



JAZZ &
BLUES

AUGUST
2014

F L O R I D A



FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

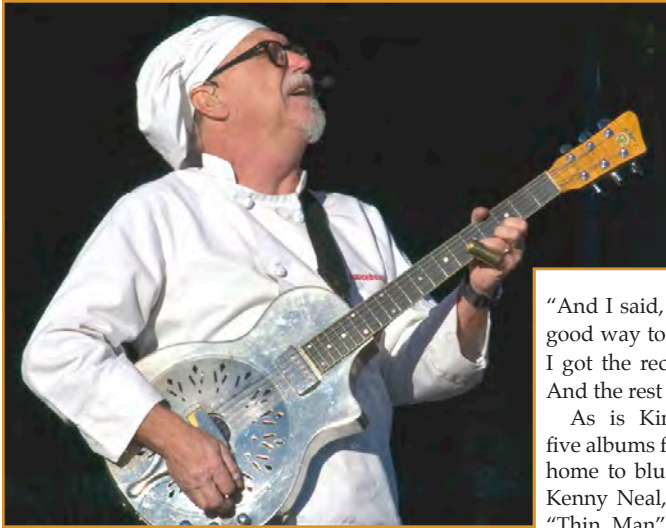
FEATURED ARTIST

BILL WHARTON
"The Sauce Boss"

LARRY CORYELL • BOOKER T. JONES • ANNIE SELICK
KIM SIMMONDS • KENNY CLARKE B-3 JAZZ QUARTET
JOE LOUIS WALKER • CHRIS ROTTMAYER QUINTET
SULTANS OF STRING • ROYAL SOUTHERN BROTHERHOOD
WILLIE GREEN with LITTLE MIKE & THE TORNADOES

BILL WHARTON

by Bob Weinberg



BILL WHARTON IS A GROOVE MONSTER.

Whether you've seen him live with his band, The Ingredients, or listened to any of his dozen-plus albums, the Orlando-born slide-guitar wizard has likely put a stomp in your shoe and a twitch in your hips. And just because he's touring solo, don't expect any letup.

"For me, groove and tone are everything," Wharton, a.k.a. the "Sauce Boss," says by phone from his home outside Tallahassee. "I'm still doing a lot of the same material, although I'm writing a bunch of stuff. It's high-energy blues, and it's kinda leaning into Americana right now. And I'm still doing the gumbo."

Of course, "the gumbo" has long been Wharton's trademark. Since 1990, he's cooked countless batches of the stuff on-stage, tossing ingredients in a large stewpot like a crazed chef from the cypress swamps. And, as the elixir simmers, its aroma tantalizes audience members who eagerly queue up for a taste. For the past dozen years, Wharton's also donated his musical and culinary talents to homeless shelters and soup kitchens as part of his Planet Gumbo initiative (Planetgumbo.org).

The Florida bluesman's immersion into the world of gumbo came about by chance. While he was working on his 1989 debut album, *The Sauce*

Boss, Wharton observed Shirley Neal, wife of Baton Rouge blues great Rafal Neal, cooking gumbo at the Kingsnake Studios in Sanford. He had already been hawking bottles of his homegrown hot sauce, *Liquid Summer*, at gigs. "I was watchin' her like a hawk," Wharton says.

"And I said, 'You know, this would be a good way to showcase the hot sauce.' So I got the recipe just from watching her. And the rest is history."

As is *Kingsnake*. Wharton released five albums for the much-missed imprint, home to blues greats such as Rafal and Kenny Neal, Lucky Peterson and Noble "Thin Man" Watts. At the center of it all was the late Bob Greenlee, producer, bassist and bari saxophonist. "I still feel his presence," Wharton says, particularly when he plays *The Alley* in Sanford. "[*Kingsnake*] was the Florida Camelot of the Blues. It was the Round Table."

Growing up in Orlando, Wharton remembers watching blues guitarists play on Church Street, using a knife in place of a slide. As a teenager, he shifted between drums and guitar, landing a gig with a rock/R&B band. He literally got his butt kicked by the frustrated bandleader when he goofed on-stage. "The way I learned to play guitar was avoiding this guy's foot," he recalls. "He showed me so much, just in terms of how to do a show. You see a little bit of him in each of my shows."

You might hear Son House, Duane Allman and Johnny Winter in Wharton's style, as well. But what most influenced him was an unexpected gift that showed up on his doorstep one morning more than 40 years ago — a 1933 National Steel Duolian. "It was like 'The Guitar From God,'" he says. "No note, no nothing."

A couple years later, an associate, Herb Williams, copped to being the anonymous donor. "For those two years, I had lived in apprehension and fear," Wharton says. "Because

"THE SAUCE BOSS"

I knew that if this guy came back and I couldn't wail on this thing, I'd probably need to give it back. It's just too much of an amazing gift and a responsibility to not be able to do it. So that guitar really taught me how to play slide."

These days, the vintage steel stays home, but Wharton does bring along a custom-made beauty known as a "Bill Wharton Special," crafted by Fine Resophonic. Billed as the "One-Man Band Traveling Gumbo Show," he also carries a bass rig, kickdrum and hi-hat, for maximum groove-ability. A "recovered" drummer, Wharton takes pride in his percussive acumen. "I leave 'boom' and 'chuck' at the house," he kids. "It's funky as hell." And while he does assemble the Ingredients on occasion, he'll keep the solo act rolling for now. In fact, his next recording will be a solo outing.

"I've been having a really good time with it. It's been liberating, in a lot of ways," he says. "For a solo act, it's not a 'Kumbaya' moment. It's like a 'hold my beer, watch this' moment. It's amazing how much noise I can make all by myself."



Bill Wharton will perform Aug. 22 at Bradfordville Blues in Tallahassee (Bradfordvilleblues.com) and on Aug. 23 at The Alley in Sanford (Thealleyblues.com). Visit Sauceboss.com for more.

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**LARRY CORYELL
HEIDI'S, COCOA BEACH/AUG. 2**

For an artist with so much history, 71-year-old guitarist Larry Coryell remains relevant because of his open ears and open mind. Equally at home playing acoustic or hollow-bodied electric instruments, Coryell has displayed several facets of his considerable arsenal in recent years, including duo and trio projects with pianist Kenny Drew Jr.; recording and touring in his expressive trio with bassist Larry Gray and drummer Paul Wertico (with whom he'll be performing in Fort Lauderdale in 2015); and a self-titled disc with the seven-piece Wide Hive Players. Coryell's range of recording and touring partners over the years echoes his considerable influences. With 50 years of experience and countless album credits as a



leader and as a session player, he utilizes a warm tone and impeccable technique on original compositions, standards and material associated with touchstones from Wes Montgomery, John Coltrane and Chet Atkins to Jimi Hendrix, Chuck Berry and The Beatles. For this show, Coryell will be joined by keyboardist Ron Teixeira's trio. **BM**

**BOOKER T. JONES (MEMPHIS MUSIC FEST)
MAHAFFEY THEATER, ST. PETERSBURG/AUG. 8**

Booker T. Jones was a prime mover of the Memphis soul sound of the '60s. His sly, grooving Hammond B-3 not only powered hits by his own Booker T. & the MG's — "Green Onions," "Hip Hugger," "Time Is Tight" — but also provided the signature sound of the mighty Stax label. Jones and his MG's backed some of the era's greatest soul figures, notably Otis Redding, Sam & Dave and Eddie Floyd. Jones later went on to work with the likes of Bob Dylan, Stephen Stills and Willie Nelson. But the keyboardist, who turns 70 in November, is hardly a museum piece. In recent years he's hooked up with artists such as The Drive-by Truckers, The Roots and Gary Clark Jr., even as he returned to a revamped Stax



label last year. For this touring Memphis Music Fest, Jones will reunite with former Stax mates The Bar-Kays, who played behind Isaac Hayes on his *Hot Buttered Soul* LP. Also sharing the bill will be soul man William Bell, with whom Jones co-wrote the hard groover "Eloise (Hang on in There)," from Bell's 1967 classic *The Soul of a Bell*. **BW**

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- Sat 23** An Evening With Raw Oyster Cult 9pm
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- Tues 26** Bobby Lee Rodgers Jazz Trio 8pm
- Wed 27** Riverdown - Bike Night 8pm
- Thur 28** Freekbass & The Bump Assembly 8pm
- Fri 29** Albert Castiglia 9pm
- Sat 30** Forgotten Space - Celebrating The Music Of The Grateful Dead 8pm
- Sun 31** South Florida Musicians Assistance Foundation Benefit Concert 6pm

For Event Details & Advanced Tickets Visit: FunkyBiscuit.com

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KIM SIMMONDS (ROCK 'N' BLUES FEST)

KING CENTER, MELBOURNE/AUG. 13
FLORIDA THEATRE, JACKSONVILLE/AUG. 14
BROWARD CENTER, FORT LAUDERDALE/AUG. 15
 As the driving wheel for Savoy Brown, guitarist Kim Simmonds was among the brightest lights of the British blues scene of the '60s. With a deep grounding in Chicago blues, Simmonds, a burner rather than a shredder, showed a propensity for boogie and swing. While the band endured one lineup change after another, the guitarist was the mainstay, taking them to international stardom in the late '60s and early '70s. Over the years, Simmonds, 66, has continued to tour and record under the Savoy Brown banner. Their latest CD, *Goin' to the Delta*, showcases Simmonds' sizzling leads on a dozen original tunes, bristling with tone and texture out front of a relentless rhythm section. As part of the touring Rock 'n' Blues Fest, the guitarist and his trio will honor the late Johnny Winter, along with the Edgar Winter Band, Vanilla Fudge and Peter Rivera of Rare Earth fame. (Johnny died last month.) **BW**



SULTANS OF STRING

SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER, CUTLER BAY/AUG. 8

ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/AUG. 9

With a name inspired by a Dire Straits song, and a sound that blends classical, roots and Middle Eastern music, the Sultans of String are Canada's ultimate world-music fusion act. Six-string violinist Chris McKhool, who grew up in a Lebanese-Egyptian household, started the group as a duo seven years ago with flamenco guitarist Kevin Laliberté, a rhythmic rumba specialist. More strings were added, namely, those of mainstay bassist Drew Birston, and the core trio often expands to a quintet by adding a second guitarist (Eddie Paton) and a percussionist (Chendy León or Alberto Suarez). From

the group's 2007 debut CD *Luna* through 2013's *Symphony!* (with full classical orchestra), their signature sound lies in McKhool's soaring violin lines. He weaves through Laliberté's guitar tapestries to create playful roots passages amid classical undercurrents, often with elements of Spanish, French, Arabic, Latin, Gypsy and American folk. **BM**



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During the past three decades, Joe Louis Walker has earned a rep as one of the most intense blues performers on the circuit. An incendiary guitarist and a soul-shouting singer, the San Francisco native has performed gospel, R&B, traditional blues and rock-fueled blues for a variety of labels. While he's currently recording for the mighty Alligator imprint, Walker released some classics on Polydor/Polygram in the '90s (*Great Guitars*, *Silvertone Blues*) and waxed some great work on Stony Plain in recent years. In fact, a new compilation, *The Best of the Stony Plain Years*, cherry-picks superb performances



from discs such as 2009's *Between a Rock & the Blues* and 2010's *Blues Conspiracy: Live on the Legendary R&B Cruise*. His followup to 2012's potent *Hellfire*, Walker's new one for Alligator, *Hornet's Nest*, further highlights his versatility in a variety of styles, all stamped with his charisma, originality and deep blues roots (Americanbluesfest.com). **BW**

ANNIE SELLICK QUARTET
MUDVILLE MUSIC ROOM, JACKSONVILLE/AUG. 7
HEIDI'S, COCOA BEACH/AUG. 8-9

Vocalist Annie Sellick is something of an anomaly. Born in Nashville, and sporting the long dreadlocks of a rapper or reggae artist, Sellick has been voted Best Jazz Artist by readers of the *Nashville Scene* for five consecutive years. What's more, she's collaborated with jazz stars including organist Joey DeFrancesco, pianist Gerald Clayton, violinist Mark O'Connor and drummer Jeff Hamilton. Sellick effortlessly swings while fronting groups such as the 17-piece Uptown Big Band; her Django Reinhardt/Stephane Grappelli-inspired Hot Club of Nashville sextet; and her duo with guitarist, harmonica player and husband Pat Bergeson. Supported



by pianist Joshua Bowlus, bassist Elisa Pruett and drummer Justin Varnes for her Florida shows this month, Sellick will use her ample vocal range, wit and storytelling and body-percussion abilities (dig her YouTube rendition of "That Old Black Magic") to transform jazz standards into anything but standard fare. **BM**



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SAT 9 *Walkabout Tiki Bar, Eddy B acoustic soul* 4PM

SAT 16 *Cuenca Cigar Lounge Hollywood* 7PM

SAT 23 *Tobacco Road, Eddy B acoustic soul* 9PM

TUE *Taco Beach Shack, Eddy B acoustic soul* 7PM

THU *Eddy Balzola Jazz Jam @ Le Chat Noir* 9PM

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**ROYAL SOUTHERN BROTHERHOOD
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(6 PM), AARON BESSANT PARK,
PANAMA CITY BEACH/AUG. 17**

Imagine a band that combined the Southern rock of the Allman Brothers with the New Orleans soul of the Neville Brothers and played them both with a modern-blues edge. That palatable mashup is the sound of Royal Southern Brotherhood, a roots supergroup that unites guitarists Devon Allman (Gregg's son) and Mike Zito with percussionist Cyril Neville (of Neville Brothers fame). Each a leader in his own regard, the three frontmen share songwriting and vocal chores within the band, which provides an engaging variety that coheres beautifully on their two CDs. The recent



HeartSoulBlood follows up RSB's eponymous 2012 debut disc in excellent fashion, as the rhythm team of bassist Charlie Wooton and drummer Yonrico Scott returns to the fold. Textures range from the hard-driving blues-rock of "Rock and Roll" to the jazzy rock of "Groove On" to the old-school '70s soul of "She's My Lady." **BW**

**KENNY CLARKE B-3 JAZZ QUARTET
COCOA BEACH COUNTRY CLUB/AUG. 10**

Hammond organist Kenny Clarke is versatile enough to shift from playing electric blues with Big Bill Morganfield (Muddy Waters' son) to playing acoustic piano gigs to leading his eponymous jazz quartet through unique, Hammond-based interpretations of standards. Clarke, who now resides in Vero Beach, became a fan favorite in Brevard County, having lived in Melbourne and Palm Bay for many years. Hence, this Cocoa Beach appearance by his quartet, and his being named Favorite Keyboardist twice by *Brevard Live* magazine. Clarke's band also features vocalist Maurice Frank, saxophonist Paul Polanski and drummer Jeff LoFore, and the bass-free act showcases Clarke's abilities to simultaneously



play melodies with his right hand and bass lines with his left. Listeners can expect the hard bop and funk voicings of Clarke's influences, which include iconic guitarist Wes Montgomery and Hammond masters such as Jimmy Smith, Larry Young, Charles Earland and fellow Florida resident Dr. Lonnie Smith. **BM**

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S P O T L I G H T

CHRIS ROTTMAYER QUINTET

ALTAMONTE CHAPEL, ALTAMONTE SPRINGS/AUG. 31
Pianist Chris Rottmayer calls his quintet a “chamber-music ensemble,” but the University of South Florida music instructor’s classical underpinnings only really serve to anchor the all-original jazz compositions he writes for the group. In a promotional video for last year’s *Reactive Synthesis* DVD, Rottmayer describes the process of creating “long-form jazz compositions using concert-music forms,” and goes on to showcase it through six different performances. On “Waltz for Julia,” the influence of Claude Debussy is especially prominent, as saxophonist Dan Jordan switches to flute to play harmonic lines with trumpeter/flugelhorn player John DePola. The dynamic rhythm section of



bassist Chuck Archard and drummer Keith Wilson guide the pianist and horn players throughout — and within a broad range of tempos and feels. The same lineup will play this show, although perhaps on different material. In a Facebook post from May, Rottmayer promised an all-new repertoire for the upcoming concert. **BM**

WILLIE GREEN w/ LITTLE MIKE & THE TORNADES ARTS GARAGE, DELRAY BEACH/AUG. 23

Little Mike & the Tornadoes have played behind a pantheon of blues legends over the years — Hubert Sumlin, Pinetop Perkins, Jimmy Rogers and Bo Diddley, to name a few. And, of course, they’re damned good on their own, as fans who’ve seen them live or picked up CDs such as the 2013 roots gem *Forgive Me* and this year’s hard-grooving *All the Right Moves* can attest. Headquartered outside Gainesville, the harmonica ace and his band will support yet another storied blues performer, Willie Green, who’s been a favorite at The Yearling restaurant in Cross Creek for years. A migrant field worker from Alabama, Green first came to Florida in the late ‘40s, later playing music in Fruitland Park



and Melbourne when he wasn’t harvesting fruit or vegetables. He first taught himself harmonica, then guitar, which he sometimes plays with a slide made from PVC pipe. But it’s Green voice, rich with his sometimes harrowing, sometimes joyful life experiences, that truly commands. His show with the Tornadoes will likely be a partying affair. **BW**

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Known for its eclectic mix of patrons and friendly staff, Earl's has grown over the years into the hottest spot on the Treasure Coast, and the premier place for the best live music. The Sunday Concert Series draws huge crowds from all over and features the top names in national touring talent... particularly in Blues and Southern Rock. And there is *never* a cover charge for these fabulous shows - the sandy dance floor fills up quickly with revelers of every kind.

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Describing the modest décor, GM Emil Franke says the simple surroundings encourage those from all walks of life to stop by, with a love of motorcycles often serving as common ground. Any given Sunday is like a bike show as every make, model and color sparkle in the Sebastian sunshine. While Earl's is *very* biker friendly, you'll find people from every walk of life and every age group at Earl's. Our countless repeat customers love being part of the Earl's family.

This Labor Day Weekend, Earl's will be celebrating those 15 terrific years with a huge BBQ and Party. Enjoy some of the finest musicianship with the Southern Rock Classic band The Jeffrey James Gang on Sunday at 2:00pm and the Stacy Mitchhart Big Band at 2:00pm Monday, Friday and Saturday will be headed up by the best in local talent.

The management and staff encourage all of you to stop by for a cold one (whatever that may be) and enjoy some great food and people watching. Earl's is open 7 days a week at 7:00am... and don't forget, Sunday is FREE concert day!



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