

# JAZZ & BLUES

F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES



FEATURE  
BLUES  
ARTIST

## THE LUCKY LOSERS

CEDRIC BURNSIDE

GARY HOEY

BONEY JAMES

EG KIGHT

SPYRO GYRA

MARK ZELESKI

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# THE LUCKY L

SEPTEMBER 21

JOHNNY'S  
OTHER SIDE  
ORLANDO

SEPTEMBER 23

ER BRADLEY'S  
WEST PALM BEACH

SEPTEMBER 24

BLUE JEAN BLUES  
FORT LAUDERDALE

SEPTEMBER 25

BLUE ROOSTER  
SARASOTA

SEPTEMBER 26

EARLS HIDEAWAY  
SEBASTIAN

SEPTEMBER 27

FUNKY BISCUIT  
BOCA RATON

OCTOBER 2

BRADFORDVILLE  
BLUES CLUB  
TALLAHASSEE



**Winners of the 2019 Independent Blues Award** for Best Blues-Soul Artist, The Lucky Losers' distinctive signature sound is an inventive, hypnotic spin on blues, classic R&B, and Americana. Fiery Dallas-born entertainer **Cathy Lemons** has a velvet voice with a gritty edge and the rebel conviction of a woman risen from the ashes. New Jersey native **Phil Berkowitz** "has earned renown as one of the West Coast's most distinctive harp players, as well as for his sharp, resonant tenor" (*Living Blues*). The stark contrast between incandescent Lemons and elegant Berkowitz makes for a captivating musical union, breathing new life into American songwriting tradition and the vanishing art of duet singing.

The Lucky Losers were **born in the summer of 2013** on a deserted road in Sedona, Arizona. With a Willie Dixon song on the stereo, fellow musicians Lemons and Berkowitz spontaneously began to sing together and felt a spark of magic. The following summer, The Lucky Losers hit the scene and have been entertaining audiences across America ever since.

The duo tested the waters by competing in a regional International Blues Challenge, sponsored by The Golden Gate Blues Society, where they fittingly **won the IBC's Wild Card round**. Although they did not take the crown, it was clear that they were stronger together than apart.

Lemons and Berkowitz's **debut album, *A Winning Hand***, marked the beginning of their fruitful collaboration with Kid Andersen at his famous Greaseland in San Jose, California. The duo recruited top West Coast players including Grammy-winning guitarist Steve Freund, Andersen himself, and 2014 Solo/Duo IBC winner Ben Rice to make their dreams come alive. The CD peaked at No. 5 on The Roots Music Report's Top 50 Blues Albums, was listed as one of their Top Blues Albums of 2015, and garnered a nomination by Blues 411 for a Jimi Award in the Best Traditional Album category.

In the summer of 2016, The Lucky Losers released *In Any Town*, featuring contributions from Andersen, Paris Slim, Terry Hanck and Jeff Jensen. Inspired by music of the 1960s and true events from their beautiful, twisted lives, Lemons and Berkowitz served up medicine for wayward souls, offering glimpses of paradise through tears. They **toured extensively nationwide in support of *In Any Town***, including their first tour stops in Florida, accompanied





# OSERS

by incendiary guitarist Laura Chavez (one of *Guitar Player Magazine's* World's Top 50 Sensational Female Guitarists). Eight songs from the album charted in the top 20 on RMR's Top Singles, it was nominated for Jimi Awards for Best Harmonica Player and Best Contemporary Blues Album, and was also nominated for five Independent Blues Awards

In 2018, The Lucky Losers **continued their winning streak with the release of *Blind Spot***, a road warrior's tale comprised solely of original material by Lemons and Berkowitz with songwriting partner Danny Caron. Traveling through a winding soundscape of modern blues, vintage R&B, and Americana, *Blind Spot* presents unvarnished testimony to the fragile and fleeting state of our world. Produced and engineered by Andersen, the album features contributions from Chavez, violinist Annie Staninec and saxophonist Nancy Wright. *Blind Spot* spent months on numerous RMR charts, with nine of those 11 original songs placing in the Top 50 Singles in Blues & Contemporary Blues categories.



Upon returning from a 13-state tour in 2019, Lemons and Berkowitz discovered that The Independent Blues Awards had honored them with five nominations. Additionally, Lemons' song, "The River" was awarded

an honorable mention in the International Songwriting Competition, competing against 19,000 global artists to become a finalist of only 16 songwriters in the Blues category.

Now The Lucky Losers are hitting the road for multiple tours in support of **their latest album, 2020's *Godless Land***. Featuring nine original singles, the CD charted for eight months, rising to No. 2 on The Living Blues Radio Chart and placing in its Top 50 Blues Albums 2020. The title track received Honorable Mention in the 2020 International Songwriting Competition, and they've been nominated for four 2021 Independent Blues Awards. More at [theluckylosers.com](http://theluckylosers.com).



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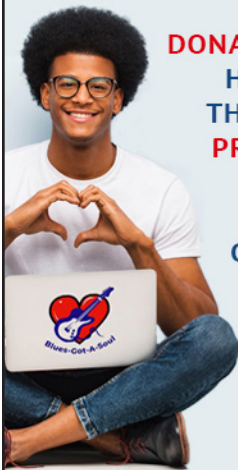
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# Boney James

“A solid relationship is when someone has your back and will stand by your side no matter what,” explains Boney James about the title of his new CD. The saxophonist’s 17th album as a leader, 2020’s *Solid* follows up his smash 2017 release *Honestly*, his 11th No. 1 *Billboard* Contempo-

rary Jazz Album. “Similar to my last CD, this music is a reaction to how stressful the world feels these days,” he says. “Music is a respite, it’s always ‘solid’ and it never lets me down.” The 11 tracks are all produced and written or co-written by James. Picking up the sax at age 10 in his native New Rochelle, NY, “I immediately loved it, and it pretty quickly became my favorite thing to do.” 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,

The Isley Brothers and Teena Marie for seven years before cutting his first solo album in 1992. The independently-released *Trust* led to a major label deal, a string of increasingly successful recordings and nonstop touring. Now a four-time Grammy nominee with four Gold records and career sales topping three million units, James continues to defy musical genres as a two-time NAACP Award nominee and a Soul Train Award winner. And he’s ready to get back out on the road: “I love playing live, maybe more than I ever did. It’s still a joy for me every time I go out there and play.” More at [boneyjames.com](http://boneyjames.com).

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[boneyjames.com](http://boneyjames.com).

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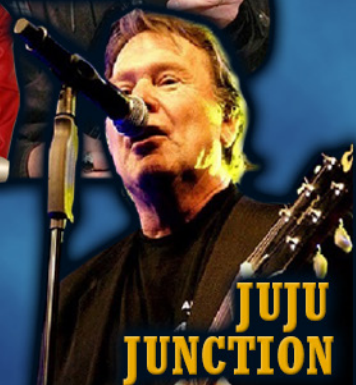
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# Gary Hoey

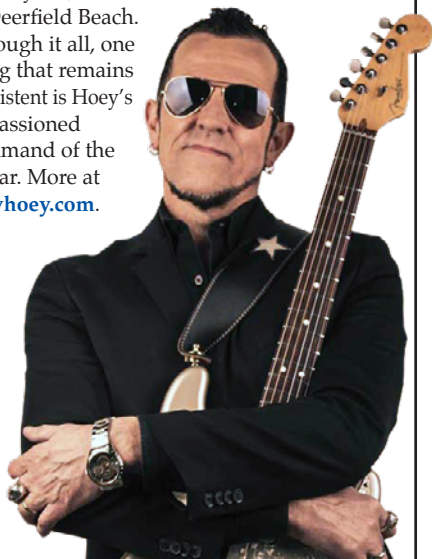
SEPTEMBER 30  
TUFFY'S  
SANFORD

OCTOBER 1  
FUNKY BISCUIT  
BOCA RATON

With 21 albums to his credit, it's no wonder Gary Hoey is usually listed among the top 100 guitarists of all time. His first break came in 1987 when Ozzy Osbourne flew him to LA

for an audition. The cover of "Hocus Pocus" on Hoey's 1993 solo debut album rocketed on to the *Billboard* Top 5 Rock Tracks chart, and he's never looked back. In recent years, 2013's true-blues *Deja Blues* was followed three years later by the exuberant blues-rock fusion of *Dust & Bones*. Hoey's current release, 2019's *Neon Highway Blues* again fuses those blues and rock influences on 11 original songs with guest appearances from Eric Gales, Lance Lopez, Josh Smith... and Hoey's teenaged son Ian. "I really wanted to make sure this album had a lot of blues on it. I kept sticking to the blues and listening to the classic players, all the Kings - Albert, Freddie, B.B. - and still have some songs that my diehard fans expect: instrumentals and some rockin' Zeppelin-type stuff." He has toured and traded licks with the likes of Jeff Beck, Brian May of Queen, Joe Satriani, Steve Vai, Peter Dinklage, and Dick Dale. In 2012, he produced and co-wrote Lita Ford's *Living Like a Runaway*. As Music Director for Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy Camp, he's worked a long list of music legends. The next camp will be held January 6-9, 2022 at the Seminole Hard Rock in Deerfield Beach.

Through it all, one thing that remains consistent is Hoey's impassioned command of the guitar. More at [garyhoey.com](http://garyhoey.com).



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# Spyro Gyra

Over the last 40+ years, Spyro Gyra have performed over 5,000 shows, released 31 albums (not counting compilations), and sold more than ten million albums. They've done it by constantly challenging themselves. 2013's *The Rhinebeck Sessions* captured their innate ability to construct compositions through a jam approach over three days in the studio. In 2014, the band did an extended *Morning Dance* tour, playing their landmark album on its 35th anniversary. Then came a text of their 2000s work titled *The Best Of The Heads Up Years*. 2019 brought *Vinyl Tap*, an album of classic rock covers. The group was first known simply as Tuesday Night Jazz Jams, with Brooklyn-born bandleader/saxman Jay Beckenstein and keyboardist Jeremy Wall welcoming a rotating cast, including teenaged keyboardist Tom Schuman, a member to this day. In their earliest days, Spyro Gyra took their cues from Weather Report and Return to Forever – bands whose creative flights were fueled by a willingness to do things that had never been done before. Consider: future funk superstar Rick James' first album featured Beckenstein in the horn section. In return, James helped fund Spyro Gyra's eponymous 1977 debut album. "When I listen to that recording, I hear seeds of the music that made us popular," Beckenstein says. "It's funny how people didn't know what to make of it then, and now it's so ubiquitous." Julio

Fernandez became the group's guitarist in 1984, and bassist Scott Ambush joined in 1991. Newest member drummer Lee Pearson joined in 2011. More at [spyrogyra.com](http://spyrogyra.com).



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SEPTEMBER 19  
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# Cedric Burnside



North Mississippi Hill Country blues is distinct from its Delta or Texas counterparts in its commitment to polyrhythmic percussion and its refusal of familiar blues chord progressions. In Cedric Burnside's care, it leads with extended riffs that become sentences or pleas or exclamations; some riffs become one with the singer's voice. Across nine individual and collaborative album projects, Burnside carries listeners to a deep Mississippi well. The latest taste from that well is *I Be Trying*, a 13-track treatise on life's challenges, pleasures, and beauty. Burnside's grandfather, hill country blues luminary RL Burnside, and his wife Alice Mae wrapped their Holly Springs land and family in warmth, joy, and music alongside collaborators and contemporaries from David "Junior" Kimbrough to Jessie Mae Hemphill and Otha Turner. By age 13, Burnside was on the road with his grandfather. His two Grammy-nominated album projects – 2015's *Descendants of Hill Country* and 2018's *Benton County Relic* – were both capstone statements for a lifetime of musical labor channeling the blues spirit on drums, guitar and vocals in the North Mississippi Hill Country tradition. Burnside has appeared as himself in movies including *Tempted*, *Big Bad Love* and *Black Snake Moan*. This year, he played the title character in the story of Texas Red, a Mississippi juke joint owner who, after defending himself from an attack, was hunted by a mob and eventually caught and killed. Like Burnside's music, the role is ancestral blues work that honors the dead to teach and heal new generations. More at [cedricburnside.net](http://cedricburnside.net).

**The LUCKY LOSERS**  
w/ Cathy Lemons & Phil Berkowitz

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# Mark Zaleski

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Internationally touring musician Mark Zaleski has distinguished himself as a uniquely dynamic soloist,

multi-instrumentalist, and band leader. He has performed with a diverse group of notable artists including Dave Brubeck, Christian McBride, Ian Anderson, Connie Francis and the Either/Orchestra. Growing up in a small Massachusetts town, Zaleski was influenced by his parents' '60s and '70s rock and pop, his friends' punk and metal, and the jazz of his music teachers. Zaleski's unique approach to jazz led him to become the first alto saxophonist selected to the prestigious Dave Brubeck Institute Fellowship Program in 2003. Upon completion of the two-year program, Zaleski continued his studies at The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. It was there that he began to delve deeply into composition, drawing on all of his influences and training. While his band has no vocalist, Zaleski takes on the lead voice channeling a combination of his saxophone heroes and inspirational vocalists like Stevie Wonder, Robert Plant, Michael Jackson, and Donny Hathaway. Since their pre-teen years, Zaleski and his brother Glenn have been playing music and creatively collaborating. And since meeting at the Conservatory, Zaleski and tenor saxophonist Jon Bean have played together as a saxophone duo for more than a decade.

The trio's latest release is 2017's *Days, Months, Years*. Zaleski is also active in many musical projects including the Omar Thomas Large Ensemble, The Brighton Beat and John Allmark Jazz Orchestra.

He also is on faculty at the Berklee College of Music and Longy School of Music at Bard College. More at [markzaleski.com](http://markzaleski.com).



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SEPTEMBER 18  
BRADFORDVILLE  
BLUES CLUB  
TALLAHASSEE

## EG Kight

When she was an infant, EG Kight's mother was offered a gospel recording contract, but turned it down to stay home and raise her daughter. The gift of a guitar from an uncle, followed by lessons from grandma over the next few years, helped a four-year-old Kight realize that music was in her blood. Originally playing and singing white gospel and country music, Kight switched to the blues upon hearing Koko Taylor, with whom she later formed a deep and long-lasting friendship. Kight has a particular talent for compassionate renditions of southern rock tunes that have brought grown men to tears. After a long and successful career performing with a band and as a solo, Kight wanted to that stripped-down sound from her childhood. In 2018 she formed a trio with "the boys," two of her long-time (20 years!) band members – drummer/percussionist Gary Porter and guitarist/dobro player Ken Wynn. "This stripped down version allows for a tighter show with sweet harmonies, harp, percussion, drums, dobro, and acoustic guitars," she says. "We're having a great time venturing out into some new musical areas, and our audiences seem to love it!" The trio was in the studio in late 2019, anticipating a 2020 release date. But the pandemic changed that, so Kight released her first children's book about her pet goats instead. Finally released earlier this year, *The Trio Sessions* debuted high and still sits comfortably on the blues charts. As with her previous eight albums, most songs were self-penned. More at [egkight.com](http://egkight.com).



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OCTOBER 7 • BARBADOS

*Barbados Jazz Excursion*

OCTOBER 16 • TALLAHASSEE

*Pat Ramsey Memorial Benefit*

NOVEMBER 6 • GAINESVILLE

*Downtown Fest & Art Show*

NOVEMBER 12 • CASSELBERRY

*Craft Beer & Blues Fest*

DECEMBER 3 • BRADENTON

*Bradenton Blues Fest*

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INFORMATION WAS CORRECT AT TIME OF POSTING

Send updates to [Charlie@JazzBluesFlorida.com](mailto:Charlie@JazzBluesFlorida.com)



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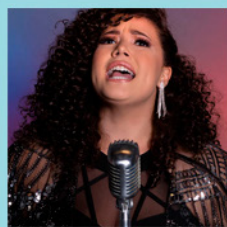
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