the kind of jam that supports younger artists as well as veterans. Besides allowing other local and out of state musicians to jam, the players make music together with a friendliness and ambience that relaxes and invigorates

The longest uninterrupted jam in the deep South Bay!

***Tuesdays:*****Aki Kumar's Downtown Pro Blues Jam (weekly)**

7 -10 PM with host Aki Kumar (NOTE - guest hosts run the jam when Aki is on tour)

**[Poor House Bistro](#)**

91 S Autumn St, San Jose, CA 95110

408-292-5837

Free

Aki's jam was moved since January of 2017 to The Poor House Bistro, replacing Aki's Mojo Lounge jam. The house band does a one-hour opening set. Aki provides a nice backline of instruments including two guitar amps, a bass amp, a harp amp, and a drum kit. The sound system is good. The Poor House is known for its casual, family like atmosphere. If you get hungry you can just walk up the stairs and get a delicious meal for a reasonable price. They also have a full bar. Jammers are asked not to bring in equipment but to use what is provided. It makes the jam much easier to run. Aki has been running jams for over a decade and knows exactly how to make it work. His guests are often heavyweights like Kid Andersen, Steve Freund, and many others.

**Electric Jam with Dennis Dove, Oliver Harris, Ray Figueroa (weekly)**

The Note Lounge

8 -11:30 PM

765 E. Capitol Ave. Milpitas CA 95035

408-262-8363

Free



Setting up at The Note Lounge  
Photo: Unknown

## ***Wednesdays:***



### **Club Fox Blues Jam hosted by jam master Vince Caminiti**

7 - 11 PM

2209 Broadway, Redwood City, CA 94063

831-334-1153

\$7.00 cover

14 years! Since 2006!

Through the efforts of a passionate group of local musicians, the hospitality of the Club Fox and local sponsorship, the jam has become a Bay Area blues institution. Club Fox Blues Jam has attracted both national and international acts. Most importantly, the jam is the catalyst for bringing out more and more blues fans to hear live blues at its spontaneous best.

Luminaries that have performed at Club Fox Blues Jam are: Terri Odabi, Daniel Castro, Kenny Neal, Steve Freund, Elvin Bishop, Tommy Castro, Rick Estrin, The Ford Blues Band, Volker Strifler, Terry Hanck, Sonny Rhodes, RJ Mischo, Mark Hummel, Kid Andersen, and more. What follows is a jam like no other. Folks get to experience some of the finest blues artists, national artists on tour, local luminaries and talented amateurs mixing it up. For the musicians, it's an opportunity to play the blues with peers of unbelievable talent. For the fans in the 240-seat capacity crowd, it's an amazing show every week with new talent and the unpredictable excitement that only a blues jam can bring.



Photo by Kev Jo

Vince is the architect behind the success of the jam. He experienced the ugly, the bad, and most significantly, the incredibly good session when the chemistry between great musicians created blues magic. So from the jams humble beginnings, he recognized the opportunity and the magic that might flow from a truly pro session where the musicians were free to concentrate on the music without the need to "herd the cats" and do the behind the scenes work of running a top-notch session. At the The Club Fox Blues Jam he lines up the best of the Bay Area's blues bands and then fashions every session and every line-up to draw out the best from the abundant Bay Area blues talent. Vince is also the founder of our own The Golden Gate Blues Society.

## ***Thursdays:***



**Little Lou's BBQ Blues Jam, started by Aki Kumar in 2013, now hosted by Johnny Cat Soubrand**

### **[Little Lou's BBQ](#)**

7:30 – 10:30 PM

Since 2013

Free

This jam is a classic one with a regularly packed audience. Aki Kumar started the jam back in 2013, and now Johnny Cat is the magnanimous host. Blues stars like Kim Wilson, Johnny Burgin, James Harman, Kim Wilson, Kid Andersen, Terri Odabi, Lara Price, Rick Estrin, Junior Watson & others have made this jam most notable.

The backing band rotates with drummer Dennis Dove & bassist Mike Phillips one week & vocalist/harp player Jimmy Dewrance & drummer Andrew Guterman the next! Johnny Cat still brings in special guests & touring musicians when he can! This jam just featured Lara Price from Austin Texas.

[Mark Hummel](#) will be the next special guest on March 12th!

### **All Blues Night Jam Session with Earl the Pearl**

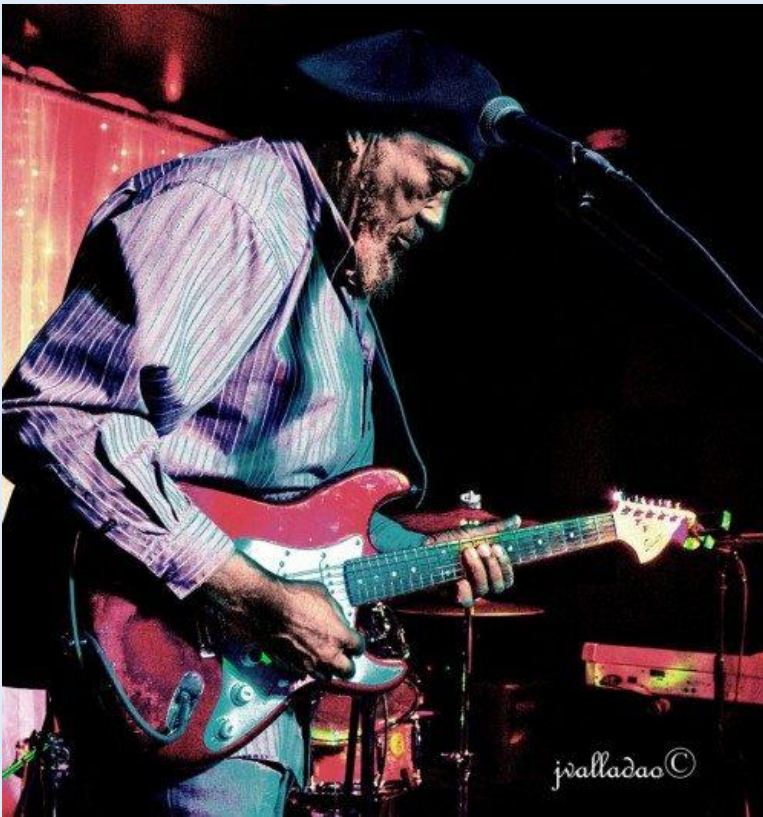
#### **[Kessler's Lounge](#)**

125 Couch St, Vallejo, CA 94590

8:30 – 11:00 PM

707-230-6707





Earl The Pearl at Kessler's Lounge

This jam in the heart of Oakland. Earl The Pearl (Stevens) holds court on-stage with his fingers dancing around the neck of a sunburst Stratocaster. He wears a tall black hat that looks like it could hide a rabbit. A blue wooden bear that Stevens carved himself holds a tip jar, while a motley revolving crew of musicians plow through blues standards. Anyone's allowed to join, and they do, from a novice slide guitarist who struggles with key changes to a studio level keyboardist.

### The Longboard Pro Blues Jam with host Carmen Ratti



Every 2nd and 4th Thursday  
8 PM– 12: AM (Bar stays open until 2:00 am)  
[Longboard Margarita Bar](#)  
180 Eureka Dr, Pacifica, CA 94044  
650-738-5905  
Free

Carmen Ratti, vocals/guitar; Dave Mehrwein, keys; Dave Minor, bass; Peter Libby, drums.

The Carmen Ratti band hosts this jam and brings in a special blues artist guests from the Bay Area for each show.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020, [Tia Carroll](#) is the host.

Steve Freund, A.C. Myles, Amy Lou, Fillmore Slim, and more are all are coming up!

### **Thursday Night Pro Blues Jam @ CJ's Saloon with Spencer James (weekly)**



8 -11:30 PM (Signups start at 7:30)  
[CJ's Saloon](#)  
548 Contra Costa Blvd G, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
925-825-3834  
Free  
New Jam

Spencer James is the organizer & guitarist, Jamie Valladao (ran Toots Tavern jam for years) is the producer & photographer.

The band typically plays for an hour and then the jammers get up.

Spencer James, guitar, Stephen Salinas, keys/vocals (Cold Blood), and rotating musicians to back the artists.

[Al Von](#) is special guest on March 19<sup>th</sup> 2020!



### ***Fridays:***

**First Friday Jam @ Woodham's Lounge, hosted by Bob Gonzalez with Angelo Rossi**  
1st Friday of the month

[Woodham's Lounge](#)

4475 Stevens Creek Blvd, Santa Clara, CA 95051

10:00 pm – 1:00 AM

408) 244-2899

Free

Sign-ups start at 8:30 PM, host band at 9 PM & jam starts at 10 PM.

***Sundays***



**TGGBS 2nd Sunday Jam @ [World-Famous Turf Club](#),** (starts in April 12<sup>th</sup> with Earl the Pearl and the Blues Solution)

3 – 7 pm

2519 Main St, Hayward, CA 94541

510) 881-9877

The Golden Gate Blues Society Second Sunday Blues Jam Presents

**Earl the Pearl**  
With special guest:  
**Jesse Brown**

Sunday April 12 3-7pm  
**Turf Club**

22519 Main Street, Hayward CA 510-881-9877

## TOP SHOW PICKS

**Friday, March 6th:** Buddy Guy, Jimmie Vaughan, Charlie Musselwhite @ [Paramount Theater](#), Oakland, CA  
7 PM

Buddy Guy guitar (band TBA)

Charlie Musselwhite harmonica (band TBA)

Jimmie Vaughan guitar & vocals; Mike Flanigin Hammond B3 & vocals; Billy Pitman guitar; Jason Corbiere drums; Billy Horton bass; Mike Rinta trombone; Doug James saxophone

Tickets [HERE](#)



**Saturday, March 7th:** [Alistair Green](#), [Poor House Bistro](#),  
6 – 10 PM

**Wednesday, March 11th :** Remembering The Legendary [Ron Thompson](#), [Poor House Bistro](#)  
6 – 9 PM



**March 12<sup>th</sup>:** The Colin James Quartet @ [Yoshi's](#)/ Oakland  
 Tickets [HERE](#)



Blues rock guitarist with 19 albums under his belt takes the stage at Oakland's Yoshi's. His famous "Riding in the Moonlight," a Willie Dixon song that James once covered when busking in the streets and subways of Toronto and Montreal, landed on a Spotify playlist and garnered millions of streams.

**Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>:** Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers  
[Le Colonial](#), San Francisco, CA  
 8-11 PM

**Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>:** [CJ Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band](#) @ [Freight & Salvage](#)  
[Dana DeSimone](#) (opener)  
 Doors: 7 PM / Show: 8 PM  
 Tickets [HERE](#)

**Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>:** Fantastic Negrito @ [Moe's Alley](#) (Two-time Grammy Winner)  
 Doors 8 PM / Show 9 PM  
 Tickets [HERE](#)

*Two Time Grammy Winning Artist Returns*  
**FANTASTIC NEGRITO**

FRIDAY, MAR 20TH  
 Doors: 8 PM / Show: 9 PM

\$25.00 - \$30.00

**TICKETS**

Ages 21+

[↑](#) [📅](#)

**Saturday, March 21:** Fantastic Negrito @ Longboard Margarita Bar in Pacifica!  
 Doors 8 PM/Show 9 PM – 2 AM  
 Tickets [HERE](#)

**Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>:** [Johnny Rawls](#), [Club Fox Blues Jam](#)  
 7:00PM



**March 28<sup>th</sup>:** [Chris Cain](#), [Poor House Bistro](#), San Jose, CA

**March 28<sup>th</sup>:** [Al Von Johnson](#), [The Soundroom](#), Oakland, CA  
 8 - 10:30 PM  
 Tickets [HERE](#)

**March 29<sup>th</sup>:** The Dynamic [Miss Faye Carol](#)/ [Bobby Rush](#), [Geoffreys Inner Circle](#), Oakland, CA  
 6 PM

**Faye & The Folks**  
 Sundays in March 2020  
 Geoffrey's Inner Circle  
 The Dynamic Miss **Faye Carol**

**March 8, 6pm**  
 O.G.s of Jazz Feat. **Buster Williams & Jimmy Cobb**

**March 15, 6pm**  
 Soul Latin Dance Party  
 Feat. **Pete Escovedo**  
 with John Santos, Jesus Diaz, & Carolyn Brandy

**March 22, 6pm**  
 R&B, Hip-Hop, Ya Don't Stop  
 Feat. **Mistah F.A.B.**

**March 29, 6pm**  
 Legends of the Blues  
 Feat. **Bobby Rush & Kito Kamili**

410 14<sup>th</sup> St  
 Oakland, CA  
 www.fayecarol.com  
 @thedynamicmiss  
 (510) 839-4644

Tickets \$40 at [FayeAndTheFolks.eventbrite.com](#)  
 Full Bar, \$12 soul food plates

Legends of the Blues with The Dynamic [Miss Faye Carol](#) & [Bobby Rush](#)  
 Tickets [HERE](#)

A four-week cross cultural, cross genre series hosted by the Bay Area's Queen Songstress, The Dynamic **Miss Faye Carol**  
 Week 4: March 29, 2020, 6pm: Legends of the Blues featuring Grammy-Winner **Bobby Rush**

The Blues Unplugged....An intimate, acoustic, stripped down night of blues, blues, and more blues. Bobby Rush has been performing the blues for nearly seven decades, since the days of juke joints and the chitlin circuit, performing with Jimmy Reed, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, & Pinetop Perkins. Bobby Rush is as authentic a bluesman as anyone can be and this lucky audience will be treated to the real blues in its purest form: the man, his voice, and his guitar. Miss Faye will set the stage with her signature blues renditions after

which the legend Bobby Rush will take the stage. Who knows, maybe these two warriors of the blues may even join forces.

Opening the show is Kito Kamili, one of the Bay Area's most prolific artists. Known widely as a pianist, singer, rapper, producer and educator, she has worked with artists such as David Murray, Amiri Baraka, Archie Shepp, Albert King, Pharaoh Sanders, and her mom Faye Carol.

Bobby Rush - guitar, harmonica, and vocals, The Dynamic Miss Faye Carol featuring Joe Warner - piano, Kito Kamili - piano and vocals

Sunday March 29th: Johnny Rawls @ [Rancho Nicasio](#) @ 8 PM

Friday April 3rd: [Lydia Pense & Cold Blood](#) @ [The Mystic](#) @8:30 PM

**Sunday, April 5th:** A Celebration of Life for Ron Thompson, [Empress Theater](#) @ 5 PM

Tickets [HERE](#)

**RON THOMPSON**  
**Celebration of Life**  
**Empress Theatre**  
**330 Virginia St Vallejo, Ca**  
**Sunday April 5 5pm-11pm. 20\$**



Join us for an evening of live blues, as we celebrate the life and music of Ron Thompson! Connect with old friends and meet new ones. Ron's never-ending gift of bringing people together continues! The line up so far includes: Tommy Castro & The Painkillers, Nick Gravenities, Sonny Rhodes, Lady Bianca, Mark Hummel's Harmonica Blowout, Gary Smith, Jim Pugh, Karl Severied, Artis Joyce, Gary Silva, Larry Vann, Pat Chase, JR Watson, West Starr, Richard W. Grigsby, Scott Griffin, Don Bassey, Franck Goldwasser, Randy Bermudes Mike Henderson, Dave Earl, Steve Freund, Sid Morris, Gary Rosen, Henry Oden, Rudy Parris, Neil Barnes and more! Commemorative t-shirts will be available for purchase!



**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** "Crazy 'Bout the Blues" Concert in Honor of [Kathleen Lawton](#) @ [College of San Mateo](#), (TGGBs Sponsored event)

College of San Mateo's Ethnic Studies professor Rudy "El Professor" Ramirez presents:

***CRAZY 'BOU THE BLUES!***



Live music by the **BLUES ALL STARS**  
 With special guest:  
**CATHY LEMONS**  
 Dance performance by:  
**THE CSM DANCE TROUPE**

A musical and historical celebration of an American genre in honor of Kathleen Lawton  
 KCSM 91.1 FM  
 Saturday May 2, 7:30-9pm  
 Free refreshments: 6:30-8pm. Suggested donation \$5.  
 1700 Hillside Blvd. San Mateo, CA. CSM Theatre #3. Open to the public.  
 Free parking @ Beethoven lot.  
 Sponsored by: The Golden Gate Blues Society, ASCSM, Ethnic Studies Department, Diversity in Action Group, EOPS.  
 For more information contact: ramirezr@smccd.edu (650)574-6372




Learn more about Kathleen Lawton [HERE](#)

On Saturday, May 2nd, at The College of San Mateo, TGGBS and Ethnic Studies Professor Rudy Ramirez will honor KCSM DJ Kathleen Lawton who has been a great promoter of blues in the Bay Area for many decades. This is a Golden Gate Blues Society sponsored event, and it is also a way of celebrating her recent win of the 2019 "Keeping the Blues Alive Award."

### **The Saloon in March:**

The Delta Wires, Steve Freund, Dave Workman, GG Amos, The Lucky Losers, Wendy Dewitt, and more

Learn more [HERE](#).

## **RON THOMPSON REMEMBERED**

Ron Thompson, the great bluesman, slipped into a coma on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 due to a hypoglycemic seizure and never regained consciousness. According to those close to Ron he was in no pain and did not suffer. His passing was very peaceful. He was 66 years old.



Photo: Shawn Roberts

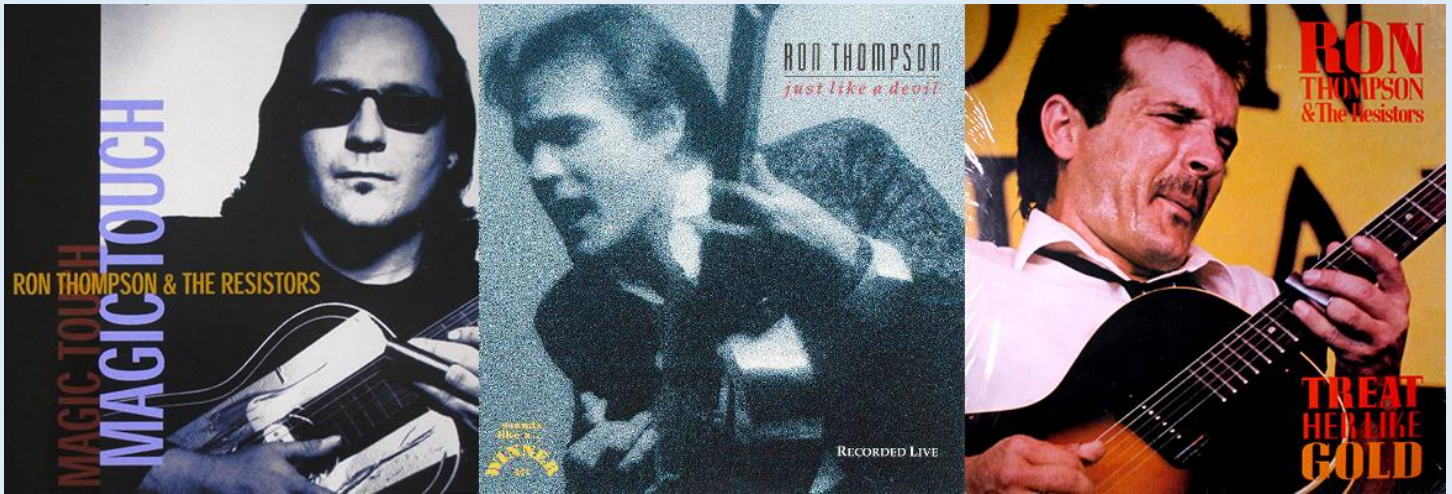
### **Bio:**

Not many living blues musicians can say they have performed with and recorded for legends like John Lee Hooker, Big Mama Thornton, Tina Turner, Luther Tucker, Jimmy McCracklin, Pee Wee Crayton, Carla Thomas, Booker T. Jones, Percy Mayfield, Etta James, B.B. King, and Jimmy Reed. Ron Thompson can, and that's just the beginning!

Ron Thompson is a legendary rhythm and blues guitarist and master keyboardist whose career began in the rough and tumble world of East San Francisco Bay nightclubs and bars in the early 1970's. After serving as John Lee Hooker's bandleader for seven years, Thompson went on to form his own group, Ron Thompson and His Resisters. Ron performed at the Jazz and Blues Sessions in Berne, Switzerland, and he has electrified stages in Poland, Mexico, Belize, and many other parts of the world.

Ron Thompson was honored by the City of San Francisco for his decades of musical contributions. By official proclamation of Mayor Gavin Newsom, September 5, 2007, was declared "Ron Thompson Day in San Francisco."

Ron's extensive roster of awards over the years include two Bay Area Music Awards (Bammies), the Colorado Blues Society's Lifetime Achievement Award, induction into the Blues Hall of Fame, and others. Ron's "Resistor Twister" album was nominated for a Grammy in 1987. In the early 1980's, Ron met Mick Fleetwood (Fleetwood Mac) and the two became musical partners and close friends. Ron and Mick formed the band, Mick Fleetwood's Blue Whale. Blue Whale still occasionally performs when Ron and Mick's busy schedules permit.



Thompson's extensive discography includes nine of his own albums, much studio work, and several European anthologies. Not only has he shared the stage with numerous blues luminaries, Thompson has performed or recorded with such musical greats as Fleetwood Mac, Chris Isaak, Carlos Santana, Bonnie Raitt, Tina Turner, Elvin Bishop, Bill Medley, Huey Lewis, Dr. John, songwriter Bobby Womak, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Robert Cray Band, Z.Z. Top, and many others.

Ron Thompson released his first solo and acoustic album "Resonator" in 2007. All the tracks except two were written by Ron and display his versatility—from bluesy to spiritual to jazzy instrumental. "Resonator" was greeted with critical acclaim the world over. Not only did "Resonator" demonstrate Ron's ability to perform as a solo artist, it showcased his songwriting prowess and mastery of many diverse genres.

### Quotes:

*"I've always felt Ron is the most talented blues guitarist I have ever seen. He can do it all. He's extraordinarily gifted. What many folks aren't aware of is that Ron was a huge asset in the re-emergence of John Lee Hooker. He was the foundation for that boogie sound."*

--Tom Mazzolini, founder and producer of the San Francisco Blues Festival

*"If you haven't experienced Ron T. live, I can't even begin to convey the absolute go-for-broke Blues rave-ups and sweat-soaked pandemonium Thompson and his Resistors dispense on a nightly basis. When it comes to slide guitar workouts, I would say he's the Best in the World, and yet the man sings his ass off too."*

--Andy Grigg, Real Blues Magazine

*"What this guy knows, you can't get out of a book."*

--Steve Cropper, one of the founding members of both Booker T. and the MG's and The Mar-Keys.

*"Ron Thompson is my favorite guitarist".*

--Mick Fleetwood

### **YouTube Videos:**

John Lee Hooker - ["Too Many Women"](#) with Ron Thompson & The Resisters (1984)

### **Discography:**

Treat Her Like Gold /Takoma

Resister Twister/ Blind Pig

Just Like a Devil

Winner

Magic Touch

Just Pickin' /Acrobat Music

Still Resisting /Poore Boy

Resonator

Son of Boogie Woogie /[Little Village Foundation](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron\\_Thompson\\_\(blues\\_guitarist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Thompson_(blues_guitarist))

Rare Ron Thompson TV appearance - [Solid Ground](#) (with Mick Fleetwood and John McVie)

Ron Thompson: ["Cadillac Walk"](#) (just Ron)

[The Mercury News Article from February 15 2020](#)



## **WEE WILLIE WALKER MEMORIAL CELEBRATION IN PHOTOS**

### **ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB HAKINS**

Family, friends, and musicians gathered at The Studio at The Poor House Bistro in San Jose to celebrate the life of the late Wee Willie Walker. These are some commemerate photographs by the great Bob Hakins.

Willie's wife Judy, and friends and fans from out of state flew in to partake in the remembrance.



Wife of Wee Willie Walker, Judy being embraced by Christine Vitale





Lady Bianca



Alabama Mike, Tommy Castro, Jim Pugh



Terrie Odabi



Fillmore Slim

## "WEE WILLIE"

By Robert Feuer published in Sonoma County Gazette, June 29, 2018 and updated.



Photo Bill Henderson

The KRSH Backyard Concert series is located in a grassy nook hidden in a corner of Santa Rosa, where the radio station operates from a caboose. Soul singer Wee Willie Walker performed there August 9th 2018, backed by the Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra.

During the 1960s, with the group the Val-Dons, Walker got his nickname from fellow bandmember, Timothy Eason. "He hung that on me and it stuck. I tried to get rid of it, but it didn't work," Walker says during our meeting in Napa this past summer (in \_). His record label from 1965-1968, Goldwax, put it the name on all his records without asking him. Upset at first, Walker came to realize, later, that people recognized his name more frequently with the word "Wee". "I guess that's who I am," Willie thought.

The Val-Dons (Wee Willi Walker's first band) formed when Walker met Timothy Eason in a laundromat where they began harmonizing on the spot to a tune of Jerry Butler's, "He Don't Love You." Walker told me about the laundromat's "great acoustics." The Val-Dons had a run of three years, marking Walker's move from gospel to secular music.

Born December 21, 1941 near Memphis, Tennessee, Walker started his career there as a teenager, singing gospel with the "Redemption Harmonizers," who Walker called "mostly kids." They traveled in



a Cadillac for summertime shows in the mid-to-late '50's. Arriving in Minneapolis in 1959, he fell in love with the city's beauty and tranquility. Walker lived there until his death on November 19th 2019. Some gospel friends were recording secular music for Goldwax in Memphis. The label, with no studio, operated from the back of a drug store. They had a piano, and Walker sang them a couple of songs. They signed him, making him the first black artist in Minnesota to record for a national label.

Contrary to the label's promises, Walker was only given three songs to record, accomplished at two legendary locales – Sam Phillips' Sun Studio in Memphis and Rick Hall's Fame Studios in Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Walker never saw a royalty check from Goldwax. Instead, they gave him 50 copies of one of his songs to sell himself, to record stores. "I made \$50," Walker says.

After the Val-Dons, Walker formed the band "Willie and the Bees" with Willie Murphy. Murphy thought Walker's voice sounded like a bumble bee. His current R&B group is Willie Walker and the We "R", extant since 2004. Between 2004-2007, Walker also performed in Japan and Switzerland with a Stax-type band, the Butanes.

Late in life, Walker has gained national notoriety. His album, "If Nothing Ever Changes," recorded with top San Francisco Bay Area artists (Greaseland Studios), gained him four Blues Music Award nominations in 2015.

After connecting with prominent guitarist Anthony Paule at a Porretta Soul Festival in Italy, he's been touring extensively with Paule's Soul Orchestra (until his death in December of 2019). Their 2017 release, "After a While," represents classic soul at its best. Walker received five BMA nominations in 2018 for that album.

When asked about the best part of his notoriety, Walker says, "The presence of the people I'm playing for. You can feel their energy – it's like wow!"

### **Wee Willie Walker Awards & Honors**

- Soul Blues Male Artist, 2020 - 41st Blues Music Awards (Nominee)
- Soul Blues Male Artist, 2019 - 40th Blues Music Awards (Nominee)
- "After a While" – Wee Willie Walker & The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra/ 2018 - 39th Blues Music (Nominee)
- Album of the Year/ 2018 - 39th Blues Music Awards (Nominee)
- Winner "Most Outstanding Blues Singer"/ 25th Annual Living Blues Award 2018
- Blues Instrumentalist – Vocals/ 2018 - 39th Blues Music Awards (Nominee)
- "Hate Take A Holiday" written by Wee Willie Walker, Anthony Paule, and Eugene Williams/ / Song of the Year/ 2018 - 39th Blues Music Awards (Nominee)
- "After a While"– Wee Willie Walker & The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra/ 2018 - 39th Blues Music Awards (Nominee)
- Soul Blues Album/ 2018 - 39th Blues Music Awards (Nominee)
- Soul Blues Male Artist/ 2017 - 38th Blues Music Awards (Nominee)
- Soul Blues Male Artist/ 2016 - 37th Blues Music Awards (Nominee)
- "If Nothing Ever Changes" /Album of the Year/ / 2016 - 37th Blues Music Awards (Nominee)

## S.E. WILLIS AND THE WILLING

Article by Joseph Jordan and Published November 2019 by Blues Music Magazine

"Too Much Love" / Mr. Suchensuch Records



Multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and song-writer S.E. (Steve) Willis has been making great music for over fifty years as part of any number of internationally known bands and has seven of his own recordings to show for it.

His latest solo shot, "Too Much Love" will dazzle listeners by way of his breadth of Americana chops, whether within the genre of Blues, zydeco, country western and then some.

Playing with an inspired band, including several stellar West Coast guest artists, Willis (who's played with Elvin Bishop for almost two decades,) has created a compelling effort, from first cut to last.

Featuring eleven tracks over 44-minutes, the album was put down at recording ace David Landon's Whip Records, Christoffer "Kid" Andersen's Greaseland Records, and Willis' own Mr. Suchensuch studio, all of which are to be headquartered in the greater Bay Area.

The production throughout the disc is clean and extremely present. Andersen (of Rick Estrin and the Nightcats fame,) assumes several duties, among them engineering on several tracks, as well as contributing tasteful acoustic and riveting electric guitar work.

"Turn Back" embellishes a cool New Orleans groove along with Willis' yearning and deeply felt vocals. Listen for Lisa Leuschner's background vocals here. She is a revelation. Master keyboardist Willis turns over lead vocals to marvelous drummer Bobby Cochran (Elvin Bishop band) on three tracks, one of which, "I Sure Don't Know Who Does," co-stars powerhouse contralto & rising star, Marina Crouse.

The insanely fun instrumental, "Apocalypto" bounces along with Nancy Wright's fluid and infectious sax work. "My Happy Home" and "Honky Tonk Romance" showcase Willis' country-western leanings. His harmonica playing and wizened vocals on both, along with Wright singing background vocals on the latter could melt the grime off a barstool.

"Crawl Off and Die" showcases the multi-talented Willis on accordion along with his strong, yet plaintive vocal. "Let That Be The Reason" has a marvelously funky beat with great leads and fills by

sax-woman Wright, and excellent all-around guitarist Danny Caron (Charles Brown, Marcia Ball, Clifton Chenier, John Lee Hooker, among many others.) The mid-tempo but upbeat title track showcases Willis harmonica & accordion prowess, plus a jaunty vocal by Cochran.

Must give major props to longtime Bay Area bass player, Ruth Davies (Charles Brown, Elvis Costello and a ton of others,) who throughout is the solid sender within the rhythm section.

In all, a truly enjoyable romp, and excellent showcase for S.E's prominent place on the national scene.

Learn more [HERE](#)

## 41ST BLUES MUSIC AWARDS ON MAY 7– MAY 11



The 41st Blues Music Awards will be held on May 7th, 2020 at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts in Memphis, TN beginning at 6:30pm sharp. The Blue Carpet will lead to the theater with doors opening at 5:30pm. All tickets (unless otherwise noted) include a pass to the After Party in the newly renovated Grand Lobby of the Renasant Convention Center immediately following the show, to include attendance by and celebration of all nominees, buffet dinner, cash bars, live nominee performances and more!

Tickets are also available for the 2020 Blues Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on May 6, 2020 at the Halloran Centre at the Orpheum. Doors will open at 5:15pm with a cocktail reception beginning at 5:30pm and the Induction Ceremony inside the Halloran Theatre at 6:30pm sharp. Like any other musical event or charitable donation, there are no refunds. The ticket price is non-refundable.

Tickets will not be mailed. All tickets will be held at Will Call for pick up in Memphis the week of the event. Photo ID is required to pick up tickets. Will Call pick up location information will be made public one week ahead of the Blues Music Awards.

Seating will be determined by The Blues Foundation and based upon ticket level purchases and Blues Foundation membership status.

The Renasant Convention Center Grand Lobby is attached to the Cannon Center by covered, indoor walkway. The Halloran Centre at the Orpheum is located at 225 S. Main Street in Memphis, TN, next door to the Orpheum Theatre at the corner of Beale Street and Main Street

Tickets [HERE](#):

Learn more [HERE](#):

## **BISCUITS AND BLUES UPDATE**

COURT FINALLY STEPS IN AFTER 10 MONTHS AND GRANTS AN INJUNCTION AGAINST JACK IN THE BOX!

A Jack in the Box restaurant in San Francisco's Union Square neighborhood has been ordered by a San Francisco Superior Court judge to fix its faulty plumbing, which for several months last year leaked water and feces onto Biscuits and Blues, the old-school music venue below it that has remained closed for almost a year. Jack in The Box is now closed at that location and we assume they are repairing the leaks.

The order is part of a temporary injunction issued by the court on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It comes roughly 10 months after Steven Suen was forced to close the club. Suen has been seeking justice from the courts for almost one year. According to the filing, Jack in the Box "must stop any leaks from the refrigerators and freezers up to and including unplugging the appliances." It goes on to say Biscuits and Blues "continues to suffer irreparable harm" while the 24-hour burger joint operates.



This can be a victory! We wait to see if Jack in the Box will do the right thing and be a good neighbor to Biscuits and Blues. After all the owner of this JITB has 22 more burger joints, but there is only one authentic blues club like Biscuits and Blues in San Francisco. JITB is making repairs.

*"It's just incredibly frustrating to see what has been happening. There's just so many people that care about this place. You've been seeing honest, hardworking people being stonewalled by a big corporation."*

--Chris Siebert (of Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers)

Read the Article in the Chronicle [HERE](#).

Reach out to Justin Phillips at The San Francisco Chronicle [HERE](#) if repairs are not completed soon.

There was a Sugaray Rayford show booked for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Biscuits, but the show has been cancelled because JITB has still not complied with fixing the leaks.

## **CALL FOR 2020 IBC PARTICIPANTS FROM THE BAY AREA**

**JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>--23<sup>RD</sup> 2021!**

**Call for our Bay Area Bands! Start planning to enter TGGBS's sponsored International Blues Challenge event starting in October 2020.**



**INTERNATIONAL  
BLUES  
CHALLENGE**

**THE GOLDEN GATE BLUES SOCIETY IS NOW  
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS IN BAND, SOLO/DUO AND  
SELF-PRODUCED CD CATEGORIES**

**Info, rules and applications @ [tggbs.org/ibc](http://tggbs.org/ibc)**



If you're thinking of joining our IBC program this event year (2020-2021), or have questions regarding it, you may send an email to [ibc@tggbs.org](mailto:ibc@tggbs.org) for more info. You can also download our Rules and Application PDFs at the end of this paragraph, and/or Visit the Blues Foundation's [IBC Page](#).

Please peruse the rest of this page for a look at the talented TGGBS artists who've participated in past years. Many have made great strides in their careers since then, partly because of the IBC, and because of their own hard work of course. The IBC is an excellent way to help get your band on track.

[TGGBS IBC Rules](#)

[TGGBS IBC Application](#)

In memory of our dear friend, Jack Cohen who died February 5<sup>th</sup> 2020. A memorial celebration is being planned for May 2020.



## **CALL FOR MEMBERSHIPS/ DONATIONS/ VOLUNTEERS**



Here in the San Francisco/ Bay Area we have internationally recognized blues talent. And we also want to foster new blues talent.

To volunteer, please email us at: [contact@tggbs.org](mailto:contact@tggbs.org)

Questions re. your current membership? Email Cathy Lemons at [membership@tggbs.org](mailto:membership@tggbs.org)

To donate, please click on our home page and click the "DONATE" button [HERE](#).

**BECOME A GOLDEN GATE BLUES SOCIETY MEMBER TODAY [HERE](#).**

TGGBS wants to thank **Greg Huemann & AJ Crowdaddy** (Angelo Rossi) for being recent sponsors of The Golden Gate Blues Society. We deeply appreciate your support.

We welcome our new members and some members that recently rejoined after many years.

We have big plans for 2020 and beyond, with an annual membership thank you party, an annual fundraiser, and one day, a festival.

## **THE GOLDEN GATE BLUES SOCIETY**

[www.tggb.org](http://www.tggb.org)

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The Golden Gate Blues Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit affiliate of The Blues Foundation, based in Memphis, Tennessee and your donation is tax deductible. Our Tax ID is 27-2191232.

The purpose of The Golden Gate Blues Society is to enhance the appreciation and understanding of the Blues, especially in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area.