

JAZZ & BLUES

MAY 2011

FLORIDA

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES



CHRISTIAN TAMBURR



WILLIE LOMAX



JP SOARS & THE RED HOTS



MAVIS STAPLES



MONTY ALEXANDER



HERBIE HANCOCK



TAJ MAHAL



PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND



MARTIN BEJERANO



LURRIE BELL



DEBBIE DAVIES

WINNING SPINS

by Bob Weinberg

MORE BEES WITH HONEY, JP SOARS' sophomore album, both ignores and embraces its title. Figuratively, the guitarist doesn't sweeten or commercialize his sound to appease more mainstream listeners. But literally, his stinging licks and buzzing slide conjure a whole swarm of angry yellow-jackets. Of course, listening to the recording is a lot more fun than being attacked by bees, but Soars' sonic approach is equally relentless.

The followup to his 2008 debut recording, *Back of My Mind*, *More Bees* showcases Soars' blunt-force six-string assault, which recalls the buzz-saw dynamics of Howlin' Wolf's right-hand man, Hubert Sumlin. And, of course, Wolf is the primary inspiration for Soars' sawdust-and-moonshine vocal style, a raspy holler full of glint-eyed malevolence. Soars' rhythm crew, drummer Chris Peet and bassists Donald "The Cougar" Gottlieb and Todd Edmunds, also generate just the right mix of stomped-down menace and party-hearty exuberance.

Since the release of *Back of My Mind*, Soars' career has soared. Representing the South Florida Blues Society, the guitarist and his band, The Red Hots, took top honors at the 2009 IBC, from which Soars also brought home the prestigious Albert King Blues Guitar Award. Increasingly in demand, he's been touring steadily. And *More Bees* might just raise his profile again, as he stretches himself as a performer.

The album kicks off with its title track, a horn-fueled, Memphis-style jukebox jumper sung as a duet with the late Robin Rogers. The top-shelf tenor-sax team of Terry Hanck and Sax Gordon Beadle blow the roof off the joint, as Rogers' gritty-sweet vocals shadow Soars' Wolflike growl. Soars dedicates the album in part to his singing partner, who passed away in December 2010 from cancer.

An acronym for "Keep Your Nose Outta My Business," the original "K.Y.N.O.M.B." sounds like vintage Wolf. Peet is especially effective here, his drumming echoing like the footfalls of a big man coming to collect the rent. Harp master Jason Ricci provides knife-edged texture that accentuates the guitarist's brass-knuckle bravado.

Soars and Ricci team up to stunning effect on the low-down slow-burner "Chasing



JP SOARS

Whiskey With Whiskey." Alternating among acoustic and electric axes, Soars sings about his preference for the hard stuff—even as he wryly winks at concoctions such as sex on the beach and buttery nipples—and cuts to the bone with his whipsaw slide. Ricci kicks like a slug from a fifth of Jack.

An appealing blend of styles, *More Bees* provides a showcase for the guitarist's skills. "So Many Times" is a gruff-but-pretty ballad featuring Soars' heartbroke vocals and the atmospheric Hammond organ of Travis Colby. "Hot Little Woman" starts out at a breakneck jump-blues tempo, but turns on a dime. The tune lurches forward like your drunken uncle, stutter-stepping toward the dance floor at your cousin's wedding and then cutting loose once he gets there. Soars offers an urbane, jazzy sound that makes for a cool contrast to his rawhide vocals.

WINNING SPINS

And there's even more variety. The autobiographical "Back of My Mind" employs a celebratory, almost manic mambo groove, while "Doggin'" puts Soars into stone-cold, acid-funk mode. But perhaps the most fresh-sounding track is "They'll Do It Every Time," a Mississippi Hill Country romp played by Soars on his homemade two-string electric cigar-box guitar. But this is no hidebound traditionalist's take, as Soars digs in on a head-banging, metal-edged solo and just wails.

Soars is a multifaceted musician whose history encompasses everything from heavy metal to Gypsy jazz. Rather than running from his past, he uses various components of it to make his blues all the more compelling. *More Bees* is an honest reflection of Soars, and all the better for it.



JP Soars and the Red Hots perform May 1 at Common Grounds in Gainesville; May 6 at The Back Room in Delray; May 7 at Snook Haven in Venice; May 8 at Ace's in Bradenton; additional Florida dates throughout May. Visit jpsoars.com.



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MARTIN BEJERANO TRIO

MAY 14 - 8:00 pm

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DEBBIE DAVIES BAND
BAMBOO ROOM, LAKE WORTH/MAY 12
BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/MAY 13
SIMS PARK, NEW PORT RICHEY/MAY 14

Not just any guitarist could pull off an expert, all-instrumental salute to the blues and jazz greats who inspired her without seeming overly derivative. But Debbie Davies does just that on *Holdin' Court*, as she pays tribute to Otis Rush, Gatemouth Brown, Duke Robillard, Kenny Burrell, and of course, Albert Collins, with whom she recorded and toured for three years. Another of her heroes, John Mayall, tapped her for his 1990 album *A Sense of Place*, and she returned the favor on her superb 2003 recording *Key to Love: A Celebration of the Music of John Mayall*. Of course,



Davies can indeed sing the blues with great authority, and surely, she's been absorbing the vibes of topflight collaborators including Tommy Castro, Coco Montoya, Janiva Magness, Ana Popovic and the late Robin Rogers, with whom she toured in 2010. Last year, Davies picked up a Blues Music Award for Best Traditional Female Artist. **BW**

LURRIE BELL with SCOTT CABLE
ACE'S, BRADENTON/MAY 16
BOSTON'S, DELRAY/MAY 17
CHEF JOHN'S, JUPITER/MAY 18
BEACH SHACK, COCOA BEACH/MAY 19
MCWELL'S, ORLANDO/MAY 20
BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/MAY 21

A fiery and imaginative guitarist, Lurrie Bell crafts stinging solo statements and sings in an emotive vibrato. Certainly, Bell learned from the best. As the son of Chicago blues-harp master Carey Bell, he enjoyed a front-row seat for the all-star rehearsals that took place at his childhood home. Pianist Lovie Lee first sneaked him into a South Side blues club to perform at age 14, and though he's endured many ups and downs,



Bell's been astounding audiences ever since. Based on the strength of his 2007 CD *Let's Talk About Love*—as well as his muscular work on his and Carey's *Gettin' Up Live*—Lurrie was voted *Living Blues'* Artist of the Year in 2008. He also took Most Outstanding Guitarist honors. On this tour, Bell is joined by guitarist and producer Scott Cable. **BW**

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SUNDAY, MAY 29TH

- 2:00pm Tommy Lee Cook & The Buckingham Allstars
- 6:00pm National Recording Artist Smokin' Joe Kubek & B'nois King
- 8:00pm Randy McAllister

Acts Subject to change without notice.



Joe Kubek & B'nois King

MONDAY, MAY 30TH

- 2:00pm Victor Wainwright & The Wild Roots Full Band with Horns



Victor Wainwright



Randy McAllister

**TAJ MAHAL TRIO
KNOLOGY CLEARWATER SEA-BLUES FEST,
COACHMAN PARK/MAY 7**

Over the years, Taj Mahal has put his gravel-road vocals and deft picking skills to everything from African, Hindustani and Hawaiian music to reggae, soul and R&B. But the man born Henry St. Claire Fredericks is best known as one of the great blues interpreters of his generation. In the 1960s, Taj opened for Otis Redding and The Temptations. He also met blues greats Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, Lightnin' Hopkins and Sleepy John Estes. These experiences proved indelible, as Taj burst on the scene with his 1968 self-titled debut LP, announcing the arrival of a blues star as comfortable with country and



Chicago blues as with rock and soul. Backed by versatile trio mates Bill Rich on bass and Kester Smith on drums—with whom he headlines the Clearwater Sea-Blues Fest—Taj might offer anything from the indigenous music of Zanzibar to classic jukebox R&B to the country blues for which he's rightly revered. Visit Clearwaterseablues.com. **BW**

**WILLIE LOMAX WITH SHAWN BROWN
COTEE RIVER SEAFOOD FEST, SIMS PARK,
NEW PORT RICHEY/MAY 14**

Guitarist Willie Lomax is not only an expert in a variety of blues styles, but he has a knack for assembling crackerjack bands. For the Willie Lomax Blues Revue's 1996 recording *Give Me Back My Teeth*, the longtime Tampa resident recruited firebrand vocalist James Peterson, fellow string-slinger Ronnie Earl, harmonica maestro Rock Bottom and blues-drummer extraordinaire Sam Carr to interpret original material. For *Ribs are Ready*, the Revue's next disc, Lomax introduced listeners to Hammond B3 wizard and powerhouse soul-blues vocalist Shawn Brown. The Revue returned to Royal studios in Memphis for



2003's *Best Blues Money Can Buy*, once again spotlighting Brown's soul shout and atmospheric B3, and Lomax's heated licks and savvy original songs. Lomax, who grew up in Miami, is the son of a jazz drummer. While he started on trumpet, Lomax switched to guitar after seeing Muddy Waters perform in Tallahassee. **BW**

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**MAVIS STAPLES
JACKSONVILLE JAZZ FEST,
HEMMING PLAZA/MAY 29**

There aren't many vocalists who command the moral and spiritual authority of soul queen Mavis Staples. The Staple Singers, her family band, blended soul and gospel on hits such as "I'll Take You There" and "Respect Yourself," which became anthems of black pride in the early '70s. As a solo artist, the Chicago native has displayed a gift for finding new audiences. In 2007, she released the masterful *We'll Never Turn Back*, a stunning evocation of the music and spirit of the Civil Rights struggle, produced with the rootsy expertise of Ry Cooder. Last year, Staples teamed up with Wilco's Jeff Tweedy for *You Are Not Alone*, a mix of spirituals, well-



realized original tunes and smart covers of Randy Newman, John Fogerty (a beautiful read of CCR's "Wrote a Song for Everyone"), Allen Toussaint and Little Milton. The record earned Staples her first Grammy—for Best Americana Album. See this Rock and Roll Hall of Famer at the Jacksonville Jazz Fest. Visit Makeascenedowntown.com. **BW**

**PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND
SUNFEST, WEST PALM BEACH/MAY 1**

Named for their historic headquarters in New Orleans' French Quarter, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band has been exporting the city's signature traditional jazz for five decades. Allan and Sandra Jaffe opened the venue in 1961, and the house band began touring in 1963. The couple's son, Ben Jaffe, now serves as the band's artistic director and tuba/bass player, performing alongside Hall mainstays such as trumpeter Mark Braud, clarinetist Charlie Gabriel, saxophonist Clint Maedgen, trombonist Freddie Lonzo, pianist Rickie Monie and drummer Joseph Lastie Jr. While Jaffe still stresses New Orleans tradition, Preservation Hall continues to branch out. Their 2010 CD, *Preservation*, featured guests from Tom Waits and Dr. John to indie rocker Ani DiFranco and My Morning Jacket's Jim James. Their latest release, *American Legacies*, pairs them with bluegrass vets the Del McCoury Band, and a second hall is in the



works for the Mission District of San Francisco. The band will perform Sunday at 2:15PM at SunFest. Visit Sunfest.com. **BM**

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**MARTIN BEJERANO TRIO
MINIACI PERFORMING ARTS CENTER,
DAVIE/MAY 14**

Miami-born pianist Martin Bejerano graduated from New World School of the Arts with a scholarship to attend Florida State University. He then won another scholarship from the University of Miami, where he received his masters. Armed with knowledge and prodigious talent, the young pianist moved to New York City in 2000. In less than a year, he was discovered by legendary drummer Roy Haynes. A popular 2007 YouTube video shows Chick Corea sitting in with Haynes' quartet and sharing a piano with Bejerano. The pair trade blues licks before engaging in some telepathic unison playing. That same year,



Bejerano released his debut CD, *Evolution/Revolution*, which showcased his classical technique and seemingly limitless ideas. For this South Florida JAZZ concert, Bejerano's trio with bassist Edward Perez and drummer Ludwig Afonso will premiere the pianist's *Potential Energy Suite*, commissioned by Chamber Music America. **BM**

**CHRISTIAN TAMBURR QUARTET
HEIDI'S, COCOA BEACH/MAY 6
MAGNOLIA SQUARE, SANFORD/MAY 7
ALTAMONTE CHAPEL, ALTAMONTE
SPRINGS/MAY 8**

Few bandleaders can hold audiences' attention as a featured soloist on more than one instrument, but Christian Tamburr ranks among them. The multi-instrumentalist is primarily a Milt Jackson-influenced vibraphonist. Yet he's also served as pianist and musical director for Julio Iglesias. Tamburr plays the drums, and world and orchestral percussion as well, and his flexibility has earned him gigs with Cirque de Soleil and at private functions for the likes of Julia Roberts and Michael Jordan. On his quartet's 2004 debut CD



Move and on his latest, *Arrivals*, Tamburr plays some piano. But for the most part, he concentrates on the vibes as he navigates swinging sets of originals and standards. Ira Sullivan provides trumpet and sax on *Arrivals*, which also features Tamburr's long-time rhythm section—bassist Elisa Pruet and drummer Justin Varnes—along with pianist Louis Heriveaux. **BM**



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| 6 | Back Room | Delray Beach | 21 | Big Easy | Hollywood |
| 7 | Snook Haven | Venice | 22 | Downtowner Saloon | Fort Lauderdale |
| 8 | Ace's Lounge | Bradenton | 22 | O' Malley's Ocean Pub | Hollywood Beach |
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| 12 | Back Room | Delray Beach | 25 | Bizarre Ave Cafe | Lake Worth |
| 13 | South Shores Tavern | Lake Worth | 26 | Back Room | Delray Beach |
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| 17 | Back Room (Open Jam) | Delray Beach | 31 | Back Room (Open Jam) | Delray Beach |



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**MONTY ALEXANDER
REGGAE JAZZ FUSION
BROWARD CENTER, FT. LAUDERDALE/MAY 22**

A Jamaican native who chose a career in jazz, pianist Monty Alexander created his own brand of reggae-jazz fusion. For this concert, he and his band will share the stage with vocalists Maxi Priest and A.J. Brown, and guitarist Eugene Grey. Alexander is celebrating the 50th year of a career that began with his first group, Monty and the Cyclones, in Kingston. The pianist moved to New York City at age 17, and his mixture of Jamaican influences with techniques inspired by Art Tatum and Oscar Peterson caught the ears of Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra and Duke Ellington. Alexander's jazz-reggae mashups have been



showcased on a string of Telarc recordings. His recent CD *Uplift* features his trio (with bassist Hassan Shakur and either Herlin Riley or Fritz Landesbergen on drums) on standards from "Sweet Georgia Brown" to "Body and Soul." This traditional-jazz recording will soon be followed by a more reggae-influenced release, *Harlem-Kingston Express*. **BM**

**HERBIE HANCOCK
JACKSONVILLE JAZZ FEST, DOWNTOWN
JACKSONVILLE/MAY 29**

Like fellow jazz legends Wayne Shorter, Chick Corea, Keith Jarrett and John McLaughlin, Herbie Hancock rose to prominence while playing with Miles Davis in the 1960s. The keyboardist then fused jazz and funk with his Headhunters band during the 1970s; dropped one of the most-memorable music videos of the '80s ("Rockit"); and started a gradual turn from synthesizers toward acoustic piano in the 1990s with jazz interpretations of pop hits on his CD *The New Standard*. Hancock's distinctive piano style has graced like-minded projects ever since. His 2007 Joni Mitchell tribute, *River: The Joni Letters*, won a Grammy for Album of the Year,



only the second jazz record to do so in nearly 50 years. His latest, *The Imagine Project*, was recorded in seven countries, and features interactions with everyone from Shorter, Jeff Beck and Derek Trucks to Dave Matthews, Los Lobos and India.Arie. Hancock, who turned 70 last month, performs at the Jacksonville Jazz Fest. Visit Makeascenedowntown.com. **BM**



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	<p>SUNDAY May 22, 1 – 5PM</p> <p>1PM Selwyn Birchwood & Deuces Wild with RJ Harmon on harmonica</p> <p>2PM Beautiful Bobby Blackmon</p> <p>3:30PM Hauseshakers Blues Reunion Jam featuring Shaun Rounds & Jim Mahoney</p> <p><i>Sunday tickets at the gate \$15 each + tax</i></p>



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After a lifetime of paying their dues, many jazz musicians can't pay their rent.

It's ironic that in America, the home of jazz, that jazz musicians are facing problems like homelessness.

The Jazz Foundation of America was created in 1989 to help ensure that those who have spent their lives bringing jazz to us are taken care of in their later years.

JFA provides jazz musicians free medical care through a partnership with Englewood Hospital and Medical Center's "Dizzy Gillespie Memorial Fund," and a physicians network.

The JFA also assists by staving off evictions, preventing homelessness, paying rent arrears, providing emergency living expenses, offering substance abuse counseling, advocacy, and career counseling. In the past year, the JFA assisted nearly 1300 musicians, including saving many from homelessness.

Please help this work to continue by donating to the Jazz Foundation.
 Call (212) 245-3999 www.jazzfoundation.org



JAZZ & BLUES FLORIDA

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

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**Bradfordville
BLUES
Club**

7152 Moses Lane
Tallahassee
(850) 906-0766

- May 6 Harper
- May 7 Sean Carney Band
- May 13 Debbie Davies Band
- May 14 Albert Castiglia
- May 20 Eugene
"Hideaway" Bridges
- May 21 Lurrie Bell
- May 27 Motor City Josh
& the Big Three
- May 28 Smokin' Joe Kubek
and B'nois King



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