

FEATURE: BLUES ARTISTS II'L ED & THE BLUES IMPERIALS

JAZZ ARTISTS DANNY BACHER NOEL FREIDLINE LA LUCHA KEIKO MATSUI DONNY McCASLIN SVETLANA & THE DELANCEY FIVE BLUES ARTISTS JAMES ARMSTRONG JIMMY CARPENTER TAJ MAHAL JOYANN PARKER REVEREND RAVEN & THE CHAIN SMOKING ALTAR BOYS THE SNACKS



In Chicago, a city overflowing with unrivaled blues talent, Lil' Ed

& The Blues Imperials have been standing tall for more than 30 years. The band's big sound,

FEBRUARY 1 BLUE ROOSTER SARASOTA

FEBRUARY 2 Sunrise Theatre Fort Pierce fueled by Lil' Ed's gloriously rollicking slide work and deep blues string bending, along with his rough-edged, soulful vocals, is as real and hard-hitting as Chicago blues gets. Lil' Ed Williams comes to the blues naturally.

His uncle, Chicago slide guitar king and master songwriter J.B. Hutto, taught him how to feel, not just play the blues. Nine albums and thousands of performances later, Lil' Ed is now universally hailed as a giant of the genre. Lil' Ed and The Blues Imperials — bassist (and Ed's half-brother) James "Pookie" Young, guitarist Mike Garrett and drummer Kelly Littleton — have remained together for more than 30 years, the band fueling Ed's songs with their rock-solid, road-tested, telepathic musicianship.

Ed and Pookie spent their teen years making music together,

and in 1975 formed the first incarnation of The Blues Imperials. "Ed and his band had a good reputation," recalls Alligator president Bruce Iglauer. "I had only seen them live once or twice. I knew Ed was a hot slide player, but I had no idea what he and the band were really capable of ... I asked them to come down to the studio and cut a couple of songs. I never expected what happened." After Ed recorded his two rehearsed songs, there was still plenty of studio time left, so they just kept playing. After 10 songs were in the can, Iglauer offered the band a full album contract. The session resulted in 30 songs cut in three hours with no overdubs and only one second take. Twelve of those songs became the band's debut album, Roughhousin', released in 1986 to rave reviews and attention from top national publications.

But it wasn't until 1987, when guitarist Mike Garrett joined

the band, and a year later, when Garrett recruited his Detroit hometown friend Kelly

Littleton to play drums, that things really began to take off. Garrett's adventurous rhythm guitar work and Littleton's unpredictable, old-school drumming were the perfect complement to Lil' Ed's and Pookie's rambunctious playing. With their 1989 album Chicken, Gravy & Biscuits, doors opened and audiences poured in. Through relentless touring, the group crystallized, becoming tighter with each performance, more adept in their abilities to read each other's musical moves. Their spontaneous, unpredictable live shows became legendary, leading to appearances at major blues festivals around the country, and in Canada, Great Britain, France, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Japan, Australia, India, Turkey and Panama.

With each of their eight albums between 1986 and 2012, the

band's fan base ("Ed Heads") continued to expand, and their stature grew. With 2006's *Rattleshake*, Ed and company reached a new audience when die-hard Ed Head Conan O'Brien brought the band before millions of television viewers on two separate occasions. The group took home the Living Blues Award for Best Live Performer in 2011, 2012 and 2013. They won the prestigious Blues Music Award for Band Of The Year in both 2007 and 2009. A *Best of...* collection was released in 2014.



UES IMPERIALS

Their current CD, 2016's The Big Sound Of Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials, is a tour de force of

authentic Chicago blues. Williams wrote or co-wrote all but two of album's 14 songs, the other gems written by Uncle J.B. The group's infectious energy, joyful showmanship and masterful playing have been honed to a razor's edge by their many years together. Meanwhile, their fiery music has more than stood the test of time. "We're not band members," says Williams, "we're family, and families stay together." Night after night, gig after riotous gig, the musical family called Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials bring their big, dynamic Chicago blues sound to fans across the country and around the world.

The band's nominations for this year's Blues Music Awards include

Band of the Year, and Lil' Ed for B.B. King Entertainer of the Year. The 40th Annual BMAs will be presented on May 9 in Memphis, and Jazz & Blues Florida plans to be in the house! More at **liledblues.com**.



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JAZZ

Keiko Matsui

This month, pianist Keiko Matsui will release her 28th recording as a leader, *Echo*, continuing her inspired evolution. A master storyteller, Matsui crafts passionate and emotive songs with lush harmonies and global rhythms to create timeless musical anthems. Her US recording debut came in 1987 with *A Drop* of Water, and the prolific pianist's 1996 release *Dream Walk* remained on the *Billboard* Contemporary Jazz Chart for over 15 months. In 1997, she launched a tour dedicated to raising awareness of breast cancer, and her music was featured in the <u>documentary Say It, Fight It, Cure It</u>, profiling women battling

the disease. Her 1998 album Full Moon And The Shrine

was accompanied by the acclaimed PBS-TV special *Keiko Matsui: Light Above The Trees.* In 2000, the special earned her a National Smooth Jazz Award for Best Long-Form Video Achievement She also won for Best Female Artist, then claimed the award again in 2001. Her 2001 *Deep Blue* CD topped *Billboard's* Contemporary Jazz charts for three consecutive weeks, the first Japanese artist to do so. Matsui continues to collaborate with charities serving marrow matching. Her depth as a composer has also allowed Matsui to contribute music to soundtracks in Japan, the US and Russia, and in 2013 she was an invited guest in Istanbul for International Jazz Day. With the release of *Echo*, Matsui confirms her place as one of the most dynamic and important voices in instrumental music and assures us that her

journey continues. More at keikomatsui.com.



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Patti LaBelle February 6 Dreyfoos Hall • 8:00 pm



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S P O T L I G H T

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James Armstrong

FEBRUARY 23 BRADFORDVILLE BLUES CLUB TALLAHASSEE

FEBRUARY 27 ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN ENGLEWOOD Born into a musical family in 1957 in Los Angeles, James Armstrong had blues music in his blood from the very start. By age 17 he was touring the country, and became the youngest member of Smokey Wilson's band in his early 20s. In the 1980s, Armstrong was a

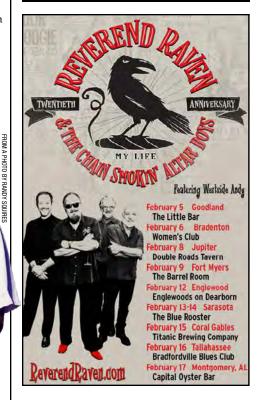
founding member of the band Mama Roo and received his first recording contract. But in the early 1990s, about to tour with his critically acclaimed first album, Sleeping with a Stranger, tragedy struck. Events surrounding a home invasion left Armstrong without the use of his left hand and arm, including permanent nerve damage, threatening to end his career. But with the support of friends, fans and the blues community, Armstrong came back two years later with a second album, Dark Night. What Armstrong lost in the tragedy he gained in "a whole new respect for the music itself, the power in slow blues, how the silences between the notes are as important as the notes." His third CD, Got It Goin' On, garnered two Blues Music Award nominations. Using both slide and pick, Armstrong's guitar playing is some of the smoothest in the business. His songs have appeared in major motion pictures, and over the years Armstong has performed in

countries throughout Europe, Scandinavia, Asia and the Middle East. 2011's = *Blues at The Border* and 2014's *Guitar Angels* both ranked in the Living Blues Top 40 of their respective years. His current CD is 2017's *Blues Been Good to Me.* More at jarmblues.com.



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FLORIDA



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FEBRUARY 13 Lynn University Boca Raton

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Danny Bacher

POTLIGH

He's a dynamic entertainer with world-class talents in music, theater, and comedy... and man, does he swing! Danny Bacher is a fresh face on the jazz landscape. His clean, crisp delivery, engaging stage

presence, a silky-smooth voice, and the gifts of a storyteller come together to create the complete package. Top that off with a flourish of saxophone prowess and you've got yourselves a true entertainer. Bacher's multifaceted experience includes work as an actor, writer and comedian (he is a proud member of the New York Friars Club). He has been a fixture on the New York stage and has toured internationally with his original works. Having honed his chops in the jazz capital of the world. Bacher exudes the emotion of a seasoned veteran performer, mixed with his own youthful vigor and bounce. From his catchy, toe-tappin' renditions of rare gems to the classic takes on the Great American Songbook, Bacher presents his case with elegance, style and class - traits that have secured him a following in legendary jazz clubs like Birdland and The Blue Note. His 2016 debut release, Swing That Music! was a musical tribute to the three Louis (Armstrong, Prima and Jordan) and received rave reviews. The song titles on his sophomore

release, 2018's *Still Happy*, contain words like joy, fun, lucky, hooray, and of course, happy. But don't worry, Bacher doesn't

get maudlin or sticky-sweet; he just knows how to have a good time. More at dannybacher music.com. -Rom a photo by John Abb(





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OCTOBER CLUB AND FESTIVAL DATES TBA

Joyann Parker

LIMITED DATES STILL AVAILABLE

After singing in church most of her life, Joyann Parker finally saw the light (neon) and embraced the blues. A classically trained pianist with a degree in music from the University of Wisconsin, Parker sang in church and with a wedding band, until blues/soul music 'discovered' her. The door to blues and soul music opened

almost accidentally. After singing Aretha Franklin's soul classic, "Chain of Fools," at a contest, Parker was invited to join a blues band. She consequently educated herself by going to blues jams, and never looked back. The following year, Joyann Parker & Sweet Tea represented the Minnesota Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge. That experience inspired her to write the songs that appear on 2018's Hard To Love. The project offers ample evidence of the singer's new-found blues power. Parker co-wrote and co-produced the album's 13 songs with Mark Lamoine, who is the guitarist in the band. Selections include the inspirational, gospel-linked "Home," the Memphis soul-style "Envy" and Motown-based "Dizzy." Hard to Love was Roots Music Report's No. 1 Soul Blues Album and No. 15 Top Blues Albums for 2018. Parker is a nominee for the 2018 Blues Blast Music Awards' prestigious Sean Costello Rising Star Award. She is truly passionate about turning people on to the blues, and recently she and Lamoine launched a new show, The Music of Patsy Cline, an artist who Parker views as a kindred spirit: "Patsy said, 'Hoss, if you can't do it with feeling -- don't.' That's how I feel." More at joyannparker.com.

<u>v Carpenter</u> BRINGING HIS BLUES TO FLO with the Mark Telesca Band: February 1 Fort Myers Barrel Room February 3 Sebastian Earl's Hideaway February 5 Boca Raton **Funky Biscuit** February 6 Oxford Whispering Oaks Winery February 8 Port Charlotte 2 Brothers Hoodoo Lounge February 9 Naples South Street City Oven February 10 Bonita Springs Center Bar

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SPOTLIGHT



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FEBRUARY 14 w/WHITNEY JAMES PALLADIUM ST. PETERSBURG

FEBRUARY 17 *TAMPA JAZZ CLUB* HCC YBOR TAMPA

La Lucha

Tampa Bay-based trio La Lucha consists of three best friends from three different parts of the world: Colombia, Mexico and the US. Their repertoire mixes Latin-inspired rhythms with jazz standards, twisted arrangements of pop songs and original compositions. The tight trio — bassist Alejandro Arenas, pianist John O'Leary, and drummer Mark Feinman — have extensive national and international performance experience, including a tour of Italy and France with performances at the Umbria Jazz Festival and Jazz a Juan in Juan Les Pins. La Lucha aims to create music that transcends genres and classifications. They consider music to be live art, which will continue to breathe, grow and evolve with their commitment to it. The group was awarded Creative Loafing's Best of the Bay Jazz Ensemble in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and were featured presenters at TEDxTampa Bay (2014) & TEDxUSF (2015). They were also recently honored by

a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, to present a multi- media project raising awareness for Alzheimer's disease. Their 2009 debut, *A Cup of*

Fuzzy Water was followed by a self-titled release in 2002. Their third CD, *Standards*, *Not-Standards*, featuring vocalist Jun, was released in 2015. Regarding the title of their 2018 CD *Pa'Lante*, the band explains, "'Pa'Lante' is a slang term in Spanish that means 'moving forward. It's usually used in the context of getting ahead in life through hard work. We think it is a good analogy to describe our approach to this new album." More at laluchamusic.com.







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FEBRUARY

 12 Nicki Parrott, Rossano Sportiello and Ed Metz, with special guest James Suggs
 14 Whitney James' Jazz Valentine featuring guitarist LaRue Nickelson and the La Lucha Trio
 22 Chucho Valdés Trio

February 27 - March 3 St. Petersburg Jazz Festival presents Feb 27 Valerie Gillespie Ensemble Feb 28 Rivers Lost (Remembering Sam Rivers) March 1 Nestor Torres Quartet March 2 Alexis Cole with Helios Jazz Orchestra March 3 Martin Bejerano Trio

MARCH

16 James Suggs: You're Gonna Hear From Me CD Release Party
21 Svetlana & The Delancey Five
22 Respire Wearing

23 Boogie Woogie Blues Piano Stomp



S P O T L I G H T

Reverend Raven

FEBRUARY 5 The little bar

GOODLAND

FEBRUARY 13-14 BLUE ROOSTER SARASOTA

FEBRUARY 15 TITANIC BREWING CORAL GABLES

FEBRUARY 16 BRADFORDVILLE BLUES CLUB TALLAHASSEE

SEE FULL SCHEDULE ONLINE Bringing crowds to their feet wherever they go, Reverend Raven and the Chain Smoking Altar Boys serve traditional blues straight up with a big dose of passion. Smoking grooves, hot harmonica and stinging guitar comprise original songs peppered with nods to Slim Harpo, Little Walter, and the three Kings. Hailing from Chicago's south side, the Reverend served a 15-year hitch in the Navy before moving

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to Milwaukee. There he began a long friendship and collaboration with famed harmonica player Madison Slim. Since 1990 Raven has opened for the likes of B.B King, Junior Wells, Elvin Bishop, Fabulous Thunderbirds, and numerous others at festivals and at Buddy Guy's Legends where he has been on rotation for 18 years. As Guy himself said, "They are very, very good. That's why I keep having them back at my club." Along with the terrific rhythm section of PT Pedersen on bass and Craig Panosh on drums, Westside Andy is one of the premier harp players around. A longtime member of Paul Black's Flip Kings and his own Westside Andy/Mel Ford Band, he's been with the Rev since 2014. The group was voted Best Blues Band In Milwaukee by The Shepherd Express Reader's Poll in 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. Their 2016 Live at Big Bull CD won a Blues Blast Music Award and an Independent Blues Award. Their latest CD, My Life spent two thirds of 2018 atop the Roots Music Report Top

50 Chicago Blues CDs chart. More at reverend raven.com. Down-home blues and more

February 2 & 16 • Indian Harbour Beach Fresh Scratch Bistro & Lounge 6-9pm

February 10 • Melbourne Bonefish Willy's 4-7pm

February 22 • Malabar Malabar Mo's 7pm

February 23 • Palm Bay Space Coast Harley-Davidson 11am-4pm





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Feb 16	Reverend Raven & The Chain Smoking Altar Boys
Feb 22	Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling
Feb 23	James Armstrong Band 🛛 🖉
March 2	Brandon Santini Band – (D R
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Brandon Santini Band – CD Release Party bradfordvilleblues.com

Donny McCaslin

FEBRUARY 16 *South Florida Jazz* Bailey Hall Davie

With more than a dozen albums as a bandleader, in addition to many sideman appearances, Donny McCaslin came

ΖZ

to wider prominence when David Bowie hired McCaslin's ensemble as his backing band for Blackstar (2016), his final studio album. Three years later, McCaslin is back with Blow., a definitive statement that fully realizes Bowie's influence and McCaslin's evolved artistic direction in some the most daring work of his 20-year career. McCaslin began gigging with his vibraphonist father's jazz ensembles at age 12, and had his own group in high school which played three years at the Monterey Jazz Festival. He attended Boston's Berklee College of Music on a full scholarship, joined Gary Burton's group in 1987, and toured the world with him for four years before moving to New York City and joining Steps Ahead, replacing Michael Brecker, until 1994. Exile and Discovery, his first record as a leader, appeared in 1998, the first of his early acoustic albums. Regular work with jazz artists and orchestras led to his joining the Dave Douglas Quintet in 2006. But it was his collaboration with Bowie, which began with his tenor and soprano saxophone on Bowie's 2014 single "Sue (Or in a Season of Crime)" that altered how he approached his craft. Supported by a top-notch cast of musicians, McCaslin applies his jazz roots in thrilling

wavs throughout Blow.'s hour runtime. The album includes two Bowie covers, as well as covers of MUTEMATH, Deadmau5. and The Chainsmokers, plus five original tracks. More at donny mccaslin.com.



DAN MILLER~JAZZ

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SPOTLIGHT

BLUES

Jimmy Carpenter

Saxophonist Jimmy Carpenter's professional career kicked off in 1980, and he was a familiar face on Florida's stages in various touring bands. He toured with both Tinsley Ellis and Jimmy Thackery, among others, before settling in New Orleans. Work as bandleader and horn arranger with New Orleans icon Walter "Wolfman" Washington and The Roadmasters led up to his solo debut *Toiling in Obscurity* in 2008. In 2012 Carpenter joined Mike Zito and The Wheel and he appears on their *Gone to Texas, Songs from the Road* and *Keep Coming Back* CDs. In 2014 Carpenter released his second solo album, *Walk Away.* He received Blues Music Award nomi-

> nations for Best Instrumentalist – Horn in both 2014 and 2015. Keeping up a steady international touring schedule, Carpenter has appeared as guest artist at several major blues festivals. While touring, Zito would say to him, "You need to make a straight-ahead blues album. That's what your fans want to hear, and I want to produce it." Concept became reality, and in late 2017 *Jimmy Carpenter Plays the Blues* was recorded. It's a collection of blues classics and a couple of originals, performed in a small band

> > setting of Carpenter, Žito (who also produced the album), Marc Adams on piano and organ, Bob Bridges on bass, and Matthew Johnson on drums. Special guests include Tinsley Ellis, Jon Del Toro Richardson and Anders Osborne. For Carpenter's swing through Florida this month, he'll be playing with The Mark Telesca Band. More at jimmycarpenter.net.

FEBRUARY 3 EARL'S HIDEAWAY SEBASTIAN

FEBRUARY 5 FUNKY BISCUIT BOCA RATON

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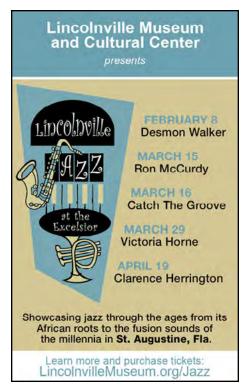
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Noel Freidline

POTLIG

FEBRUARY 8 RITZ THEATRE JACKSONVILLE

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As the leader of the Noel Freidline Quintet for the last 26 years, Noel Freidline has recorded eight CDs,

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performed at jazz festivals from the Jacksonville (FL) Jazz Festival to the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, and held down a three-year house band position at the Bellagio in Las Vegas. In 2018, Noel released his eighth album, Old Devil Moon, a collaboration with vocalist Maria Howell, covering a selection of tunes from the Great American Songbook, along with distinctive covers of a few favorites. In addition to his work with his Quintet, Freidline performs regularly with the Charlotte (NC) Symphony, both as a featured artist and ensemble member. Noel also performs regularly with touring Broadway shows, including Jersey Boys, Wicked and more. With the NFQ, Freidline has opened for artists such as Tony Bennett, David Sanborn and Dave Brubeck. Freidline has also become a popular lecturer for theatres and museums, creating and presenting multi-media presentations on topics from Frankie Valli to Mel Brooks. In 2015 Freidline was inducted into the Jacksonville Jazz Hall of Fame. He has lectured on music-related topics at UNC-Charlotte since 2006, and directs the UNCC jazz combos and vocal jazz ensemble. As a composer and arranger, Noel has written and recorded music for ESPN, ABC and Disney, with recent work featured on Monday Night Football, the NBA All-Star Game, and SportsCenter. This performance, part

of the Noel Freidline & Friends Jazz Series, will be a tribute to the music of Stevie Wonder. More at noelfreidline.com.



21 Blue will take you from Louis Armstrong to Howlin' Wolf to Miles Davis to Jimi Hendrix and beyond. This group does what no other group can in terms of playing the history of American music and making you love that you are there to dance to it.

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OTLIGHT Ρ

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Taj Mahal

In 2014, celebrating decades of recording and touring that have nearly singlehandedly reshaped the definition and scope of the blues via the infusion of exotic sounds from the Caribbean, Africa and South Pacific, Taj Mahal was honored with the Lifetime Achievement for Performance Award at the 13th Annual Americana Honors and Awards. Since the release of 2008's Grammy-nominated Maestro, Mahal has continued to tour and record at a whirlwind pace, including a stint on the critically-acclaimed Experience Hendrix tour. The young Henry St. Claire Fredericks, Jr. studied

TAJ MAHAL TRIO FEBRUARY 12 CAPITOL THEATRE CLEARWATER

FEBRUARY 13 PONTE VEDRA MUSIC HALL PONTE VEDRA

piano, clarinet, trombone and harmonica, and discovered a talent for singing. He began playing guitar in his early teens. Though Mahal studied agriculture at U-Mass, he headed to Los Angeles after graduation in 1964, where he formed the Rising Sons with guitarist Ry Cooder. Starting with his 1967 self-titled debut, Mahal showed signs of the musical exploration that would become his hallmark. The 1970s saw a string of adventurous recordings, including the Grammy-nominated Sounder soundtrack. The 1980s and '90s saw regular touring, a series of albums for children, and more scoring work. He also released four CDs with the Phantom Blues Band including Grammy winners Señor Blues (1997) and Shoutin' in Key (2000). Continually expanding his multicultural horizons, Mahal then began working with Indian and Hawaiian influences. His

2017 release with Keb' Mo', TajMo received the Best Contemporary Blues Album Grammy, and a new CD with the Phantom Blues Band is in the works. More at taiblues.com.

Great American Roots 'n' Roll! VICK 201 . FRI 2/1 Pattenburg House – Asbury NJ The Twisted Tail - Philadelphia PA SAT 2/2 WED 2/6 Englewood's - Englewood FL THU 2/7 Blue Rooster - Sarasota FL FRI 2/8 Little Bar – Goodland FL Dunedin Brewery - Dunedin FL SAT 2/9 SUN 2/10 Aviva House – Sarasota FL WED 2/13 Awendaw Green – Awendaw SC FRI 2/15 Mac's Speed Shop – Matthews NC Cary Street Café - Richmond VA SAT 2/16 JV's - Falls Church VA SUN 2/17 www.BradVickers.com

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Romita Blues

March 8 - 9, 2019

FRIDAY MARCH 8

Southern Hospitality featuring Damon Fowler, JP Soars and Victor Wainwright Albert Cummings Markey Blue Ric Latina Project Kilborn Alley Blues Band Gabe Stillman Band

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

After Hours Jams *hosted by* Josh Rowand & The Pitbull of Blues Band

SATURDAY MARCH 9 Johnny Rawls

Teresa James & the Rhythm Tramps Rusty Wright Band The Jimmys Angel Forrest Band *TBA*

SUNDAY

Blues and Bloodys with Amanda Fish • Levee Town



Proceeds to Benefit:





FEBRUARY 13 GOLD COAST JAZZ SOCIETY BROWARD CENTER FORT LAUDERDALE

FEBRUARY 14-15 BLUE BAMBOO CENTER WINTER PARK

FEBRUARY 16 Jazz on the River Fort Pierce

FEBRUARY 17 Casa Vizcaya Miami

FEBRUARY 18 MIAMI JAZZ CO OP OPEN STAGE CLUB CORAL GABLES

Svetlana & The Delancey Five

Acclaimed as "outstanding" by the *Wall Street Journal*, vocalist Svetlana is the leader of New York-based swing band The Delancey Five. Their shows seamlessly move from sophisticated and sultry retrospection to a rowdy joyous dance party. Svetlana and her band have headlined sold-out shows at premier venues, festivals and clubs nationally and internationally. They also play to the packed and sweaty underground New York speakeasies, and for Times Square Swing Flashmobs. Originating in the midst of vintage swing culture revival in the only remaining authentic Prohibition-era NYC speakeasy, The Back Room, they've been gaining critical acclaim from audiences and press alike by presenting exhilarating shows that combine the charm of Svetlana's sultry

swinging vocals, with the excitement, power, and unpredictable improvisational aspects of her "little big band." Their 2016 album *Night at the Speakeasy* charted on jazz radio charts and made a number of year-end Top 10 lists. For their February 13 event, acclaimed jazz trombonist Wycliffe Gordon will join Svetlana and her band

in this special tribute to Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. Gordon's tenure with Wynton Marsalis began in 1989, and from 1990 he also became associated with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. He has also played with many noted jazz artists, including Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton and Shirley Horn. More at svetlanajazz.com.

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SAT 23 GROVE BAY GRILL 3381 Pan American Dr, Miami, FL 12:30-4:30P

Thursday JAZZ JAMM @ Le Chat Noir! 2 South Miami Ave., downtown Miami 9PM

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SPOTLIGHT BLUES The Snacks

FEBRUARY 9 The Parlour Jacksonville

FEBRUARY 17 FIRST COAST BLUES SOCIETY HART FUNDRAISER MUDVILLE GRILL LISTENING ROOM

FEBRUARY 22 THE VOLSTEAD Based out of Jacksonville, The Snacks Blues Band's carefully-crafted sound preserves the deepestrooted blues traditions established by pioneers such as Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, John Lee Hooker and Robert Johnson while infusing the upbeat rhythms of the soul, rock, R&B and funk movements that followed. On their

predominantly original music, the band features the powerful, barrel-chested vocals and rhythmic "juke-joint" harmonica stylings of John-Michael Brown; the warm, clean, lead tones and delta-like fingerpicking of Brian Boos on guitar; the deep pocket and melodic style of Shawn Saul on bass; and the versatile percussion of "Mad" Matt Schaeffer. Childhood friends Brian and John-Michael formed the original iteration of The Snacks after John-Michael returned from his first Army combat-tour of Iraq in 2003. The two worked successfully as a local blues duo until 2012, when a third childhood friend, Schaeffer, was added. In 2013, they independently released their first album, Whiskey Won't Make You Forget, and took first place in the St. Johns River Blues Festival. Since then, The Snacks have continued writing original music and honing their craft while performing regularly. Soon after, The Snacks decided it was time to add a bass player. Shawn Saul has more than ten years' experience performing, teaching, touring and recording. He has worked with a variety of artists, enhancing his versatile playing style. Last month, the band placed as semifinalists at the 35th International Blues Challenge. This month, they're hard at work in the studio. More at thesnacksbluesband.com.



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1

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