

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES

FEATURE: BLUES ARTIST BBBAD BBBAD BBBAD BBBABD BBBAD BBBABD

DAN TEPFER TOM CRAIG JOEY ALEXANDER ALLY VENABLE DICK OATTS ERIC GALES STREAMING EVENT PICKS FESTIVAL UPDATE

with people who knew him, like Ira, Randy, and Othello, while I was still a teen-

ager. And all of those guys were really helpful to me after I decided to move back to New York seven years ago."

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Many of Miller's current tour stops are with Blaque Dynamite,

the nickname of another young phenom, 26-year-old drummer and Fort Worth, TX native Mike Mitchell (who started a long stint with iconic bassist Stanley Clarke before he even graduated from high school).

A frenetic mix of jazz, hip hop and rock, Blaque Dynamite's three-week 2021 spring tour includes South Florida appearances in Tampa, Orlando and Boca Raton. A kindred openminded spirit, Miller makes a formidable rhythm section with Mitchell, whose mix of jazz (Tony Williams, Jack DeJohnette, Lenny White) and rock influences (John Bonham, Mitch Mitchell, Keith Moon) results in explosive forays and stylistic U-turns on Blaque Dynamite's two CDs, *Killing Bugs* (2017) and *Time Out* (2020).

Mitchell's own impressive sideman roster of stars and other accompanists includes bassist Christian McBride, keyboardist Herbie Hancock, vocalists Erykah Badu and Michael McDonald, saxophonist Bob Mintzer, vocalist/ bassist Thundercat, and vocalist/keyboardist Jon Batiste.

"Mike has ridiculous chops but knows how to play in the pocket, especially because he also sings," Miller says. "He has 48,000 followers on Instagram."

Since returning to New York City, Miller has padded his resume by earning playing time with guitarists Wayne Krantz and Adam Rogers and saxophonist David Binney. The young bassist's own self-titled jazz/fusion and funk band features guitarist Oz Noy, the fusion wunderkind who has a dozen releases under his own name.

"During my first few months back in New York, I sat in with Oz's band, and he liked it from the get-go," Miller says. "So when I got a residency gig and could call whoever I wanted, I called Oz."

by Bill Meredith

Bass players are to music

what offensive linemen are to football – gluelike figures who don't get nearly enough accolades for controlling the action while singers, soloists and drummers get credit akin to that sport's star quarterbacks,

running backs and wide receivers. Yet even though he'll only turn 27 years old this month, Brooklyn, NY-based electric and acoustic bassist Brad Miller is already building the career of a future musical Hall-of-Famer.

Born in Manhattan in 1994, Miller moved to South Florida with his family as a child. Eschewing traditional musical education, his ear training included learning the works of icons like bassist Jaco Pastorius (1951-1987) and trumpeter Clifford Brown (1930-1956), plus the lengthy catalog of Miles Davis' longtime bassist, Ron Carter.

Before long, Miller was learning while earning by playing with some of the state's iconic figures: multi-reedman Ira Sullivan (1931-2020), Grammy-winning vocalist Jon Secada, guitarist Randy Bernsen (Zawinul Syndicate), trumpeter Melton Mustafa (1947-2017), steel drummer Othello Molineaux (Pastorius' Word of Mouth Big Band), drummer Jonathan Joseph (Jeff Beck), pianist Martin Bejerano (Jonathan Kreisberg), and saxophonist Turk Mauro (1944-2019).

"I started on electric bass at age

seven and then acoustic upright bass at 10," Miller says. "I got introduced to [bassist] Nicky Orta around that time, and he got me into listening to Jaco's music. So I grew up playing



Miller's band also includes keyboardists like James Francies and BIGYUKI, and drummers like the fiery Jonathan Blake, Thomas Pridgen (The Mars Volta), and Ari Hoenig, best-known for his signature work with French jazz pianist Jean-Michel Pilc.

Despite his youth and lack of traditional music schooling, Miller also already has an impressive list of New York City performance venues (including the Blue Note, Smalls, Dizzy's Club Coca Cola, and the 55 Bar) and endorsements with Serek Basses, Epifani Amplifiers, La Bella Strings, and Moollon Musical Instruments.

"I was playing a Fender Precision bass a few years ago at a gig," Miller says, "and some dude who said he was my Uber driver just drove off with it after I put it in the car. I'd just spent two years paying it off, and had no endorsements at the time. But I first got one with Moollon, a Korean company, because they re-create vintage Fenders so well."

All perhaps due, in part, to the similar versatility and fluidity to an influential hero who likewise had no problem shifting musical gears between his powerhouse big band; the funk and rock of Blood, Sweat & Tears, fusion

of Weather Report, and heady pop of Joni Mitchell.

"Jaco is still the best," Miller says. "Through his instructional DVDs, I've learned, like he always said, to 'always learn the melody." More at **brad millerbass.com**. MARCH 7 THE BRICKS TAMPA

MARCH 8 Will's Pub Orlando

MARCH 11-12 FUNKY BISCUIT BOCA RATON LIVE RECORDING WITH BLAQUE DYNAMITE



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DARK SPACES BRAND NEW CD OUT NOW!

APRIL 25 HIGH DIVE GAINESVILLE WITH TREY WANVIG AND PACO

BLUES WARRIOR MORE GREAT MUSIC!

Bridget Kelly Band

2X IBC semifinalists and award-winning blues artists, featuring the 2018 Blues Foundation Keeping the Blues Alive Award recipient: Tim Fik

MARCH 13 PINECREST GARDENS PINECREST JAZZAID COVID RELIEF EVENT

Joey Alexander

Over the last few years, Joey Alexander became the youngest musician ever nominated for a jazz Grammy, and earned a profile on *60 Minutes*, a front-page profile in the *New York Times* and other premier coverage. As

heard on his latest CD WARNA, Alexander is also one of the most expressive and thrilling pianist-composers currently at work in jazz. His precocity can still stun concertgoers, but his music - including original work and personalized interpretations of great songs - has now taken its rightful place in the spotlight. Translating as "color" from Alexander's native language of Bahasa, WARNA follows four albums that garnered the pianist three Grammy nominations, and honors including critics' and readers' poll victories in DownBeat and JazzTimes. But whereas those recordings were documents of an extraordinary young musician in development, WARNA is primarily a collection of reflective, moving new music by an experienced, confident bandleader. Fellow trio members bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Kendrick Scott are joined by percussionist Luisito Quintero and flautist Anne Drummond on several tracks. Alexander arrived in New York in the spring of 2014, performing at Jazz at Lincoln Center's annual fundraising gala, and he hasn't slowed down since. In 2016, he performed at the 58th Grammy Awards, and for the Obamas at the White House. In 2018, Alexander headlined Jazz at Lincoln Center's Rose Theater, and in 2019 he made his triumphant Carnegie Hall debut to a sold-out crowd. More at joeyalexandermusic.net.







SOUTH FLORIDA

"Bach to the Future" Solo Piano

He astonishing pianistic and technological talent of Dan Tepfer will be on display as he follows the arc of J.S. Bach and his impact on modern jazz in "Bach to the Future," an incredible journey.

SATURDAY MARCH 20, 2021 8:00 P.M. EST*

* The concert will be available for replay after the broadcast to all ticket holders.

STREAMING EVENT + LIVE INTERACTIVE Q&A WITH BAND AFTER THE CONCERT

[TICKETS & DETAILS HERE]



southfloridajazz.org

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MARCH 9 FUNKY BISCUIT BOCA RATON

MARCH 11 MARKER 48 BREWING SPRING HILL

MARCH 12 WILD ROVER BREWING CO. TAMPA

MARCH 13 WEST END TRADING CO. SANFORD

MARCH 14 HIGH DIVE GAINESVILLE Ally Venable

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SUBCAT

Defying the dark times and rolling up the amps, the fourth release from acclaimed singer-songwriter-gunslinger Ally Venable, *Heart Of Fire* is a record to rattle your speakers. Still in her early twenties, Venable's path winds from childhood church choirs to the teenage influence of local heroes like Stevie Ray Vaughan and Miranda Lambert. At age 14 Venable released her debut EP, 2013's *Wise Man*, earning her a reputation as a rising

star in the Texas blues community. Her third album, No Glass Shoes, finished at No. 16 in the RMR Electric Blues Charts for 2016. And 2018's Puppet Show debuted at No. 7 on the Billboard Blues Albums Chart. Those early releases earned her international fans, Top 10 chart placings and ETX Awards, but it was 2019's No. 2 Billboard-charting Texas Honey and house-rocking sets on that year's Blues Caravan tour - that sent her stratospheric. Heart Of Fire's producer Mike Zito is in no doubt: "Ally is the future of blues and the crossover music of American roots-rock." At her side on the CD are special guests Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Devon Allman. Not even the pandemic could derail her

momentum. Recording in Tennessee last February, Heart Of Fire finds Venable laserfocused on her songcraft, challenging herself to write with unguarded honesty, even if it hurts. Defiant, passionate, honest and raw, this is the record these times demand, from an artist who refuses to wait for the storm to pass, but prefers to dance in the rain. More at **ally** venableband.com.

THE DRIVIN' ON AGAIN MINI-TOUR THE DRIVIN' ON AGAIN MINI-TOUR TASS CEPU AND HIS BAND OF FORTURED SOULS 03/05 BLUE ROOSTER SARASOTA 03/06 BUCKINGHAM BLUES BAR TICE 03/07 EARL'S HIDEAWAY SEBASTIAN 03/08 FUNKY BISCUIT BOCA RATON 03/10 ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN ENGLEWOOD 03/12 BRADFORDVILLE BLUES TALLAHASSEE 03/13 THE SALTY SNAPPER VALDOSTA, GA 03/14 ARTS GARAGE DELRAY BEACH 03/19 CRAWDADDY'S JENSEN BEACH 03/20 BLUES BASH AT THE RANCH BROOKSVILLE 03/21 PARADISE BAR & GRILL GULF BREEZE

03/22 SEVILLE QUARTER PENSACOLA

BHAU MILL

TAMPA THE BRICKS MARCH 8 ORLANDO WILL'S PUB

MARCH 7

MARCH 11-12 BOCA RATON FUNKY BISCUIT with

Blaque Dynamite Live album recording with special guests!

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"I THINK I'LL GO DOWN IN GAINESVILLE JUST TO SEE AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE..." "DEEP DOWN IN FLORIDA," - MUDDY WATERS

The North Central Florida Blues Society

PROUDLY PRESENTS A LIVE AND STREAMING BLUES SHOW HIGH DIVE, 210 SW 2ND AVENUE, GAINESVILLE, FL 32601

ERIC GALES

Sunday March 21

6:00 – 9:00рм Doors open 5:30рм Limited in-person audience Also streaming online Opener: Root Redemption

Incfblues.org NCFBS members \$15

General admission \$30 Streaming tickets start at \$10 Sit outside in the beer garden \$15 HD Quality video/audio Limited in-person audience • Masked and socially distant Temperature checked at door • Health guidelines followed

Gainesville. Citizen centered People empowered THIS EVENT IS FUNDED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE PARKS, RECREATION



AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT. FUNDED IN PART BY VISIT GAINESVILLE, ALACHUA COUNTY

SPOTLIGHT

MARCH 31 ARTIS-NAPLES NAPLES WITH THE NAPLES PHILHARMONIC JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Dick Oatts

Raised in a musical Iowa family, Dick Oatts was

77

introduced to the saxophone by his father Jack Oatts, a jazz educator and saxophonist. After launching his professional career in 1972, Oatts relocated to NYC in 1977 and joined the Thad Jones / Mel Lewis Orchestra. Since then, he has toured, performed, and appeared on over 100 albums as a sideman with the likes of Bob Brookmeyer, Terell Stafford, Jon Faddis and Lalo Schiffrin. Oatts' Big Band and large ensemble experience includes the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, Jon Faddis Jazz Band, and Tito Puente. And he has been a featured artist with a long list of orchestras. Oatts has accompanied such vocalists as Joe Williams, Sara Vaughn, Ella Fitzgerald, Mel Torme and Neena Freelon. Additionally, his solos appear on recordings by Luther Vandross and Everything but the Girl. As a Steeplechase recording artist, Oatts has recorded 10 solo CDs and five co-led CDs, including his most recent, 2018's Use Your Imagination. He has four CDs with co-leader and pianist Garry Dial, one with Terell Stafford, and one with Dave Santoro.

For the past 35 years, Oatts has appeared at college jazz festivals as a soloist and clinician from North and South America to Europe, Mid-East, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and Taiwan. Oatts is a professor at the Bover School at Temple University, and has been an Artist in Residence at the Amsterdam Conservatory since 1998. More at dickoatts music.com.



GL BAL Collins Park

Click on this page to access our web page with active links!

BLUES

BRETT WELLMAN & THE STONE COLD BLUES BAND

MARCH 6 AT 8PM TICKETED EVENT facebook.com/bradfordvillebluesclub

ALLY VENABLE

MARCH 14 AT 7:30PM TICKETED EVENT highdivegville.veeps.com

ERIC GALES

MARCH 21 AT 5:45PM TICKETED EVENT highdivegville.veeps.com

STREAMING CONCERTS

JAZZ DANIELA SOLEDADE & NATE NAJAR

FEBRUARY 5, 19, 26 AT 7:30PM danielasoledade.com

A TASTE OF JAZZ

MARCH 11 AT 7PM pompanobeacharts.com/programs

JAZZAID LIVE AT THE BANYAN BOWL JOEY ALEXANDER

MARCH 13 AT 8PM PINECREST THEATER, PINECREST TICKETED EVENT iazzaid.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents

FESTIVAL OF ARTS BOCA FINALE NESTOR TORRES

MARCH 14 AT 7PM TICKETED EVENT festivalboca.org/events-calendar/ festival-finale-with-nestor-torres/

DAN TEPFER

A South Florida JAZZ event MARCH 20 AT 8pm TICKETED EVENT southfloridajazz.org/concert/dan-tepfer/

WANNA GET IN ON THIS? SUBMIT YOUR GIG TO charlie@iazzbluesflorida.com

Make sure to include the streaming link!

BLUES

Tom Craig

Philadelphia native Tom Craig, who now splits his time between there and South Florida, plays a special brand of Chicago Blues, Memphis Soul and R&B. Craig's combination of 40 years' experience playing guitar, formal training as a jazz vocalist, and a passion for the blues makes for a memorable live performance. Initially inspired by the likes of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and Mel Torme, Craig found further inspiration in the '60s and '70s soul music from

MARCH 3 HOSTING BLUES OVER EASY KELLY BROS FT. LAUDERDALE

MARCH 20 TOM CRAIG BAND BLUES BASH AT THE RANCH BROOKSVILLE

Memphis and Muscle Shoals and in the blues of Muddy Waters, Stevie Ray Vaughan and the Three Kings. Those influences were apparent on his 2016 debut *Get Ready for Me*, which received worldwide radio airplay and critical acclaim, and reached No. 26 on the Roots Music Report Radio Chart. In early 2017 Craig represented the Central Delaware Blues Society at the 33rd International Blues Challenge. His song, "She Did It To Me (She'll Do It to You)" was a semi-finalist in the 2017 International Songwriting Competition. His sophomore release, 2020's *Good Man Gone Bad*, consists of 15 original songs. "My goal for this new record was to make it 100% blues" he says. Putting that goal into action, Craig is also currently touring with Tas Cru. More at tomcraigband.com.







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The North Central Florida Blues Society

PROUDLY PRESENTS A LIVE AND STREAMING BLUES SHOW HIGH DIVE, 210 SW 2ND AVENUE, GAINESVILLE, FL 32601

BRIDGET KELLY BAND Sunday, April 25

6:00 – 9:00рм Doors open 5:30рм Limited in-person audience Also streaming online

TREY WANVIG

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NCFBS members \$8 General admission \$15 Streaming tickets start at \$10 Sit outside in the beer garden \$8 HD Quality video/audio Limited in-person audience Masked and socially distant Temperature checked at door Health guidelines followed

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and cultural affairs department. Funded in part by visit gainesville, alachua county.

JAZZ

MARCH 20 8 - 10 PM EDT SOUTH FLORIDA JAZZ https://southflorida jazz.org/concert/ dan-tepfer/

Dan Tepfer

Pianist-composer Dan Tepfer has earned an international reputation for his wide-ranging ambition, individuality and drive. Born in 1982 in Paris to American parents, Tepfer has performed around the world with some of the

leading lights in jazz and classical music. He has also crafted a discography of striking breadth and depth, encompassing probing solo improvisation and intimate duets, as well as trio albums rich in rhythmic verve and melodic allure. Tepfer earned global acclaim for 2011's Goldberg Variations/Variations, a disc that sees him performing J.S. Bach's masterpiece as well as improvising upon it. Tepfer's newest album, Natural Machines, stands as one of his most ingeniously forward-minded yet - a solo project exploring the intersection between science and art, between coding and improvisation, between digital algorithms and the rhythms of the heart. Tepfer has also composed for ensembles beyond jazz. His piano quintet Solar Spiral premiered in 2016 at Chicago's Ravinia Festival, with Tepfer performing alongside the Avalon String Quartet. The Prague Castle Guard Orchestra commissioned two works, and in 2019 Tepfer unveiled his jazz-trio arrangement of Stravinsky's Pulcinella. His honors include the first prize and audience prize at the 2006 Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition, first prize at the 2006 East Coast Jazz Festival Competition, and first prize at the 2007 American Pianists Association competition. More at dantepfer.com.





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2021 JUS' BLUES HONOREES

Jus' Blues Lifetime Living Legends Award	BENJAMIN WRIGHT
Jus' Blues & Soul Lifetime Legend Award	SUGAR PIE DESANTO
Jus' Blues "The Muddy" Lifetime Blues Award	JIMMY JOHNSON
KoKo Taylor "Queen of the Blues" Award	MARY LANE
Bobby Blue Bland Lifetime Blues Award	LEON BLUE
Bobby Rush Lifetime Blues Entertainer Award	KEVIN BURT
Denise LaSalle Lifetime Recording Of Excellence Award	THORNETTA DAVIS
King Of The Blues Award – Tribute to B.B. King J	AMELL RICHARDSON
Willie Mitchell Lifetime Artist Award	LOLA
Albert King Lifetime Award "The Lucy Award"	GREG WRIGHT
Millie Jackson "Classy & Sassy" Award	LACEE
Little Milton Lifetime Bluesman Award	MAJOR HANDY
Ruben Hughes Lifetime Blues Radio Personality Award	CYREIO HUGHES

JUS' BLUES MUSIC FOUNDATION NURTURING THE SOUL OF THE BLUES justices.org

SPOTLIGHT B LL E S

MARCH 18 THE EVENT CENTER PORT CHARLOTTE

MARCH 19 BLACK BOX CENTER LAKE PARK

MARCH 20 Dexter's New Standard Winter Park

MARCH 21 High Dive Gainesville

Eric Gales

In 1991, at just 16 years old, Eric Gales released his breakthrough debut recording, The Eric Gales Band. Eight albums into his burgeoning career, Gales spent time in jail in 2009 for possession of drugs and a weapon. But even while incarcerated he

was able to play shows for the Mayor, the city and festivals. Five more albums between 2013 and 2016 preceded Middle of the Road, which Gales describes as his "rebirth." It reached No. 1 on the iTunes Blues chart and No. 4 on the Billboard Blues chart. In the UK it made Classic Rock Magazine and Total Guitar albums of the year. Since then he has toured almost non-stop, playing shows with Gary Clark Jr., Beth Hart, Gov't Mule and others. He sold out his first-ever headline tour in the UK and Ireland, and enjoyed collaborations with Bootsy Collins, The Apocalypse Blues Revue and Supersonic Blues Machine. A frequent collaborator with Lauryn Hill, Gales has performed with Carlos Santana, Zakk Wylde and

Eric Johnson. He also toured as part of the Experience Hendrix tour with such legends as Bootsv Collins and Robert Randolph. If *Middle* of the Road was Gales' rebirth, then his latest release, 2019's The Bookends, is him knocking away his boundaries and taking flight on a voyage of self-discovery. Gales won the Blues Music Award for Blues Rock Artist of the Year in 2019 and 2020. More at ericgales.com.



FESTIVAL UPDATE

APRIL 10, 2021 • ZEPHYRHILLS Pigz in the Z'Hills BBQ & Blues

MAY 28, 2021 • SEBASTIAN Earl's Memorial Day Weekend Fest

AUGUST 13, 2021 • Brooksville Spirit of Woodstock

SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 • SEBASTIAN Earl's Labor Day Weekend Party

SEPT 23, 2021 • NEW SMYRNA BEACH New Smyrna Beach Jazz Fest

OCTOBER 7, 2021 • BARBADOS Barbados Jazz Excursion

OCTOBER 15, 2021 • BROOKSVILLE Camping with the Blues

NOVEMBER 6, 2021 • GAINESVILLE Downtown Fest & Art Show

NOVEMBER 12, 2021 • CASSELBERRY Craft Beer & Blues Fest

DECEMBER 3, 2021 • BRADENTON Bradenton Blues Fest

plus more to be announced!

CLICK FOR OUR COMPLETE JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL LIST!

INFORMATION WAS CORRECT AT TIME OF POSTING

Send updates to Charlie@JazzBluesFlorida.com

with Daniela Soledade March 12 Bok Tower, Lake Wales

March 27 South Florida State College Avon Park

Eridays 7:30pm Love & Bossa Nova LiveStreams On Nate's & Daniela's Facebook pages or YouTube

The latest CD AMERICAN MELODIES

