

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE: BLUES ARTIST

rank Bang



Frank "Bang" Blinkal, former Buddy Guy guitarist, has been

waiting to make this record his whole life. *The Blues Don't Care* has been receiving tremendous worldwide airplay including being featured on Sirius/XM Bluesville, where it debuted at No. 1. The release also charted on the Roots Radio Report and the Living Blues Chart. This marks Frank Bang's first true blues recording in the journeyman's 25-year career. Born and raised in Chicago, Bang worked his way up through the ranks to play with blues master and legend Buddy Guy.

As Buddy's touring guitar player for five years, "I always was the blues guitarist in every band I played in, no matter if it was funk, R&B or rock... I was always the blues guy in the band." The love of his Chicago blues led him to Buddy Guy's Legends. "I started there in 1991. I did everything from change the merchandise to paint the place. I even cooked brunch

during blues festival weekends with Sam Guy, Buddy's brother. Buddy Guy, Magic Slim and The Teardrops and many other blues greats that walked through the doors of Legends changed my life forever. It all came full circle when I joined Buddy Guy's band in 1999. It was an incredible experience,

playing with Buddy every night for five years... touring every summer with B.B. King, seeing the world, playing with your idols and inspiring the greats that inspired me was life changing for me."

Ready to make his own statement, Frank Bang & the Secret Stash was a blues-rock band, and they released four CDs, culminating in 2013's acclaimed *Double Dare*. Now Bang is back with a new band, The Cook County Kings, on his first-ever true blues record. The *Blues Don't Care* was recorded live, "All ten tracks in one day! That wasn't the plan, it's just how it happened," explains Bang. "All my favorite blues records were live. We just rolled and recorded, almost everything was a first take." *The Blues Don't Care* features a who's who of great Chicago blues sidemen.

Drummer Brian "BJ" Jones has recorded with Blues Greats Junior Wells, James Cotton and Otis Rush, and was the drummer in Magic Slim and The Teardrops with partner-in-crime Andre Howard on bass. Howard also played with Lonnie Brooks, Lucky Peterson, Sly Johnson and Chico Banks. The great foundation they bring to the music is highlighted by the backing vocals they sing throughout the disc. Harmonica

player Russ Green grew up in Chicago, learning from the greats and touring with Lurrie Bell and John Primer. Green also won a BMA for

> producing Best New Artist Big Llou Johnson.

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"I wanted
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BLUES DON'T CARE

this disc... I thought about Buddy, Junior Wells, AC Reed, Otis Spahn, Magic Slim and Otis Rush. No long solos like the old records, that's for the stage. And the material came easily, I just reflected on my 25 years in the business and relied on special moments from touring with all those great blues stars." Bang has jammed with a long list of greats, has and opened for Johnny Winter, Dickey Betts, Dick Dale, Hank Williams Jr, Galactic and Little Feat, among others.

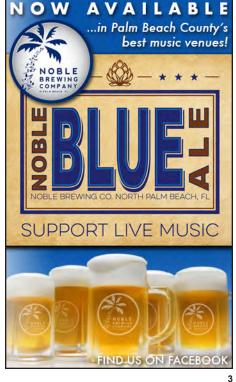
"This whole recording was a great time, and that is the band's motto on stage: 'Let's have a great time playing together.'" The crowds are picking up on that. Frank Bang & the Cook County Kings are embarking on an ambitious national tour this summer which includes some of the best blues festivals and



clubs in the country. Shows include stops in Florida, Illinois, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Kentucky, Michigan, Maryland and New Hampshire. More at frankbang.net.

JUNE 15 ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN ENGLEWOOD JUNE 16 FUNKY BISCUIT BOCA RATON JUNE 17 BAYSIDE GRILLE KEY LARGO JUNE 18 EARL'S HIDEAWAY SEBASTIAN





Nanami Morikawa

JUNE 3 & 4 THE BETSY MIAMI BEACH

Recognized as one of Japan's leading emerging jazz vocalists, Nanami Morikawa won the prestigious Grand-Prix at the Asakusa Jazz Competition in Tokyo (2008), and has been a featured artist at major Japanese jazz festivals. She is highly popular with jazz

and has been a featured artist at major Japanese jazz festivals. She is highly popular with jazz audiences and appears regularly at all major jazz clubs in western Japan. In 2010 Morikawa released her critically acclaimed solo CD, *Open Spaces*, featuring international jazz pianist Phillip

Strange, Larry Marshall (drums), and Tetsuro Aratama (bass). She has also been a featured artist on several international recordings including: vibraphonist/composer Toshihiro Akamatsu's album Axis, and Florida bassist Jamie Ousley's albums Back Home and A Sea of Voices. Born in Osaka, Japan, Morikawa has a solid and multifaceted foundation of musical experience in support of her vocal artistry. Influenced by her musical mother, who loves singing and playing violin and piano, Morikawa started violin lessons at age three, and at 10 joined a city children's choir. After receiving her A.A. degree in classical composition from Kobe Yamate College., she became interested in singing jazz when she met her first jazz voice teacher, Yuko Aoki. Over the next 10 years, Nanami studied jazz piano and jazz voice with several teachers while she was performing regularly with popular jazz musicians throughout western Japan. Recently, her performing areas have extended to Tokyo, Yokohama, and throughout the US. Nanami moved to Miami in 2012., and she is pursuing a B.M. degree in Studio Music and Jazz Vocal Performance at the University of Miami. More at nanamimorikawa.com.





"YEAH, WEU I THINK I'U GO DOWN IN GAINESVILLE,
JUST TO SEE AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE..."

"DEEP DOWN IN FLORIDA," BY MUDDY WATERS

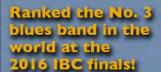
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BLUES

JUNE 19 SEVILLE QUARTER PENSACOLA

JUNE 22 PARADISE INN PENSACOLA BEACH

Gracie Curran

In the three years since the release of her critically acclaimed debut album

Proof of Love, Gracie Curran has been packing houses across the country, wowing audiences with her powerful voice and soul shaking delivery. Born and raised outside of Boston, Gracie discovered a love of blues and soul at an early age. In 2010, Gracie Curran & The High Falutin' band played their first show to a sold-out house in Boston, and in the years that followed, amassed a tremendous following, regularly packing venues throughout New England. In 2012, the band won the Boston Blues Challenge. and within a year the band was touring and releasing *Proof of Love* while competing in the International Blues Challenge. The album was met with glowing reviews and received heavy radio play, eventually earning the band a Best New Artist nomination at the 2014 Blues Music Awards. The band also received Boston Music Award and New England Music Award nominations for Blues Band of the Year. In 2015, Gracie relocated to Memphis, subsequently earning yet another Boston Music Award nomination, and winning the award for Blues Artist of the Year. Gracie has become crowd favorite, known for not only her amazing voice, but her comedic stage banter, an infectious effervescent personality, and entertaining live show. Her long-awaited sophomore solo album, Come Undone with producer and







CD Release – BONE RATTLER Midwest CD Release tour

NCFBS Blues Challenge, Gainesville

Bo Diddley Plaza, Gainesville

June 10

June / July

August 27

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JUNE 23 MAHAFFEY THEATRE ST. PETERSBURG JUNE 24 ARSHT CENTER

MIAMI

A protégé of Dizzy Gillespie, Arturo Sandoval was born in Artemisa, Cuba just two years after Gillespie became the first musician to bring Latin influences to American jazz. Sandoval began

studying trumpet at the age of 12, and has since evolved into one of the world's most acknowledged guardians of jazz trumpet and flugelhorn, as well as a renowned classical artist, pianist and composer. Sandoval has been awarded 10 Grammys, six Billboard Awards, an Emmy and the 2013 Presidential Medal of Freedom. The Emmy was for his composing work on the HBO movie based on his life, For Love or Country starring Andy Garcia as Sandoval. Sandoval was a founding member of the Grammy-winning group Irakere, whose sound was an explosive mixture of jazz, classical, rock and traditional Cuban music. In 1981, he left Irakere to form his own band, which garnered enthusiastic praise from critics and audiences all over the world, and continues to do so. Sandoval is also a renowned classical musician, performing regularly with the leading symphony orchestras from around the world, and even composing his own "Concerto for Trumpet & Orchestra." Sandoval's versatility can be heard on recordings with a lengthy list of legends, and his compositions can be heard in movies. His latest CD. Eternamente Manzanero, features the music of revered Mexican romantic pianist/singer/songwriter Armando Manzanero. While critics praise Sandoval's virtuoso technical ability or his specialty in high notes, those who have seen him play recognize that he is one of the most brilliant, multifaceted and renowned musicians of our time. More at arturosandoval.com.





JUNE 17 BLUES ON THE SQUARE DELRAY BEACH

Dana Fuchs

Hailed as the new Janis Joplin, even before she played the legendary rock icon in an off-Broadway musical, Dana Fuchs is a raspy-voiced blues-rock singer/songwriter whose versatile career has embraced music, theater, and film. Born in New Jersey, she later moved to the small town of Wildwood, Florida where, at age 12, she began singing in the First Baptist Gospel Choir. Inspired by her parents' record collection, Dana moved to New York to sing the blues after high school. There, she teamed up with Jon Diamond, a seasoned guitarist who had previously performed with Joan Osborne, and together they formed the Dana Fuchs Band. Its quickly-built reputation as one of the best live acts on the city's blues circuit led to Fuchs landing the lead role in a production of the Janis Joplin musical, *Love Janis*. In 2003, they released their first album, Lonely for a Lifetime, but Fuchs put the band on hold until 2008 in order

Taymor's 2007 Beatles-based musical Across the Universe. After 2008's Live in NYC, she toured with Ray Davies and Dickey Betts before releasing her second studio album, Love to Beg, in 2011. Her latest, 2014's two-disc Songs From The Road, honestly capturing the two-way energy that only occurs when great artists go nose-to-nose with their fans. Prowling the stage, pouring her heart into the microphone and owning every song on the set list, you won't question the wisdom of the UK's Classic Rock Magazine, who famously declared Dana's once-ina-generation voice as "juke-joint dirty and illicit, evoking Janis Joplin, Mick Jagger and a cigarette butt bobbing in a glass of bourbon..." More at danafuchs.com.







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Kemuel Roig

SUNDAYS IN JUNE BALL & CHAIN LITTLE HAVANA

Born in Cuba in 1988, Kemuel Roig's interest in music was evident at age four, when he wanted to be a drummer. At age eight Roig was accepted into

the Vocational Art School Nola Sahig in Ciego de Avila, where studied classical piano and drum simultaneously for five years. In 2002 his family moved to Miami, and Roig was afforded the opportunity to study classical piano with Mrs. Martha Cortina in high school. Later, as a student of Miami-Dade College, Roig studied Jazz music under the supervision of Dr. Michael Di Liddo and Michael Gerber. Roig was invited, with the MDC Hard Bop Ensemble, to be part of the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy. The next year, with the same group, Roig won DownBeat Magazine's Annual Student Competition Awards in two categories: outstanding composition and piano solo. Roig has performed on tours, produced, and participated in recordings with music notables such as: Arturo Sandoval, Giovanni Hidalgo, Chris Dingman, Issac Delgado, Hilario Bell, and others. Kemuel achieved his Bachelor's Degree at Florida International University, where he studied classical piano with Kemal Cokic, and Jazz with Dr. Michael Orta and Dr.

others. Kemuel achieved his Bachelor's Degree at Florida International University, where he studied classical piano with Kemal Gekic, and jazz with Dr. Michael Orta and Dr. Gary Campbell. In 2015 he achieved a Master's Degree from the University of Miami Frost School of Music, under Mr. Martin Bejerano and Dean Shelly Berg. His latest release – and only solo project to date – is 2016's holiday CD Let There Be Joy! More at kemuelroig.com.





BLUES

Fiona Boyes

JUNE 9 BRADFORDVILLE BLUES CLUB TALLAHASSEE Australian blues guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter Fiona Boyes has been recording and performing for more than

25 years, building a career that has taken her to major festivals and stages around the world. A veteran recording artist with 13 releases, Australia's 'First Lady of the Blues' has been honored with seven USA Blues Music Award nominations in five different categories over the years, including two nominations in 2016 - Acoustic Artist of the Year and Acoustic Album of the Year – for her latest release, Professin' the Blues. She's also received more than 30 Australian music awards, spanning the blues, folk, jazz and Americana scenes. Fiona blues career began when she won an Australian-made Maton guitar in a local coffee shop talent show. She honed her skills with all-female band The Mojos, who went on to become one of Australia's premier blues acts, releasing five CDs. In 2000, Fiona released her debut solo recording, which won Australian Blues Album, Female Artist, and Song of the Year awards. But her career truly took off in 2003, when she won the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, the first woman and first non-American to be so honored. Since then she has released numerous award winning albums and maintained a busy international touring schedule. Equally at home on acoustic or electric guitars, her repertoire is like a Blues







JAZZ

Neal Caine

JUNE 8 BARRELL ROOM FT. MYERS Neal Caine has been making a living as a professional jazz musician since his late teens, and he

has piled up an impressive list of musical credits over the years. At the age of 21, the bassist joined legendary drummer Elvin Jones' Jazz Machine, staying with the group for four years. Caine has played with Diana Krall, Betty Carter, Benny Green, Russell Malone and many others, and he's also a longtime member of Harry Connick Jr.'s orchestra and quartet. His debut CD as a leader, Backstabber's Ball, is set for a July release. It features all original compositions by Caine, written over the past four years. By using introductory and closing themes, and interspersing several interludes throughout the recording, Caine has created a coherent flow to the tunes that he hopes will keep the attention of listeners throughout the entire CD. The unique instrumentation of Caine's quartet - two tenor-sax players, Ned Goold and Stephen Riley, backed by drummer Jason Marsalis and Caine - also adds a unique dimension to the band's sound. For the June 8 show, Caine is standing in

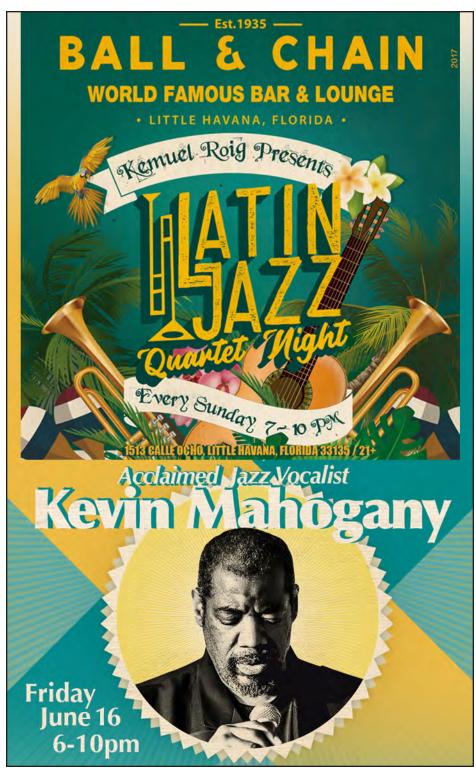




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JUNE 22 ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN ENGLEWOOD

JUNE 23 BARREL ROOM FORT MYERS JUNE 24

THE TITANIC

MIAMI

Ray Fuller & The Bluesrockers

In a recent review, *Guitar Player Magazine* stated that Ray Fuller, "...sounds like Elmore James and Hound Dog Taylor tempered with the rowdiness of George Thorogood." Fresh from their *Long Black Train* CD Release Tour of

Europe, where his group played packed venues with fans demanding as many as five encores, Fuller continues to headline blues festivals and venues throughout the USA, Canada, Europe and South Africa

by putting on high-energy, dynamic performances. Fuller's talent and strength as a singer and guitarist has allowed him to share the stage with a long list of blues legends. Witnessing Fuller's opening act performance on slide guitar, Muddy Waters exclaimed, "That was some hot slide boy! I could smell the smoke backstage!"

John Lee Hooker was so impressed that he took Fuller with him to his next show over 100 miles away as his special guest. As an eager student of the blues, these opportunities to learn at the feet of the masters were not wasted on Ray; he's paid close attention to every pearl of wisdom and every blues lick generously shared with him. These days, Ray Fuller and the Bluesrockers perform their own brand of gutsy blues, leaving a trail of scorched stages and satisfied audiences around the world. The USA Bluesrockers consist of harmonicist Doc Malone, bringing a wealth of stage presence, along with bassist Myke Rock and drummer Daryl Jumper driving the tight rhythm section. This is the debut Florida tour and a return with more shows is already scheduled for December. More at rayfuller.com.









The TCB Express

June 9 Fiona Boves CD RELEASE PARTY

June 10 Souliz Band June 11 Katie Skene & Friends

June 16 Rockin' Jake



ALSO APPEARING AT DIZZY'S IN NEW YORK, JUNE 29TH TO JULY 240

Jesse Jones, Jr.

Jazz is alive in South Florida and Jesse Jones Jr. is here to prove it. The Miami native is a saxophonist extraordinaire and continues to be on the forefront of a burgeoning jazz renaissance in South Florida. Jesse and his brother, Melton

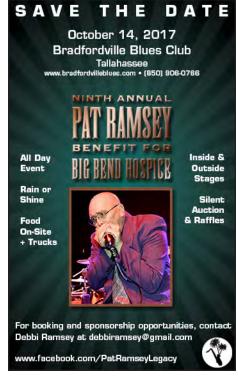
MIAMI JUNE 9 HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB

JUNE 5 OPEN STAGE CLUB

COCOA BEACH Mustafa (one of the great trumpet players of our time) have been a running force in music for many years. As a young boy, Jones would listen to a neighbor practice his sax by playing along with Cannonball Adderley albums. "I loved that sound and knew right then I was going to be a musician for the rest of my life." After college Jones joined the military and became a member of the US Navy Show Band, traveling and developing his skills. Besides playing the sax, clarinet and flute, Jesse sang, tap danced and performed in comedy skits. In 1996 Jones released his first CD, Soul Serenade. His only other release to date is 2009's The So Then Collection. Having performed with a "who's who" of jazz, and whether part of his quartet or a quintet with brother Melton, Jones is a phenomenal reed player, technically superior on the alto, soprano and baritone sax, and flute. He combines the hard-bop influence of Cannonball Adderley, the funk of Hank Crawford, and the sweetness of Paul Desmond. The June 5 event is a celebration of the Miami Jazz Co Op's

Seventh Birthday. More at jessejonesjrmusic.com.







June 10 Bank & Blues, Daytona Beach

McCall's, The Villages

Great Outdoors, High Springs June 17 June 23-24 A1A Ale Works, St. Augustine

June 30 Tall Paul's, Gainesville

June 16

July 1 day Party in the Park, Newberry

July 1 eve Tall Paul's, Gainesville

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FROM A PHOTO BY BRIAN CORNISH

JUNE 24 FUNKY BISCUIT BOCA RATON

Noah Wotherspoon

Hailing from Cincinnati, Ohio, Noah Wotherspoon has been immersed in

the blues and mesmerizing audiences with his soulful guitar playing since he was a teenager. At 13 he opened up for Derek Trucks. By 16 he had jammed onstage with Bobby Blue Bland, and opened for Leon Russell, Latimore, and Boz Scaggs. His band, which includes Rob Thaxton on bass and Brian Aylor on drums, formed in 2009. In 2015, Wotherspoon received the Albert King Guitar Award at the International Blues Challenge, and the band placed second in the finals. Since then, they've been playing festivals and venues around the world. Wotherspoon has recorded and released several albums (including Buzz Me, through blues audiophile label APO, which featured Hubert Sumlin and garnered a top ten spot on Living Blues Magazine's radio chart). The band's debut studio album, Mystic Mud, was presented with a Jimi Award for Best Blues/Rock Album of the Year in 2015 by Blues411. While known for his electric blues guitar playing, Noah + The Rescue Radio explores an eclectic mix of styles ranging from alternative, indie-pop/rock and psychedelia to new weird America, lo-fi vignettes, & experimental tape loops. Also, Wotherspoon performs with Jessi Bair, weaving an ethereal musical tapestry of Americana, alt/country, and Appalachian blues. In 2012, they released their first EP as a duo, Carolina Songs. This month's show at the Funky Biscuit is a South Florida Blues Society Members Appreciation event, with free admission to all



current SFBS members. More at noahwotherspoon.com.

