



BLUE INK

www.BLUSD.org

February 2012

Vol 14 - Issue 2

Janine Harty elected BLUSD president

Janine Harty, a well-known San Diego disc jockey and board member of BLUSD, became the fifth president of BLUSD at the organization's annual meeting Jan. 21. She replaces Michael Kinsman, who had been president of BLUSD for the previous five years.

Joining Harty as officers of the organization are Ted Steuer, vice president; Nelly Burns, treasurer; and Donna Mallen, secretary.

In addition to Steuer and Mallen, others to join the BLUSD board are Janet Blair, Deborah Blake, Vince Kasperick, Michele Lundeen and RosaLea Schiavone.

Board members Nelly Burns, Steve Burns and Shannon Miner were re-elected to one-year terms. The board was expanded to 11 directors this year.

Other board members departing include Rand De Mattei, Blues In The Schools coordinator and former president; Elaine De Mattei, treasurer; Sandra Naughton, secretary; Tim Atkins editor and Dane Terry, webmaster.



Harty has worked at Jazz88 since 1988 and currently hosts Sunday morning's "The Gospel Gathering" and Friday night's "Blues Up Front" shows.

Preceding her as president of the organization were Phillip Shuey, Nov 1998-Aug 2001; Scott Chasen, Sept. 2001-July 2003; Rand De Mattei, Aug 2003-Jan 2007; and the outgoing Kinsman, Feb 2007-Jan 2012. ■

Welcome from Janine

We bid farewell to Michael Kinsman, Rand and Elaine De Mattei, Dane Terry, Tim Atkins and Sandra Naughton at the BLUSD annual meeting. Their hard work over the years is much appreciated and they will continue to provide guidance to the new board during this time of transition. Exciting challenges await us. Immediate goals include increased membership, improved member benefits and streamlined operations. Feedback from members is welcome. You can reach me at president@blusd.org. *Janine Harty President, BLUSD* ■



This TomCat LIVES for music

Apparently, no matter how long you wait, Tomcat Courtney is still going to be playing several nights a week in San Diego.

Tom just celebrated his 83rd birthday and he's as determined as ever to play the blues. He's currently playing the Turquoise Lounge four times a week and one week a month he slips a fifth date in there.

"I'm still milkin' the cow and chewin' the butter," Tomcat says. "Once in a while, I need some inspiration and I'll take me a double-shot and I'm back at it."

He celebrated his Jan. 23 birthday at the Turquoise by inviting a few friends over for a jam session on Jan. 30.

"I don't mind it a bit that he is playing music," says his companion, Jojo. "Music is his life. It doesn't matter how big or how the gigs are, he likes them just the same."

For a historical gauge, you have to realize that Tomcat was already 9-years-old when Robert Johnson, King of the Delta Blues Singers, passed in 1938.

Tomcat is an unorthodox guitar player, but what he lacks in disciplined technique, he makes up for the feel of the music. He can cast a mesmerizing spell with his guitar.

Through the years, Tomcat has been a mentor and supporter of scores of young musicians. Everybody who was around him learned something, whether they went onto earn a living at playing music or went to work in a welding shop or writing software programs.

Tomcat not only has an enduring talent, but a lasting wisdom. Mark your calendars now for his 90th birthday celebration in 2019. Tomcat's already marked his.

~ Michael Kinsman ■



BLUES LOVERS UNITED OF SAN DIEGO

EDITOR

Michele Lundeen – BlueInkEditor@BLUSD.org

GIG CALENDAR

Shannon Miner – GigCalendar@BLUSD.org

WEB MASTER

Deborah Blake – Webmaster@BLUSD.org

CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Burns - Phil Diiorio - Janine Harty - Michael Kinsman - Michele Lundeen - Shannon Miner - Jack Naughton - RosaLea Schiavone

Deadlines for monthly newsletter:

Articles/Events info should be submitted by the 20th & Calendar by the 23th in order to ensure inclusion.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Deborah Blake

Nelly Burns

Steve Burns – steve@burnsvilleband.com

Janine Harty

Vince Kasperick

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RosaLea Schiavone – wickedharem.rls@hotmail.com

Ted Steuer

PRESIDENT

Janine Harty – President@BLUSD.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Ted Steur

TREASURER

Nelly Burns – Treasurer@BLUSD.org

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- OUR MISSION -

To preserve and promote awareness of the Blues, America's first musical art form. To entertain and educate the existing and growing audience and to be responsive to the music community's needs by presenting and supporting local and national Blues artists and culture.

BLUES LOVERS UNITED OF SAN DIEGO
P.O. BOX 34077 - SAN DIEGO, CA 92163

Hotline-Business: coming!
info@BLUSD.org - www.BLUSD.org

BLUSD TABLE GIGS

Tommy Castro

Saturday, Feb 24, 9 p.m.

Belly Up Tavern(\$17-\$19 Cover)

www.bellyup.com/artists/detail/the-tommy-castro-band

143 S. Cedros Ave, Solana Beach, CA 92075

858-481-8140



Photo: Michele Lundeen

Award-winning blues and R&B guitarist/singer/songwriter Tommy Castro is one infectious entertainer. Tommy and his band never fail to deliver driving blues-rock doused with soulful vocals. They seem to pull you in and keep you no matter how many times you've had the pleasure to see them.

"The blues is in good hands," says Carlos Santana, "This is the person who has the voice, the sound, and the right intentions to touch everybody's heart."

Tommy has been nominated as B.B. King Entertainer of the Year and Contemporary Blues Male Artist of the Year, and The Tommy Castro Band has been nominated for Band of the Year.

How can you miss? See you at the Belly Up and stop by our BLUSD "table" and say, "Hey!"

BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS

*Live, interactive blues musical presentations
available to share, inform and entertain!*

Contact: BITS@BLUSD.org



www.BLUES.org
**The Blues
Foundation**

AFFILIATE

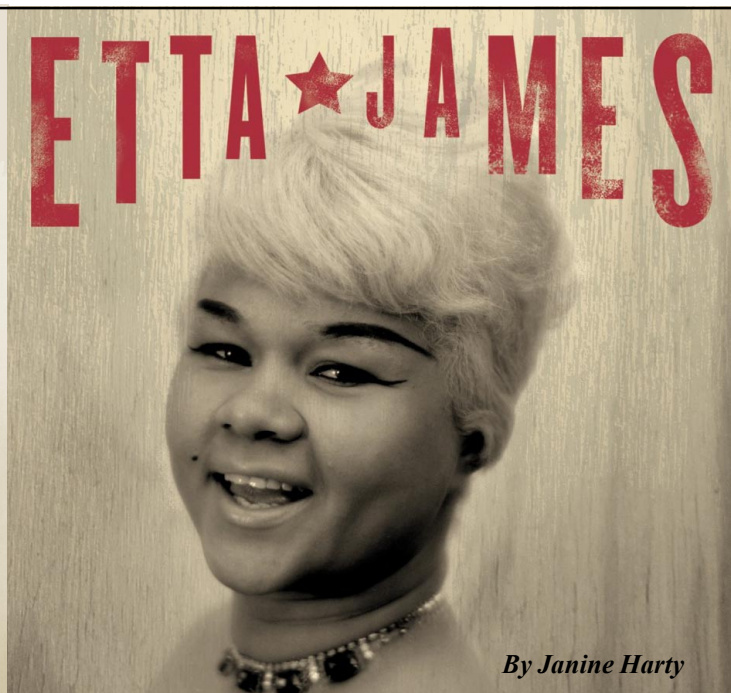
Blues Lovers United of San Diego is a 501(c)3 non profit, membership driven corporation affiliated with The Blues Foundation in Memphis, TN, an umbrella organization for Blues Societies worldwide.

R.I.P.

Blues



ETTA ★ JAMES



By Janine Harty

January was a sad month for blues lovers, as two giants of the art form left this earthly plane within three days of one another. Their early careers were closely entwined.

Johnny Otis (12/28/1921-1/17/2012) was the son of Greek immigrants who as a young man decided to identify himself as a member of the black musical community. He was a pianist, drummer, vibraphonist and music impresario who launched the careers of many R&B greats including Jackie Wilson, Hank Ballard, Little Willie John, Little Esther Phillips, the Robins (who later became the Coasters), and his guitarist son, Shuggie Otis. He is most well known for "Willie and the Hand Jive," a huge hit in 1958.

Otis gave Etta James her start as a teenager in 1955 when he recorded "Roll with Me, Henry," later known as "Dance with Me, Henry" due to censorship concerns, and "Wallflower," which became a smash hit. Etta forged her mother's signature on a permission slip so that she could tour with the Johnny Otis Revue.

The Johnny Otis Revue, with an ever-changing lineup, was active through the early 90s, without Johnny near the end. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994.

Johnny spent his later years leading his own church and raising organic apples.

Etta James (1/25/1938-1/20/2012) got her start as a teenager with the Johnny Otis Revue. She went on to huge success with a string of hits recorded for the Chess label, including "At Last," "All I Could Do Was Cry" and "A Sunday Kind of Love." Her success continued with hits like "Something's Got A Hold on Me," "Tell Mama" and "I'd Rather Go Blind."

Etta's career faltered as she struggled with long-term heroin addiction, however, she emerged revitalized in the 1980s and toured and recorded regularly. Her last recording reached the shelves just a few months prior to her death from leukemia and other medical complications. Though she never topped the charts again, her performances remained powerful and moving.

Etta published her memoir, *Rage to Survive* in 1998. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993 and the Blues Hall of Fame in 2001 and won numerous Grammy Awards and Blues Music Awards throughout her career.

Etta's soulfulness and forceful delivery set her apart from all other soul/blues vocalists. She essentially defined the genre. There will never be another Etta James. ■

Photo Moments: IBC SENDOFF - HUMPHREY'S JAN 21, 2012 (Courtesy Dave McGhee)



**BLUSD
Challenge
Winners
145th Street
Band**

CALENDAR

ALL SHOWS START 9 PM UNLESS NOTED

WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY

ANTH Eric Bibb
CALY Robin Henkel & Billy Watson 7pm
CELL Missy Andersen 7pm
HUMP Len Rainey & The
Midnight Players 7-11pm
PALA Bill Magee Blues Band 12:30pm
PAT2 Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak

THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY

PALA Bill Magee Blues Band 12:30pm
PAT2 Missy Andersen
TWEN Ben Powell 6pm

FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY

GLSE Whitney Shay
HOBL Burnsville Blues Band 7-11pm
HOLM Blueswailers
HOOL Cadillac Wreckers
JJDT Jaz's Pro-Invitational Jam
featuring Charles Burton 9pm
MARB Missy Andersen
PALA Stoney B Blues Band 4-8:30pm
PAT2 Bill Magee Blues Band

SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY

COYO Big Shot Reub And The
Reloaders 6-10pm
EELK Jack City Blues Band 7pm
IVAL Missy Andersen 7:30pm
MARB Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak
PALA Stoney B Blues Band 4-8:30pm
PAT2 Len Rainey & The
Midnight Players
SANY Bill Magee Blues Band 8pm
SDHD Hoodoo Blues 12-2pm

SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY

PAT2 Myron & The Kynptionz
COYO Billy Watson 5pm

MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY

HUMP Chet & The Committee 7-11pm
PAT2 Missy Andersen (duo)

TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

GLSE Whitney Shay
HUMP Shelle Blue 7-11pm
PAT2 "Open Mic" w-Walter Gentry
PBFM Missy Andersen Pacific Beach
Farmers Market 2-6:30pm
WINE Robin Henkel 7pm

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY

ARLB Robin Henkel 8-10pm
PAT2 Bayou Brothers
DACG Ben Powell 6pm

THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY

CELL Billy Watson & Robin Henkel 7pm
HOBL Bill Magee Blues Band 7pm
HUMP Ruby & the Red Hots 7-11pm
MARB Missy Andersen 8pm
PAT2 Mystic Element of Soul
USGR Blue Largo

FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY

COYO Bill Magee Blues Band 6pm
EELK Rhythm Jacks 7pm
JJDT Jaz's Pro-Invitational Jam
featuring Chet Cannon (8pm)
JPSP Hoodoo Blues
PALA Burnsville Blues Band 4pm
PAT2 Michele Lundeen & Paradise
TIOS Whitney Shay

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY

ALVP Stoney B Blues Band 8-11pm
BELY Alan Iglesias & Crossfire 3-6pm
Benefit for Breea
BRCR Robin Henkel 10am
HOOL The Christian Hastings Band
IVAL Blue Largo
JCLJ Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak
KRAK Bill Magee Blues Band
MRPB Big Shot Reub & the Reloaders
PALA Burnsville Blues Band 4pm
PAT2 145th Street Band
STEL Missy Andersen 8pm
USGR Whitney Shay 8pm
ZELD Robin Henkel 8pm

SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY

BELY Candye Kane 3-6:30pm
CELL Missy Andersen 7pm
CORF Blue Frog 1-4pm
LJSG Blue Frog 6:30-9:30pm
SKYB Jaz's Pro-Invitational Jam
featuring Charles Burton 7pm
TRRO Whitney Shay 7pm

MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY

HUMP Stoney B Blues Band 7-11pm
PAT2 Missy Andersen (duo)

TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

IVAL Missy Andersen 7pm
MARB Bill Magee Blues Band
OCEA Cool Fever
PAT2 "Open Mic" w-Walter Gentry
WINE Ben Powell 7pm

WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY

HUMP Whitney Shay & The
Shakedowns 7-11pm
MEDC Nathan James 7pm
PAT2 Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY

GLSE Whitney Shay
HUMP Michele Lundeen & Paradise
7-11pm
MARB Missy Andersen 8pm
PAT2 Bill Magee Blues Band

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY

GLSE Whitney Shay
HUMP Ruby & the Red Hots 7pm
JJDT Jaz's Pro-Invitational Jam
featuring Cadillac Wreckers 9pm
MAIN Gomez Blues Project
MARB Stoney B Blues Band
PAT2 Missy Andersen
WYNP Nathan James 7pm

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY

MIRM Missy Andersen 7pm
PAT2 Myron & The Kynptionz
TRLM Stoney B Blues Band

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY

PAT2 Stoney B Blues Band
SKYB Jaz's Pro-Invitational Jam
featuring Robin Henkel 7pm
VVCS Missy Andersen 6-10pm

MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY

HUMP Chet & The Committee 7-11pm
PAT2 Michele Lundeen & John January

TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY

CELL Ben Powell 7pm
HUMP Black Market III 7-11pm
IVAL Jerry "Hot Rod" DeMink Band 7pm
MARB "Mardi Gras" w-Madame LeRoux
& Krewe (Michele Lundeen)
PAT2 "Mardi Gras" w-Bayou Brothers
WINE Robin Henkel 7pm

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

ARLB Robin Henkel 8-10pm
DACG Ben Powell 6pm
MEDC Nathan James 7pm
PAT2 Myron & The Kynptionz

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY

HUMP Bill Magee Blues Band 7pm
MARB Missy Andersen 8pm
PAT2 145th Street Band

FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY

BELY The Tommy Castro Band
BLUSD TABLE GIG
HOBL Stoney B Blues Band 7-11pm
JJDT Jaz's Pro-Invitational Jam
featuring Cadillac Wreckers 9pm
MIRM Billy Watson 7pm
PALA Missy Andersen 11:30am
PANB Blue Largo
PAT2 Bill Magee Blues Band

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

HOBL Burnsville Blues Band 5-7pm
HUMP Wyatt Lowe 7-11pm
IVAL Billy Watson 7:30pm
PALA Missy Andersen 11:30am
PAT2 Johnny V Vernazza
RYCG Stoney B Blues Band 6-10pm
ZELD Robin Henkel 8pm

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

COYO Missy Andersen 5pm
LEST Robin Henkel Band 8pm
LJSG Deborah Blake & Zero Gravity
6:30pm
SKYB Jaz's Pro-Invitational Jam
featuring Whitney Shay 7pm

MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY

PAT2 145th Street (duo)
HUMP Nathan James 7-11pm

TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY

BELY Los Lonely Boys
PAT2 "Open Mic" w-Walter Gentry
WINE Ben Powell 7pm

WEDNESDAY 29 FEBRUARY

BELY Boz Skaggs
CALY Blue Largo
CELL Whitney Shay 7:30pm
HUMP 145th Street 7-11pm
PAT2 Missy Andersen

VENUES —

ALVP American Legion, Post 365
Vista - 760.415.1619
ANTH Anthology
San Diego 619.595.0300
ARLB ArtLab Studios
No. Park 619.283.1151
BELY Belly Up - Solana Beach
858.481.8140
BRCR Birdrock Coffee Roasters
858.551.1707
CALY Calypso Cafe
Encinitas 760.632.8252
CELL The Cellar
San Clemente 949.492.3663
CORF Coronado Ferry Landing
Coronado 619.234.4111
COYO Coyote Bar & Grill
Carlsbad 760.729.4695
DACG Davina's Cabo Grill
Oceanside 760.637.2450
EELK Elks Lodge #2243
Encinitas 760.753.2243
GLSE Gaslamp Speakeasy
Gaslamp 619.239.9994
HOBL House of Blues San Diego
Gaslamp - 619.299.2583
HOLM Hooleys - La Mesa
619.713.6900
HOOL Hooley's Pub and Grill
El Cajon 619.670.7468
HUMP Humphrey's Backstage
Shelter Island 619.224.3577
IVAL Iva Lee's New Orleans Style
Restaurant - San Clemente
949.361.2855
JCLJ Jose's Courtroom
La Jolla 858.454.7655
JJDT Jolt N Joe's
Gaslamp 619.230.1968
JPSP JP's Pub
Tierrasanta 858.576.2509
KRAK The Kraken
Cardiff 760.436.6483
LEST Lestat's Coffee House
Normal Heights 619.282.0437
LJSG Lacey J's Roadhouse
619.448.8550

MAIN The Main Tap Tavern
El Cajon 619.749.6333
MARB The Marble Room
Gaslamp 619.702.5595
MEDC Mediterranean Cafe
Carlsbad - Carlsbad 760.729.6871
MIRM Mira Monte Winery
Temecula 909.506.5500
MRPB Mr. Peabody's
Encinitas 760.753.7192
OCEA Ocean House
Carlsbad 760.729.4131
PALA Pala Casino - Pala
760.741.8423
PANB The Pannikin & Book
Works - Del Mar 619.281.6727
PARK Parkway Bar
La Mesa 619.463.8757
PAT2 Patrick's Gaslamp Pub
Gaslamp 619.233.3077
RYCG Rhythm City Grill
760.736.9202 San Marcos
SANY Santa Ysabel Casino
Santa Ysabel 760.787.0909
SDHD San Diego Harley Davidson
Kearny Mesa 858.616.6999
SKYB The Sky Box -
Clairemont Mesa 858.274.7269
PBFM Pacific Beach Farmers Mrt
STEL Stellar Cellar - Temecula
951.676.2722
TIOS Tio Leo's - Bay Park
619.542.1462
TRLM The Regal
La Mesa 619.469.1633
TRRO The Ruby Room
619.299.7372
TWEN Twenty/20 at the Sheraton
Carlsbad 760.827.2500
USGR U.S. Grant Hotel
Gaslamp San Diego 619.232.3121
VVCS Valley View Casino
Valley Center 866.843.9946
WINE Wine Steals
Cardiff-by-the-Sea 760.230.2657
WYNP Wynola Pizza Express
760.765.1004
ZELD Zel's Del Mar
858.755.0076

**BANDS & VENUES: MAKE SURE YOU
SUBMIT YOUR INFO SO WE CAN INCLUDE
YOUR BLUES-BASED GIGS IN BLUE INK &
ONLINE AT WWW.BLUSD.ORG!**

BLUES JAMS

Please call venue to confirm

SUNDAY:

- **Downtown Cafe** 2:30-6 pm (signup at 2 pm)
182 East Main St., El Cajon (619) 440-5687
Host: Chet and The Committee
- **Mr. Peabody's** "Best Damn Jam" 6 - 10 pm every other Sun
(beginning Feb 19)
136 Encinitas Blvd, Encinitas, CA 92024 (760) 753-7192
Host: Gomez Blues Project
- **Sky Box** 7-10 pm (858) 273-1226 (starting Feb 12)
Featuring a very Special Guest set 7-8pm
4809 Clairemont Dr., San Diego (Clairemont Square)
Host: Jaz jamtheblues@gmail.com
- **The Kraken** 4 - 9 pm
2531 So. Coast Hwy, Cardiff (760) 634-6865
Host: Blues Brokers (858) 481-6580

MONDAY:

- **Humphrey's Backstage** "Pro Jam" 7 - 11 pm
(occasional Mons / call to confirm)
2241 Shelter Island Dr., Pt. Loma (619) 224-3577
Host: The Committee & Friends
- **Gaslamp Speakeasy** 8 pm - 12 am
708 4th Ave. downtown San Diego (619) 239-9994
Host: Stoney B. Blues
- **The Kraken** 8:30 pm
2531 So. Coast Hwy, Cardiff (760) 634-6865
Host: Doug Allen

TUESDAY:

- **Lacey J's** "Best Damn Jam" 8 - 11 pm (beginning Feb 7)
8861 N. Magnolia Ave., Santee, CA 92071 (619) 448-8550
Host: Gomez Blues Project
- **The Kraken** 8:30 pm
2531 So. Coast Hwy, Cardiff (760) 634-6865
Host: Doug Allen

WEDNESDAY:

- **Cafe La Maze** 7 - 10 pm
1441 Highland Ave, National City (619) 474-3222
- **Last Call** 8 pm
4997 El Cajon Blvd, El Cajon (619) 287-9505
Host: Dana Garrett kid_tater@yahoo.com

FRIDAY:

- **Del Cerro Rec** "Slo-Jam" Acoustic 6:30 - 9 pm
(every 3rd Friday)
Host: Walt Richards (619) 589-8177
- **Jolt N Joe's Gaslamp** 9 pm - 1 am
Featuring a very Special Guest set 9-10pm
Host: Jaz jamtheblues@gmail.com
- **Royal Dive** "Happy Hour Jam" 6 - 9 pm (1st & 3rd Fri)
2939 San Luis Rey Rd., Oceanside (760) 733-1911
Host: "Mark of The Blues" Abbott

Artist Spotlight... By rosalea (rls)



A Chat with Steve Burns of Burnsville

rls: Burnsville Band was formed in 2007, and as it can happen with bands that have been performing for any length of time, the band has gone through several metamorphosis. Give me a little history and tell me about the most recent of the changes that have brought you and the band to where and what you're doing today. Not just about the member changes but the energy, direction, the evolution of the music.

SB: Due to personal and professional differences, the band lineup changed after four years, but also the bands' direction when Scottie Blinn joined. Things just meshed really well and we had so much fun we just kept it that way. We took on a more stripped down version of the band, simplifying the sound by going to a more traditional blues-rock-swing-roots feel while keeping the high energy up that Burnsville is known for. We constantly challenge each other to raise the bar, play better, refine and become better musicians on and off stage and we've become such great friends besides.

The direction is focused on being tight, more professional and picking material that is well suited for us as players. We are having more and more fun all the time doing it. It seems it gets better and better all the time.

rls: Who has had the most influence in your music and how is that reflected within the band - The composing, songwriting, songs you choose to perform and the creative direction?

SB: We're influenced by many of the greats of rock and Blues, old and new, while exploring our own roots and bringing out what we do naturally on our instruments, being honest and true to ourselves, not trying to imitate and playing appropriately for the music. It's working and really fulfilling.

We are, as a band, collaborating on new original material. We plan on releasing an all original CD in 2012 and hope to do some touring and keep on writing and recording.

rls: The band plays out quite a bit, is there any one performance that really sticks out in your mind?

SB: This last year has been truly a really fun Experience. The fresh new direction has been enlightening. We play with such fire and intensity now, more than ever before.

...continued pg 8

CD Reviews



CONTINO Back Porch Dogma Blind Pig Records

Music comes in many colors and I'm so glad it does. This CD opens up right out of the gate chugging right down the street, with the toe tapper, "Rotgut Run." Up next is "Big Tent," a percussive, drum-stick-

click, hand clapping tune, that includes a Maria Muldaur vocal.

I can't say enough about this well recorded and heartfelt CD. A multitude of different flavors, from start to finish, cooked up just right to grab your girl after dinner for an evening dance in the living room. For me it was just the lift I needed to forget about life for a while. Thanks, guys!

Contina is Pete Contino on accordian and vocals, Rob Edwards on upright bass, Al Ek on guitar and vocals, Jim Lovgren on drums and Billy Trutt on keys. ~ Phil Diiorio

BIG DOG MERCER, DANNY BARON, BRANDON SANTINI, TOM HOLLAND



The Blues An Evolution Electro Glide Records

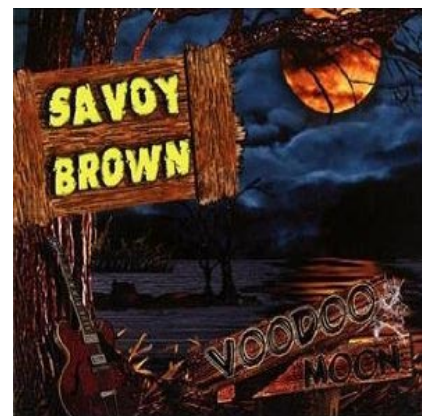
This album is Electro Glide's first compilation CD entitled *The Blues, An Evolution*. The release showcases the talents of four artists: "Big Dog"

Mercer, Danny Baron (Danny and the Devils), and Brandon Santini and Tom Holland (The Shuffle Kings). This well-rounded, all original song CD joins an emerging artist with three veteran artists. The album is described by Terry Lape, President of Electro Glide Records, as "Americana," but there is also a strong blues-rock influence, as well as a couple good shuffle tunes. This collection of blues played from the heart has something for everyone. Give it a listen. ~ Jack Naughton

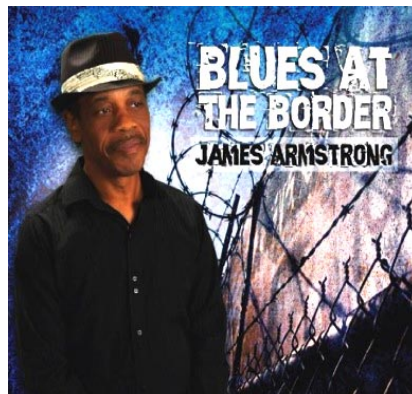
SAVOY BROWN Voodoo Moon Ruf Records

I put this CD in my truck player and have had it there for the past two weeks and I keep wanting to listen to it. It's got some interesting arrangements and being the blues rock fan that I am, it suites my taste well.

Go-to songs for me are the first track, "Shockwave," which kicks off with a nice one chord, upbeat shuffle that has some good licks and points to a cool drivin' feel; Track two, "Natural Man," a groovy minor blues; Track four, "She's Got The Heat," a straight up rockin', sweet slide-guitar on this one; Track nine, "Voodoo Moon," shows the blues rocker that lives in the roots of Kim Simmonds. All and all a great CD worthy of having in your collection. ~ Steve Burns



JAMES ARMSTRONG Blues At The Border Catfood Records

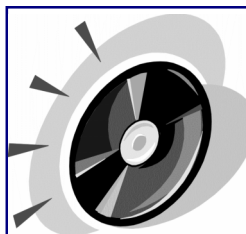


James Armstrong's strong musical upbringing is no surprise listening to this tight CD. Born in Los Angeles and well

versed from touring at the young age of 17, James pulls some downright catchy tunes from his roadhouse bag of blues tricks.

The first song, "Everything Good To Ya (Ain't Good to Ya)," really gets your hands clapping and before you know it you're singing along. Next up is a nice Albert King style, "Somebody's Got To Pay," to the smooth vibe of "Baby Can You Hear Me," with backing vocals adding a nice touch. "Blues At The Border," also the title of the CD, has a swampy feel. Moving right along to the end of this ride, you forget about your troubles listening to James' stories along the blues side of the tracks.

James Armstrong's *Blues At The Border* is a strong, put-together release that any blues lover could be listening to just driving down the road or sitting at home for a night in with a bottle of wine and your lady by your side. ~ Phil Diiorio ■



Get your CD Reviewed

Have you produced a CD recently? If so, Blue Ink wants to review it.

Please send submissions to:

Blue Ink Editor / BLUSD
P.O. Box 34077, San Diego, CA 92163

You can't fake this music. You might be a great singer or a great musician but, in the need, that's got nothing to do with it. It's how you connect to the songs and to the history behind them. ...Etta James

Artist Spotlight continued from pg 7...

This new band has had so many great gigs they all have been favorites. We just love to perform and turn people onto our brand - They seem to really dig it and that's what makes it worthwhile for us.

rls: What are the future plans for Burnsville - Your vision for the next one to five years?

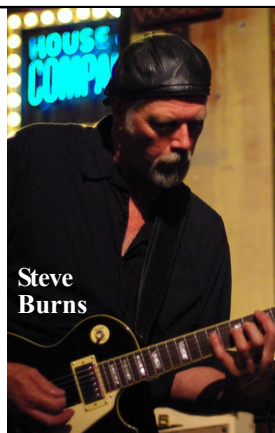
SB: Our one year goal is to keep working, gig-testing new songs; while we finish our CD and do some out-of-town shows. We're also working on a theatrical blues show (details to come). The five year plan is to continue writing and recording, still be alive, growing, learning, striving and continue to live with the passion we share for being a musician.

rls: What shows are coming up for you in the next month?

SB: Among many other gigs, we continue to be the house favorite at the House of Blues. We have been playing there regularly since 2008. You can catch us there most Saturday nights and look forward to more great times there.

The Burnsville Band is:

Steve Burns, guitar - vocals / Scottie Blinn, guitar - vocals
Charmaine Tam, bass / Joe Haggard, drums



Steve Burns



Scottie Blinn



Charmaine Tam

Joe Hager

Photos: Dave McGhee



BLUES NOTES



- 2/1: Eric Bibb ~ Anthology www.anthologysd.com
- 2/24: Tommy Castro ~ Belly Up Tavern www.bellyup.com
- 2/28: Los Lonely Boys ~ Belly Up Tavern www.bellyup.com
- 2/29: Boz Scaggs ~ Belly Up Tavern www.bellyup.com

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