



JAZZ & BLUES
AUGUST 2015
FLORIDA
FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

SWINGIN' HARPOON

FEATURED ARTIST



PLUS... DUFFY BISHOP • ARTURO O'FARRILL • TAJ MAHAL • AMY HART
JIMMY DANIEL • LOU ABBOTT • STEVE KIRNSNER • JOEL ZOSS
TOM MCCORMICK • JEFF JENSEN BAND • DON MOPSICK

Swingin'

Growing up in Tarpon Springs, Mike Lanigan always tinkered with musical instruments. He started blowing harp at 14, learning his licks from two main sources: The J. Geils Band and The Ozark Mountain Daredevils. The two contrasting styles of music influenced Mike's unique style. Other significant influences include Pat Ramsey, William Clarke, Fingers Taylor, Johnny Winter, Brian Setzer and Michael Andrew. Mike has performed with or opened for a long list of artists such as Roosevelt Collier, Eric Culbertson, Biscuit Miller, Jason Ricci, Sean Chambers, EG Kight, Albert Castiglia, Watermelon Slim, Herbie Mann, Spyro Gyra, Georgia Satellites, Atlanta Rhythm Section, Grace Slick & Starship, T.C. Carr, Mark Chesnutt, Tracy Lawrence, Confederate Railroad, Tracy Byrd, Joe Nichols, Lee Ann Womack, Mark Collie and Janie Fricke.

After literally wearing out a copy of Michael Andrew's *Swingerhead* CD over a period of about 12 years, Mike finally put the Swingin' Harpoon Blues Band together. He is joined in the lineup by Neil Anderson on lead guitar and vocals, and The Mercenaries of Rhythm: James Lewis on drums and Kevan McCann on Bass, along with special guests. The band performs original songs and quality covers in genres from big city blues to swing to rockabilly to funk. Mike describes his harmonica style as "a cross breed of mountain and big city blues... with some big band swing twisted into it." So how did that name come about? "The original name in 2005 was Swing Pocket," Mike explains,

"but I found a band up north that had been using that name for a while so I changed it. Swingin' identifies the style of blues that I present. Harpoon is slang for harmonica... as you might remember from Kris Kristofferson's 'Me and Bobby McGee.'"

They've been touring relentlessly ever since, and crowd reception to Swingin' Harpoon's unique mix of big band swing and blues harp has been overwhelming positive. According to Mike, "When performing, I become Swingin Harpoon'... delivering everything I have." Their 2007 debut CD, *American Without Prefix*, met with critical success as well. "My songs often are commentaries regarding social or personal issues," Mike says. "The title cut presents the need for Americans to focus on being an American first. Adding a prefix in front of American causes divisiveness." But Mike is always ready to listen, as well. "The best advice was given to me the first time I

played in a venue. I was 15 and sitting in with a band. When the song was over, the frontman told me, 'You're pretty good, kid, but learn when *not* to play.' Sage advice for harp players who sit in with bands!" Their live performance recorded on *World Famous Bradfordville Blues Club* showcases Mike's hard-blowing licks and unique timing on swinging blues-rock and vintage blues. It was followed by *Full Sail Session* and 2013's *Only Trash Litters*. A few years back, Mike put together a scripted musical documentary,



Harpoon

"History of the Blues," which received standing ovations and requests for additional installments. For a change of pace, Mike currently performs in Americana rock band The Allie Cats. Mike also performs as a solo act, 'The Saltwater Cowboy', throughout north Florida.

And if that wasn't enough to keep a man busy, Mike will be hosting the Inaugural Greater Southeastern Harmonica Championships at Bradfordville Blues Club on August 29. "It's a vision I've had many years," says Mike. "I love sharing my stage with other harpists and feed on their style and talent. Tallahassee is a great central location for a one day drive. I plan to make this an annual event... and hopefully it will become a prestigious Championship." The championship will be followed by a live radio broadcast from the Club featuring Swingin' Harpoon. Mike favors Sydel & Hohner harps, using an Astatic JT 30 Mic through a 1963 Lafayette or a 1965 Univox. More at swinginharpoon.com.



SWINGIN' HARPOON

AUGUST 3 & 22
SEVILLE QUARTER
PENSACOLA
IBC competition
(afternoon)

AUGUST 22
PARADISE BAR & GRILL
PENSACOLA BEACH

AUGUST 29
BRADFORDVILLE
BLUES CLUB
TALLAHASSEE

AUGUST 30
OUZTS TOO
NEWPORT

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Sept 20 • 2-6pm live bands

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Steve Kirsner

Pianist Steve Kirsner, whose music and banter have provided many happy hours at Heidi's Jazz Club over the last six years, will lead his jazz quintet at the August concert of the Space Coast Jazz Society. The quintet includes Steve on piano, Dave Lewis on bass guitar, Stan Soloko on drums, Len Bentley on



trumpet, Steve Mazzi on saxophones and flute, and a special guest vocalist. All of the musicians have sat in with each other at various times at the popular Thursday afternoon concerts at the Sunset Grill in Cocoa Beach. Before that, they also played for years at the old Lloyds at Port Canaveral under the leadership of the late Wes Kirby. At that time, the band was The Ragtime Rascals with a focus on Dixieland. Dave Lewis became the band-leader. When the ownership of Lloyds changed seven years ago, the Rascals moved their Thursday gig to the Sunset Grill and shifted from ragtime to traditional jazz. Six years ago Steve became the band's pianist. Catch Steve at Heidi's Happy Hour... he plays music by ear and it's rare that he can't fulfill a request from one of his many loyal followers. More at spacecoastjazzsociety.com.

STEVE KIRSNER

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Joel Zoss

Joel Zoss has enjoyed a worldwide reputation as a songwriter and guitarist since Bonnie Raitt recorded his "Too Long at the Fair" and "I Gave My Love a Candle." From 2007-2009 he opened shows for B.B. King and Etta

James in theaters across the country, featuring his own million-selling compositions and folk and blues classics by American masters such as Elizabeth Cotten, Leadbelly, and Big Bill Broonzy. Joel's unique fingerpicking style and moving vocals have led

to performances and recordings with highly-regarded artists including David Bromberg, Taj Mahal, James Taylor, Paul Butterfield and Howlin' Wolf. His songs have been recorded by artists in genres from blues to bluegrass, with some tunes are even feel at home in the world music category. After cutting his teeth in 1960s Chicago with some of the world's greatest bluesmen, Joel began his recording career, leading to his 2009 CD, *Lila*. In March of 2012, UK diva Katie Melua, (11 million CDs in the last decade), released her version of "Too Long at the Fair." Bonnie Raitt's version of the song appears in the 2011 documentary film

Troubadour. Joel's latest, *Florida Blues*, featuring his acoustic trio, was recorded and mixed by Grammy-winning engineer Ron Taylor at Echo Beach Studios in Jupiter, and was just released August 1. More at joelzoss.com.



JOEL ZOSS

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AUGUST 21
DOCKERS
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AUGUST 9
SLIP & THE SPINOUTS



AUGUST 16
JOE CARUSO

AUGUST 23
SOLE TRAVELERS

AUGUST 30
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Tom McCormick

Saxophonist/flutist Tom McCormick has been a fixture on the South Florida jazz scene for over 25 years. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Tom studied at the acclaimed Frost School of Music at the University of Miami and later taught there. He is currently the saxophone professor at Miami Dade College Kendall Campus. He also teaches at New World School of the Arts and offers private instruction and clinics in sax, flute, clarinet, jazz improv, and theory. Tom has performed with some of the biggest names

in the business including: Sheila E., Arturo Sandoval, Nicole Henry, Mongo Santamaria, K.C. and the Sunshine Band, the O'Jays, Celia Cruz, Donna Summer, Patti Austin and Lou Rawls. For many years he was the principal saxophonist

with the Miami Symphony. Music has taken Tom around the world. He has performed throughout Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Japan and India. Besides being a multi-instrumentalist, Tom is also an accomplished composer and arranger. A founding member of the Miami Jazz Cooperative, he contributed to the book "Is the Saxophone for You?" by Elaine Landau. More at mdc.edu/tmccormi/bio.htm.



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Amy Hart

Born and raised in Chicago, Amy Hart's raw blues sound leans in a roots/Americana/country direction, but she's gained some true-blues cred with gigs opening for Koko Taylor and James Cotton. She won WLUP's Chicago Rocks Contest – twice – and released two compilation CDs with the station. And with producer John Ryan (Doobie Brothers, Santana), Amy released a song on the movie soundtrack to "Girls Just Wanna

Have Fun." Amy started her own label, Painted Rock Records, which released her first solo CD in 2000. *Every Beat of My Heart* was critically acclaimed, but was followed by ten years of balancing the demands of playing music with those of raising a daughter. Then Amy hit Music City. Her second CD, *Congratulations*, brought wider recognition, and after four years of writing and touring with her band (including headlining the 2012 Himalayan Blues Fest), Amy was invited to perform on "Music From The Mayne Stage" which aired on PBS earlier this year.

The accompanying CD, *Live At The Mayne Stage* (out now) delivers a fresh sound with Gene Bush on Dobro, Grammy-nominated PT Gazell on Harp, husband Wally Hoffmann on upright bass and Matt McDowell on drums. This album offers gentler covers of picks from *Congratulations* and several new tunes. It's reminiscent of a summer night... complete with fireflies and heat lightning on the horizon. That lightning is Amy Hart. More at amyhart.com.

AMY HART

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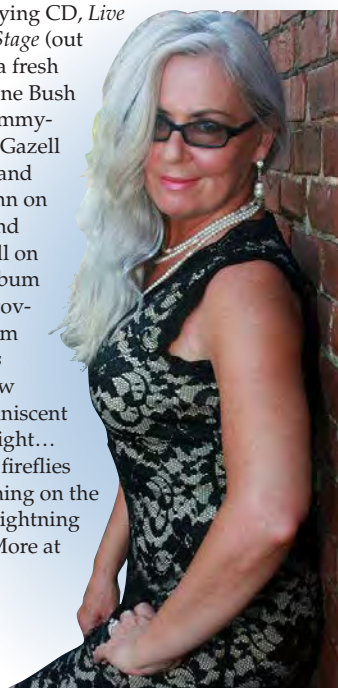


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10PM		

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Jimmy Daniel



Few have worked as hard and experimented as much with global styles than veteran session drummer Jimmy Daniel. By the age of 17, he'd landed a spot backing John Mellencamp, and spent two years living with Mellencamp's band in an Indiana farmhouse, rehearsing and performing around the region. But a different kind of music beckoned, and Daniel left the band and enrolled at the Berklee College of Music where he explored world music elements. He often played with students from Trinidad to Africa, and became intrigued with indigenous musical rhythms. The early '80s found Jimmy establishing himself in the Big Apple's R&B scene, leading to gigs with B.T. Express, Evelyn

Champagne King, Gladys Knight, Keith Sweat, Melba Moore, Cissy Houston and Bobby Brown. A decade later Jimmy was working with the likes of Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin, David Byrne, Joan Osborne and Vanessa Williams. But his love for world music was stubborn, and he started his own project, NooVooDoo, which was a mix of religious drumming and songs from Haiti and Cuba mixed with western music. He continues to study and perform in the U.S. and around the world. More at jimmydaniel.com.

JIMMY DANIEL

AUGUST 10, 17 & 24
FISH HOUSE
MIAMI
w/GRAHAM DROUT

AUGUST 12, 19 & 26
DANIA BEACH GRILL
DANIA FL
w/NILE'S BLAZE

AUGUST 22
MAGUIRE'S HILL 16
FT LAUDERDALE
w/IKO IKO

AUGUST 30
JOHNNIE BROWN'S
DELRAY BEACH
w/BABY JACKSON BAND

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Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens - \$5 / \$4 cover

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Taj Mahal

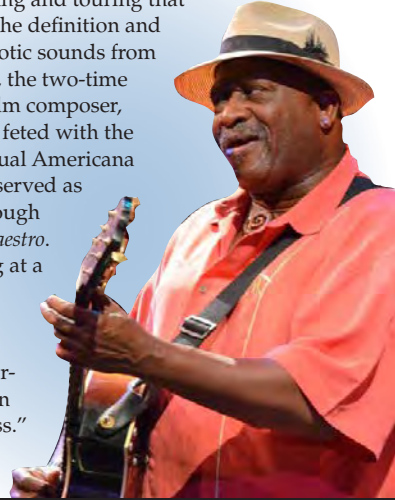
TAJ MAHAL

AUGUST 18
BROWARD CENTER
FT. LAUDERDALE

AUGUST 19
KING CENTER
MELBOURNE

Last year, some 50 years after moving to Los Angeles to form the band Rising Sons with fellow blues musicians Ry Cooder and Jessie Lee Kincaid, Taj Mahal hightailed it to Nashville to receive an honor he called "one of the most powerful and wonderful things that could ever happen in my life." Celebrating decades of recording and touring that have nearly single-handedly reshaped the definition and scope of the blues via the infusion of exotic sounds from the Caribbean, Africa and South Pacific, the two-time Grammy-winning singer, songwriter, film composer, guitarist and multi-instrumentalist was feted with the

Lifetime Achievement for Performance Award at the 13th Annual Americana Honors and Awards. This diversity of musical experience has served as bedrock for Taj's recordings from his self-titled 1967 debut through his most recent studio recording, 2008's Grammy-nominated *Maestro*. Since then, Taj has been busier than ever touring and recording at a whirlwind pace with old friends and fellow musical sojourners. It's been a career full of and defined by colorful twists and turns, unexpected whimsical ventures and a commitment to a muse that has long preferred freewheeling innovation to conformity. As Taj himself puts it "...the fact that I still am involved in enjoying an exciting career at this point in time is truly priceless." More at tajblues.com.



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Don Mopsick

Don Mopsick's musical interests have always been eclectic and far-ranging. He graduated from The Manhattan School of Music

with a degree in Tuba Performance, then performed on tuba and bass with The Smith Street Society, Lee Castle (with the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra), the Paul Jefferey Octet and others.

Relocating to Florida in the mid-'70s, Don began private

study on double bass. Gigs at Walt Disney World, Circus World, Rosie O'Grady's, and as a free-lance bassist state-wide soon followed. He has shared the stage with such jazz luminaries as Mose Allison, Bill Allred, Kenny Davern, Clark Terry, Joe Wilder, among many. Don joined The Jim Cullum Jazz Band in San Antonio in '91, playing and touring regularly while recording hundreds of hours for the Riverwalk Jazz public radio series with guests Benny Carter, Milt Hinton, Nicholas Payton, "Sweets" Edison, Harry Allen, Joe Williams and others. From 1993 to 2005, he was on the faculty of the Stanford Jazz Workshop. This was followed by Don's creation of one of the first jazz sites on the web for the Riverwalk Jazz radio series. While his affiliation with the band ended some years back, Don continues to enjoy an active free-lance playing career. Find him on Facebook.

DON MOPSICK

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Along with decades teaching at U.M., Miami-Dade College and FAU, and current positions with Barry University and Broward College, Lou also recently ended an eight-year run at The Hard Rock Café, and has shared the stage with Florida blues and jazz names too numerous to even begin recounting here. This first-call musician for Piano Bob is the winner of two *DownBeat* awards for musical group performances at the University of Miami. Drums, vocals, piano, guitar, songwriting and arranging are among Lou's talents, and he's known to be quite generous. His many recent contributions include performances on recordings by Piano Bob's 88s, Mike Suman, Susan Werner, Heath Allen, Fred Small and Jeff Prine. With a D.M.A. in Percussion Performance from

University of Miami, Lou has published articles in *Percussive Notes Magazine*, *Creative Drummer Magazine* and *Yamaha Notes*, among others. "South Florida's Lou Abbott is the among top-tier of drummers I've heard and have had the privilege of working with. On top of that, he is an excellent vocalist." More at singingdrummer.com.



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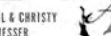
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Arturo O'Farrill

Grammy-winning pianist, composer and educator Arturo O'Farrill has quite the back story. Son of bandleader Chico O'Farrill, he was educated at some of New York's finest

music schools, then played piano with the Carla Bley Big Band for

four years before developing a solo career with artists like Dizzy Gillespie, Steve Turre, Freddy Cole, The Fort Apache Band, Lester Bowie, Wynton Marsalis, and Harry Belafonte. In 2002, Arturo created the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra for Jazz at Lincoln Center to bring Latin and Afro Cuban Jazz to a wider audience. He also directs the Chico O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Orchestra, in residence at Birdland, to preserve his father's music. His *Song for Chico* won the Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album of 2008. Arturo teaches master classes and workshops throughout the world for students and teachers of all levels. A recognized composer, Arturo has received commissions from *Meet the Composer*, *Jazz at Lincoln Center*, *The Philadelphia Music Project*, and *The Big Apple Circus*, and has also composed music for films. More at arturoofarrill.com.



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**Duffy
Bishop**

She's won the CBA's Female Vocalist Award so many years in a row that they renamed it the Duffy Bishop Female Vocalist Award. Over the course of her four-decade career,

Duffy has shared the stage with a long list of legends including John Lee Hooker, Etta James, Gatemouth Brown, Lou Rawls, Bonnie Raitt, Shemekia Copeland, Bo Diddley and Bobby Blue Bland. With her long-time collaborator, guitarist and husband Chris Carlson, they have played venues across the US and the world. And when they're not touring together, they join Teatro ZinZanni, a circus/ cabaret/tent show in Seattle, San Francisco and Europe. Duffy stars in the lead role as Madame ZinZanni, a role also performed by Thelma Houston, Joan Baez and Ann Wilson. Duffy's performance as Janis Joplin in a Seattle production of the original play "Janis" caught the attention of Sam Andrew, guitarist for Janis' band, Big Brother and the Holding Company.

Through that connection, Duffy performed with Big Brother and toured Japan with the band. "Who Is Duffy Bishop And Why Is She Not World Famous?" a documentary on her life, was released in 2010. And 2014 marked the release of her eighth album, *Find Your Way Home*. Discover for yourself the heart, the soul, the experience that is Duffy Bishop. More at duffybishop.com.

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Jeff Jensen Band

JEFF JENSEN BAND

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HIGH DIVE
GAINESVILLE

At the age of 19, Jeff Jensen landed his first gig as a guitarist. After years of paying dues gigging around southern California, the Jeff Jensen Band was born in 2004. While averaging 200 shows a year for the next four years, the band competed in the IBCs and rocked the west coast festival circuit. In 2007 their debut album, *Self-Titled*, was released to great reviews from several respected blues publications. *Living Blues'* Dave Ruthenberg called it "...a tour-de-force debut release by a band that breathes new life into the blues scene. The themes may be tried and true, but they are del-

ivered with a fresh dose of enthusiasm from one tight band." Their follow-up, 2009's *I'm Coming Home*, hit the Roots Music Charts in 2009, and is still played on hundreds of blues radio stations. After moving to Memphis in 2011, Jeff spent two years as harmonic sensation Brandon Santini's guitar player and musical director. Jeff performed over 450 shows with Brandon, and they recorded three albums together, including *Live at Sirius/XM Studios* (unreleased), *This Time Another Year* which received two Blues Music Award nominations, and Jeff's critically acclaimed *Road Worn and Ragged*. Currently touring in support of 2015's *Morose Elephant*, the Jeff Jensen Band can be heard on blues radio around the U.S. and the world.



AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

- August 1 Soul Sauce
- August 2 & 4 Chris Mule Band
- August 6 Rockin' Jake
- August 14 True Blue Band
- August 15 Amy Hart
- August 18 Betty Fox Band
- August 22 Big Al & The Heavyweights
- August 29 True Blue Band

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