

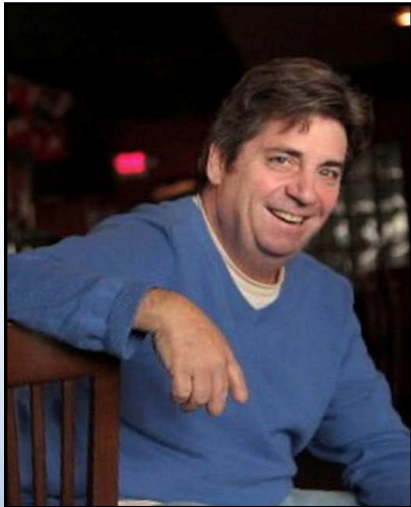
THE CLEVELAND BLUES SOCIETY
PRESENTS
THE 2022 HALL OF FAME AWARDS



Montana Taylor
Michael Miller



Hollywood Slim
Raymond DeForest



Sunday, October 30th 2022
2PM TO 6PM
Grindstone Tap House
826 Front Street Berea, Oh 44017

Montana Taylor

Arthur "Montana" Taylor really was born in Montana. Taylor's father ran a saloon in Butte, where Arthur was born in 1903. The family moved to Chicago in 1910 and later to Indianapolis where Arthur learned to play piano.

In 1928, Taylor made his first recordings for Vocalion including the good selling hits "Indiana Avenue Stomp" and "Detroit Rocks".

After a move to Cleveland, Taylor was rediscovered by collector/promoter Rudi Blesch and continued his recording career as a solo performer and as accompanist to singer Bertha "Chippie" Hill, herself a veteran of the 1920's classic blues era.

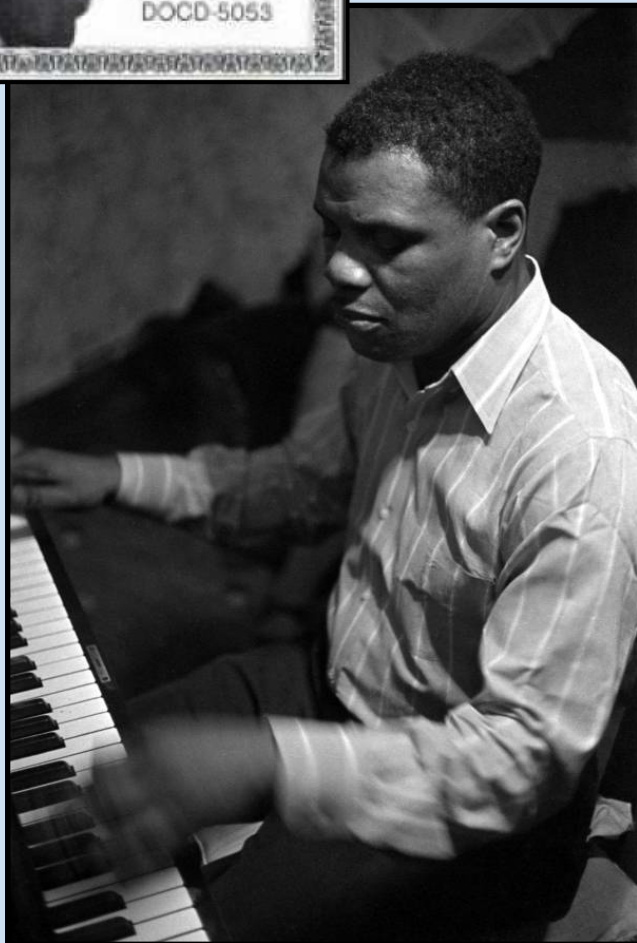
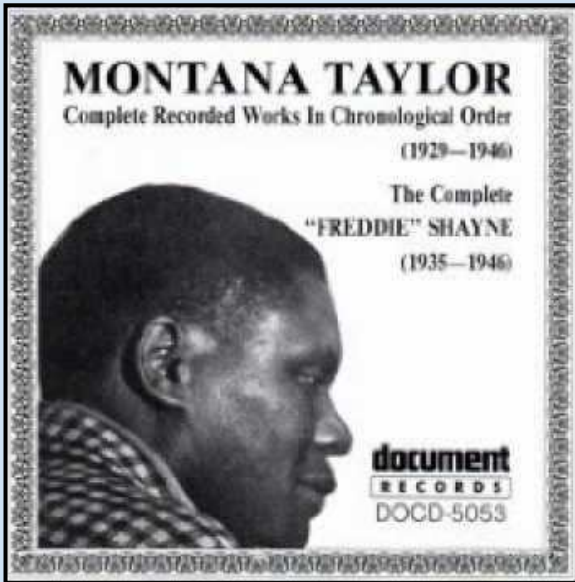
While living in Cleveland, Taylor also made several live nationwide radio broadcasts, some of which still exist and are available on the internet. Taylor lived in the Scovill Road area, the heart of Cleveland's black community at the time.

In 1956 he participated in the now legendary Cleveland Public Library blues concert with fellow pianist (and CBS HOF member) Cow Cow Davenport.

Taylor died in Cleveland in 1957 but has recently undergone a revival of sorts among blues aficionados in Europe. Document Records has released a compilation of his recordings including several of the 1946 radio transcriptions.

In 2005, Windham Hill pianist Philip Aaberg composed and recorded "The Dream of Montana Taylor", a new-age style instrumental piece inspired by Taylor.





Michael Miller

The first non-performing member of the Cleveland Blues Hall of Fame, Mike Miller made a name for himself as the foremost promoter and presenter of blues music in the Midwest.

Born in 1957 in Westlake and raised in Bay Village, OH, Miller attended Gilmore Academy and received a marketing degree from Xavier U before embarking on what he then expected to be a career in restaurant and hotel management.

While managing the Holiday Inn in Richfield, OH, Miller began bringing local blues acts including Robert Lockwood, Jr. to the hotel's lounge. Miller soon began expanding the concerts, using the hotel's much larger ballroom, and bringing in national touring acts like Buddy Guy, Koko Taylor, and Roy Buchanan.

In 1992 Miller opened the first iteration of Wilbert's, his own club, named for Wilbert "Bill" Miller, Mike's father.

Wilbert's soon became known nationally and internationally as one of the most important venues for blues. At first, open 7 nights a week, nearly every significant touring blues performer made at least one stop at Wilbert's. According to Miller, "The only two I was never able to bring in were Jimmie Vaughn and John Lee Hooker. I always thought, 'if I could get those two, I'd be done'".



For several years Robert Lockwood, Jr. performed weekly at Wilbert's. Lockwood eventually jumped ship to perform at another club, but he and Miller remained friends.

Mike counts over 100 Grammy winners having performed at Wilbert's.

In 2003, the club moved to its second and most recent location on Huron Road. A fire forced the closing of Wilbert's in 2020. Plans are underway for a new Wilbert's location in the near future.



Pappa Chubby and Mike with the CBS board 2014



Raymond DeForest

Born in Cleveland in 1952, Ray grew up in the Glenville neighborhood and attended Glenville High School. While still in school he learned the bass guitar and sang in neighborhood street-corner vocal groups with his even then extraordinarily deep, bass voice.

In 1974, He joined the Mr. Stress Blues Band and remained with the group through the Brick Cottage and Euclid Tavern years, the group's most popular period.

Ray moved on to play with Aces and Eights, King Solomon and Princess Ladia, Tom Shaper and others and quickly developed a reputation as the "go-to" bass player in town, owing this to his impeccable sense of time, rhythm, pacing, and taste. Raymond is often sought out as a session player for recording musicians and has appeared on dozens of recordings made in the Cleveland Area.

In addition to performing and recording, Ray is also a teacher and a founding artist with Roots of American Music. He's been a member of Blue Lunch since 1996.

In 1990? Raymond and his wife Maureen were the subjects of an extensive Plain Dealer article applauding them for having adopted four bi-racial special-needs children. In total there are 4 Stepchildren, 4 adopted, 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.





Hollywood Slim

By his brother and bandmate John Lucic

“Hollywood Slim” (Greg Lucic) was born July 13, 1950, and passed away May 24, 2019, almost 45 years to the date that he and his brother John Lucic formed their first band in May of 1974, with Greg on vocals and harmonica and John on guitar.

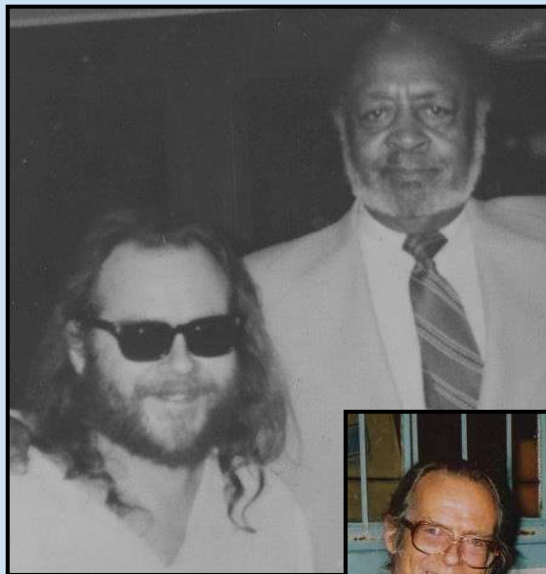
Greg/“Hollywood” and John’s bands had various names and various line ups over the years. In 1976 Greg started habitually wearing dark glasses and had recently lost some weight. One of his friends who hadn’t seen Greg in a while came to see the band and affectionately called Greg, “A Hollywood Slim lookin’ Mother F***er!” The name stuck! From 1978 on, the band was known as The Hollywood Slim Band. Some of the first music the band learned was songs by Sonny Boy Williamson, Little Walter Jacobs, Robert Jr. Lockwood, and James Cotton. As years progressed, the band also began to learn songs from the swing styles of groups like Louis Jordan and The Nat King Cole Trio. In addition to being a musician Greg/“Hollywood” had a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts and he worked for 30 years as a welder/fabricator.

The Hollywood Slim Band played in bars and restaurants in Northeastern Ohio for 45 years. “Hollywood Slim” was friends and acquaintances with many fans and fellow musicians, and he loved that life. Greg “Hollywood Slim” Lucic and his brother John played two gigs the weekend before he passed. He would have been so pleased to receive the recognition of the Cleveland Blues Society.





Hollywood with brother and bandmate John Lucic



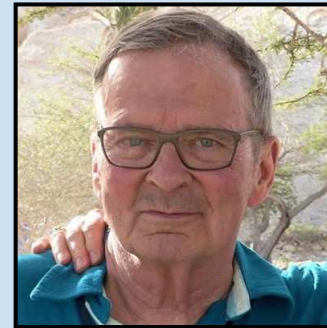
Hollywood with Robert Lockwood Jr.



Hollywood with "Mr. Stress" Bill Miller

Past Inductees:

- 2009 Charles "Cow Cow" Davenport
Robert Lockwood Jr.
Benjamin "Bull Moose" Jackson
"Mr. Stress" Bill Miller
- 2010 Travis "Moonchild" Haddix
Screamin' Jay Hawkins
Nathaniel "Guitar Slim" Savage
"Big Maybelle" Mabel Louise Smith
- 2013 "Crazy" Marvin Braxton
Glen Schwartz
Eugene Schwartz
Dave Griggs



Jimmy Ley



Wallace Coleman with Robert Lockwood Jr.

Jimi Dyson

Jimmy Landers



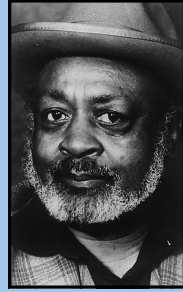
Cleveland Blues Society Hall of Fame



Bullmoose Jackson



Cow Cow Davenport



Robert Lockwood Jr



"Mr. Stress" Bill Miller



"Guitar Slim"
Nathaniel Savage



"Moonchild"
Travis Haddix



"Crazy" Marvin Braxton
Dave Griggs
Glenn Schwartz
Eugene "Geno" Schwartz



Screamin' Jay Hawkins
"Big Maybelle"



Schedule of Events

Doors Open _____ 2:00pm
Hall of Fame Host Band _____ 2:30-3:15pm
Awards _____ 3:30-4:15pm
Hall of Famers & Host Band _____ 4:30-5:30pm

Presenters

Montana Taylor __ Presenter Bob Frank
Mike Miller _____ Presenter Gary Craft
Ray DeForest _____ Presenter Anthony Lovano
Hollywood Slim __ Presenter John Lucic

Hall of Fame Committee

Bob Frank Historian
Teri Pealer Volunteer
Bill Koteles President

The CBS Roots of Rustbelt Blues Jam in cooperation with our host band, Anthony Lovano (Percussion), Bob Hoffmann (Guitar) and Raymond DeForest (Bass). We also bring in guest local blues musicians to join the Host band. The objective is to have as many local musicians and educators involved to help promote our efforts in reaching out to as many aspiring artists and expose them to Blues Roots and live performances.



<https://www.clevelandblues.org/roots-of-rustbelt-blues-jam/>