

JAZZ & BLUES

F L O R I D A



FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE: JAZZ ARTISTS

BILL CUNLIFFE **WILLIE JONES III** **JEFF RUPERT**

BLUES ARTISTS

WILLIAM BELL
AMY BLACK
DIRTY CELLO
ANTHONY GERACI
GYPSY ELISE & THE ROYAL BLUES
KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD
ZZ WARD

JAZZ ARTISTS

JOHN BEASLEY
HERB BRUCE
CHARLIE HUNTER
ELLIS MARSALIS
RÉGINALD POLICARD
STEVE WILSON

THIS ISSUE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
JAZZ ICON MELTON MUSTAFA (1947 - 2017)

JEFF RUPERT • WILLIE JONES III

Three notable jazz icons will treat Florida jazz lovers to their special blend of rhythm with separate tours beginning February 14.

JEFF RUPERT *saxophonist*

South Florida favorite Jeff Rupert is a YAMAHA performing artist and Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Central Florida. He has performed and / or



recorded with Diane Schuur, Mel Tormé, and Benny Carter's Grammy winning Harlem Renaissance. Rupert toured for 15 years with Sam Rivers, and has played some of the world's most prestigious venues including the Blue Note, Birdland, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the Tokyo Forum, the National concert hall of Taipei, Taiwan, and jazz festivals in Europe, Israel, Australia and Japan. Rupert's latest release, *Fly Away*, is a collaboration with jazz vocalist Veronica Swift. Says Maynard Ferguson, "From the moment I first heard Jeff Rupert with my band I considered him one of the great jazz players of today."

FEBRUARY 14
JEFF RUPERT QUARTET
W/VERONICA SWIFT
BLUE BAMBOO
WINTER PARK

FEBRUARY 24
TRIBUTE TO STAN GETZ
W/VERONICA SWIFT
SOUTH FLORIDA
STATE COLLEGE
AVON PARK

FEBRUARY 25
JEFF RUPERT QUINTET
W/VERONICA SWIFT
FRIDAY MUSICALE
JACKSONVILLE

MARCH 10
JEFF RUPERT QUARTET
W/T-BONE GIRARD
JAZZ ON THE GREEN
FORT MYERS

WILLIE JONES III *drummer*

FEBRUARY 14
GOLD COAST
JAZZ SOCIETY
BROWARD CENTER
FORT LAUDERDALE

FEBRUARY 15
DAVIS ARTS CENTER
FORT MYERS

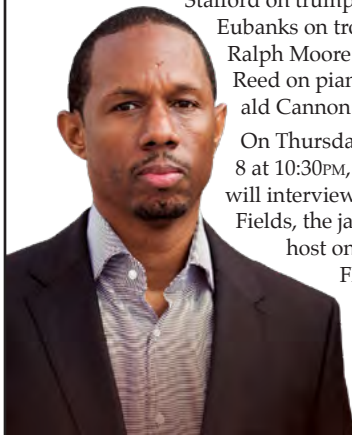
Ever since 1997, when he moved to New York City from his hometown of Los Angeles, Willie Jones III has been one of the Big Apple's most prominent drummers. Whether functioning as a savvy

bandleader or high-profile sideman, Jones applies to every context an abiding musicality and a tonal personality that, as Wynton Marsalis puts it, is "ever tasteful," marked by what pianist Eric Reed, his frequent collaborator, calls "a West Coast swagger in his swing, with a looseness that isn't lackadaisical and an edge that isn't overwhelming." Jones' indomitable will to swing infuses each of his six CDs as a leader, issued on his imprint, WJ3 Records. The most recent is the 2015 release, *Groundwork*, on which a nonpareil rhythm section (Jones, Reed and legendary bassist Buster Williams) propels a multi-generational, all-star cast of improvisers (vibraphonist Warren Wolf, trumpeter Eddie Henderson, trombonist Steve Davis and tenor saxophonist Stacy Dillard). Jones has also played on, produced and released on WJ3 critically acclaimed CDs by pianists Reed and Cyrus Chestnut, alto saxophonist Justin Robinson and guitarist Jacques Leseure.

For these dates, Jones will be joined by Terrell Stafford on trumpet, Robin Eubanks on trombone, Ralph Moore on sax, Eric Reed on piano and Gerald Cannon on bass.

On Thursday, February 8 at 10:30PM, Jones III will interview with Tracy Fields, the jazz radio host on WLRN

FM in Miami
(wlrn.org).



ONES III • BILL CUNLIFFE

BILL CUNLIFFE *pianist*

Jazz pianist, composer and Grammy-winning arranger Bill Cunliffe is known for his swinging and lyrical pianism and for his agility and inventiveness in melding jazz with the classical and pop genres. He performs around the world as a leader and sideman as well as a soloist with symphony orchestras. Cunliffe wrote the score for the 2011 film *On the Shoulders of Giants*, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's homage to the Harlem Rens basketball team of the 1920s and '30s. The movie received a 2013 NAACP Image Award for Best Documentary, and Cunliffe's soundtrack was nominated for Best Album. Cunliffe was the 1989 winner of the Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition. He is a professor of music at Cal State Fullerton and also teaches at the Vail Jazz Workshop and the Skidmore Jazz Institute.



Rounding out the The Bill Cunliffe Trio on these dates are bassist Martin Wind and drummer Tim Horner.

On March 2, Cunliffe will interview on the WUCF.ORG program Live from Studio A.

For more information or booking, contact Kathy Salem at 330.328.7337 or visit nightisalive.com. Night Is Alive manages some of the most inventive and respected musicians of our time.

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THE PALLADIUM
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MARCH 2
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MARCH 3
BLUE BAMBOO
WINTER PARK



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SUNDAY, FEB 25, 2018

**ANA POPOVIC
TORONZO CANNON
SAMANTHA FISH
RUSTY WRIGHT BAND
DAVID JULIA**

CLICK FOR INFORMATION AND TICKETS

ZZ Ward

FEBRUARY 24
SEA-BLUES
FESTIVAL
CLEARWATER

Fedora-rocking, guitar-shredding, harmonica-

wielding blues siren ZZ Ward peppered an old backporch musical recipe with hip-hop urgency and hashtagable wisdom on her 2012 mixtape *Eleven Roses*. It was followed by her full-length debut, *Til The Casket Drops*, which yielded a hit in "Put The Gun Down." The latter generated 7.4 million-plus Spotify streams and held strong in the Top 10 of AAA radio for 10 weeks as well as receiving over 100 high-profile licensing placements and syncs, including the feature film *We're The Millers*. Kendrick Lamar and Freddie Gibbs were quick to collaborate, while *Rolling Stone*, *Guitar World*, *USA Today*, NPR and more extolled her. She toured with Eric Clapton, Gary Clark, Jr., and Fitz & The Tantrums and performed at Coachella and Bonnaroo. Born in Pennsylvania and raised in small-town Oregon, Ward grew up listening to her father write and sing the blues. As a child, she began performing with him in his blues bands, falling in love with the sincerity of Etta, the soul of Muddy and the power of Big Mama. As she got older, she started writing hooks for and performing with local rappers. Equally evocative of blues grit and hip-hop bounce, the Los Angeles-based vocal powerhouse and multi-instrumentalist took a leap forward on her second release by looking more deeply at some of her earliest inspirations – Howlin' Wolf, Robert Johnson, and Vera Ward Hall and Big Mama Thornton.

Overall, *The Storm* represents Ward at her core. "Storms come and storms pass," she says. "It's how you weather them that defines you and makes you stronger."

More at zzward.com.



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4:00pm to 10:00pm
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Steve Wilson

FEBRUARY 15
ARTIS-NAPLES
NAPLES

A musician's musician, saxophonist Steve Wilson has brought his distinctive sound to more than 150 recordings led by such artists as Chick Corea, Michael Brecker, Dianne Reeves, Bill Bruford, Charlie Byrd and many others. He also has eight recordings as a leader. After a year-long stint with singer Stephanie Mills, he majored in music at Virginia Commonwealth University while working as a session player and as a backing musician for touring acts like The

Four Tops and Sophisticated Ladies. A year after moving to New York in 1987, Wilson toured the U.S. and Europe with Lionel Hampton. In 1996 he joined the Dave Holland Quintet, and from 1998-2001 he was a member of Chick Corea's Origin sextet. In 2009 Wilson was a member of the Blue Note 7, assembled to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Blue Note Records. Wilson serves as an Associate Professor at City College of New York, and on faculty at the Juilliard School, and has been a featured performer, panelist, and clinician at prestigious conferences. In 2015 Wilson released his first live recording, *Wilsonian's Grain Live In New York: The Vanguard Sessions*. This dynamic quartet featured Bill Stewart, Orrin Evan and Ugonna Okegwo. Wilson is one-half of a formidable duo with renowned drummer Lewis Nash, co-leads a trio with pianist Renee Rosnes and bassist Peter Washington, and performs with several Grammy-winning ensembles. For this event, Wilson performs with the with Naples Philharmonic Jazz Orchestra, directed by Lew Del Gatto. More at stevewilsonmusic.com.

FROM A PHOTO BY JOHN ABBOTT



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SATURDAY

Mark Telesca Band

Jontavious Willis & Country Royalty

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Altered Five Blues Band

Hurricane Ruth with Scott Holt

Little Freddie King

Sunday

Blues & Bloodys Party -
Bands TBA

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Bonita Springs
Assistance Office



Tickets Available at BonitaBlues.com

Dirty Cello

A classically trained cellist, Rebecca Roudman was playing with orchestras including the Oakland Symphony and the Santa Rosa Symphony. Meanwhile, the Dirty Cello project started as a chance to let loose a little. It started when she won a Vallejo's Got Talent contest by morphing a classical Bach suite into the Scorpions' "Rock You Like a Hurricane." Now performing close to 100 shows a year, the group specializes in odd shows in odd places, including a holiday-themed concert at the bottom of

Moaning Cavern in California's gold country. As Dirty Cello's vocalist and co-leader (along with her husband, guitarist Jason Eckl), Roudman channels heroes Yo-Yo Ma and Jimi Hendrix, and demonstrates the influence of Bonnie Raitt and Axl Rose. She performed on the soundtracks for the Bruce Willis film *Looper* and the Jeremy Renner film *Kill the Messenger*. The group's most recent release is 2017's *I May Not Be Perfect...* With their eclectic mix of blues, bluegrass, rock and a lot of oldies, Dirty Cello improvises every set list, whether in China, Italy or their Bay Area home. "The blues let you share your troubles with the world," Roudman explains, "rock music gets your heart thumping, and bluegrass is the musical equivalent of a breath of fresh air and a smile for a friend." More at dirtycello.com.



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John Beasley

FEBRUARY 26
USF CONCERT HALL
TAMPA

Born in Louisiana, the cradle of jazz, John Beasley started writing arrangements in junior

high school, the first one for the University of North Texas Jazz Band. Jimmy Lyons, founder of the Monterey Jazz Festival, heard it and recommended Beasley for a scholarship at the Stan Kenton summer jazz camp. The song was added to The Stan Kenton Orchestra's repertoire that year. A third generation musician, Beasley learned to play trumpet, oboe, drums, saxophone and flute. Declining an oboe scholarship from Juilliard at 17, Beasley instead started playing in clubs. Soon after, he went on his first world tour with Sergio Mendes, then spent eight years with jazz icon Freddie Hubbard, while keeping up with his garage band Audio Mind. At 24, Beasley started writing music for television shows (including *Cheers*, *Family Ties*, *Star Trek* and *Fame*) and movies (the James Bond movies *Spectre* and *Skyfall*, *He Called Me Malala*, *Get on Up* and *Finding Nemo*, among others). He has written award-winning commercials for agencies in the U.S. and Germany for over 20 years. At 28, Beasley got the call of a lifetime from Miles Davis to join his band. While on tour with Davis, Beasley released his first CD, *Cauldron*. His *Positootly!* album earned a 2011 Grammy nomination for Best Jazz Instrumental Record. Beasley then formed a 15-piece big band, MONK'estra, to capture the of Monk's spirit and style in fresh arrangements of Monk's and

other classic and original compositions. *MONK'estra Vol 1 and Vol 2* both received Grammy nominations as well. More at

johnbeasleymusic.com.



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March 31 10th Annual Blues-n-Groove Weekend Mt. Dora, FL

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Feb 3 Bruce Katz Band
Feb 9 Delta Moon
Feb 10 Harper & Midwest Kind
Feb 14 Johnny Rawls
Feb 16 James Armstrong
Feb 17 John "Papa" Gros Band
Feb 23 Heather Gillis Band
Feb 24 Amy Black Band Memphis Revue

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FEBRUARY 17
BUCKINGHAM
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FORT MYERS

Gypsy Elise & the Royal Blues

With her 3.5 octave range, and silken, throaty lower range, Gypsy Elise is the rarest form of vocalist – a female contralto. Her band, the Royal Blues, features her husband Ryan De Sade Way on primary keys and key bass, John Lisi on guitar, Herman Halphen on the drums, and Reginald “The Voodoo Ninja” Smith Jr. on sax. Together, they vividly capture a bohemian, sensual mash-up of blues, R&B, jazz, rock and funk. Basque Gypsy by birth, but essentially southern musician by trade, Elise was born to a family of entertainers; her

flower-child era rearing is clearly heard in her music. FSU graduate Way has performed with a dozen professional performing bands, and appears on close to 20 CDs. With a worldwide fan base, more than 50 original songs in radio rotation, and a covers list that ranges into the thousands, Gypsy Elise and The Royal Blues were voted New Orleans’ No. 1 Performance Band (per ReverbNation) for eight years running. Currently based out of Orlando, Elise and Way perform in configurations ranging from duet to a full 12-piece band. Throughout their show, Elise’s warmth and wit prove a winning combination when interlaced with her powerful vocals, tight musical backing, and original lyrics. With an impressive seven original albums to their credit, the group’s proven blend of skills and musicianship will undoubtedly carry this Gypsy and her talented crew down whichever roads they choose. More at gypsyeliseandtheroyalblues.com.



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Dan Miller, Musical Director

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featuring guest artist saxophonist Steve Wilson

MARCH 10

with the Jeff Rupert Quintet
Jazz on the Green, Six Bends, Fort Myers

MARCH 14

with the Naples Philharmonic Jazz Orchestra
Daniels Pavilion, Artis-Naples, Naples
featuring guest artist trombonist Steve Davis

MARCH 28

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March 14

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May 9

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Charlie Hunter

With a career spanning 16 years and almost 20 albums, Charlie Hunter consistently ups his game as an innovative writer and bandleader. He has worked with the likes of Norah Jones, Mos Def, John Mayer and D'Angelo, and is widely considered the authority on the seven- and eight-string guitar. A native of Rhode Island, Hunter was around guitars at an early age because his mother repaired them for a living. He took lessons from famed rock guitarist Joe Satriani in high school. In the 1990s, Hunter played in the band T. J. Kirk, which got its name from three musicians whose music it covered: Thelonious Monk, James Brown, and Rahsaan Roland Kirk. After the band's dissolution, Hunter co-founded Garage a Trois, a jazz fusion band with Stanton Moore and Skerik, and Groundtruther with Bobby Previte. Hunter's debut album was 1993's *Charlie Hunter Trio*, and featured Dave Ellis on saxophone and Jay Lane on drums. It was followed by 1995's *Bing, Bing, Bing!* Hunter was an inaugural member of the Independent Music Awards' judging panel to support independent artists. His most recent release is 2016's *Everybody Has A Plan Until They Get Punched In The Mouth*, recorded 100% live in a studio in Hudson, New York. On the CD, Hunter returns to his quartet to perform 10 all-new blues, rock, jazz and Latin-flavored songs alongside bandmates Kirk Knuffke (cornet), Bobby Previte (drums), and Curtis Fowlkes (trombone). More at charliehunter.com.



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FEB 6	BOSTON'S ON THE BEACH	DELRAY BEACH
FEB 7	ENGLEWOOD'S ON DEARBORN	ENGLEWOOD
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WED 2/14	Englewood's – Englewood FL
THU 2/15	Little Bar – Goodland FL
FRI 2/16	McCall's – The Villages FL
SAT 2/17	Blue Rooster – Sarasota FL
SUN 2/18	Kobernick Concert – Sarasota FL
WED 2/21	Awendaw Green – Awendaw SC
THU 2/22	Irregardless Cafe – Raleigh NC
FRI 2/23	Thomas St. Tavern – Charlotte NC
SAT 2/24	Fiddlin' Fish – Winston Salem NC

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Kenny Wayne Shepherd

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More than 20 years into his recording career, Kenny Wayne Shepherd has built an enviable resume as an accomplished recording

artist, a riveting live performer and one of the most talented and distinctive guitarists of his generation. He has received five Grammy nominations, released seven No. 1 blues albums and a string of No. 1 mainstream rock singles. The Louisiana-born Shepherd burst onto the national scene at the age of 16 with the release of his 1995 debut *Ledbetter Heights*. Relentless touring and rock radio success helped drive the album to Platinum sales status. His 1998 sophomore effort *Trouble Is...* also went Platinum. *Live On* and *The Place You're In* were followed by 2007's ambitious *10 Days Out: Blues from the Backroads*, for which Shepherd and his band traveled throughout the American South to record with vintage blues greats on their home turf. 2010 saw the release of Shepherd's long-awaited first live album, *Live! In Chicago*. In 2013, Shepherd teamed with veteran rockers Stephen Stills and Barry Goldberg to form The Rides, whose first album *Can't Get Enough* helped to expand Shepherd's audience. 2014's *Goin' Home* was Shepherd's sixth No. 1 debut on the Billboard Blues charts, and featured guests including fellow guitar icons Joe Walsh, Warren Haynes, Keb' Mo' and Robert Randolph. The band's

latest release, 2017's *Lay It On*

Down, is another tasty helping of the KWS band, comprised of singer Noah Hunt, drummer

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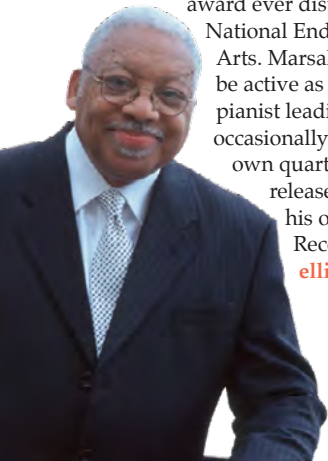
Ellis Marsalis

FEBRUARY 17
PINECREST
GARDENS
PINECREST

Regarded by many as the premier modern jazz pianist in New Orleans, Ellis Marsalis began his formal music studies at age eleven. While

stationed in southern California as a U.S. Marine after graduating college, Marsalis honed his pianist skills as a member of the Corps Four, a Marines jazz quartet. After completing his duty, Marsalis married Dolores Ferdinand. The couple went on to have six sons; Branford, Wynton, Ellis III, Delfeayo, Mboya and Jason. You may have heard of some of them. From 1966 until 1974 Marsalis performed at New Orleans nightclubs, while teaching music. He then spent twelve years at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts as an instrumental music teacher with a Jazz studies emphasis. After three years as a Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, Marsalis returned to New Orleans in 1989 to become the Chair of Jazz Studies at the University of New Orleans. During his tenure at UNO he helped fellow colleague Charles Blancq develop a campus performance center called the Sand Bar. Marsalis would also develop a Jazz Orchestra, which he took, on the eve of his 2001 retirement, on a tour of Brazil. He is the recipient of multiple Honorary Doctorate degrees, including one from The Juilliard School, in New York. In 2011, Marsalis and his family were awarded the highest honor in Jazz, NEA Jazz Masters, the first group

award ever distributed by the National Endowment for the Arts. Marsalis continues to be active as a performing pianist leading, and occasionally touring, his own quartet. He currently releases recordings on his own label, Elm Records. More at ellismarsalis.com.



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Amy Black

She's always been drawn to soul singers, but it wasn't until Amy Black began exploring her own southern soul roots for her last album, *The Muscle Shoals Sessions*, that she found her musical sweet spot — and knew her next stop had to be the place where blues and soul converge. It's the place

where she herself was conceived. It's where Al Green, Otis Redding and so many others turned grit and groove into some of the world's most beloved tunes. Black then hunted down several top musical architects to help her lay down the sound she was meant to make — the sound of *Memphis*. Released mid-2017 on her own Reuben Records, *Memphis'* seven originals and three well-chosen covers nail the passion that flows through this town like the mighty Mississippi. Infusing her vocals with Saturday-night sultriness and Sunday-morning gospel, Black goes from silky smooth to raw and rough with equal ease. Her organic sound was recorded old-school analog style and mixed to tape. The result is pure and authentic — and she wouldn't have it any other way. "I love the music of Memphis; everything that came out of here in the '50s, the '60s, the '70s... I love the grit and the guts and the soul and the groove," Black says. "And the heart of it all is the blues." With her live Memphis Music Revue, she's ready to carry that music far and wide. When Amy Black takes you to Memphis, it's a journey you won't forget. More at amyblack.com.



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Réginald Policard

FEBRUARY 24
STREET PAINTING
FESTIVAL
LAKE WORTH

Haitian-born Réginald Policard was introduced to music at the age of ten when his parents brought a piano home,

and the piano went on to shape his musical career. Policard put together his first band, Sugar Jazz, in 1969. Sugar Jazz opened the door to collaborations with other ensembles, particularly the famous Caribbean Sextet, which dominated the music scene in Haiti for many decades and of which he was the band leader and co-founder. Policard's discography includes 16 solo recordings and his participation in numerous projects, including films. His album, *Vinn Avem (Come With Me)*, was nominated for a Latin Grammy in 1994. Policard enjoys playing for his fans and his mastery in the piano comes alive every time he performs. His list of memorable performances includes the New Orleans Jazz Festival, The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, The Kennedy Center, Arturo Sandoval's Jazz Club and Festival International de Jazz de Port au Prince. Claiming Chick Corea, Bill Evans and Carlos Jobim as powerful influences, Policard has collaborated with very well-known south Florida musicians such as Sammy Figueroa, Nicole Henry, Ed Calle, Jeff Carswell and Nicky Orta. "I want to be able to contribute something special to the Haitian community and make sure that the Haitian art and culture are our best ambassador," says Policard. "I have always loved music and it gives me such pleasure to create and play it. I always wanted to do something different that will last and profit the new generation." His latest release is 2017's *Mirage*. More at reginaldpolicard.com.




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FEBRUARY 19
FUNKY BISCUIT
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Anthony Geraci

Pianist, Hammond organist and composer Anthony Geraci was born in Connecticut in 1954. His interest in playing piano began at age four, and lessons at the Neighborhood School of Music (affiliated with Yale University) followed. With the Big Apple only a few hours away by train, Geraci saw Muddy Waters, B.B. King and Willie Dixon as part of his blues education. Years later Anthony had the opportunity to play piano with King and Dixon, along with Otis Rush, Chuck Berry, Big Mama Thornton, Big Joe Turner, Jimmy Rodgers and others. Geraci has recorded with Big Walter Horton, Ronnie Earl, Big Jack Johnson, Zora Young, Sugaray Rayford, Debbie Davies and Kenny Neal. And Geraci continues to perform worldwide with Anthony Geraci and the HipNotics, Sugar Ray and the Bluetones, as well as with his latest music venture, The Redeemers. His 2015 release, *Fifty Shades of Blue*, was met with critical acclaim and earned multiple Blues Music Award nominations. It was also nominated for Traditional Blues Album of the year by *Blues Blast* Magazine, and was ranked as one of the top 50 Blues recordings of 2015 by *Living Blues* Magazine. Geraci has also been nominated for the BMA's Pinetop Perkins Piano Award for the last three years. Currently wrapping up his second album for Delta Groove Music, Geraci's new CD, due out this spring, features all-original compositions by Geraci, and a who's who of great blues musicians. More at anthonygeraciblue.com.



FROM A PHOTO BY BOB SEMENIK

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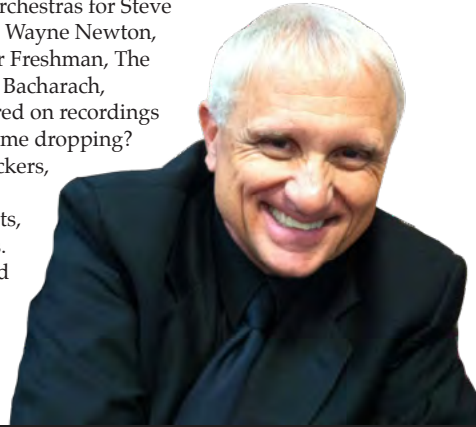
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Herb Bruce

A veteran of the great Woody Herman Band and the U.S. Army band, Herb Bruce recently retired after serving 28 years as a reserve army officer and is still involved in U.S. Army musical groups. A world-class jazz trombonist, he has toured and recorded with many leading pop and jazz groups. Bruce is part of the Salvation Army International Band Program and tours on their behalf. Well known for his versatility and incredible power, he is a sought-after lead trombonist for shows and big bands. He has released several albums under his herbicide, label. His major tours include Boots Randolph, the Nashville Brass, and The Jack Daniels Silver Comet Band. Bruce has performed with show orchestras for Steve Lawrence & Eydie Gorme, Jackie Evancho, Bob Hope, Wayne Newton, Nelson Riddle, Jimmy Dorsey, Liza Minnelli, The Four Freshman, The Four Tops, The Temptations, Amy Grant, Al Hirt, Burt Bacharach, Bernadette Peters and Les Brown. He has even appeared on recordings by the Backstreet Boys and Hank Williams Jr. More name dropping? Okay! He has worked on music for The Green Bay Packers, Hector Camacho, the Atlanta Braves, and the Harlem Globetrotters. Then there's ABC's Wide World of Sports, the Country Music Association Awards, Ringling Bros. Circus Specials, Nashville Now, Michael Feinstein, and the list goes on. Bruce performs with his Herbicide band, and was recently appointed to the position of principal trombonist with the Venice Florida Symphony Orchestra. More at herbbruce.com.



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FEBRUARY 2
STRAZ CENTER
TAMPA

FEBRUARY 3
BROWARD
CENTER
FT. LAUDERDALE

William Bell

After more than 50 years, the co-writer of "Born Under a Bad Sign"

(with Booker T. Jones) is still at it. Currently nominated for the Blues Foundation's Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year, Bell's 1961 solo debut, "You Don't Miss Your Water (Until Your Well Runs Dry)," became one of the Stax label's first major hits. The song is now considered one of the finest early examples of soul music, and was covered by many artists, including Otis Redding and The Byrds.

After a stint in the Army, Bell returned to Stax for his first full-length album, 1969's *The Soul of a Bell*, which included the Top 20 single, "Everybody Loves a Winner." That same year, the original version of "Born Under a Bad Sign" hit it big. The song has since been covered by many cultural icons, from Albert King to Jimi Hendrix to Cream to Homer Simpson. More success came in 1977 with "Tryin' to Love Two" on Mercury Records, which became a Top 10 pop hit and went to No. 1 on the R&B charts. Since then, Bell has continued to enjoy a distinguished career as a singer, songwriter and producer. This much-awarded musician's recordings have also been sampled by hip-hop and R&B artists including Kanye West and Ludacris.

In 2016, William Bell returned to Stax Records for his latest release, *This Is Where I Live*. The Take Me to The River: Memphis Soul & R&B Revue features

Bell along with Bobby Rush and Don Bryant.

More at williambell.com.

FROM A PHOTO BY DAVID MCCLUSTER

