



**Cleveland  
Blues Society**

**THE  
CROSSROADS  
OF RUSTBELT BLUES**

P.O. Box 470204, Broadview Heights, OH 44147 [www.clevelandblues.org](http://www.clevelandblues.org)

*Blues News March 2018*

---

## CBS INDOOR PICNIC A BIG HIT!

---

### On February 18th, CBS held its members picnic at Parma Elks

The CBS board would like to thank everyone who attended our “Cabin Fever” picnic. Anthony Lovano’s Supernatural Band put on an inspirational performance for CBS members and many NEW friends. It was wonderful to see dancing, toe tapping and smiles throughout the room! Anthony asked Travis Haddix and Mike DeLia to sit in and play a few songs.

There was plenty of food with four different chili’s and you definitely did not go away hungry from this event. What a great way to spend a Sunday, sharing it with our Blues Family!

Over 100 people attended. Many non-members came to discover what CBS is about. They enjoyed listening to the music, dining on our variety of chili’s and various soups with lots of sides and desserts while making new friends! The Parma Elks was impressed with how smoothly the event went and would like to support CBS in future events. This event exposed this venue to how LIVE music can make an event happen!! They are now interested in other such events.



The CBS Board wants to thank everyone who supported us to make this such a success. We would not have been able to do this without our great volunteers and support from the Meet-up Group “Lake Erie 40s, 50s, 60s, etc.!” and the Picnic Committee volunteers – Bill Koteles, Susanne Mayer, Cindy Frederick, Dave Rolland, Don Grcic, Anna Marie Grcic, Diane Mocniak, Lloyd Braun, Pat Murphy, Jim Bell, Chris Comodeca, Becky Francen, Chairperson Elaine DeStephano and others who stepped in to help out. What a great bunch of people!

**We appreciate it!**

CBS will have its next picnic this fall at Camp Forbes in Highland Hills.

Travis Haddix is the host band.—Date is TBD

Bring your dancing shoes!!



---

## FUN AT THE CBS PICNIC

---







Host  
Band  
Spotlight  
Jan 2018

by Doug  
Schunick

---

# BLUES CHRONICLES

---

## Reese Black Germany

Reese, originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, moved to Cleveland when he was a little child . Growing up, his mother had alot of records. Reece Listened to Louis Armstrong, Elvis, Ray Charles, alot of country, and Miles Davis, including , "Kind of Blue". He was always reading the liner notes on the albums, and was attracted to Willie Dixon , which led to Jimmy Reed. After seeing a documentary on Muddy Waters and hearing the Alan Lomax recordings of Muddy, he was "set on a different path". It was the harmonica Blues, my friends! Of course, he did hear the rock bands covering the Blues, like the Allman Brothers, but he went back to discover Jr Wells, Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson, and James Cotton. Reese likes the music of Muddy Waters, but after seeing Taj Mahal in Cleveland many years ago, Taj still remains his favorite. He has seen Taj many times, and the last time he went with Al Moses who commented, after seeing his show, that maybe they should steal all his songs!! That's how good the performance was. Recommended listening includes "Taj's Blues" and "Giant Steps" by Taj.

After seeing the great Wallace Coleman at a Calla Club 20 years ago, he approached Wallace about taking some lessons. Wallace told him to go see Dave Morrison. Reese was self taught, but eventually went to Dave Morrison for lessons. He met Dave in 1994 and attended every one of his gigs with his band Aces & Eights for two years, including gigs at the Savannah.

While he attended jam nights with Michael Bay at (Chiefs Fidel's Inn) before the Parkview and Brothers, he never sang. In 2005 Reece went a to jam doing rock Blues, like Messin With the Kid & Stormy Monday, but there was no singer! So he started singing, "Stormy Monday" and they "asked me to come back!" He "ended up fronting the band" further exploring the Blues.



Freeman from the Bad Boys doing Jimmy Reed's "Baby What You want Me to Do " with fond memories. He added, "Walkin Cane is another favorite player!"

His group "Blues on Fire", with Freddie Patton and Jamil Adeen, have been together for nine years, and play Blues, Soul, and R & B. They are scheduled to reappear in June. Check them out!! They recruited a guitar player they found through the Cleveland Clinic of all places, and found Nicola Marchi, who had a love for the Delta Blues and the Chess recordings. They split as an acoustic duo when Nicola left for Europe and his long time friend, Al Moses, from MoKo BoVo, picked up on guitar, Nick Marino on bass and Paul O'Brien on drums, who still plays with Glen Schwartz. The band is now performing as "Blues Chronicles".



## Blues Chronicles continued

In 2012, the band was invited to appear at the FIMU Festival in Belfort, France.... a "wonderful four day weekend". The festival included four hundred bands, and they were able "to open and close the festival, come home with a new CD and money in their pockets!"

Reese and Al won the Cleveland blues challenge last year as an Acoustic Duo, and took the trip to Memphis, where they were able to hear and compete with some serious competition. This year they entered as a band, and won the NEOBA challenge, and headed back to

Memphis in February, where they competed against 263 bands! Reese said both were great experiences..."playing Beale Street, two sets in 2 nights, visiting the Soul/Stax studios, seeing Delbert McClinton, and attending the jam at the Run Boogie Cafe Party, hosted by Bob "Steady Rollin" Margolin". "You could run into the other musicians just walking down the street like any other person". "It was great meeting the other musicians, and trying to struggle in time to see all the other performers, due to scheduling. There was constant music in all the clubs".

Although Reese "gigs a lot", he also runs the business end, constantly working to get gigs, and although "it is wonderful being a band leader", Reese, finds time to attend and is a great supporter of the Blues Society Jams. He is "always impressed how people play together and can sound so good".

Reese married into a large family to his wife Nanci. A Navy Veteran, he served in the Pacific fleet in San Diego, and Japan. He works in the printing business, and is a big baseball fan, attending many Indians games.

The band Blues Chronicles is a must see! They are going into the studio to record an electric cd with some friends joining in instrumentally and backing vocals. Reese is continuing to play as an acoustic trio with Al Moss and Nick Marino.

BLUES CHRONICLES is: Reese Black Germany, Harmonica & Vocals; Al Moses, Guitar & Vocals; Nick Marino, Bass and Paul OB O'Brien, drums



CBS is proud to be a sponsor of two porches this year at the 2018 Larchmere Porchfest which is being held on Saturday, June 16th.

One porch with Austin Walkin' Cane & one porch with Tim Matson.



**Cleveland  
Blues Society**

**THE  
CROSSROADS  
OF RUSTBELT BLUES**

P.O. Box 470204, Broadview Heights, OH 44147 [www.clevelandblues.org](http://www.clevelandblues.org)

### **MEMBERS BLUES CHOICE AWARDS**

Voting is underway for our **Second** Annual Blues Choice Awards, which recognizes some of the finest **blues** artists in the Cleveland, Ohio area. You must be a current member of the Cleveland Blues Society to vote.

#### **Members can vote for the following five categories:**

1. Best Blues Vocals (favorite lead singer)
2. Best Blues Group (favorite band)
3. Best Blues Rhythm (bass guitar, drums, percussion, etc.)
4. Best Blues Lead (any lead instrument, guitar, keyboards, harmonica, etc.)
5. Best Blues Up & Coming Entertainer (any vocals, band, rhythm or lead)

CBS will recognize the winners at our fall picnic. The winners will have articles featured in our newsletter and on our website.

Vote by filling out and submitting the ballot shown in our newsletter or the form provided below. You can mail the ballot in, hand deliver to any board member or awards committee member no later than **June 1, 2018**. The winners will be announced in our July 2018 newsletter and on our Sixth Annual Blues Cruise.

Members Blues Choice Awards are another way of CBS providing recognition, honors and supporting our local area blues artists.

Any questions, please call Elaine at (216) 212-0007 or email [elainecbs145@gmail.com](mailto:elainecbs145@gmail.com).

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CBS Member No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best Blues Group (Band):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best Blues Vocalist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best Blues Lead:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(any lead instrument, guitar, harmonica, keyboards, etc.)

**Best Blues Rhythm:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(drums, bass, rhythm guitar, etc.)

**Best Blues Up & Coming Entertainer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(vocals, group, lead or rhythm)



---

# NIGHTWALKERS

---

Jeff Hurd is the founder and original member of The Nightwalkers. With over 30 years of professional playing experience behind him, Jeff pens songs for The Nightwalkers and lends his clear vocals to the mix. On any given night, Jeff is industriously working on new music and new gigs for the band.

Mike Blazy is the one and only drummer the Nightwalkers have had since their opening night in September, 1996. Mike has vast experience in professional music, including dinner club/ private functions, country, classic rock, blues and prog rock. Drumming is in his blood. As a child, Mike built his first drumset and it was shortly thereafter that he purchased his first professional drumkit. Although many claim to play the drums, Mike is pure rhythm in motion behind his set.



Marty Puljic joined the Nightwalkers full-time in May of 2009. Hailing from the Bleeding Heart Blues Band, Marty was the perfect fit for the Nightwalkers. Always a professional, Marty is host of the popular blues show on WJCU, Mad Cat Blues. Marty can be heard every Tuesday night, from 8PM-10PM on WJCU 88.7FM.

Ken Bettinger (keyboards, trumpet, vocals) is the newest member of the Nightwalkers and his talents are bringing a new dimension to the band's sound. He is active in the National Honor Guard and plays trumpet with the Army band. He also plays with the Motown band, Sight and Sound.

---

## **SAMANTHA FISH at Beachland by Pat Murphy**

On Tuesday, February 6th, the cold disappeared for a few hours as blues sensation Samantha Fish brought a sell-out crowd to its feet at the Beachland Ballroom. Backed up by a six-piece band including a violin, trumpet, saxophone, keyboard, bass, and drums she blew the crowd away with her guitar and vocal talent. From the opening song, her rendition of Barbara Lewis's Hello Stranger to her encore number, Cherub, which she played on her signature cigar box guitar she had the crowd awestruck. The concert showcased her new album Belle of the West. Eight of the sixteen songs were off the CD. For the encore she invited everybody up to the front to form what she called a "blues mosh pit". Fortunately, no one was inclined to stage dive.



Our own Austin Walkin' Cane was the opening act. What can I say? Augie never, ever disappoints. At the end of the night, when Samantha and Augie were in the lobby signing CDs and posing for pictures, someone asked her if she chose him as her opening act. She stated that that was too much of the business and organizational part of the tour and she leaves that to others. She was told how lucky she was to have such talent opening for her...and she agreed.



Blues  
You  
Should  
Know  
by  
**Bob Frank**

---

# THE BLUES HUNTER

---

## PART ONE

---

It didn't used to be this easy.

In fact, it used to be a lot harder.

Harder, that is, to find blues records and even to learn something about the music.

I've had three epiphanies in my life. One was reading *Catch 22* at age seventeen, another was hearing the Stanley Brothers for the first time a bit later, but, by far the biggest one, and the one that had the greatest effect on me, was hearing the blues for the first time in 1967 at age fourteen. My mom had gotten me an FM table radio for my birthday, and at night, I'd scan the dial looking for interesting sounds. One Friday night I happened to stumble on 91.1 WRUW in their first month of broadcasting. The show I happened on was called *The Blues Bag* and they were playing blues, albeit with a very small record collection. I think they had a Butterfield album, a Leadbelly album, some things by Koerner, Ray & Glover and the Best of Muddy Waters. That seemed to be about it but it was enough for me. I was transfixed. I'd never heard anything like this before. The music seemed to reach inside me and grab me by the spinal cord.



Bob Frank at the Ann Arbor  
Blues Festival 1969, age 16

By the next week they'd picked up a few more records and had a show that focused on blues harmonica. The next day, I took the rapid downtown, walked up to Prospect Music and bought my first harmonica.

For the next few years I practiced obsessively. I picked up a copy of *The Blues at Newport* and tried for months to play *Mellow Down Easy* by the Butterfield Blues Band. It seemed so hard and I just couldn't get it. Finally I wore the harmonica out, went back downtown to Prospect Music and asked for a new harmonica. The salesman asked me,

"What key?"

"Key?" I answered. "What's that?"

I'd been trying to play a song in "A" with a "C" harmonica. I just didn't know.

## Blues You Should Know, continued

After that, with my newly found knowledge that harmonicas come in different keys, things got a bit easier and I continued my obsessive practicing. I'd be in my room playing along with records and at least once a day I'd hear, coming up the stairs, "Bobby put that thing down and do your homework!" Such was the plight of the teenage blues obsessive.

At the time, there was such a thing as record stores. Discount Records, Record Rendezvous, and Record Den were some of the big ones at the time and most of them had one bin for blues records. I'd go through them until I knew their stock better than they did. But records cost four, five dollars; even more. Who had that kind of money then?

I started searching the bins at discount stores. I discovered that the Giant Tiger on Miles road had blues on the Prestige label for \$1.99, sometimes \$.99! I'd try the public libraries but they didn't seem too interested in blues records. The South Euclid library had a Blind Boy Fuller album on Blues Classics and I took that out a few times until someone with more nerve than me stole it. The Salvation Army main store on Euclid Avenue had a large table with thousands of 78s piled on it. I searched through it for several afternoons and found a few interesting things, Eddie Boyd's Five Long Years, Drinking Wine Spo-de-o-de by Stick McGee and a few others. I probably left some really good stuff there since I wasn't knowledgeable enough at the time to know what they were.

Much to my parent's bewilderment, my blues obsession continued. I wanted to learn more about the music but how? There were a few books out, Sam Charters had a couple, Englishman Paul Oliver had one, so did Leroi Jones, but, at the time, that was about it. I discovered the massive used bookstore, Kay's, on Prospect Ave. downtown, and searched for back copies of Downbeat and an English jazz publication called Jazz Journal. Even Ebony had occasional articles on popular blues singers. For my 15th birthday I got my aunt (bless her) to get me a subscription to another English publication, Blues Unlimited. This was the only magazine dedicated to blues at the time.

My part time job, from age twelve until I graduated high school, was working at my Dad's car wash, Al Paul's, in South Euclid. There were some old-timers working there, African Americans who were in their late 50s and early 60s. I'd ask if they'd heard of some of the early blues artists I was listening to. I learned that nobody had heard of Son House or Robert Johnson, but that everybody remembered Blind Lemon Jefferson.

"Oh, yeah. My momma had his records". Or, "Sure, we all listened to Blind Lemon".

They may have thought I was crazy, too. But that was the process. That was the way to learn.

Slowly but inevitably, more books about blues were written and record companies began releasing more blues records including samplers and collection from Chess, Columbia and RCA. America was beginning to recognize the blues and its importance as an indigenous art form. The blues was beginning to have value.



The blues was inside of me. I knew that to really understand the music I needed to hear it live. I searched out and became friendly with local blues musicians like Mr. Stress, Dave Griggs, Robert Lockwood, Glenn Schwartz and Guitar Slim. By the end of high school I had my own blues band and had been to the first two Ann Arbor Blues Festivals.

My whole point is that the reward was greater because of, not in spite of, the challenge.

Bob Frank at the Ann Arbor  
Blues Festival 1969, age 16



## **Blues You Should Know**, continued

These days it's a lot easier. There's the internet, oh is there ever the internet.

As someone who grew up and was educated before computers, I'm continually astounded at just how much information and music is available for just a couple of clicks. YouTube alone is a staggeringly large source of freely available music. A YouTube search on "blues" will bring up millions of hits. A more specific search on particular blues artist will bring up dozens to hundreds. For the last article I wrote for this newsletter on Bo Carter, an artist who's last recordings were made in 1940, YouTube offered me nearly his entire recorded output and that's nearly 200 songs.

Like a particular blues song and want to learn to play it? Search on nearly any song you can think of and there are several people on YouTube offering you a free online guitar lesson. I've learned that they're often wrong, but that's sort of beside the point.

I was following one YouTube guitar teacher (he never shows his face) who uses the handle "Old School Blues Guitar", for a while, and on one video he showed up wearing a Blue Lunch T-shirt! Turns out I know the guy. Who knew?

I haven't tried all of the streaming services, but all the ones I've tried have all of the contemporary blues artists and a lot more. Spotify even has nearly the entire Document Records catalog of pre-war blues, my favorite stuff.

About a year ago I finally got around to joining Facebook. I've joined a number of Facebook "groups" that focus on blues. These are a terrific means of discovering blues artists you'd never previously heard of and of viewing recent performances by your favorites. Group members frequently post links to YouTube videos by people even I've never heard of. In one group, Nothing But the Blues, an Italian member named Tano Ro, frequently posts links to album and cd downloads. Earlier this week I downloaded, from his links, all fifteen Tampa Red cds on Document.

Amazing.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Steve Cushing's radio program, Blues Before Sunrise. For over thirty years Cushing has been broadcasting five hours of blues and blues related music out of Chicago. I've been listening to this music for over half a century now and each of his shows still manages to introduce me to blues artists I've never heard of. For a while the show was carried here on WCPN and WKSU but they've dropped it. You can see the weekly playlist at <http://www.bluesbeforesunrise.com> and download the programs at <http://www.bluesbeforesunrise.org>. Cushing knows more about the blues than anyone I've encountered. He's also a fine drummer and has played with many of the Chicago stalwarts.

And of course there's more, blogs, websites, streamer sites, newsgroups and probably stuff I don't know about. A Google search on "blues" brought up 494,000,000 hits.

It didn't used to be this easy but now it is. Use it. Play. Learn. Enjoy.



CBS will have a booth again this year at the 14th Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride on Sunday, May 27th in front of First Energy Stadium. CBS will have some music playing by Mike & Priscilla Acoustic Duo.

Come down and check us out.

<http://www.firefightersmemorialride.com/>

### **Message from the President—Bill Koteles**

I'd like to thank everyone who attended February's Jam and our Cabin Fever Picnic. Especially all the board members and volunteers who make these events happen. I was good to see new and familiar faces.

Our new website is becoming more informative every month. We will soon have a second calendar of non-CBS events which will help direct you to venues and bands. We are also offering sponsorship opportunities for CBS in general and on this year's 6th annual Blues Cruise on July 16th. Members tickets go on sale April 1st. Sponsorships are available now. Please contact Susanne Mayer or view the different levels at the CBS store.

### **Upcoming Jams**

3/12/2018	Kurt's Getaway	Sam Hooper Group
4/9/18	Union House	Bluescasters
5/14/18	Grindstone	Backstreet Blues Band
6/11/18	Cebars	Armstrong Bearcats

# ANTHONY LOVANO'S SUPERNATURAL BAND

At the Parma Elks for Cabin Fever Indoor Picnic on February 18, 2018



Anthony Lovano on Drums, Tim Matson on Guitar, Art Jenson on Bass and Reginald Redd on Sax

Cleveland native and fine drummer, Anthony Lovano, has been blessed with a wonderful family background beginning with his dad, Tony "Big T" Tony Lovano, who he played with right up until his passing in early 1986, and his brother, national recording jazz saxophone artist Joe Lovano. Anthony has been a Blues Society member since the beginning and is now the Vice President, along with the Jam Manager and Blues Cruise Chairperson.

His current band, Supernatural and other outfits he plays with, feature some of the top players in the area. He also has been hosting jams of his own all around town, and for the past five years at Coaches Place every Tuesday. His dad was a big influence, where he gained exposure to John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Elvin Jones, McCoy Tyner, Stanley Turrentine and Wayne Shorter at a young age. All this led to his current love for BE BOP JAZZ. Here locally, he points out his guitarist Tim Matson is "his guy" on guitar. Anthony feels "he is blessed to play music" and it is "his true love". What does he look for when playing and jamming? "A great groove!". Currently he has been digging on the music of Robin Ford. Check it out. Anthony points out that you have to be a certain kind of person to host a Jam Session. He points out that you must be organized, make sure all equipment is there and working, and most importantly try to match the various players that want to participate in the jam. He points out that a lot of the jammers don't have gigs or bands, "they just want to play with others"....and, of course, "have fun"! He pointed out that "sharing and playing with others is what music is all about"!!!

Anthony is also in a few other bands. One is called Thrill Ride with Adriane Bennett, Benny Tizzano and Marty Kraig where they play songs from AC/DC, Bad Company, Beastie Boys, Blues Brothers, Charlie Daniels, Cheap Trick, Commodores, Elvis, Grand Funk, Hendrix, The Ramones and ZZ Top to name a few! The other band is called Northeast Experience with Charlie Christopherson and Raymond DeForest where they play Jimi Hendrix Style, Rhythm & Blues. Anthony, Jeff and Friends have been hosting jam sessions for ten plus years.

Semi-retired, and a Taurus, music keeps him pretty busy, although he has his own mechanical business, likes to tinker with cars occasionally, and has a daughter that is an RN!.... We don't know if he does, but we have a feeling that he probably takes his "sticks" with him most everywhere he goes!! Get out and see Anthony and his bands to see and hear some of the best "progressive" blues and jazz around.





---

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

---

## YOU ROCK!



### 2017-2019 Cleveland Blues Society Board Members

<b>President:</b>	Bill Koteles	<b>Vice President:</b>	Anthony Lovano
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kris Diehl	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Elaine DeStephano
<b>Board Member:</b>	Mike Kormos	<b>Board Member:</b>	Dave Rolland
<b>Board Member:</b>	Bob Dickow	<b>Board Member:</b>	Susanne Mayer
<b>Board Member:</b>	Penny Holycross		

### Newsletter Contributors

**News Director:** Elaine DeStephano

**Columnists:** Doug Schunick, Pat Murphy and Bob Frank

**Photo Contributions:** Elaine DeStephano & Bill Koteles