



JAZZ & BLUES
FLORIDA
AUGUST 2016
FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURED ARTIST

**Kim Reteguiz
& The Black Cat Bones**

JAZZ

PHILL FEST

TAL COHEN

PETER & WILL ANDERSON

ISAAC BYRD, JR.

PAMELA WILLIAMS

LYLE LOVETT

BLUES

ALLEN-LAMUN BAND

WENDY RICH

ERIC STECKEL

MARKEY BLUE

KELLIE RUCKER

BETTY FOX BAND



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Kim Reteguiz & Th

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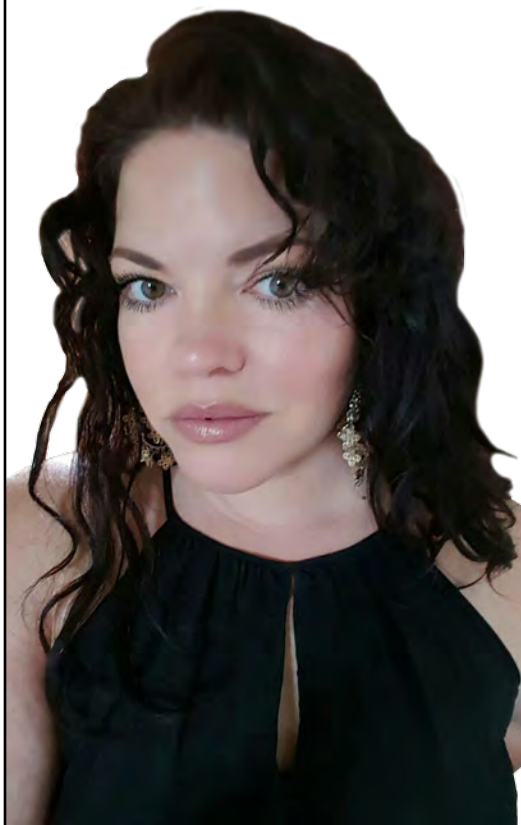
"I always hear that blues should always be standard 1-4-5, or 12 bar blues, or that women shouldn't be playing the blues at all," says Kim. "But blues music should be the one thing that connects us as Americans no matter what, because it's music that originated here. America is a big place with a lot of flavor and a lot of different influences from every corner. I don't make my red beans the same way they do in New Orleans or Detroit... I don't even call them red beans. I call them habichuelas, but it's still red beans! So why would my blues be the same as what you hear in the Delta? It's impossible because then I would have to pretend to be someone I'm not. We need that connection right now, especially in light of what our country is going through today. When you listen to foreign news, you hear about how racist America is and how much we hate each other because of our differences. But those differences are what make us beautiful. When I am sharing the stage with everyone in the band, it's a snapshot of this country's diversity. It's the result of centuries of cultural and racial evolution, and so is our style of blues. The blues is your personal experience, your stories, emotions and feelings. It's not a formula, it's who you are. If it was all the same it would be really boring."

"The blues isn't a formula... it's who you are."

The Black Cat Bones are far from boring. There are elements of blues, Latin fusion, funk and soul to their music that draw you in and make you beg for more. "My roots are from Puerto Rico but early in my life I was so heavily influenced by Bessie Smith that I knew I was destined to have a wide variety of musical tastes," Reteguiz added. "Growing up in Florida you

get the swamp, you get the Allman Brothers, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Mofro, and then you get the Latin players, and this is who we are. "

The Bones are about as diverse a group to share one stage as they come. Kim explains: "Randall is Jewish, Bernard is black, Omar is Puerto Rican, Eves is a NuYoRican, Jared is a preppy white kid, and Shawn is from Alabama. If we'd had this mix earlier in the 20th century, we probably wouldn't have been allowed to play anywhere! But now, who cares? It may sound a little bit arrogant, but this is my chance to share this music with people. We are this big melting pot, and all we have is each other." Laughing, Bell says, "We're not the likeliest of bandmates, but the music we're writing and recording has a feel that is so strong, so powerful, that it's like we



e Black Cat Bones

“It’s my chance to share this music with people.”

were meant to come together and take this to the next level. And that’s what we want to do.”

With their first CD, *Leavin’*, soon to be released, the Black Cat Bones have found a recipe for a hybrid blues sound that will make them a main attraction wherever they play. Kim’s intense vocals; the horns of Jarell Harris, Sean Etheridge and Will Neal; the Greatful Dead-inspired guitar play of Jared Bell; the multi-level percussion of Omar Torres, Dorian Lopez and Kent McKinney; Shawn Pfaffman on the Hammond Leslie; Eve Rojas on back-

ing vocals; and Randall Keith on slide and Dobro combine for a uniquely flavorful sound.

Kim has high hopes for the Black Cat Bones and for herself personally. A crowning achievement thus far in her early career has been the creation of an annual event: Women Who Rock... The Blues. Now in its second year, the event takes place August 13 and will feature great blues acts all fronted by women. Having had musical scholarships pay her way through college, Reteguiz, along with Cat McWilliams, have created a scholarship through the event that will use this annual platform to give back to aspiring female musicians entering their first year of college. Definitely a worth cause. More at kimbcb.com.

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Phill Fest

**AUGUST 5
PALLADIUM THEATER
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WITH NATE NAJAR**

Born in Minneapolis and currently residing in Florida, Phill Fest grew up in a musical family. His father is a recording artist and his mother a composer and music instructor. Phill was exposed to Brazilian and American Jazz right from the start: "I remember hanging with Sergio Mendez backstage many times as a kid," he says. His father, Manfredo Fest, was the keyboardist and music director for Bossa Rio, the opening act for Brasil '66 for three years. Phill started guitar

at age 16. Having already studied clarinet and violin, the six-string came easy. He performed for five years with Deeforce, an all original eclectic rock 'n' roll band that won best original band of Florida 1993-1994 at the Florida Jammy Awards. Phill recorded four CDs with his father between 1991 and 1996, but his only solo release to date is 1995's *Acoustic Shores*. At the 1996 Bay Area Music Awards Phill won "Best Jazz Artist." For the remainder of the 1990s, Phill toured with performers including the Hendrik Muerkens Samba Jazz Quintet and Brazilian vocalist Maria Creuza. His 2001 relocation to South Florida was just what the doctor ordered. He has since performed with a lengthy list of area favorites, and in the 2005 Phill formed formed 'The Shop', a power trio specializing in everything from Brazilian jazz to funk-rock fusion, with drummer Brian Lutz and bassist Russ Howard. Phill also performs with Terezinha Valois as the P.T. Crusin' Band. More at phillfest.com.



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Kellie Rucker

AUGUST 15
TALL PAUL'S
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AUGUST 27
BRADFORDVILLE
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TALLAHASSEE

She stands a mere five feet tall, but don't let her tiny stature fool you, Kellie Rucker is a very big talent. Over the course of a professional career that has spanned more than 25 years, Kellie Rucker has appeared with such legends as Dizzy

Gillespie, Stephen Stills, Albert Collins, James Cotton, ZZ Top, Warren Zevon, Little Feat and B.B. King. Her four CDs – *Ain't Hit Bottom*, *Church of Texas*, *Kellie Rucker*, *In the Meantime* and the compilation *Blues is Blues* – showcase her powerful voice and command of the blues harp. Her work can also be found on discs by other disparate artists, television commercials and film in the US and Europe. Born in Oklahoma City, Rucker took up the harmonica at the age of twelve, and as a teen had the habit of sneaking into blues clubs. At age 17, she moved to Denver, then the Florida Keys, before heading to California, where she met famed blues guitarist Debbie Davies. She and Davies formed a band that toured the west coast for over two years. As her harmonica playing evolved, Rucker sought to expand her musical horizons.

Upon catching the attention of noted electric blues guitarist, B.B. Chung King, she was invited to join his band, The Screaming Buddhaheads, with whom she recorded and toured for over five years. Not one to rest on her laurels, Kellie has returned to Florida once more, and can now be seen adding to various blues-based ensembles.

More at reverbnation.com/kellierucker.




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AUG 21 LITTLE MIKE & THE TORNADES

AUG 28 KAT RIGGINS BAND

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Isaac Byrd, Jr.

AUGUST 6
SIMS PARK
AMPITHEATER
NEW PORT RICHEY

Taking what he calls an unorthodox approach to the trumpet, Isaac Byrd Jr. and uses his instrument to paint a picture and tell a story. Playing what he has branded as "the sultry trumpet like no other," the multi-talented Jacksonville-based artist shares a wide spectrum of emotions on his latest CD, *Life*. Of his growth as an artist since his first album, *Beginnings*,

Byrd explains, "I had a tendency before to be a little more of a perfectionist and now am more comfortable drawing from my emotions. As people have become more encouraging over the years, I feel I am more comfortable now sharing my gift, and my musical heart and soul with people." Byrd brings a rich and dynamic history as a jazz performer to his emergence in the contemporary urban jazz world. While he was influenced by trumpet greats like Wynton Marsalis and Terence Blanchard, he draws his rhythmic flair from the pianists and saxophonists he grew up admiring, from John Coltrane and Charlie Parker to Keith Jarrett and Brad Mehldau. While attending FSC-Jacksonville, he started a band called Project Funk as a drummer, which put a unique funk-fusion spin on jazz standards. When this ensemble evolved into the more crowd pleasing, pop/R&B oriented Tribe Judah, Byrd chose his other instrument, the trumpet, as his lead voice. And while the trumpet remains his voice as an artist, Byrd, a member of the Jacksonville Jazz Society, still plays drums in the worship band at church on Sunday. More at isaacbyrdjrmusic.com.





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Markey Blue

AUGUST 9-10
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The Nashville-based duo of Markey and Ric Latina have a combined performing/touring history that reads like a “who’s who” of the entertainment industry. By the time Markey turned to music as her full-time artistic outlet, she had become one of the country’s top female impressionists. Once on the blues path, Markey was quickly selected to perform with the likes of Taj Mahal, Walter Trout, Delbert McClintock and Bobby “Blue” Bland — before joining with Latina to form Markey Blue. Latina has a longstanding reputation as an inspired studio and stage guitarist, as well as a songwriter and studio craftsman. Besides his session credits, his extensive performing/touring history includes Waylon Jennings, Hank Williams III, Clint Black, Kirk Whalum and Rhonda Vincent, to name but a few. In late 2012, they two found themselves booked separately on the same show at a small theater in Tennessee. Afterward, Latina suggested they join forces. The Markey Blue band was formed, and the duo soon gathered a local following. Their first album, *Hey Hey*, was released at No. 1 on the Debut Blues Chart, and held other impressive chart positions. The band, as well as the CD, were nominated for numerous awards and honors. With three songs picked up for TV placement from their new album, *The Blues are Knockin’*, Markey Blue takes an exploratory drive through the different worlds of blues. The album explores Delta, Texas, Memphis, Kansas City, rock and a touch of soul. More at markeyblue.com.



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Peter & Will Anderson

AUGUST 4
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CORAL GABLES

Described by *The New York Times* as "virtuosos on clarinet and saxophone," and known for their exciting arrangements of American jazz classics and fresh original music, Peter and Will Anderson were selected from an international group of teenagers for Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead, the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra, and NFAA Young Arts. Endorsees of Selmer saxophones and D'Addario reeds, Peter and Will attended Juilliard in New York City, where they currently reside. They've headlined at The Blue Note, Jazz at Lincoln

Center, The Kennedy Center, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, and many others. Their ensemble has performed across the US and Japan, and was featured four times in NYC's famed "Highlights in Jazz" series, alongside legends Lou Donaldson, Paquito D'Rivera, and Wycliffe Gordon. "Le Jazz Hot" produced, written, and starring the Andersons, was nominated for the 2014 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Revue. Peter and Will's fourth and most recent release album is 2015's *Deja Vu*, featuring Albert "Tootie" Heath. Joined by guitarist Alex Wintz, the Peter and Will Anderson Jazz Trio CAP 2016 Summer Concert Series concert will be one delicious evening of music from the American Songbook with other delectable classics and originals. The brothers will also conduct an open master class, Friday, August 5 at 10:00am. More at peterandwillanderson.com.



WOMEN WHO ROCK THE BLUES

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Sept 3 Englewood's on Dearborn, *Englewood*

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Betty Fox

AUGUST 5
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AUGUST 10 & 24
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AUGUST 13
MOJO KITCHEN
JACKSONVILLE
BEACH

AUGUST 19
COPPERHEAD'S
TAPHOUSE
SAFETY HARBOR

AUGUST 20
NAPLES BEACH
HOTEL

With an extensive background in gospel and a lifelong passion for soul music, Betty Fox has come a long way from her southern roots to headlining festivals and captivating thousands with her raw swagger and unwavering talent. Now the 2016 International Blues Challenge Finalist is proving herself a force to be reckoned with. Her family had a deep love for southern country gospel and tight harmonies, and that is where her affinity for

music began. "My uncle Fred would pound on the keys with his monster hands while my rather large family and I would all gather around the piano. My grandmother would stand behind me and my cousins would hold my hands as we all sang four and five part harmonies." After honing her craft for 20 years, her debut album, *Too Far Gone*, put her on the international map as a songwriter and vocalist and had blues magazine critics singing her praises. Her sophomore release, *Slow Burn*, was released about a year ago, and continues to earn rave reviews and full houses. Betty's band consists of Barry Williams on bass, Tony Cintron on drums, and a rotation of choice guitar players (Josh Nelms, Steve Laudicina, Matt Walker and Ed Wright). In the past year the group has surged into the Florida spotlight, playing multiple notable music festivals in the US and abroad while opening for artists such as Mavis Staples, Jimmy Thackery, Marcia Ball, Southern Hospitality and The Meter Men. More at bettyfox.net.



- AUG 3** **DEAD 27s**
- AUG 6** **PAXTON NORRIS BAND**
- AUG 12-13** **TYLER MAC**
- AUG 15** **HEAVY DROP CD RELEASE**
- AUG 21 & 23** **DAVE JORDAN**
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SATURDAY Marcia Ball • Joe Louis Walker • Willie Green
Alvin Youngblood Hart's Muscle Theory • Delgado Bros • Tas Cru

SUNDAY Victor Wainwright & The WildRoots • Tinsley Ellis
Sugaray Rayford Band • Paul Deslauriers Band
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Pamela Williams

**AUGUST 14
TPEPIN'S
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CENTRE, TAMPA
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SOLDIERS, INC.**

Dubbed "the Saxtress" after the title of her debut record, Pamela Williams is one of the most popular performers on today's smooth jazz scene. Her talents

were nurtured by the rich musical heritage of Philadelphia, and one of her earliest influences was the late Grover Washington Jr., whose cutting-edge blend of styles first inspired Williams' interest in jazz. Pamela has toured extensively with Patti LaBelle and Teena Marie, and has worked with notables including Babyface, Sheila E, the Ohio Players, Barry White and Queen Latifah. She's recently performed as a solo featured artist with John Legend, Toni Braxton, Eric Benet and George Benson, among others. A multi-talented recording artist, composer and producer who plays flute and piano in addition to the saxophone, Pamela made her solo debut in 1996 with *The Saxtress*. The album lingered on the Billboard Contemporary Jazz Album chart for five months (peaking in the Top 10) while earning her their Best Female Contemporary Jazz Artist of the Year award. On each of her ten CDs to date, Williams exhibits a stylish blend of Latin, jazz, funk, R&B, hip-hop and house.

An accomplished painter, Pamela's

artwork also reflects this melange of influences. Her dynamic sound and captivating stage presence continue to electrify audiences. More at pamelawilliamsthesaxtress.com.



PHOTO BY TRACY LOVE

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AUGUST 6
BRADFORDVILLE BLUES CLUB
TALLAHASSEE

Allen-Lamun Band



The Allen-Lamun Band is fronted by the husband-and-wife team of Dave Allen and “Little Laura” Lamun, lifelong music business vets who joined efforts in 2007. Dave sings lead, plays harmonica, and contributes percussion and rhythm guitar – and on the studio releases he plays all the drum tracks. Laura is the other lead singer – a tiny-but-mighty force with a three-octave range. The band adapts from an eight-piece format down to five, and their music is perfect for any size venue, though they are particularly well-suited to festivals with their audience participation, dynamic energy and lively set list. From traditional blues standards to James Brown funk, their variety and diversity keep audiences of all types happy, including blues purists and rock fans alike. This band has a special sound with a twist: a unique duet vocal that is a rarity in the blues genre, with lots of harmony. The perfect pairing of the two singers’ voices has been compared to Delaney and Bonnie, or Johnny and June. Laura’s experience as lead performer in numerous rock musicals just adds to the richness of their blend. Plus, these singer/songwriters know how to write a song that stays in your head all day. Based in Nashville, the band features some of Music City’s finest blues musicians. They’re hard at work on their third album, the follow-up to 2015’s *Maybe It’s a Good Thing*. With their upcoming release they hope to feature more of the Nashville blues scene’s best and brightest. More at allenlamunband.com.

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Friday Night
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littlemikeandthetornadoes.com

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Tal Cohen

Tal Cohen's unique piano style owes its roots to the Jewish folk songs and classical music he played in his formative years growing up in Israel. After moving to Australia at the age of 16, Tal completed a bachelor degree, honours and masters in jazz performance. He

AUGUST 1
OPEN STAGE CLUB
CORAL GABLES
MIAMI JAZZ COOP

began performing nationally in 2010, leading to a performance at the Melbourne Jazz Festival in a quartet

that featured highly acclaimed New York drummer Ari Hoenig, along with Australia's Jamie Oehlers on saxophone and Sam Anning on bass. The group went on to record *Smoke and Mirrors*, which was nominated for two Australian Bell awards and won Rhythms magazine's Album of the Year award. *Yellow Sticker*, Tal's 2011 debut release as a leader (with acclaimed Australian musicians Jamie Oehlers, Chris Tarr and Pete Jeavons), consisted largely of originals. The album enjoyed an enthusiastic reception and the Australian newspaper gave it an impressive four-star review. Tal attended the UM Frost School of Music as part of the Henry Mancini Institute, completing his Master's degree under the mentorship of Martin Bejerano. Tal was named winner of 2014's prestigious Barry Harris Jazz Piano Competition and received the 2015 Freedman Jazz Fellowship. For the Freedman award, Tal's winning entry comprised a collaboration between American and Australian musicians. Most recently, Tal has been touring internationally with the Jamie Oehlers Quartet, and in Costa Rica with his Tal Cohen Quartet. More at talcohen.com.



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Wendy Rich

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IBC COMPETITION

AUGUST 22
TALL PAUL'S
GAINESVILLE

A native Texan, Wendy Rich joined her first band at the age of 13. For several years she focused on rock music, playing in clubs in the Houston area and dabbling in recording. She formed her first blues band, Wendy & the Kingpins, just before relocating to the Tampa area in 1990. Upon her arrival in Florida, Wendy established herself quickly with her band Wendy & the Soulshakers, becoming a mainstay in the regional club and festival circuit. Over the years her band has traveled up and down the east coast, as well as to Europe, while self-producing four CDs. In 2000 Wendy began a stint as front person for the legendary Janis Joplin's original

band Big Brother & the Holding Company. She performed with them throughout the US and Europe through 2004, and still occasionally appears with them. Although it had been recorded earlier, Wendy's release, Driver, featuring Delbert McClinton's stellar band Dick50, was released in 2015. Its "Brand New Addiction" is currently riding the blues charts. It's All Nothing, was released earlier this year, shortly after she was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame. Wendy holds down the Sunday afternoon jam at The Fisherman's Shack in Hudson. The place, the people and the music are as 'Florida' as you'll find anywhere (and on the JazzBluesFlorida favorites list). But come August 14 Wendy and the band will be participating in the Suncoast Blues Society's Regional International Blues Challenge competition at Ace's in Bradenton. More at wendyrichmusic.com.



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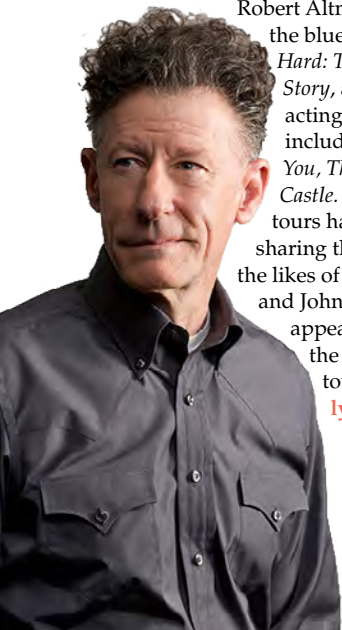
Lyle Lovett

AUGUST 20
FLORIDA THEATER
JACKSONVILLE

While typically associated with the country genre, Lyle Lovett's compositions defy categorization. On

any one album, you're likely to discover jazz, blues, swing, folk and/or gospel music, along with more traditional country & Western styling. That unique mixture has earned him four GRAMMY Awards. According to *Esquire* magazine, "The secret of Lyle Lovett's endurance comes down to the three C's: class, charisma and consistency... gracefully matching genuine songcraft with A-list musicianship." Although his eponymous debut received top-notch reviews and placed five singles in the Country Top 40, Lovett's cult following didn't spill over into the mainstream until his second album, 1988's *Pontiac*. To support *Pontiac*, he assembled His Large Band, a modified big band complete with guitars, a cellist, a pianist, horns, and a gospel-trained backup singer. Lovett recorded his third album, *Lyle Lovett and His Large Band*, with his touring band. Three CDs later, 1996's *The Road to Ensenada* won the GRAMMY for Best Country Album. It was followed by a two-disc covers set, a live album, movie soundtracks, and five more albums including his most recent CD, 2012's *Release Me*. Lovett has acted in a number of movies, including five

Robert Altman films and the blues spoof *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story*, and his TV acting appearances include *Mad About You*, *The Bridge* and *Castle*. While recent tours have found him sharing the stage with the likes of Vince Gill and John Hiatt, this appearance brings the Large Band to town. More at lylelovett.com.



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AUGUST 9
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Eric Steckel

After years on the European festival and concert circuit, Eric Steckel is back with a new record, *Black Gold*. His most diverse collection to date, fans of vintage guitar rock will feel right at home. From soft, dynamic blues ballads to heavy, low-tuned rock anthems, Eric's signature guitar style is front and center.

No pedals, samples or drum machines. No apologies for turning it up to 11. The Eric Steckel Band's debut CD,

A Few Degrees Warmer, was recorded live in April 2002 when Eric was just 11 years old. Performing at the 2003 Sarasota Blues Festival, Eric was introduced by John Mayall as the youngest guitarist ever on stage with the Bluesbreakers. Eric left a lasting impression on Mayall and, in 2004 Mayall invited Eric to The Bluesbreakers' Scandinavian Tour. Eric subsequently joined Mayall for session work on the Road Dogs record. Eric released a series of quality records beginning with *Havana*, a live CD that recalled the sound of the '60s and '70s blues/rock era. Its follow-up, the Allman Brothers-influenced *Feels Like Home*, leaned more toward the blues. Later, Eric's quest to infuse the soul of the blues into a modern day rock record led him to the powerful sound of his *Milestone* CD. 2012 brought the critically acclaimed *Dismantle the Sun*, A meat-and-potatoes blues/rock project combining Eric's guitar prowess with soulful Hammond B3. Now with *Black Gold*, Eric is exploring the geyser of inspiration that is the blues. More at ericsteckel.com.



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