



JAZZ &

BLUES



F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES



FEATURED ARTIST

JOE "SURVIVAL" CARUSO

**RAMSEY LEWIS & JOHN PIZZARELLI • MARTY STOKES BAND
ROSIE LEDET & THE ZYDECO PLAYBOYS • LIBBY YORK
WILL CALHOUN ENSEMBLE • BRAD VICKERS & THE VESTAPOLITANS
MARQUISE KNOX • MIAMI ALTO MADNESS • PHILL FEST QUINTET
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March 24 - 28

11AM - 2 PM daily on the waterfront at Ft. Pierce Marina Square.
Annual Brown Bag Lunch Jazz Concert Series

24th - Monday

Phill Fest Quintet

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25th - Tuesday

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26th - Wednesday

FPJ&BS Ensemble with Maurice Frank on Vocals, and featuring James McCreavy & Steve Ahearn

27th - Thursday

Oscar Salas Latin Experience

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28th - Friday

Smooth Jazz with Sound of Vision (Scott Klarman)

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Friday Evening - Jazz Week Finale at the Black Box Theatre! FDO - The BIG Swingin' Band featuring Bob Sagnella on Vocals & Alto Saxophone



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFO ON ALL OUR EVENTS: www.jazzsociety.org

JOE "SURVIVAL" CARUSO

by Bob Weinberg

YOU MIGHT SAY JOE "SURVIVAL" CARUSO

absorbed the blues through osmosis. The New Orleans native was born at Flint-Goodridge Hospital, on the corner of LaSalle Street and Louisiana Avenue, in 1947. A few blocks away, Big Joe Turner and Dave Bartholomew kept folks jumping at The Dew Drop Inn. Around the corner, Tex Stephens broadcast Roy Brown and Fats Domino from Hay's Chicken Shack. And, as a boy, sitting on the porch of his grandparents' home in the Ninth Ward, Caruso grooved to the sounds of Ray Charles, Guitar Slim, Count Basie and Dinah Washington as they emanated from the Club Desire just across the street.

"I didn't get to see them, because I was too young, but I could hear them," Caruso says from his current home in DeBary, Florida. "We would sit out there and drink tea and soda pop and we could hear the bands coming out of the club, just like we was there. You could smell the aroma of night jasmine and magnolia in the air. It was a real beautiful smell at night."

As evidenced by his latest recording, *I Gotta Tell Somebody*, the sounds of New Orleans are imprinted on Caruso's DNA. Echoes of Earl King, an early mentor, and Gatemouth Brown, whose Texas swing drifted across the border, resonate in his taut, cleanly burning guitar riffs. His tenor vocals, too, resound with Bourbon Street bonhomie, flavored with a touch of menace. "I got the voodoo, baby, I'm gonna put it on you," he warns on a particularly evocative track.

On the slowburning "Somebody's Murderin' the Blues," Caruso addresses the decline he perceives in the music he loves. "I wrote that out of anguish," he says, relating how he had gone to a blues club one night and was sorely disappointed by what he heard. "The guy says,



'We're gonna play some Elmore James.' But what they played is Chuck Berry music, and they sing the words to Elmore James. And this went on and on for a long time with me. One day, I was so upset, I sat down and wrote the song."

Caruso's certainly qualified to judge. By the time he was 15, he was performing regularly with his soul band, The Ec-Statics, opening for Etta James, Ernie K-Doe and Hank Ballard. His career was interrupted when he was shipped off to Vietnam in 1969. When he returned, the terrain had shifted in the wake of Jimi Hendrix. Caruso began incorporating wah-wah and Fuzztone effects into his blues, recording on sessions at Cosimo Matassa's studio and working steadily.

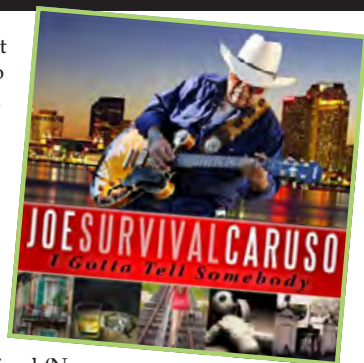
The guitarist packed up a lifetime's memories — along with whatever he could salvage — after Hurricane Katrina devastated his home in 2005. Hired to play at a casino in northwest Louisiana, Caruso had been out of town when the storm spent much of its fury on the Ninth Ward. With his mom in tow, he went to live with his sister in Deltona. And he's resided in Volusia County ever since.

It's not the first time the bluesman's lived outside New Orleans. In the early '80s, he

JOE "SURVIVAL" CARUSO

relocated to Oakland, Calif., where he stayed for the better part of a decade. In addition to leading his Survival band, Caruso worked with Bay Area blues greats Cool Papa Sadler and Sonny Rhodes, and opened shows for John Lee Hooker and Boz Scaggs. Caruso was lured back to New Orleans by Texas-based vocalist Buddy Ace, who made him an offer he couldn't refuse. The deal was too good to be true, and Caruso walked. Knocked out by his session work, Southland Studios chief George Buck insisted Caruso record for him, which resulted in the 2001 CD *I'll Never Get Out of These Blues Alive*. "That opened a lot of doors for me," he says.

While Caruso's "Survival" moniker came about because of his band's name, the handle's no joke. At age 66, he's survived 'Nam, Katrina and cancer, not to mention the rough-and-tumble life of the bluesman. "It was wild back in the day, man," he reflects. "Fistfights, car wrecks, all kinds of stuff. It's a wonder I'm still here."



Joe "Survival" Caruso will perform at 8PM March 14 at the Beach Shack in Cocoa Beach (Beachshackbar.com; 321-783-2250), and at 9PM March 28-29 at the Shamrock Lounge in Leesburg (Shamrocklounge.com; 352-787-4309).

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Peter Bernstein |
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 GEORGE & WENDY'S, SANIBEL/MARCH 7
 SPACE 39, FORT MYERS/MARCH 8, 15
 FLOUNDER'S, ENGLEWOOD/MARCH 12
 BERT'S BAR & GRILL, MATLACHA/MARCH 14
 GULF COAST TOWN CENTER, FORT MYERS/
 MARCH 22

Florida blues vet Marty Stokes can throw down and boogie with the best of 'em. On his latest CD, *Leavin' Blues*, the Captiva native draws blood with his razor-wire slide-guitar lines, which he unspools throughout a set of mostly original tunes. Stokes shoots sparks with his buzzing slide on "It Ain't About You," while the rock-solid rhythm section maintains a menacing, propulsive groove. All this is punctuated by the brawny roadhouse sax of Jennifer Mazziotti, who showcases a big, gritty tone on the funky instrumental "She's Back." Consistent crowd-pleasers, Stokes and co. won last year's IBC People's Choice Award for Southwest Florida. Check out Martystokesband.com for more shows this month. **BW**



ROSE LEDET & THE ZYDECO PLAYBOYS
 CRAWDEBAUCHERY, POMPANO BEACH
 AMPHITHEATER FIELD/MARCH 22

A child of the '70s, Rosie Ledet partied to classic rock, rather than the Cajun-zydeco music of her native southwest Louisiana. Then, she heard Boozoo Chavis at a dance and fell in love with the sound — and with Chavis' bassist, who she married at age 17. Honing her accordion and songwriting skills, Ledet developed a sound all her own, bringing rock, soul and R&B sensibilities to the genre, while maintaining its infectious danceability. And audiences responded, both internationally and locally — Ledet's Zydeco Playboys have toured the world and become hometown favorites. In fact, the band has released a couple of albums that



capture live sets at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Fest. Ledet continues her association with guitarist and producer Andre Nizzari, who has led her to an ever-more contemporary sound. Her 2013 release *Slap Your Mama* is a good example of Ledet's roots redo. Put on your boogie shoes for her show at the first-ever **CrawDebauchery**. **BW**

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Mar 14	Tamara's Tapas Bar, Apalachicola <i>*unplugged show</i>
Mar 15	North Florida Fairgrounds, Tallahassee
Mar 21	Backwoods Bistro, Tallahassee
Mar 22	River City Brewing Co., Jacksonville
Mar 23	Ouzts Too Oyster Bar, Crawfordville
Mar 29	(daytime) Springtime Tallahassee
Mar 28-30	Riverside Café, St. Marks

gigs, booking, CDs & more at swinginharpoon.com

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March 6	NRBQ	
March 7	Sarasota Slim	
March 8	Eric Culberson	
March 9	Brad Vickers & His Vestapolitans	
March 14	Davina & The Vagabonds	
March 15	Johnnie Marshall	
March 21	J.B.'s Zydeco Zoo	
March 22	Debbie Davies	
March 28	Steady Rollin' Bob Margolin	
March 29	Larry Garner	

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- 3/9 Bradfordville - Tallahassee FL
- 3/11 The Blue Rooster - Sarasota
- 3/13 Dunedin Brewery - Dunedin
- 3/14 The Om Bar - New Smyrna Beach
- 3/15 The Arts Garage - Delray Beach
- 3/16 The Beach Shack - Cocoa Beach
- 3/17 Aloft Tapestry Pk - Jacksonville
- 3/18 Home Team BBQ - Charleston SC

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BRAD VICKERS & THE VESTAPOLITANS
BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/MARCH 9
BLUE ROOSTER, SARASOTA/MARCH 11
OM BAR & CHILL LOUNGE, NEW SMYRNA
BEACH/MARCH 14

ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/MARCH 15
BEACH SHACK, COCOA BEACH/MARCH 16

On his 2013 release *Great Day in the Morning*, guitarist Brad Vickers offers an entertaining take on the early years of the blues. He and his Vestapolitans revisit Hart Wand's century-old "Dallas Blues," considered by roots scholar Samuel Charters as the first blues sheet music ever published. And a beautiful job they do with it, too. Vickers' guitar and vocals are augmented by Margey Peters' huckleberry harmonies, Dave Gross'



upright bass, Charles Burnham's elegant fiddle and Bill Rankin's spot-on drumming. As throughout, Vickers sounds like he's having a grand old time, his genial spirit filtering through his hickory-smoked vocals, slide guitar and original tunes that hark back to the blues artists he reveres. "Little Gem" is the title of one tune and an apt description of the whole album. BW

MARQUISE KNOX
BONITA BLUES FEST, RIVERSIDE PARK,
BONITA SPRINGS/MARCH 14-15

The city of St. Louis has been home to some excellent young blues players in recent years, including Trampled Under Foot and Nikki Hill. Now add the beyond-his-years powerful Marquise Knox. At 23, Knox possesses a deep, soulful voice and fiery yet rooted guitar style that's been evident at least since his debut recording at age 16. Hailing from a musical family, Knox learned guitar from his grandmother, played with his uncle's band, and was mentored by blues legend Henry Townsend. At the urging of bluesman Sam Lay, Chad Kassem brought the teen prodigy to his Blue Heaven Studios to record. On the resultant album, *Manchild*, Knox was backed by



Michael Burks and his band. The disc earned him a Living Blues Debut Artist Award and a BMA nod in the same category. On his 2011 release, *Here I Am*, Knox continued to show great promise, threading Muddy Waters classics among his fine original songs. Among the latter is the title "Can a Young Man Play the Blues?" Asked and answered. BW

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- Tues 25 Sophistafunk 8pm
- Wed 26 Classic Rock Therapy 8pm
- Thur 27 Dangermuffin & Crazy Fingers 8pm
- Fri 28 Hip Abduction 8pm
- Sat 29 Coral Springs Music School Concert 2-6pm
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April 11

Thunder Music Park, Hampton

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- 1 KC Crave, Gainesville
- 4 KC Crave, Gainesville
- 7 Great Outdoors, High Springs
- 8-11 Cabbage Patch, Samsula
- 12 Clancy's Cantina, New Smyrna Beach
- 14 Cabbage Patch, Samsula
- 15 Bonita Blues Fest, Bonita Springs
- 16 High Dive, Gainesville
- NCFBS show, opening for Nick Moss
- 17 Clancy's Cantina, New Smyrna Beach
- 21 McCall's, The Villages
- 22 Bacon's BBQ, La Crosse
- 22 Spindrift, Alachua
- 26-27 Docksides Café, Marathon
- 28-29 A1A Ale Works, St. Augustine

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SPOTLIGHT

AARON NEVILLE & THE DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND VAN WEZEL HALL, SARASOTA/MARCH 13 ARSHT CENTER, MIAMI/MARCH 14

CAPITOL THEATRE, CLEARWATER/MARCH 15
In between Mardi Gras and Jazz Fest, a couple of New Orleans icons will be kicking brass and throwing beads in the Sunshine State. As a member of the Neville Brothers, and as a solo artist, Aaron Neville has been thrilling audiences with his haunting falsetto for decades, hitting No. 1 on the R&B charts with the classic "Tell It Like It Is" in 1966. That otherworldly instrument has kept the singer in the pop firmament for more than 40 years. Last year, he paid tribute to his doo-wop roots with *My True Story*, a collection of R&B gems. On his current tour, Neville is joined by the Dirty Dozen Brass Band. The group



gooses traditional New Orleans music with a mix of jazz, funk, and R&B, but stays true to its roots. On their Caribbean-spiced 2012 CD *Twenty Dozen*, bari saxophonist Roger Lewis, tenorist Kevin Harris, trumpeter Gregory Davis, and sousaphonist Kirk Joseph — the group's core for 30 years — keep the party rolling in fine fashion. **BW**

RAMSEY LEWIS AND JOHN PIZZARELLI ARTIS, NAPLES/MARCH 2

Two generations of crossover jazz performers salute the greatest of them all in *Straighten Up and Fly Right: The Nat "King" Cole Tribute* featuring Ramsey Lewis and John Pizzarelli. Lewis is the pianist and 78-year-old Chicago native whose instrumental version of Dobie Gray's "The In Crowd" climbed the pop charts in 1965. Shortly after, he scored another crossover hit with The McCoys' "Hang On Sloopy." New Jersey-born guitarist and vocalist Pizzarelli, 53, is the son of venerable jazz guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli. Cole's influence is evident throughout Pizzarelli's 30-year recording career — he's been at home playing everything from cabaret to bebop. At ARTIS, home to the renowned Naples Philharmonic,



they'll team with the orchestra to salute Cole (1919-1965). The Alabama native rose to prominence as a jazz pianist with his trio in Chicago, and to stardom as a sweet-singing, California-based vocalist in the 1940s-'50s with hits like "Mona Lisa," "Unforgettable" and, of course, "Straighten Up and Fly Right." **BM**

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Drummer Frank Derrick is a virtuoso performer, composer and educator. His many theatrical credits include The Wiz, Sophisticated Ladies and Ain't Misbehavin'. He has performed with numerous legends and artists from Eubie Blake to Ann Hampton Calloway. He toured worldwide with Cab Calloway for ten years and was drummer for the David Letterman Show. He is currently drummer for the Palm Beach Pops, presents master classes, and is familiar to symphony audiences around the world.
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Drummer Will Calhoun used his jazz training at Boston's Berklee College of Music to color and shade the music of Living Colour, the rock band that exploded from the gate with its 1988 debut CD. During the past decade, Calhoun's logged numerous session credits and crafted a handful of recordings as a leader. His latest, last year's *Life in This World*, is a collection of originals and standards by the likes of John Coltrane, Thelonious Monk and Cole Porter. The Bronx native, 49, recruited a couple of jazz heavyweights in trumpeter Wallace Roney and saxophonist Donald Harrison, and called on frequent collaborators Marc Cary and Charnett Moffett for support on piano and bass, respectively.



For his South Florida JAZZ concert, the chameleonic drummer will be accompanied by Cary and Moffett, while trumpeter Brian Lynch and saxophonist Marcus Strickland will sub for Roney and Harrison. Calhoun also applies his coloring techniques to the visual arts, as seen in his new 12-piece AZA experimental rhythmic art collection. **BM**

MIAMI ALTO MADNESS featuring JOE DONATO and JESSE JONES JR.

CORAL GABLES MUSEUM/MARCH 12 (12:15-2:00PM)

Two of South Florida's top alto saxophonists co-star in this Miami Alto Madness showcase, with each coming from different places, literally and figuratively. New Jersey native Joe Donato started playing the instrument at age 5, and dropped out of high school to tour with The Honeycombs. He later earned his GED, studied at Houston Baptist College, and received a scholarship in 1969 to the University of Miami School of Music. He's since earned bachelor's and master's degrees in jazz performance from UM, and played with the likes of Dizzy Gillespie and Art Blakey. Miami native Jesse Jones Jr. studied music at Mississippi Valley State University



before joining the U.S. Navy Show Band. Growing up, Jones revered altoist Cannonball Adderley and played with soul and jazz bands, which later included brother Melton's big band. But don't expect only alto sax. Collectively, they also play soprano, tenor and baritone saxes, flute and clarinet. (jazz.inthegables.org) **BM**

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**PHILL FEST QUINTET
FORT PIERCE MARINA SQUARE/MARCH 24**

Like the songs of Antonio Carlos Jobim, the best-known Brazilian jazz is celebrated for its timeless melodies. West Palm Beach-based guitarist Phill Fest also adds an ample dose of rhythm to the mix on his latest CD, *Projeto B.F.C.*, by emphasizing the talents of longtime bassist Russ Howard and Brazilian drummer Ronie Martinez. The rhythm players enhance Fest's melodic work, as well as that of pianist Robert Prester and harmonica player Hendrik Meurkens. The result was one of the best South Florida releases of 2013, which should come as no surprise. The Minneapolis-born guitarist is the son of the late keyboardist and bandleader Manfredo Fest and vocalist and educator Lili Galtieri Fest, Brazilian natives both. Fest's folks composed two of the disc's standout tracks, "Dig This Samba" and "Clearwater Sunset." A third, Phill's "Florianopolis," combines the names of his current home state and his birthplace. For this performance, Fest's quintet includes Howard, Prester, vocalist Jacque Medeiros and versatile drummer Brian Lutz. **BM**



**LIBBY YORK WITH JEREMY KAHN
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS CABARET THEATRE,
KEY WEST/MARCH 26**

Late bloomer, snowbird and Renaissance woman are all terms that could apply to vocalist Libby York. The Chicago native's voice — which draws from influences including Anita O'Day, Chris Connor, Abbey Lincoln and Sarah Vaughan — didn't appear on CD until her 1998 debut *Blue Gardenia*, released when she was 35. By then, she'd earned a poli-sci degree at American University in D.C.; opened a restaurant in Delaware; and studied with Lincoln and worked as a production assistant for *Saturday Night Live* in New York. She also made valuable connections in the Florida Keys. At the venerable Tennessee Williams Cabaret Theatre, the



breathly singer will be accompanied by pianist Jeremy Kahn. Likely, she'll perform selections from her new CD, *Memoir*, which boasts pianist John di Martino, guitarist Russell Malone and cornetist Warren Vache, who also lends his vocals to the duet "Put It There, Pal." The show will also feature singer, pianist and Key West fave Bobby Nesbitt. **BM**



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Linda Schwartz

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