



# JAZZ & BLUES



F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE: BLUES ARTIST

## KAT RIGGINS

### JAZZ ARTISTS

DAVID DETWEILER

JAZMIN GHENT

DAVID LEON

TERRY MYERS

DANIEL STRANGE

LEON FOSTER THOMAS

### BLUES ARTISTS

BEAUTIFUL BOBBY BLACKMON

BEN PRESTAGE

JOHNNY SANSONE

STEVE STERNBERG

WALTER 'WOLFMAN' WASHINGTON

BILL 'SAUCE BOSS' WHARTON

# KAT RIGGINS ~



**Miami-born blueswoman Kat Riggins has been belting her way around the scene for the last 15 years, yet many live music aficionados have never heard her name.**

For those who have, they know that she is one to watch. In her late 30s, she is considered young by blues standards. As evidenced by her songwriting, powerhouse voice and potent delivery... "age ain't nothin' but a number." *Midwest Record* says: "The spiritual granddaughter of Koko Taylor and southern blues show bands, Kat Riggins has the stone cold knack for hitting it out of the park that would make all the southern blues greats before her quite proud!"

Like many southern African-American singers, Kat grew up singing in the church choir. Her professional singing

JUNE 16  
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JUNE 22  
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MIAMI BEACH

JUNE 23  
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# BLUES REVIVAL

career began in 2003 at a small lounge in Sunny Isles, Florida where she and a lone piano player performed jazz and blues standards for the dinner crowd. Fast forward from those humble beginnings to now. Kat has performed to packed houses all over Southeast Asia and the Middle East, Curacao and Europe. She is currently an integral part of a Blues Theater tour that runs in The Netherlands through April 2019, with a small break from June to October 2018... just enough time to come home to Florida and promote her new album!

Uh oh fellas! "There's a girl in the boys' club" ... a fitting line for not only the title track of this album, but for the project as a whole. Much like her 2016 *Blues Revival* album, *In the Boys' Club* is a collage of all things blues. From traditional blues tracks like "Cheat Or Lose" or "Kitty Won't Scratch" (featuring Albert Castiglia) to the hard driving blues-rock sounds of "Fistful O' Water" and Johnnie Walker, Riggins encompasses everything she loves about this ever-flowing and -flowering genre. This release is meant to be a bold representation of the female presence in a "man's world." All twelve songs were penned by Kat and arranged by Kat and her band to highlight a woman's strength, humility, resilience, ambition, passion and compassion.

Riggins kicks off her *In the Boys' Club* summer tour at Blue Jean Blues in Fort Lauderdale on June 16. The CD is scheduled for release on June 23, and Kat and the Blues Revival band will be hosting a release party at Ft. Lauderdale's Sanctuary

Church Hall that will double as a homecoming party. South Florida's blues family will come together to celebrate in a big way with Otis Cadillac (of Otis Cadillac and the El Dorados featuring the Sublime Seville Sisters), Joel Zoss, Clay Goldstein (of the Natty Bös) and Josh "The Pitbull Of Blues" Rowand. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund.

From there she travels north along the east coast on her way to the North Atlantic Blues Festival in Rockland, Maine with scheduled stops on the way in Boston and New York (among others) before heading back over the pond for the European leg of her tour in September.

If you haven't already, now is the time to familiarize yourself with this dynamic artist. She is one of those people about whom you'll want to be able to say, "I knew of her when..." Those who can already say that (Riggins refers to them as "#friendfans" and "#famfans") are the ones who recognize that Riggins is a truly compelling singer, an eloquent songwriter and a passionate performer.

In her own words, "It's about the raw emotion in every note. If I can move someone to feel what I feel when I sing a song, then it's all worth it". Her personal mission is to "make a success out of the gifts that God has given me". With that in mind, every time that Kat Riggins steps on stage she looks forward to leaving it all there in a puddle of sweat and tears. As *Rock Doctor Music Reviews* put it, "Kat has one of the best blues voices I've ever heard, in the same league as Etta James and Koko Taylor." More at [katriggins.com](http://katriggins.com).

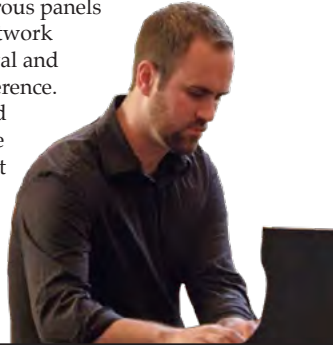


JUNE 8  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
CORAL GABLES

# Daniel Strange

As director of contemporary keyboard studies at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, Daniel Strange directs the Music Media and Industry department's American Music Ensemble, which received the 2015 *DownBeat*

Magazine award for outstanding performance by a collegiate blues/pop/rock ensemble. Strange has performed on a variety of the world's biggest stages, from Carnegie Hall to *The Today Show*, as well as with critically-acclaimed artists including Susan Egan, The Mills Brothers, Michael Feinstein, Ann Hampton Callaway, Rachel York, and Sutton Foster. He has played in orchestra pits for the national touring companies of *Wicked*, *Jersey Boys*, *Les Misérables* and *Dreamgirls*, among others. As a composer, Strange has written, arranged and orchestrated for numerous musical settings including jazz, pop, choral, and orchestral ensembles from all over the country. He has presented clinics on original composition, solo jazz piano and spoken on numerous panels at many national music conferences including the Jazz Education Network Conference, The Intersection of Jazz and Classical Music Piano Festival and Competition, and The Association of Popular Music Education Conference. In the spring of 2014, Strange was named a quarter finalist for the 2nd annual Grammy Music Educator Award. Strange is the director of the award winning Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ Community Arts Program's All-Star Jazz Ensemble, a three-time finalist in Jazz At Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington Competition and Festival. Strange can be heard on his 2012 solo album *Life As I Hear It*, as well as on multiple albums by other artists. He also offers piano and vocal instruction. More at [danielstrangemusic.com](http://danielstrangemusic.com).



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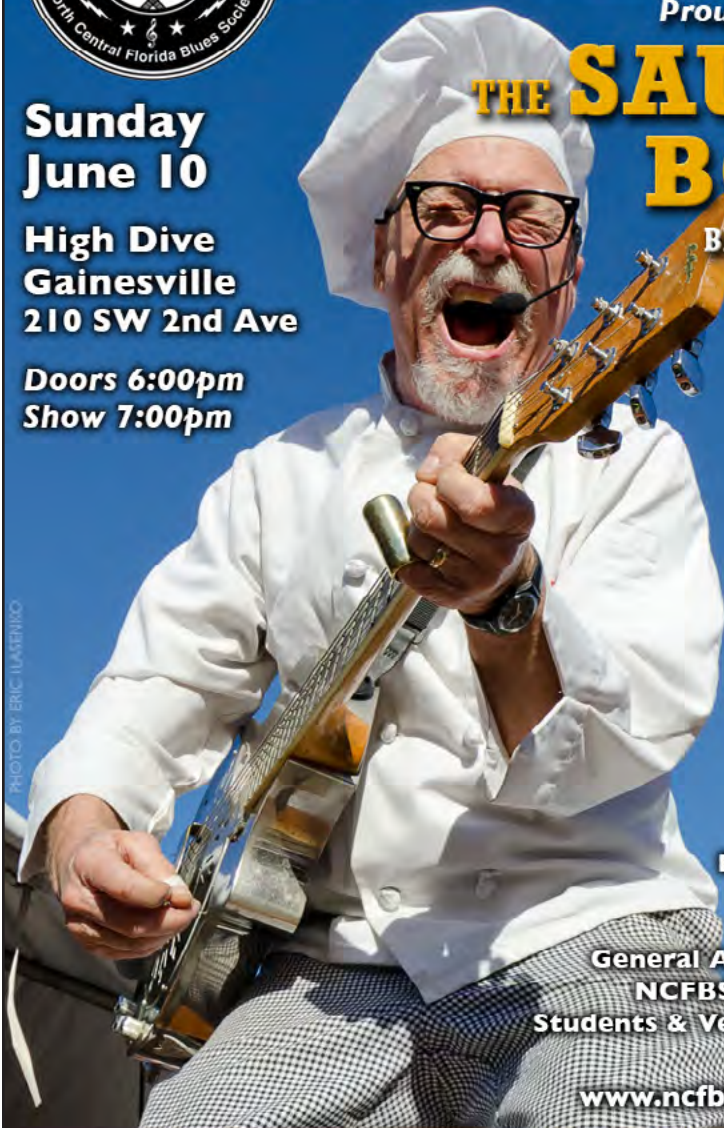
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# Johnny Sansone

JUNE 26  
PARADISE  
BAR & GRILL  
PENSACOLA BEACH

When 12-year-old Johnny Sansone went to a Howlin' Wolf show, he knew he was destined to play the blues. During the 1970s

Sansone studied with blues harmonica legends James Cotton and Jr. Wells. In the 1980s he toured with Ronnie Earl, John Lee Hooker and Jimmy Rodgers. After years of traveling, Sansone settled down in New Orleans in 1990. As leader of Jumpin' Johnny & the Blues Party, Sansone played harmonica and guitar in the fierce delta blues style heard on his 1987 debut *Where Y'at?* and 1991's *Mister Good Thing*. Living in New Orleans led him to the accordion as well, and Sansone was soon combining blues and boogie with Cajun and Zydeco, starting with 1996's *Crescent City Moon*. During the early 2000s Sansone played in a variety of settings, including a trio with pianist Joe Crown and guitarist John Fohl. In 2005 Sansone joined the Voice of the Wetlands Allstars, but by the time their record was released later that year New Orleans was flooded from hurricane Katrina. "The record was designed to be a warning about what might happen," says Sansone. "Then it became a matter of I-told-you-so." The title track from Sansone's 2011 release *The Lord Is Waiting and the Devil is Too* was named Song of the Year at the Blues Music Awards. Sansone's howling, rip-through-the-plaster voice and deep grooved harmonica riffs are the main attractions,

but stay for the wit and wisdom of his character songs. His latest release, *Hopeland*, features VOW's Anders Osborne, Jon Cleary and Luther Dickinson of North Mississippi All Stars. More at [johnnysansone.com](http://johnnysansone.com).



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**JULY 5 HILARY GARDNER**

Downbeat magazine's "An Artist to Watch" and "Rising Star Female Vocalist" makes her South Florida debut. With celebrated pianist Joe Alterman.

**JULY 19 IGNACIO BERROA TRIO**

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# Jazmin Ghent

**JUNE 6  
CHARLIE'S SUSHI  
CLEARWATER**

A young woman with an old soul, Jazmin Ghent was raised by music lovers who introduced

her to the legends (Kirk Whalum, Bob James, Gerald Albright, et al) before she could walk. She was teaching piano in Sunday School at age eight, and won the NAACP's ACT-SO Competition at 17. Ghent has earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in music, and now this full-time educator is getting ready to record her third album of contemporary jazz. In 2017, Ghent won Smooth Jazz Artist of the Year as voted by industry professionals on the Smooth Jazz Network. In addition, she played more critically acclaimed festivals and events than many artists who have been in the industry twice as long. She sold more CDs than any other performer at At Art Good's Catalina Island JazzTrax Festival, and Good has invited her back this year. He rarely invites the same artists two years in a row. 2017 joined Jazmin with two-time Grammy winner Paul Brown for two Top 10 Hits: a sizzling cover of Adele's "Hello" and a holiday jazz version of Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You." 2018 is shaping up to be a stellar year as well – Ghent made her European debut as a performer this past April at the 7th Annual Mallorca Smooth

Jazz Festival in Spain. As she prepares to work on her third album, she has launched a GoFundMe page to help raise the funds

necessary.

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



# Ben Prestage

The grandson of a Mississippi sharecropper, and great-grandson of a vaudeville musician who toured with Al Jolson, Ben Prestage has been soaked in the blues tradition since birth. "When my father was growing up in Mississippi," he says, "they never had running water and the only electricity was one light bulb that hung from the ceiling.... I grew up in rural Florida near the headwaters of the Everglades. It was seven miles either direction to the nearest paved road, and when you got to pavement, you still weren't near a town. Out there, there was only one kind of music in the house... blues." Later while living in Memphis, Prestage became a busker on historic Beale Street. He added a cigarbox guitar, allowing him to play bass and guitar strings independently. "I started playing drums with my feet as an attention grabber but soon found out that the drums played with foot pedals actually enhanced my music dramatically. Not only were people listening and buyin' discs, they were now dancing and hollerin' to boot." In 2006, 2007 and 2008, he took fourth, third, and second place in the International Blues Challenge. He is the only two-time recipient of the Lyon/Pitchford Award for 'Best Diddley-Bow Player.' Prestage's approach to instrumentation, vocals and songwriting (recipient of the 'Most Unique Performer' at The Songwriters' Showcase of America) has earned him invitations to perform across North America, Europe, and as far as North Africa. His most recent album, 2011's *One Crow Murder*, shows off his well-honed multi-instrument craftsmanship. More at [benprestagemusic.com](http://benprestagemusic.com).

FROM A PHOTO BY MARCEL HOEWELING



- JUNE 2  
DARWIN  
BREWING  
BRADENTON
- JUNE 9  
SEACHASERS  
LOUNGE  
JACKSONVILLE
- JUNE 20-21  
PARADISE  
BAR AND GRILL  
PENSACOLA
- JUNE 22  
BLUE TAVERN  
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June 22 Monty's Sunset  
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& The T**

June 8 **Walt  
W**

June 9 **June  
Ju**

**Ol Bobby**

**mon**

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**usty Wright Band**

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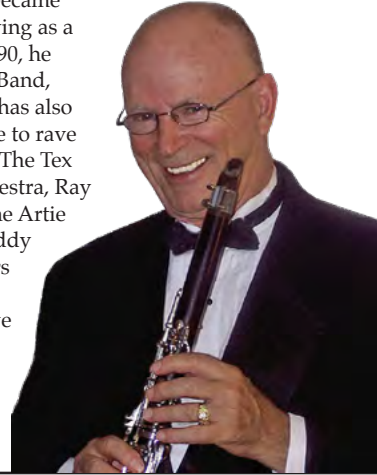
[BradentonBluesFestival.org](http://BradentonBluesFestival.org)

# Terry Myers

**JUNE 1 & 2  
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB  
COCOA BEACH**

According to Buddy Morrow, former leader of the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra and one of the great musicians and band leaders who was there for the early stages of the Big Band Era, "Terry Myers is undoubtedly one of the best all-around reed players in the country today." After college, where he majored

in music and education, Myers honed his musical talent and soon developed a successful career in Nashville and New York City. Moving to Florida, he quickly became one of the most in-demand musicians in the state, including serving as a band leader at Disney World's Epcot Center for four years. In 1990, he became one of the original members of Bill Allred's Classic Jazz Band, performing at jazz festivals across the US, Europe, and Asia. He has also toured the world as a guest artist on both clarinet and saxophone to rave reviews, and has performed with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, The Tex Beneke Orchestra, The Les Elgart Band, The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, Ray Charles, and others too numerous to name. In addition, he led the Artie Shaw Orchestra during Dick Johnson's hiatus, and served as Buddy Morrow's "first call" to sub for him with the TDO. In 1992, Myers formed and led a Tribute to Benny Goodman orchestra, which performed nationally for many years. Myers' three solo CDs have earned him accolades. Now featured with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Terry is an exceedingly charming host who puts the audience at ease and then wows them with his and the TDO's musical presentation. More at [buddymorrowproductions.com](http://buddymorrowproductions.com).



**NATE NAJAR**

**June 16**  
Blue Bamboo Center  
Winter Park

**June 17**  
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**June 2 & 16** PAXTON NORRIS BAND

**June 3 & 5** KIM CARSON & THE REAL DEAL

**June 8** BILL 'SAUCE BOSS' WHARTON

**June 10** SWINGTOWN

**June 11 & 12** NOUVEAUX HONKIES

**June 15** TRUE BLUE BAND

**June 17 & 19** MIA BORDERS

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# Steve Sternberg

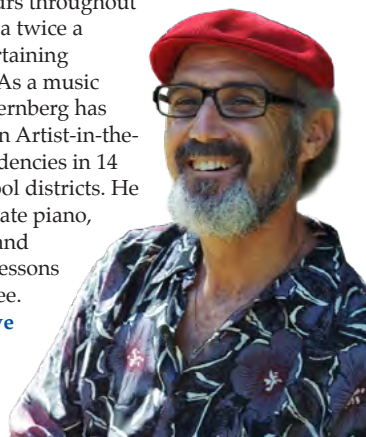
JUNE 14  
BLUE TAVERN  
TALLAHASSEE

The old and the new, the down 'n dirty and the sublime... that's Steve Sternberg's eclectic

blend of piano music. Sternberg entertains audiences throughout Florida with his wide range of piano stylings done with flair: rollicking 1930s boogie-woogie, original contemporary blues, a Joplin rag, or a serene neo-classical original. Sternberg began his professional music career in 1975, playing piano, keyboards, harmonica, saxophone, flute and percussion in various bands and as a solo artist at clubs, festivals and house concerts throughout the US. As a solo artist, Sternberg has been entertaining audiences throughout Florida since 1989. He is loved for his versatility and for his upbeat, informative rapport with his listeners.

His 1997 debut CD, *Honky Tonk Soulstice*, contained three originals, and in 2002 Sternberg won an award in the statewide Will McLean Foundation's Best New Florida Song Contest for "Apalachicola Blues." That tune became the title track for Sternberg's second CD. That song and his "Forgotten Coast Blues" are on the soundtrack for the 2004 documentary *Apalachicola, Our Town*. The five boogie-woogies and eight originals on Sternberg's third CD, 2005's *Shout for Joy*, show a growing maturity in styling, songwriting and arranging. His fourth and most recent release is 2016's *Hidden Jewels*. Since 1990 Sternberg has been performing at retirement centers and nursing facilities, and now tours throughout north Florida twice a month entertaining these folks. As a music educator, Sternberg has performed in Artist-in-the-Schools residencies in 14 Florida school districts. He teaches private piano, saxophone and harmonica lessons in Tallahassee.

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



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- June 9 Barrel Room, Fort Myers
- June 15 George & Wendy's, Sanibel
- June 23 Slates, Cape Coral
- June 29 Nemo's, Cape Coral



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# David Leon

JUNE 20  
THE FISH HOUSE  
MIAMI

Cuban-American saxophonist, woodwinds player, and composer/improviser David Leon has

toured internationally as a core member of the chamber trio Sound Underground, releasing two albums to critical acclaim. His own trio #bicmnrosfulmfrenh, was recognized as the Best Small Ensemble by *Downbeat Magazine's* Student Music Awards. As the winner of the 2017 ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer's Award, Leon debuted a new quartet at the Newport Jazz Festival. His diverse musical output is pervaded by the exploration of nuance: in timbre by creatively manipulating technique, in pitch by tampering with temperament and microtonality, and in texture through creative chamber orchestration and improvisation. Born and raised in Miami, Leon discovered a love for music in his uncle's collection of global percussion instruments. After starting formal instruction on piano he found the saxophone by chance, and was accepted into the prestigious New World School of the Arts high school to study jazz. He quickly garnered national recognition from the National YoungArts Foundation, the GRAMMY Foundation, the ASCAP Foundation, Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Jazz Band of America. Leon graduated with a Bachelor of Music from UM's Frost School of Music, as a member of the cross-genre Henry Mancini Institute. In addition, he is a two-time alumni of the Kennedy Center's Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Program and the Banff Centre in Canada. He has had lasting mentorships with jazz artists Terence Blanchard, Jason Moran and

Ira Sullivan. Between performances, Leon also curates the Pro

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



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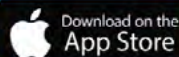
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with

# SHEBA THE MISSISSIPPI QUEEN

## SUNDAY, JUNE 17

2pm at High Springs Museum  
23760 NW 187th Ave, High Springs, FL

Hors d'oeuvres by Great Outdoors  
and The Diner

Recommended  
donation  
\$10 / person

Reservations  
required

*Jim Allen's  
Finger Lickin' Blues  
opens the show*



RESERVATIONS: [HighSpringsMusicinthePark.com](http://HighSpringsMusicinthePark.com)



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# Bill Wharton

Legendary performer (as chronicled in Jimmy Buffett's 1999 hit "I Will Play for Gumbo") Bill "Sauce Boss" Wharton brings his Florida slide guitar blues, his gumbo, and his own hot sauce to every multi-sensory performance. His show includes a culinary demonstration with audience stirring and sampling the gumbo. A powerhouse of energy, Wharton's been playing his unique brand of swamp-funk slide guitar for over half a century. On his 1989 New

Years Eve gig, Sauce Boss splashed a bottle of his Liquid Summer Hot Sauce into a huge pot of simmering gumbo, feeding the entire audience. 200,000+ bowls later, he's still feeding the masses for free at his shows. One morning in the early 1970s, The Sauce Boss walked out of his house and found a 1933 vintage National Steel guitar in his front yard. That led him down the blues path. His anthem, "Let the Big Dog Eat," sat atop the Roots Blues Charts for 12 weeks in 2016 with Albert Castiglia's cover. The tune was also in the movie *Something Wild* and on Jimmy Buffett's *Late Night Menu at the Margaritaville Cafe* album. AARP's syndicated TV show, *My Generation*, NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Morning Edition* have covered the Sauce Boss. CNN and EXTRA sent film crews to New York City Sauce Boss extravaganzas, and The Food Network's *Extreme Cuisine* visited the Sauce Boss on location. Wharton is the only personality that's been featured in *Living Blues*, *GQ* AND *Gourmet* Magazines. His latest CD is 2014's *100% Pure*. More at [sauceboss.com](http://sauceboss.com).



FROM A PHOTO BY ERIC ULASENKO

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**BO DIDDLEY PLAZA • GAINESVILLE**  
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# David Detweiler

Assistant Professor of Jazz Saxophone, David Detweiler joined the faculty at Florida State University in 2016 after serving as Director of Jazz Studies at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY. He has performed at many of New York City's premier live-music venues, including as The

JUNE 1  
B-SHARP'S JAZZ CAFE  
TALLAHASSEE



Blue Note, Birdland, The Knitting Factory and The Iridium. Detweiler has performed as a guest soloist with the United States Coast Guard Band, been a featured performer on B.E.T. on Jazz and the Austin Music Network with the swing band Jet Set Six, and performed on the soundtrack of the television show *Blue's Clues*. His first record as a leader, *New York Stories*, was recorded in Tallahassee with Leon Anderson, Clarence Seay, Chris Pattishall and Rick Lollar. Its followup, *The Dave Detweiler Trio featuring Fumi Tomita and Alex Patrick*, was released in 2015. Dr. Detweiler received the DMA degree from the Eastman School of Music in 2015 and the MM degree from Florida State University in 2010. He also studied at both the University of North Texas and William Paterson University, receiving the BM degree from William Paterson. His teachers include: Bill Dobbins, Charles Pillow, Ramon Ricker, Gary Smulyan, and Steve Wilson. Dr. Detweiler often identifies accomplished students to bring to B-Sharps, where they can work out their own styles and gain confidence. More at [daviddetweiler.com](http://daviddetweiler.com).

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# Beautiful Bobby Blackmon

JUNE 1 & 23  
SAN SEBASTIAN  
WINERY  
ST AUGUSTINE

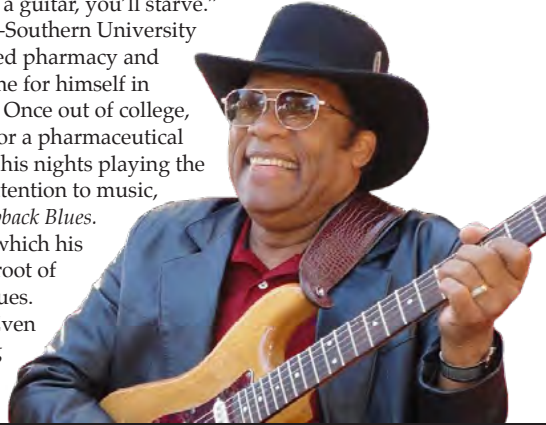
JUNE 2 & 16  
SIP  
LEESBURG

JUNE 10  
SUMMERFEST  
GRAPE STOMP  
LAKERIDGE WINERY  
CLERMONT

Ever since Bobby Blackmon was a teenager growing up in Athens, Texas, he was hooked on music, listening to B.B. King, Fats Domino and Chuck Berry. At 16, Blackmon talked his parents into buying him a guitar. He wanted to play Chuck Berry but the only song he really knew was, "Johnny B. Goode." "I played that one all the time," Blackmon said. "I drove the neighbors crazy." Before long, the kid had his own rock band and was getting gigs all over town. He wanted to play music full time but his grandmother told him, "If you think you can make a living with a guitar, you'll starve." So Blackmon went to Texas-Southern University in Houston. There he studied pharmacy and science while making a name for himself in blues clubs around the city. Once out of college, Blackmon began working for a pharmaceutical company. But he still spent his nights playing the

blues. He retired in 1998, and turned his full attention to music, releasing three CDs leading up to 2017's *Throwback Blues*.

To date, Blackmon has released three CD, on which his position is evident: "To me, the blues is at the root of all American music... it all comes out of the blues. That's why we have to keep the blues alive." Even at age 73, Blackmon shows no signs of slowing down. Find him on Facebook.





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# Walter “Wolfman” Washington

A mainstay on the New Orleans music scene, Walter “Wolfman” Washington cut his teeth backing up some of the best singers and performers in New Orleans history. Starting in the late 1960s, Washington toured and recorded with singer Johnny Adams, backed Adams on his long run of acclaimed albums on the

Rounder label. Washington’s group, The Roadmasters, has been burning up local and national stages since their first gigs in the 1980s. With a guitar style that blends R&B, blues, New Orleans funk, and modern jazz into a style that is uniquely his, Washington’s intricate and intimate Washington’s guitar work is complimented by his emotional and heartfelt vocals. There is a little Bobby Blue Bland, a little Kenny Burrell, a little George Benson, a little church, and a whole lotta New Orleans charm and experience in a Wolfman performance. The band is known for their soulful originals and distinctive covers of such gems as Johnny Guitar Watson’s “You Can Stay But That Noise Got To Go,” Otis Redding’s “Nobody’s Fault But Mine,” and Bill Withers’ “Use Me.” In this day and age of musicians imitating the past or trying to recreate it, The Wolfman stands out as a musician steeped in history but completely contemporary. At 74 years old, Washington is promoting his new record, *My Future Is My Past*, produced by Ben Ellman of Galactic. More at [walterwolfmanwashington.com](http://walterwolfmanwashington.com).

JUNE 7  
MATTY KELLY  
CULTURAL ARTS  
VILLAGE  
DESTIN

JUNE 9  
HIDEAWAY CAFE  
ST PETERSBURG

FROM A PHOTO BY JERRY MORAN



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# Leon Foster Thomas

**JUNE 18**  
**OPEN STAGE CLUB**  
**MIAMI**

A unique force in modern jazz, Leon Foster Thomas won the World Steelband Music

Festival's Soloist and Duet competitions in 2002 and 2004. He has worked with artists such as Hugh Masekela, Melton Mustafa, Vince Mendoza, Randy Brecker, Kevin Mahogany, Dolly Parton, Cyril Neville, and many more. A native of Trinidad and Tobago, Thomas credits his parents for his musical voice, and the local pan yards for his initial musical training. After graduating from secondary school in Trinidad, Leon received a scholarship to attend Florida Memorial University. In addition to graduating with a Bachelor of Music degree, he was also recognized as the Visual and Performing Arts Most Outstanding Student. He later obtained his Master in Music degree from Florida International University. With a growing discography and as a prominent figure in the Miami music scene, he has performed and recorded on jazz, Latin, rock, gospel and hip hop albums worldwide. His third and latest release, 2016's *Metamorphosis*, exemplifies his growth and maturation as a musician. Honing his in-depth talents as a musical storyteller, Leon has produced an album which perfectly illustrates his transformative journey. He continues to perform at various festivals and concerts around the world, as well as conducting clinics at various educational institutions on jazz, Caribbean music and the steel pan art form. More at [leonfosterthomas.com](http://leonfosterthomas.com).

