

# JAZZ & BLUES

MARCH 2018



F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE:  
BLUES ARTIST

LITTLE  
FREDDIE  
KING



## JAZZ ARTISTS

ALEXIS COLE  
STEVE DAVIS  
LOSTON HARRIS  
JOYCE MORENO  
DAFNIS PRIETO

## BLUES ARTISTS

ALTERED FIVE  
THORNETTA DAVIS  
JONN DEL TORO RICHARDSON  
HURRICANE RUTH  
STABRO MUSIC COMPANY  
CECE TENEAL

# LITTLE FRED

MARCH 10  
BONITA BLUES FEST  
BONITA SPRINGS

Born Fread Eugene Martin in McComb, Mississippi in 1940, Little Freddie King grew up

playing alongside his blues guitar-picking father (Jessie James Martin), then rode the rails to New Orleans at the age of 14. Along the way he crossed paths with itinerant South Louisiana blues man such as "Poka-Dot" Slim and "Boogie" Bill Webb, whose unique styles would influence his own.

Honing his guitar chops at notorious joints like the Bucket of Blood (which he later immortalized in song), he performed on both acoustic and electric guitar with pals Babe Stovall, Slim Harpo and Champion Jack Dupree. King also played bass for Freddy King during one of the guitarist's stints in New Orleans. People began comparing the two musicians' styles, hence Martin's stage moniker.

His mid-'60s recording debut – an unreleased session for Booker/Invicta Records – is one that lives on in blues infamy. King's actual debut was a 1971 LP, unofficially titled *Rock N Roll Blues*, on which he shared billing with his bandmate John S.

"Harmonica" Williams.

King stayed busy

playing area clubs, and even

toured

Europe

with Bo

Diddley

and

John Lee

Hooker in

1976. But alcohol

just kept

getting

in the

way, even

after a 1986

altercation with his wife ended with five bullets in King's stomach, dangerously close to his spine. Another brush with mortality a few years later finally did the trick and, with his drinking years behind him, King began to find his professional footing again.

It was to be almost three decades from King's debut to the release of his second recording – *Swamp Boogie* in 1996. He put a band together, starting with bassist Anthony Anderson and drummer "Wacko" Wade Wright. Both white, Anderson and Wright had played together since the segregated high-school dances of the late 1950s and later backed some of the city's R&B singers, black and white alike. Completing the group was harmonica player Bobby Lewis DiTullio.

*Sing Sang Sung*, released in 2000, is a greasy live set that documented more New Orleans street poetry like "Bad Chicken" and the "Bucket of Blood." Reviewing the disc

for *Offbeat Magazine*, blues writer Robert Fontenot described the Little Freddie phenomenon: "It ain't pretty... you can practically smell the Chinese food and chicken coming from Chun King... the slop bucket wheeze put out on his cover of King Curtis's 'Soul Twist' is potent enough to

turn George W. Bush into the Godfather of Soul.

It's that country and that ghetto."

Following his wife's 2002 death, from brain damage resulting from a vicious attack during a robbery of their home, King would experience further tragedy when Hurricane Katrina took everything he owned. Landing in Dallas, he channeled his turbulent emotions into 2005's *You Don't Know What I Know*.





# EDDIE KING

But in 2007 Wright surprised King with a visit to his new duplex apartment in Musicians' Village, a post-Katrina housing development in the Upper Ninth Ward. Wright had worked with Habitat for Humanity to secure one of a handful of rental units set aside for elder musicians. That year King released *The Mighty Flood* with his good friend Alabama Slim.

*Messin' Around tha House* in 2008 found King's blues now flavored with hip-hop, showing a willingness to expand beyond the blues horizon. The 2010 live release *Gotta Walk with Da King* was followed two years later by *Chasing tha Blues*, which won Best Blues Album at the 12th Annual Independent Music Awards. 2015 saw the release of *Messin' Around tha Living Room*, along with King's appearance in the documentary film *I Am The Blues*.

A bicycle collision late last year led to two sprained wrists, a sprained right shoulder,

and a compressed spinal cord that led to temporary paralysis in both arms. But the determined King has never let anything get in his way. Diligent attention to therapy means he's currently performing – with new bassist Scott Craver – in support of his latest release, 2017's live CD, *You Make My Night*. It's another shot of King's authentic Mississippi Delta juke-joint blues. Oh, and don't miss him in Beyonce's "Lemonade" video.

"He's one of the last of the blues generation to migrate to New Orleans" — refugees from rural poverty who formed "a subterranean subculture of downhome Mississippi," says Jim O'Neal, founding editor of *Living Blues* and research director of the Mississippi Blues Trail. "He represents the roots and rawness that's missing from a lot of blues today — or what passes for blues. He's the real thing." More at [littlefreddieking.com](http://littlefreddieking.com).

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# Dafnis Prieto

From Cuba, Dafnis Prieto's revolutionary drumming techniques and compositions have had a powerful impact on the Latin and jazz music scene, nationally and internationally. His many awards include a 2011 MacArthur Fellowship Award, Up & Coming Musician of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association in 2006, a 2006 Grammy nomination for *Absolute Quintet* as Best Latin Jazz Album, and a Latin Grammy Nomination for Best New Artist in 2007. A gifted educator, Prieto conducts master classes, clinics and workshops around the world. After serving on the faculty of Jazz Studies at NYU for ten years, Prieto became a faculty member of Frost School of Music at the University of Miami in 2015. Since his stateside arrival in 1999, Dafnis has worked in bands led by Henry Threadgill, Steve Coleman, Eddie Palmieri, Chico and Arturo O'Farrill, and Chucho Valdez, among many others. He has performed at numerous music festivals as a sideman and as a bandleader. As a composer, he has created music for dance, film, chamber ensembles, and for his own bands, ranging from duets to his Small Big Band, and including the distinctively different groups featured on his six acclaimed recordings as a leader: *About The Monks*, *Absolute Quintet*, *Taking The Soul For a Walk*, *Si o Si Quartet-Live at Jazz Standard*, *Dafnis Prieto Proverb Trio and Triangles and Circles*. He has received commissions, grants, and fellowships, and is the founder of the independent music company Dafnison Music. More at [dafnisonmusic.com](http://dafnisonmusic.com).



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# Hurricane Ruth

MARCH 9  
FRIENDLY CONFINES  
ORLANDO

MARCH 10  
BONITA BLUES FEST  
BONITA SPRINGS

Ruth LaMaster earned her “Hurricane” nickname because people had difficulty believing that her powerhouse vocals could be coming out of such a small woman.

Growing up in Beardstown, Illinois, her father’s Glendale Tavern was her music school. “The bar featured live blues, jazz, and all kinds of music. My dad was a drummer. At age three, I was sitting on his lap keeping time on the ride cymbal, while he played during Sunday jam sessions,” LaMaster recalls. LaMaster has performed with John Lee Hooker, B.B. King, Willie Dixon, Taj Mahal, the Ramsey Lewis Trio, Sam & Dave, Fenton Robinson, Maynard Ferguson, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Royal Southern Brotherhood, and Ronnie Baker Brooks. Her vocals are deeply rooted in traditional blues, but she can also rock the house. LaMaster has opened for Heart, Judas Priest and Joan Jett, to name but a few. An International Blues Challenge participant in 2012, her debut, *The Power of the Blues... Feels Like A Hurricane* was released that same year. It was followed two years later by *Born on the River*, comprised of all original tunes – LaMaster wrote all the lyrics, and all four band members are credited with the music. The four-song EP *Winds of Change* was released in 2015. LaMaster is currently touring in support of 2017’s excellent *Ain’t Ready For The Grave*. Blues great Willie Dixon, once called her “the only hurricane I can appreciate.” Don’t miss this force of nature when she hits Florida this month. More at [hurricaneruth.com](http://hurricaneruth.com).



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March 14

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April 11

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May 9

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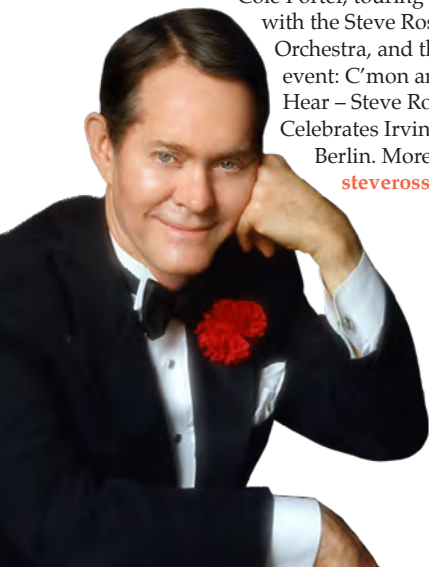
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# Steve Ross

The road to fame for cabaret entertainer Steve Ross traveled through lengthy sojourns at New York's Ted Hook's Backstage in the late 1970s, followed by years of residency at the

celebrated Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin. Ross has long delighted audiences on six continents with his shows celebrating the American Songbook and saluting figures like Noël Coward, Cole Porter, Stephen Sondheim, Johnny Mercer and Alan Jay Lerner. He was on the Concerts and Lecture roster at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for eight years, and has also hosted radio series on the BBC and NPR. In 1992, he starred off-Broadway in *I Won't Dance: Steve Ross Sings and Plays Fred Astaire*. He made his Broadway debut in the revival of Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*, playing the cockney valet and performing at the keyboard. Twenty years ago he was hailed by the *New York Times* as "Crown Prince of New York Cabaret" and the only thing that's changed is that "New York" can now be dropped from the accolade. The *Times of London* called him "the smoothest cabaret act in the world." In 2015, Steve was presented with a MAC Lifetime Achievement Award, a singular honor reflecting his extraordinarily diverse and longstanding contributions to the cabaret genre worldwide. Steve's projects include a theatre piece about

Cole Porter, touring with the Steve Ross Orchestra, and this event: C'mon and Hear – Steve Ross Celebrates Irving Berlin. More at [steveross.net](http://steveross.net).



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After Hours Parties Friday & Saturday

**SATURDAY**

Mark Telesca Band

Jontavious Willis & Country Royalty

Rae Gordon Band

Altered Five Blues Band

Hurricane Ruth with Scott Holt

Little Freddie King

**Sunday**

Blues & Bloodys Party -  
Bands TBA

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# Stabro Music Co.

THURSDAYS  
IN MARCH  
BOSTON'S ON  
THE BEACH  
DELRAY BEACH

MARCH 2  
GROOVE THANGS  
BOSTON'S ON  
THE BEACH  
DELRAY BEACH

MARCH 9  
AMERICAN ROCK BAR  
DEERFIELD BEACH

MARCH 11  
LITTLE BAR  
GOODLAND

MARCH 18  
RAY'S DOWNTOWN  
@ VOLTAIRE  
WEST PALM BEACH

John and Patrick Stacey guised themselves as "Bonefish Johnny" and "Down Pat" in their genre-defying South Florida act Groove Thangs, but starting with the band's 1988 debut release they took real name credit as song writers, self-publishing as Stabro Music. Now, Stabro Music Company *is* the brothers performing their original songs and jams live with fresh vibes and special guests. Celebrating 30 years of music making, the sound of Stabro Music Co. ranges from raw and rootsy to electronic and edgy, always redolent of funk and soul. Tunes derive from Groove Thangs' much-loved repertoire as well as from later works like Bonefish Johnny's recent album *Sings the Blues* and decades worth of unreleased and unrecognized gems. Signature renditions and mind-bending covers round out the fully loaded sets. Players include foundational characters, old friends and some fresh faces. Stabro Music Co. appears in Florida through March, playing a series of headline shows, club residencies, pop-up concerts, house parties and a special reunion of Groove Thangs featuring original saxophonist Jeff Watkins. From the James Brown-covering Thangs, Watkins got into

the actual Godfather's band, playing with James Brown until the singer's death in 2006. After a stint with Joss Stone, Watkins became one of the original members of the New Orleans Suspects, making for a decades-long career of funk. More at [stabromusic.com](http://stabromusic.com).



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 April 27 Hub Stacey, Pensacola  
 April 28 Paradise Inn, Pensacola Beach  
 April 29 Blues & BBQ Fest, Pensacola

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March 16

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March 30

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April 5

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April 6

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April 27

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## Loston Harris Trio

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Eartha Kitt, Elaine Stritch, John Pizzarelli and the Modern Jazz Quartet. A fortuitous meeting with Harry Connick Jr. at the first Thelonious Monk Jazz Competition led Harris led to study with Ellis Marsalis, who encouraged him to switch instruments from drums to piano. Since then, Harris has continued the jazz legacy by blending traditional jazz, gospel and blues with his own unique stylings. With early musical inspirations ranging from artists such as Stevie Wonder, Carole King and other notable pop and R&B bands, Harris ultimately chose jazz as it is "hip, serious, complex, improvisational and limitless." Harris has performed and toured with multiple Grammy Award and Pulitzer Prize winner Wynton Marsalis and appeared worldwide on the PBS special "Portraits in Blue" with fellow pianist and Grammy nominee, Marcus Roberts. Harris' recordings include *Stepping Stones*, *Comes Love*, *Timeless* and *Why Try to Change Me Now?* – all of which were released to rave reviews. His fifth release, *Swingfully Yours*, features swinging arrangements of timeless standards from the Great American Songbook. The trio boasts Mike Lee on saxophone and Gianluca Renzi on bass. More at [lostonharris.com](http://lostonharris.com).





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- March 9** Packrat's Smokehouse
- March 10** Joey Gilmore & The TCB Express
- March 11** The Nighthawks w/Rev. Billy C. Wirtz
- March 16** Mac Arnold & Plate Full O' Blues
- March 17** Johnnie Marshall Blues Band
- March 23** John Németh
- March 24** Damon Fowler Group
- March 30** JB's Zydeco Zoo
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# Jon Del Toro Richardson

MARCH 4 & 6  
PARADISE INN  
PENSACOLA BEACH

MARCH 8  
ENLEWOOD'S ON  
DEARBORN  
ENLEWOOD

MARCH 9  
BONITA BLUES FEST  
WITH KAREN LOVELY  
& BEN RICE  
BONITA SPRINGS

Jon Del Toro Richardson Though he didn't pick up a guitar until his early 20s, Jon Del Toro Richardson grew up in a musical family. His grandmother and her siblings played in a mariachi band touring regionally through the Southeast and Southwest. After pursuing a varied array of genres – including country, Motown, R&B

and classic rock – Richardson finally found his place with the blues. His work with Diunna Greenleaf and the Blue Mercy Blues Band led them to the International Blues Challenge in 2005. It was there that Richardson was honored with the Albert King Award, awarded to the most promising blue guitarist of the competition. In 2007 Richardson played on the Grammy-winning album *The Last of the Mississippi Delta Blues Men*, and he has had the pleasure of working with Otis Taylor, Bob Margolin, Hubert Sumlin, James Cotton, Bob Stroger, Willie “Big Eyes” Smith, Anson Funderburgh, Ronnie Earl, and many more. Richardson has released two CDs with other artists. 2011's *Time Slips on By* with Rich DelGrosso garnered a Blues Blast Nomination for best Traditional Album and was named one of *Billboard's* top 100 blues CDs of 2011. In 2013

Jon teamed up with Sean Carney to release *Drivin' Me Wild*, which also received rave reviews and led to several European tours.

In 2015, Richardson released his first solo Album, *Tengo Blues*, which charted on the Top 10 blues charts for months and also earned the Best New Artist

Debut Award from The Blues Foundation. More at [jonneldtororichardson.com](http://jonneldtororichardson.com).



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# Alexis Cole

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Enjoying comparisons to classic jazz singers such as Sarah Vaughan and Anita O'Day, Alexis Cole has performed with the Boston Pops and New York Philharmonic on stage at venues from Avery Fisher Hall to the Kennedy Center. Her nine recordings, which feature musical

luminaries such as Fred Hersch, Eric Alexander, Matt Wilson, Harry Pickens, Don Braden and Pat LaBarbara, have received high praise in the jazz press and are played on radio world-wide. Cole is the recipient of a Swing Journal Gold Disk award, and was a winner of the NY Jazzmobile and Montreux Jazz Festival vocal competitions, and a finalist of the Sarah Vaughan Competition. Born in Queens, New York, Cole's father and grandmother were both jazz singers and pianists. Her family moved to Florida, and in 1994 she graduated from the New World School of the Arts in Miami. While in her teens, she began her professional career performing at a hotel in South Beach. In 1996, she graduated from William Paterson University. Cole's debut CD, 1999's *Very Early*, was recorded with Harry Pickens and independently released. In 2006, she received a Masters of Music from Queens College. Cole has also trained in Indian Classical singing in Mumbai. In 2009 she enlisted and sang with the U.S. Army until 2015. She now heads the Jazz Voice Program at SUNY Purchase, while performing and conducting master classes around the world. More at [alexiscole.com](http://alexiscole.com). Her current release, a 2016 tribute to Paul Simon, is entitled *Dazzling Blue*. More at [alexiscole.com](http://alexiscole.com).



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MARCH 3  
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FESTIVAL  
SARASOTA

# Thornetta Davis

Crowned “Detroit’s Queen of the Blues” in 2015, Thornetta Davis has been awarded more than 30 Detroit Music Awards, including sweeping the 2017 DMAs with eight awards. Her voice is strong and commanding, yet melodic and smooth. In 1987 Davis started out singing backup for a Detroit soul band. The lead singer soon left, and Davis took over. A 1995 EP, *Shout out to the Dusthuffer*, was followed the next year by her first full album, *Sunday Morning Music*. Her song “Cry” from that album was featured on HBO’s *The Sopranos*. Davis has opened for legends such as Ray Charles, Gladys Knight, Smokey Robinson, Etta James, Buddy Guy, Koko Taylor, Junior Wells, Lonnie Brooks, Johnnie Johnson and many more. Davis also performed on Wednesday nights for seven years at one of Detroit’s favorite live music venues until it closed in 2003. During her time there, Davis recorded one magical night: *Thornetta Davis covered Live at the Music Menu*, a collection of her most-requested cover tunes. From 1997 to 2003, Davis was a backing vocalist for Kid Rock, appearing on his albums, *Devil Without a Cause* and *Kid Rock*. In 2001 Davis was inducted into the Detroit Music Hall of Fame. She has electrified audiences around the world. Backed by her great band of Detroit Musicians, she always leaves her audiences wanting more. Her latest release, *Honest Woman*, are reaping accolades, including the 2017 *Blues Blast* magazine Best Soul Blues Album award, multiple Detroit Music Awards, and two Blues Foundation Blues Music Award nominations. More at [thornettadavis.com](http://thornettadavis.com).



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PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS HART/STYLING: TONYA DUBO

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# Joyce Moreno

MARCH 10  
PINECREST  
GARDENS  
PINECREST

Born in Rio de Janeiro, singer, composer, arranger and instrumentalist Joyce Moreno has in her portfolio 400 recordings of songs she has

authored, interpreted by the greatest names in Brazilian popular music. Beyond Brazil, Joyce's work has been recorded by Annie Lennox, Black Eyed Peas and Flora Purim, to name but a few. Moreno's compositions have been featured in film soundtracks (*The Player*, *Legally Blonde*), television programs, and theatrical productions. Since the beginning of her career, Moreno's trademark has been the first-person feminine voice, which she pioneered; she was the first Brazilian songwriter to express herself in this form, opening the way for countless other artists who followed. To date, she has received four Latin Grammy nominations, released 33 personal CDs and two DVDs, in addition to numerous compilations and guest appearances. Currently, her work takes her all over the world; she makes annual tours and records new albums in various countries. Each year she performs on the Japanese Blue Note circuit and tours jazz festivals and other venues in Europe and North America. In 2010/2011, Joyce conceived and presented the documentary series *No Compasso da História*, Brazil's history told through popular song in 15 installments. Her latest release, 2017's *Palavra E Som*, features Brazilian pop, bossa nova and samba tunes. For this rare U.S. performance, Moreno joins famed percussionist Sammy Figueroa for a program entitled "Latin Jazz Meets Brazilian Song." Joining them will be Brazilian guitarist Chico Pinheiro and Brazilian percussionist Cafe Da Silva. More at [joycemoreno.com](http://joycemoreno.com).



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# CeCe Teneal

Critics and fans have called CeCe Teneal “a musical force to be reckoned with,” and her achievements in the industry over the past decade are certainly testament to that view. A country girl blessed with a powerful voice that is filled with soul and resonance, Teneal began as a cover artist and is now planning to captivate the globe by performing her own original

music that aligns with a blues/soul/funk soundtrack. Born in Osteen, just outside of Orlando, Teneal never envisioned herself as a performer. But after time spent singing at regional venues, her career skyrocketed when she was selected as the lead singer for B.B. King’s Blues Club in Orlando in 2007. In 2011 she released her debut blues album, *Train from Osteen*, performing to sold out crowds and eventually being dubbed the “Voice of Neo-Blues.” Teneal’s passion and raw talent bring a palpably unique energy to her performances. She has traveled the world with her talent, gracing the stage before Buddy Guy, Joe Cocker, Johnny Lang, and B.B. King, to name just a few. Teneal has been nominated for three Independent Music Awards, and claimed one for 2011 Best Gospel Song (“I Heard you Prayin”) and Best R&B Album. After touring as the leading lady for B.B. King’s Blues Club musical production and lounge on board Holland America Cruise Lines, Teneal produced and performed in a tribute to Aretha Franklin entitled *Portrait of a Queen*. These days Teneal is fronting Soul Kamotion, a blues/funk/soul outfit burning up Florida stages. More at [soulkamotion.com](http://soulkamotion.com).



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## Steve Davis

Widely regarded as one of today's leading improvisers on the trombone, Steve Davis' lyrical, hard-swinging style first gained him broad recognition during the 1990s while working with the bands of jazz legends. Davis has appeared in *Downbeat Magazine's* Readers' and Critics' Polls numerous times. Davis landed

his first major gig with Art Blakey in New York City in late 1989. Returning to Hartford in 1992, Davis joined Jackie McLean's sextet. Four CDs resulted from his work with Chick Corea's Origin in the late 1990s. Davis' all-star quartet featuring renowned pianist and frequent collaborator Larry Willis released *Alone Together* in 2006. Willis was also featured on Davis' 2009 release *Live At Small's*. Davis joined saxophone legend Benny Golson's New Jazztet, appearing on the group's 2009 CD *New Time, New 'tet*. While busy with his solo and collaborative career, Davis also continues his 20-year association with the well-known, collective unit One For All. Ever in-demand as a sideman, Davis is featured on over 100 recordings. He has worked with a broad range of jazz icons including Freddie Hubbard and The New Jazz Composers Octet, Slide Hampton and The Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Star Big Band, The Jimmy Heath Big Band, Ron Carter Big Band, Cecil Payne, Horace Silver and Wynton Marsalis' Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. On his latest release, *Think Ahead*, Davis focuses on his original writing and arranging, with the assistance of stellar group of masters: saxophonists Steve Wilson and Jimmy Greene, pianist Larry Willis, bassist Peter Washington and drummer Lewis Nash. More at [stevedavismusic.com](http://stevedavismusic.com).



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## Altered Five

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The band was also named Blues Artist of the Year at the 2014 WAMI Award Show, and was recently asked to contribute a track ("Tightrope") to a Stevie Ray Vaughan tribute album being released in early 2018. The group consists of lead vocalist *Jeff Taylor* and guitarist Scott Schroedl, backed by bassist Mark Solveson and drummer Alan Arber (who joined the band last year), and Raymond Tevich on keys. Catch the band that the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* describes as a "righteous blast." More at [alteredfive.com](http://alteredfive.com).

FROM A PHOTO BY EILEEN KOTERAS ELIBOL





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