

JAZZ & BLUES

F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES



FEATURE: BLUES ARTIST

ABE PARTRIDGE

JAZZ ARTISTS

STEPHEN GUERRA

BONEY JAMES

AARON LEHRIAN

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MARK ARMBRECHT

DANNY BROOKS

THE IGUANAS

THE MEMPHIS RUB BAND

THE NACE BROTHERS BAND

TREY WANVIG



ABE PARTRIDGE

AUGUST 19
JAMES PAUL
PARK
HIGH SPRINGS

People have said that Abe Partridge sounds older than his chronological age, and there's a very good reason for that.

He's packed a lot of living into his 37 years. Those experiences come together with gripping intensity on Partridge's second full-length album, *Cotton Fields and Blood for Days*. Over the course of ten songs, this troubadour draws listeners in with a combination of southern gothic storytelling and a dark humor reminiscent of the late Townes Van Zandt – delivered in a gravelly tone that conjures up images of Tom Waits in his barstool-warming days.

Partridge may have a gift for communing with ghosts, but he's not consumed by them. Listening to him unspool tales like "Prison Tattoos" and "Out of Alabama Blues," it's impossible to ignore his knack for separating the wheat from the chaff, the gold from the muck as he ponders the further reaches of the region where he's spent so much of his life. *Cotton Fields and Blood for Days* gives listeners a tour of both the bleakness and the beauty – all couched in character studies that could pass for short stories.

Partridge grew up in Alabama, a grunge-loving child of the early '90s, until he had an awakening that sent him miles away – both literally and figuratively. By the age of 25, he had completed divinity school and moved to rural Kentucky to pursue his calling as an evangelical Baptist minister. It was there that he discovered what would be one of the biggest influences on his musical personality – the dark and stormy acoustic blues of pioneers like Son House, whose cut-to-the-bone performance style really resonated with Partridge as he progressed on his journey, both musically and spiritually.

But after experiencing an awakening of sorts two years later, Partridge walked away from his post and returned home to examine his spiritual self, moving back to his childhood home and essentially rebuilding from the ground up. "I had a wife and two children, and no real idea of what I wanted to do, and that's when I really started writing songs," he recalls. "I resorted to songwriting because it helps me express myself in a way I could not in any other form."

While that period of his life certainly had a profound impact on him, he was also shaped by the stretch that would follow – serving with the Air Force in Qatar in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, elements of which would find their way into some of his darker material.

Upon his return to the states, where he's still part of the service, he took his first shot at live performance by sending a cell-phone recording of some of his



E - TRUE BLUES

original songs to the folks at Alabama's Gulf Coast Songwriter Shootout. As luck would have it, Nashville-based songwriter and producer Shawn Byrne was also a participant at the Shootout and immediately approached Partridge. "I thought he was full of it," recalls Partridge, "but I googled him and found out he was legit, so I went up to Nashville and recorded having only played that one show." The result was *White Trash Lipstick*. That recording would end up in the hands of movie producer Scott Lumpkin, who instantly became a rabid fan.

In the spring of 2017, Partridge returned to Nashville to record with Byrne, who brought in some of his favorite session players for what would become *Cotton Fields and Blood for Days*. The CD prompted Lumpkin to offer Partridge a deal on his newly formed Skate Mountain Records. Lumpkin says, "He's absolute magic. He simply has so much material, he's a real gem. I love his music."

But for Partridge, it is still all about the live performance. "Playing for people, striking a chord with people, for me that's what it's really all about," he says. "It's like with preaching, you need to reach them emotionally, you need to make a connection, to make people feel and believe. That's always what I've wanted to do." This appearance, part of the High Springs Music in the Park Series, is sponsored in part by Visit Gainesville/Alachua County. More at abepartridge.com.

A poster for 'Jazz Meets Motown Inc.' featuring silhouettes of a jazz band performing on a stage. The background is a gradient of yellow and red. The text on the poster includes:

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Boney James

It's been a full quarter-century since a young saxophonist and composer released his debut recording as a leader, *Trust*. Last September, Boney James released his 16th album, *Honestly*. James plays all of the tenor and soprano saxophone parts on the CD, and contributes keyboards and drum programming to several of the tracks. *Honestly* follows *futuresoul*, James' 2015 release which spent 11 weeks at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Contemporary Jazz Chart. By the time he entered his teens, James was gigging with bands, and he turned pro at 19. He apprenticed as a sideman for artists like Morris Day and the Isley

Brothers, but didn't cut his first album under his own name until he was 30. The independently released *Trust* led immediately to a major label deal and a string of increasingly successful recordings and live dates. Over the years, James has racked up sales of more than three million records, four RIAA gold albums, four Grammy nominations, a Soul Train Award, nominations for two NAACP Image Awards and 10 CDs atop *Billboard's* Contemporary Jazz Albums chart. In 2009, *Billboard* named him one of the Top 3 Contemporary Jazz Artists Of The Decade along with Kenny G and Norah Jones. With *Honestly*, Boney James is making some of the most stellar, wholly realized music of his career. "I've just grown up, personally and musically," he says. "I'm a lot calmer now when I approach making music and have more confidence. More at boneyjames.com.



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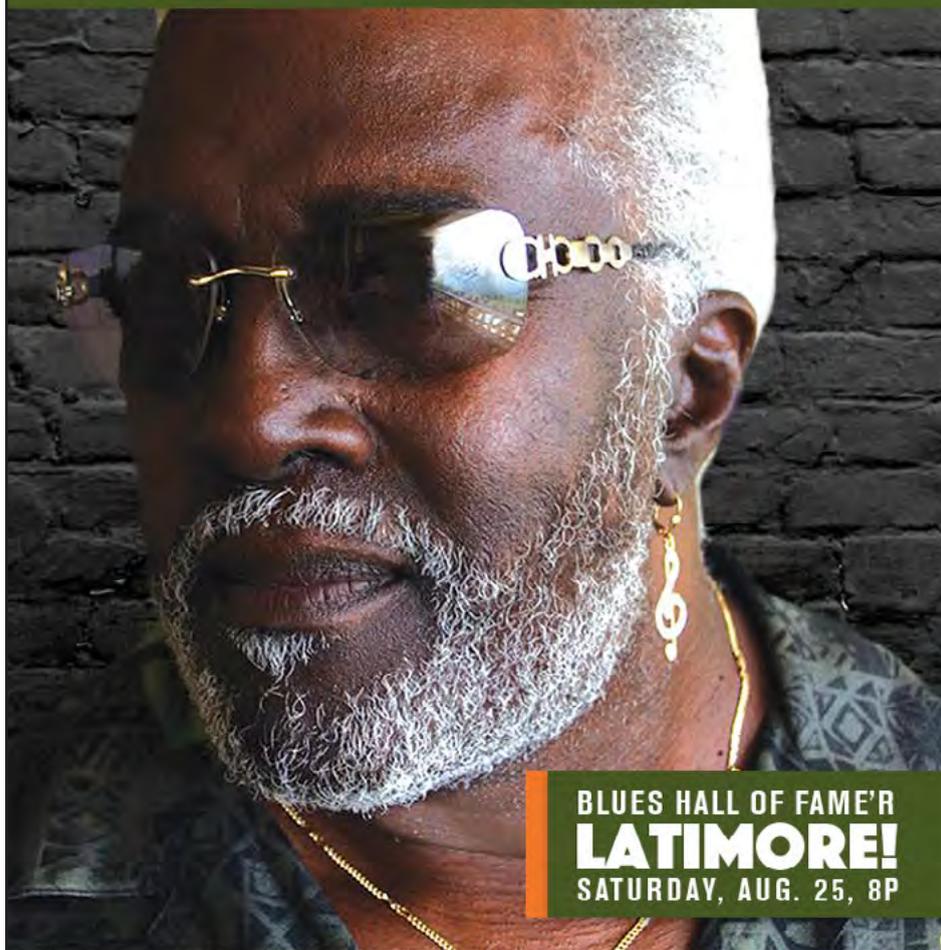
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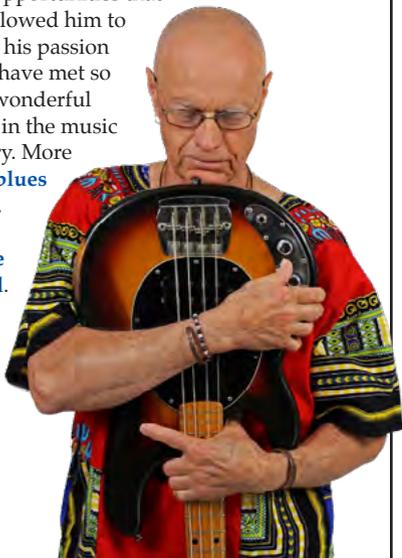
Mark Armbrecht

AUGUST 3
BO DIDDLEY
PLAZA
GAINESVILLE

Mark Armbrecht began working as a professional musician playing electric bass in 1967 in his home town of Steubenville, Ohio. In a very

short time he met some very important people and began a career touring and recording with many well-known acts in a wide variety of genres. Armbrecht received his Bachelor of Arts degree in music in 1971 and has taught from a private studio for many years. He has also played on numerous regional and national TV and radio commercials. Prior to moving to Florida, he was the bassist with the staff band for *Jamboree, USA*, a weekly live radio broadcast of country music featuring the top country artists of the day and second only to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville in status. Currently, Armbrecht is touring with the Bridget Kelly Band out of Gainesville, in support of their new release, *Blues Warrior*, to which he also contributed his talents in the studio. When he's home in Florida he works with his wife of 43 years, Barbara Paul, in a duo named Middleground. Their music has evolved over the years to now include an eclectic mix of folk, pop, blues, ragtime and classic favorites, all of which have been flavored by Armbrecht's solid and expressive bass technique. He continually expresses his gratitude for all of the opportunities that

have allowed him to pursue his passion and to have met so many wonderful people in the music industry. More at jazzbluesflorida.com/middleground.



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AUGUST 2
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With his third and latest recording, *Reach*, pianist and five-time Grammy nominee Christian Sands is stretching into exciting progressive

territory. He breaks new ground traversing from the straight-ahead zone into fresh-sounding music influenced by a range of styles, from Afro-Cuban rhythms to hip-hop beats to dirty blues with an edge. Reach is the next milestone in Sands' auspicious career that stretches back to his New Haven, CT upbringing. He started playing piano at four years old, composed his first piece of music at age five, started music classes at eight, and became a professional at ten. But a key moment came when he met Dr. Billy Taylor began while still in high school. Sands was mentored by pianist Taylor, who allowed the teen to close one of the sets that Taylor played at the Kennedy Center. Sands went on to study at the Manhattan School of Music, and the school's Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, led by Bobby Sanabria, recorded the album *Kenya Revisited Live* in 2009, which was nominated for a Latin Grammy. Sands received bachelor's and master's degrees from the School and, after graduating, he joined Inside Straight, one of bassist Christian McBride's bands. Sands became a Steinway artist in 2012. In 2014, he was an American Pianists Association

Jazz Fellowship Awards Finalist. He expresses himself through an extensive vocabulary of patterns, textures and structures, all while maintaining a strong sense of understatement, sensitivity, taste and swing. More at christiansandsjazz.com.



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The Iguanas

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Stephen Guerra

As the Managing Director of the Henry Mancini Institute (HMI) and a Lecturer in the department of Studio Music and Jazz at the Frost School of Music, Stephen Guerra is also the director of the award-winning Frost Studio Jazz Band and teaches classes in jazz conducting and repertoire, composition, arranging, and saxophone. He formerly served as the director of Frost MusicReach and launched many of the programs that continue today. Under Dr. Guerra's leadership, HMI has appeared in numerous PBS specials, major-label record releases, and high-profile live events. In high demand as a composer and arranger, Dr. Guerra has been commissioned to write music for Dave Koz, Ben Folds, Carmen Bradford, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Greater Manchester Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Air Force Band of the West. In 2016, he traveled to Japan as the assistant orchestrator for Japanese music sensation Yoshiki's Classical Tour. He has served as a composer-in-residence throughout the U.S., thanks to the Commission Project and the National Endowment for the Arts. Dr. Guerra has performed alongside many jazz greats, and was a featured soloist on the Clark Terry Young Titans of Jazz 2003 release *Live at Marihan's* and the Louie Bellson Big Band release *Louie and Clark Expedition 2*. He also contributed to the New Hampshire Jazz Orchestra's 2015 release *Swingin' for the Holidays*. The Stephen Guerra Big Band (with whom he'll be performing at this event) released their critically-acclaimed first album *Namesake* in 2009. More at stephenguerria.net.

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Trey Wanvig

AUGUST 5
THE ALLEY
SANFORD

Sixteen-year-old Trey Wanvig is a blues rock guitarist and vocalist from Sarasota. Early

in 2017, Wanvig won the local Sarasota's Got Talent competition, competing against contestants of all ages. During the summer, Trey was invited to participate and perform in the Grammy Museum's Music Revolution Project, attended an advanced week-long guitar session at Berklee School of Music in Boston, and won the Southwest Florida Regional Blues Challenge which allowed him to travel to Memphis and perform in the Youth Showcase at the 2018 International Blues Challenge. Trey has performed alongside many great artists including John Nemeth, The Keeshea Pratt Band (2018 IBC Winners), and RJ Howson. He has performed at numerous blues and music festivals including the Dallas International Guitar Festival, Giving Hunger the Blue, and the Venice Blues Fest. He also has played at many legendary blues clubs around the country including B.B. King's on Beale Street in Memphis, and recently performed

at the Dallas International Guitar Festival in Texas. He'll be drawing from his



newly-released debut album, *Roadside Blues*, for this gig as he competes in the Central Florida Blues Challenge for another shot at the IBC. More at treywanvig.com.

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AUGUST 26
RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
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Aaron Lehrian

At age five, Aaron Lehrian began taking piano lessons. After joining the Seminole (Florida) Middle School jazz band, Lehrian fell in love with jazz. He continued in the jazz band at Seminole High School, and eventually joined the jazz program at Ruth Eckerd Hall on a full scholarship. As a junior, he joined Jazz Juvenocracy, a group based in Sarasota comprised of young aspiring jazz musicians. By performing multiple sold out shows and regular gigs, the group raised enough money to go on a European tour, performing in the North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, Umbria Jazz Festival, La Spezia Jazz Festival, Jazz À Juan, and the Vienne Jazz Festival. Also while in high school, Lehrian won the Walker's Rising Stars competition, awarding him \$5,000, along with the Justine LeBaron Young Artists Competition, giving him the opportunity to perform Anton Rubinstein's Fourth Piano Concerto in a concert with musicians from the Florida Orchestra. Lehrian currently attends the University of North Florida on a music and academic scholarship, studying under Professor and touring artist Lynne Arriale. He currently plays in two of the jazz combos, the concert band, and the top big band, Jazz Ensemble 1. With JE1, Lehrian has performed alongside such artists as Randy Brecker and Christian McBride. Winner of the 2014 Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition, Lehrian has also begun playing regularly with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. For this 'Rally Day' event he will perform as part of the Lisa Kelly / JB Scott Jazz Sextet. More at aaronlehrian.com.



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Nace Bros. Band

AUGUST 22-23
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Led by brothers David and Jimmy out of Kansas City, MO, the Nace Brothers have built a loyal fan base on their ability to

engage and entertain audiences, taking them on a journey through rich musical heritage. Fourth-generation performers, their musical heritage began in the latter part of the 19th century with their great-great grandfather, the classically trained violinist. Valandingham Nace. The legacy continued through the 1920s and '30s with grandfather Percy Nace, a multi-instrumentalist and square dance caller, and into the 1940s as their father, Johnny Nace, progressed from leading the house bands on regional radio and TV programs to recording rockabilly in the late 1950s before finding his musical home during the golden age of honky-tonk. The first Nace Brothers Band appearance was on New Year's Eve, 1981. Now in their 36th year as a touring group, the band's current lineup consists of David Nace, lead vocals/drums; Jimmy Nace, guitar/vocals/songwriter; Paul Greenlease, bass/vocals; and T.J. Erhardt, keyboards/accordion/vocals. The Nace Brothers are known for their distinctive songwriting, expressive vocals, soaring guitar and a rock-solid rhythm section. They have appeared with Jimmy Buffet, Delbert McClinton, The Band, Coco Montoya, The Band, Merle Haggard, Bo Diddley and Brian Setzer, among others. Their five albums range from their 1991 debut *There Comes A Time* to their latest release, 2016's *Space In Time*. More at nacebros.com.



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Aug 4 Grand Marquis

Aug 10 Revival

Aug 11 Sam Frazier, Jr.

Aug 17 Gracie Curran & The High Falutin' Band

Aug 18 Cedric Burnside Project

Aug 24 Steady Rollin' Bob Margolin

Aug 25 4th Annual Greater Southeastern Harmonica Championships

3:00pm

9:00pm Swingin' Harpoon

bradfordvilleblues.com

AUGUST 4
FUNKY BISCUIT
BOCA RATON

Khris Royal

New Orleans native Khris Royal began playing the saxophone at seven years old, and was producing and writing music by age 14. Royal's musical talents were nurtured at the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA) High School, in classrooms once shared by jazz greats such as Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Terrence Blanchard, and Donald Harrison. When Royal was only 16, he was granted a full scholarship to the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA and his career took off. To date, Royal has played with hip-hop giants and jazz and funk legends alike: Bobby Brown, Alvin Batiste, Ellis Marsalis, Christian Scott, Branford, Delfeayo and Jason Marsalis, Tony Clifton, and others. He has recorded with Mary J. Blige, Ashanti, and Erykah Badu and is also featured with the group The Regiment on season 2 of the BET TV show *The Boondocks*. Although Royal continues to expand and develop his craft – including jazz, hip-hop, rock, soul, electronic, funk, R&B, blues, and reggae – musically, there's not much he hasn't already mastered and incorporated into his unique style. In addition to leading his own band, Khris Royal & Dark Matter, Royal has been the only horn player in George Porter Jr. & the Runnin' Parners since fall 2009. In 2011, Royal joined the popular West Coast rock/reggae band Rebelution as a touring member. More at khrisroyalmusic.com.



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AUGUST 2
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Danny Brooks

AUGUST 7
BLUE ROOSTER
SARASOTA

AUGUST 8
THE OASIS
FORT MYERS

AUGUST 11
THE OLD
FISH HOUSE
MATLACHA

AUGUST 12
VENUE TBA
MELBOURNE

After years of honing his writing and performing skills in Canada, picking up nominations and awards along the way, Danny Brooks is at home in the Texas music scene and traveling throughout the U.S. Mixing southern soul, Americana, blues and gospel, he is a prolific writer and dynamic live performer, and is constantly on the road. Making Llano, TX his home, 'Texassippi Soul Man' Danny Brooks & Lil Miss Debi released their second studio recording, *This World Is Not Your Friend*, in 2015. It is the seventh recording for Brooks, starting with 1998's *It's A Southern Thing*. The duo's upcoming CD, *Get Your Joy On*, is expected early next year. Brooks' music features the duo he has with his wife Lil Miss Debi, who sings and plays cajon/percussion while he plays assorted guitars/slide/cigar-box/stomp-board and harp-rack. The couple have been touring constantly, promoting and building

their reputation throughout North America. Their live show has drawn comparisons to the White Stripes, the Black Keys and Keb Mo. Brooks' song "You'll Find A Way," a soul ballad from Rock This House aired on ABC's TV Show *The Fosters*. And his tune "Caught a Fire" from *Texassippi Soul Man* aired on ABC's *New Girl*. On August 6, the two will record a live performance interview on ABC's *Morning Blend*, that will air August 7 at 9:00AM. Another live performance interview will take place on August 16 on *The Schilling Show* on WNA 1070 AM & 98.9 FM. More at dannybrooksmusic.com.



PALLADIUM THEATER ST PETERSBURG AUGUST 4	PROHIBITION KITCHEN ST AUGUSTINE AUGUST 24	MUDVILLE GRILLE JACKSONVILLE AUGUST 25
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Dave Meder

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Pianist, composer, and educator Dave Meder is becoming one of the prominent musical voices of his generation, with

fluid technique, novel rhythmic conception, an intuitive sense of musical drama, and a breadth of stylistic influences. The winner of the 2013 Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition (formerly known as the Great American Jazz Piano Competition) and a finalist for the prestigious 2019 Cole Porter Fellowship of the American Pianists Association, Meder has performed at the Tokyo Jazz Festival, the Torino Jazz Festival, The Kennedy Center, and Jazz at Lincoln Center, among other venues both in the U.S. and abroad. As a composer, Meder is a recipient of the First Music commission from the New York Youth Symphony and an honoree in the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Awards. He holds the Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Kenny Barron and Julian Martin. An educator in his own right, Meder developed and taught the first-ever jazz piano course sequence for the Juilliard Evening Division, and he has presented his creative research at various forums including the Jazz Educators Network Conference and the WVU Keyboard Festival. He currently holds the position of Assistant Professor of Jazz Piano at the University of North Texas.

Meder continues to maintain an active performance schedule as a leader and sideman. His debut album, *Passage*, is due to be released early next year. For his upcoming show he'll be performing with bassist Rodney Jordan and drummer Leon Anderson. More at davemeder.com.



FROM A PHOTO BY JESSICA CARLTON PHOTOGRAPHY

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Memphis Rub

A collaboration between "Guitar Gary" Drouin and Scott Matzke, The Memphis Rub Band emphasizes original music, hot instrumentals and a distinctive spin on rocking blues cover tunes. Drouin also played with legendary bluesman Eddie Kirkland in the Tampa Bay area for four years in the early 1980s. He was instrumental in forming the famous Five O Blues Jam in the late 1980s, and then went on to play with Memphis Flyers, Mercy Road and Lady Katt. Drouin recently toured with The Lauren Mitchell Band and Koko Ray & The Keepers. Matzke has appeared with Rev. Billy Wirtz and the late blues performer Ace Moreland. From bands known as Legend, King Louie, Smokin' Bones, Scott's Garage and more recently Karen Klarich, Scott's unique bass style and soulful vocals bring a tasty punch to the Memphis Rub mix. The two are backed by keyboardist Dan Ryan and percussionist Jayson Moss. Ryan plays in a style heavily influenced by Seth Justman of the J. Geils Band. Since his 2010 relocation to Florida, he has performed with a variety of musicians and bands around Sarasota/Bradenton. Moss is a classically-trained percussionist who performed throughout Florida in rock bands during the late 1970s and early '80s.

After a decade in the Tampa Bay area, he moved to Bradenton in '97 and has played with some of the area's heaviest hitters. The Memphis Rub offers a truly tasty helping of fun that can also be heard by those traveling into the area for the 'Blues Appetizer' Friday night show at the December Bradenton Blues Festival.

More at memphisrubband.com.



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AUG 12 GUITAR LIGHTNIN' LEE
AUG 14 LAUREN MITCHELL
AUG 15-16 REV. BILLY C. WIRTZ
AUG 19 & 21 KEITH STONE
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