

SACRAMENTO

A bi-monthly publication of the Sacramento Blues Society



BLUE NOTES!

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2022
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President's Column

By Sally Katen



Let me start 2022 off right by first wishing you all a very Happy New Year! I hope our "new normal" will be conducive to more live music events and friends getting together to enjoy each other's company. I sincerely hope 2022 brings you joy and happiness!

I want to personally thank the Torch Club, Harlow's and the Sofia for their continuous efforts to provide a safe environment in which we can gather. It's because of venues like these that we can get together and hear live music.

In 2021 we saw the return of the eagerly anticipated SBS Hall of Fame event with the induction of eight new members. The review of the Hall of Fame event can be found in the November/December issue of the *Blue Notes*.

The Board of Directors of the Sacramento Blues Society have found themselves in new territory with monthly Zoom Board meetings. Fortunately, they have worked out surprisingly well! These meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month and are open to our entire membership. If you wish to attend a meeting, please contact any of our Board members for information on how to join us.

By the time this *Blue Notes* issue comes out we will have elected the new SBS Board members and at our January Board meeting we will elect the 2022 SBS Officers. Things keep moving along even though "the-times-they-are-a-changing"....

In this issue, we have a review of the 2021 "Holiday Blues Belles!" Gala (our annual membership party) held December 12th at Harlow's, along with our bi-monthly "Casual Conversation with Hector Anchondo". Hector is the winner of the Blues Foundation's 2020 IBC Duo/Solo award and Cigarbox Guitar Award. His newest CD, *Let Loose Those Chains* is also reviewed in this issue. Hector is a

phenomenal talent and I urge everyone to give his CD a listen and check him out. Rumor has it he will be touring the West Coast in Summer 2022!

Again, I wish everyone a very Happy New Year and remember, it doesn't cost anything to be kind to one another!

The Johnny "Guitar" Knox Pro Memorial Jam *Come Share Your Love for Johnny!*

On Sunday, January 16, 2022, the Torch Club and Sacramento Blues Society will present the annual Johnny Guitar Knox Pro Memorial Jam, with all donations benefiting the SBS Hall of Fame, of which Johnny was a proud member. Bring your vax card and

2021 Committee Chairs

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Hall of Fame - Sally Katen

Events - Mindy Giles

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Help keep the Blues alive - Contact a Chair or Board

Member to volunteer for the Board or a Committee!

The Sacramento Blues Society (SBS) is one of the oldest blues societies in California, founded in 1979. SBS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to preserve and promote blues music as an art form. SBS has kept the blues tradition alive in the Sacramento area by promoting the local blues music scene, bringing internationally renowned artists to the region, acknowledging our local blues artists, providing a Musicians' Crisis Fund and publishing the **Blue Notes** six times a year. SBS is an affiliate member of The Blues Foundation (which honored us with a 2015 Keeping the Blues Alive Award) which provides educational opportunities for young people with The Blues Foundation's "Blues in The Schools" Program.

Board of Directors Meetings - 2nd Tuesday of each Month, 7:00 p.m.

All SBS Members in good standing are invited to attend.

For more details, including meeting location, check: www.sacblues.org

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Johnny Knox Memorial Pro Jam, con't. from P. 2

mask, and join us and many of our SBS Hall of Fame Inductees in celebrating Johnny's lasting legacy to the blues in Sacramento. Doors open at 3:00 p.m. and will continue until 7:00 p.m. Donation at the door for admission is \$10. Please come share your love for Johnny!

Blues In The Schools (BITS) Update

by Rick Snyder, BITS Chairman

It's great to be ambitious. Too bad we can't always bring our ambitious ideas to fruition. Case in point, the 1st Annual Florin Music Expo. Try as we might, we just could not make that happen this year. We do love the idea of bringing together the music-loving public and folks with music-related goods, wares, and services to sell. Watch for this to happen in 2022.

In 2022, we will present the Music Expo and our annual BITS Showcase; culminating in the Big Day of Giving campaign (May 5, 2022) that is just now getting underway. We also have a collaborative production in the works in association with the John Lee Hooker Foundation to produce two shows, one in the Bay Area and one in the greater Sacramento area.

Unfortunately, the rules change so often in the local schools that it has been hard to get our After School program underway and moving forward. We have been working with Charles DeAngelis, Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator for the Sacramento School District, to produce some unique and interesting alternatives.

Steve Boettner, who was a teacher at West Campus High School, has retired and is willing to work more closely with BITS in a capacity yet to be determined. He has also offered to donate two electric guitars to be raffled for BITS at the upcoming membership get-together.

BITS participated in Giving Tuesday recently on Facebook and raised \$300.

We once again want to give a massive shout out to the folks who have donated and continue to donate to Sacramento Blues in the Schools:

- John Noxon - Master of the Hammond organ who has given and continues to give us Hammond organs, Leslie speakers, and many other pieces of gear
- Tommy King - Whose gal Judie Tyson and her dearly departed brother, Steve Claus, donated enough guitar parts to construct two electric guitars
- Marcia Alexander - Whose dear friend, Tim Crouch, asked her to donate a beautiful electric acoustic guitar to BITS after he passed
- Roger Patterson - Whose tireless efforts to raise donations for BITS over the years have helped sustain our program.

We're gonna Keep on Keepin' on!

Sacramento Blues Society Blue Sunday

A few months back, the Sacramento Blues Society (SBS), in collaboration with the Torch Club, started a monthly event called Blues Sunday, which is held at the Torch Club on the last Sunday of each month from 4:00-7:00 pm. This event features and showcases SBS Member Bands in good standing. Previous Blues Sunday events

have featured Val Starr & the Blues Rocket (September 2021), Julie & the Jukes (October 2021), Todd Morgan & the Emblems (November 2021) and Red's Blues (December 2021).

Our Blue Sunday series will welcome in the new year on January 30, 2022, with **Tony & the Tuff Times** from Modesto, California performing. For February, on the 27th, we'll feature **Tim Noxon's Rockin' Blues Band**. Admission is always affordable, \$10.00 for SBS members and \$12 for the general public.

Following are brief bios of both bands so you can get a preview of the blues you will hear! We hope to see you there, and remember to support the bands that support THE SACRAMENTO BLUES SOCIETY!

January Blue Sunday

Tony & the Tuff Times is a blues band based in Modesto, CA. Tony Westlake is a blues harmonica player & singer and fronts the four-piece band. Tony formed the band in 2008 when the housing market was falling apart. He needed a name for the band, and since it was tough times for sure, he put his name up front and Tony & the Tuff Times was born.

Through thick and thin, the band has evolved, but lo and behold, times are still tough today! People often say the band name fits the times. Dedicated to keeping the blues alive, their set list doesn't wander off the blue highway into pop or rock. Many of the songs are classics born in the 30s, 40s and 50s. They look for songs to cover that few remember or have never heard before. Of course, they must be groovin' tunes. Tony has written many original blues songs that keep up with the times & blues tradition, reflecting life as we go along. Check them out at: <https://www.facebook.com/tatttblues>.

February Blue Sunday

Tim Noxon's Rockin' Blues Band has been performing in the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento areas for over 40 years. This band loves playing live, and you can tell. Just sit back and listen -- you'll hear soaring solos and driving rhythms performed concert style, in the spirit of San Francisco's legendary Fillmore West. Added to the music mix you'll find tasty Roadhouse Blues and classic tunes that will absolutely get you up dancing!



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DEANNA MYERSON
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"Mojo for Jojo" Benefit

Empress Theater, Vallejo, CA, December 5, 2021 By Jan Kelley Photos by Bob Cosman

When the blues comes a-knockin', the blues family steps up! I continue to marvel at how generously the blues community jumps into action when one of our own is in serious need. In this case, it was Bblues brother Joe Russo (Jojo), whose home was destroyed by fire in September. When his friend and ours, Geoff Drake, wasn't seeing the kind of results he'd hoped for

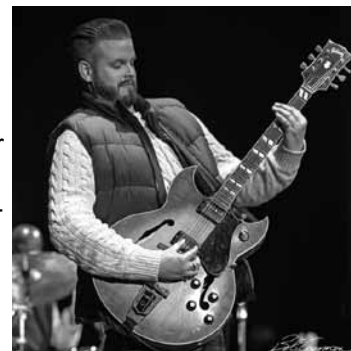


BeeGees' "How Do You Mend A Broken Heart?". Kyle Rowland has become a master showman, playing guitar, harp and singing joyfully along, while Ed Earley jumped in on his trombone to contribute just what was needed.



The rest of the artists reads like a Who's Who of Bay Area blues musicians: Ruth Davies, Willy Jordan, Don Bassey, Steve Ehrmann, Jim Pugh, Pete Devine, Baxter Robertson, Kevin Hayes, A J Crawdaddy, Wilson Brooks, and Stabe Wilson! Wow!

All of these angels came together for one Grand Finale that no one wanted to see end. The hall resonated with the love felt by all.



Huge kudos to Geoff Drake and all the volunteers, Empress Theater & sponsors, for quickly bringing us this joyful event to assist a fellow bluesman!



on a GoFundMe campaign, a brainstorm hit! Why not have a blues benefit for him?

Geoff promptly got to work, reaching out to several Bay Area Blues bands and arranging for the Empress Theater to be the venue. Since Jojo had been a driver/friend for Elvin Bishop for more than 25 years, Elvin



was the first of many to volunteer their time and talents. Joe has also written songs with Elvin, Joe Louis Walker, and Rick Estrin. In addition to his love of music, Joe owned and operated a paint and body shop for years and says "I'm single and I'm happy!"



Then things got to rolling! Elvin came cross-country to help out, and before long, many other



blues 'angels' volunteered their time and talents, creating a truly remarkable lineup that quickly became a sold-out show.

Along with Elvin, these fabulous artists came out full-force that night:

"Mighty" Mike Schermer, with the house band led by Kid Andersen & Timm Walker; the incomparable Chris Cain along with bassist Steve Evans, Nancy Wright joining in on the sax; Rick Estrin & the Nightcats with Nic Clark, who wowed the crowd in their unique style, getting a shout and response going; and soul man Marcel Smith actually had the ladies screaming with his rendition of the

**The Empress Theatre and the producers had established criteria for all attendees to provide proof of vaccination against Covid 19 and a picture ID prior to entrance.*

Preserving and Promoting the Blues

By Doug Pringle

Information Courtesy of Wikipedia

Slide guitar is often used in blues music. It involves playing a guitar while holding a hard object (a slide) against the strings, creating the opportunity for glissando effects and deep vibratos that reflect characteristics of the human singing voice. The slide may be a metal or glass tube, such as the neck of a bottle. The term bottleneck was historically used to describe this type of playing. The strings are typically plucked (not strummed) while the slide is moved over the strings to change the pitch.



Creating music with a slide of some type has been traced back to primitive stringed instruments in Africa and also to the origin of the steel guitar in Hawaii. Near the beginning of the twentieth century, blues musicians in the Mississippi Delta popularized the bottleneck slide guitar style, and the first recording of slide guitar was by Sylvester Weaver in 1923. Since the 1930s, performers including Robert Nighthawk, Earl Hooker, Elmore James, and Muddy Waters popularized slide guitar in electric blues and influenced later slide guitarists in rock music, including the Rolling Stones, Duane Allman, and Ry Cooder.

Most players of blues slide guitar were from the southern US, particularly the Mississippi Delta, and their music was likely from an African origin handed down to African-American sharecroppers who sang as they toiled in the fields. The earliest Delta blues musicians were largely solo singer-guitarists. W. C. Handy commented on the first time he heard slide guitar in 1903, when a blues player performed in a local train station: "As he played, he pressed a knife on the strings of the guitar in a manner popularized by Hawaiian guitarists who used steel bars. The effect was unforgettable." Blues historian Gérard Herzhaft notes that Tampa Red was one of the first black musicians inspired by the Hawaiian guitarists of the beginning of the century, and he managed to adapt their sound to the blues. Tampa Red, as well as Kokomo Arnold, Casey Bill Weldon, and Oscar Woods adopted the Hawaiian mode of playing longer melodies with the slide instead of playing short riffs as they had done previously.

In the early twentieth century, steel guitar playing divided into two streams: bottleneck-style, performed on a traditional Spanish guitar held flat against the body; and lap-style, performed on an instrument specifically designed or modified for the purpose of being played on the performer's lap. The bottleneck-style was typically associated with blues music and was popularized by African-American blues artists. The Mississippi Delta was the home of Robert Johnson, Son House, Charlie Patton, and other blues pioneers who prominently used the slide. The first known recording of the bottleneck style was in 1923 by Sylvester Weaver who recorded two instrumentals, "Guitar Blues" and "Guitar Rag". Guitarist and author Woody Mann identifies Tampa Red and Blind Willie Johnson as "developing the most distinctive styles in the recorded idiom" of the time". He adds: "Tampa Red's playing was innovative for the late 1920s. Thanks to his distinctive approach and suave sound, the Chicago-based Red became the most influential bottleneck player of the blues age, his smooth-sound work echoing in the playing of Blind Boy Fuller, Robert Nighthawk, Elmore James, and Muddy Waters."

We all love slide guitar blues and want future generations to have the opportunity to know its history and to experience this exquisite sound. This is one of the things our mission to preserve and promote blues music accomplishes.

CD Review

Back in Business - Sacramento Blues Society's CD Compilation *By Steve Cagle*

In August the Sacramento Blues Society released a compilation cd presenting 16 songs from an immensely talented assemblage of regional artists with a diverse array of styles, every song a winner. The musicians bring their A game to the proceedings, and thanks to Mindy Giles and the SBS project committee, the songs flow seamlessly, providing non-stop listening pleasure from first note to last.



It opens with a new song from Kyle Rowland, "Stick to Your Business," retro blues delivered with an authentic 50's sound and feel, including plenty of Kyle's fine harp blowing.

World-class quartet Red's Blues is next with the steady groove of "Broke Down in the Fast Lane," featuring Sid Morris on piano. It rolls effortlessly into the Midnight

Creepers' cool blues strutter, "Talk to Me Baby."

The music takes a slight detour with Bill Scholer's "The Man with the Wooden Hair," a colorful romp through the swamp with funky bassline, psychedelic guitar effects and quirky harp melody, then it's back on the highway with Catfish and the Crawdaddys' "Crawdaddy, Crawdaddy," a lighthearted tale of crawdaddy consumption.

Rising star on the nationwide music scene Katie Knipp offers "Chamomile and Cocaine" from her latest release, *The Well*. Blind Lemon Peel provides comic relief with his whimsical mid-tempo boogie "Shake Your Love Thing" supported by female chorus. The joviality continues with "So Easy Isolating with You" by Val Starr with piano wizard Victor Wainwright, the song making its first appearance here.

Northern CA mainstays the Hucklebucks deliver the retro blues rocker "Fine Line" enhanced by growling saxophone. Then James Monroe kicks up the tempo on the lively harp blues "Big Train Rollin'," with barrelhouse piano adding fuel to the ride.

Another song making its debut appearance is Mick Martin's "Can't Stop Thinking," an easy-feeling front porch blues, while Tim Noxon's Rocking Blues Band lives up to their name on "Not Like That," with brother John Noxon adding an extra coat of blue on the B3.

Dr. Rock and the Stuff's "Jari Pole" is an epic blues rock jam with varying tempos and moods.

Zen Voodoo debuts their song "You're the One," a moving and soulful love song propelled by solid rhythm and commanding vocals from Dana Moret, who puts heart into her performance.

The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra premieres "Where Is Justice?" a timely social commentary featuring powerhouse vocalist Marcel Smith.

Wrapping it all up is the late Marshall Wilkerson's deep soul ballad "Remember Me," from his final album of the same name.

It may be tempting to skip to your favorite artist or band, but this impeccable collection was made to be enjoyed in its brilliantly assembled and sequenced entirety. *Back in Business* reaffirms that there's a motherlode of musical talent in our midst comparable to the acknowledged music meccas across the land.

SBS Board of Directors Election Update

In previous *Blue Notes*, we informed our readers about the annual SBS Board of Directors election, traditionally held at our Annual Membership Meeting/Holiday Party. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Board of Directors had to extend the voting period and election date to December 27, 2021, in order to stay in compliance with our bylaws.

We informed the membership via email and social media notices and had a ballot box at our Holiday Gala. Members could either return their ballots in person at the party, or by mail to our P.O. Box. As we go to press, the voting is still going on, so the announcement

of new Board members will go out after this issue is published. Please stay tuned for our election results news!

A Casual Conversation with Hector

Anchondo

By Barbara Katen

Photos by Laura Carbone



Several years ago, I was advised by several of my blues-loving Omaha friends that I should see the Hector Anchondo Band at the Torch Club. It was a mid-week event and not many of us Sacramentans had heard of Hector at that time. My cousin Sally and I went and were blown away by Hector's amazing guitar playing. He and his band put on a fantastic show! Sally and I have both been huge fans of Hector ever since. We rooted for him at the 2020 IBC and were happy when he won both the Solo/Duo and the Cigarbox Guitar Award. We are also reviewing his newest CD in this issue of the *Blue Notes*. Please give this CD a listen. I'm confident that Hector will become a real superstar in the blues world. And I personally cannot wait until he comes back to the West Coast. Watch for him in 2022!



Blue Notes (BN): What age were you when you first picked up a guitar? What was your inspiration and how did you get your start in music?

Hector Anchondo (HA): I was 16 when I first picked up the guitar.

My initial inspiration was watching VH1 via satellite dish. I saw Slash from Guns and Roses play on the "November Rain" music video. His bluesy guitar solos were beautiful and it so struck me that I knew what my life calling was and have been pursuing it ever since. I got my start playing at school. I'd take my guitar with me every single day and play for classmates at lunch and before and after school. I would also play in the neighboring town coffee shops and venues, as well as local pageants and radio station KKID.

BN: What was your first guitar? Did you name it?

HA: My first guitar was a no-name brand, but it was a Stratocaster style, and it was red. I don't recall ever naming it. But I played it nonstop every single day.

BN: Who were and are currently your biggest musical influences?

HA: My musical influences at the time were everything I could get my hands on. Growing up out in the country next to a small town, Salem, MO, there were not many options. You had to search, hunt, and hopefully find. I found some Hendrix and that was a huge influence on me, especially his acoustic blues music. My biggest influences now vary between Jimmy Herring, Keb' Mo', Guthrie Govan, Tommy Emmanuel, Taj. Great guitarists and great songwriters.

BN: What has your journey been like during the pandemic, winning the 2020 IBC, playing gigs, releasing CDs?

HA: My journey has been a wild one and slightly unbelievable. I'll start with the 2020 International Blues Challenge. I had just won first place in the IBCs and also the Cigarbox Guitar Award for "Best Guitarist". In my 25-year career I hadn't had any big breaks and always felt like I'd be finishing last every single time, and then I won! Me! From there I went on a tour down to Florida. The tour was a

huge success and had packed houses because the word was out. I got back home from being on the road for a month and that's when the shutdowns started. I worried that my big year was fading away just as fast as it came.

I decided to make the best of it. I've only been on one real vacation in my adult life because I've always been working. So, I was going to pretend that I was on a vacation, and enjoy the lockdown with my family. My family is everything, and having that extra time with them was invaluable. We planted a garden, we did crafts, we went on hikes, bike rides, and more. In June of 2020 our home was flooded when it rained so much that it overwhelmed the sewer systems. We lost so much, and our summer of fun washed away right in front of our eyes. We lived in hotel rooms for about a month before moving into an RV.

The RV was great fun at first and allowed me to take the family down to Florida for the winter of 2020 in hopes that I'd be able to get enough gigs to stay afloat financially. It was difficult in Florida, but I was able to make enough to squeak by down although it was hard being there with no extra money to spend on anything fun. Thankfully, I have family there and we spent a lot of time with them.



As if this weren't enough, my wife and I started having health issues and we headed back to Nebraska early. I am happy to stay that I'm back to 100% and my wife is much better too.

BN: What has been the highlight of your career so far?

HA: The highlight of my career was my first-place win in the 2020 International Blues Challenge and the Cigarbox Guitar award for "Best Guitarist". That was an extraordinary experience that I will remember forever.

BN: Who is the person you would most like to meet (that you haven't already)?

HA: I would really like to meet Keb' Mo' and Taj Mahal. I recently played the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise, and they were both there. I didn't get to meet them but got to watch them both play for the first time. I even almost got to jam with Keb', but he stepped down right when I was going up; one more song and I would have jammed with him. Next time! I was still grateful to be hanging with all those pros on the boat.

BN: How would you describe yourself as a musician in one sentence?

HA: A lifelong avid pursuer of the craft of playing, songwriting, and entertaining.

BN: What words or phrases do you most overuse?

HA: "You know what I mean" and "you know what I'm sayin" I am currently working on eliminating the word "like" and "uh" from my vocabulary.

BN: What are you most excited about in your life right now?

HA: The thing I'm most excited about right now is that we're expecting our third child in May.

BN: If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Conversation w. Hector Anchondo, con't. from P. 6

HA: I've always suffered from the "Imposter Syndrome" I always have this feeling of not being good enough and it really brings me down sometimes. But on the other hand, it helps drive me to work harder and push myself farther.

BN: What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?

HA: My greatest achievement is easily the 2020 IBC first place win in the solo/duo category and the "Cigarbox Guitar" award.

BN: What is your most treasured possession?

HA: That would be my 1969 dobro resonator twelve string guitar. It's a rare guitar and sounds absolutely beautiful and, believe it or not, someone actually left it at my door anonymously and said "This is for Hector, I'm just the messenger."

BN: Who are your heroes in real life?

HA: My heroes are all the first responders out there working so hard to keep us all safe.

BN: If you have a life motto, what is it?

HA: Always let happiness be your guiding light, for it could never lead you astray. It is the most powerful compass.

BN: I saw you perform at the 2021 Big Blues Bender and was blown away. Can you tell us about your BBB experience? What was the highlight for you? Was it as much fun for you as it appeared?

HA: It was great to see you there! The BBB was a wonderful experience and I felt so lucky to be there with all those avid music fans. I also felt lucky to have my band there with me. I've been trying to include them on everything that I can from the IBC win, because I could not do it without them. It was beyond fun, and my bandmates and I had a kickass time! We were there to work but it felt like a getaway as well. The highlight was meeting and making so many new friends as well as connecting with old friends too.

BN: By the time this goes to print, you will have performed on the Legendary Blues Cruise as well. Can you share a bit of what that experience was like for you?

HA: I feel like I could do an entire interview on just the cruise. Ha! It was a wonderful experience and reminded me of the BBB in a lot of ways. I got to make lots of new friends, play with many wonderful musicians, see breath-taking sunsets and ocean views, had a year's intake of extra spicy Bloody Marys, and got to play for more avid music fans from all over the world. It was wonderful even though I did get a little seasick.

BN: This past August you released a new CD, *Let Loose Those Chains* that was #11 on the Billboard Blues charts. Can you give us a little background on how this CD came to be?

HA: I've been working on this album for years, and many of the songs on there have been waiting for the right album. For example, I wrote my song "Legend" in 2008 during the last recession. This was an interesting studio experience for me. I did the guitar and vocals in Florida and sent it to my bassist Joe Corley in Chicago at his Pint Size Studios. There he recorded my drummer Khayman Winfield and then Joe recorded the bass lines and did the mixing.



It was a different way of doing things than I'm used to, but it all worked out and was fun talking to Joe and Khayman via phone, email, and FaceTime.

BN: I saw you several years back when you played the Torch Club in Sacramento. Can we count on you coming back to our neck of the woods any time in the near future?

HA: I'm so happy that you made it out to the show that night; it was lots of fun and my first time playing in Sacramento! I'm hoping to get back in 2022! It has been too long; the pandemic really threw everything off rhythm for all of us. Count on me coming back for sure!

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BN: Favorite Album of all time?

HA: Pink Floyd - *The Wall*

BN: Favorite quote?

HA: "Live Long and Prosper"

BN: Favorite TV show?

HA: *Star Trek*

BN: Favorite Movie?

HA: Star Wars movies (yes, I love both *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*)

BN: Favorite Food?

HA: I love Mexican food and Indian food.

BN: Favorite Book?

HA: *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

BN: Favorite drink?

HA: Coffee.

BN: Favorite guilty pleasure?

HA: *Law and Order*

BN: Favorite leisure activity?

HA: Hanging with my family

BN: Pet peeve?

HA: Unkind folks – just be kind and the world will be a better place

BN: Cat or Dog?

HA: Dog person all the way, I love cats, but I prefer them as other people's pets.

BN: Weirdest place you've ever been?

HA: The Great Salt Lake in Salt Lake City, just seemed like death to me.

BN: One thing you can't live without?

HA: I couldn't live without my family.

BN: What poster, if any, did you have on your wall growing up?

HA: Jimi Hendrix

BN: If you were going to have a dinner party and could invite any six guests (dead or living), who would you invite and why?

HA: B.B. King, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Danny Gatton, Miles Davis, Jimi Hendrix, and Bradley Nowell. They were all extraordinary musicians, and I would love to have some great conversation with them



A Casual Conversation w. Hector Anchondo, con't. from P. 7

while sipping on some good strong coffee.

BN: If you could snap your fingers and change anything in the world, what would it be?

HA: A societal focus shift to happiness and not money. Of course, we all need money but it's possible to be happy and earn a living too. Let's all do what we love, and it will all fall into place. Life is too short.

Thank you for taking the time to answer these interview questions. For more information on Hector Anchondo, please visit his website at hectoranchondo.com

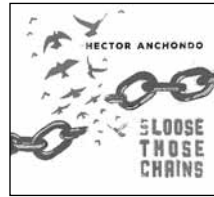
CD Review

Let Loose Those Chains - Hector

Anchondo (Vizz ToneRecords)

By Rex Smith

I had not heard of Hector Anchondo before listening to this CD and writing this review. When I



listened to *Let Loose Those Chains* for the first time I immediately realized that I had been missing out on some of the best American blues music. I hereby declare myself to be a fan of Hector Anchondo's music.



Let Loose Those Chains is an all-original, self-produced 2021 CD. It is also the name of the title cut of the CD. "Let Loose Those Chains" is a reflection of how Hector "lets loose" with his own unique style of blues developed over 25 years of playing. It is a blues that is autobiographical, from the heart and so intelligent that it left me feeling inspired and uplifted.

Playing on the recording is Hector Anchondo on guitar and vocals with drummer Khayman Winfield and bassist Joe Corley. The CD is on the VizzTone Label Group. (The next time I want some new music I will definitely check out the label's website.)

Hector Anchondo went to the International Blues Competition three times. On his third attempt, in 2020, he won top prize in the solo/duo category. He also won the Memphis Cigar Box Guitar Award for Best Guitarist in the solo/duo competition. Hector started playing guitar in his mid-teens. He grew up on a Missouri farm and is currently living in Omaha with his wife and young children. At some point Hector moved to Chicago for one year to exclusively play and listen to Chicago-style blues. His devotion to blues music has really paid off for him and his listeners.

Every one of the 12 original songs on this CD sounds like a blues classic. There is a lot of inspired guitar playing here and the songs are expertly crafted. Hector's vocals are as beautiful as his guitar playing. "I'm Going to Missouri" has great guitar playing that seems to weave in a few bars of a classic blues song peeking through the melody like the sun peeks through the clouds. "Just Forget It" slows the tempo down and shows off Anchondo's considerable vocal range. "Current River", the only instrumental on the CD, is upbeat with more intricate melodies. "Candy Shop" is a Delta blues-style song that also has a classic blues tune playfully appearing for a few measures at a time throughout the song.

The 8th track, "Strike It Down" is a perfectly written gypsy jazz-blues song. The next two tracks, "Vested Angels" and "Heart and Soul" show off Anchondo's vocals which reminded me a bit of David Hidalgo, lead singer for Los Lobos. Next to last on the CD is "Momma's a Hard Man" which has inspired guitar playing and more great vocals. The last cut on the CD is "You Know I Love You But You Got To Go" sounds like a classic blues shuffle with Anchondo's guitar again playing a few riffs of a classic blue song playfully woven into the music a few measures at a time.

One last thing, on this recording Hector Anchondo plays acoustic guitar. It says a lot about the quality of Hector Anchondo's music, it's so good that it doesn't matter if his guitar is plugged in or if he is playing acoustic blues guitar...he is the real deal. I highly recommend this CD.

SAVE THE DATE! WEDNESDAY, 3/02/2022

Celebration of *Little Charlie Baty*, w. Rick Estrin & the Nightcats plus Special Guests!

"Blues & Bourbon" Wednesdays at Harlow's
2708 J St., Sacramento, 6:30 - 9 pm



Ticket Announcement coming soon!

BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET

IN MIDTOWN (ABOVE HARLOW'S)
(2708 J ST. SACRAMENTO)

THE STARLET ROOM

JANUARY 2022 SCHEDULE

JANUARY 5TH:
CLOSED FOR REMODELING

JANUARY 12TH:
TBA

JANUARY 19TH:
KYLE ROWLAND BAND
\$14: GA / \$12: SBS MEMBERS

JANUARY 26TH:
THE LUNI-TONES
RECORD RELEASE PARTY
(STAN ALVES, PARIS CLAYTON, RITA/RAE PAI, BERRY THOMAS)
\$12: GA / \$10: SBS MEMBERS

VAX CARDS & MASKS REQUIRED @ THE DOOR

UPTOWN & LOWDOWN. 2 SETS OF BLUES, DRINKS/FOOD & DANCE FLOOR. 5:30PM DOORS / 6:30PM SHOW
COMING IN FEBRUARY: "TRIBUTE TO JIMMY REED", MITCH WOODS & HIS ROCKET 885, AARON MORENO

Your Support Is Invaluable *By Doug Pringle*

Every membership, every donation, every member band and every sponsorship makes a meaningful contribution. Your society is powered by your tax-deductible contributions and by the hard work of volunteers. We have no staff. 100% of your contribution supports the accomplishment of our mission.

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Your support in any amount will have a huge impact because it allows us to be innovative, provide high quality events priced reasonably, and sustain our work. Your support allows us to conduct community programs like:

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2. **The Hall of Fame**- recognizing people in the area who have been a performer or supporter of the blues for 20 or more years.
3. **The Gene Chambers Musicians' Crisis Fund**- helping musicians in great financial need due to catastrophic events.
4. **The Mick Martin Student Fund**- helping students buy instruments, equipment, education or mentoring to foster their abilities.

All members receive: An electronic edition of our newsletter, Blue Notes, published bi-monthly, subscription to Rico's Blues News, a weekly collection of live and streaming Blues events in NorCal and beyond, with some fun facts tossed in for seasoning, discounted ad rates in Blue Notes, discounted admission to SBS events, shows and concerts as well as many events produced by our sponsors.

All sponsors receive these benefits and the visibility benefits detailed on our website, www.sacblues.org.

We urge you to continue your support as we move into 2022! Together we will accomplish our mission to preserve and promote blues music as an art form.

Note from the Editor:

All COVID-related Band and Sponsor Membership Extensions Have Expired!

Due to the pandemic, and its devastating effect on venues, live music, and other businesses, in 2020 the SBS Board of Directors voted to extend ALL band memberships and sponsorships until December 31, 2021, at no cost to bands or sponsors. This applied to everyone who was a member in good standing as of the end of 2019.

We're now into 2022, and those extensions have now expired. This means it's time to add your SBS band membership or sponsorship back into your marketing budget! If you have any questions about when you last renewed your membership, please contact our Membership Committee chairwoman, Linda McShane, at sbsmembership@gmail.com. She will be able to advise you.

Please consider starting the New Year off right by renewing your membership and supporting the Sacramento Blues Society. Thanks so much!

SBS Blue Sunday Series Review

By Cari Chenkin and Dana Moret

Julie and the Jukes – 10/31/21

Halloween fun was the theme of Sacramento Blues Society's member band series "Blue Sunday" event. Julie and the Jukes showed up in costume as the Addams Family and played two scary-good

sets to get the party going into high gear! A small, but enthusiastic, audience came to enjoy the music, and got to enjoy and dance to some real "OG" classic blues. The three-piece band consisted of guitar, drums, and bass, with Julie "Morticia" and Charles "Gomez" ably handling the vocals.

With a few Julie and the Jukes originals peppered throughout the sets of classic blues tunes, it was a fine selection of blues for a fun Halloween celebration. We were delighted that the event was financially successful, as well, covering our basic expenses and offering a small net profit, given to the band.

Todd Morgan and the Emblems – 11/28/21

The third installment of our "Blue Sunday" series was back with yet another fabulous show at the Torch Club on Sunday, November 28th. Featured artist, Todd Morgan and the Emblems didn't disappoint!

Wrapping up the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, it was evident that the series is gaining its momentum with a steady increase of not only blues society members in attendance, but also fresh new faces who seemed pleasantly interested in the Society's new monthly matinee showcase.

Todd and his band took the stage in the first set, dressed to the nines and carrying the blues banner high and proud, staying true to the classic blues sound that the SBS is tasked with keeping in the forefront of the Sacramento music scene.

With over 50 fans in attendance, November's show was a success, not only in recouping the society's investment in the showcase, but exceeding it, allowing the band to earn the agreed-upon bonus at the end of the show! Fans shuffled in steadily throughout the whole show and, masked and happy, took over the dance floor for both high-energy sets.

Our December act was "Red's Blues" on December 19, too late to review for this issue, as they closed out the 2021 bookings with a bang!

January will feature Modesto-based act "Tony and the Tuff Times" on 1/30. February's showcase features "The Tim Noxon Rockin' Blues Band (2/27) and March will be "Dave Croall & the Soothers" on 3/27.

Member bands are starting to see the opportunity to be considered for this series, which is held monthly at the Torch Club on the last Sunday of the month from 4pm-7pm.

To be considered for the "Blue Sunday" series, visit our website for instructions on how to apply at sacblues.org. Click the "Home" tab, then "About Us" in the dropdown menu. Scroll to "Events & Concerts", click the link, scroll down to "Blue Sunday", and you'll see a link to click for the sign-up form.

CD Review

Alligator Records 50 Years of Genuine 'Houserockin' Music

(Alligator Records)

By Gregg Jamnetski

STEAL OF THE MILLENNIA

Editor's Note: This is Part 2 of a Four Part Review

CD #2 is an eclectic compilation. Blues, Rock, R&B, Country, Gospel, Boogie even a Motown sound is featured on disc.



This was an exceedingly difficult CD to review. Of the 21 cuts, only three didn't seem to measure up to the remaining 18. In baseball logic, that's a .900 batting average in a sport that pays mega millions to sluggers who can muster up a mere .275. Choosing which cuts to feature here was beyond challenging. Any cut would be a welcome reviewer feature. The five songs represented here, to make the point, are awfully close to the first cuts on CD #2. With limited print space and so many powerful blues artists to mention, especially the amazing Katie Webster, I decided to pare down the info available on each artist to include as many cuts as possible.

1) Michael Burks: "Love Disease" From *Iron Man* (2008). Burks on vocals and guitar with bass, drums, and organ backup. Song starts with a hard bass and drum intro; Burks follows with guitar lead then breaks away into a song-story about his love disease, then picks back up with guitar response.

2) Kenny Neal: "I'm a Blues Man" From *Hoodoo Moon* (1994). Neal on guitar, lap steel, harmonica, and bass. This song has a complex lead-in that starts with a stuttering drum intro, a very brief organ accent before Neal takes over with a high note guitar expression backed up by a set of horns. A very sophisticated blues arrangement.

3) Holmes Brothers: "Run Myself Out of Town" From *Simple Truths* (2003). Brothers Wendell and Sherman Holmes collectively play guitar, piano and bass with "Honorary Brother," Popsy Dixon doing vocals and playing drums. Up-tempo beat accentuates clever, even amusing lyrics. Vocalist loses his lover and decides to, you guessed it, run himself out of town. Who hasn't been there or even done that?

4) Little Charlie and the Nightcats: "Jump Start" From *The Big Break!* (1989), Electric blues and swing featuring guitar, harmonica, bass, and drums. Charlie Baty, Sacramento's own, met Rick Estrin, harp man extraordinaire, in the Bay Area and in 1976 formed the Nightcats. When Baty retired, Estrin took over adding his name to band - great local history here.

5) Katie Webster, ("The Swamp Boogie Queen"): "I'm Still Leaving You" From *Two Fisted Mama!* (1989) Vocals and a very assertive piano style with guitar support and drum backup. Webster had a pleasing, convincing (sassy even) voice with a thoroughly commanding and very distinctive piano style. Her work has been described as in the Swing, Boogie, Blues and R&B tradition. Webster also played with a gospel/soul vibe and an 'in-your-face' stage persona. She was taught piano hymns by her mother but when mom was out of earshot played Chuck Berry and Fats Domino. Such a Katie thing to do. Webster described her style as "funky left hand and rollin' right."

CD Review

Broke Down Busted Up - Tas Cru

(Subcat Records) By Rick Snyder

I firmly believe the blues should not be pigeon-holed into a limited presentation defined by traditional parameters.

Tas Cru is able and willing to draw outside the lines, perhaps due to being a late-to-the-game Bluesman, creating music full-time beginning in his mid-fifties.

While he is not a guitar genius, his licks and tunes are tasty, run-



ning the gamut from semi-traditional twelve-bar blues to gospel-influenced blues to progressive blues and beyond. His lyrics weave a tale delivered from the "soul of a poet," taking the listener far beyond one guitar solo to the next.

Tas handles lead vocals on most of the 11 cuts here while accompanying himself on acoustic and resonator guitars. He's joined by the delightful Anne Harris, who cooks on fiddle throughout, along with Mary Ann Castle, who contributes mountain dulcimer, co-wrote three tunes, handles lead vocals on one track, and joins Cru in duet on another. The lineup also includes Dave Liddy (grand piano), Garry Loiacono (slide guitar), Andy Hearn and Ron Keck (percussion), and Mike Lawrence and Bob Purdy (acoustic and electric bass).

Tas and company deliver everything from a country-flavored blues rocker to funky, stop-time; to up-tempo soul searchers; to full-on gospel; to solace for the broken-hearted; to ballad; to tongue-in-cheek digs at purists; to praise for all blues musicians and then some.

If you're looking for something that tests limits and exists "outside the box," then the new CD by Tas Cru, *Broke Down Busted Up*, is for you!

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FEBRUARY 16TH:
MITCH WOODS &
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FEBRUARY 23RD:
AARON MORENO & FRIENDS
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Guitar Raffle Winner!

Back in the May-June 2020 issue of the *Blue Notes*, we announced plans to raffle off a special and unique guitar. SBS member Craig Christensen donated his Charvel electric guitar, signed by all the members of the Papa Roach band.

After a long slumber during the COVID shutdown, SBS events resumed and the guitar was displayed in all its glory, so we could sell raffle tickets.

Guitar Raffle Winner, con't. from P. 10

We're pleased and proud to announce that the guitar raffle concluded on December 12 at our Membership gala, when the winning ticket was drawn, and the winner announced. Lucky Bill VanHouten (husband of Hall of Fame member, bassist Liz Peel VanHouten!) is the winner of the Papa Roach Charvel electric guitar! While Bill wasn't present at the party, SBS President Sally Katen was able to present it to him a few days later.



Congratulations, Bill, and thanks for supporting the SBS. Our grateful thanks also go to Craig Christensen for donating the guitar.

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SBS "Holiday Blues Belles!" Annual Membership Gala 2021

By Barbara Katen and Jan Kelley

Photos by: Bob Cosman, Steve Martarano, Mindy Giles, Janet Hongola and Bobbie Felt Armstrong

On Sunday, December 12th, the Sacramento Blues Society held its annual membership appreciation party at Harlow's. Unable to have



our usual party in 2020 due to the COVID-19 shelter in place order, this year's event took a different tactic from all the previous years, still with the

precautionary structure in mind.

The Events Committee did a fantastic job in presenting some of our own SBS members who turned this generally blues-oriented show into a gala revue. Kudos to SBS blues ladies Val Starr (Val Starr and the Blues Rocket), Katie Knipp (The Katie Knipp Band) and Dana Moret (Zen Voodoo), and our BITS future superstar Amaya Levels. The



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house band, Zen Voodoo, features Steve Dunne of Cold Blood fame (an awesome band leader) on guitar, Bryan Kilfoil, drums, Pamela Arthur (PammaJamma) tickling the keys, and the outstanding horn player Dave Johnson.



The amusing emcees and their female alter egos, Peter Petty aka "Josephine" and Kyle Rowland aka "Daphne", in a nod to the 1959 classic movie *Some Like It Hot*, kept the crowd entertained throughout the day, combining their musical talent along with the chatter. Adding international star Dorothy Morrison to this mix was a stroke of

genius! With invaluable assist from the always fabulous Dana Moret and Liz Walker, this was truly a SWELL (Mindy Giles, thank you!) party.

Each one of the Blues Belles was accorded a segment of her own in performing with the band Zen Voodoo, highlighting Christmas songs that were not always the usual (Katie Knipp,



behave yourself!) and delighting the crowd. Dana scolded the boys about the show being for girls only, segueing into the song "Baby, It's Cold Outside" with Peter Petty; Val Starr stepped up with her rendition of "Spending Christmas with the Blues"; Dave Johnson and Katie performed her newest song "Kiss Me" that was a real treat, and Ms. Levels debuted with "Santa Baby".



Since there wasn't a Membership Party last year, the annual "VJ Anderson Volunteer Award" was given

to two stalwart volunteers: Liz Walker, for her numerous years of SBS & BITS leadership and volunteerism; and Bobbie Felt Armstrong, for her invaluable contribution in volunteerism to SBS. Both these ladies deserve all the accolades they received.

The Charvel Guitar, donated by Craig Christensen and signed by all the members of Papa Roach was raffled, and the



lucky winner was Bill Van-Houten! Other fantastic raffle prizes were also bid on and won by members.

Finally, the anticipation came to a head when Dorothy Morrison hit the stage to enthusiastic applause in recognition of her talent in presenting gospel-infused songs and the

hit "Oh Happy Day"! Dorothy was the lead singer and songwriter with the famous Edwin Hawkins Singers on this #1 hit from 1969. Her rousing performance had everyone shouting and applauding with joyful fervor, and completed the show perfectly!



It was great to be among so many friendly faces that we have so sorely missed during the pandemic. Thank you to Harlow's management for checking vax cards and enforcing face masks when moving about inside to ensure a safe environment for all attendees.

The 2021 SBS "Holiday Blues Belle!" gala was a membership event never to be forgotten.





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Please join these major donors by making a tax deductible contribution on our new website: www.sacblues.org or by sending a check made out to "The Sacramento Blues Society" to SBS, PO Box 60580, Sacramento, CA 95860-0580. We need your continued support. When you renew your membership, why not add an additional contribution? Every little bit helps!

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