



### TGGBS President's Message:

Happy New Year blues lovers! It has now been nearly one year that I have served as president of TGGBS, spending that time reorganizing, restructuring, overtaking many responsibilities, such as restoring and insuring our compliances with federal, state, and county filings, paying fees, opening and transferring accounts, acquiring new insurance, accessing our funds in PayPal, and more. One of my biggest jobs has been to oversee the finances for the San Francisco International Boogie Woogie Festival, which funds TGGBS's Medical Relief Fund. The SF Boogie Woogie Festival is an exciting event that sells out every year. And because that event funds the Medical Relief, I (along with the TGGBS board) was proud to award Don Bassey, a local veteran musician, \$500.00 at his benefit at The Empress Theater on January 5th.

I have made so many valuable friends and business partners on this journey. Funding is in place to continue our 2nd Sunday Blues Jam at The World-Famous Turf Club in Hayward and the jam resumes in April of 2020! The honor of booking and working with the finest blues performers and influential leaders of our beloved blues community is beyond my wildest dreams. I am feeling so blessed to be a part of this dynamic blues society! The future looks fantastic with the Blues Music Awards coming up and knowing that so many of our local musicians have been nominated. I am planning many new ventures that will overachieve our mission to support blues musicians and their music. I cannot wait to add some more leadership to our board to fulfill our plans. Board membership starts with volunteerism. So please do not hesitate to lend us a hand in this new year. And please continue to follow us on our Facebook page and continue to read our newsletters coming to you the first week of each month. Thank you all for your interest and your invaluable support!

Yours Bluely,  
Richard MacLaury, President of TGGBS

**HERE ARE OUR JANUARY 2020 TOPICS:**

- RECOMMENDED BAY AREA BLUES SHOWS COMING UP
- "KOKO IN CANADA" BY STEVE FREUND
- DON BASSEY BENEFIT ON JANUARY 5 @ EMPRESS THEATER BENEFIT WITH LEVI LLOYD, TIMM WALKER, VOLKER STRIFLER, TOMMY CASTRO, DANIEL CASTRO, KEVIN RUSSEL, AND MORE
- LISA KINDRED MEMORIAL CELEBRATION JANUARY 19TH AT THE SWEETWATER
- LISA KINDRED ARTICLE
- UPDATE ON BISCUITS AND BLUES
- FEATURE ON MARK HUMMEL FROM MAKING A SCENE
- NANCY WRIGHT ARTICLE
- TOM HYSLOP R.I.P.
- FILLMORE SLIM (FOR "SON OF THE SEVEN SISTERS") IS NOW ONE OF THE FIVE FINALISTS IN THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE
- FOURTEEN ALLIGATOR ARTISTS RECEIVE 37 BLUES MUSIC AWARD NOMINATIONS
- 41ST BLUES MUSIC AWARDS & BAY AREA NOMINEES
- CALL FOR MEMBERSHIPS| DONATIONS| VOLUNTEERS

**RECOMMENDED BAY AREA BLUES SHOWS COMING UP**

**Wednesday, Jan 8 @ 7 PM, Quique Gomez |Club Fox Blues Jam, Redwood City, CA.** Vince Caminiti does a fabulous job booking an exceptional lineup of national and local talents.

Learn More: <https://rwcbluesjam.com/schedule>

**Sunday, Jan 9 from 3 -7 PM | "Friends Helping Friends" Don Bassey Benefit, @ Torch Club, Sacramento, CA** with Daniel Castro, Steve Freund, Red's Blues, AJ Crowdaddy, and more.

Tickets: <http://torchclub.net/>

Friday, Jan 10 @ 7 PM | "Noel Hayes Blues Bash" @ The Studio, San Jose, CA with Diunna Greenleaf, Andrew Jr Boy Jones, Rusty Zinn, Steve Freund, Rick Estrin w/ special guests Kid Andersen, Anthony Paule, Kerrie Jones, Kevin Hayes, Nancy Wright, Tony Lufrano, Dmar, Endre Tarczy, Mike Peloquin, Marcel Smith, AJ Joyce, Mike Rinta, Jim Pugh and more.



Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/noel-hayes-2020-blues-bash-tickets-83293094889>



Saturday, Jan 11 @ 8 PM & Sunday, Jan 12 @ 7 PM | Mark Hummel's 29th Annual Blues Harmonica Blowout, "Superstars of Blues Harp" @ Freight & Salvage, Berkeley, CA with MAGIC DICK (J. Geils Band), LEE OSKAR (The Lowrider Band), JERRY PORTNOY (Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton), DUKE ROBILLARD (Roomful of Blues, Fabulous Thunderbirds, Bob Dylan) w/MARK HUMMEL and the BLUES SURVIVORS!

Tickets: <http://bit.ly/HummelBlowOut>

TUESDAY, JAN 14 @ 7:30 PM | Eric Johnson, "Classic Present and Past" @ Miner Auditorium, Oakland, CA

Tickets: <https://www.sfjazz.org/tickets/productions/eric-johnson/>



Friday, Jan 17 @ 8:30 PM | Elvin Bishop Big Fun Trio @ Mystic Theatre, Petaluma, CA

Tickets: <http://bit.ly/ElvinBishopJan7>



Sunday, Jan 19 @ 4 PM | "A Celebration of the Life & Music of Lisa Kindred" @ The Sweetwater, Mill Valley, CA with Nick Gravenites, Pete Sears (Rod Stewart, Jefferson Starship), The Saloonatics with Austin de Lone, Roy Blumenfeld (Blues Project), Barry Melton (Country Joe & The Fish), Rich Kirch (John Lee Hooker), Annie Sampson, Roberta Donnay, and more.

Tickets: <http://bit.ly/LisKindred>

And a special mention for an impressive, young, developing singer songwriter--Blues Blast and IBMA nominated Katie Henry!

Friday, Feb 7 @ 6 PM | Katie Henry @ Poor House Bistro, San Jose, CA

Sat Feb 8, Torch Club, Sacramento

Sun Feb 9, Winters Tavern, Pacifica

Learn more: <http://www.katiehenrymusic.com>



FRI, MAR 6 | 7:00 PM, Buddy Guy & Jimmie Vaughan "Blues Master Summit" @ Paramount Theatre, Oakland, CA

Tickets: <https://www.sfjazz.org/tickets/productions/blues-master-summit/>

## **"KOKO IN CANADA" BY STEVE FREUND**

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A few months after my emergency Europe tour with Koko, I got another last-minute call to join her band, this time in Canada, for a 3 week tour. This would be 3 cities, Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Calgary. Her lead guitarist, Maestro Saunders, had been denied entry to Canada for an unpaid traffic ticket or some other bullshit reason. So once again Bruce Iglauer called me. Within 24 hours I was being picked up by Pops Taylor and Koko at the airport in Winnipeg. As a side-note, I had to take a flight that made one stop. I had my Epiphone

Riviera with me and had no problem carrying it on and putting it in the overhead bin. We had to disembark for about 30 minutes and the flight crew changed over from Americans to Canadians. When it was to embark again, to the same exact plane, I was not allowed to carry my guitar on. When I asked why, I was told "you are in Canada now". Whatever.

So began our 3-week tour of our northern neighbor. This would be 6 nights in each city. 75.00 bucks a night. Share a room. I think this was the last time I ever toured without getting a single. Winnipeg wasn't too bad. Nothing to speak of. Edmonton on the other hand was almost disastrous. After a gig one night a young lady invited me out for a drink, and stupidly, I accepted, not knowing she was gonna take me to a bar full of drunk, coked up, cowboy hockey players. I immediately got singled out by a crazed asshole for my Chicago-style winter overcoat and cap, and we ended up in a hockey-style fight position, each grabbing the others' collar with the left hand and getting ready to strike with the right. Thankfully no punches were thrown, but I was definitely ready. My main thought was "shit, my guitar is locked in the trunk of her car. I gotta get out of here NOW!" Thankfully some guys broke up our grip and she reluctantly agreed to drop me off back at the hotel. I did not invite her up. That scene totally sucked.



The fun really started on the last week, in Calgary. We were playing at the legendary King Eddie Hotel. Legendary for being the absolute worst gig on the continent. It was SO COLD that December that the water in our toilets completely froze. We all had to use the lobby bathroom. Koko immediately found another hotel for her and Pops, but left the rest of us to fend for ourselves at the King Eddie.

During the day it was a strip club, then at night they would have blues bands, many from Chicago. It was a very depressing place for me, but this is how I paid my bills. It made Chicago seem like Hawaii. Located on the Bow River, the wind was ripping at 20-30 mph all day every day.

I basically survived by eating congee, a thick rice soup that I got at a local Chinese restaurant. Every day I bundled up with sweaters and a wool scarf, thick gloves and my hiking shoes, and trekked a mile or so to this restaurant. I must admit that rice soup was damn good on those bitter cold days.

So we did the 6 nights and after the last night Pops decides we are leaving, right after the last set. I was glad to go. But the shit was about to get funky....



So after packing up and loading the van, we hit the road heading south. We planned to cross the border into Montana. There are around 12 crossing points, and I don't remember which we headed for. What I DO remember is that Pops was driving all this way without a license, which had been taken from him in Chicago for a moving violation of some sort. So when the Canadian Mounted Police blasted his siren behind us at 3 AM, Koko, who was riding up front, quickly switched seats with him, at 65 mph. They had their act down. By the time the cops pulled up, Koko was sitting behind the wheel license in hand. I don't remember why we were pulled over, but we soon were on our way again, and they switched back with Pops driving. Koko fell asleep and soon it was just me and Pops awake, with him telling me stories of his earlier days hanging out with some old time blues guys. I really liked Pops. For me it was like I was with

Sunnyland or Floyd Jones as these guys came from the south and had similar early lives. Anyway, pretty soon we ran into black ice on the highway. The van started to skid around like mad. Very dangerous. Pops said "Steve, this ice got me buffaloed". We were going about 5 mph. At this rate we would never get home. I remembered the surf fisherman I used to see back on Long Island. They drove vehicles all over the sandy beaches and never got stuck. I had an idea. I had Pops pull over and I let out about 15 lbs of air from each tire. This caused them to flatten out and give much more displacement on the road. That's how those "dune buggies" back east navigated the beaches. Lo and behold it worked!!! Pops was ecstatic!! So now were able to drive around 40 mph until it cleared up about an hour later. We pulled into a gas station and I reinflated the tires, and we continued. Now the shit was gonna get REAL funky...

People think it's hard to get into Canada, and it is....but it's even harder getting back into the USA, especially in that part of the country. The border patrol agents are usually all ex-military and do everything by the book. We all knew we were gonna get pulled over and inspected, and Koko said, "If ya'll got anything wrong, get rid of it now!" Nobody got rid of anything. I thought we were all clean. They had us all file into a room while they searched the van. Evidently the Taylors had been there before because one officer greeted Pops by saying "Well hello Mr. Taylor. Do you have any of your glaucoma medicine with you today???" "Hell no", replied Pops. "Too damn expensive up here". So they took him into a little room. About three minutes later the door opens up and the agent is holding up a large baggie with about an ounce of weed in it. And so began the searching. They took the drummers shoe polish tin and decided that was opium. They found some prescription pills and said it was meth. They

were out of control. Koko walked over to us, sweating profusely, and said, "If ya'll boys got ANYTHING tell me now because they fixing to strip-search me!!!"

Yeah they strip searched all of us and finally they made a deal with Pops. They charged him a fine of \$350.00, kept his weed, and let us continue on. And we went out and re-packed the van. And Koko got behind the wheel. And about five minutes later they switched back up and Pops took us back to Chicago. And so ended my 3 weeks hanging out with Koko and Pops Taylor.

*This Story is an excerpt from Steve Freund's memoirs to be published at a later date*

Learn more about Steve Freund: <http://www.stevfreund.com/>

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM DON BASSEY BENEFIT ON JANUARY 5 @ EMPRESS THEATER (BY CATHY LEMONS)**

**DON  
BASSEY  
BENEFIT**

**SUNDAY 3 PM - JANUARY 5TH**

**MANY MUSICIANS  
MANY MEMORIES  
MANY HEARTS**

**EMPRESS THEATRE**

330 VIRGINIA ST - VALLEJO  
707.552.2400 - EMPRESSTHEATRE.ORG

It was a fabulous night, but I think I will let Bob Hakin's photographs do most of the talking! Performers were all just incredible with 150 people in the audience and a packed dance floor. The energy was high. Notable moments for me were as follows: Volker Strifler did a knock-out version of the Ray Charles song, "I Don't Need No Doctor" via the jazzy John Scofield version, which I happen to love. Volker also sang a duet with Willie Jordan that just rang like a bell in my head—what a great duet between the two singers. Daniel Castro performed a fiery tribute to the Bay Area's own Johnny Nitro (the song is by the same name) and his wife, Julie Castro, belted out the vocal refrain like no other that night. Richard MacLaury, President of TGGBS was able to get up on stage, thanks to the stage manager, Kevin Frazier, to announce that TGGBS was donating \$500 to Don. We are all honored to do so. Really the entire blues community came out for this event in support of one of our local heroes -- a true music veteran with an extensive and impressive musical history.





**THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE LIST OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR TALENTS AND TIME, BUT IT IS CLOSE TO IT:**

Tommy Castro, Volker Strifler, Carlos Reyes, Daniel Castro, Julie Castro, Willy Jordan, Kevin Russell, Timm Walker, Steve Ehrmann, Paul Revelli, Bowen Brown, Levi Lloyd, Tia Carroll, Garth Webber, Danny Click, Jules Leyhe, Preston Thrall, Jeff Campitelli, The Alameda All Stars, Erik Schramm, Nancy Hall, Jessie Turner, and Erin Bakke.

Geoff Drake put this benefit together for Don Bassey, so here are a few words from Geoff:

*"Yesterday's tribute to Don Bassey was all I'd hoped it could be and more. It started with a conversation between myself, Timm Walker and Wilson Brooks. I put out a call for musicians and was floored with the response. Tommy Castro, Daniel Castro, Jeff Tamelier, Miz Dee, Erik Schramm (who was instrumental in tracking down a couple players for me) Steve Ehrmann, Mike*

*Schermer (who drove all the way down and didn't get to play) , Tony 'Macaroni' Lufrano, Tony Stead, Paul Olguin, Paul Burke, Jim Pugh, Paul Reveli and so many more . And big thanks to Kevin Frazier, Edward Sitkin and Susan & Tim MacDonald. Let's not forget the wonderful crowd who gave generously and danced their ass off. Big love."*

--Geoff Drake, Don Bassey Benefit organizer



## **LISA KINDRED MEMORIAL CELEBRATION JANUARY 19TH @ SWEETWATER, MILL VALLEY, CA**

On Sunday, January 19th, the Bay Area blues community will celebrate once again the music and life of our beloved Lisa Kindred. Annie Samson, Austin Delone, Rich Kirch, and other blues performers will be there to remember Lisa Kindred.

Tickets: <https://www.sweetwatermusicall.com/>

## **LISA KINDRED ARTICLE**

**BLUES AND BEYOND** BY ROBERT FEUER and Published in Russian River Monthly in 2007

Lisa Kindred sits at the counter of Melange, a Mill Valley business she describes as “a stuff store.” There you can find mirrors fashioned from Jumex juice cans among knitted penguins. A manikin in the window, dressed in black, stares into space with a “seen it all” look. Kindred works here and lives upstairs. “I fall down the stairs and I’m there,” she says. She’s also a first-grade instructional aide, but her first love is singing the blues.

Today, she’s excited about an upcoming show at the 142 Throckmorton Theatre. “It’s an opportunity to dance the turkey off,” Kindred says of the Nov. 23 show that’s billed as a Thanksgiving Dance Party. Long-time friend and keyboardist for her band, Austin DeLone, will bring his Soul Blues Orchestra, including three horns, for backup. DeLone has been a premier performer in Marin County and San Francisco for a long time and this is a big opportunity for him.

“I love Audie and love the Throckmorton band. He’s been trying to do this for years. With them I feel like a featured singer in a big band from the ‘40s,” Kindred says.

Kindred was a folkie in the 1960s. “It was such a small community then.” She recalls jamming in living rooms with people like Dave Van Ronk and Phil Ochs. In a backroom at a mid- ‘60s Chicago Blues Festival, “it was Mike Bloomfield on piano, Paul Butterfield on harp. I sang.” Butterfield told her she should be singing blues. Around that time Kindred released a solo album for Vanguard Records and joined Phil Ochs, Eric Andersen and others on a compilation. Bill Lee, father of filmmaker Spike Lee, backed her on 12-string guitar.

Kindred, born in Buffalo, New York, turned on to the blues as a nine-year-old listening to the DJ, The Hound Dog, on Saturday morning radio. She went to the library seeking out the artists she had heard. “I became addicted to the blues,” Kindred once said.

From Buffalo she made her way to the folk clubs and coffee houses of Greenwich Village and Cambridge, where folk music was paramount. She shared tiny stages with other little-known youngsters like Bob Dylan and Fred Neil. “Fred Neil was my hero,” Kindred says, “we used to play together for hours and hours.”

After the folk albums of the ‘60s, Kindred took a long hiatus from recording. Fourteen years ago, while living in San Francisco, she moved to Mill Valley to share a friend’s apartment. “I always wanted to live in Mill Valley,” she says.

Kindred released “Steppin’ Up in Class in 2002,” something of a family operation, with DeLone and the other backup players all having been with her for at least ten years.

She’s been performing in North Beach at The Saloon for 22 years. It’s a classic dive bar, the oldest bar in the city, going back over 125 years. When you enter you get the feeling some of the original inhabitants are still hanging around.

Otherwise she spreads herself around Marin a couple of times a week, at such venues as Rafters, Left Bank, and the No Name Bar. "I'm enjoying hiring out," she says.

At the No Name she plays with Michael Lamacchia's band, experimenting with "jazz and high-energy fusion," she says, tossing in a few old standards, blues and soft funk. Kindred is expecting to finish another CD, "Blues and Beyond," next week, with Charlie Musselwhite and Freddie Roulette sitting in. "I really like this one," she says. "It's songs that friends have written, some of whom are dead."

Kindred expresses sadness at how the years have taken the lives of many of her best friends in the music scene, the latest being Charlie Deal, a Mill Valley fixture and inventor of the toilet bowl guitar. She's also mourning the closing of Sweetwater Saloon and the record store, Village Music.

When asked to recall the best part of her musical career, Kindred says, "It gets better as I get older. I probably haven't got to the best part yet."

## **MAKING A SCENE PRESENTS AN INTERVIEW WITH MARK HUMMEL**



Grammy Nominee, Blues Award Winner, Author, Harp Man Mark Hummel had a banner year in 2014. Grammy Nominated for his Remembering Little Walter CD he produced and performed on, Mark also won Best Blues CD and Best Traditional Blues CD at the Blues Music Awards in Memphis, TN. Mark's The Hustle Is Really On climbed to #2 and stayed in the top five for four months on the Living Blues Radio Charts. Hummel's book "BIG ROAD BLUES:12 Bars on I-80" garnered rave reviews and was nominated for best Independent Book release.

Mark Hummel started playing harmonica in 1970 and is considered one of the premier blues harmonica players of his generation. Thanks to over thirty recordings since 1985, including the Grammy nominated 2013 release Blind Pig recording Remembering Little Walter (part of the Blues Harmonica Blowout CD series). Mark Hummel's Blues

Harmonica Blowout™ started in 1991 and have featured every major legend (Mayall, Musselwhite, Cotton, etc.) on blues harp as well as almost every player of note on the instrument – a who's who of players.

Hummel is a road warrior – a true Blues Survivor. Along the way, he has crafted his own trademark harmonica sound – a subtle combination of tone, phrasing and attack combined with a strong sense of swing. Mark has been with Electro Fi Records since 2000, releasing five CDs. Thanks to Mark's earlier albums, constant touring and appearances at the major blues festivals, he's firmly established his solid reputation around the US and Europe.

Born in New Haven, CT but raised in Los Angeles till he graduated high school. Mark moved to the Berkeley at age 18 to pursue a career in blues music, where he felt the music was taken more seriously.

Mark started the Blues Survivors in 1977 with Mississippi Johnny Waters. By 1984 Hummel began a life of non- stop touring of the US, Canada and overseas, which he still continues at least 130-150 days out of each year. Hummel has toured or recorded with blues legends Charles Brown, Charlie Musselwhite, Lowell Fulson, Billy Boy Arnold, Carey Bell, Lazy Lester, Brownie McGhee, Eddie Taylor, Luther Tucker and Jimmy Rogers.

Read the Article with Video Links: <https://www.makingascene.org/mark-hummel-is-making-a-scene-2/>



### **NANCY WRIGHT ARTICLE** BY ROBERT FEUER

(Originally published in The Sonoma County Gazette on Nov 24, 2017)

#### **WRIGHT ON**

As a young woman living in Dayton, Ohio, Cleveland-born Nancy Wright sat in with John Lee Hooker at the venue Gilly's, leading to an invitation to join his band on the road. She went on to perform with him at Carnegie Hall, with a TV appearance after the show. "It was an amazing experience to be a young person getting her toes wet among all those legendary people," Wright says during a recent interview. Also, on that tour were Willie Dixon, Big Mama Thornton, John Hammond, and Robert Cray. An appearance with

Hooker at the Mississippi Delta Blues Festival followed.

Wright had been classically trained on multiple instruments, but felt limited, calling the music "scripted." She left classical music behind for the blues world, which allowed her more improvisation and a greater opportunity for self-expression, she says.

"Improvisation is when you play whatever you really feel." Wright names guitar wizard and fellow Midwesterner, Lonnie Mack, as her mentor. She recalls joining him regularly onstage and sitting around his kitchen in Dayton listening to demos. Before the Hooker tour, Mack had taken her on the road to New York and Nashville.

In 1984, due to a recommendation from a member of Hooker's band, Wright landed in San Francisco with the critically acclaimed New Orleans R&B band, Hot Links, which included top San Francisco musicians. Wright's motive for the move, she says, was to pursue her career in a larger urban environment with exposure to more musicians.

Following that, opportunities rolled in. Wright connected with classic blues/R&B pianist Katie Webster and performed with her at the Chicago Blues Festival. They recorded together, including on a Grammy-winning B.B King album. Others she's performed with include Stevie Ray Vaughn, Albert King, Albert Collins, and Ike Turner (at Sweet Jimmie's in Oakland.)

During the 1990's, Wright's career slowed during a failed marriage. She still lives in the Bay Area, touring and doing mix and match gigs with local musicians. "I'm blessed to be where all this great talent is."

The fact that she's "self-driven," has led to much success. In 2013, the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame named her "Blues Saxophone Player of the Year," an event she calls "a total surprise." She has been nominated consecutively since 2017 for the coveted Blues Music Award nomination as "Best Instrumentalist - Horns, a national award leading her to greater renown. "I penetrated that consciousness," she says.

Wright, has two of her own bands, choosing players from a "roster" of locals. "It morphs over time," she says. Her predominant styles are blues, R&B, New Orleans, funk, and gospel, referring to herself as "old school." "I tend to be more melodic," she adds. In 2009, she started adding vocals, which were "well-received." "People like to be sung to." Also, she's writing more songs. "It's a real special joy to play that music."

Learn more about Nancy Wright: <http://www.nancywrightmusic.com/bio/>



## **UPDATE ON BISCUITS AND BLUES**

(From Steven Suen & His Wife Tina Suen)

Hey San Francisco Blues lovers,

We wanted to check in with you after quite some time and let you know that we are still keeping this old blues train moving. Our council is still working each day to come to a

resolution via mediation to expedite the process, if possible. Albeit a long and arduous process we are still fighting day in and out to get back on our feet.

**We are still in legal proceedings with Jack in the Box and both parties involved have confirmed a court hearing in January (stay tuned for a new date).** Meanwhile: we are hopeful, but we do remain humble and patient while this story unfolds, we please ask you to do the same for us.

We also want to wish you and yours a happy holiday season. This time of year was always our busiest season in which we saw all of our best musicians come to town and rock out to full houses at our small and intimate club. We will surely miss you and hope to ring in the new year with you next year! During this holiday season, the only thing we ask of you is that you go out and support your local and touring blues artists and bands in the Bay Area to ensure that they can keep the blues alive in our absence.

As we have had lots of downtime, we have had the chance to put some future plans together. If we do in fact win this case, in due time, we will be coming back in full force with a brand spanking new club, and with the same intimate feel you have come to love.

We will check back in after the Holiday season or as soon as we have another update.

Thanks again for your continued support!

-- Biscuits and Blues



Check back for updates! TGGBS remains committed in its support of this national nightclub. We want to see Biscuits & Blue reopen soon.

Learn more: <https://biscuitsandblues.com/>

## **TOM HYSLOP, 2019 "KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE" AWARD WINNER DIES AT 56**



We have lost an important member of our blues community. Tom Hyslop, a notable writer and contributing editor for numerous blues publications, at the age of 56 passed away. He lost his long battle with cancer at 8:07 PM on Thursday, January 2, 2020. He died at his home while in the loving care of his family.

Tom's passion was blues music. He has written hundreds of liner notes, reviewed hundreds of CD's, and has conducted interviews with blues musicians for more than 20 years. He has written articles on Big Jack Johnson, Gary Clark Jr., Magic Slim, Rick Estrin, Nikki Hill, Nick Moss, John Németh, John Primer, Jody Williams, Li'l Ed Williams, and many others. Tom also wrote and served as an editor for Blues Revue and Blues Music Magazine for two decades and was a member of the Marquette Area Blues Society.

Tom received a "Keeping the Blues Alive" award in 2019 from the Blues Foundation. For many years, Tom was a nominator for the Blues Music Awards, and a member of the Historical category panel, and a nominator for the American Association of Independent Music's Libera Awards. Tom enjoyed anything blues related: guitars, vintage amplifiers, reading, and genealogy. He loved his family, especially his grandson, Jack. Tom left behind countless friends across the world who loved the blues just as much as he did.

A time to celebrate Tom's life will be held on Saturday January 11, 2020 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at the Bjork and Zhulkie Funeral Home 400 N. Third St in Ishpeming, Michigan.

## **TGGBS BEST SELF-PRODUCED CD NOMINEE, FILLMORE SLIM IS ONE OF THE FIVE FINALISTS IN THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE.**

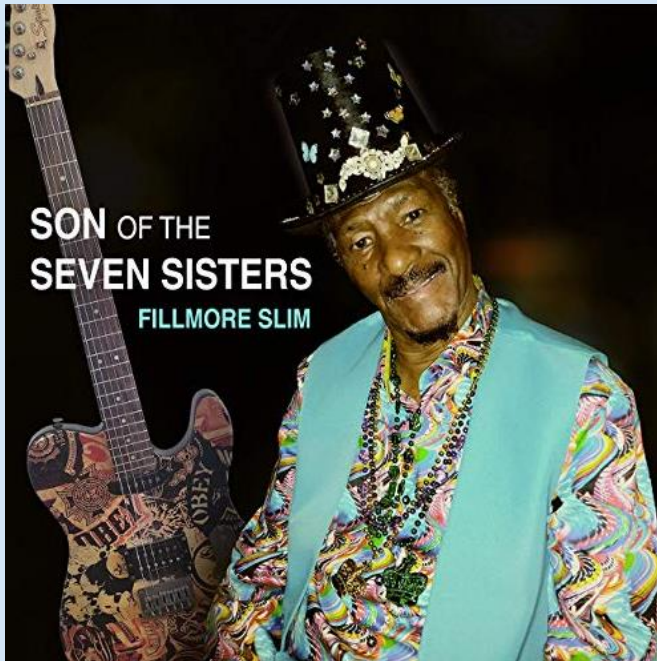
That's right! Fillmore Slim's CD, engineered and produced at Kid Andersen's Greaseland Studios, is in the running to win a very prestigious award.

The album is "Son of the Seven Sisters"! Way to go Fillmore Slim!

You can buy the album by clicking on this link: <https://www.amazon.com/Son-Seven-Sisters-Fillmore-Slim/dp/B07WG2Z6CZ>



Kid Anderson led this project at Greaseland and he plays guitar on several tracks with Rick Estrin and a cast of great players from the Greaseland Crew. If you are not up to speed on what Kid Anderson is doing at his Greaseland Studio, you need to get hip right quick as he is producing some of the best blues related discs available today. He also plays a mean guitar on many of these releases and the whole group of players associated with Greaseland are top notch.



## **FOURTEEN ALLIGATOR ARTISTS RECEIVE 37 BLUES MUSIC AWARD NOMINATIONS**



On January 7, 2020 the Blues Foundation announced the nominees for the 41st Annual Blues Music Awards, the blues world's highest honors. A remarkable total of 14 Alligator recording artists received 37 nominations. Rick Estrin & The Nightcats leads all artists with eight nominations (including one each for guitarist Christoffer "Kid" Andersen and drummer Derrick D'Mar Martin). Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, Billy Branch & The Sons Of Blues and The Cash Box Kings (including one for drummer Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith) followed with five each. The Nick Moss Band Featuring Dennis Gruenling received four, while Toronzo Cannon received three. Shemekia Copeland, Curtis Salgado and Tommy Castro & The Painkillers each received two, with Tinsley Ellis (whose new album Ice Cream In Hell is set for January 31 release) receiving one.

According to Alligator president Bruce Iglauer, "I'm very proud of so many Alligator artists getting the recognition they so richly deserve. I believe this is the largest number of Alligator records and artists to be nominated for the Blues Music Awards in any one year. The 2020 awards show will be even more exciting than usual!"

The Blues Album Of The Year category features four Alligator releases of the five nominees: The Cash Box Kings' Hail To The Kings!, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram's Kingfish, Toronzo Cannon's The Preacher, The Politician Or The Pimp, and Billy Branch & The Sons Of Blues' Roots & Branches: The Songs Of Little Walter.

The Band Of The Year category features three Alligator artists -- The Cash Box Kings, The Nick Moss Band Featuring Dennis Gruenling, and previous Band Of The Year winners Rick Estrin & The Nightcats.

The 41st Annual Blues Music Awards will be presented in Memphis on May 7, 2020 at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts. The full list of nominees can be found [here](#).

#### **ALLIGATOR ARTISTS AND AWARDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

##### **RICK ESTRIN & THE NIGHTCATS:** Entertainer Of The Year

Contemporary Blues Male Artist Of The Year

Instrumentalist - Harmonica

Song Of The Year - Resentment File (written by Rick Estrin, Joe Louis Walker, and JoJo Russo)

Band Of The Year

Contemporary Blues Album Of The Year - Contemporary

Instrumentalist - Guitar (**Christoffer "Kid" Andersen**)

Instrumentalist - Drums (**Derrick D'Mar Martin**)

##### **CHRISTONE "KINGFISH" INGRAM:** Album Of The Year - Kingfish

Contemporary Blues Album Of The Year - Kingfish

Best Emerging Artist Album - Kingfish

Contemporary Blues Male Artist Of The Year

Instrumentalist - Guitar

**BILLY BRANCH & THE SONS OF BLUES:** Entertainer Of The Year  
 Album Of The Year - Roots & Branches: The Songs Of Little Walter  
 Traditional Blues Album Of The Year - Roots & Branches: The Songs Of Little Walter  
 Instrumentalist - Harmonica  
 Traditional Blues Male Artist Of The Year

**THE CASH BOX KINGS:** Band Of The Year  
 Album Of The Year - Hail To The Kings!

**TRADITIONAL BLUES ALBUM OF THE YEAR - HAIL TO THE KINGS!**  
 Song Of The Year - The Wine Talkin' (written by Joe Nosek, John Hahn, and Oscar Wilson)  
 Instrumentalist - Drums (Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith)

**THE NICK MOSS BAND FEATURING DENNIS GRUENLING:** Band Of The Year  
 Traditional Blues Album Of The Year - Lucky Guy!  
 Song Of The Year - Lucky Guy (written by Nick Moss)  
 Instrumentalist - Harmonica (Dennis Gruenling)

**TORONZO CANNON:** Album Of The Year - The Preacher, The Politician Or The Pimp  
 Contemporary Blues Album Of The Year - The Preacher, The Politician Or The Pimp  
 Contemporary Blues Male Artist Of The Year

**TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS:** Blues Rock Album Of The Year - Killin' It Live  
 Blues Rock Artist Of The Year

**CURTIS SALGADO:** Soul Blues Male Artist Of The Year  
 Instrumentalist – Vocals

**SHEMEKIA COPELAND:** Contemporary Blues Female Artist Of The Year /Instrumentalist – Vocals

**TINSLEY ELLIS:** Blues Rock Artist Of The Year

## **41ST BLUES MUSIC AWARDS & BAY AREA NOMINEES**



This event brings together Blues performers, industry representatives, and fans from all over the world to celebrate the best in Blues recordings and performances from the previous year. The BMAs are generally recognized as the highest honor given to blues musicians and are awarded by vote of Blues Foundation members. The winners will be revealed at The Blues Foundation-hosted gala ceremony in Memphis, TN on **May 7, 2020**

If you are a member of The Blues Foundation you can vote for the Blues Music Awards!

Vote! <https://blues.org/awards-landing/>

Become a Blues Foundation member here: <https://blues.org/become-a-member/>

### **VOTE FOR OUR LOCAL NOMINEES FOR THE BLUES MUSIC AWARDS!**

[TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS](#): Blues Rock Album Of The Year – Killin' It Live  
Blues Rock Artist Of The Year

[RICK ESTRIN & THE NIGHTCATS](#): Entertainer Of The Year  
Contemporary Blues Male Artist Of The Year  
Instrumentalist - Harmonica  
Song Of The Year - Resentment File (written by Rick Estrin, Joe Louis Walker, and JoJo Russo)  
Band Of The Year  
Contemporary Blues Album Of The Year – “Contemporary”  
Instrumentalist - Guitar (Christoffer "Kid" Andersen)  
Instrumentalist - Drums (Derrick D'Mar Martin)

[John "Blues" Boyd](#): Best Emerging Artist Album: Through My Eyes

[June Core](#): Instrumentalist – Drums

[Laura Chavez](#): Instrumentalist – Guitar

[Nancy Wright](#): Instrumentalist – Horn

[Jim Pugh](#): Instrumentalist – Piano

[Terri Odabi](#): Soul Blues Female Artist

[Wee Willie Walker](#) (singer with Anthony Paule) Soul Blues Male Artist

Learn more about the Blues Music Awards: <https://blues.org/blues-music-awards/>



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

TGGBS wants to expand its membership so we can do great things in our blues community. Here in the San Francisco/ Bay Area we have internationally recognized blues talent. And we also want to foster new blues talent.

**But we can't do this alone. We need your support!**

We also need volunteers! We are always looking for skilled professionals to help us with setting up advertising on our website, to help us with our website itself (which we want to remake next year), our newsletter, marketing, merch, etc., and we always need help with events!

We also want to get your input for our monthly newsletter! Please, if you have some interesting news that has to do with important community events, historic shows, articles on blues musicians, contact Cathy Lemons at [info@tggbs.org](mailto:info@tggbs.org).

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 at: <https://www.tggbs.org/home>

**BECOME A GOLDEN GATE BLUES SOCIETY MEMBER TODAY:** <http://tggbs.org/store>

**THE GOLDEN GATE BLUES SOCIETY**

[www.tggbs.org](http://www.tggbs.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.