

# JAZZ & BLUES

F L O R I D A



FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE: BLUES ARTIST

## Selwyn Birchwood

### JAZZ ARTISTS

CYRILLE AIMEE  
JOEY ALEXANDER  
NICK HILSCHER  
DIANA KRALL  
BOB MERRILL  
NICKI PARROTT  
DAVE STRYKER

### BLUES ARTISTS

SHAWN AMOS  
RACHELLE COBA  
ANDY COHEN  
TAS CRU  
SAM FRAZIER JR  
ALABAMA MIKE  
PIGZ IN Z'HILLS  
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# SELWYN BI

**WITH HIS** fiery guitar and lap steel playing, instantly memorable songs and gritty, unvarnished vocals, Selwyn Birchwood is among the most extraordinary young stars in the blues. His deep familiarity with blues tradition allows him to bust the genre wide open, adding new sounds, colors and textures, all delivered with a revival tent preacher's fervor and a natural storyteller's charisma. After winning the 2013 International Blues Challenge and also the Albert King Guitarist Of The Year Award at the same event, he released *Don't Call No Ambulance*. The album received the Blues Music Award and Living Blues Critics' Award for Best Debut Album Of 2014, and he won the 2015 Blues Blast Rising Star Award. Birchwood and his band have crisscrossed the U.S. and Europe repeatedly, delivering unforgettable live performances. With his new album *Pick Your Poison*, Birchwood along with his band — saxophonist Regi Oliver, bassist Huff Wright and drummer Courtney "Big Love" Girlie — takes a major step forward, crafting visionary blues for a new generation of forward-looking fans.

Birchwood wrote and produced all 13 songs on *Pick Your Poison*. His richly detailed, hard-hitting originals run the emotional gamut from the humorous "My Whiskey Loves My Ex" to the gospel-inflected "Even The Saved Need Saving" to the topical "Police State." "I write and sing what I know," says Birchwood. "This album has a broad reach. It's for young, old and everyone in between."

With his band feeding off his drive and exuberance, the striking 6'3" young man with his trademark Afro roams the stage (often barefoot), ripping out memorable guitar licks with ease, his soulful, rocks-and-gravel vocals firing up the crowd. His ability to win over any audience is proven night after night on the stage. Birchwood is as down-to-earth as his music is fun, thought-provoking and vital. His mission is to spread his music far and wide, to share his joy, to play his heart out, and to push the blues into the future. "There's nothing I'd rather be doing than playing the blues," he says. "And I try to convey that with every song and with every performance."

Born in Orlando to a father from Tobago and a mother from the UK, Birchwood first grabbed a guitar at age 13 and quickly became proficient. But then he discovered Jimi Hendrix. "When I realized Hendrix was influenced by the blues, I found my path," he says. By 17, he was deep into the blues, listening to Albert King, Freddie King, Albert Collins, Muddy Waters, Lightnin' Hopkins and especially Buddy Guy.

Within one month of meeting Texas-born blues legend Sonny Rhodes, Rhodes asked Birchwood to join him on the road. Taking Birchwood under his wing, Rhodes taught him not only guitar and lap steel, but also how to conduct business, how to run a band, and how to reach an audience. Through hard work and scholarships, Birchwood received his MBA from The University of Tampa. "I challenged myself to get that degree," Birchwood says. "These days, it's not good enough to just be a good player."



# RCHWOOD

He created The Selwyn Birchwood Band in 2010, featuring veteran musicians older than he, testifying to Birchwood's musical chops and leadership skills. The band began landing gigs outside of their Tampa base, making their way to spots at the 2012 and 2013 International Blues Challenges in Memphis. After taking ninth place in 2012, they came back determined the next year, taking first place. With 014's *Don't Call No Ambulance*, Birchwood announced his arrival on the international blues stage. Rave reviews ran in publications including *Rolling Stone*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. The Selwyn Birchwood Band has been touring non-stop for more than five years, performing at festivals across the country and around the world.



Birchwood has opened for major blues stars including Robert Cray and Buddy Guy and has shared the stage with another friend and teacher, Joe Louis Walker.

These days, Selwyn Birchwood continues to forge new directions for the blues. *The Washington Post* calls him a "tough, indelibly modern next generation bluesman." *The Wall Street Journal* says he is "fiery and original." The hard-hitting, cutting-edge songs on *Pick Your Poison*, along with his incendiary live performances, prove without a doubt his status as the blues' most sensational young talent. More at [selwynbirchwood.com](http://selwynbirchwood.com).

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# Nicki Parrott

JANUARY 21  
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While studying jazz bass at the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music, Australia native Nicki Parrott began playing and touring with local and not-so-local musicians. After she was awarded first place in the 1992 Jazz Action Society's Annual Song Competition for her composition "Come and Get It"

(the opening track of Parrott and her sister's debut CD, *Awabakal Suite*), The Arts Council of Australia granted her the funds to come to New York to study with Rufus Reid. Parrott soon began performing on Monday nights at the Iridium Jazz Club with legendary guitarist and inventor, Les Paul. As part of the Les Paul Trio, Nicki worked side-by-side with a lengthy list of guitar greats. Since then she has performed with such notable musicians as Randy Brecker, Clark Terry, Jose Feliciano, Dick Hyman, Harry Allen, Ann Hampton Callaway, Bill Mays and Larry Carlton. Parrott has also performed in several Broadway shows, including *Avenue Q*, *Imaginary Friends*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Summer of '42* and *Jekyll and Hyde*. She also has several television and documentary credits, including *Gossip Girl*, *Chasing Sound* and *Thank You Les* (Les Paul tribute). In 2007 and 2008, Nicki received back-to-back honors for *Swing Journal's* Best Jazz Vocal Album (*Moon River* and *Fly Me to The Moon*, respectively). In 2012, Nicki headlined the Fujitsu Concorde Jazz festival after the release of her CD *Sakura Sakura*. Her latest release is the brand new *Close To You: Burt Bacharach Songbook*. More at [nickiparrott.com](http://nickiparrott.com).



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- Jan 13 EG Kight
- Jan 19 JW-Jones Band
- Jan 20 Sam Frazier Jr.
- Jan 26 Jonn Richardson Band
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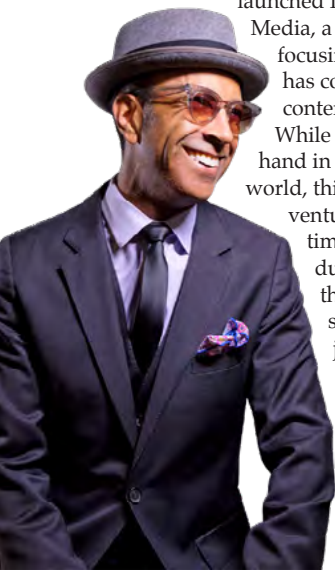
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# Shawn Amos

Through the 1980s, Shawn Amos rose from aspiring sax player to singer in a succession of almost-famous bands. After the

1992 Rodney King verdict, race began playing a larger role in his work, evidenced in his 2000 debut *Harlem*, and its 2002 follow-up *In Between*. Work in A&R led to a connection with R&B/gospel legend Solomon Burke. "Solomon quickly became very much a father to me," Amos says. "He was a mentor in every sense." For a 2013 invitation to sing the blues for a week of gigs in Italy, Amos decided to follow Burke's example. He wore patent leather shoes, a purple, three-button suit and a trilby hat. Onstage, guitarist Jeremy Parzen christened him the Reverend Shawn Amos, and the crowd went wild. Afterward, Amos booked a residency at a LA hotel to hone his performance, and the following year, he released the EP *The Reverend Shawn Amos Tells It* on his new label, Put Together. It was quickly followed by *The Reverend Shawn Amos Loves You*, which spent two weeks at No. 1 on the Roots Music Report's Top 50 Contemporary Blues Album Chart, received international praise, and landed the several Best Of 2015 lists. In early 2016, he left Freshwire, and

launched Put Together Media, a collective focusing on what he has coined nimble content creation. While keeping his hand in the business world, this boutique venture allows time to dedicate due energy to the Reverend, spreading joy, he says, "one gig at a time." More at [shawnamos.com](http://shawnamos.com).



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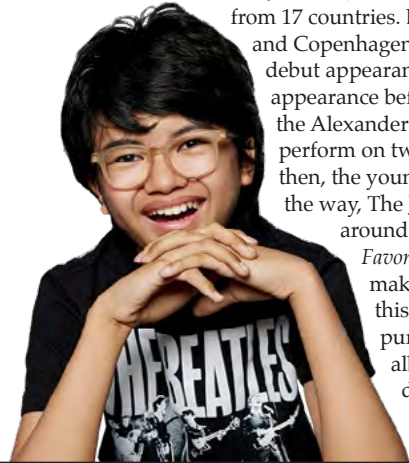


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# Joey Alexander

JANUARY 12  
ARSHT CENTER  
MIAMI

At the age of six, Balinese pianist Joey Alexander began teaching himself to play piano. His musicianship developed at a remarkable pace, and at age eight UNESCO invited him to play solo piano for Herbie Hancock during the piano great's visit to Indonesia. Alexander later remarked to Hancock, "You told me that you believed in me, and that was the day I decided to dedicate my childhood to jazz." The following year, Joey won the grand prize at the first Master-Jam Fest, an all-ages competition in Ukraine boasting 200 competitors from 17 countries. By age 10, he was performing at jazz festivals in Jakarta and Copenhagen. An invitation from Wynton Marsalis led to his U.S. debut appearance at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Rose Hall, followed by an appearance before the Jazz Foundation of America at the Apollo. After the Alexander family relocated to the U.S., Joey received an invitation to perform on two stages at the prestigious Newport Jazz Festival. Since then, the young man has been paying his dues and honing his craft. Along the way, The Joey Alexander Trio has performed at venues and festivals around the globe. His 2015 debut album for Motema Music, *My Favorite Things*, garnered two Grammy Award nominations, making him the youngest jazz artist ever nominated. Through all this Joey has remained focused on developing as a player and pursuing his growing interest in composing. His sophomore album, 2016's *Countdown*, showcases Alexander's remarkable development as a contemporary jazz bandleader and promise as a composer. More at [joeyalexander.com](http://joeyalexander.com).





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THE BEACH  
DELRAY BEACH

## Rachelle Coba

Recently relocated back to South Florida from Wichita, Kansas, Coba has a burning new trio and they're playing to steadily-growing audiences in the U.S. and abroad. Coba got her first guitar on her 15th birthday, but went to college to study violin. Around this time she met Buddy Guy. The two became friends, so Coba decided she better learn the blues. While jamming at Miami's famous Tobacco Road on Monday nights, and sitting in with numerous blues legends (including Guy), Coba switched instruments from violin to guitar in college and earned a bachelors degree in classical guitar performance from the University of Miami. With all of these influences, Coba developed a unique finger-style approach, which led to opportunities to work with artists such as Super Chikan, Albert Castiglia and Grady Champion. She played countless clubs and festivals, and joined extended tours with Johnny Winter and Coco Montoya. Eventually, Coba decided to play her own style and front her own band. Since then, she has competed in the International Blues Challenge as both a solo act and with a band, becoming a semi-finalist in 2013. Her first full-length disc, *Mother Blues*, was released in 2014, the same year she garnered a nomination for the Sean Costello Rising Star Award at that year's Blues Blast Awards. Since then, Coba has toured extensively in Australia and the U.S., performing at venues and festivals. She has opened for and jammed with artists including Dr. John, Candye Kane and Marcia Ball, Iko-Iko. More at [rachellecoba.com](http://rachellecoba.com).



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**January 13**  
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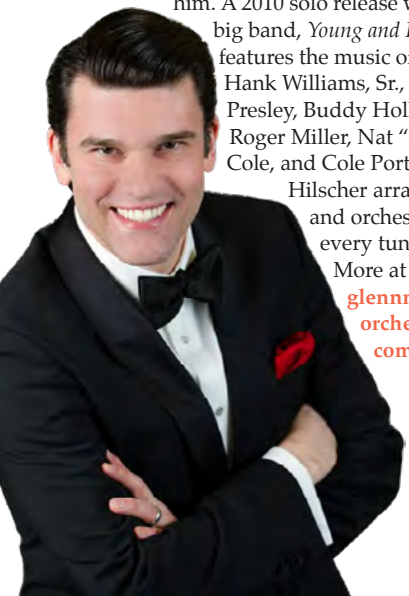
# Nick Hilscher

A first-rate singer of the American Songbook, Atlanta native Nick Hilscher was already playing piano and singing professionally while still in his teens. While attending Samford University, he performed for stints as the featured male vocalist with the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He graduated from in 2000 with a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance. Hilscher then resumed his singing post with the GMO, performing an average of 300 shows a year in venues in all fifty states, Canada, Mexico, Europe, South America, and Japan. He is featured on the GMO albums *On The Air* (2002) and *Steppin' Out* (2005). In 2002, Nick recorded his first solo album, *Nick Hilscher Sings with the Glenn Miller Orchestra*. The recording features original big band arrangements written by Raleigh Dailey, Paul Ferguson, Mike Kamuf, Tony Migliore, Jeffrey Steinberg, and Dave Wolpe. Since 2005, Hilscher has been performing solo acts as well as small tours as a featured artist with various bands. In 2005, Nick was the featured vocalist for a major event in celebrating Tommy Dorsey's 100th birthday, and continued in that role working closely with the legendary Buddy Morrow. Morrow selected Hilscher to carry on as director of the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra after

him. A 2010 solo release with a big band, *Young and Foolish*, features the music of Hank Williams, Sr., Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Roger Miller, Nat "King" Cole, and Cole Porter.

Hilscher arranged and orchestrated every tune.

More at  
[glennmiller  
orchestra.  
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## MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

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featuring  
Michelle Banfield

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# Alabama Mike

JANUARY 12  
BRADFORDVILLE  
BLUES CLUB  
TALLAHASSEE

Michael A. Benjamin, aka Alabama Mike, grew up influenced by his father's gospel singing. But Mike was the only one of the family's seven children to pursue and develop his vocal talent. A hitch in the U.S. Navy ultimately landed him in the San Francisco Bay Area by age 20. After soaking up all he could from his extensive blues record collection, local blues acts and other popular associates in the blues community, Mike started performing in 1999. He co-founded a record label, Jukehouse Records, and released his first record, *Day to Day*. Named 2010 Blues New Artist Of The Year by the Bay Area Blues Society, Mike received domestic and international attention for his first-rate tenor vocals and his witty songwriting. Mike's 2011 sophomore offering, *Tailor Made Blues*, garnered five-star reviews in all the major blues magazines, along with heavy airplay worldwide. A recent side trip with

his acoustic blues trio The Hound Kings led to the 2013 CD *Unleashed*, which was nominated for a 2014 Blues Music

Award. After performing at the awards, their show was rated one of the Top Ten Highlights

of the show by the Blues Foundation. Mike's most

recent release of blues/soul original compositions, *Upset the Status Quo*, features the likes of Jim Pugh (Robert Cray for 25 years, Etta James, Otis Rush) and Jerry Jemmott (King Curtis, Aretha Franklin, B.B. King, Freddie King and Otis Rush). For this show he'll be performing with the Andy T. Band. More at [alabamamikeblues.net](http://alabamamikeblues.net).



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SUNDAY, FEB 25, 2018

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JANUARY 31  
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FORT MYERS

# Diana Krall

Multiple Grammy-winning jazz pianist and world-

renowned singer Diana Krall returns to North America this month for the third U.S. leg of her Turn Up The Quiet World Tour. The tour includes a date in Fort Myers at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at FSW on Wednesday, January 31. The Fort Myers date is part of the Bank of America Series. Krall recently wrapped the second leg of her North American tour with two incredible nights at The Hollywood Bowl in August, along with a stellar performance on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* Turn Up The Quiet World Tour features material from Krall's stunning new album *Turn Up The Quiet* (Verve), as well as a mix of some of Krall's fans' favorites. *MOJO Magazine* called the album "spectacular" and said Krall was "on top form." *People* magazine said, "Diana Krall's new music will have fans falling for her all over again." Krall is the only jazz singer to have eight albums debut at the top of the Billboard Jazz Albums chart. Since her 1993 debut, *Stepping Out*, her albums have garnered five Grammy Awards and eight Juno Awards, and have also earned nine gold, three platinum and seven multi-platinum albums. Since her 2003 marriage to British musician Elvis Costello, Krall has been working on composing her own songs. Krall's unique artistry transcends any single musical style and has made her one of the most recognizable artists of our time. More at [dianakrall.com](http://dianakrall.com).



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# A NEW YEAR FULL OF GREAT MUSIC!



**January 5**  
**SOUL PARTY: ALEX HARRIS**  
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Classic soul meets Neo-Soul when Alex Harris and Siobhan Monique seize the stage for a dazzling evening of extreme virtuosity.



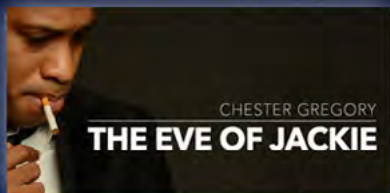
**January 18**  
**JONNY LANG**

Grammy-winning singer/songwriter and guitarist Jonny Lang's mix of blues, gospel and rock is characterized by his unusual voice, impressive guitar work and bluesy rhythms.



**January 19**  
**JAMES SUGGS PLAYS**  
**THE MUSIC OF LEE MORGAN**

In the recent documentary film "I Called Him Morgan," James Suggs interprets the music of jazz trumpet legend Lee Morgan. Suggs and his quartet pay tribute to the man and his music.



**January 20**  
**THE EVE OF JACKIE**  
**featuring CHESTER GREGORY**

This recreation of the final concert of the late, great Jackie Wilson features Broadway star Chester Gregory in the lead role, supported by a full band.



**January 21**  
**NICKI PARROTT, ROSSANO**  
**SPORTIELLO and ED METZ**

Arbors Records recording artists Nicki Parrott (bass/vocals), Rossano Sportiello (piano) and Ed Metz (drums) return to the Side Door following a sold-out show last February.

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# Sam Frazier, Jr.

JANUARY 20  
BRADFORDVILLE  
BLUES CLUB  
TALLAHASSEE

From a very young age, Sam Frazier Jr. was determined not to become a coal miner like his father. To help support the family, his mother would hold huge barbecues in their backyard on Friday nights. Among the attendees, entertainers such as Jimmy Reed and Sonny Boy Williamson showed up to eat, drink, and perform. It was Williamson that gave Frazier his first harmonica, along with a few lessons on playing the blues. As he got older, Frazier formed his own one-man band, blowing his harmonica and singing while playing the drums with his feet. He recruited one of his sisters to play the bass. Their break came when Birmingham DJ Maurice "The Thin Man" King arranged a recording session in New York where they recorded "You Got Me Uptight." After working in clubs in New York for a while, they came back to their home state of Alabama, where Frazier performed with the Birmingham gospel group, The Golden Hummingbirds while working at a car dealership. He was introduced to one of their customers, TV show host, Country Boy Eddie, and Frazier became a regular on *The Country Boy Eddie Show* for 14 years. Eddie encouraged Frazier to spread his wings a bit and perform country music like Charley Pride, who had succeeded as the first black singer to make it big in country music. Frazier would go on to perform in clubs across the country, and he recorded songs including "Mr. Wrong," "Cabbage Man," "Crying Melody" and many more. He continues to work steadily on blues projects with Don Mosley and Les Alexander at the Sound of Birmingham. More at [birminghamrecord.com](http://birminghamrecord.com).



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w/ Betty Fox

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**January 24**  
Friendly Conlines  
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**January 25**  
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on Dearborn  
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**January 27**  
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*After seven years as a US Marine and six years with Levon Helm's Bambamers, Chris O'Leary is serving it all up on his latest release, Gonna Die Trying.*

[thechrisolearyband.net](http://thechrisolearyband.net)

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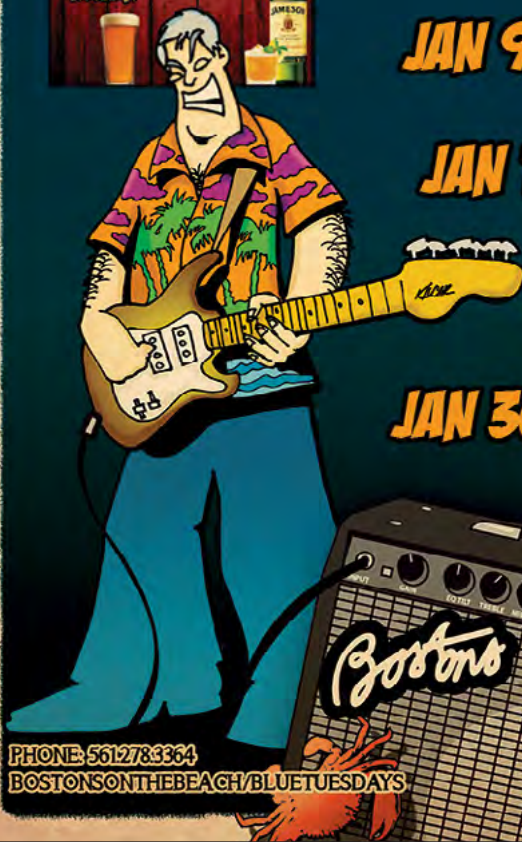
**JAN 9 RACHELLE COBA**

**JAN 16 ROCKIN' JAKE**

**JAN 23 TAS CRU**

**JAN 30 JOEY GILMORE**

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# Dave Stryker

JANUARY 28  
HCC YBOR  
MAINSTAGE  
TAMPA

Whether you've heard guitarist Dave Stryker leading his own group (with 28 CDs as a leader to date), co-leading The Stryker/Slagle Band, or as a featured sideman with Stanley Turrentine, Jack McDuff, and many others, you know why the Village Voice calls him "one of the most distinctive guitarists to come along in recent years." Stryker's 2017 CD *Strykin' Ahead* features the same lineup as its predecessor, *Eight Track II* – Steve Nelson, Jared Gold and McClenty Hunter – and is getting positive press. 2015's *Messin' with Mister T* is a celebration of the man he worked with for over a decade — Stanley Turrentine — with ten tenor sax greats. It went to No. 1 on JazzWeek Radio and stayed in the Top 50 for 20 weeks. Stryker was recently voted into the 2017 Downbeat Critics and Readers Poll for the tenth time. After establishing himself in the early '80s New York City music scene, Stryker joined organist Jack McDuff's group for two years. While working their steady gig in Harlem, Stryker met Turrentine, who would occasionally sit in. After leaving McDuff, Stryker was asked to join Turrentine's quintet. From 1986-1995 he played with the legendary saxman as they toured the world, and he is featured on two Turrentine CDs.

Stryker has recorded and published over 150 of his own composition and appeared on more than 50 CDs as a sideman. He continues to perform with The Dave Stryker Organ Trio, his Blue to the Bone Band, and The Stryker/Slagle Band. More at [davestryker.com](http://davestryker.com).



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# Florida IBC Participants

Each affiliate of The Blues Foundation has the right to send one band and one solo/duo act to represent its organization at The International Blues Challenge, held annually in Memphis, TN along historic Beale Street. The artists must be currently unsigned by a record label to compete. The IBC is judged by blues professionals from across the world who have years of experience producing, creating and appreciating blues music. Affiliated organizations are required to stage a regional preliminary IBC competition to select winners to compete in the IBC. The regional competitions were held in 2017; now these folks are headed to this year's IBC January 16-20 in Memphis. Regional Florida winners include:



BLUES SOCIETY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
Band Winner – **Bridget Kelly Band**  
Solo/Duo Winner – **Spearman Brewers** (duo)

FIRST COAST BLUES SOCIETY  
Band Winner - **Mama Blue**  
Solo/Duo Winner – **John Austill**  
Youth Winner – **Allie and the Kats**

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
BLUES SOCIETY  
Band Winner – **The DevilJays**  
Solo/Duo Winner – **Mr. Aullie**

SOUTH FLORIDA BLUES SOCIETY  
Band Winner – **Shaw Davis & The Black Ties**  
Solo/Duo Winner – **Ericson Holt** (solo)

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BLUES SOCIETY  
Band Winner – **The Funky Blues Band**  
Solo/Duo Winner – **Little Eddie** (solo)  
Youth Winner – **Trey Wanvig** (solo)

SUNCOAST BLUES SOCIETY  
Band Winner – **David Julia Band**  
Solo/Duo Winner – **George Worthmore**

VOLUSIA COUNTY BLUES SOCIETY  
Winner – **The Souliz Band**



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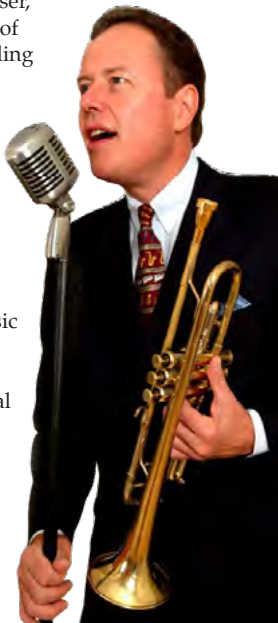
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# Bob Merrill

JANUARY 19 & 20  
KRAVIS CENTER  
WEST PALM BEACH

While attending Harvard, Bob Merrill led the Harvard Jazz Band, and also attended

New England Conservatory, studying and performing with legendary pianist Jaki Byard and his Apollo Stompers Big Band. In 1981 Bob became a teaching fellow for Harvard's Seminars in Jazz course and founded the Jazz at the Pudding concert series at the famed Hasty Pudding Club. In 1986, Merrill opened Hip Pocket Studios, a recording facility specializing in music for commercials and TV, and host for recordings by artists such as Patti LaBelle, Sting and Art Garfunkel. He produced three CDs for his father-in-law, legendary pianist and composer Joe Bushkin, for whom he served as trumpeter, musical director and arranger. In 1997, Bob released his first album as a leader, *Catch as Catch Can*, and was featured on the AMC channel leading the AMC Orchestra in the television series *Gotta Dance!* Merrill's third album, *Christmastime at the Adirondack Grill*, was followed by 2015's *Cheerin' Up The Universe*, an eclectic mix of modern popular classics with jazz interpretations. In 2017, Bob released *Tell Me Your Troubles: Songs of Joe Bushkin, Vol. 1*, the first of a two-volume celebration of the works of the legendary pianist and composer, featuring an array of guest artists including Bucky Pizzarelli, Kathryn Crosby, Nicki Parrott, Wycliffe Gordon, Eric Comstock, as well as the final recording of Bushkin himself accompanying Merrill on his classic "Oh! Look at Me Now." Merrill's charismatic musical style and his top-notch band never fail to get a crowd on its feet. More at [bobmerrill.net](http://bobmerrill.net).



**GOLD COAST JAZZ SOCIETY**  
PRESENTS

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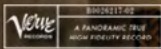
# Voltaire

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1/14 MEDICINE HAT  
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# Tas Cru

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ENGLEWOODS  
ON DEARBORN  
ENGLEWOOD

JANUARY 27  
GAVEL GRILLE  
NAPLES

JANUARY 28  
ACE'S LOUNGE  
BRADENTON

Raucous, rowdy, gentle, sweet, eccentric, quirky and irreverent are all words that fittingly describe Tas Cru's songs and testify to his reputation. It's not for nothing that Cru has received wide praise for his songwriting. His latest album, 2016's *Simmered and Stewed*, received wide acclaim and extensive international airplay, and sat comfortably near the top of the Roots Music Report's Contemporary Blues Chart for most of 2017. *Simmered...* consists of eleven songs flavored in most part by resonator, cigar box and acoustic guitar. The album features Cru, along with his Band of Tortured Souls, on harmonica, honky-tonk piano, Hammond B3 organ and rich backing vocals. It was named 2016 Best Blues Album by the Syracuse Area Music Awards. It is a worthy follow up to Cru's 2015 album *You Keep the Money*, which was that year's No. 3 blues album. A new album, *Memphis Song* is due out later this year. Based out of upstate New York, Cru's first foray into the blues came after

leaving the U.S. Navy, when he briefly joined a band formed by a former shipmate. Going solo, Cru's seven albums of original music, starting with 2006's *Biscuit*, are supplemented by his 2009 release, *Even Bugs Sing the Blues*, an album of original blues music for kids, and a 2016 album for dog lovers titled *Doggone Blues*. He also brings his award-winning Blues Education programs and workshops to numerous schools, hospitals and community centers. Cru being awarded the 2014 Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive Award for Blues Education. More at [tascru.com](http://tascru.com).



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# Cyrille Aimée

JANUARY 10  
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Improvisation is not just a technique for jazz vocalist Cyrille Aimée, but a way of life, one that has not only allowed her to share her engaging voice and sparkling creativity with the world, but has led her on an unexpected journey. From her modest beginnings singing on the street corners of Europe to winning the

Montreux Jazz Festival Vocal Competition, the Sarah Vaughn International Jazz Vocal Competition and ranking as a finalist in the Thelonious Monk Jazz Vocal Competition, Aimée taken the jazz world by storm. Her fresh and innovative style caught the attention of Stephen Sondheim, who cast her in an Encores Special Presentation starring Bernadette Peters at New York City's City Center in 2013. Since then she has been hailed by *The Wall Street Journal* as "one of the most promising jazz singers of her generation" and called a "rising star in the galaxy of jazz singers" by the *New York Times*. More at [cyrillemusic.com](http://cyrillemusic.com). Shelly Berg is an accomplished pianist in both classical and jazz styles, is a recording artist for Concord Music Group, and a Steinway piano artist. He has arranged, produced and recorded with many award-winning artists. In 2007, Berg was appointed as Dean of the University of Miami's Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music where he teaches both privately, in the Frost Experiential Music Curriculum, and administers the academic, musical and research pursuits of over 700 music students and 100 faculty. He was formerly the McCoy/Sample endowed music professor at USC Thornton School of Music where he taught for 16 years. More at [shellyberg.com](http://shellyberg.com).




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SEE AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE..."  
"DEEP DOWN IN FLORIDA," - MUDDY WATERS



## The North Central Florida Blues Society

Proudly presents

# DOUG MACLEOD

Saturday, March 10

Heartwood Soundstage

Gainesville

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Show 7:00pm



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JANUARY 20  
AIRPORT ROAD  
ZEPHYRHILLS

# Pigz in Z'hills Festival

As the name suggests, The Zephyrhills Annual Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues Festival features a barbecue competition amidst a background of blues music. More than 50 teams will compete in this Florida BBQ Association-approved competition, with trophies awarded in the categories of Chicken, Pork, Brisket, and Ribs. Professional teams have the added incentive of potentially winning \$10,000 in prizes. This year, the brand new Florida Hospital Stage will feature an impressive lineup of local, regional and national blues artists, including The Legendary JCs, Chuck Riley's All-Star Revue, Some Day Honey, Doug South and the Roundabouts, and the Ed Wright Duo. The Legendary JCs (pictured) started flooring Central Florida crowds with their brand of soulful rocking blues in 2000. A typical show touches on roots and blues – along with sweaty, horn-fueled, old-school R&B. The band has performed with James Brown, B.B. King, Dr. John and Al Green; and opened for Tab Benoit, Robert Randolph, The Black Keys, Dirty Dozen Brass Band, and J.J. Grey and Mofro, among many others. Bassist Chuck Riley has become a Zephyrhills fixture, hosting Chuck Riley's Blues Revue with guest stars from across the blues spectrum. For this event he's put together an All-Star version to provide a powerful blend of blues, soul and R&B. Since its inception, this event has helped The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce to provide approximately \$24,000 in scholarships to Zephyrhills area students. Admission is free so come on down! More at [zephyrhillschamber.org](http://zephyrhillschamber.org).



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**Jan 26** A1A Ale Works, St Augustine  
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JANUARY 27  
BLUE TAVERN  
TALLAHASSEE

## Andy Cohen

A virtuoso finger-style guitarist who has been described as a "walking, talking, folk/blues/roots music encyclopedia," Andy Cohen grew up in a home with a piano and a pile of Dixieland jazz records. During the 1960s folk revival, he got hooked on the music of Big Bill Broonzy and Jim Kweskin Jug Band. And when he heard South Carolina's Rev. Gary Davis perform, Cohen decided to devote his life to the study, performance and promotion of traditional folk and blues music of the pre-WWII era. Cohen has helped to support a number of his mentors and younger players by organizing festivals and other venues for them to play. He has been assiduous in sharing his expertise in classes and camps, and many of his students are now professional touring musicians. Cohen has more than a dozen recordings to his credit. He is an enthusiastic proponent of the dulcinea. Often described as a miniature piano, the strings are struck with wooden mallets. Along the way, Cohen earned a Master's Degree in anthropology. His passions come together in his essay, "The Hands of Blues Guitarists," published in *Ramblin' On My Mind: New Perspectives on the Blues*, edited by David Evans (2008). At an Andy Cohen concert, expect to hear blues rooted in Mississippi, the Piedmont, Memphis and Chicago, along with some ragtime, gospel and original tunes. Among other accolades, Cohen received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Autoharp Gathering. More at [andycohenmusic.com](http://andycohenmusic.com).



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