

THE BLUES MYTH KEEPING THE MUSIC ALIVE

BY JACK HADLEY

In 2016 the Colorado blues community continues to struggle with the myth of “keeping the blues alive.” We don’t need to keep reminding ourselves how tough it is. The Snowy Range Music Festival in Laramie, Wyoming, is history because there wasn’t enough support to keep it going. Despite the legendary blues performers who came year after year it was time to close it down. In the city of Denver there isn’t one club or venue dedicated to the blues. The Boulder Outlook has been gone for quite some time. The blues has always been the dark family secret, the forgotten stepchild of pop music and modern rock.

The blues will always be with us. It doesn’t need to be re-invented by anyone. There are clubs all over the state that present live blues-based music every week. Ziggie’s, Jazz@Jack’s, El Chapultepec, Toad Tavern, The Berkeley Inn, Rock’in R Bar, Baur’s Listening Lounge, Georgia Boys BBQ - the Smokehouse, Upslope Brewery, Oskar Blues, Pourhouse Bar & Grill, St. Julien Hotel, Bonacquisti Winery and so many, many more.

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GABRIEL BROWN AND ROCHELLE FRENCH, EATONVILLE, FLORIDA
FROM THE ALAN LOMAX COLLECTION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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SHOUTIN' THE BLUES

BY TARRY UNDERWOOD



I hope everybody had a great holiday season. It was nice to see our blues family at the Member's Choice Awards ceremony. Congratulations to all of the winners. Billy Hoke and friends put on a class act show that everyone was still talking about weeks later. Jennifer and I celebrated the New Year at the Buffalo Rose. Gunslinger and My Blue Sky had great sets before the Austin Young Band featuring Michaela Rae Knox rocked us into the New Year! In November and December, we checked out a couple of venues in Littleton that we had not been to before: D's Tavern and The West Hill Grill. Both venues are great. Keep your eye out for an opportunity to support these venues when they book blues bands.

The International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis is right around the corner and even though I'm not going, my thoughts will be with everyone from Colorado competing there. We have a reputation for sending great acts and this year's group of competitor's won't disappoint. We will update our Facebook page with results as they come in.

Be sure to check the Holler, www.coblues.org, weekly update and Facebook page for all of the great national bands Mark Sundermier is booking at The Oriental Theater in the Highlands. He is working to fill the gap left by the Outlook closing. Carolyn Wonderland and Tinsley Ellis are just a start. We just went to see Rex Peoples and X-Factor open for The Danielle Nicole Band. Both bands featured some of the best musicians from anywhere. Danielle let the cat out of the bag about Trampled Under Foot reuniting and returning to Colorado for one show at Blues From the Top this Summer. You won't want to miss that!

Speaking of the IBC, Bands and Solo/Duo artists should be on the lookout for registration for the local competition for the 2016 challenge.

I want to thank our members who support our local musicians and venues. It is up to us to keep the blues alive!



THE COLORADO BLUES SOCIETY
was formed to create a greater awareness and wider appreciation of the American indigenous art form, the BLUES.

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EDITOR & CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Jack Hadley

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Jack Hadley, Tarry Underwood,
John Ambrosino, Gretchen Troop,
Miss Ella - Sister To The Blues

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March 5 (8:30-11:30), Pourhouse, Loveland
March 6 (7-11), Ziggy's, Denver co-hosting the jam with Gretchen Troop
March 9 (9:30 am) Thornton Arts Council

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Registration is now open for the 2016 Colorado Blues Challenge.

THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15TH, 2016.

Preliminary rounds will be held on April 3rd at the Buffalo Rose in Golden and April 17th at the Dickens Opera House in Longmont. The finals will take place Sunday, May 1st at the Buffalo Rose. The Colorado Blues Society is looking forward to sending both a solo/duo winner and a band winner to represent it in Memphis at the 2017 International Blues Challenge!

For Rules and Information and your
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THE BLUES MYTH KEEPING THE MUSIC ALIVE

BY JACK HADLEY

Continued from page 1

Every new brewery or distillery that opens up will have some kind of blues, I guarantee it. They might not be blues clubs per se but they are doing their part because somewhere there are people who want to hear this music. And we have to mention blues radio. Check out the list of radio stations in our state (here in the Holler) who have blues in their rotation. There are stations around the world who play the blues, talk about it, interview the players, argue and fight about what is or is not “The Blues.”

If you’re reading this newsletter you are a member of the Colorado Blues Society. There are a number of blues societies in our state to join. We still have a number of major festivals and shows coming up, too:

Carbon Valley Music Festival
Dacono, CO

Carnation Festival
Wheat Ridge, CO

Durango Blues Train
Durango, CO

Blues & Brews on Old South Pearl St.
Denver, CO

Greeley Blues Jam
Greeley, CO

Bohemian Nights
Fort Collins, CO

Spirit Lake Blues Festival
Grand Lake, CO



HERITAGE BLUES ORCHESTRA, GREELEY BLUES JAM

PHOTO © GRETCHEN TROOP PHOTOGRAPHY

Telluride Blues & Brews
Telluride, CO

Blues & BBQ Festival
Arvada, CO

I know I’m preaching to the choir but you can never hear it enough: bands need to sell CDs and merchandise in order to make it. Paying the bills isn’t easy for any of us but it’s especially hard for a musician. Think about it the next time you pass by the tip jar on the bandstand and “forget” to drop in a few dollars. It’s the difference between having a place to sleep that night or putting gas in the car for the next show. Seriously.

You know the answer. Situation critical but it ain’t over yet. Keep doing the right thing. Go to as many shows as you can, and I know some of you already do that. To my fellow musicians: keep playing that music. Feed your soul and your audience, too. □

*“...They might not be
blues clubs per se but
they are doing their
part because somewhere
there are people
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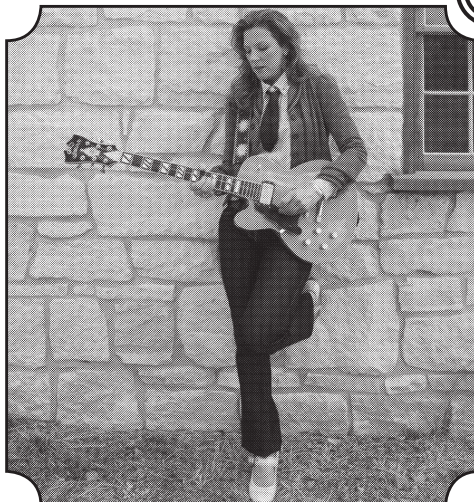
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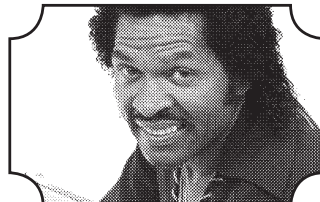
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*JOHN NEMETH AND BAND, 2009 BLUES FROM THE TOP
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*TAB BENOIT, 2009 BLUES
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REVIEWS



Smokin' Joe Kubek & Bnois King
FAT MAN'S SHINE PARLOR
Blind Pig Records

The late Smokin' Joe Kubek and Bnois King played together for about twenty-five years. An unusual combination of smooth and rough, these two had their own style, their own way of playing the blues. "Fat Man's Shine Parlor" rocks hard with an almost dissonant feel throughout all twelve tracks.

"Done Got Caught Blues" is straight-ahead crying blues about a man getting caught with another woman. King is a crooner with grit and soul. The magic happens when the Kubek's rock-edged blues licks swirl in and out of Bnois' vocals, never in the way, always just right.

"Cornbread" is a rockabilly-esque shuffle, a combination of Texas roadhouse blues and good humor. Who doesn't like cornbread? "Got My Heartbroken" features the two guitarists trading licks, having fun and kickin' ass. I only wish I had seen these two live before Smokin' Joe checked out. You'll dig this. I know I did.

- JACK HADLEY



Ian Siegal
w/Alvin Youngblood Hart, Cody Dickinson,
Luther Dickinson, Jimbo Mathus
THE PICNIC SESSIONS
Nugene Records

Recorded in Coldwater, Mississippi at Dickinson's Zebra Ranch Studio, this recording is an open-ended session, with the various players grabbing whatever instrument happened to be nearby. It's a fantastic release that feels like a party with some really talented friends dropping by. The material consists of original songs by Siegal and covers. Raw, unheard-of vocals with harmonies coming in from everywhere.

"Stone Cold Soul" - a Siegal original - starts rolling immediately with mandolin, guitars and banjo, cakewalking right through town. Country blues from the root, like it was coming right from your living room. The Townes Van Zandt song "Heavenly Houseboat Blues" comes from the same place, with mandocello and dobro floating on top. Beautiful. Siegal has a Tom Waits quality to his voice, which is a good thing here. I do think "Keen And Peachy" features Alvin Youngblood Hart on lead vocals. Killer.

The entire project was done in two afternoons in the studio. Nothing but a damn good party going on here. Incredible roots-blues music played without a care in the world. Two thumbs way up.

- JACK HADLEY



Delta Moon
LOW DOWN
Jumping Jack Records

Delta Moon is a top-notch roots outfit with a sound that is anchored by precise, soulful slide guitar. Lap steel and dobro courtesy of Tom Gray (along with guitarist Mark Johnson, bassist Franher Joseph and drummer Marion Patton). Excellent storytelling and quiet intensity throughout this recording draws you in. Listen to "Hard Times Killing Floor Blues" and you'll see what I mean.

"Down In The Flood" brings it all the way down with a funky backbeat and this lover is telling his woman he's had enough. "Lowdown" is a perfect example of swinging hard, making the listener feel that dance groove with restraint from beginning to end, great playing all around.

Favorite track "Jacky Ray." I know these guys have been through Colorado a few times. Be sure to see them if you can. Great music extremely well played.

- JACK HADLEY

REVIEWS



Ricky Nye SWINGIN' SOME BLUES

This is a must-listen-to CD on any play list. Ricky and the other artists he brings along are so totally entertaining you can shut yourself off from the world. Better yet, grab some music lovers and they will have the time of their lives. That's a "for sure" – I did.

After a short interview with Ricky over the phone, I was amazed about his rich history in all genres of the music world. At age five, he attended a rehearsal held by his family's band, made up of his father and two uncles. Their influence changed his life, as he was exposed to the accordion, piano, Hammond organ, guitar and drums. Now that is a package.

By the age of twelve Ricky started as a professional musician with the family band, and after high school he went to Boston to study at the Berklee College of Music. He returned to his hometown of Cincinnati in 1979, and over a ten year period he strayed to various genres but, as all Blues musicians do, he went home to the Blues

and joined up with the late Big Ed Thompson, a guitarist who became Ricky's biggest mentor. This also led to associations and friendships with fellow Cincinnati based Blues artists such as H-Bomb Ferguson and Big Joe Duskin.

I could sit and write all day about Ricky but I encourage you to visit www.rickynye.com to see what the talk is all about and purchase his music. Describing him as a multi-award winning artist is to say the least. He is much in demand all over Europe and across the USA.

Once you have heard his CD or have seen him live at any size venue you are caught in his magical music world – been there, done it. I have seen him play his Blues and Boogie Woogie style keyboard to standing ovations. Add his smooth and natural vocals and you have a wonderful combination.

Getting back to this CD, the covers are rich and done in a true style that would make the original artists proud. The artists he brought to this CD are awesome – I want to meet each and every one of them. Listen to the originals and be ready to put on your dancing shoes. You will be doing the soft shoe, then a shuffle and hip shaking with a big smile on your face. If you dare to keep up with this great Blues, Boogie Woogie, Jazz and R&B artist – good luck. Go for it!

- MISS ELLA, SISTER TO THE BLUES

REVIEWS

I also hear spiritual soul, hip shaking, finger snapping – a little something for everyone! The tracks bringing you all of that and which grabbed my attention on the first listen are as follows:

- Track 1 These Chains
- Track 2 The Moment
- Track 5 Pie or Cake
- Track 6 Hoodoo Woman

Well, I'll stop there as there was not a song on this CD which did not satisfy all of my Blues music needs. You can visit The Beat Daddys website for more information about this band. You can also go to CD Baby to purchase your copy.



Hoodoo That We Doo THE BEAT DADDYS

This is a solid Blues CD, as so much talent went into this work of music. You will hear a little bit of many styles of Blues. I hear deep Delta, a touch of Chicago style, and a heavy influence of Riley B. King. Hey, throw in some rumba and you can find a reason to listen or dance to every track. I bet at a live concert Blues lovers are at the front of the stage or dancing in the aisles.

The great vocals of Larry Grisham and a solid harmonica grab you from the start – add solid guitar playing and back vocals from Tommy Stillwell. The list goes on with great bass guitar by John Gillespie, Greg Franzman on percussion with David Parks. I am a lover of a great piano or organ players as I heard here with Patrick Preston on board.

- MISS ELLA, SISTER TO THE BLUES

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PAPA JUKE

www.papajuke.com

303.926.9626

PLATTE VALLEY QUARTET

www.pvqblue.com

PROFIT BROTHERS

ROBERT WILSON BLUES BAND

www.robertwilsonblues.com

970.215.9193

FELONIUS SMITH

www.feloniussmith.com

303.499.1665

THE BUZZ BROTHERS BAND

www.facebook.com/buzzbrothersband

970.356.2093

buzzbrothersband@gmail.com

THE CLAY KIRKLAND BAND

www.reverbnation.com/claykirklandband

THE DR. IZZY BAND

drizzyband.com

THE JOBE BLUES BAND

www.reverbnation.com/dianejobe

KATE LEROUX

THE KING STAN BAND

www.kingstanband.com

PROFIT BROTHERS

THE RHYTHM ALLSTARS

<https://myspace.com/therhythmallstars>

THE ROUSTABOUTS

www.roustaboutblues.com

THE SYMBOLS

www.thesymbols.net

THE UNDERTONE BLUES BAND

www.undertoneband.com

THE VINDICATORS BAND

www.thevindicatrorsband.com

THREESHOTS

www.bandmix.com/threeshots

TOMMY RAY & THE SUNRAYS

THE JOHN WEEKS BAND

www.johnweeksband.com

UNION DRIFTWOOD

www.reverb

LIGE WILLIAMSON

lige.williamson@gmail.com

303.499.1665

THE LIONEL YOUNG BAND

YELLOW DOG BLUES BAND

MOJOMAMA

www.mojomama.net

WEST OF THE BLUES

www.westoftheblues.com

www.facebook.com/Denver.Blues.Bands

303.761.8641

cameron@westoftheblues.com

REX PEOPLES & XFACTR

www.facebook.com/RexPeoplesBand2013

PROFESSOR FOX BAND

www.professorfoxband.com

BLUES BROADCASTS

SUNDAY

KSTR 96.1 FM Grand Junction,
9-10 am & 8-9 pm Blues Deluxe
KVNF 90.9 FM Paonia & 89.1 FM
Montrose, 4-5 pm, Beale Street Caravan,
www.kvnf.org
KOTO 91.7FM, 89.3FM, 105.5FM Telluride,
4-6 pm Blues Hang Over (every other
Sunday) www.koto.org, Island Radio,
5-7 pm (rebroadcast Thursday, 5-7 pm)
True Blues with Brian Elliott
www.island92.com
KRFX 103.5 FM Denver, 7-10 pm
Strictly Blues with Kai Turner
KBCO 97.3 FM Boulder, 9-10 pm
Blues from the Red Rooster Lounge
KPLU Seattle, 7 pm-1 am
http://www.kplu.org

MONDAY

KSBV 93.7 FM Salida, 9-10 am Blues Deluxe
KAFM 88.1 FM Grand Junction, 9 am-noon
Jimmy's Blues Kitchen (alternate weeks)
KAJX & KCJX 88.9, 89.7, 90.1, 90.9, 91.1,
91.5 FM Aspen, Carbondale, Rifle and
other towns, 11-midnight Blue Horizon
with Blue Bird

TUESDAY

KVNF 90.9 FM Paonia & 89.1 FM Montrose,
noon-3 pm, Blues & Other Colors
www.kvnf.org
KAFM 88.1 FM Grand Junction, 1-4 pm,
Bluesday Laboratory

WEDNESDAY

KCRT 92.5 FM Trinidad, 7-8 pm
Trinidaddio Blues Hour with
Ken Saydak and Darnell Miller
KHEN 106.9 FM Salida, 1-4 pm
Jazz & Blues with Bill
KVNF 0.9 FM Paonia & 89.1 FM
Montrose, 9:30 pm-midnight Crossties,
www.kvnf.org
KRFC 88.9 FM Fort Collins, 8-10 pm
House Rent Party with Jeff

THURSDAY

KAFM 88.1 FM Grand Junction, 9 am-noon
Blues Injection with Mickey the K
KVLE 93.5 FM Crested Butte/Monarch,
102.3 FM Gunnison, 2-3 pm Blues Deluxe
www.blueswithrussell.com, 8-10 pm
Blues with Russell
KAJX & KCJX 88.9, 89.7, 90.1, 90.9, 91.1,
91.5 FM Aspen, Carbondale, Rifle
and other towns, 11-midnight,
Beale Street Caravan

FRIDAY

KVNF 90.9 FM Paonia & 89.1 FM Montrose,
1-4 pm, Friday Afternoon Club
www.kvnf.org
KGNU 88.5 FM Boulder, 1390 AM Denver,
93.7 FM Ward/Nederland 6-9 pm
Blues Legacy

FRIDAY

www.ckua.com
9pm -midnight Friday
Night Blues Party,
www.wfit.org,
8-10 pm Rev. Billy's
Rhythm Revival

SATURDAY

KAFM 88.1 FM Grand
Junction, 9am-6pm Jazz,
Blues, Folk & Rock
KHEN 106.9 FM Salida,
noon-4 pm Sonic Gumbo with Doc
www.kgoat.org,
noon-1 pm
Jazz & Blues Crusade
with Count Rabula
KDUR 91.9 FM &
93.9 FM Durango,
2 Sides of the Blues,
6-8pm
KUVU 89.3 FM Denver,
www.kuvo.org 5-7pm
Blues Highway
with Sam Mayfield or
guest host
KUVU 89.3 FM Denver,
www.kuvo.org 7-8pm
R&B Jukebox
with Rolando, Pete,
Easy Bill or Carlos
KVNF 90.9 FM Paonia &
89.1 FM Montrose,
7-9:30pm, Turn It Up
www.kvnf.org
KRCC 91.5 FM Colorado
Springs, Noon-1 pm
The Blue Plate Special
Vintage Voltage Style
KUNC 91.5 FM Greeley,
8-9pm Beale Street Caravan
KUNC 91.5 FM Greeley, 9-10pm
9 O'Clock Blues with Marc
KAFM 88.1 FM Grand Junction,
9pm-midnight Rockin' Blues
KAJX & KCJX 88.9, 89.7, 90.1, 90.9,
91.1, 91.5 FM Aspen, Carbondale, Rifle
and other towns,
Midnight - 4am
Blues Before Sunrise
KPLU Seattle, 7pm-1am
www.kplu.org
www.ckua.com
3-5pm Natch'l Blues

MONDAY - FRIDAY

KRCC 91.5 FM Colo.
Spgs, Noon-1 pm
The Blue Plate Special

FRIDAY - SUNDAY

KVCU 1190 AM
Boulder -
www.radio1190.org
1-7am Blues Til Dawn

CABLE & SATELLITE, HD

RADIO 24-7
BLUES CHANNELS
Adelphia Cable Channel 430
Comcast Digital Cable Channel 930
Direct TV Channel 841
Dish Network Channel 978
KOSI HD 101.1-2
Sirius Blues Channel 74
XM Satellite Radio Channel 74



CBS MEMBER DISCOUNTS - JUST SHOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD

ALBUMS ON THE HILL 10% off non-sale items • ANGELOS CD's & MORE (Littleton, Aurora, Thornton) • CHASE HOME FINANCE (Boulder, Barbara Goldman) \$200 off closing costs) • CHERRY BLOSSOM FLOWERS (Westminster) 15% off cash & carry items • CLEAR GRAVY PRODUCTIONS (Frederick) 15% off studio fees • DELTA BLUES MUSEUM (Clarksdale, MS) 50% off admission • FOLKLORE CENTER (Denver) 10% off non-sale items • HANGAR BAR (Denver) 2nd drink free • THE HATTERS (Trinidad) 10% off non-sale items • MARIPOSA PLANTS & FLOWERS (Greeley) 10% off non-sale items • OSKAR BLUES (Lyons) 10% off everything • PARKER REAL ESTATE BROKERS (Parker) 10% off fees • SWALLOW HILL MUSIC ASSOCIATION (Denver) 10% off non-sale items • TWIST & SHOUT CD's & TAPES (Denver) 10% off non-sale items • WAX TRAX CD's & TAPES (Denver & Boulder) 10% off non-sale items • ROCKY RIVER RESORT (Gunnison) 10% off non-sale items

YES, I WANT TO HELP SUPPORT THE COLORADO BLUES SOCIETY

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Subscription to the Colorado Blues Society HOLLER
- Discounts on CBS events & merchandise
- Privileged rates at participating businesses

Send completed form & check to:
Colorado Blues Society
P.O. Box 386
Windsor, CO 80550-5328

YES, I would like to volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email address _____

Occupation _____

Hobby/Interest _____ Name of referring member _____

May we share your contact information with other organizations/companies for blues-related purposes? YES _____ NO _____

\$30 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$20 STUDENT OR SENIOR (60 yrs or older) \$40 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

\$60 BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP \$100 MOJO MEMBERSHIP \$35 INTERNATIONAL (NON-U.S. ADDRESS)

Check or money order enclosed (payable to Colorado Blues Society) VISA MASTERCARD

Account No. _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

BLUES CALENDAR AVAILABLE for all Blues Musicians and Venues

Did you know you can have your gigs posted on the
Colorado Blues Society Calendar?
Posting your gigs alerts blues lovers to your shows.

The Blues Calendar is sent out weekly via an email blast to over
1200 blues lovers around the state as well as CBS members.
AND it is announced weekly on the Blues Legacy show on
KGNU Community Radio (www.kgnu.org)

**All YOU need to do is email your gigs to calendar@coblues.org.
Your shows will be promoted for FREE!!**

For more information please contact
Jennifer at mrsblueswood@comcast.net or visit www.coblues.org

The Colorado Blues Society (CBS) is dedicated to increasing awareness of
and appreciation for the Blues as an indigenous American Art form
(and the wellspring from which all contemporary
popular American music originated).

The Colorado Blues Society is a 501(c) (3) organization.



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