

# Tuesday Night Blues 2016

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 2 will be held at Phoenix Park.

- May 31 Nick Foytik Band**  
NickFoytik.com
- June 7 Tommy Bentz Band**  
TommyBentz.com
- June 14 The Lucky Losers**  
TheLuckyLosers.com
- June 21 Code Blue w/ Catya & Sue**  
Catya.net
- June 28 Joyann Parker and Sweet Tea**  
JoyannParker.com
- July 5 Mojo**  
Mojolemon.com
- July 12 Left Wing Bourbon**  
LeftWingBourbon.com
- July 19 Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max**  
HowardLuedtke.com
- July 26 Charlie Parr**  
CharlieParr.com
- August 2 Crooked Dice**  
CrookedDice.org
- August 9 Rockin' Johnny Burgin**  
RockinJohnnyBand.com
- August 16 The Blues of the Grateful Dead**  
facebook.com/RhythmPosse
- August 23 Armadillo Jump**  
ArmadilloJump.com
- August 30 Sue Orfield Band**  
SueOrfieldBand.com

brought him back into the studio. Atlantic Records took an interest in McTell and cut 15 songs with him in Atlanta during 1949. The one single released from these sessions, however, didn't sell, and most of those recordings remained unheard for more than 20 years after they were made. McTell kept playing for anyone who would listen, but the bitter realities of life had finally overtaken him, he began drinking on a regular basis. He was rediscovered in 1956, just in time to get one more historic session down on tape. He left music soon after, to become a pastor of a local church, and he died of a brain hemorrhage in 1959, his passing so unnoticed at the time that certain reissues in the '70s referred to McTell as still being alive in the '60s.

Blind Willie McTell was one of the giants of the blues, as a guitarist and as a singer and recording artist. Hardly any of his work as passed down to us on record is less than first-rate, and this makes most any collection of his music worthwhile. A studious and highly skilled musician whose skills transcended the blues, he was equally adept at ragtime, spirituals, story-songs, hillbilly numbers, and popular tunes, excelling in all of these genres. He could read and write music in braille, which gave him an edge on many of his sighted contemporaries, and was also a brilliant improviser on the guitar, as is evident from his records. McTell always gave an excellent account of himself, even in his final years of performing and recording.

From Bruce Eder's biography at Allmusic.com

# Tuesday Night Bluesletter

June 28, 2016 at Owen Park

## Joyann Parker & Sweet Tea



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## A Little About the Blues

Willie Samuel McTell was one of the blues' greatest guitarists, and also one of the finest singers ever to work in blues. A major figure with a local following in Atlanta from the 1920s onward, he recorded dozens of sides throughout the '30s under a multitude of names -- all the better to juggle "exclusive" relationships with many different record labels at once -- including Blind Willie, Blind Sammie, Hot Shot Willie, and Georgia Bill, as a backup musician to Ruth Mary Willis. And those may not have been all of his pseudonyms -- we don't even know what he chose to call himself, although "Blind Willie" was his preferred choice among friends. Much of what we do know about him was learned only years after his death. His family name was, so far as we know, McTier or McTear, and the origins of the "McTell" name are unclear. What is clear is that he was born into a family filled with musicians -- his mother and his father both played guitar, as did one of his uncles, and he was also related to Georgia Tom Dorsey aka the Rev. Thomas Dorsey.

McTell was born in Thomson, Georgia, and raised near Statesboro. Probably born blind, his blindness never became a major impediment, and it was said that his sense of hearing and touch were extraordinary. His first instruments were the harmonica and the accordion, but as soon as he was big enough he took up the guitar. He played a standard six-string acoustic until the beginning of his recording career, when he used a 12-string in the studio almost exclusively. McTell's technique on the 12-string instrument was unique. Unlike every other bluesman, he relied not on it not as a rhythm instrument, but displayed a nimble, elegant slide and finger-picking style that made it sound like more than one guitar at any given moment.

McTell's recording career began in late 1927 with two sessions for Victor records, eight sides including "Statesboro Blues." McTell's earliest sides were superb examples of storytelling in music, coupled with dazzling guitar work. McTell's music showed extraordinary power, and all of it displaying astonishingly rich guitar work.

McTell worked under a variety of names, with a multitude of partners, including his one-time wife Ruthy Kate Williams (under the name Ruby Glaze). He recorded under different names simultaneously, and was even signed to Columbia and Okeh Records at the same time, under two names. His recording career never gave McTell the success he had hoped, partly due to the fact that some of his best work appeared during the depths of the Depression. He was uniquely popular in Atlanta, where he continued to live and work and was the only blues guitarist of any note from the city to remain active in the city until well after World War II.

McTell was well-known enough that Library of Congress archivist John Lomax felt compelled to record him in 1940, although during the war his recording career came to a halt. After World War II

(continued on back)

Joyann Parker & Sweet Tea has been a must-see addition to the Twin Cities' music scene since May of 2013 and is the 2015 winner of the International Blues Challenge for the state of Minnesota and will be heading to Memphis in January 2016.

Singer, pianist, guitarist and songwriter Joyann Parker is an exciting new voice on the contemporary blues music scene and is frequently associated with descriptors like passion, power and genuine soul. She sings from the gut with an authenticity seldom found in today's vocalists. Her vocal prowess and control allow her to move freely from one genre to another, from Patsy Cline to Etta James and right over to Janis Joplin with the greatest of ease.

The rest of the Sweet Tea mix includes drummer Nick Zwack (Michael James & The Headliners, Armadillo Jump), guitarist Mark Lamoine (Dee Miller Band, Perfectly Loud), Mick Zampogna (Sweet Pea and the Pods) on keys and Michael Carvale (Lamont Cranston, Davina & The Vagabonds) on bass/vocals. Combined, these five Twin Cities' legends make a concoction of passion, experience and talent that you will not want to miss.



### Joyann Parker & Sweet Tea Upcoming Schedule

- July 9 Hambone Music Festival, Rochester, MN
- July 16 Flatted Fifth BBQ & Blues, Bellevue, IA
- July 27 Tally's Dockside, White Bear Lake, MN
- August 4 St Paul Saints Game, St Paul, MN
- August 6 Brookside Bar & Grill, St. Croix, MN

JoyannParker.com

### Next Week (July 5) 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! Welcome to the 8th season of Tuesday Night Blues at beautiful Owen Park! It's going to be a great season! Thank you all for coming out to support The Blues in the Chippewa Valley.

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 upcoming CVBS meetings. Come and make your voice heard! As a current member you will be able to vote for electing the executive officers at the annual meeting. The CVBS annual meeting will be coming up soon! Look for more info to come!

- Volunteer opportunities abound! Help out with membership drives and VIP membership program, participate in committees, volunteer to help at Tuesday Night Blues, hang posters and place literature at local businesses, recruit sponsors, be a sponsor!!

Visit us at the Chippewa Valley Blues Society tent on Tuesday night to become a 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!



Teddy

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

# August 5-7

## BLUES ON THE CHIPPEWA

Featuring: Left Wing Bourbon ♪ Alex Rossi Band ♪ Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal ♪ Mark Cameron Band ♪ Katy Guillen & the Girls ♪ Dee Miller Band with Jimi 'Primetime' Smith ♪ Ray Fuller & the Blues Rockers ♪ Bobby Messano ♪ The Insight Straight Band ♪ Biscuit Miller & the Mix ♪ Skyla Burrell Band ♪ Chris O'Leary Band ♪ The Jimmys

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