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The St. Louis Blues Society is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Missouri corporation. Memberships to the Blues Society are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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#### The Monthly Magazine of the St. Louis Blues Society

The St. Louis Blues Society is dedicated to preserving and perpetuating blues music in and from St. Louis, while fostering its growth and appreciation. The St. Louis Blues Society provides blues artists the opportunity for public performance and individual improvement in their field, all for the educational and artistic benefit of the general public.

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On the Com.

Big George Brock and his New House Rockers finish-out the 2013 Bluesweek Festival, playing on Sunday, May 26 at 9:30 p.m. cover photo by Reed Radcliffe



Fundraisers at BB's Jazz Blues and Soups for St. Louis Blues Society Big Mike Aguirre with special guests June 15 - July 13 - August 17

### Blues Society Half-price Discounted Events for Members

#### BB's Jazz Blues and Soups

May 4	Kelley Hunt Band [7 pm]
May 11	Davina and The Vagabonds [7 p
May 16	Grand Marquis
May 18	The Josh Garrett Band
May 23	Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials
May 24	Fruteland Jackson [7 pm]
May 25	Scottie Miller Band [7 pm]
May 30	The Sauce Boss [7 pm]

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**Business Relations Committee** – Responsible for recruiting business sponsors, securing discounts for our membership, selling advertisement in our BluesLetter, website or other publications.

**Marketing & Merchandise** – Responsible for ordering T-shirts, mugs, pins, bumper stickers, business cards, etc. Keeping merchandise inventory and supplied at STLBS events.

**Membership Committee** – Responsible for handling membership related tasks including new member processing, membership cards, publications/brochures/forms, etc.

**Musicians Liaison Committee** – Responsible for musicians outreach and communication with the STLBS.

**Newsletter Committee** – Responsible for assisting the editor in creation and publication of the BluesLetter.

**STLBS/IBC Challenge Committee** – Responsible for planning/execution of the "Road to Memphis" Challenge.

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#### ST LOUIS BLUES SOCIETY



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By Bruce Olson

THE WORKSHOPS AT BLUESWEEK

By Jeremy Segel-Moss

#### PHOTOS OF PERFORMERS

Kim Massie

By Mary Kaye Tönnies

**Trombone Shorty Mavis Staples** 

Courtesy Mike Kociela

Lil' Ed Jeremiah Johnson Marquise Knox Big Mike Aguirre Rich McDonough

By Reed Radcliffe

**Big George Brock** 

By Madison Thorn





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MONDAY Soul Selector TUESDAY Howzit Bayou WEDNESDAY
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#### ST LOUIS BLUES SOCIETY

# Guide BLUESWEEK



#### Kim Massie Friday, 5:30 p.m.

The resident diva queen of St. Louis blues singers, she's got the church-infused, spiritual style down. Think Aretha, think Fontella and think Etta, especially when Kim launches "At Last," one of her trademarks. A mainstay two nights a week at Beale on Broadway, Massie can easily go beyond the smoky club into the evening sky. Performing here pretty steadily since 1999, she's a "left-and-came-back" St. Louisan who once shared a stage with Oliver Sain. She's at her best at these kinds of events, thriving on the love she gets from her home crowd.

#### Southern Hospitality: Victor Wainwright, J.P. Soars, and Damon Fowler Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Soars is a former winner of the International Blues Challenge and a nominee for a 2012 Blues Music Award. He does mostly originals on his cigar box guitar. Wainwright is another BMA nominee who can blister a piano with combustible rock and soul as well his forte blues riffs. Fowler's work on the lap steel has a swamp feel that has been turning on clubs around the country for over a decade. The three have been touring together this spring, appearing in Europe and at festivals in the South and East.

# ST LOUIS. MEMORIAL WEEKEND FRIDAY. MAY 24, 2013

#### Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue *Friday, 9:30 p.m.*

For the last three years or so, Shorty had been lighting up stages across America. His last two records have topped blues and jazz charts and his original sound transcends its New Orleans roots to reach new heights of funk, R&B and blues-informed jazz. He's been blowing his instruments since he was in diapers in NOLA's Tremé and you won't hear a better horn player in America today. Last year he joined B.B. King, Mick Jagger, Jeff Beck and Keb' Mo' for a show at the White House — that's the kind of company Shorty keeps.







# ST LOUIS. MEMORIAL WEEKEND SATURDAY. MAY 25, 2013

#### Triumvirate of Jazz Guitar: Tom Byrne, Dave Black and Eric Slaughter Saturday, noon

Two Webster U. jazz guitarists, Byrne and Black, are joined by Slaughter, a world traveling performer and nephew of St. Louis blues singer Marsha Evans. Black has a long career, playing a range of styles and doing a lot of teaching. Byrne has been a Webster faculty member since 1998 and has done it all in St. Louis from the Muny Orchestra to Holmes Lounge. Slaughter, recently rebased here, has played Jazz at the Bistro with his own group and joins others for all-star sessions like this.



#### Jeremiah Johnson Band with the Sliders Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

Jeremiah is one of the hottest players in town, bringing his brand of southern fried blues back to St. Louis in a big way after a run in Houston. He's been selling records at a brisk pace; with songs getting national radio play. And, he's been writing songs just about as fast — touching traditional blues themes about work and women and sadness and joy — blending it all together in a string of bring-down-the-house club performances. He's backed by horn players Jim Rosse and Stuart Williams, formerly of Little Feat.

#### St. Louis Blues and Soul Revue Saturday, 1:15 p.m.

A revival of the revue tradition that started in the sixties and once flourished on both sides of the river that makes the big group format into an art form. This all-star St. Louis cast will feature singers Erma Whiteside, Renee Smith, Marty Abdullah and George Brock Jr., with Matt Murdick on piano, Dawn Weber on trumpet and Blind Willie Dineen on sax; all backed by the Soulard Blues band core of Tom Maloney on guitar; Art Dwyer on bass, and Kirk Grice on drums. The result is sure to be a large dose of danceable blues, rock-blues and R&B and spectacular reminder of from whence we sprang.



#### Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials Saturday, 2:45 p.m.

Ed Williams has been playing Chicago slide guitar for 25 years and has learned a thing or three along the way, getting to a place where the *Chicago Sun-Times* called a recent show "a bazooka assault of foot-stompin' blues and slow-burnin' knee-bucklers." As J.B. Hutto's nephew, Ed's connections to St. Louis run long and deep. He and the band have landed on stages such as the New Orleans Jazz Fest and The Conan O'Brien show. The group has won the BMA Band of the Year twice and with the same players behind Ed for 20 years, tight isn't just a concept.



#### Marquise Knox Saturday, 6:15 p.m.

The oldest youngest guitar hero in St. Louis, it is hard to believe Marquise is only 22. Mentored by Henry Townsend, Knox has played with Pinetop Perkins, Honeyboy Edwards and Michael Burks. He got his first BMA nomination at age 16. His latest album, his third, features nine original songs. His style is still evolving, taking a little from Albert King and a little from Muddy Waters, but he seems to be growing with each record into something unique that can be recognized as Marquise Knox. The more he tours and more cheers he hears, the better he gets.

#### Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers Saturday, 8 p.m.

An out-of-towner with lots of St. Louis ties, Piazza owes a lot of his style to Little Walter and can throw out a wailing harmonica riff with the best players on today's scene. Based in San Diego, he seems to pop up next to the Mississippi often, finding time to get here between touring and putting out no less than 16 albums. His latest, "The Almighty Dollar," makes reference to his long career and its lack of pay, something a St. Louis musician can understand. But if you've ever seen him play, you see what else he shares with St. Louis players — an utter love of his well-crafted art.



Mavis Staples Saturday, 9:45 p.m. Here's a woman who has been there. done that. But she

one.

doesn't ever give anything but her best. She's a trouper, having charted 25 songs as part of the Staple Singers, having marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, having recorded with a few notables — hmm, like Bob Dylan, Ray Charles, George Jones, and Levon Helm — and who had to wait until 2011 to win her first Grammy. And, yep, here she is in St. Louis, with no cover charge on a big, wide-open stage, her voice well-honed to the task, her spirit high and her love bubbling over. How can you miss her?

#### Big Mike Aguirre & the Blue City All-Stars Sunday, 1:15 p.m.

Mike makes sure somewhere along the set you know he's from the East Side — the place where

Albert King lived, where Ike Turner got going, where things have changed rather disastrously over the years. Beginning at age 19, he learned from the likes of Boo Boo Davis, David Dee and Big George Brock—the Delta-style slashers who know a thing or two about East St. Louis music. Lately, he's been playing with former Fabulous Thunderbird, Preston Hubbard, doing what he likes to call "the reckless blues." Be sure to wear your hats for this

#### Rich McDonough & Rough Grooves Sunday, 2:30 p.m.

It seems like every time you turn around in St. Louis lately, there he is, the giant man, Rich McDonough. McDonough has long been recognized in the top echelon of St. Louis blues guitarists. After a varied career on and off the road, he seems to have settled in with this bunch, playing downtown with Eric McSpadden and Sharon Foehner, his two vocalists, and drummer, young Derek Bonn. The veteran band has melded over the last two years with more variety and more energy than ever before.

#### MEMORIAL WEEKEND SUNDAY. MAY 26, 2013

#### Leroy Jodie Pierson Sunday, noon

Pierson's regular gig at BB's on Friday night is one of the true delights in town; he is sure to come up with something that sounds like something you've never heard; but which turns out to be a forgotten classic, or maybe a Pierson original you've missed along the way. Pierson has done it all — collected records, produced records, recorded records, written about records, but best of all is when sings live. Using a style entirely his own, he's right out of the Delta right into the heart of the city. He even sometimes plays Mississippi Fred McDowell's treasured guitar.





# ST LOUIS. MEMORIAL WEEKEND SUNDAY. MAY 26, 2013

#### SilverCloud Sunday, 4 p.m.

The words "rare treat" are overused, but here they mean something. Rudy Coleman's musical enthusiasm goes all the way back to the Club Riviera in 1947 when he got excited at a Memphis Slim show and decided he wanted to play the piano. He started out strong as Rudy Coleman and the Rhythm Rockers, but stopped playing until the late 70s when he lost his job at the GM plant on the north side. Coming back as SilverCloud, he has played with Leroy Pierson, Rod Piazza, Henry Townsend and multi-more. Now in semi-retirement, Bluesweek has brought him out to play his much loved piano again.

## Tribute to Fontella Bass featuring Marsha Evans and The Coalition Sunday, 5 p.m.

After Fontella Bass died late last year, Marsha Evans, her friend and protégé, did a version of "Rescue Me" at the memorial service that must have channeled the spirit of the great St. Louis singer. This will be an extension of that performance, and there is plenty of material for Evans to choose from. Most of the Bass repertoire, sadly, is never performed anymore — and she never did play enough in St. Louis anyway. Here is a chance to make some amends — and holler some amens — to two truly great singers.

#### Scottie Miller Band Sunday, 6:30 p.m.

"Bones" Miller started out in Minneapolis but has picked up the style of the other end of the Mississippi River, that place called New Orleans. His brand of funk piano does indeed owe a lot to Dr. John, but it also has a pinch of rock that gives it a kick. He's made seven CDs, including "Rise Up" in 2012, recorded with a new band. He's done a few shows in here but isn't as familiar with the mid-river crowd as someone who knows how to play a keyboard St. Louis style should be, rolling in the old barrel. A good night on the big stage could go a long way toward a remedy for that.

#### Mud Morganfield Sunday, 8 p.m.

Muddy Water's son was born Larry Williams but changed to Mud Morganfield to get closer to his father's real of name of McKinley Morganfield. Mud didn't start his career until after his father died and hasn't sold very many records, which is probably the result of buyer fear that the son is ripping off the father. The records are solid however and Mud has a played a lot of live gigs this year in Europe where the reviews have been very good. There are lots of people out there trying to imitate Muddy Waters, but we shouldn't hold it against his son for succeeding.



Big George Brock Sunday, 9:30 p.m.

Big George must have found the fountain of youth behind his house in North St. Louis over near where the Sportsman's Park once stood. He's been playing a lot, both here and in Clarksdale, and he gets better as he gets older. Maybe it's because he didn't sing much in the earlier stages of his long, long life. He has a few mobility problems, but he can rouse a crowd with the best of them. He looks amazing, his hats seem to get bigger and his suits flashier with every performance. George is the real deal, still straight from the cotton fields of Mississippi, only now he's all dressed up and having a natural ball.

# WCRKSHCPS

SOLDIER'S MEMORIAL MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MAY 25-26, 2013



#### SATURDAY

#### **GUITAR WORKSHOP**

#### TOM MALONEY, BRIAN CURRAN & BILLY BARNETT 1-2:15 p.m.

Tom Maloney has performed in St. Louis with such musicians as Johnnie Johnson, Bennie Smith, The Soulard Blues Band and The St. Louis Social Club. Tom plays a wide range of music on the electric guitar and teaches at Music Folk.

Brian Curran has been performing his unique finger style guitar for 20 years around St. Louis. He will focus on some of the basics of finger picking in acoustic style music and slide, but because he teaches so much, can be helpful in any style.

Billy Barnett is another of St. Louis' top working musicians and also teaches at Gravity Strings. Billy performs a wide range of blues, jazz and rock'n'roll and will be able to help with all levels of guitar players.

#### BLUES HISTORY WITH FRUTELAND JACKSON 2:45-4 p.m.

Fruteland Jackson is an author, storyteller and oral historian. Creator of the award winning "All About The Blues" series Blues In The Schools program, Fruteland is a three time Blues Music Award Nominee and a recipient of the Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive award.

Fruteland has taken his extensive knowledge of Blues history to schools, colleges and universities across the US. He has received awards and acclaim across the country for his research, innovation, curriculum and presentation of the history about the people and music that make up the blues.

#### HARMONICA WORKSHOP ROD PIAZZA & SANDY WELTMAN 4:30-5:30 p.m.

This year's harmonica workshop will feature local virtuoso Sandy Weltman and internationally acclaimed Rod Piazza. Between the two of these outstanding harmonica players, folks of any talent range can come get some helpful hints and techniques.

Sandy Weltman is most at home in the jazz realm, but equally skilled in blues, Celtic, Klezmer, Latin and much more. He has gained international recognition in the World Harmonica Competitions. Sandy currently performs his unique style of harmonica jazz around the St. Louis area.

From Rod Piazza's first recordings as a leader in 1967 fronting The Dirty Blues Band, through his multiple W.C. Handy Award winning with his current band The Mighty Flyers, to his countless appearances both live and on record with legendary blues figures. Piazza has set a standard for harmonica virtuosity that has established him as one of the most influential living blues harp players.

#### SWING DANCE LESSONS WITH THE SIDEMEN 6-7:15 p.m.

This workshop will offer the opportunity to learn how to swing dance with St. Louis Lindy Hopers.

The Sidemen include Jon Ferber on guitar, Rich Tralles on upright bass, John Marshal on drums, Carl Pandolfi on piano, and Eric Seger on tenor/clarinet. The Sidemen perform traditional jazz, boogie woogie, swing, jump and be bop.

#### FRUTELAND JACKSON & ERIC MCSPADDEN 7:45-9 p.m. performance

Fruteland Jackson plays guitar with a focus on pre-war and post-war blues ranging from Robert Johnson, Big Bill Broonzy to Etta Baker. His study includes ragtime, piedmont, delta, and other styles. He also plays mandolin, lap steel and the bowed psaltery. Fruteland has a style that puts people at ease with his presentation of music and humor.

St. Louis harmonica player, Eric McSpadden is a St. Louis legend. He has performed with just about every talented blues act in St. Louis and currently performs with Rough Grooves. He will provide a unique St. Louis sound to go along with Fruteland's music.

#### SUNDAY

#### ST. LOUIS BLUES SOCIETY MEET & GREET 1-2 p.m.

The St. Louis Blues Society is dedicated to preserving and perpetuating Blues music in and from St. Louis, while fostering its growth and appreciation. Currently the St. Louis Blues Society is making great strides to become a better organization. They distribute a monthly Bluesletter with information about St. Louis blues, host a monthly BlueSunday event at The Great Grizzly Bear and are working on the International Blues Challenge. There will be several members of the Blues Society on hand to explain what the organization is doing, what help they need, how to become a member and to answer any questions you might have.

#### INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE (IBC) MUSICIANS' WORKSHOP

2:15-3 p.m.

The IBC one of the nation's biggest and most respected showcases for blues musicians ready to take their act to the national stage. The 30th annual event will be held in Memphis TN January 21 to 25, 2014.

The St. Louis Blues Society is holding a local competition to send a band and a solo/duo act to compete and represent St. Louis at the IBC. This workshop will be hosted by members of the Blues Society and several musicians who have competed in the past. Information about eligibility, guidelines and rules for application will all be provided along with time for questions and answers

NOTE: The St. Louis Blues Society will waive the \$20 challenge application fee for artists that attend this workshop.

#### MUSIC INDUSTRY WORKSHOP WITH BOB BAKER 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Bob offers music marketing tips and self promotion ideas for independent songwriters, musicians and bands on his website, *The Buzz Factor*:

He has been a panelist at SXSW and the Nashville New Music Conference. He's been featured in Music Connection, VIBE, American Songwriter, Canadian Musician and Electronic Musician magazines, among others.

Over the years Bob has self-published a number of how-to titles, including his bestselling book *Guerrilla Music Marketing Handbook* which made an appearance in the major motion picture "The School of Rock" starring Jack Black.

#### JOE PASTOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE 5:15-6:30 p.m. performance

The Joe Pastor Percussion Ensemble will feature a variety of percussive jazz with the help of several students from local music programs.

#### BABY BLUES SHOWCASE

#### RUM DRUM RAMBLERS, PAUL NIEHAUS & AARON GRIFFIN 7-9 p.m. performance

The Baby Blues Showcase has been an annual event at BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups on Thanksgiving weekend for 11 years. This "mini" Baby Blues showcase will feature artists under the age of 30 from past events.

The Rum Drum Ramblers are a hard-working, self-made band and though they are young, the songs they write could easily be mistaken for a blues standard that was spinning on shellac seventy years ago.

Paul Niehaus is a highly versatile player who strives to play "in the moment." A multi-instrumentalist, he enjoys guitar, bass, drums, singing, and more. He has played nationally with such artists as Matt Hill, Marquise Knox, and Rockin' Jake. Paul believes in learning through direct experience and looks forward to learning and growing as an artist for many years to come.

Aaron Griffin has grown up around the St. Louis blues community as his father, Larry, is a veteran of several of St. Louis' most famous blues bands. His deep appreciation and understanding of the music shows in his own take on the tradition—sounding older than his 17 years— on his debut CD, "Mojo Rising." With influences ranging from Magic Sam and Freddie King to Albert King and St. Louis' own Arthur Williams, he is a clearly a young blues man in the making.

#### Big George Brock

Lav These Blues On Me self-release, 2013

By Hound Dog Brown

When I put this CD in the player, and heard the first twelve bars of the first track, my eyes popped wide open, and I said out loud, "Now that's how a recording of Big George should sound." And, I told myself the same thing repeatedly through it to the last track.

It's likely that readers of the BluesLetter are already acquainted with Big George Brock, and I won't give a biography here. Suffice it to say Big George is an octogenarian Mississippi born and bred grand master of blues vocals and harmonica who has never veered from blues tradition through his many decades of craftsmanship in the St. Louis area and beyond.

Big George is revered in this community. He and his band, The New House Rockers, and his vocal partner Clarine Wagner, regularly grace stages large and small in the St. Louis area. His vocal and harmonica talents ring like church bells to the congregation in the recordings on this disc.

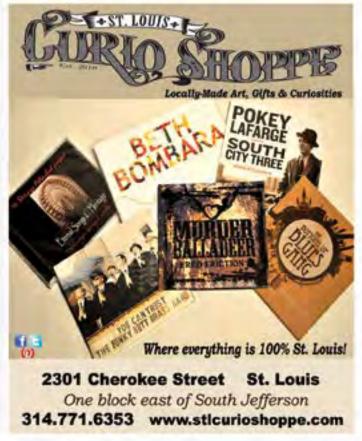
Backing up Big George on guitars are the talented Harris brothers, Sean and Jason, who for several years have been providing the tough canvas underneath George's harmonica and vocal roundhouses. Completing the band's rhythm section are two musicians who keep rock steady time for George's heavyweight blues footwork, Marty Spikener on drums and Larry Gassel on bass.

We expect George to advocate Chicago and Delta blues tradition whether in a live performance or on record. On this record, there are four covers of songs made famous by Muddy Waters, with one from the Howlin' Wolf list, and one each made famous by B.B. King, Jimmy Reed, and Little Walter. There are also four Big George lyrical originals, two of which are "What Is That He Got," and "I'm 80 Years Old (I'm Worried About It)."

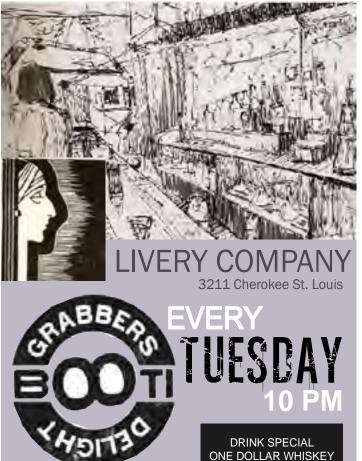
Twelve of the thirteen cuts are studio recorded, and the mixing and mastering bring a listening experience that shouts, "This is exactly how George should sound on record." On the thirteenth cut, "Burden Down," a live recording, Clarine Wagner joins George for a vocal duet, which is a regular feature in their live shows. This classic Gospel number was the first song George learned to play on harmonica as a twelve year old growing up in Mississippi.

Marty Spikener and Sean Harris shared with me that the bulk of these cuts were made in one three-hour session in Dave Torretta's recording studio, mostly in one take. This comes as no surprise, as George and his crew know their drill very well, and George neither wants nor needs any fancy studio tricks or fluff. All they need is a clear and to-the-point recording setup that will capture what they already know and do well. That's what comes out of the speakers when this disc is played, and I consider it radio-ready material. © Hound Dog Brown 2013 all rights reserved











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Musicians! If you would like to add your contact information to this listing contact Jeremy Segel-Moss at jsegelmoss@stlouisbluessociety.org

#### the St. Louis Blues Society

Visit our website www.stlouisbluessociety.org





June 30

July 28

August 25

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