



# JAZZ & BLUES

F L O R I D A



FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

## JAZZ

KEVIN MAHOGANY  
BLAKE AARON  
DOC SEVERINSEN  
RICHIE COLE  
WADE BAKER  
ELAN TROTMAN

## BLUES

CEDRIC BURNSIDE  
TOMMY LEE COOK  
RANDY McALLISTER  
RENO MUSSATTO  
VOO DAVIS  
TOO SLIM & THE  
TAILDRAGGERS

FEATURED ARTIST

**Jeff  
Jensen**

# Jeff Jensen Band

# River City Sessions

## Sometimes all it takes is a tiny spark to ignite a raging inferno.

For Jeff Jensen, the spark occurred in 2011. Needing a fresh start, he loaded up his car to head back to his childhood home in California. But just as his journey began, a deep and unexpected calling starting boiling inside. Jeff changed directions and headed to Memphis.



JUNE 13  
SEVILLE QUARTER  
PENSACOLA

JUNE 16  
ON DEARBORN  
ENGLEWOOD

JUNE 15  
LITTLE BAR  
GOODLAND

JUNE 17  
BUCKINGHAM  
BLUES BAR  
FT. MYERS

There was no job waiting for him; no plan, no family, no band, just a lone friend with a temporary place for him to stay. Within 30 hours of his arrival, Jeff met Brandon Santini and was offered the opportunity to be his guitarist. Soon after, Jeff became music director for the Brandon Santini Band. After two years, almost 500 shows and three recordings with Santini, Jensen re-formed his band with long-time friend and musical collaborator Bill Ruffino (bass). Then they recruited Memphis native Robinson Bridgeforth as drummer, hit the road and never looked back.

Most people are in for a shock the first time they experience a Jeff Jensen Band performance. It starts with the trio mixing an eccentric blend of soul, rock, and American roots music with a deep blues influence. Suddenly Jensen feels the spirit, transforming into a whirling dervish of sight and sound. At first, the sheer emotional force he creates can be a bit overwhelming. But Jeff feels it is his responsibility to make the effort to communicate his passion with each member of the audience every night.

Growing up, Jeff listened to the Zeppelin, Hendrix and Stones records in his parents' collection. Eric Clapton led to Buddy Guy led to Muddy Waters and so on. A stint playing punk,

and a spot on the local junior college's jazz band couldn't sidetrack him. At 19 he decided to form his own blues band. Within a year his band had been hired to open for B.B. King. Meanwhile, Jeff co-founded the Santa Clarita Blues Society with a friend. Jeff served as Vice President for five years, and the society is still active today.

In 2007 the band's self-titled debut album was released. The following year Jeff was asked to produce longtime friend and musical associate John Parker's album. John was in his final days, and the album was completed just weeks before he passed. Some songs from the album continue to serve as anthems for America Cancer Society events. In 2009 Jeff Jensen Band released *I'm Coming Home* and followed it four years later with *Road Worn and Ragged*.

In 2015, Jensen released the vibrant *Morose Elephant* album that captures the flavor of the band's creative force. Combining seven originals with a couple of covers and a traditional gospel hymn, Jensen articulated the depth of his musical vision with help from a number of friends including Victor Wainwright, Reba Russell and Annie Harris.

The band continues to tour the US, Canada and Europe relentlessly, with frequent stops in Florida, as the inferno shows no signs of

burning out. Whenever there is a break in the schedule, Jensen switches roles, acting as producer for other artists, and co-producing Santini's 2014 release *This Time Another Year*.

After two studio albums, it was time to capture the band's true emotion and energy. Recorded 100% live in front of a fan-filled audience at Memphis' Ardent Studios in December of last year, *The River City Sessions* album contains eight of the band's original songs and three of their favorite interpretations: T-Bone Walker's "Shuffle," Tom Waits' "Heart

Attack and Vine" and Bob Dylan's "All Along The Watchtower." Released just months ago and already burning up the internet airplay lists, one can't help but feel the inspiration in this CD. "I don't play songs the same every night. I push myself to the limit of what I am doing – and then push myself past that point."

More at [jeffjensenband.com](http://jeffjensenband.com).



JUNE 18  
FUNKY BISCUIT  
BOCA RATON

JUNE 21  
TERRA FERMATA  
STUART

JUNE 23  
BLUE ROOSTER  
SARASOTA

JUNE 25  
ACE'S LIVE  
BRADENTON

JUNE 19  
EARL'S HIDEAWAY  
SEBASTIAN

JUNE 22  
TWISTED FISH  
BOYNTON BEACH

JUNE 24  
CAFE ANNIE  
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- June 4 **Joey Gilmore & The TCB Express**
- June 10 **Heather Gillis Band**
- June 11 **Too Slim & The Tail Draggers**
- June 17 **Jimmy Thackery & The Drivers**
- June 18 **Doug Deming & The Jewel Tones**
- June 24 **Sam Frazier, Jr**
- June 25 **Cedric Burnside Project**
- July 1 **Beautiful Bobby Blackmon & The B3 Band**

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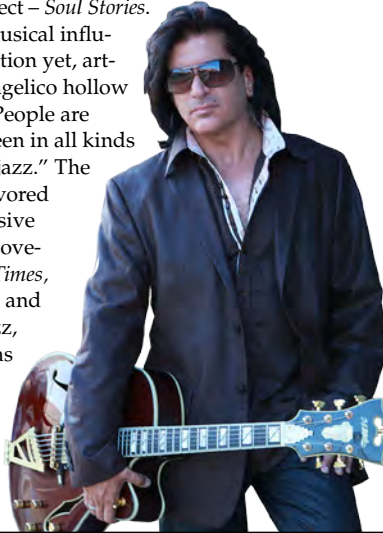
Community Arts Program  
Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ

# Blake Aaron

JUNE 25  
KING CENTER  
MELBOURNE

In his second decade as a recording artist and his seventh year as host of the popular syndicated "Blake Aaron Live with Tina Anderson" show, this guitarist, composer and producer is enjoying the success of his fourth full-length CD – and his first completely self-produced solo project – *Soul Stories*.

Once again drawing on a lifetime of diverse musical influences, Aaron creates his most expansive, fully expressive collection yet, artfully alternating between three of his favorite guitars: the D'Angelico hollow body, the Fender Stratocaster and the Cordoba Nylon string. "People are most familiar with me as a contemporary jazz artist, but I've been in all kinds of different bands playing rock, funk, R&B and straight-ahead jazz." The CD has scored Top Five *Billboard* airplay hits with the Latin-flavored "Encantadora" featuring Najee on flute, the soulful and percussive "You're The One For Me," and the snappy old-school jam "Groove-O-Matic." Dubbed "a genius on the guitar" by the *Los Angeles Times*, he launched his career as an L.A. studio musician and sideman and has recorded and/ or performed with an incredible array of jazz, pop and R&B artists. A first call TV and film guitarist, Aaron has also worked for television shows, including 14 years as guitarist for Fox's *MAD TV*. "Artists often say they are most proud of their latest recording," says Aaron, "but with *Soul Stories*, that's truly how I feel. It's the most expressive of who I am as an artist." More at [blakeaaron.com](http://blakeaaron.com).



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# Tommy Lee Cook

Growing up in the rural tobacco country of Dry Fork, VA, Tommy Lee Cook discovered the Beatles, but when a friend introduced him to the music of Albert Collins, a bluesman was born. Tommy and his family moved to Florida in 1967, where Cook spent the next six years in Fort

Myers before joining the Air Force, then heading to the UF Gainesville. In 2002, he bought and renovated the Buckingham Bar and it continues to regularly feature a variety of live acts and weekend music festivals. One act you'll catch there on a regular basis is Tommy Lee Cook and The Allstars, who play Chicago blues with a heaping helping of Southern flavor. And they play it every Sunday, on Open Jam Wednesdays, and whenever else they get the chance. The band features Billy Canti on drums, Harry Cassano on keyboards, slide player Justin "The Kid" Richey, Scott "Big Daddy" Johnson on harp, Terry Gable on trumpet and Rex Bongo on lead guitar, along with an unpredictable assortment of guest performers. Tommy's fifth and latest CD, *Mailbox Money*, was co-written entirely by Cook and Danny Shepard, another preeminent Ft. Myers blues man. When he's not playing? Working on the next in his 'Jack Crocker' series of young adult novels, or competing at the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament. Give him a Johnny Walker Black straight up and his nickel-silver dobro, and get ready for a heck of a night. More at [tommyleecook.com](http://tommyleecook.com).



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# Richie Cole

Picking up the alto saxophone at an early age, Richie Cole's talent and dedication won him a full scholarship from *Downbeat* Magazine to the Berklee School of Music in Boston. His professional career began in 1969 when he joined the Buddy Rich Big Band. And after stints with Lionel Hampton's and Doc Severinsen's Big Bands, Cole formed his own quintet and toured worldwide, helping to popularize bebop and his own "Alto Madness" style in the '70s and early '80s. Cole has performed and recorded with the great vocalese artist Eddie Jefferson, the Manhattan Transfer, Freddie Hubbard, Tom Waits, and Nancy Wilson, to name just a few. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, and even gave a command performance for the Queen of England. This prolific composer, who has recorded more than 50 albums, also arranges for big bands and symphony orchestras, and enjoys sharing his love of music by presenting university master classes. Among his notable achievements, Cole served as Chairman of the Board for the National Endowment for the Arts for one year, and he is



a charter member of the International Association of Jazz Educators. The Alto Madness Orchestra was developed by Cole in the early '90s and its continuing popularity is proof of its uniqueness. Richie explains it as "...the concept and sound of an 18-piece big band using only seven instruments, four of which are horns. Not only does this have the big band ensemble sound, it also allows us plenty of room for improvisation." More at [richiecole.com](http://richiecole.com).

JUNE 10  
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W/JORGE GARCIA

JUNE 11  
ATELIER 3  
HOLLYWOOD  
(ALTO MADNESS)

JUNE 12  
TAVOLINO'S  
CORAL SPRINGS  
W/JORGE GARCIA

JUNE 13  
OPEN STAGE CLUB  
CORAL GABLES  
W/JORGE GARCIA  
(MIAMI JAZZ CO OP)

# Randy McAllister

Heartbreak, humor, high hair and tall Texas tales all play a part in Randy McAllister's songs. His music has been hailed as some of the most original and innovative being made today. Imagine a mix of Doug Sahm, John Hiatt and Delbert McClinton, with a blues sensibility. McAllister's father drummed in a band, and Randy followed in his father's footsteps at a very young age. But drums were just the beginning, and he began to develop as a singer and songwriter. He is one of those rare artists who is able to meld genres such as gospel, blues, country, Tex-Mex, rock and zydeco together and come away with something that is uniquely him. In performance, his songs combine energy and intensity with lyrics that dig into the tough topics with a hint of humor. McAllister takes universal feelings and translates them into today's reality, with his own pointed style expressed through his distinctive, soulful voice and harmonica. McAllister has released ten critically-praised albums, beginning with his debut *Diggin' for Sofa Change*. Highlights include 2002's Grammy-nominated *Givers and Takers* and his 2006 compilation CD *Flying High While Staying Low Down*. To date he has 13 releases to his credit. Get old school and enjoy some real East Texas roadhouse soul by one of

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JUNE 22 **WADE BAKER**  
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June 17 Nemo's Sports Bistro, *Cape Coral*  
June 18 The Barrel Blues Club, *Ft. Myers*  
June 24 Froggy's, *St. James City*  
July 1 Bert's, *Matlacha*

[www.martystokesband.com](http://www.martystokesband.com)

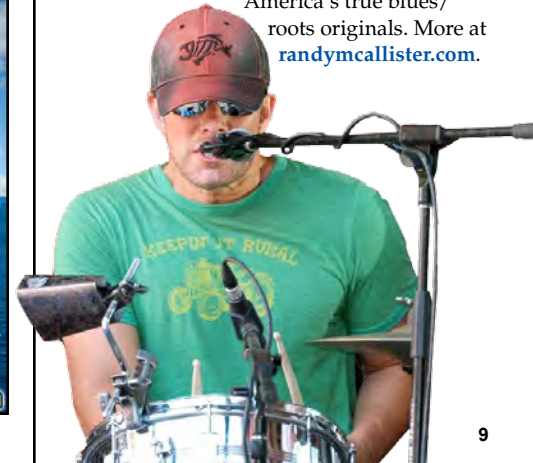
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# Doc Severinsen

Following a stint in the Army during WWII, Doc Severinsen landed a spots in bands with Charlie Barnett, Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman, then left to become a staff musician for NBC. Five years after joining *The Tonight Show* Band, Doc became its Music Director. His time on the show lasted an astonishing 30 years. In 1992, within a week of the final telecast, Doc Severinsen and His Big Band hit

JUNE 9  
CORAL GABLES  
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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
W/THE BYRON  
STRIPLING  
QUARTET

on the road... and they're still going. Doc's musicianship keeps iconic American music fresh with a repertoire that includes Ellington and Basie standards, pop, jazz, ballads and big band classics. To date, Doc has released more than 30 albums—from big band to jazz-fusion to classical—including the Grammy-winning *Doc Severinsen and The Tonight Show Band-Volume I*. In 2006, Doc moved to Mexico, ostensibly to retire, but within weeks he was jamming with guitarist Gil Gutierrez. He now tours regularly with Gil in a quintet called The San Miguel Five, performing a mix of Latin and Gypsy jazz and standards. He also tours regularly with his own Big Band and continues to perform with symphony orchestras all over the country. In the end, Doc Severinsen has transcended his celebrity, and rejoiced in his remarkable ability to simply play his trumpet as well as he can. Which has proven to be good enough for the millions of people who count themselves as his fans. More at [docseverinsen.com](http://docseverinsen.com).



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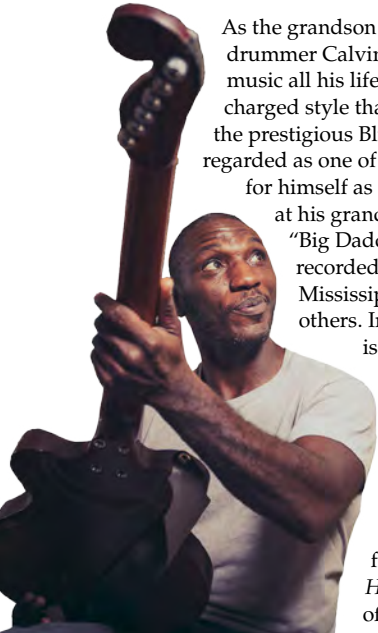
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# Cedric Burnside



As the grandson of legendary R.L. Burnside and son of drummer Calvin Jackson, Cedric Burnside has been playing music all his life. He has developed a relentless, rhythmically-charged style that takes the blues to another level. This four-time winner of the prestigious Blues Music Award's Drummer of the Year (2010-2014) is widely regarded as one of the best drummers in the world and has begun to make a name for himself as a traditional blues guitarist, as well. Growing up in Mississippi at his grandfather's side, he began touring at age 13 playing drums for "Big Daddy" on stages around the globe. Cedric has now played and recorded with countless musicians, including Junior Kimbrough, North Mississippi Allstars and The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, among many others. In 2006, he was featured in the film *Black Snake Moan*. (The film is a loose tribute to R.L. Burnside, and gives many nods to the late bluesman.) In 2010, Cedric collaborated with his younger brother Cody and his uncle Garry to create The Cedric Burnside Project. They endeavored to keep the love and admiration for Mississippi Hill Country Blues alive by honoring the past while blazing a path towards the future. Following Cody's untimely death, Cedric has kept the flame burning, recording and touring the world with guitarist and lifelong friend Trenton Ayers. The Project's latest album, *Descendants of Hill Country*, was nominated for a Grammy for Best Blues Album of the Year. More at [cedricburnside.net](http://cedricburnside.net).

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<b>GOLDEN STATE LONE STAR REVUE</b> 5:15pm-6:30pm <small>Mark Hummel, Little Charlie Ealy &amp; Anson Funderburgh</small>	<b>SUGAR RAY AND THE BLUETONES</b> 12:15pm-1:15pm
<b>VICTOR WAINWRIGHT AND THE WILDROOTS</b> 4:00pm-5:00pm	<b>SLAM ALLEN BAND</b> 11:00am-12:00pm
<b>JASON RICCI</b> 2:45 pm-3:45pm	<b>ILANA KATZ KATZ</b> BETWEEN SETS

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[BRADENTONBLUESFESTIVAL.ORG](http://BRADENTONBLUESFESTIVAL.ORG)

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# Elan Trotman

Saxophonist Elan Trotman has become one of jazz's most thrilling and emotive performers as he continues to stand out and

push boundaries as a composer, performer, teacher and recording artist. Trotman's playing, though inspired by Grover Washington, Jr., Kirk Whalum and Arturo Tappin (Elan's

childhood mentor), displays his own fresh ideas and distinctive tone. The New England Urban Music Awards and The Barbados Music Awards both named him Jazz Artist of The Year on multiple occasions. Trotman is also the founder and host of the Barbados Jazz Excursion, see [jazz-bluesflorida.blogspot.com/2016/02/barbados-jazz-excursion-line-up.html](http://jazz-bluesflorida.blogspot.com/2016/02/barbados-jazz-excursion-line-up.html). In 2016, Elan created the non-profit Never Lose Your Drive Foundation, which raises funds for educational programs on the island. Born and raised in Barbados and educated at the Berklee College Of Music in Boston, Trotman blends Caribbean rhythms from his roots with skillful horn textures, his playing is full of surprises. Trotman has recorded and performed with an A-list of smooth jazz artists that include Jonathan Butler, Earl Klugh, Keiko Matsui, Peter White and Brian Simpson. Elan already has ten Top 25 *Billboard* radio singles to his credit, from his own albums and from collaborations with others. Known to compose and produce all of his projects, Elan's discography is currently at seven and growing. More at [elantrotman.com](http://elantrotman.com).



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# Too Slim & The Taildraggers



If Tim "Too Slim" Langford only played slide guitar, he would slither around most other blues guitarists and put a ferocious bite on their pride. However, as the sole six-string slinger, songwriter and lead singer of the power trio Too Slim and the Taildraggers, he is a total force of nature. Their 2014 release *Anthology* was voted No. 1 Album of the Year by the Blues Matters Writers poll. And the previous year's *Blue Heart* rose to No. 3 on *Billboard*'s Top Blues Album Chart following a 2012 relocation from Seattle to Nashville. The group has received Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Awards from various Washington-area blues societies, and Tim himself also received numerous Best Band, Best Guitarist, Best Album and Readers Poll Awards. Their music has been featured on MTV's *The Real World* and *Road Rules*. The Taildraggers' eclectic style of blues and rock allows them to easily cross over and appeal to varied audiences. Too Slim is backed by Eric "Stretch" Hansen on bass and Jeff "Shakey" Fowlkes on drums. Tim's image is on permanent display in the Country Music Hall of Fame. After 30 years, 11 albums, and far too many gigs to count, Too Slim and the Taildraggers remain as untamed and menacing as ever. More at [tooslim.org](http://tooslim.org).

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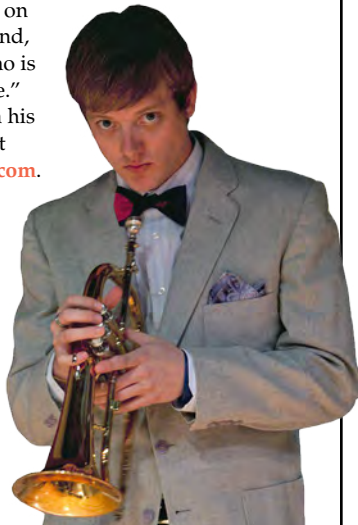
# Wade Baker

The Wade Baker Jazz Collaboration was formed in 2009 as a means to start a new revolution in the Cincinnati jazz scene and abroad. They play an eclectic fusion of jazz, hip-hop, funk and groove music while keeping the integrity and spirit of the traditions of the jazz masters. In addition to playing

original music, the band also performs standard jazz repertoire with more modern arrangements developed

by members of the group. Since its inception, the group has averaged over 200 dates per year, providing an opportunity to hear eclectic yet accessible original music, played by highly skilled musicians who absolutely love entertaining audiences. In addition to a heavy performance schedule, Wade is proud to be a part of the Big Joe Duskin Foundation, bringing live jazz directly to elementary schools, along with his work as a clinician and private brass instructor to schools across the nation. The WBJC is the official live music provider for the Kroger Corporation, have independently released 2009's *Live at the Redmoor*, 2010's *Profilin'*, 2012's *Live at the Chatterbox* and 2013's *Live at Andy's Jazz Club*. Wade's long-held love for music is plain to see in his high-energy, original and eclectic performances, as was apparent when *Jazz & Blues Florida* first met Wade back when he was touring Florida with the Jon Justice Band. As he explains it, "The kind of artist I'd like to evolve into is a person who can do anything on the band stand, someone who is irreplaceable."

He's well on his way. More at [wadebaker.com](http://wadebaker.com).



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# Reno Mussatto

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Raised in a small Kansas town, Reno Mussatto began playing trumpet in third grade but always dreamed of becoming a rock star. So at age 10, he bought an old Ludwig drum set and began playing with his own band and others throughout high school and college. Reno studied music at the University of Kansas, and performed with their symphony orchestra and marching band. Then a move to Austin, Texas in the mid-'70s brought gigs in dance halls, night clubs and dives... but he was learning from some of the greats by performing with them: Willie Nelson, George Jones, Merle Haggard and Kinky Friedman & the Texas Jewboys. Meanwhile, he also toured with the Geez-in-law Brothers and recorded at Nelson's Pedernales Studio. As the Austin blues scene heated up, he performed with icons like Stevie Ray Vaughn, Koko Taylor and Albert Collins. Reno has appeared on *Austin City Limits* twice and has recorded five TV shows at NBC Studios for AT&T, completed six world tours with Dr. Hook & the Medicine Show, performed with the Smokin' Torpedoes, "Beautiful" Bobby Blackmon, Bird Dog Bobby Band, Big Rick & the Troublemakers, Joe "Survival" Caruso, Stoney & the Houserockers and many others. This drummer, vocalist and songwriter is currently accepting fill-in gigs, studio work, tours and is Chairman of the Orange Blossom Blues Society's "Blues in the Schools" program. An SESAC Affiliate writer and publisher, Reno owns and operates Lakehouse Records and Publishing. Their latest release is the Buddy Blues Band's *Wrong Side of the Blues*. More at [lakehouse records.com](http://lakehouserecords.com).



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# Kevin Mahogany

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MIAMI

As a leader, vocalist, businessman and educator, Kevin Mahogany has been the standard-setter for jazz vocalists for three decades. As a child, he played the piano, clarinet and baritone saxophone before he started singing in high school. His broad baritone was forged in his hometown of Kansas City, where he learned to swing like Charlie Parker, shout the blues like Big Joe Turner, and cry a ballad like Lester Young while extending, elaborating and refining the legacies of Lambert, Hendricks & Ross, Eddie Jefferson and Al Jarreau into the myriad interwoven dimensions of music – from gutbucket to the Great American Songbook and from gospel to Mingus to Motown. In 1993 Mahogany released his debut recording, *Double Rainbow*. Ten years later, together with his business partner Rick Cioffi, he launched the Mahogany Jazz label, and recorded *Kevin Mahogany: Big Band, To: Johnny Hartman, and The Coltrane Hartman Fantasy, Vol. 1* with tenor saxophonist Tony Lakatos. In addition to being a trend-setting leader of the first order, Kevin has also been an in-demand sideman and guest artist with a select cadre of jazz stars, and he continues to teach at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and the University of Miami. Well into the 21st century, Kevin Mahogany continues to restructure the vocal metaphysics of a jazz thing, with his dynamic and down-home artistry. For proof check out his 2015 release, *The Vienna Affair*. More at [kevinmahogany.com](http://kevinmahogany.com).



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## Voo Davis

Recorded in organic analog sound, Voo Davis' self-produced 2015 release *Midnight Mist* uses the one-take approach, relying on musicianship instead of computers, emotion instead of effects. Recorded in three days, he result is a studio album that feels like a live album. Guitar tones are something of a specialty with Voo Davis, who played an assortment of vintage guitars, as well as pedal steel, mandolin, and keyboards, including all the instrumentation on two of the album's 14 tracks. Coming off the critical success of his previous album, *Vicious Things*, Davis continues to build on the momentum of what has come in the past with a keen eye toward the future. Born in Anniston, Alabama, Brian "Voo" Davis moved with his family to Chicago while still a child. That transition helped embed his Alabama clay roots musical foundation with some Chicago juke joint flash. Touring with former Koko Taylor guitarist and Blues Music Award-winner Eddie King, Davis learned alongside one of the best, and critics noticed. His 2012 debut, *A Place for Secrets*, spent seven months on the Americana and Roots Music charts. While all three of his albums show differences, the common thread among all of them is Voo's ability to mix genres of music and blending them into a common thread that flows naturally in each release. More at [voodavis.com](http://voodavis.com).



PHOTO BY DEAN DAVIS

- JUNE 16 & 19  
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STUART
- JUNE 22  
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ON DEARBORN  
ENGLEWOOD
- JUNE 24  
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