

JAZZ & BLUES



F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE: BLUES ARTIST

TOMMY Z



- CHIP HERRINGTON
- YAINER HORTA
- ALEX LOPEZ
- NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS
- STREAMING EVENT PICKS
- FESTIVAL UPDATE

TOMMY Z – PLU

Contemporary blues-rock artist and radio host Tommy Z's many accolades include being voted Top Blues Vocalist in Western New York 2003/2004/2006, Top Blues Guitarist 1993/1994/1995/1997/2004/2005/2006, and Top Blues/Crossover Blues Band 1994/2005/2006. He was honored with the Muddy Waters Award for Artist of the Year by the Blues Society of WNY in 2004, and inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame in 2007. Tommy has had the opportunity to perform, write, record and/or co-bill with some of the world's top artists in the blues/rock genre including: B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Johnny Winter, Jimmie Vaughan, Robert Cray, Jeff Healey, Tinsley Ellis, Joe Bonamassa, Robert Randolph, and many, many more including a tour backing up Grammy-winning blues legend Pinetop Perkins.

The son of a veteran, Tommy has been bringing a taste of home to US troops overseas since 2003 with blues-based concert tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Japan, South Korea, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Egypt, Turkey, Guam, Djibouti, Alaska and other distant locales for the USO/AFE.

Rolling Stone magazine described some of these locations as "The most dangerous gigs on Earth."

In addition to his performance schedule, Tommy teaches guitar and spends much of his creative time as composer/producer for film, TV, and sports projects. His credits include writing the victory song for the St. Louis

Blues (NHL), A&E's *Biography* of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, NBC's *Last Comic Standing*, Animal Planet's *Swamp Wars*, Discovery Channel's *Biker Live*, *Insane Pools/Off the Deep End*, *Bad Chad Customs* and others.

His 2006 solo debut *Universal Love* received powerful critical acclaim. And after a busy seven years it was time to focus on his own music again. Tommy's 2013 release *Sometimes* garnered considerably more national and international attention, making the Roots Music Report Top 50 Blues Air-play chart, overseas blues charts in France and Australia, and the first round of voting for Best Blues Album at the Grammys for that year. Then in 2015 (and again in 2019) the band was invited to be the international headliner for the Cali Blues and Folk Festival in Colombia, South America for nearly two weeks of concerts and master classes. The band's contributions to the festival via helped earn it a prestigious Blues Music Award from the Blues Foundation in 2019.

Also in 2015, Tommy was hired as a blues radio host/DJ by the NPR/

WNED-affiliated station WBFO 88.7 FM where he still programs classic and modern blues music every Sunday evening for listeners in the WNY/Southern Ontario area and online atwbfo.org.

His next album, *Blizzard of Blues*, was released in 2016. Two weeks before the



JG IN AND PLAY

official release date it debuted as the No. 1 Blues Rock Album (Roots Music Report) and it spent eight straight months on the RMR airplay charts. Upon release it shot into iTunes Top 10 Blues Chart, and then debuted on the *Billboard* Blues Top 10 Album Chart. Among the likes of Billy Gibbons, Gary Clark Jr., Johnny Winter, Buddy Guy and Tedeschi/Trucks, it was the only release by an unsigned independent artist on the chart.

In the Summer of 2018, Tommy was called to fill in for Beth Hart when she had to cancel an appearance in Buffalo opening for Kenny Wayne Shepherd. The recommendation came from Chris "Whipper" Layton, legendary drummer for Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble. The boost from that epic show led to the Tommy Z Band serving as the headliner of the Buffalo Ball Drop in 2018 and 2019 – the second-largest

ball drop in the country with upwards of 40,000 attending. They were also scheduled to perform at the (cancelled) 2020 event.

After 2019 tours as both a headliner and

as support for dates with Robert Cray and Jimmie Vaughan, Tommy headed to Nashville in January of 2020 to work on tracks with Grammy-winning producer/writer/drummer Tom Hambridge. They worked through the lockdowns via the internet to finish recording, mix and master *Plug In and Play*, out now. More at tommyzband.com.

CD RELEASE EVENTS

MAY 26
ENGLEWOODS ON
DEARBORN
ENGLEWOOD

MAY 28
COTTONMOUTH
SOUL KITCHEN
BRADENTON

MAY 29
BUCKINGHAM
BLUES BAR
FT. MYERS

MAY 30
EARL'S HIDEAWAY
SEBASTIAN

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MAY 1-2
VORTEX SPRING
PONCE DE LEON

MAY 22
BUCKINGHAM
BLUES BAR
FT. MYERS

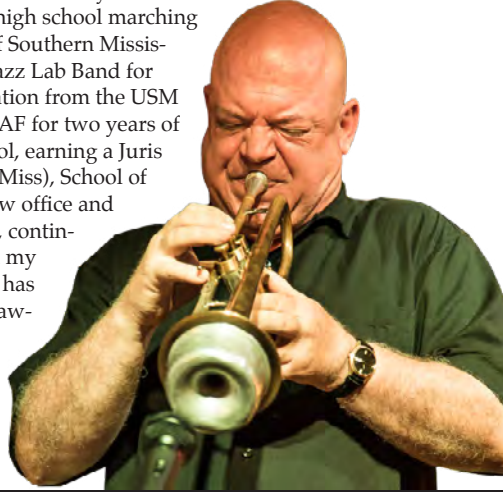
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BridgetKellyBand.com

MAY 16
PENSACOLA JAZZ FEST
SEVILLE SQUARE
PENSACOLA

Chip Herrington

Trumpeter extraordinaire and Music Director / Board Vice President of the Mobile Big Band Society Chip Herrington counts his parents as his greatest musical influences. His first piano lessons came from his mother, a choral / theater director and vocal instructor. Herrington picked up the trumpet in the fifth grade, with his father serving as band director (as he did for the next seven years). He's not shy about admitting that he "loved every minute" of playing in his high school marching band, and continued on to play in the University of Southern Mississippi Marching Band. He also played in the USM Jazz Lab Band for four years. Herrington's Bachelor's of Music Education from the USM was followed by a commission as 2nd LT in the USAF for two years of active duty. A few years later, he went back to school, earning a Juris Doctorate (JD) from University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), School of Law. He returned to Mobile, later set up his own law office and continues to practice law while stating that "I have, continuously, since first coming to Mobile in 1987, played my trumpet professionally at every opportunity." That has included appearances with Aretha Franklin, Lou Rawls, The Temptations, Mitch Ryder, and many more. Herrington also plays harmonica, and in addition to the horn parts he performed the harp solos on the Wet Willie Band's 2008 *High Humidity - Live at Tipatina's* album. More at mobilebigband.org.



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CD RELEASE EVENTS

MAY 8
WEST END THEATER
SANFORD, FLORIDA

MAY 9
EARL'S HIDEAWAY
SEBASTIAN

MAY 13
WITH MIKE ZITO
EVENT CENTER
PORT CHARLOTTE

Alex Lopez

As an acclaimed guitarist, prolific songwriter and emerging artist, Alex Lopez is recognized for his electrifying live performances. Born in Cleveland Ohio, Lopez started out playing keyboards before

becoming inspired by British blues/rock bands to master the guitar. Influenced by greats like Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page and Jimi Hendrix, Lopez spent his young adulthood performing in clubs and recording original songs in small studios while polishing his songwriting skills. After moving to Florida to attend college, Lopez spent years honing his craft as the vocalist and lead guitarist of the popular rock band Reminiscion before striking out on his own. In 2013 Lopez released the self-recorded *Back Bedroom Blues*, a collection of all-original blues and blues/rock songs on which he played all instruments and introduced his formidable skills as a blues guitarist and singer/songwriter. Two years later Lopez released *Is it a Lie*, with his newly formed band The Xpress, to excellent reviews. His third album, *Slowdown* achieved a new level of success with international recognition and critical acclaim boosting his position on the blues, jam and Americana charts with worldwide airplay. His last CD, *Yours Truly, Me...* hit No. 6 on the blues radio charts and clearly positioned Lopez to continue his ascent in contemporary blues. Now Lopez is releasing his most ambitious album to date with the pure blues rocker *Rising Up*. More at alexlopez.com.



BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE IN SEBASTIAN

MUSIC STARTS @ 2PM

- SebastianDaily.com



- May 2 Rockin' Jake Band
- May 9 Alex Lopez
- May 15 Joey Tenuto Band +Muggie Doo
- May 16 Big Al & The Heavyweights
- May 22 Dave Scott Band
- May 23 Mike Zito
- May 28 Swamp Dogs 8:30PM
- May 29 St. John's Wood
+8:30PM King's Tide & Guests
- May 30 Albert Castiglia
+7:00PM Tommy Z CD RELEASE PARTY
- May 31 Nasty Habits

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Yainer Horta

MAY 1
BAYFRONT JAZZ FEST
BAYFRONT PARK
MIAMI

Versatile Cuban-born multi-instrumentalist - producer - composer Yainer Horta began his musical studies at

age ten, focusing on saxophone and piano. After finishing his studies at the prestigious University Berklee College of Music, Horta decided to settle in Miami with the goal of honing his talents as a professional musician while at the same time being part of the great cultural variety of musical genres offered by the city. He quickly became part of the local music scene, performing with many of the top, Latin, rock, R&B, pop and jazz groups on the scene. Between 2008 and 2014 he worked as Musical Director for the stellar TV show *Esta Noche Tu Night* conducted by Alexis Valdés, and as a multi-instrumentalist for *El Arañazo* conducted by Omar Moynelo, both productions broadcast by Mega TV. Horta also launched his career as a music producer and sound engineer, opening his own recording studio in Miami. Yhorta Studios has become an essential platform for independent artists and musicians. Throughout his career, Horta has performed and toured internationally with a lengthy list that runs the alphabet from Ricardo Arjona to Alexis Valdés. In 2017, he debuted as soloist with *Así*

En Colores wherein each of his songs sums up his passion for music. He appears on the 2021 release *Viento Y Tiempo: Live At The*

Blue Note Tokyo featuring Gonzalo Rubalcaba and Aymée Nuviola, with whom he'll be performing here. More at yainerhorta.com.



FESTIVAL UPDATE

MAY 28, 2021 • SEBASTIAN
Earl's Memorial Day Weekend Fest

AUGUST 13, 2021 • Brooksville
Spirit of Woodstock

SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 • SEBASTIAN
Earl's Labor Day Weekend Party

SEPT 23, 2021 • NEW SMYRNA BEACH
New Smyrna Beach Jazz Fest

SEPT 29, 2021 • JACKSONVILLE
Jacksonville Jazz Fest

OCTOBER 4, 2021 • AMELIA ISLAND
Amelia Island Jazz Fest

OCTOBER 7, 2021 • BARBADOS
Barbados Jazz Excursion

OCTOBER 14, 2021 • CLEARWATER
Clearwater Jazz Holiday

OCTOBER 15, 2021 • BROOKSVILLE
Camping with the Blues

NOVEMBER 6, 2021 • GAINESVILLE
Downtown Fest & Art Show

NOVEMBER 12, 2021 • CASSELBERRY
Craft Beer & Blues Fest

DECEMBER 3, 2021 • BRADENTON
Bradenton Blues Fest

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JAZZ & BLUES
FESTIVAL LIST!**

INFORMATION WAS CORRECT AT TIME OF POSTING

Send updates to

Charlie@JazzBluesFlorida.com

pompano beach **arts**

A Taste of
JAZZ
At Home

MAY 13
7:00-8:00pm

A Celebration of Spring
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BackRoom Live
JAZZ WEDNESDAYS

MAY 5 John Yarling
MAY 12 Jack Brandfield
MAY 19 Wendy Pedersen & Jim Gasior
MAY 26 Camilo Molina

BLUES JAM THURSDAYS
with Darrell Raines

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS/SATURDAYS

MAY 7 & 15 Brev Sullivan Guitar Project
MAY 8 & 29 Melinda Rose Rodriguez
MAY 21 Federico Britos & Ahmed Barroso
MAY 22 Nestor Zurita
MAY 28 Rachelele Coba

10000 SW 56th Street, Miami
305-595-8453 TheFishHouse.com

MAY 1
TUFFY'S BOTTLE SHOP
SANFORD

North Miss. Allstars

In 1996, a photographer from Texas traveled to North Mississippi looking to photograph local musicians. Brothers Luther and Cody Dickinson, and their father, legendary producer and session player Jim Dickinson, introduced the photographer to the the musical families of Otha Turner, RL Burnside and Junior Kimbrough. After a few incomparable days of music, the photographer left and the images were forgotten. A month later, the North Mississippi Allstars made their Memphis debut, with the Dickinson brothers incorporating their father's concept of roots music as a framework for improvisation and blending experimental / psychedelic excursions into Hill Country anthems. After Luther toured with Burnside in '97, a natural momentum began building up that slowly led to the brothers hitting the road full-time. As Luther puts it, "Our lives changed forever with the release of *Shake Hands with Shorty* in 2000. The music that rings through the hills carried us away and became touring around the world." The CD made the acts around. In 23 years they've released nominated for Blues Album of the Year shows alongside the likes of Robert Plant, Patty Griffin, Mavis Staples and John Hiatt. In 2017 the photographer tracked the brothers down and shared those photos with them. "The music that changed our lives was captured in these photographs." They've captured that on their latest, *Up and Rolling*. More at nsmallstars.com.



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Jus' Blues "The Muddy" Lifetime Blues Award	JIMMY JOHNSON
KoKo Taylor "Queen of the Blues" Award	MARY LANE
Bobby Blue Bland Lifetime Blues Award	LEON BLUE
Bobby Rush Lifetime Blues Entertainer Award	KEVIN BURT
Denise LaSalle Lifetime Recording Of Excellence Award	THORNETTA DAVIS
King Of The Blues Award - Tribute to B.B. King	JAMELL RICHARDSON
Willie Mitchell Lifetime Artist Award	LOLA
Albert King Lifetime Award "The Lucy Award"	GREG WRIGHT
Millie Jackson "Classy & Sassy" Award	LACEE
Little Milton Lifetime Bluesman Award	MAJOR HANDEY
Ruben Hughes Lifetime Blues Radio Personality Award	CYREIO HUGHES
Benny Latimore "Let's Straighten It Out" Award	HONOREE TBA

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BLUES

PAUL FILIPOWICZ

FRIDAYS AT 5:30PM

facebook.com/paul.filipowicz.7

DANIELLE NICOLE

MAY 6 AT 7:00PM

TICKETED EVENT

mconigels.com/shows

KEB MO

MAY 13 AT 7:00PM

TICKETED EVENT

alysstephens.org

REV. BILLY WIRTZ

A North Central Florida Blues Society event

MAY 23 AT 6:00PM

TICKETED EVENT

highdiveville.veeps.com

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JAZZ

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MAY 7 AT 8:00PM

TICKETED EVENT

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A TASTE OF JAZZ AT HOME

MAY 13 AT 7:00PM

[pompanobeacharts.org/programs/a-taste-of-
jazz-series-1](https://pompanobeacharts.org/programs/a-taste-of-jazz-series-1)

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