



JAZZ & BLUES



F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE: BLUES ARTIST

DAVID JULIA



JAZZ ARTISTS

NICOLAS BEARDE

CLYDE CONNOR

BÉLA FLECK

TAMIR HENDELMAN

LEROY JONES

CLARK SOMMERS

BLUES ARTISTS

BETTY FOX

THE LUCKY LOSERS

BRIGITTE RIOS PURDY

QUEEN IRETTA SANDERS

GUITAR SHORTY

RUTH WYAND

DAVID JULIA IS FE

One night, at a tiki bar on Sunset Key, the evening's entertainer played a few songs and then asked if anyone would like to perform.

A 12-year-old David Julia ended up playing 15-20 mostly classic rock songs for an appreciative crowd. The man who invited Julia to the stage was longtime Lou Reed bassist Ellard "Moose" Boles, who also played with Greg Allman during his solo years. Boles ran a blues club in the Keys and invited Julia to play there the next night. "It was hook, line and sinker!" exclaims Julia. "From that night on I have played the blues every day of my life."

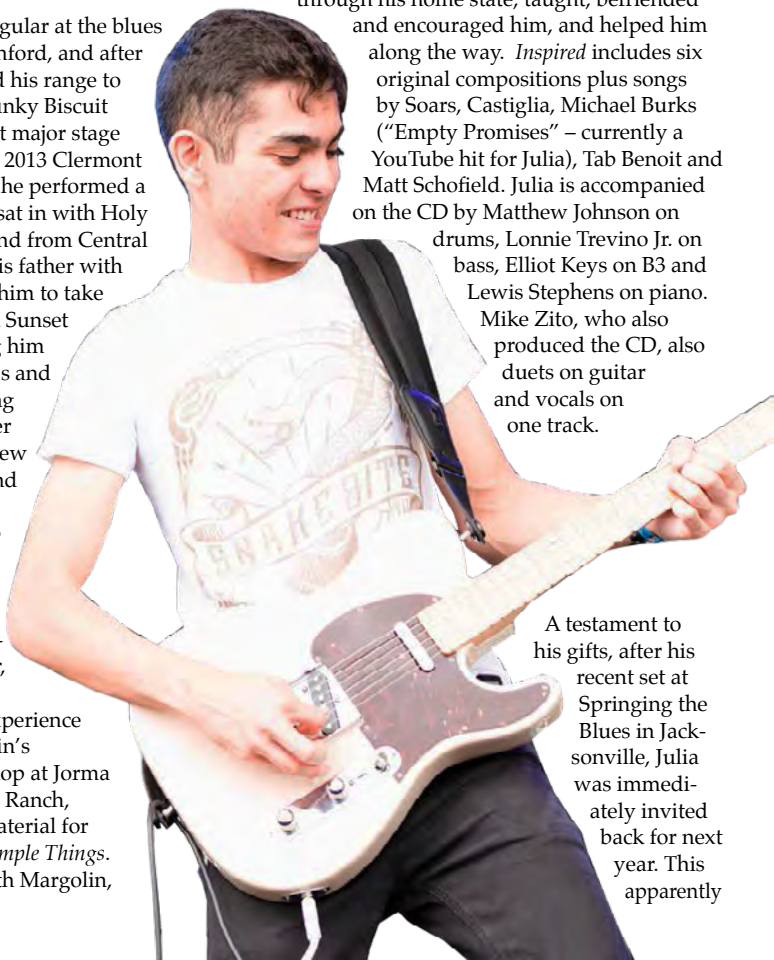
Julia soon became a regular at the blues jam at The Alley in Sanford, and after about a year expanded his range to the blues jam at the Funky Biscuit in Boca Raton. His first major stage appearance was at the 2013 Clermont Music Festival, where he performed a solo acoustic slot and sat in with Holy Miss Moley, a funk band from Central Florida. Julia credits his father with not only encouraging him to take the stage that night on Sunset Key, but with teaching him to sing and play chords and scales – as well as being his primary transporter as they searched out new opportunities to expand his musical horizons. He has also soaked up valuable knowledge, experience and inspiration from Pinetop Perkins Workshops, Ernie Lancaster, and Bob Margolin. In fact, inspired by his experience attending Bob Margolin's Chicago Blues workshop at Jorma Kaukonen's Fur Peace Ranch, Julia completed the material for his debut EP, 2015's *Simple Things*. Julia remains close with Margolin,

and counts him, along with Walter Trout and Buddy Guy, among his most esteemed advisors. Others on the list include JP Soars, Damon Fowler and Albert Castiglia. Julia also has his eye on newcomers Christone Ingram, Pat Harrington and Sarah Grace Kimberly.

Julia entitled his new album *Inspired* because he's very aware of the debt he owes to the musicians who have inspired him.

Beyond the blues masters whose records he has learned from, he has been personally touched by the current generation of musicians who have come through his home state, taught, befriended and encouraged him, and helped him along the way. *Inspired* includes six original compositions plus songs by Soars, Castiglia, Michael Burks ("Empty Promises" – currently a YouTube hit for Julia), Tab Benoit and Matt Schofield. Julia is accompanied on the CD by Matthew Johnson on drums, Lonnie Trevino Jr. on bass, Elliot Keys on B3 and Lewis Stephens on piano. Mike Zito, who also produced the CD, also duets on guitar and vocals on one track.

A testament to his gifts, after his recent set at Springing the Blues in Jacksonville, Julia was immediately invited back for next year. This apparently



FEELING INSPIRED

happens quite often. Julia and his band play regularly around Orlando, Daytona, St Augustine and Jacksonville. Julia has participated in the Memphis-based Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge for four years in a row, drawing rave reviews from the worldwide crowd. His devotion is unassailable. When asked how he balances playing, tending to the business side of his career, and his life outside music, he answers, "Easy, I don't. My life and my business is making and playing music. All my activities, whether business or personal, involve music. Music is my life!"

Julia has been playing guitar for more than half of his 18 years, and he continues to be ever-appreciative of everyone who has supported and encouraged, him. Along his musical path Julia has made friends with fans and fellow musicians with his sincere and easy-going manner. As for the Florida blues scene? "I believe I'm in the best place in the world for an aspiring blues artist," he replies. Over the last decade has matured into a blues powerhouse who is already making a name for himself far beyond his Florida home. More at davidjuliamusic.com.

MAY 3 & 19
LILLY'S ON THE LAKE
CLERMONT

MAY 5
MCGINTY'S IRISH PUB
ORLANDO

MAY 12
CENTER BAR
BONITA SPRINGS

MAY 18
ROCK N BREWS
KISSIMMEE

MAY 26
EARL'S HIDEAWAY
SEBASTIAN

MAY 4
PROHIBITION KITCHEN
ST AUGUSTINE

MAY 11
FISH ON FIRE
ORLANDO

MAY 17
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Béla Fleck

Possibly the world's premier banjo player Béla Fleck boasts an incredibly prolific 40+ year career. Over the course of five albums with New Grass Revival, the band charted new territory with their blend of bluegrass, rock and country music. Meanwhile, a self-titled, self-financed CD attracted record label attention. With its "blu-bop" mix of jazz and bluegrass, the Grammy-nominated album became a commercial and critical success. The Flecktones' second recording,

Flight of the Cosmic Hippo, hit No. 1 on the *Billboard* Jazz Chart. Already a powerfully creative force in bluegrass, jazz, pop, rock and world music, Fleck went classical in 2001 with *Perpetual Motion*, which won two Grammys, including Best Classical Crossover Album. *The Hidden Land* won the 2006 Best Contemporary Jazz Album Grammy, and in 2008, the band's holiday album *Jingle All The Way* won for Best Pop Instrumental Album. Fleck went to Africa in 2006 to film and record *Throw Down Your Heart*, a sprawling project that included an award-winning documentary and two Grammy-winning albums. *The Enchantment*, Fleck's 2008 duet record with Chick Corea, won a Latin Grammy and has led to an ongoing duo tour, and a 2015 double live album, *Two*. His 2013 duo recording with his wife, clawhammer banjoist and singer Abigail Washburn, won the 2016 Best Folk Album Grammy. In recent years he's found himself bouncing between various intriguing touring situations. And after nearly 30 years, the Flecktones are still performing together. He has been nominated in more Grammy categories than any instrumentalist in Grammy history. More at belafleck.com.



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Guitar Shorty

Born in Houston but raised primarily in Kissimmee, Florida, legendary guitarist/vocalist Guitar Shorty has been electrifying audiences for six decades. As a teen, he played in the Ray Charles Band for a year, and recorded his first single in 1957, "You Don't Treat Me Right" under the direction of Willie Dixon. A stint with Guitar Slim inspired Shorty to incorporate more showmanship into his live

performance style. Fronting his own band, Shorty was joined by special guests such as T-Bone Walker, Big Joe Turner and Little Richard. At 19, Shorty moved to the West Coast to play with Sam Cooke, and soon met his future wife, Marcia, half-sister of Jimi Hendrix. Hendrix later referenced Shorty as being one of his main influences, and Shorty's loan of a wah wah pedal would contribute to Hendrix's groundbreaking signature guitar tone. As Shorty recalls during an interview, "He told me the reason he started setting his guitar on fire was because he couldn't do the back flips like I did." Shorty recorded a handful of singles for a variety of labels and an obscure LP during the first 30 years of his career. But it took a tour of England to establish Shorty's fame in his home country. His recordings since then have all received critical acclaim, with 2006's *We The People* winning the Blues Music Award for Best Contemporary Blues Album Of The Year. His latest CD is 2010's *Bare Knuckle*. More at guitarshorty.com.



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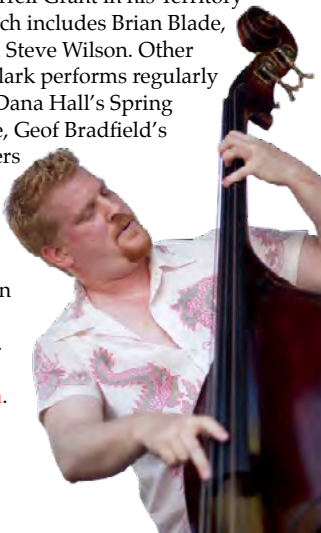
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Clark Sommers

MAY 19
WITH THE KURT
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Bassist, composer and educator Clark Sommers has toured and performed extensively throughout the world, performing with the likes

of Ira Sullivan, Kevin Mahogany, and The Chicago Jazz Orchestra. Sommers is proud to be at home in the bass chair with vocalist Kurt Elling, with whom he tours the globe. Thus far Sommers has played on two Grammy-nominated recordings with the band, one of which won for best vocal jazz album in 2009. When not on the road with Kurt Elling, Clark enjoys leading his own group, Ba(SH), with longtime friends Dana Hall and Geof Bradfield. The group's 2013 self-titled debut CD received critical acclaim, and was acknowledged on the "notable and not to be missed" list by All About Jazz in 2013. Sommers completed his undergraduate degree in Jazz Studies and World Music at California Institute of the Arts, where he studied with bass masters Charlie Haden and Darek Oles. He continues to seek expansion of his craft by pursuing his musical studies with masters such as David Grossman of the New York Philharmonic, Mike Longo and Stefon Harris. He recently completed two residencies at the Brubeck Institute in Stockton California. Sommers can also be heard performing with Portland's Darrell Grant in his Territory ensemble which includes Brian Blade, Joe Locke and Steve Wilson. Other groups that Clark performs regularly with include Dana Hall's Spring and Black Fire, Geof Bradfield's African Flowers Ensemble and Melba, The Chicago Yestet, Dan Cray Trio, Spin Quartet and a host of others. More at clarksommers.com.



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Queen Iretta Sanders

MAY 19
CYPRESS & GROVE
GAINESVILLE

After making her way to Chicago at an early age, Queen Iretta met and married Johnie B. Sanders in 1986, and the couple have been singing and performing together ever since. A southern girl with a voice both gusty and growling, Sanders started sitting in on jams with her future husband's blues band. Her deep, rich

Delta tone earned her a spot filling in for an absent lead singer, leading almost immediately to a full solo gig at one of Chicago's top blues clubs at the time, Lee's Unleaded Blues. After years of playing in and around Chicago, Johnie B. and Queen Iretta wanted better for the kids, and moved to Minnesota in 1999. Things picked up and the couple played duets shows as well as with a full band. Johnie B.'s second and third CDs, 2006's *I-94* and 2009's *Let's Party Right*, both featured Iretta on vocals. A move to Jackson Mississippi in 2016 presaged the addition of numerous festivals to their performance schedule, as well as a third-place regional finish in the 2018 International Blues Challenge. The Johnie B. & Queen Iretta Sanders Blues Band Revue is a high energy blues act, with a unique style that frequently leads to additional performances or requests to sit in from other blues artists. After their May 19 performance at the North Central Florida Blues Society's Women in Blues Show, they head off on a European tour. More at johniebsanders.com.



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May 24 Rusty Wright Band
May 25 Beautiful Bobby
Blackmon & The B3 Band
May 26 Blue Holler
BLUEGRASS SUNDAYS
May 31 Sarasota Slim





bradfordvilleblues.com

Tamir Hendelman Trio

MAY 3
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FT LAUDERDALE

Israeli-born jazz pianist Tamir Hendelman has performed with Barbra Streisand, Natalie Cole and Quincy Jones, among others. Since 2000 he has toured with his own trio and as a member of the Jeff Hamilton Trio and the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. He has also become a first-rate arranger and accompanist for some of today's premier vocalists, including Natalie Cole, Roberta Gambarini and Jackie Ryan. Hendelman accompanied Barbra Streisand in her return to jazz on 2009's *Love Is the Answer*, at the Village Vanguard, and on her 2012 North American orchestral tour. He has also recently arranged and recorded for trumpeter Claudio Roditi, accordionist Richard Galliano and violinist Christian Howes. Hendelman moved to the U.S. in 1984, winning Yamaha's national keyboard competition two years later at age 14. Concerts in Japan and the Kennedy Center followed. After receiving his Bachelor of Music Composition degree from Eastman School of Music in 1993, Hendelman then became the youngest musical director for Lovewell Institute, a national arts education non-profit organization. He joined the Jeff Hamilton Trio in 2000, and the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra in 2001. In 2002 he also toured Europe with Tierney Sutton and the Bill Holman Big Band. With the CHJO, Hendelman has recorded for John Pizzarelli, Gladys Knight and Diana Krall. In his own trio, he explores standards, Brazilian music, blues and his Israeli roots. For this Gold Coast Jazz Society season finale, the trio will perform selections from *Playgrounds* and *Destinations*. More at tamirhendelman.com.



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The Lucky Losers

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BLUE TAVERN
TALLAHASSEE

Fiery Dallas-born entertainer Cathy Lemons has a velvet voice with a gritty edge and the rebel conviction of a woman

risen from the ashes. New Jersey native Phil Berkowitz, "has earned renown as one of the West Coast's most distinctive harp players, as well as for his sharp, resonant tenor" (*Living Blues*, 2018). In 2014, the two combined their talents to become The Lucky Losers. Based in San Francisco and accompanied by a dynamic three-piece ensemble, they deliver a truly signature sound, marrying vintage soul, swing, and blues together with a splash of Americana. In the span of four years, The Lucky Losers have produced three chart-topping albums with world renowned producer, Kid Andersen. Their first, *A Winning Hand*, was nominated for Best Traditional Blues Album by Blues 411 and made The Roots Music Report's Top Blues Albums of 2015. Their second CD, *In Any Town*, was nominated for seven awards. Its followup, *Blind Spot* is comprised solely of original material. Critics from around the world gave the album five-star reviews. *Downbeat*, *Making a Scene*, and The Roots Music Report all included *Blind Spot* in their notable year-end lists. Nine original songs from the album made The Roots Music Report's Top 50 Blues Singles. Lemons was a finalist in the 2018 International Songwriting competition for her song "The River" from the *Blind Spot*, competing against 19,000 songwriters from around the world

to earn her place in the blues category. More at theluckylosers.com.



FROM A PHOTO BY VICTORIA SMITH



DAVID JULIA

The new release from Vizztone recording artist David Julia, **INSPIRED**, recorded and produced by Mike Zito at Marz Studios



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 May 17 Rock n Brews, Orlando
 May 18 Rock n Brews, Kissimmee
 May 19 Lilly's on the Lake, Clermont
 May 24 Kona Tiki, Ormond Beach*
 May 26 Earl's Hideaway, Sebastian
 May 31 Yellow Dog Eats, New Smyrna Beach*

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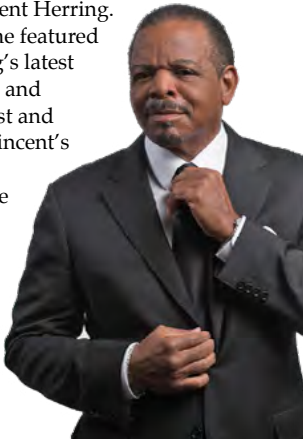
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Nicolas Bearde

MAY 10
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DELRAY BEACH
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SOUTH MIAMI DADE
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CENTER
CUTLER BAY

A powerful presence in contemporary jazz over the past three decades, Nicolas Bearde's silky baritone invites comparisons to Lou Rawls and Joe Williams. Born and raised in Nashville, Bearde began singing in earnest

while living in Japan during his military service. He later made his home in the San Francisco Bay area, and began developing his jazz chops and a more intimate approach to performing. A part in a staged radio play led to a successful first theater audition. He did three more plays that first year, then expanded into film and television, but music continued to be his dominant muse. Bearde was an original member of Bobby McFerrin's innovative a cappella ensemble Voicestra, and its offshoot SoVoSo. Bearde founded Right Groove Records in 1997 to launch his solo projects, starting with *Crossing the Line*, which hit the Top 10 on British Soul charts. *All About Love's* "Summer Sunday" spent eight weeks at No. 1 on the Beach Music charts in the summer of 2005. *Live at Yoshi's - a Salute to Lou*, from 2008, continues to be a favorite on jazz radio worldwide, while 2013's *Visions* is an up-tempo, soul-driven collection of jazz originals backed by an all-star roster. Invitation, Bearde's 2016 release *Invitation* features arrangements and fiery performances by Grammy-winning pianist Nat Adderley Jr., and guest appearances by sax legend Vincent Herring. Bearde is also the featured vocalist Herring's latest CD, *Hard Times*, and serves as vocalist and narrator with Vincent's Story of Jazz Orchestra. These shows are titled *A Salute to the Music of Lou Rawls*. More at nicolasbearde.com.



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Ruth Wyand

Playing an eclectic mixture of styles, Ruth Wyand and the Tribe of One can generate the power of a full band or the intimacy of a living room concert. Wyand's "one woman band" presents a soulful and engaging show no matter the circumstance. As she puts it, "After 100 years of playing everywhere from bars to nudist colonies there isn't much I haven't seen." Wyand's intricate picking style, alternating thumb bass, bottleneck slide, multiple foot drums and earthy, relaxed vocals are complemented by her skills as a storyteller and performer. While Wyand and her music don't fit neatly into a specific category, she classifies it as "defiantly blues Americana, roots, singer/songwriter, blue jazz, contemporary folk with a little Hendrix." And it was that strong blues bent that led to Wyand's

MAY 16
BLUE TAVERN
TALLAHASSEE

MAY 19
WOMEN IN BLUES
CYPRESS & GROVE
GAINESVILLE

MAY 22 JAM
KELLY BROTHERS
FT LAUDERDALE

MAY 23
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ENGLEWOOD

MAY 24 CONCERT
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MAY 25
LITTLE BAR
NAPLES

MAY 26
BERT'S
MATLACHA



placement as a 2017 finalist and a 2018 semifinalist in the International Blues Challenge. Her 2018 CD *Tribe of One* clearly demonstrates her instrumental prowess, emotive vocals and poignant songwriting on 11 originals and three covers. When Wyand was about ten years old, her Atlantic City, NJ neighborhood went from 100% white to 99% black; hers was the only family that refused to relocate. She credits one new neighbor in particular with her introduction to the blues. Mr. Mac's collection ranged from Big Mama Thornton and Hound Dog Taylor to the Allman Brothers, Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix. "I was intrigued, hooked and scared at the same time," Wyand explains, "and I still am." More at ruthwyand.com.

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Contact: Anne Bello Productions

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Betty Fox

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. The Fox family had a deep love for southern country gospel and tight harmonies which they would express at holidays. "My family and I would all gather around the piano... as we all sang four and five part harmonies to songs like 'It Is Well With My Soul,' 'The Old Rugged Cross' and 'Till the Storm Passes By.' To this day, those songs and those moments mean more to me than anything," Fox says. After honing her craft for more than 20 years, Fox's debut album, *Too Far Gone*, put her on the international map as a songwriter and vocalist and had the critics singing her praises. Her sophomore release, *Slow Burn*, was released in 2015 to rave reviews from blues DJs, critics and enthusiasts around the world. Fox's vocals soar over a heavy groove on her upcoming CD, *Peace in Pieces*, a 13-song soul-infused collection featuring 12 original songs and one spiritual. The album features major cowriting contributor Josh Nelms on guitar, Barry Williams on bass, Chris Peet on drums, and Clayton Ivey on keys, and the inherent soul is contagious. The rollout can be followed on her blog. These 2015 IBC semifinalists have opened for the likes of Mavis Staples, Jimmy Thackery and Marcia Ball. More at bettyfox.net.



FROM A PHOTO BY RUBY NELMS

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MAY 7
COVE CAY GOLF CLUB
CLEARWATER

Clyde Connor

While attending the University of North Texas as a graduate student in the Jazz Studies Masters Degree program, Clyde Connor successfully auditioned for the United States Navy Commodores Jazz Ensemble and in 1989 and moved to Washington, D.C. During his stint in the Navy, Connor was utilized not only as a performing musician, but also as composer and arranger, with many charts to his credit included in regular concert programming and recordings. Civilian musical opportunities were abundant, and Connor took full advantage, performing regularly at notable area clubs and in countless festivals and shows in Baltimore, including two seasons as the Pops drummer with the Baltimore Symphony. Connor can be heard on numerous recordings as a session player for Maryland's Omega Recording Studios. He has also been deeply involved in music education, working as a guest artist/clinician. After leaving the Navy, Commons resettled in the Northeast Florida area, serving as an adjunct professor of music at the University of Central Florida in Orlando in 2005. He is one of the most sought-after big band drummers in the region, working with the St. Johns River City Band and other big bands as a drummer, composer and arranger. He continues to appear with popular international artists including Dave Brubeck, Ed Calle and Bill Allred, and often (as in this case) with vocalist Lisa Kelly and JB Scott in their jazz small groups and big bands. He also performs for musicals, and with symphonies and orchestras. In 2016, Connor completed his Masters in Music degree at UF. More at clydeconnor.com.



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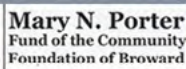
TAMIR HENDELMAN TRIO



Pianist for the Jeff Hamilton Trio, Hendelman also performs with numerous stars including Harry Allen, Teddy Edwards, Warren Vache and Houston Person – and leads his own trio with bassist Alex Frank and drummer Dean Koba.

“His playing... was so sensitive, introspective and captivating that you could literally hear a pin drop in an audience of some 500 people.” - Fred Eckstein, LA Jazz Scene

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Brigitte Rios Purdy

MAY 18
RIVERFRONT
BRADENTON

MAY 19
CYPRESS & GROVE
GAINESVILLE

Singer and songwriter Brigitte Rios Purdy has always felt drawn to the musical genres of soul, blues and R&B. Her pure and silky voice has led to performances on stage with artists such as Walter Trout, Sugaray Rayford, Dionne Warwick and Dolly Parton, and providing background vocals for The Who and Paul Rodgers. Purdy's profound love and admiration for the late great B.B. King pushed her to compose her very first song, "Lucille, Don't You Weep," a blues ballad with clear references



to King's favorite guitar. The song inspired Purdy to combine her write more songs that would showcase her vocal skills. Encouraged by the positive comments of the music press worldwide, Purdy has continued writing and recording new material. Her latest single, "Blues Angel" is flavored with tinges of jazz, and other compositions have leaned toward a blues/rock approach. Purdy is has already gained the interest of numerous independent record labels. Rios began performing at age five, but took a long break to raise her children. While she's now full-bore into her music career, Rios still reaches out. One of the causes she supports is One is United by Music, which blends differently-abled musicians with blues artists. She's also involved with Rock and Roll Camp for Girls, and has performed at benefit events. Rios' sultry, powerful and emotive range can go from a gentle purr to a sonic boom within seconds, while pouring her heart into every note. More at brigittepurdy.net.

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Leroy Jones

WITH THE LEW DEL GATTO TRIO
MAY 3
NORTH NAPLES CHURCH
NAPLES

Known to music lovers as the “keeper of the flame” for traditional New Orleans jazz, legendary jazz trumpeter Leroy Jones describes the mission of the Leroy Jones Quintet as “to

expose audiences everywhere to the authentic music of New Orleans... and the greats who helped create the rich gumbo that is the sound of New Orleans,” he says, “while putting our own more modern stamp on it.” A member of the New Orleans Jazz Hall of Fame, he was leader at the age of 12 of the seminal Fairview Band, which is widely credited with restoring interest in the brass band tradition of New Orleans. In the mid-1970s, Jones toured with Eddie Vinson and Della Reese before forming his own group, the Leroy Jones Quintet. Now a regular at Preservation Hall and a featured performer in the Harry Connick Orchestra, Jones has performed on every continent at prestigious theaters, festivals and clubs. His television appearances are complemented by performances at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, French Quarter Fest and Satchmo Summerfest. Jones has released a series of highly regarded CDs, including 1996’s *Props for Pops* (his tribute to Louis Armstrong), *Back to My Roots*, *Mo’ Cream from the Crop*, *Soft Sho* and his latest, 2009’s *Sweeter Than A Summer Breeze*. He has appeared on numerous recordings with such artists as Dr. John, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and Anders Osborne. Last year, he was the subject of the

documentary *A Man And His Trumpet: The Leroy Jones Story*. More at leroyjones.com.



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