



JAZZ & BLUES



F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE:
BLUES ARTIST



BERNARD ALLISON

SCOTTY BARNHART
JIMMY CARPENTER
TIM FIK
BRIA SKONBERG
PETER WHITE
ALAN YEATTER

BERNARD

DECEMBER 4
BRADENTON
BLUES FEST
BRADENTON



The great Chicago bluesman Luther Allison lived by a simple philosophy that he was happy to share: “Leave your ego, play the music, love the people.” Now 24 years after his passing the great man would surely be proud to find his ferociously talented son Bernard is sworn to the same mission: bringing soul-soaked, all-guns-blazing blues to audiences who need it more than ever. Released in January 2020 as a CD/DVD set, *Songs From The Road* is an immersive live recording that catches every last flash of virtuosity, bead of sweat and drop of atmosphere.

The youngest of nine children, Bernard made his first appearance on record at age 13, when he played on a live LP his father recorded in Peoria, IL. One week after his high school graduation, the young guitarist was invited to join Koko Taylor’s touring band. During that time, he furthered his skills under the tutelage of Johnny Winter and Stevie Ray Vaughan, maintaining close relationships with both until their passing. His relationship with Vaughan was such that on Bernard’s 15th birthday the legendary guitar phenom invited Allison to play with him and his Double Trouble band live on stage.

After becoming the bandleader for his father’s touring band in Europe in 1989, Allison recorded his breakout debut album *The Next Generation* later that year. Allison and his father continued to collaborate, with Bernard co-writing and arranging material on his father’s final three albums. And like his father, Bernard adopted residence in France. But while it’s obvious that Bernard inherited Luther’s distinctive knack for igniting audiences, he is no

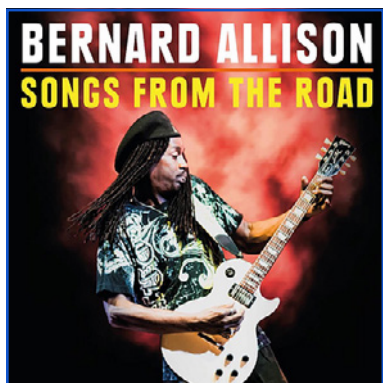
clone of his famous father. He is definitely blazing his own path with a style that reflects a unique mix of traditional and modern influences. He’s assumed the challenge of keeping the blues alive and growing – a commitment he renews every time he takes the stage.

“The blues are my roots. Regardless of how far outside of the blues I reach for tones, I can’t ever leave the blues,” he explains. “Whenever I play, all those guitar parts are Luther Allison coming through me. My dad was the same way, he wasn’t all blues. He loved Otis Redding and Chuck Berry. I’m just showing where my influences come from while respecting the people who got me to this point.”

Since embarking on his acclaimed solo career, this prolific songwriter has never stopped. After three more albums, Allison released his critically acclaimed U.S. debut *Keepin’ the Blues Alive* in 1997. That was followed by 13 more albums, from 1998’s *Times are Changing* through 2018’s *Let It Go*, which found him returning his sound to its raw fundamentals on 12 songs that hold up without embellishment. “We made the decision to not flood the CD with keyboards or horns,” Allison says, “to go back to the true basic rhythm section sound, and to show more mature songwriting.”

ALLISON

The *Allison Burnside Express*, released in 2013, marked the first collaboration between two boundary-defying blues musicians from the U.S. Each has successfully carried forth his respective family's musical tradition with Cedric Burnside (guitar, vocals and drums) carrying on that of his grandfather, R.L. Burnside. As descendants and next-generation successors to these rich traditions, the two teamed up to create a new kind of blues that references the work of their ancestors, but also incorporates elements of funk, R&B and soul music.



Now with his fourth live release *Songs From the Road*, Allison reminds us that while his recent output is his strongest to date, there's plenty to find when mining his studio catalogue for diamonds. And though the songs may be familiar, the interpretations are not. He explains: *"My dad always told me to think outside the box. I don't like to play in a box. In order to expand, I like to take risks."*

With Bernard leading the lineup on vocals and lead guitar, backed by Dylan Salfer (guitar), George Moye (bass), Mario Dawson (drums) and José James (sax/percussion), this band's chemistry lets them stretch out and shake up these classics. More at bernardallison.com.

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Award recipient: Tim Fik

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Bria Skonberg

DECEMBER 8
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Born in British Columbia, Bria Skonberg has been a featured artist at hundreds of festivals and on stages the world over. Described by the *Wall*

Street Journal as “one of the most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation,” she has performed with Jon Batiste, U2 & Sun Ra Arkestra, and The American Pops and Vancouver Symphony Orchestras, among others. A three-time Juno Award Nominee, Skonberg’s debut release won for Best Jazz Vocal Album and made the Top 5 on *Billboard*’s jazz charts. Skonberg appears on more than 25 albums, and recently released her sixth solo studio album *Nothing Never Happens*, consisting mostly of original compositions. This 6x *Downbeat* Rising Star has also won the Jazz at Lincoln Center Swing Award, Best Vocal and Best Trumpet from *Hot House Jazz Magazine*, and Outstanding Jazz Artist at the Bistro Awards. After earning her degree in Jazz Trumpet Performance, she performed for four years with Canada’s King of Swing Dal Richards, and traveled extensively as a featured artist in traditional jazz circles. Skonberg moved to New York in 2010 and studied privately with Warren Vache for two years. She now appears often as a guest faculty member and clinician, and she directs and performs with student ensembles at all levels. In 2018 Lincoln Center sought out her leadership for a tribute

to the first integrated all female big band, the International Sweethearts of Rhythm, which launched her acclaimed group Sisterhood of Swing. More at briaskonberg.com.



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DECEMBER 18
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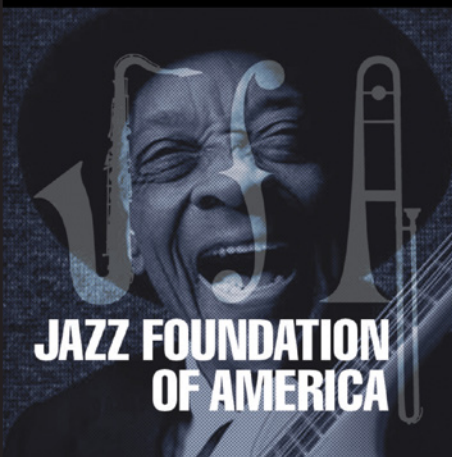
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DECEMBER 1
FUNKY BISCUIT
BOCA RATON

DECEMBER 12
HIGH DIVE
GAINESVILLE

Tim Fik

While busy serving as lead guitarist for Gainesville's smokin' blues group the Bridget Kelly Band, Tim Fik is also a tenured associate professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Florida. For the past 20+ years he has been giving seminars and workshops on blues music while teaching a course titled "Popular Music and Culture" focusing on the history of American roots music and the blues. Hailing originally from the Buffalo, NY metro area, Fik is a voting member of the Producers' Wing of the Recording Academy, founder of the Alpha Sun record label, and serves on the Board of Directors of the National Women in Blues. He was honored with the Keeping the Blues Alive Award from the Blues Foundation in 2018. The Bridget Kelly Band's first show was at Billy's Downtown Blues Bar in Palatka, Florida back in 2011. Since its inception, the band has toured relentlessly throughout the Southeastern U.S. and into the Midwest and Northeast. A festival favorite, they reached the semi-finals of the International Blues Challenge in both 2015 and 2016. The band's seventh and most recent album, 2020's *Dark Spaces*, is another heaping helping of Fik and Kelly's distinctive original songwriting, featuring his masterful (he started at eight years old!) and incendiary guitar playing, and her sultry and powerful vocals. Since 2017, The North Central Florida Blues Society has been celebrating Fik's birthday in December with a Blues Birthday Bash. This year's event includes Mike Zito, Albert Castiglia, and Root Redemption. More at bridgetkellyband.com.



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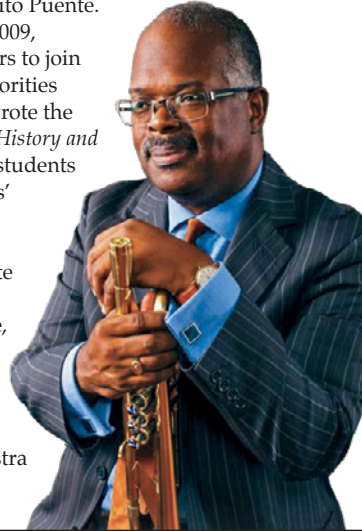
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DECEMBER 18
PINECREST
GARDENS
PINECREST

Scotty Barnhart

Acclaimed jazz trumpeter, leader, composer, arranger, educator and author Scotty Barnhart is now in his 28th year with the legendary Count Basie Orchestra. A two-time Grammy winner with the Orchestra, Barnhart has been featured on acclaimed recordings by Marcus Roberts, Tony Bennett, Diana Krall, Ray Charles, and Tito Puente. Barnhart released his well-received debut solo CD *Say It Plain* in 2009, inviting Roberts, Clark Terry, Ellis and Wynton Marsalis, and others to join him on standards and originals. Acknowledged as one of the authorities on the history of jazz trumpet, Barnhart intently researched and wrote the groundbreaking book *The World of Jazz Trumpet - A Comprehensive History and Practical Philosophy*. This valuable source tool for jazz trumpeters, students and jazz fans features interviews with subjects from Harry 'Sweets' Edison to Chuck Mangione, technical tutorials, historical events and previously unpublished photographs. When Barnhart is not touring with The Count Basie Orchestra or teaching at Florida State University, he performs with his own quintet-sextet, and lectures and demonstrates around the world. The Orchestra's latest release, *Live At Birdland!* was just nominated for a 2022 Grammy for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album. Barnhart's words upon becoming the Orchestra's Director in 2013 ring true: "Mr. Basie himself said that a happy band is a great band. I want us to leave no doubt after every single tune we play that we are the greatest jazz orchestra on this planet. In every respect." More at scottybarnhart.com.



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Alan Yeatter

DECEMBER 12
HIGH DIVE
GAINESVILLE

by Rob Richardson

An award-winning musician/songwriter and longtime Board member of the North Central Florida Blues Society, Alan Yeatter has been playing music in genres ranging from Americana to indie rock since the age of 16. In 2006 he returned to his first musical love, the blues, joining the Used Blues Band. The Used Blues Band played all over North Central Florida, from Perry's Southern Pines Blues & BBQ Festival to Palatka's St. John's River Blues Festival, and clubs as far south as Dave's Aqua Lounge in St. Petersburg. They also served as the house band at Gainesville's legendary Club Red. The band competed in the International Blues Challenge (IBC) in 2008, and Yeatter was nominated for the Albert King Award for best guitarist that year. In 2010, Yeatter's composition "Palm Reader Blues" was named Blues Song of the Year at the 9th Annual Independent Music Awards. With a lineup change, the band was reborn as Root Redemption. Yeatter competed again in the 2012 IBC in the Root Redemption Duo with harmonica player Gus Olmos. For more than six years now,

Root Redemption has operated under the lineup of Yeatter on vocals and guitar, Olmos on harmonica, Rick Wagner on drums, and Mark Armbricht – who has also competed in the IBC himself – on bass. Root Redemption is joining the Tim Fik Birthday bash on December 12 at the High Dive in Gainesville to play with Mike Zito, Albert Castiglia, and the Bridget Kelly Band. Find them on [Facebook](#).



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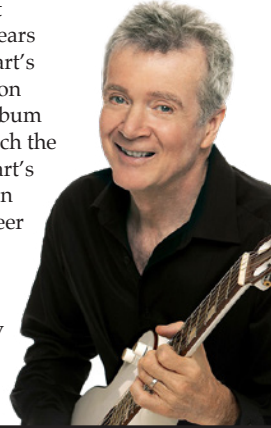
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Peter White

Over a career that spans nearly four decades, more than a dozen solo recordings and countless performances, Peter White has maintained a reputation as one of the most versatile and prolific acoustic guitarists on the contemporary jazz landscape. Armed with an unparalleled combination of lyricism and energy, he combines elements of jazz, pop and classical guitar to create a sound that is singular yet broadly accessible. As a child in Letchworth (near London), he learned to play several musical instruments, including clarinet, trombone, violin, piano and ultimately the guitar. His first professional gig was at a holiday resort when he was 19 years old, and barely a year later he was invited to join Al Stewart's band for their 1975 tour. White also worked with Stewart on his massive 1976 hit "Year of the Cat." The tour and the album marked the beginning of a 20-year association during which the two musicians co-wrote numerous songs, including Stewart's 1978 hit "Time Passages." After years as a backup musician and session player, White launched his solo recording career



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DECEMBER 8
PONTE VEDRA
CONCERT HALL
PONTE VEDRA

DECEMBER 9
KING CENTER
MELBOURNE

DECEMBER 11
SPORT OF KINGS
HALLANDALE
BEACH

DECEMBER 12
LYRIC THEATRE
STUART

with the 1990 release of *Reveille-Vous*. He maintained an ambitious release schedule through the 1990s and beyond, but also found time to appear on recordings by many of his friends, including Dave Koz, Rick Braun, Boney James and many others. His annual Peter White Christmas Tour is fueled by the success of his two highly regarded holiday albums. His 16th and latest solo album is 2019's *Music for Starlux Airlines*. More at peterwhite.com.

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Jimmy Carpenter

Saxophonist and singer-songwriter Jimmy Carpenter's professional journey began more than 35 years ago. He toured with both Tinsley Ellis and Jimmy Thackery, among others, before settling in New Orleans. Work as bandleader and horn arranger with New Orleans icon Walter "Wolfman" Washington and The Roadmasters led up to his 2008 solo debut *Toiling in Obscurity*. In 2012 Carpenter joined Mike Zito and The Wheel and he appears on their *Gone to Texas, Songs from the Road and Keep Coming Back* CDs. In 2014 Carpenter released his second solo album, *Walk Away*, and he received Blues Music Award nominations for Best Instrumentalist – Horn in both 2014 and 2015. In addition to touring nationally and internationally, Carpenter has written, arranged and recorded the horns for many artists. After the 2017 release *Jimmy Carpenter Plays the Blues*, Carpenter relocated to Las Vegas, where he currently lives.

In addition to leading his own band and playing with numerous others, he is the Musical Director for the Big Blues Bender, and leader of the Bender Brass, The Bender's house band. He is the current president of the Las Vegas Blues Society, and in 2020 received his fifth nomination – and first win – for Best Instrumentalist/Horn at the Blues Music Awards. A song he co-wrote, titled "Tomb Tune," appeared on the New Orleans Nightcrawlers 2020 *Atmosphere* CD, which won a Grammy for Best Regional Roots Music Album. His latest CD, 2021's *Soul Doctor*, contains 10 songs including seven original compositions written or co-written by Carpenter. More at jimmycarpenter.net.



DECEMBER 2
ENGLEWOODS
ON DEARBORN
ENGLEWOOD

DECEMBER 3
BLUE ROOSTER
SARASOTA

DECEMBER 4
BRADENTON
BLUES FEST
BRADENTON

DECEMBER 5
COTTONMOUTH
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BRADENTON

DECEMBER 6
FUNKY BISCUIT
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JAZZ & BLUES FLORIDA FESTIVAL UPDATE

DECEMBER 3 • BRADENTON
Bradenton Blues Fest

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Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues

JANUARY 28 • POMPANO BEACH
Pompano Beach Jazz Festival

MARCH 5 • BOCA RATON
Festival of the Arts

MARCH 11 • BONITA SPRINGS
Bonita Blues Fest

MARCH 26 • AOPKA
Aopka International Jazz Fest

MARCH 26 • TALLAHASSEE
Backyard Blues @ Blue Tavern

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INFORMATION WAS CORRECT AT TIME OF POSTING
Send updates to Charlie@JazzBluesFlorida.com