

**JAZZ & BLUES**  
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JUNE 2012

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES



**FEATURED ARTIST**

**LITTLE JAKE  
& THE SOUL  
SEARCHERS**



**ALBERT CASTIGLIA • DOUG CARN QUARTET • BOBBY RUSH  
PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND • MAGDA HILLER • BAD PLUS  
JOSH MILLER'S BLUES REVUE • DR. LONNIE SMITH • DAN MILLER  
LITTLE MOOKIE & THE HALF PINTS**

# Little Jake Mitchell

by Bob Weinberg

## BEFORE HE WAS OLD ENOUGH TO DRIVE,

Little Jake Mitchell had recorded for Chess Records and toured with B.B. King, James Brown and Jackie Wilson. He'd go on to play the Apollo, start his own record label and even open up a couple of nightclubs. But among the Tampa native's proudest achievements was his stand against segregation in Gainesville in 1960.

Still in high school, Mitchell was already an R&B star when he and his band, Little Jake & the Blenders, were invited to play the University of Florida's homecoming party, Gator Growl. "We were a very well-known group at that time," Mitchell relates by phone from Gainesville, where he returned to live in 2005. "We used to play all the frat houses. They were crazy about us. As a matter of fact, we were booked solid for two years."

But Mitchell, who had grown up in the projects of Tampa before moving to Gainesville, was fully aware that African Americans were not welcome at Gator Growl as guests. He wasn't having it. "I told them it wouldn't be but one way that I would perform," he says. "And that would be if they would open the door and let my people in. And they agreed to it, because we had a name and they wanted us. The student body had a lot to do with that. Anyway, they agreed to our terms, and they put 10,000 bleachers in the end zone at Florida Field. The doors were open."

Recalling that day, Mitchell still sounds exhilarated: "It was so great. I guess it was about 50,000 blacks that came. And then, in 1961, [African Americans] were able to come to Gator Growl."

For his role in desegregating Gator Growl, Mitchell was recognized by the Gainesville City Commission in 2010, who proclaimed May 6 as "Little Jake Mitchell Day." He was also honored during that year's Gator Growl.

Mitchell had been winning over audiences since he was old enough to climb on stage. From age five, he competed in—and routinely won—talent contests sponsored by the Holsum Bread Company. First prize was a dozen loaves of bread. Audiences delighted in hearing Little Jake growling impossibly grown-up tunes such as B.B. King's "Woke Up This Morning" and Amos Milburn's "Bad, Bad Whiskey."

Mitchell was just 12 years old when he traveled to Chicago to cut the single "Darling,



Darling Baby" for Chess in 1957. "They wanted me to be another Little Willie John or Frankie Lyman," he explains.

Among the many blues greats with whom he performed, count T-Bone Walker and B.B. King, the latter of whom he calls his "godfather." When King played Tampa's Howard W. Blake High School, he'd bring Little Jake on-stage and play behind him. King was so impressed with the young singer that he put him on his show. For about a month and half, Mitchell toured with B and the band—accompanied by a tutor, so he wouldn't forsake his schoolwork.

South Florida was also a frequent stop for Mitchell, who recalls performing at The Palms of Hallandale and at the Night Beat at the Sir John Hotel in Overtown. The Palms, he says, was like the Apollo, attracting top stars of the day. Of course, he'd go on to play the Apollo in 1965, on the same bill as James Brown and Jackie Wilson. Tampa DJ King Coleman brought him on-stage.

About that time, Mitchell moved to Detroit, where he recorded sizzling soul singles for Impact and the Philly-based Newtown labels before forming his own Golden Hit imprint. But the fortunes of the music business were changing, and from 1976 to 1990, he worked as an executive chef at the University of Bridgeport, while continuing to perform. "Cooking," he says, "was my second love." Still, his first love

# Little Jake Mitchell

beckoned, and when he returned to Tampa in 1990, he once again picked up the microphone full-time.

Upon returning to Gainesville, Mitchell reunited with saxophonist/manager Charlie Blade and other veteran players to form Little Jake & the Soul Searchers. The group, who play a jukebox's worth of classic soul music—including Mitchell's own "Not a Chance in a Million"—competed earlier this year at the semi-finals of the International Blues Competition in Memphis. And with bands like Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings and Amy Winehouse kicking off a soul revival in recent years, the timing for a Little Jake Mitchell "comeback" seems perfect.

What can audiences expect when Mitchell and his band hit the Arts Garage in Delray? "They're gonna be on fire, I'll tell you that," he predicts. "We're hyped up for it."



Little Jake Mitchell & the Soul Searchers perform at 8:00PM on June 16 at the Arts Garage in Delray Beach. Call 561-450-6357 or visit [Artsgarage.org](http://Artsgarage.org).



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**EARL'S HIDEAWAY, SEBASTIAN/JUNE 17**  
**DOWNTOWNER, FORT LAUDERDALE/JUNE 23**  
**BOSTON'S, BLUES FEST, DELRAY/JUNE 30**

Albert Castiglia shows plenty of stringbending love for his like-named predecessors—Albert King and Albert Collins—on his new recording, *Living the Dream*. From the opening riff of the title track to the saw-toothed texture of the slowburning “Walk the Backstreets,” Castiglia vibrantly updates the modern-blues idiom. The Miami-raised blues star nods to



other influences, as well, with deft reads of tunes by Freddie King, Little Richard and Paul Butterfield. Castiglia also honors Graham Wood Drouot, of Miami's Iko-Iko, not just with a cover of his “Sometimes You Win,” but in every note he sings, as well as in his Drouot-inspired lyrics. Another excellent disc by a cat named Albert. **BW**

**PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND**  
**CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH/JUNE 7**

Last year, Preservation Hall celebrated its 50th anniversary of presenting traditional jazz in the French Quarter of New Orleans. And nearly from the beginning, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band has taken its act on the road. Ben Jaffe, the son of the hall's founders, serves as the band's creative director and tuba player. The group's cultivated new audiences, thanks to teamups with the likes of Tom Waits, Dr. John and Ani Di Franco on its 2010 CD *Preservation*, and with bluegrass giant Del McCoury's band on last year's *American Legacies*. Along with trumpeter/vocalist Mark Braud, clarinetist/vocalist Charlie



Gabriel, trombonist Freddie Lonzo, pianist Rickie Monie, saxman/vocalist Clint Maedgen and drummer Joseph Lastie Jr., Jaffe will likely present the acoustic band's ample gospel influences. Expect readings of spirited classics like “I'll Fly Away” and “Just a Closer Walk With Thee,” as well as Big Easy staples like “When the Saints Go Marching In.” **BM**

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**THE BAD PLUS  
MINIACI PERFORMING ARTS CENTER,  
FORT LAUDERDALE/JUNE 9**

A fascinatingly perplexing acoustic jazz trio, The Bad Plus has blended original compositions with standards — rock standards — during its 10-plus-year recording career. Which has jazz traditionalists scratching their heads, at least until they hear pianist Ethan Iverson, bassist Reid Anderson and drummer Dave King. Most of today's pop songs lack the melodies of American Songbook material like "My Funny Valentine" (a Bad Plus live staple). But the Minneapolis-formed trio has breathed new air into unorthodox covers of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit," Blondie's "Heart of Glass," Black Sabbath's "Iron Man," Rush's "Tom Sawyer," Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb" and the Bee Gees' "How Deep is Your Love." Just when fans felt safe in predicting what pop classics would be interpreted next, the trio released the all-original *Never Stop* in 2010. Expect a mix of originals and surprises by The Bad Plus, as they close out the 2011-2012 South Florida JAZZ concert series season. **BM**



**MAGDA HILLER  
GENUINE BISTRO, DEBARRY/JUNE 15**

*(with Georgia Gottschalk)*  
**CAFE DA VINCI, DELAND/JUNE 22**  
*(with Diane Ward, Marianne Flemming & Jack Shawde)*  
**BOSTON'S, DELRAY/JUNE 30, JULY 1**

*(Solo & with Diane Ward, Marianne Flemming & Jack Shawde)*  
With her bluesy vocals, deft guitar playing and quirky humor, Magda Hiller charmed audiences all over South Florida before moving up to Deland. Hiller pens quite personal songs, as well as Florida-centric tales such as "Irene," a classic-sounding blues number about the hurricane of the same name. That tune can be heard on her 2006 recording *Icing on the Cake*, which includes contributions from wizardly guitarist



Jack Shawde and power-voiced singer-songwriter Diane Ward. Hiller reunites with Ward, Shawde and whimsical singer-songwriter Marianne Flemming for a few "in-the-round" type shows. They'll perform in Deland before heading to Delray for Boston's blues fest, at which Hiller will also perform solo. Visit [Bostonbluesfest.com](http://Bostonbluesfest.com). **BW**



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<b>Mar 3</b>	<b>Chick Willis</b>	
<b>Mar 9</b>	<b>Trampled Under Foot</b>	
<b>Mar 10</b>	<b>Rick Lollar</b>	
<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Karen Lovely</b>	
<b>Mar 16</b>	<b>Davina &amp; the Vagabonds</b>	
<b>Mar 17</b>	<b>Johnnie Marshall</b>	
<b>Mar 23</b>	<b>Sarasota Slim</b>	
<b>Mar 24</b>	<b>Larry Garner</b>	
<b>Mar 29</b>	<b>Bobby Messano</b>	
<b>Mar 30</b>	<b>Bill 'Sauce Boss' Wharton</b>	
<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>Joey Gilmore</b>	

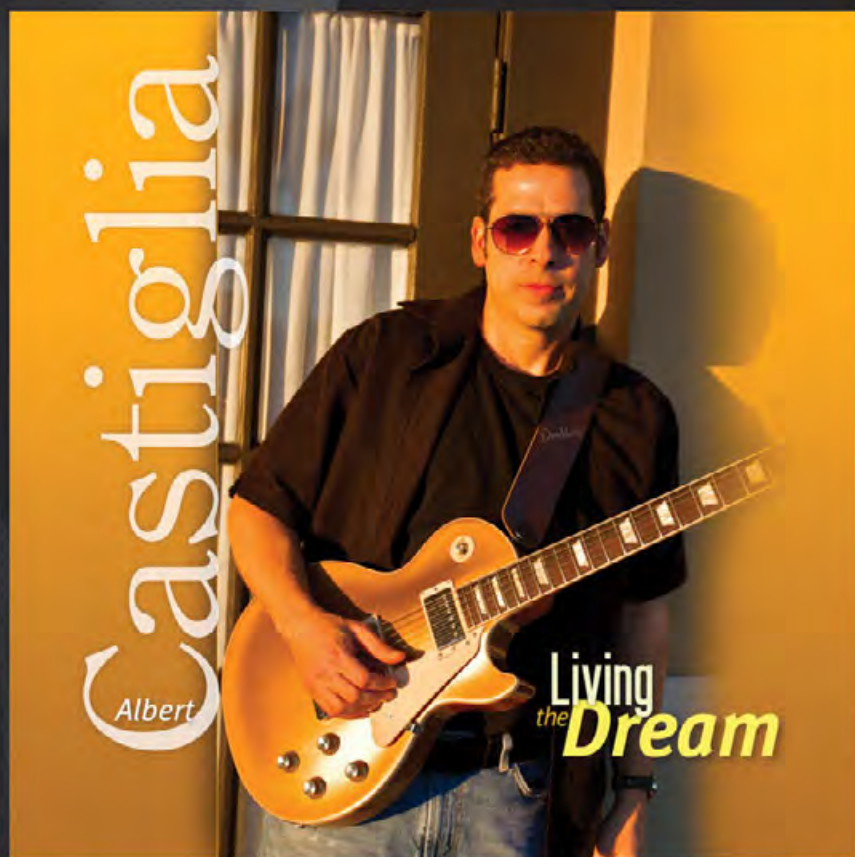
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# CD Release Parties

*See you at the Show...*



- Green Parrot Bar - Key West, FL - June 1, 2, & 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- Bamboo Room - Lake Worth, FL - June 8<sup>th</sup>**
- Buckingham Blues Bar - Buckingham, FL - June 9<sup>th</sup>**
- Bradfordville Blues Club - Tallahassee, FL - June 16<sup>th</sup>**
- Earl's Hideaway - Sebastian, FL - June 17<sup>th</sup>**
- Maxwell Room - Ft Lauderdale, FL - June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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## DAN MILLER

PHILHARMONIC CENTER, NAPLES/JUNE 7  
DAVIS ART CENTER, FORT MYERS/JUNE 14

Trumpeter Dan Miller's studies at the esteemed North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) paid off in an opportunity to join the Woody Herman Orchestra in 1989, which started a fortuitous career domino effect. From 1990 through 2000, Miller recorded and toured with Harry Connick Jr., Tom Jones, Wynton Marsalis and Maynard Ferguson. Since then, he's become a brass heavyweight on Florida's southwestern coast. On June 7, Miller teams with longtime *Saturday Night Live* saxophonist Lew Del Gatto, noted violinist Glenn Basham, popular Naples-



based guitarist/bassist Dan Heck and the Naples Philharmonic to perform a set of Count Basie classics. On June 14, they're joined by pianist Jerry Stawski, drummer Ron Hefner and vocalist Suzie Hulcher for the "Jazzin' It Up!" concert to benefit Footsteps to the Future, a mentoring program for young women in Lee and Collier counties. **BM**

## DOUG CARN QUARTET

ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/JUNE 9

Keyboardist Doug Carn is a rare Florida native who still lives in the Sunshine State (in his hometown of St. Augustine). The 63-year-old touring artist gained notoriety during the 1970s by crafting new arrangements of and lyrics to jazz classics by Wayne Shorter ("Infant Eyes," "Adam's Apple") and John Coltrane ("Naima," "Acknowledgment") on classic albums for the Black Jazz label. His wife, the ethereal-voiced Jean Carn, brought a crystalline beauty to those recordings, which also reimagined gems from the songbooks of McCoy Tyner, Horace Silver and Bobby Hutcherson. Carn's work as a teacher means he always has talented sidemen to play his creative



arrangements, whether originals or standards. And while the soulful keyboardist shelved his recording career in recent decades, he did play the role of the late, great organist Larry Young on drummer Cindy Blackman's 2010 CD *Another Lifetime* — her tribute to late drummer Tony Williams and his seminal Lifetime fusion band. **BM**

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| May 19 | Uproot Hootenanny         |
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## JOSH MILLER'S BLUES REVUE

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RIVERFRONT PARK, COCOA VILLAGE  
BLUES & BBQ/JUNE 9

Cocoa Beach blues guitarist and vocalist Josh Miller and his band held court at the former Cottage Pub for about five years. And if their live recording—recorded in 2007, but released last year—is any indication, they were keeping it as real as can be. Miller offers a jazzy guitar style perfectly suited to instrumental blues numbers such as “Back at the Chicken Shack” and “Chicago Breakdown,” both of which prominently feature James McKaba’s boogying piano, and credibly covers Jimmy Rogers’ “That’s Alright.” For



his revue-type show at Cocoa Village Blues & BBQ, the guitarist rounds up a roster of jazz and blues A-listers, including veteran South Florida saxophonist Ben Champion (Dizzy Gillespie, Jazzberry Patch), and Palm Bay-based organist Kenny Clarke and drummer Kostas Galanopolous. Visit [Cocovillagebbqandblues.com](http://Cocovillagebbqandblues.com). BW

## LITTLE MOOKIE & THE HALF PINTS RIVERFRONT PARK, COCOA VILLAGE BLUES & BBQ/JUNE 9

Winter Park bluesman Little Mookie Hobbs boasts a vintage guitar sound and yowling vocals well-suited to classic jump blues and early R&B. And no wonder. Among his influences, he cites everyone from Gatemouth Brown and Pee Wee Crayton to Junior Watson and Little Charlie Baty, although he adds a decided edge to his interpretations. As indicated by tracks such as “Cut off the Fat” and “Lizabeth,” both of which can be heard on his Myspace page — or any of his energetic performances captured on YouTube



— Hobbs is clearly a student of the form. And he can help you with your form, as well: The guitarist’s also a PGA Pro Golf Instructor. Hobbs’ own backswing is frequently assisted on-stage by veteran drummer and vocalist Scott Hazen. Visit [Cocovillagebbqandblues.com](http://Cocovillagebbqandblues.com). BW

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**BOBBY RUSH**  
**BOSTON'S, BLUES FEST, DELRAY/JUNE 30**

Bobby Rush is notorious for his R-rated stage show, complete with gyrating booty dancers and lascivious lyrics delivered with a leer. Of course, Rush and his band are also consummate musicians. While the veteran showman has been nominated for Blues Music Awards for Entertainer of the Year a dozen times, this year, the BMAs recognized his 2011 release *Show You a Good Time* as Soul Blues Album of the Year. Deeply funky, and quite funny, the recording finds the singer in fine form as he regales listeners with naughty narratives. A native Louisianian, Rush made inroads



in the Chicago blues world of the 1960s. But his greatest fame came with his 1971 single "Chicken Heads," a lightning-grooved, dirty-talking hit that set the template for what he's come to call "folk-funk." The documentary *Standing the Test of Time* tells his tale and states the case. Visit [Bostonsbluesfest.com](http://Bostonsbluesfest.com). **BW**

**DR. LONNIE SMITH TRIO**  
**ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/JUNE 23**

Dr. Lonnie Smith's career appears to be on an upward spiral as he approaches his 70th birthday in July. The Hammond organ master's latest Palmetto Records release, 2010's *Spiral*, featured his trio with guitarist Jonathan Kreisberg and drummer Jamire Williams. That trio will also be featured on *The Healer Live*, the good doctor's first recording for his own Pilgrimage Productions, due later this summer. Born in upstate New York, Smith earned his induction into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame as a member of guitarist George Benson's famed mid-1960s quartet (appearing on the classic recordings *It's Uptown* and *Cookbook*) and with his



own string of late-'60s Blue Note gems (*Think!*, *Turning Point*, *Move Your Hand*). An ever-animated, inimitable keyboard stylist, the perpetually turbaned Smith will be joined at the Arts Garage by South Florida all-stars Randall Dollahan on guitar and James Martin on drums. **BM**

**Katt Hefner**  
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 6/23 Arts on the Allegheny Murtha Amphitheater, Kittanning

**KATT HEFFNER**  
 6/2, 9 & 30  
 with Billy Marcus/Matt Bokulic on keys  
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*Gary Duchaine, Drums*

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All sessions taught by Society members, with an emphasis on style and improvisation. Learn jazz standards, jam session protocol, jazz theory and more.

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## SATURDAY JAZZ MARKET

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8am-1pm along the Indian River waterfront in Ft. Pierce  
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## JAZZ JAMS

Tuesdays - June 5, 12, 19 & 26 - 7-10pm  
Sunrise Theatre Black Box, Ft. Pierce - \$5 cover - Cash bar  
Alt. Wednesdays - June 13 & 27 - 6:30-9:30pm  
Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens - \$3 cover - Wine & beer



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Anthony Corrado & Lourdes Valentin

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