

JAZZ & BLUES



F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE: JAZZ ARTIST

MO MORGEN



BLUES ARTISTS ROY BOOK BINDER • TORONZO CANNON
CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE • PATTI PARKS
DUKE ROBILLARD • MAVIS STAPLES

JAZZ ARTISTS EMMET COHEN • MARK GRIFFITH
NICOLE HENRY • DELFEAYO MARSALIS
BILLY ROSS • LINDSEY WEBSTER

MO MORGEN:

This month marks the 45th anniversary of South Florida Jazz Hall of Fame inductee Mo Morgen's legendary jazz loft Jazzmania Society in Manhattan.

The late '70s were the halcyon days of the "Loft Jazz" era and Jazzmania was the most active and longest-running of the musician-run lofts. Jazzmania held events five nights a week for 10 years (1975-1984), with aficionados willing to climb up five flights to sit on a sofa or pillow on the carpet. There they would enjoy an amalgam of straight-ahead, avant-garde, solo, big band, and ethnic styles by world-famous, locally-celebrated or unknown performers. When Morgen organized the three-day round-the-clock Loft Jazz Festivals of 1976 and 1977, strong positive international press was highlighted by the *New York Times* with the headline "Loft Jazz Goes on a



3-Day Toot." Morgen then presented the first NYC Brazilian Jazz Festivals at Jazzmania in 1978 and 1979.

Morgen got the unequalled opportunity to sit in with a "who's who" of famous jazz musicians at Jazzmania, and he found inspiration in the jazz education he garnered beyond his previous training in classical clarinet.

By the time Jazzmania was forced to close by anti-loft regulations in 1984, late-bloomer Morgen was well-recognized by his peers, audiences and critics for his work on baritone and tenor sax, and bass clarinet. In fact, the bass clarinet became his main focus from 1981 to 1988 as he organized all-star clarinet bands who performed at the Blue Note, with members such as Eddie Daniels, Tony Scott, Kenny Davern, Ron Odrich, Gunter Hampel, Perry Robinson and Mark Whitecage. Those efforts gave rise to the Licorice Factory band with Morgen, Robinson and Whitecage that recorded their eponymous album at the legendary Van Gelder studio (Blue Note Records) in 1984.

After Jazzmania closed, Morgen began to gig around New York City playing clubs, festivals and jams. In 1989 Morgen met a new love: the

rare Eb soprano sax (baby soprano) that he eventually recorded on his ME and my 'NINO vocal/sax CD in 2009.

The late '80s also saw him making frequent trips to Miami where he participated in jams, played a few gigs and got to know the local scene. Morgen was so taken with the Miami-area musicians he met that he and his wife Bunny moved from Brooklyn Heights, NY to Miami Beach in 1993. After spotting a bar/restaurant space for rent, Morgen signed a lease and opened the now-legendary MoJazz Café, and although he had no experience running a bar/café, Morgen simply did what he does best, presenting great jazz.



On weekends, the beloved house rhythm section of Dolph Castellano, Lew Berryman and Bill Peebles hosted a variety of great local jazz stars, with Morgen emceeing and sitting in. The rest of the week was filled with Brazilian Jazz Night, Latin Jazz Night, open jams and concerts.

From the time MoJazz Café closed in 1997, Morgen has continued his adventurous musical journey. In 1998 he was honored to perform for Tony Bennett on Lincoln Road, and with both the Johnny Conga AllStars and the Jimmy Smith Trio at the Clearwater Jazz Fest. Much of his efforts



A LIFE IN JAZZ

have involved recruiting venues for jazz performances, creating new opportunities for other musicians as well as himself. He and his eight-year percussion partner Madafo created the Thursday / Friday jazz program at Miami Shores Country Club lounge, which ran from 2009 to 2011.



WED-SAT
THAI DISH & SUSHI
MIAMI

By coincidence this was the location of the South Florida Jazz Hall of Fame ceremony, co-hosted by the Sunshine Jazz Organization and the Hall of Fame, where Morgen was honored in 2018 as both multi-instrumentalist and entrepreneur with induction, and where Sunshine Jazz now hosts its monthly concert series.

Morgen dropped the baritone sax/bass clarinet in 1994, dropped the tenor sax in favor of the alto sax in 2002, then added soprano sax in 2016. Along the way, he launched a full-time career as keyboardist / vocalist in 1999, beginning at the London Tavern in Bay Harbor, and encompassing more than 30 other venues over the last 20 years.

These days you can find Mo Morgen & Friends four nights a week at Thai Dish & Sushi. For more information, contact MoJazz Music at 305-751-0501 (phone), 305 343-4507 (text) or mojazzing@comcast.net.

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Mark Whitecage, *alto clarinet*
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Mo Morgen, *vocals/tenor sax*
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ME AND MY 'NINO

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Mo Morgen, *vocals and Eb soprano sax*



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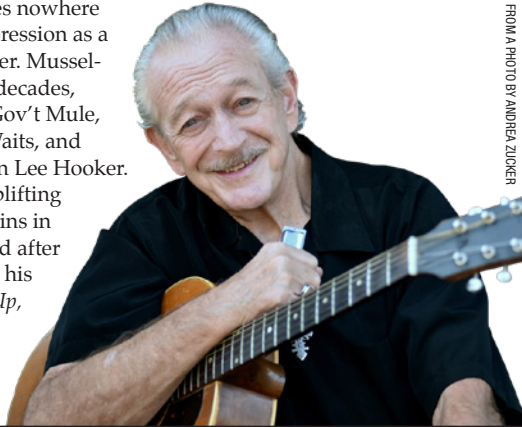
Miami Mo, *keys/vocals*
Madafo, *bongos/hand percussion*

*ALL CD orders for gig pickup require advance notice

DECEMBER 7
WITH PATTI LABELLE
PLAZA LIVE
MOUNT DORA


Charlie Musselwhite

Arriving in Chicago in the early 1960s, Charlie Musselwhite was just in time for the epochal blues revival. In 1966 at the age of 22 he recorded the landmark *Stand Back!* to rave reviews. A precipitous relocation to San Francisco in 1967, where his album was being played on underground radio, found him welcomed into the counterculture scene around the Fillmore West as an authentic purveyor of the real deal blues. Musselwhite cut his musical teeth alongside the likes of Muddy Waters and Howling Wolf and now, more than 20 albums later, he is at the top of his game. Fifty years of nonstop touring, performing and recording have reaped huge rewards. This revered elder statesman of the blues nowhere near ready to hang up his harps, his depth of expression as a singer and an instrumentalist only growing deeper. Musselwhite has been collaborating with top artists for decades, including Bonnie Raitt, Blind Boys of Alabama, Gov't Mule, Ben Harper, Cyndi Lauper, Eddie Vedder, Tom Waits, and personal friend and best man at his wedding John Lee Hooker. With music as dark as Mississippi mud and as uplifting as the blue skies of California, Musselwhite remains in high demand. He has 33 Blues Music Awards, and after winning a Grammy (on his 12th nomination!) for his work with Ben Harper on their 2014 release *Get Up*, Musselwhite was nominated in 2018 for another Ben Harper collaboration, *No Mercy on This Land*. More at charliemusselwhite.com.



FROM A PHOTO BY ANDREA ZIJSKER

RAY FULLER AND THE BLUESROCKERS



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Dec 8 Tail Dragger & His All-Stars

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Dec 14 Grayson Capps

Dec 20 Sam Frazier, Jr.
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Dec 22 Katie Skene & Friends

Dec 27 Selwyn Birchwood

Dec 28 Swingin' Harpoon

Dec 31 New Year's Eve
with Johnnie Marshall





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Delfeayo Marsalis

DECEMBER 7
PINECREST GARDENS
PINECREST

One of the top trombonists, composers and producers in jazz today, Delfeayo (pronounced DEL-fee oh) and the Marsalis family (father Ellis and brothers Branford, Wynton and Jason) earned the nation's highest jazz honor – a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award – in 2011. Marsalis has toured internationally with his own groups, as well as those led by five renowned band-leaders. "Art Blakey taught me patience and purpose in soloing; Abdullah Ibrahim's sense of harmony is prevalent in much of my music; Slide Hampton inspired me with his extraordinary command of the trombone and the language of jazz; and Max Roach played with conviction and dexterity all the time. Elvin Jones taught me about humanity, expressing myself through music, and most importantly, how to keep time." Marsalis has produced more than 100 recordings to date, for artists including Harry Connick, Jr, Spike Lee, Terence Blanchard, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and his father and brothers. Among Marsalis's six CDs as a leader are the 1997 quintet date *Musashi*, and 2014's *The Last Southern Gentlemen*, his first album-length collaboration with his father. Marsalis has also been long involved in work as an educator, founding the Uptown Music Theatre

and implementing its Kidstown After School in grammar schools.

In addition, he has composed more than 80 songs that help introduce kids to jazz through musical theatre and has reached over 5,000 students nationally with his *Swinging with the Cool School* soft introduction to jazz workshops. More at

dmarsalis.com.



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Toranzo Cannon

DECEMBER 6
BLUE ROOSTER
SARASOTA

DECEMBER 7
BRADENTON
BLUES FESTIVAL
BRADENTON

DECEMBER 8
HIGH DIVE
GAINESVILLE

Chicago bluesman Toranzo Cannon defies all expectations. The blistering guitarist, soulful vocalist, singular songwriter and city bus driver fuses his muscular, rock-inspired blues guitar playing with his original, keenly detailed slice-of-life songs, blazing his own blues

trail. His live performances unfailingly earn him heaps of critical praise and hordes of wildly enthusiastic fans, and he has played across the U.S., Canada, Europe and Japan. Although influenced by many, Cannon's distinctively biting, stinging guitar sound propelled his rise in the intensely competitive proving grounds of the Windy City club scene. After years of work as a sideman, Cannon formed his own band, The Cannonball Express, in 2001. Their first three albums document his rise from promising up-and-comer to star-in-the-making. With the 2016 release of *The Chicago Way*, Cannon was launched toward blues stardom. England's *MOJO* magazine declared *The Chicago Way* the Top Blues Album Of 2016, as did readers of *Living Blues* magazine in their annual poll. The album and Cannon were also nominated for four Blues Music Awards in 2017. Now, with the release of *The Preacher, the Politician or the Pimp*, Cannon builds upon the strong foundation he's laid, creating and defining his vision of contemporary blues. The record features twelve Cannon

originals, with songs inspired by his deep Chicago roots, the wisdom of his grandparents and his years of observing the public while driving a bus. "It's not about the solos," Cannon says, "It's about the songs." More at toranzocannon.com.



FROM A PHOTO BY PAUL NATION

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PONTE VEDRA
BEACH

DECEMBER 11
KEY WEST
THEATER
KEY WEST

DECEMBER 12
PLAZA LIVE
ORLANDO

The first vocalist in the primarily instrumental format to garner a No. 1 since the iconic Sade, *Billboard* Contemporary Jazz Artist of the Year for 2016 and 2017 Lindsey Webster can also boast seven Top 10 songs on the *Billboard* Smooth Jazz Chart, including two No. 1 hits: "Fool Me Once" and "Where Do You Want To Go" Her albums *Back to Your Heart* and *Love Inside* hit No. 1 and No. 2 respectively on the *Billboard* Contemporary Jazz Album Chart. The sultry and soulful young singer/composer, is still amazed by her own success. Blessed with a honey-toned voice and enviable range, Webster's uniquely identifiable

sound is fueled by potent messages of love that are timely for today's climate. Her 2018 release, *Love Inside*, is about realizing the power that each of us possess as individuals. "So frequently, we are looking outside of ourselves for the answers, when most of the time, we need to address what is within first," says Webster. "I thought it to be an appropriate title for this album with all of the negativity and animosity that runs rampant in today's world." Through a tapestry of twelve evocative originals that fuse the best elements of R&B, jazz, pop and soul, Webster, along with her pianist and husband Keith Slattery, explore the world of love and loss in relationships as well as the love needed to unite and honor one another's humanity. More at lindseywebstermusic.com.



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| March 11 | Terell Stafford Quintet | | |

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Patti Parks

DECEMBER 8
HIGH DIVE
GAINESVILLE

An accomplished, award-winning performer, songwriter, producer, promoter and band leader, Patti Parks has

toured nationally, charted internationally, and opened for Jimmy Thackery, Grand Funk Railroad, and George Thorogood & The Destroyers. With outstanding reviews from numerous blues magazines, and appearances at many northern U.S. blues festivals, Parks's reputation as a riveting live performer has earned her the Best Female Blues Vocalist award from Buffalo, NY's *Night Life* magazine. "Parks's soulful and sensual voice cranks out an uplifting, ebullient blend of Chicago blues, Memphis soul, blues funk" - Jeff Miers, *Buffalo News*. Parks' self-produced debut, 2013's *Cheat 'n Man*, received significant global airplay - especially in Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the U.S. - and sat on the Hit Tracks Top 10 in Belgium for six weeks. Parks, a nurse created the Nurs' N Blues Education Program in 2015 in order to give back to her fans and community. The program uses the blues genre as a vehicle of expression to help high-risk children at drug rehab centers, those struggling with drug dependency or who are otherwise at risk. The successful program continues to expand and is now underwritten by the Western New

York Blues Society and Music is Art. She was inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame in 2016, and was a stand-out performer earlier this year at the North Central Florida Blues Society's Annual Women in Blues Concert. More at thepattiparksband.com.



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THE BLUE ROOSTER | 7:30 PM
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LITTLE BAR RESTAURANT | 9:00 PM
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Nicole Henry

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The following year, Henry's *Teach Me Tonight* reached No. 1 in Japan and was named HMV Japan's Best Vocal Jazz Album of 2005. 2008's *The Very Thought of You* and 2011's *Embraceable* rode the Top 20 on U.S. jazz and smooth jazz radio charts. In 2013, she released *So Good, So Right: Nicole Henry Live*, recorded in front of sold-out crowds at Feinstein's in New York. The same year, Henry took home the Soul Train award for Best Traditional Jazz Performance. She has captivated audiences

in more than 20 countries, performing at music festivals across the globe and in some of the world's most famous venues.

Her most recent recording, with James Bryan, is 2016's *Summer Sessions*. More at nicolehenry.com.



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Beginning in January, A Taste of Jazz will move to the 2nd Thursday of each month.



Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

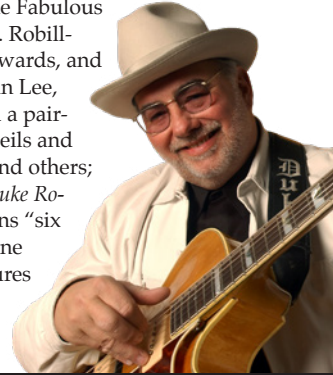
Duke Robillard

DECEMBER 6
TERRA FERMATA
STUART

DECEMBER 7
BRADENTON
BLUES FESTIVAL
BRADENTON

After showing an early affinity for music and guitar, Duke Robillard co-founded Roomful Of Blues with pianist Al Copley in 1967. His unsurpassed mastery of the guitar style of T-Bone Walker was heralded, but his breadth was also head-turning: from swing, standards and ballads to rockers, gutbucket Chicago blues and rockabilly. After a dozen years, Duke left Roomful for a stint with rockabilly revivalist Robert Gordon, and then with the first iteration of the Legendary Blues Band. The Duke Robillard Band debuted in 1981, re-emerging as The Pleasure Kings with their eponymous 1984 album. It and its sequel, *Too Hot To Handle*, burnished

Robillard's songwriting portfolio, while his 1987 jazz outing *Swing* underscored his versatility and remains a highlight. Robillard replaced Jimmie Vaughan with The Fabulous Thunderbirds in 1990, and then released his own *Duke's Blues* in 1993. Robillard's resume is decorated with Grammy nominations, Blues Music Awards, and other honors. He has produced albums by Joe Louis Walker and Bryan Lee, among many others; recorded two collaborations with Herb Ellis and a pairing with Ronnie Earl; held a seat in the New Guitar Summit with J. Geils and Gerry Beaudoin; boasts studio credits with Bob Dylan, Ruth Brown and others; and toured with Tom Waits. Robillard has two current releases. On *Duke Robillard and His Dames of Rhythm*, he wields an acoustic archtop and joins "six thrushes" (including Medeleine Peyroux, Maria Muldaur and Catherine Russell) for renditions of 1920s and '30s swing tunes. *Ear Worms* features Robillard's long-time band: Bruce Bears/keyboards, Brad Hallen/bass and Mark Teixeira/drums. More at dukerobillard.com.



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Gainesville**

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Doors 7:00pm • Show 8:00pm

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DECEMBER 4
GOLD COAST JAZZ
SOCIETY
AMATURO THEATER
BROWARD CENTER
FT LAUDERDALE

Emmet Cohen

Multifaceted American jazz pianist and composer Emmet Cohen is one of his generation's pivotal artistic figures who plays with the command and passion of an artist fully devoted to his medium. Downbeat praised the "nimble touch, measured stride and warm harmonic vocabulary" he employs to communicate

with other musicians and audiences at "the deepest level of humanity and individuality." Cohen notes that performing jazz is "about communicating the deepest level of humanity and individuality; it's essentially about connections." His trio melds all styles of jazz with an emphasis on the Great American Songbook. Bassist Russell Hall and drummer Kyle Poole round out the trio. Cohen has appeared at numerous international jazz festivals and at many famous music venues, including Rose Hall and the Kennedy Center. He has played in legendary international nightspots, such as Birdland, the Blue Note, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Jazzhaus Montmartre, Ronnie Scott's and is the Hammond B-3 organist-in-residence at Harlem's Smoke jazz club and has performed or collaborated with Debbie Allen, Ron Carter, Jimmy Cobb, Lea DeLaria, Kurt Elling, Billy Hart, Jimmy Heath, Ali Jackson, Bill T. Jones, Brian Lynch, Christian McBride, and Herlin Riley. Cohen holds jazz piano degrees from the Manhattan School of Music (MM) and the University of Miami (BM). In 2019 he won the American Pianists Association's Cole Porter Fellowship and in 2011 the Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition. He also lectures for the YoungArts Foundation and Lincoln Center's Jazz for Young People programs. More at emmetcohen.com.





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Mavis Staples

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WITH CHARLIE
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MOUNT DORA

Hailed by NPR as “one of America’s defining voices of freedom and peace,” Mavis Staples is the kind of once-in-a-generation artist whose impact on music and culture would be difficult to overstate. She’s both a Blues and a Rock & Roll Hall of

Famer; a civil rights icon; a Grammy winner; a chart-topping soul/gospel/R&B pioneer; a National Arts Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient; and a Kennedy Center honoree. She marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., performed at John F. Kennedy’s inauguration, and sang in Barack Obama’s White House. She’s collaborated with everyone from Prince and Bob Dylan to Arcade Fire and Hozier, blown away audiences from Newport Folk to Lollapalooza. Staples ramped things up in her 70s, releasing a trio of critically acclaimed albums with Wilco’s Jeff Tweedy. Her latest release, 2019’s *We Get By*, is Staples’ twelfth studio album, a full-length collaboration with multi-Grammy winner Ben Harper. Backed by her longtime touring band, Staples delivers roof-raising performances with both a youthful vigor and a commanding maturity. The collection is a timeless appeal to our better nature that’s universal in its reach and unwavering in its assurance of better things to come. “I sing because I want to leave people feeling better than I found them. I want them to walk away with a positive message in their hearts, feeling stronger than they felt before,” Staples explains. “I’m singing to myself for those same reasons.” Even the messenger needs a reminder every now and then. More at mavisstaples.com.



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- Greg “Bluesdog” Szalony, *Blues Blast Magazine*.

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- DEC 4 ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN, ENGLEWOOD
- DEC 6 BLUE DOOR, BRUNSWICK, GA
- DEC 7 BRADFORDVILLE BLUES CLUB, TALLAHASSEE
- DEC 8 CAPITOL OYSTER BAR, MONTGOMERY, AL
- DEC 13 ROCK’N ANGELS, BOCA RATON
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Jam to Follow



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MARCH 21:

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Tas Cru
Brad Vickers & His
Vestapolitans
Tas Cru & His Band
of Tortured Souls
Dustin Arbuckle &
the Damnations
Bill Wharton the
Sauce Boss
Joel DaSilva Band
Gabe Stillman Band
Eliza Neals &
the Narcotics

Jam to Follow

SUNDAY, MARCH 22:

Harmonica Workshop
with Harper
Deb Ryder Band
Harper & Midwest Kind
James Armstrong Band

Jam to Follow



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Billy Ross

DECEMBER 2
THE WICK THEATRE
BOCA RATON

Born into a show business family, Bill Ross began acting at age eight, appearing in commercials

and small roles in such films as *Love with the Proper Stranger* and *The Way We Were*. He took up the clarinet at age nine, and later heard and met Stan Getz at Basin Street East. "He always inspired me, and he always took time to talk to me," Ross says of Getz. Ross's debut solo album, 1994's *The Sound* was tribute to Getz. His next album, *Woody*, was a nod to Woody Herman's big band, in which he filled the solo tenor sax chair on three tours, and featured Ross's virtuosity on the tenor, soprano and alto sax, clarinet and flutes. Before abandoning his clarinet studies at Juilliard at 18 to join the Woody Herman Band, Billy had already made a name for himself by performing with greats like Lena Horne, Vic Damone and the Latin orchestras of Tito Puente and Tito Rodriguez. After attending the University Of Miami School Of Music on a full scholarship, he toured with the UM Jazz Band. During his 12 years with the Sabado Gigante band, Billy continued to record and perform with the likes of James Brown, Julio Iglesias, Marvin Gaye, Tony Bennett, and Nancy Wilson. Since a final stint with the Herman band in 1982, Ross has been among the most in-demand studio musicians in South Florida. He is also

a member of the Jaco Pastorius

Big Band, performing this month at The Wick in Boca Raton as part of a special tribute to Pastorius.

More at concord.com.



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December 13
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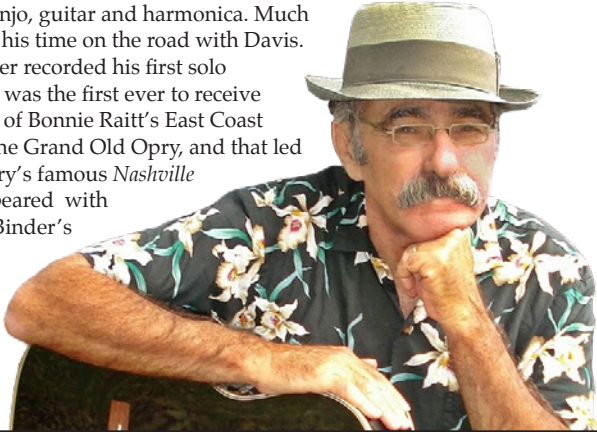
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DECEMBER 14
HEARTWOOD
SOUNDSTAGE
GAINESVILLE

Roy Book Binder

Musically, Roy Book Binder is difficult to categorize. His eclectic repertoire includes blues, country tunes, bluegrass, folk, and popular songs that originated on Tin Pan Alley. After giving up his Greenwich Village pad in the early 1970s, Binder has been rambling around the world for almost 50 years. Born in Queens, New York, Binder joined the Navy after graduation from high school, and bought his first guitar at a military base in Italy. After completing his enlistment, he returned to New York, where he became a student and friend – and later a chauffeur and tour companion – to Rev. Gary Davis, a blues and gospel singer who was also proficient on the banjo, guitar and harmonica. Much of Binder's original material is based on his time on the road with Davis. Now listed in the *Blues Who's Who*, Binder recorded his first solo acoustic blues album in the 1970s, and it was the first ever to receive five stars in *Downbeat* magazine. As part of Bonnie Raitt's East Coast Tour in the 1980s, Binder appeared on The Grand Old Opry, and that led to almost 30 appearances on Ralph Emory's famous *Nashville Now* show. In the 1990s Binder often appeared with Jorma Kaukonen, who recorded two of Binder's songs. This raconteur's latest release of all original songs, 2013's *The Good Book*, reached No. 3 on AirPlayDirect's Americana charts, and was followed in 2017 by *In Concert: Road Songs And Stories*. More at roybookbinder.com.



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21 Blue Monkey, Naples
26 Leroy's Southern Kitchen, Punta Gorda
27 Slates, Cape Coral
28 Froggy's, St. James City
31 Barrel Room, Fort Myers

www.martystokesband.com

MARTY STOKES
Down On My Knees

DECEMBER 2
THE WICK THEATRE
BOCA RATON

Mark Griffith

As drummer with Heads Up/Concord Music Group recording artists the Jaco Pastorius Big Band, Mark Griffith has recorded two albums with the Group. 2003's *Word of Mouth Revisited* spent two weeks at No. 1 on the jazz airplay charts, sold more than 50,000 copies worldwide, and received the prestigious *Jazz Week Record of the Year Award*. Its followup, 2006's *The Word is Out!*, also won the *Jazz Week Record of the Year award*. The band has toured the world (including three tours of Japan) playing the major jazz festivals including the North Sea Jazz Festival, the Detroit Jazz Festival, and the Montreal Jazz Festival. Other notable recording credits Griffith has are three albums for guitarist Randy Bernsen, an album for saxophonist Ritchie Conn, tracks for composer and keyboardist Ray Lyon, and projects for radio, Vegas-style shows, and demo projects for local artists in the South Florida area. Over Griffith's career, he has performed with an impressive array of well known artists and celebrities including Victor Wooten, Stan Getz, the Michael and Randy Brecker, Dizzy Gillespie, Kevin Mahogany, and many others. Griffith is also an accomplished studio engineer, and is a graduate of the Audio Engineering Technology program at SAE Institute in Miami. He has recorded and engineered numerous projects by bands and artists in Florida and Portland, Oregon, where he now resides. When not busy playing, he can be found in his recording studio teaching students, laying down drum tracks, recording bands, or mixing and mastering projects for other artists. More at markgriffith.com.



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DEC

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7: ART BASEL@WAVES
Eddy's Acoustic Soul, 8-11pm
Poseidon 1131 Washington Ave

13-14: Books & Books Arshat Plaza
Eddy's Acoustic Soul 6-8pm

19: WAVE Miami Beach 6-9pm
Eddy's Acoustic Soul

20: QBAR Eddy/Kilmo Duo 9pm
www.QbarFL.com

21: Hollywood Artwalk
Eddy Balzola Duo 7-10pm

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