

# Tuesday Night Blues 2015

Owen Park, Eau Claire

All shows begin at 6:30

In case of inclement weather, Tuesday Night Blues is held at the House of Rock, 422 Water Street.

\*August 4 will be held at Phoenix Park.

**May 26 Armadillo Jump**

ArmadilloJump.com

**June 2 Code Blue w/ Catya & Sue**

Catya.net

**June 9 Tommy Bentz Band**

TommyBentz.com

**June 16 Mojo**

MojoLemon.com

**June 23 Annie Mack**

AnnieMackBlues.com

**June 30 The Swamp Kings**

TheSwampKings.com

**July 7 The Dave Rogers Band**

DavesGuitar.com

**July 14 Charlie Parr**

CharlieParr.com

**July 21 Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max**

HowardLuedtke.com

**July 28 The Kingsnakes**

facebook.com/KingsnakesEC

**August 4 Sparky & Friends**

facebook.com/SparkyAndTheWipers

**August 11 Deep Water Reunion**

Search Facebook for Deep Water Reunion

**August 18 The Whyte/Orfield Band**

WhyteOrfieldBand.com

**August 25 Nick Foytik Band**

facebook.com/NickFoytik

**Sept. 1 Left Wing Bourbon**

LeftWingBourbon.com

Their version of Tom Waits' "Way Down in the Hole" became the theme song for the first year of the acclaimed HBO series The Wire.

They achieved another Grammy with 2002's Higher Ground, which included songs written by Prince, Stevie Wonder, Curtis Mayfield and Ben Harper.

That same year, were inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. They also won a Dove Award from the Gospel Music Association for Best Traditional Gospel Album.

A testament to Blind Boys of Alabama's transition to a high-profile mainstream act is the many television appearances they have made over the past decade. Blind Boys of Alabama reached a much broader audience by appearing on 60 Minutes II, Late Night with David Letterman, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, The Today Show, CBS Saturday Morning and Austin City Limits. They performed live on The Colbert Report in November 2013.

The awards are that The Blind Boys of Alabama have earned are too numerous to include in the little bit of space we have, and the musicians they have collaborated with would require a list so long we would have to add an insert to the Bluesletter. We are fortunate here in the Chippewa Valley to have the opportunity to catch them this summer at the inaugural Eau Claire Festival this July. -

Mostly taken from Wikipedia

# Tuesday Night Bluesletter

June 9, 2015 at Owen Park

## Tommy Bentz Band



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## A Little About the Blues

Blind Boys of Alabama are a five-time Grammy Award winning gospel group from Alabama. They first sang together in 1944. Since then, the group's output has spanned seven decades of tours and appearances, and produced a successful discography.

The performing core of the group consists of eight musicians, including four blind singers, original founding member Jimmy Carter, Ben Moore, Eric "Ricky" McKinnie, and Paul Beasley, the guitarist and musical director, Joey Williams, and a keyboard player, a bass player, and a drummer. One of the surviving founding members of the group, Clarence Fountain, is unable to tour with the band due to health concerns.

Since their formation, Blind Boys of Alabama have made it their self-proclaimed goal to "spiritually uplift audiences". The gospel group has been a source of inspiration for those with disabilities. "Our disability doesn't have to be a handicap. It's not about what you can't do. It's about what you do. And what we do is sing good gospel music." (Ricky McKinnie)

Blind Boys of Alabama first sang together in the glee club in 1944 at the Alabama Institute for the Blind in Talladega, Alabama. Aged around nine-years-old at the time, the founding members were Clarence Fountain, Jimmy Carter, Johnny Fields, George Scott, Velma Bozman Traylor, Olice Thomas, and J.T. Hutton (the only sighted member). The earliest version of the group was known as The Happy Land Jubilee Singers and originally performed for World War II-era soldiers at training camps in the South. The group's first professional performance was June 10, 1944. In 1945, the members began touring the gospel circuit.

In 1948, Blind Boys of Alabama recorded their first single, "I Can See Everybody's Mother But Mine". It was a hit and led to a series of recordings on various record labels.

The 1950s were an important decade for black gospel music and Blind Boys of Alabama were among the more prominent groups. Artists across various musical genres like pop and rock began to pull inspiration from black gospel music.

During the 1960s and 1970s, soul music gained popularity at the expense of gospel music. Even though societal trends were shifting, Blind Boys of Alabama continued to be active in the 1960s and 1970s. Over the span of these two decades, the gospel group released thirteen more albums and worked with several different record labels. The band also joined the civil rights movement during the 1960s, performing at benefits for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

They increased their fan base with their Grammy-nominated 1992 album Deep River. Blind Boys of Alabama continued experimenting with contemporary popular music with the 1995 live album I Brought Him With Me and the 1997 funk-leaning Holding On.

At the turn of the 21st century, Spirit of the Century was a critically acclaimed blend of gospel, blues, soul and folk. It won the 2001 Grammy award for Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album. Dan Rather told their story through an interview with the remaining founding members.

(continued on back)

Growing up in a small Wisconsin town isn't always limiting as it sounds. An eclectic musician, Bentz totes history with the violin, oboe, saxophone, guitar, and bass. Putting all of this musical knowledge together to start a band for the first time in high school, Bentz's love of music would give him the flexibility to perform in rock, classical, jazz, blues, bluegrass and newgrass bands. When asked for his resume, Bentz's list goes on...

His sound gives credence to this fact: the many faces and different genres of music have allowed him to create his own sound: one that blends ideals from many flavors of music into one (kind of like at the ice cream store he managed as a teen). The distinct movement, layering, and syncopation of his style, though intense, is immediately accessible to the listener. Some may say that Tommy Bentz's greatest asset is his confident and mature electric slide guitar style, yet others will argue that his insightful lyrics and adept layering of sound are what keep them coming back to hear him play again and again. Regardless, with three full length albums under his belt - each of them a landmark of musical growth in a coming of age fashion, Tommy Bentz represents a man with spirit, drive, thoughtful journeys, and musical ability that so many musicians strive to achieve.

While reading his lyrics, one gets a snapshot of Bentz's ideals - from the strength he derives from family relationships, to the all-important issue of respect in this changing world. We read and are left with an impression of a man who learns from where he's been, uses the knowledge and presses forward into the unknown with purpose. If lyrics alone drove Bentz's work, he'd have a great product, but no one can discount the musicians technical prowess or his warm timbre and soulful vocals. There's a distinct blend of southern jam style rock and acoustic singer-songwriter flair, with his rounded sound being completed by remnants of his experience in jazz and classical performance.

An ever-ambitious entrepreneur, Tommy owns and operates Brickhouse Music and is married to Broadway performer, Jen Burleigh Bentz and they keep a happy home in River Falls, Wisconsin.

### Tommy Bentz Band Upcoming Schedule

June 19 Shooters Pub, River Falls  
July 3 Shell Lake Street Dance, Shell Lake  
July 30 Vino in the Valley, Maiden Rock  
July 31 Tally's Dockside, White Bear Lake, MN  
August 20 Vino in the Valley, Maiden Rock  
August 21 Manitou Station, White Bear Lake, MN

TommyBentz.com

### Next Week (June 16) Mojo

'Mojo' Terry DeMars and Will Chopper, longtime members of Mojo Lemon, join forces with Dave Schrader & Mike Schlenker and invite you to grab yourself a cold drink and a chair, position yourself on the edge and hold on tight. Featured in fine establishments and questionable joints everywhere, the "new" MOJO will blues-rock your world.

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Hello fellow Blues Aficionado! We are looking forward to another exciting Tuesday Night Blues season this summer! The Chippewa Valley Blues Society has lots of opportunities for you to help out!

Chippewa Valley Blues Society Membership

The CVBS depends on active members to make this a great organization! There are lots of ways that you can help promote the Blues in the Chippewa Valley!

- Receive notification and invitation to all upcoming CVBS meetings. Come and make your voice heard! As a current member you will have full voting privileges on society decisions.
- Volunteer opportunities abound! Help out with membership drives and VIP membership program, volunteer to help at Tuesday Night Blues, hang posters and place literature at local businesses, recruit sponsors, be a sponsor!!

Visit us at the Membership tent on Tuesday night to become a CVBS member or renew your membership. It's only \$10 a year for membership... \$15 for a family.

Memberships expire a year from renewal. Come be an active part of a great group of Chippewa Valley residents that love the Blues!

Your Blues Society depends on YOU! We hope to see you very soon.



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**The Blues Foundation**

Learn more about the Blues Hall of Fame, Blues Music Awards, International Blues Challenge and more. Visit [blues.org](http://blues.org)

# BLUES ON THE CHIPPEWA

♪ **FEATURING** ♪

**Shaun Murphy**  
**Lamont Cranston**  
**Blue Rooster**  
**Charles Walker Band**  
**The Claudettes**  
**Code Blue w/ Catya & Sue**  
**Don Scott**  
**Jimmi & the Band of Souls**  
**Eric Gales**

**Papa John Kolstad**  
**Left Wing Bourbon**  
**Mojo**  
**Nick Foytik Band**  
**Rachelle Coba**  
**Tommy Bentz**  
**Josh Hoyer & the Shadowboxers**

Held in Memorial Park, Durand. FREE ADMISSION! Fun run, craft fair, motorcycle show & more Concessions on site. All ages welcome. No pets allowed in Memorial Park per city ordinance. Held to benefit the Pepin County Food Pantry and Brent Titus Music for Children program.

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

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VISIT [CHIPPEWAVALLEYBLUES.COM](http://CHIPPEWAVALLEYBLUES.COM), THE ONLINE HOME FOR BLUES IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY. CONNECT WITH OTHER BLUES ORGANIZATIONS, CHECK OUT FESTIVALS, LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION, SEE WHO'S PLAYING IN THE AREA AND MORE.