

JAZZ & BLUES

F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES



FEATURE: BLUES ARTIST

RAY FULLER

& THE BLUESROCKERS

JAZZ ARTISTS

TAL COHEN

JOE DONATO

CHRISTIAN McBRIDE

JASON MARSALIS

ALLISON MILLER

JULIAN VAUGHN

BLUES ARTISTS

ARSENE DELAY

ANTHONY GOMES

TIM MULBERRY

JAKE WALDEN

SETH WALKER

WATERMELON SLIM



RAY FULLER & THE

At an early age, Ohio's Ray Fuller was inspired by the British Invasion, specifically the Rolling Stones, Yardbirds and Animals. The first blues album he ever heard was John Mayall and the Blues Breakers featuring Eric Clapton. Fuller got his first guitar at the age of eight, a Gibson Melody Maker, and his passion for the blues was fueled by his discovery of greats like Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Elmore James and especially John Lee Hooker.

The Ray Fuller Band was formed in 1974, evolving into Ray Fuller and the Bluesrockers in 1978. Their self-titled debut album, released that year on vinyl, served as a launch pad.

Mastering his craft over the next two decades, Fuller quickly became the go-to act throughout his home state of Ohio, opening for iconic blues musicians including Stevie Ray Vaughan, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, Albert Collins, and longtime idols Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker.

Hooker was so impressed with the band and their performance that he took Fuller and his entire band, along with the John Lee Hooker band, out to dinner and picked up the tab. He then invited Ray Fuller to be his special guest at his next show 100 miles away the next day.

Opportunities to hang out and learn at the feet of the masters were not wasted on young Ray. He paid close attention to every pearl of wisdom, and every riff and lick generously shown to him as an student of the blues.

In 1989 Fuller began touring as far west as Colorado, south to Florida and north to Michigan and New York. Fuller released *Damn Guitars* in 1989, and it quickly became a top seller for Rounder Records. It was followed by *Ray Fuller and the Bluesrockers Live* in 1992. He went on to release *Pearlene* in 1997, *Twist of Fate* in 1999 and *Live Rockin' the Blues* in 2003.

In true blues fashion, Fuller pressed on. In 2010 he played his first overseas show, at the Vodacom Amphitheatre in Port Elizabeth South Africa, donating all proceeds to a local South African friend and fellow musician whose daughter was fighting a life-threatening illness. Later that year, and under new management, Fuller began focusing on his passion for slide guitar, developing his own style inspired by – and compared to – Elmore James, Hound Dog Taylor and even Earl Hooker (John Lee's cousin). With 2011's *Piece of Work* Fuller found himself in demand with renewed focus on his unique style of what he calls "rockin' slide guitar blues," playing blues festivals in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

Once a young musician and painter straight out of Columbus College of Art & Design with a dream gig opening for the great Buddy Guy, Fuller went on to become a Saturday night headliner at the world-famous Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago. *Live at Buddy Guy's Legends*, recorded with Guy in attendance, was released in 2014 and spent 16 months on the Roots Music Report blues and rock charts. In 2014 and 2016 Fuller crisscrossed Germany, Belgium,

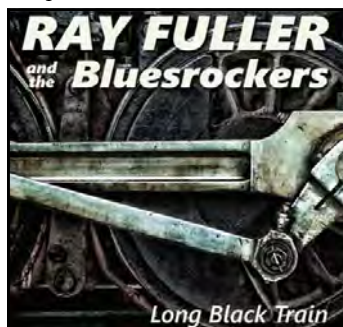


“That was some hot slide boy! I could smell the smoke backstage!”
- Muddy Waters

E BLUESROCKERS

the Netherlands and France, with sell-out crowds demanding as many as five encores. He was described by *Guitar Player* magazine as "Elmore James and Hound Dog Taylor tempered with the rowdiness of George Thorogood."

A true festival favorite, Fuller's focus is to keep on bringing his unique brand of blues to events and major blues venues throughout U.S., Canada, Europe and beyond; putting on high energy, dynamic performances. In the U.S., the band consists of Fuller, bassist Manny Manuel, drummer Darrell Jumper, and Doc Malone on harmonica. The band's 2016 CD *Long Black Train*



is another set of high-energy, hard-driving, rockin' blues featuring Fuller's signature sizzling slide. Studio sessions began in October for Fuller's upcoming 11th album, *Pay the Price*, to be released April 2019. The group is excited to be back in Florida for their third visit. Last time around, blues fans came from all over the state to catch Ray Fuller and the Bluesrockers. Don't be left behind! More at rayfuller.com.

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TAMPA

DECEMBER 6
ENGLWOODS
ON DEARBORN
ENGLWOOD

DECEMBER 7
BLUE ROOSTER
SARASOTA

DECEMBER 8
BUCKINGHAM
BLUES BAR
FORT MYERS

DECEMBER 9
EARL'S HIDEAWAY
SEBASTIAN

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- Dec 14 Watermelon
Slim Band
- Dec 15 Rachel Hillman Band
- Dec 21 Kate Skene & Friends
- Dec 22 JP Soars & The Red Hots
- Dec 28 Brett Wellman & The
Stone Cold Blues Band
- Dec 29 Swingin' Harpoon
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Bash
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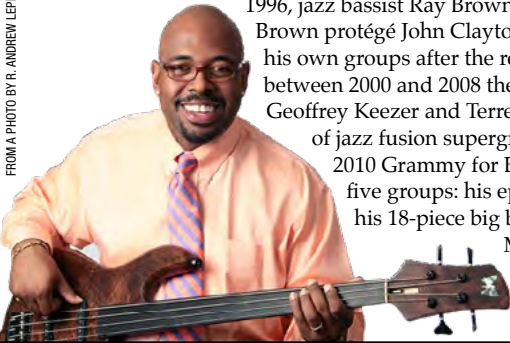
Christian McBride

DECEMBER 8
PINECREST GARDENS
PINECREST

Iconic bassist Christian McBride is once again up to something new. Featuring saxophonist Marcus Strickland, trumpeter Josh Evans, and drummer Nasheet Waits, the brand-new eponymous release by Christian McBride's New Jawn puts the six-time Grammy-winning bassist's status and skills as a performer, arranger and producer on full display. The Christian McBride Big Band 2017 CD *Bringin' It*, and its 2011 predecessor *The Good Feeling*, were both Grammy winners for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album. McBride has appeared on more than 300 recordings as a sideman. He has performed and recorded with everyone from Pat Metheny, Diana Krall, Chick Corea and Wynton Marsalis to Sting, Paul McCartney, Celine Dion and James Brown. McBride joined saxophonist Bobby Watson's group at age 17. For the next seven years, McBride played in the bands of Freddie Hubbard, Benny Golson and Joshua Redman, among others. In

1996, jazz bassist Ray Brown formed SuperBass with McBride and fellow Brown protégé John Clayton, releasing two albums. McBride began leading his own groups after the release of his 1995 debut album *Gettin' to It*. And between 2000 and 2008 the Christian McBride Band – with Ron Blake, Geoffrey Keezer and Terreon Gully – released two albums. As a member of jazz fusion supergroup Five Peace Band, their live album won the 2010 Grammy for Best Jazz Instrumental Album. McBride leads five groups: his eponymous trio, the five-piece Inside Straight, his 18-piece big band; an experimental group called A Christian McBride Situation, and his current iteration New Jawn which will make up the ensemble at Pinecrest. More at christianmcbride.com.

FROM A PHOTO BY R. ANDREW LEPLLEY



DAN MILLER ~ JAZZ

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The Dan Miller Quartet featuring Jerry Stawski
The Roadhouse Café, Fort Myers

THURSDAYS

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DECEMBER 10

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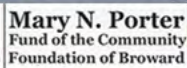
December 5, 2018

Jason Marsalis and the 21st Century Trad Band

Vibraphonist/drummer Jason Marsalis – the youngest sibling of jazz greats Wynton, Branford and Delfeayo Marsalis – is, along with his brothers and dad Ellis, part of New Orleans' venerable first family of jazz, and 2011 National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters honorees. His unique style draws from a wide range of influences, on music covering a wide range of moods, rhythms, and emotions.

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- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| January 9, 2019 | Paquito D'Rivera
<i>with The Shelly Berg Trio</i> |
| February 13, 2019 | Svetlana & The Delancey Five
<i>with special guest Wycliffe Gordon</i> |
| March 13, 2019 | Five Play |
| April 10, 2019 | Carol Welsman Trio |
| May 3, 2019 | Tamir Hendelman Trio |
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Seth Walker

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TALLAHASSEE

DECEMBER 8
BLUE JAY *solo*
JACKSONVILLE

DECEMBER 13
HEARTWOOD
SOUNDSTAGE
GAINESVILLE

DECEMBER 14
THE ATTIC
TAMPA

DECEMBER 15
FUNKY BISCUIT
BOCA RATON

DECEMBER 16
EARL'S HIDEAWAY
SEBASTIAN

Raised on a commune in North Carolina by classically-trained musician parents, Seth Walker learned to play the cello at the age of three, later gravitating toward the blues as a teen when he was introduced to the genre by his Uncle Landon Walker, a musician and disc jockey. After moving to Austin, Texas in his early twenties, Walker began developing his skills as a singer, songwriter and guitarist. Among his influences, he cites Ray Charles, Willie Nelson, Louis Armstrong, Tom Waits, Snooks Eaglin, Allen Toussaint, B.B. King

and Nina Simone. His first album, 1988's *When It Pours It Rains* and its followup, 2000's *Meet Me in the Middle*, were credited to the Seth Walker Band. The 2002 solo album *Restless* was followed by 2005's *On the Outside*, credited to Seth Walker and the Differentials. But it was his 2006 critically-acclaimed self-titled release that would hit the Top 20 of the Americana and Living Blues charts, and lead to a meeting with Gary Nicholson, with whom he developed a songwriting partnership. Nicholson also produced Walker's 2009 release, *Leap of Faith*. After 15 years in Austin, including work with Raul Malo of Mavericks fame, Walker relocated Nashville, where he recorded 2012's *Time*

Can Change. After touring, Walker moved to New Orleans to record his 2014 album *Sky Still Blue*, followed by 2016's *Gotta Get Back*. His upcoming release *Are You Open?* is due out February 2019. More at sethwalker.com.



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Jason Marsalis

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Jason Marsalis & The 21st Century Trad Band
Internationally known for his percussion and drumming abilities, Jason Marsalis is considered one

of the most gifted drummers of his generation. His vibes style radiates a “loose-limbed if technically adroit style reminiscent of influences from Bobby Hutcherson to Milt Jackson and Lionel Hampton,” says Philip Booth of *Jazz Times*. An NEA Jazz Master, Jason is the son of pianist and educator Ellis Marsalis and his wife Dolores, and is the youngest sibling of Wynton, Branford and Delfeayo. Together, the four brothers and father comprise New Orleans’s venerable jazz dynasty. The entire family received the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award in 2011. Working with his father’s group, and with jazz pianist Marcus Roberts, Marsalis fine-tuned his playing and gained recognition in 2013 with the release of *In A World of Mallets*. In that year he was also recognized as a rising star winner in the *Downbeat* magazine’s annual Critics Poll. While drawing from a wide range of influences, Marsalis’ playing is distinctive on original music as well as rare jazz gems. The Jason Marsalis Vibes Quartet recently released *The 21st Century Trad Band* which places the spotlight on the growing synergy of this young and energetic group of musicians. “A modern jazz quartet that not only hangs together, but seeks new adventures in a free-form, yet cohesive manner.” —*The Toledo Blade*. The group is comprised of Marsalis

on vibes, pianist Stephen Gordon, bassist Will Goble, and Dave Potter on drums. More at jasonmarsalis.com



The new release from Vizztone recording artist David Julia, Inspired, recorded and produced by Mike Zito at Marz Studios

Dec 1	Funky Biscuit, Boca Raton CD RELEASE PARTY with Bob Margolin
Dec 8	Rock & Brews, Orlando
Dec 15	Blues 'n' Brews, St. Cloud
Dec 21	Rock & Brews, Orlando
Dec 22	Prohibition Kitchen, St. Augustine
Jan 11	Rock & Brews, Orlando
Jan 18	Hard Rock Hotel, Daytona Beach

davidjuliamusic.com

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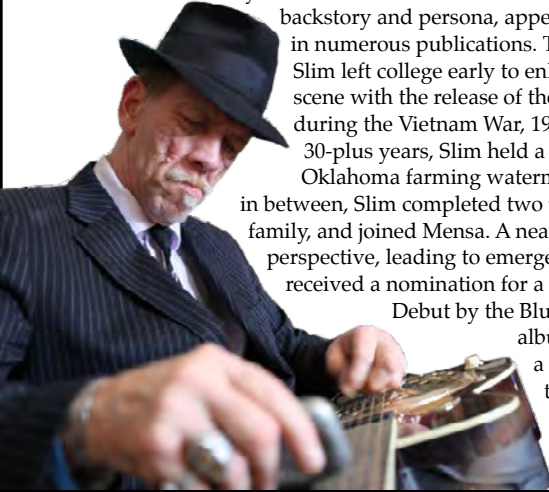
Watermelon Slim

Bill "Watermelon Slim" Homans has built a remarkable reputation with his raw, impassioned intensity. Watermelon Slim & The Workers garnered 17 Blues Music Award nominations in four years, including a record-tying six in both 2007 and 2008. And Slim is the only blues artist in history with twelve in two consecutive years. He has been embraced for his music, performances,

backstory and persona, appearing on NPR, The BBC and

in numerous publications. Though he attended on a fencing scholarship, Slim left college early to enlist for Vietnam, later debuting on the music scene with the release of the only known protest record by a veteran during the Vietnam War, 1973's *Merry Airbrakes*. Over the following 30-plus years, Slim held a procession of jobs, eventually landing in Oklahoma farming watermelons – hence his stage name. Somewhere in between, Slim completed two undergrad and a master's degree, started a family, and joined Mensa. A near-fatal heart attack in 2002 gave him a new perspective, leading to emergence as a performing musician. He even received a nomination for a 2004 W.C. Handy Award for Best New Artist

Debut by the Blues Foundation at 56 years old. A dozen or so albums later he says, "Everything I do now has a sharper pleasure to it. I've lived a fuller life than most people could in two." And it shows. His current release is 2017's *Golden Boy*. More at watermelonslim.com.



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Tal Cohen

Now based in the US, Tal Cohen's unique piano style owes its roots to the Jewish folk songs and classical music he played in his formative years growing up in Gedera, Israel. His 2017 release *Gentle Giants* has received overwhelming attention including a 4 star review from Downbeat Jazz Magazine. It's an intriguing blend of folk and classical elements mixed with bop and post-bop flavors. After spending his childhood in Israel, Cohen relocated to Australia at age 16, where he subsequently completed a bachelor's degree in Jazz Studies at the prestigious Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. It was there that he worked with tenor saxophonist Jamie Oehlers, who is featured on the album along with alto saxophonist Greg Osby, bassist Robert Hurst, and drummer Nate Winn. His first album,

Yellow Sticker, released soon afterward, received extensive radio play in Australia and Israel. He was the 2015 winner of the Freedman Fellowship Award and in 2014 won the Barry Harris Piano Competition in the US. Cohen has become a regular performer with iconic jazz figures such as Terence Blanchard, Greg Osby and Robert Hurst. Now completing a Master's degree (on full scholarship) at Frost School of Music, University of Miami, he studies with Martin Bejerano and continues to perform extensively. More at talcohen.com.



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DECEMBER 12
with JEAN CAZE
LAGNIAPPE
MIAMI

DECEMBER 19
THE FISH HOUSE
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DECEMBER 28
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Arsene DeLay

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Evoking the clarity of Ella Fitzgerald crossed with the raw power of Etta James. Arsene DeLay, youngest of the world-renowned Boutté vocalists, is a veteran musician and actress. Both of her parents are 13th-generation New Orleans natives, both from huge families in the Seventh Ward. Her singing mother and bass-playing father started her on piano at age three. After spending ages six to 11 in Germany (her father was in the Air Force), the family moved to Montana where DeLay finished high school. Her travels continued, starting in Milwaukee's rich underground hip-hop and poetry scene, singing in a soul trio and providing back-up in a hip hop/poetry fusion band while finishing a B.F.A. in Theatre Arts, at Marquette University on a costume-design scholarship. DeLay's burgeoning acting career then took her to Los Angeles, playing the Ascona Jazz and Heritage Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and the REDCAT Theatre at the Walt Disney Concert Hall under her belt before finishing her Master's Degree in Acting from California Institute of the Arts. Her solo debut album, 2014's *Comin' Home*, is a collection of originals that provides refreshing representation of what can be defined as New Orleans Music. Years spent with The Bayou Saints (with whom she still performs weekly) honed her taste for combining elements of

rock, jazz and other genres to create a distinctly fresh Big Easy sound. For this appearance she'll be performing with Zydefunk.

More at arsene.deLay.com.



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February 2	American Legion, Winter Haven	6-8pm
February 10	Roser Church, Anna Maria Island	4-5:30pm
February 14	Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Wales <i>Admission fee</i>	5:30-7:45pm
February 22	The 19th Hole, Indian Lake Estates	6-8pm
March 5	Gloria Dei Church, Anna Maria Island	7-9:15pm
March 22	The 19th Hole, Indian Lake Estates	6-8pm
April 5	The 19th Hole, Indian Lake Estates	6-8pm
April 19	Little New Orleans Kitchen, Winter Haven*	7-9pm

* tentative



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March 10	United Methodist Church, Indian Lake Estates	6-7pm

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Julian Vaughn

DECEMBER 5
CHARLIE'S
RESTAURANT
CLEARWATER

A dynamic lead bass player from Kansas City, bassist Julian Vaughn is has made a name for himself as bassist in the

smooth jazz genre, usually dominated by saxophone players. Vaughn began his music career playing the drums, but at 15 he picked up a bass guitar and taught himself how to play, soon realizing he could play by ear. When Vaughn was 19 his grandfather bought him a six-string bass guitar. By then it was more than just a hobby. "My friends use to get on me because I would stop playing the bass line and start soloing," he remembers. Vaughn has toured all over the U.S. playing at some of the largest jazz festivals here and abroad in places like Dubai, Nairobi, Italy and Germany. His 2010 debut CD *The Purpose Project* paved the way for 2012's *Breakthrough*. Its hit single "On Your Feet" sat atop the *Billboard Jazz Chart* for three weeks. His 2015 CD *Limitless* boasted the single "Ride Along," which debuted at No. 1. He's also hit No. 1 twice as a featured performer, with Oli Silk on 2014's "At Your Service" and just last month with Adam Hawley's "Traveling Mood." The title track from his current CD, 2017's *Bona Fide*, was named *Billboard's* No.

9 Smooth Jazz Song of the Year. Vaughn takes pride in being able to write and produce most of his music. "I want to be known as a great writer and producer just as much as I am an artist." More at julianvaughn.com.



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Jake Walden

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South Florida-based Jake Walden is keeping the blues alive with his unique brand of music, which has catapulted him onto the scene and led to his quick rise as an in-demand guitarist and vocalist. Inspired by iconic guitar players such as Stevie

Ray Vaughan, Jimi Hendrix, Joe Bonamassa and others, Walden has developed a rich, R&B-esque, funky, jazzy, blues sound that he feels deeply... and audiences love. With his soulful blues-rock sound, anchored by unforgettable finger-picked and slide guitar, Walden developed his slide playing based on the styles of Duane Allman and Derek Trucks, yet his sound is all his own. As a full-time, professional musician and songwriter, Walden is fulfilling his calling. Earlier this year, he was selected to represent Florida's Treasure Coast chapter of the Blues Foundation in the 2019 International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Walden has played alongside notable musicians such as Popa Chubby, Matt Scofield, Jeff Prine, Jimmy Thackery, JP Soars, and Frank Bang. Jake also played and recorded with Tyler Greenwell, the Grammy-winning drummer for Tedeschi Trucks Band. From headlining gigs with his own band (which plays Jake's original songs and also covers from greats like Jeff Beck, Buddy Guy, Jimi Hendrix, The Allman Brothers and more) or playing as a special guest to touring acts visiting Florida, look for Jake Walden on the stage...and in the spotlight. More at jakewalden.com.

FROM A PHOTO BY RYAN ROSE




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Allison Miller

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New York City-based drummer, composer, and teacher Allison Miller has recorded five albums as a bandleader: *5 AM Stroll*, *Boom Tic Boom*, *No Morphine-No Lilies*, *Live at Willisau*, and *Otis Was a Polar Bear*. Her latest release is this year's *Science Fair* with Carmen Staaf. Along with working as a session musician, her work with bands has included forming the band Honey Ear Trio with Rene Hart and Erik Lawrence, Holler and Bam with Toshi Reagon, and her own band, Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom. Miller has performed with songwriting vocalists Ani DiFranco, Natalie Merchant and Erin McKeown, and toured with avant-garde saxophonist Marty Ehrlich, organist Doctor Lonnie Smith, and folk-rock singer Brandi Carlile. Miller's music was licensed for the television show *The L Word*, and she also played on the soundtrack on both regular and ambient tracks. She even appeared in one episode as an extra. In her previous role as a U.S. State Department jazz ambassador, she traveled to other countries teaching jazz, giving free concerts, and working with local musicians. Supported and developed by The Kennedy Center, the program sent her to Africa, Southeast Asia and Eurasia to share America's unique gift of jazz with the world. Miller's collaboration with Staaf began when she needed a piano substitute for the 2015 Reykjavik Jazz

Festival. The connection was immediate, and their collaborations culminated in *Science Fair*, a true musical experiment. This event, titled *Artemis: Great Women in Jazz*, features six other standout performers. More at allisonmiller.com.



Anthony Gomes

A familiar face to anyone following the modern blues scene, Anthony Gomes has been carving out his own space as a rock-influenced bluesman and songwriter since first coming to national attention in the late 1990s. His brand-new record, *Peace, Love & Loud Guitars*, is the culmination of a life spent honoring blues traditions while never losing sight of his own identity. Originally from Toronto, Canada, Gomes has taken his blues to 17 countries and performed with luminaries like B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Robert Plant, Joe Bonamassa and Robert Cray. His 2015 release *Electric Field Holler*, debuted at No. 3 on the *Billboard* Blues Chart and is one of five of his records make the Top 10, including 2008's *Live*, which debuted at No. 1. His song "Love Sweet Love" has racked up over 3.5 million plays on Spotify and was selected by *Relix Magazine* from more than 40,000 submissions to its song competition for its CD sampler.



Gomes completed his Master's Degree thesis on the racial and cultural evolution of blues music, and graduated with high distinction. His thesis, *The Black and White of Blues*, was published in 2014.

Gomes is socially active as well, creating the Music Is the Medicine Foundation in 2010 to bring the healing power of music to children with cancer, military veterans with PTSD, and young adults with autism. *Peace, Love, & Loud Guitars* is a pivotal release for Anthony Gomes. He is a true believer in the game he plays and the power it contains. More at anthonygomes.com.

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- DECEMBER 9
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GAINESVILLE
- DECEMBER 12
THE ATTIC
TAMPA
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Joe Donato

DECEMBER 17
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At age five, Joe Donato started saxophone lessons. Three years later he was playing with adult musicians at local gigs around Vineland, New Jersey. He joined the American Federation of Musicians Union at age 12.

When the leader of a touring band, the Honeycombs, heard a 15-year-old Donato play and invited him to tour with the band, Donato dropped out of school with his parents' blessing. For more than ten years, he toured with the

Honeycombs, the Jazz Bombers, and other bands. In 1969, Bill Lee, then Dean of the University of Miami School of Music, heard Donato play and offered him a scholarship to study music. Donato arrived in Miami on New Year's Day, 1970 and has remained in South Florida ever since, earning a B.A. in Music from the University of Miami and later an M.A. in Jazz Performance from U.M. He has become widely recognized in the region not only as a saxophonist but as a bandleader, composer and lyricist. Donato has performed with luminaries such as Dizzy Gillespie, Art Blakey, Carmen McRae, Nina Simone, Jack Jones and Arturo Sandoval. His two recordings, *For Friends* and *Live at the Tuscany*, were collaborations with Randall Dollahon and Brian Murphy. Equally versatile in the entire woodwind family, Donato performs as a saxophone soloist with the Jerry Fischer Jazz Orchestra, has toured throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, and has served as an adjunct faculty member or lecturer at UM, Miami-Dade College, and Florida International University. More at miami jazz.org.



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PORT CHARLOTTE

Dynamic drummer Tim Mulberry joined the Bridget Kelly Band last year, and this lineup, also consisting of Tim Fik on guitar and vocals, Mark Armbrrecht on bass, and of course, Bridget Kelly on vocals, has found the band reaching amazing chemistry. "The first time I heard Tim (Fik) play, I knew that I could really vibe with this," Mulberry says. "He and I just started

playing and the dynamics and feel were amazing. I could tell immediately that I was playing with somebody special. And Mark, he really understands the relationship between the bass and the kick. With Bridget's vocals on top, right away I knew it would work. I like organized music in a professional setting. Playing with this band is all that and more." Mulberry comes from a musical family, and he started playing drums in his father's church at the age of three. "I thank my dad for showing that confidence," Mulberry added. "In high school he played with Atlanta-based R&B band 112, and in college he earned a degree in Music. In 2006, he toured with famed pop/hip-hop group the Black Eyed Peas for a European tour. Mulberry is most known for his foundation and solidness and ability to control tempo and dynamics. "I'm not coming in to showboat. A working drummer is not about that. If I provide Tim (Fik) a solid ground, and he can feel the heartbeat,

he can express his musical language and we will keep that groove." More at bridgetkellyband.com.



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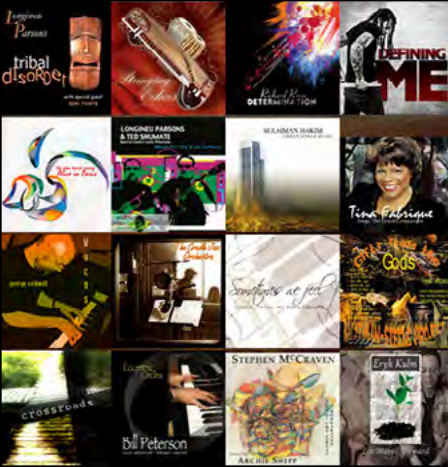
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