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**Rest In Peace Stanley
"Buckwheat" Dural Jr.
Nov. 14, 1947-September 24, 2016**

American musical legend Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural, Jr.—leader of the band Buckwheat Zydeco—died on September 24, 2016 of lung cancer at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette, Louisiana. The Grammy and Emmy winning artist was the preeminent ambassador of Louisiana zydeco music. NPR's Weekend Edition called him "the go-to guy for zydeco music...a master of

accordion and organ." Buckwheat played with everyone from Eric Clapton and U2 to Robert Plant and The Boston Pops. The band performed at the closing ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympics and performed for President Clinton twice, celebrating both of his inaugurations. The band appeared on *The Late Show With David Letterman*, *CNN*, *The Today Show*, *MTV*, *NBC News*, *CBS Morning News* and many others. They were also invited to play the final episode of *The Late Show With Jimmy Fallon*. Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural, Jr. was born in Lafayette, LA on November 14, 1947. He acquired his nickname because, with his braided hair, he looked like Buckwheat from The Little Rascals. His father was an accomplished, non-professional traditional Creole accordion player, but young Buckwheat preferred listening to and playing R&B. He became proficient at the organ, and by the late 1950s was backing Joe Tex, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown and many others. In 1971, he formed Buckwheat and The Hitchhikers, a 15-piece funk and soul band. They were a local sensation and found success with the single, "It's Hard To Get," recorded for a local Louisiana-based label. Never a traditional zydeco fan when growing up, Buckwheat nonetheless accepted an invitation in 1976 to join Clifton Chenier's Red Hot Louisiana Band as organist. He quickly discovered the joy and power of zydeco music, and marveled at the effect the music had on the audience. "Everywhere, people young and old just loved zydeco music," Buckwheat said. "I had so much fun playing that first night with Clifton. We played for four hours and I wasn't ready to quit." Buckwheat's relationship with the legendary Chenier led him to take up the accordion in 1978. After woodshedding for a year, he felt ready to start his own band under the name Buckwheat Zydeco, and began his recording career with the small Blues Unlimited label. By the mid-1980s there were more offers to perform than he could possibly accept. Recordings for Black Top and Rounder followed before Buckwheat befriended New York-based journalist Ted Fox, who championed Buckwheat to Chris Blackwell at Island Records in 1986. Buckwheat Zydeco signed a five-record deal and Fox became and remained his manager and frequent producer. The success of these records kept Buckwheat Zydeco on the road and in constant demand. ---text borrowed from Alligator Records.



INTERNATIONAL **BLUES** CHALLENGE

IBC CANCELLED

This year's International Solo/Duo competition has been cancelled. Though the event was promoted extensively beginning in mid-July, we received only one entry. This is unprecedented. Given the depth of our talent pool, it is indeed unfortunate that San Diego will not be represented in Memphis in January.

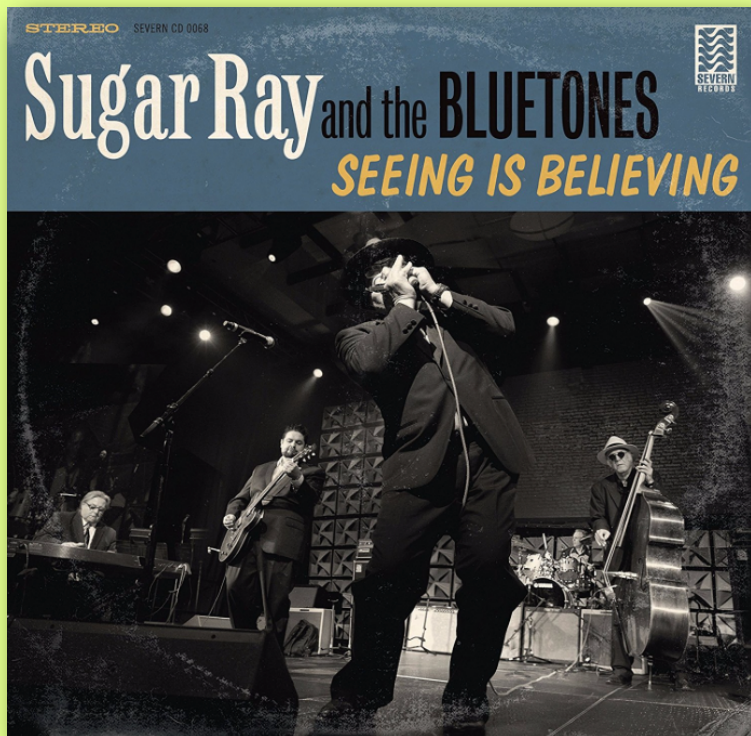
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NEW Releases on CD



Sugar Ray & the Bluetones Seeing is Believing

Severin Records

After winning seven Blues Music Award nominations for their 2014 'Living Tear to Tear' CD release, Sugar Ray & the Bluetones follow up with a genuine and solid blues CD release that brings you back to the time before blues became blues-rock. It's got that feel, that ambience, that emotion often devoid in many of the so called blues rock releases found elsewhere.

Of the 12 tunes on this disc, 11 are originals plus one instrumental cover of B.B. King's "You Know I Love You" which rivals B.B.'s own original recording.

The Bluetones, led by Sugar Ray Norcia on vocals and harmonica, are really a 'super star' group within themselves featuring Monster Mike Welch on guitar, Anthony Geraci on piano and organ, Michael Muscat Ward doing duty on bass and Neil Gouvin solidly understated on drums.

Sugar Ray reels you back to hollars of the Mississippi Delta with his original tune, 'Keep on Sailing' when black workers on the levee's, prison road gangs and cotton fields could only sing surreptitiously of escaping the denigrating social/racial system prevalent in the South.

There isn't a song on this fine release that is not true to its' roots. A mix of tempos, a mix a topics and a wailing good CD release. It wouldn't surprise me if it matched Sugar Ray & the Bluetones 2014's 7 nominations.



The Fabulous Thunderbirds “Strong Like That”

Severen Records

Kim Wilson is a musician who simply never stops bringing new touches to his prolific music releases. On “Strong Like That”, The Fabulous Thunderbirds really mix it up for this CD with far too many guest musicians to list here to add to the musical mix. On first listening, clearly evident was the Motown sound that brought back many memories from the 60’s and early 70’s. True enough, the Thunderbirds’ rendition of ‘Don’t Burn Me’ with its strong background vocals had me visualizing the Temptations’

choreography as they sang the chorus, while their renditions of Eddie Floyd’s classic ‘Never Found Me a Girl’ and the Motown song icon ‘(I know I’m) Losing You’ brings new grooves and soul to two already iconic songs.

Kim Wilson’s strong harp playing is prevalent throughout and supported by the solid Thunderbirds and guests. “Strong Like That”, while breaking no new musical ground, is never the less a totally joyful CD release. Play this at any party and you can be sure to see some dancing going on.

UPCOMING SHOWS

10/4: ZZ Top at Humphrey’s Concerts by the Bay

10/15: The 44s at Chicano Park La Raza Run

Don Flemons & Leyla McCalla at Sweetwater HS
AMSD Concerts

10/16: Blues-Fest Benefit Concert for Randi at
Humphrey’s Concerts By the Bay

10/26: Maceo Parker at Belly Up Tavern

10/28: Kim Simmonds & Savoy Brown at Ramona
Mainstage

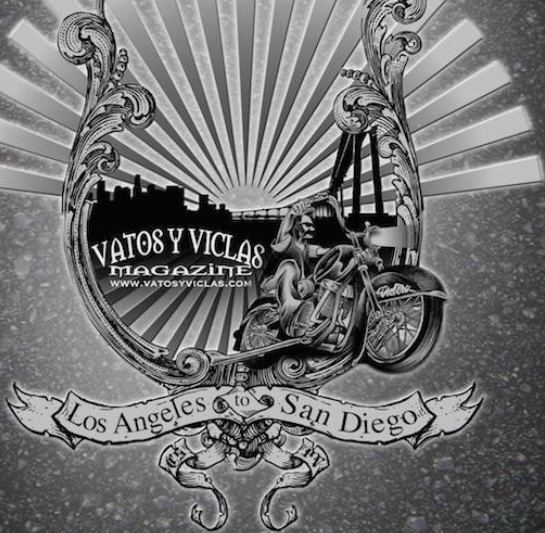
11/10: Anders Osborne & James McMurtry at Belly Up
Tavern

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 Spotlight...
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BLUES FARM performs at Tio Leos on Oct. 17th

Blues Farm embodies the classic sounds of famous and infamous blues legends blended with a classy modern edge and precision performance honed from the combined experience of talented musicians Tim Dowty, and Ken Sprinkle, guitars and vocals, Bud Farnham, bass, and Dennis Rota, drums. The Blues Farm loves the rock and will always please even the hard crusted old time blues aficionado. If you love the blues and classic rock but also appreciate a rhythmic and skilled blend of style and sound – Stop by, have a drink, relax, and move to the beat of the great rockin blues and sounds that Blues Farm delivers.

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