

# Tuesday Night Blues 2017

Owen Park, Eau Claire

Shows begin at 6:30 except July 4

In case of inclement weather, Tuesday Night Blues is held at the Stones Throw, 304 Eau Claire St.

\*August 1 will be held at Phoenix Park.

**May 30 Code Blue w/ Catya & Sue**

Catya.net

**June 6 Charlie Parr**

CharlieParr.com

**June 13 Left Wing Bourbon**

LeftWingBourbon.com

**June 20 SouthFarwell**

facebook.com/SouthFarwell

**June 27 Nick Foytik Band**

NickFoytik.com

**July 4 Red, White & Blues w/ Kingsnakes & the Mark Cameron Band (begins at 5:00)**

facebook.com/KingsnakesEC

MarkCameronMusic.com

**July 11 Deep Water Reunion**

**July 18 Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max**

HowardLuedtke.com

**July 25 Mojo**

**August 1 Tommy Bentz Band**

TommyBentz.com

**August 8 Armadillo Jump**

ArmadilloJump.com

**August 15 The Lucky Losers**

TheLuckyLosers.com

**August 22 Sue Orfield Band**

SueOrfieldBand.com

**August 29 Joyann Parker Band**

JoyannParker.com

One night when James Booker didn't show up, the club's manager insisted Jon get up and play before the paying customers demanded a refund. Jon was ready, willing and able to play his first paying gig in New Orleans – and although he had come to town as a guitarist, this debut was also the first step of his career as a pianist.

Soon Cleary reached the crossroads of either devoting his life to the city's music, or returning to England. Cleary chose New Orleans. Before long he began sideman gigs with the likes of such New Orleans legends as guitarists Snooks Eaglin, and Earl "Trick Bag" King, and singers Johnny Adams, and Jessie Hill.

By 1989, Cleary had recorded his first album of eight. His high-profile performances revealed a level of proficient versatility that led to recording sessions and international touring work – in a wide stylistic range – in the bands of Taj Mahal, John Scofield, Dr. John and, most notably, Bonnie Raitt. As a songwriter, he has written and co-written songs with and for Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal and the decade that he spent working with Raitt inspired her to unabashedly dub Cleary "the ninth wonder of the world."

Jon Cleary left Bonnie Raitt's band in 2009 to concentrate on his own music. 35 years since he arrived in New Orleans, Cleary says, "Funk is the ethnic folk music of New Orleans," Cleary says, "and I wanted to infuse GoGo Juice with a sound that was true to the city I love."

# Tuesday Night Bluesletter

July 4, 2017 at Owen Park

## Red, White & Blues



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## A Little About the Blues

Beyond Jon Cleary's considerable skills as a tunesmith he is renowned as an accomplished keyboardist and guitarist, and a deeply soulful vocalist. Cleary's thirty-five years of intensive hands-on work on the Crescent City scene has made him a respected peer of such New Orleans R&B icons as Dr. John and Allen Toussaint. Toussaint, in fact, took time from his busy schedule to write most of the horn arrangements for GoGo Juice – thus bringing symmetry to Cleary's recording of an entire album of Toussaint songs, entitled Occapella, which garnered rave reviews in 2012.

In addition to the Toussaint touch, GoGo Juice bursts, full flavor, with accompaniment by some of New Orleans' top session men – including guitarist Shane Theriot, fellow keyboardist and vocalist Nigel Hall, and the Dirty Dozen horns – along with members of Cleary's band, the Absolute Monster Gentlemen. From Jelly Roll Morton to Fats Domino to Art Neville, James Booker – Cleary uses that century's worth of pianistic brilliance as a point of departure to forge his own eclectic style. Cleary's sound incorporates such influences as '70s soul, gospel music, funk, Afro-Caribbean rhythms and more. "I love New Orleans R&B," Cleary explains. "I make a point of trying to keep the fast-disappearing tradition of the R&B pianist/singer alive by playing the old songs that are in danger of being forgotten. As for recording, I think the greatest New Orleans R&B records are the ones that built on what went before but also added something new."

Jon Cleary's love and affinity for New Orleans music goes back to the rural British village of Cranbrook, Kent, where he was raised in a musical family. His father was a 50's skiffle man and taught him the rudiments as soon as he was big enough to reach around the neck of his guitar. Cleary became avidly interested in funk-filled music, intently studying labels and album covers in order to glean as much information as possible. Such perusal revealed that three songs he especially loved — LaBelle's "Lady Marmalade," Robert Palmer's version of "Sneakin' Sally Through the Alley" and Frankie Miller's rendition of "Brickyard Blues" – were attributed to Allen Toussaint as either the songwriter, the producer, or both. Cleary's knowledge expanded significantly when his Uncle, musician Johnny Johnson returned from New Orleans in the early 70's and brought back two suitcases of rare and obscure local 45s. This allowed Cleary to pursue his study of R&B, with special attention to the New Orleans sound that captivated him.

As soon as he was old enough to leave school in 1980 Cleary took off for the Crescent City. When his flight touched down a taxi took him straight to the Maple Leaf, a funky Uptown bar which featured New Orleans piano legends Roosevelt Sykes and James Booker. Cleary got a job painting the club, and lived a few doors down, allowing him unlimited access to all the great New Orleans music performed within.

(continued on back)



The mid-90's represented a fruitful time for the blues scene in the Chippewa Valley. One of the most energetic bands of that era was the Kingsnakes. Founded by UW Eau Claire students Ryan Harrington (guitar) Nick Pettis (bass) and Aaron Bray (drums). After numerous unsuccessful tryouts, the group eventually found a diamond in the rough in Adrian Klenz (vocals) and eventually added keyboardist Jason Hedrington. They started making music and after just a few months in existence the band found themselves as a regular fixture (and eventually house band) at Houligans, famous for their three hour, marathon sets.

The group was heavily influenced by Texas Blues, like the Vaughan Brothers, the Memphis sound of BB King and the Kansas City groove ala T-Bone Walker and Albert King. Lyle Lovett and Tom Waits also played a large role. The many influences began to mesh into one, cohesive sound, the Kingsnakes' sound, which can still be heard today. During the band's residency at Houligans, the band began working with horn players regularly and the sound grew even bigger.

The Kingsnakes called Eau Claire home but were often found playing throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. At the height of their popularity, they were playing 150 shows a year. In 2000, The Kingsnakes released their first and only album "Foolin Yourself." The album was received with great fanfare in the Eau Claire music scene. During the initial 6 year run of the Kingsnakes, they opened for national acts like Bobby "Blue," Bland, Howard and the White Boys, and Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson. They were also featured twice on the main stage at First Avenue in Minneapolis.

In 2001, The Kingsnakes took a break. A career move relocated Ryan to Germany in 2006 and the band continued to play at a much lower frequency. Proof that the blues can't be put down, The Kingsnakes decided to begin working on new material in the hopes of recording a new album sometime in the near future.

The Kingsnakes reflect on a time when live music was based on raw talent and not computers. Every member of the band brings a dedication and passion to their instrument. This almost nostalgic feeling is transferred to crowds who frequent the shows to be charmed by the veteran Kingsnakes. The Kingsnakes are back and bringing rockin' blues back to The Chippewa Valley.

### Mark Cameron Upcoming Schedule

- July 8 Hambone Music Festival, Rochester, MN
- July 22 Green Lantern, St Paul, MN

### Mark Cameron Upcoming Schedule

- July 5 Nick Foytik, Adrian & Ryan, Mousetrap, EC
- July 7 House of Rock, Eau Claire

### Next Week (July 11) Deep Water Reunion

David "Big Pipes" Gee and Tommy "SkinTite" Swearingen and their band Deep Water Reunion will host an evening of Chicago Blues. You will long remember the feeling that Deep Water Reunion delivered."....Jon Lovold, Fargo Blues Festival Hospitality Director.

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Hello fellow Blues Aficionado! Welcome to the 9th season of Tuesday Night Blues at beautiful Owen Park! It looks like 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!

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



Minneapolis-based singer, songwriter and guitarist Mark Cameron has been active in live music for over thirty years. He began his performing career in the rich folk-rock scene of the early 1970's and brought this influence into several bands he founded during the 1980's and 1990's. Today, Mark's focus is centered on crafting original Blues songs with strong melodies and memorable lyrics. The range of his material stretches the Blues genre beyond the standard comfort zone with a focus on "foot stompin, butt shakin" music that resonates with a live audience.

A prolific songwriter, Mark released seven studio albums prior to his breakout effort "Playing Rough" in 2016. The album charted as high as number 7 and stayed on the charts for nearly 30 weeks. The Mark Cameron Band is consistently a top finisher in Blues competitions over the past several years and has become a Blues festival favorite thanks to Mark's high-energy performance style and diverse guitar skills.

Known as a charismatic front man and soulful guitarist, Mark engages his audience directly in live performances and delivers his original compositions with a mix of sincerity, honesty and often a touch of humor. He is equally at home on acoustic or electrified instruments and delivers slide guitar via a 1930 National resonator. Mark's vocal range stretches from basement baritone to full-on growl, with lyrics that draw the listener in and paint a picture of the many worlds within the Blues.

Along with Bill Keyes (Harmonica, Vocals), Scott Lundberg (Bass, Vocals), Dan Schroeder (Drums) and Sheri Cameron (Flute, Percussion), the band was a participant in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis this year and just released a CD entitled "Live at Blues on the Chippewa" at last year's event in Durand. They've been getting great reviews including from Reflections in Blue by Bill Wilson: "In the case of the Mark Cameron Band, they play as a single unit...each player doing his part, with no showboating. Artists egos take a back seat. The song is the important factor."

# BLUES ON THE CHIPPEWA

August 4-6, Durand

**Tommy Bentz Band, Left Wing Bourbon, Dave Keller Band, Squishy Mud, Mark Cameron Band, Joyann Parker, Alex Wilson Band, Blue Rooster, Norman Jackson Band, Brian Naughton, Erica Brown, Miss Myra & the Moonshiners, John Nemeth, Rev. Raven & Westside Andy, Armadillo Jump, Jimmy Nick, Three Ferel Cats, Eric Lindell, Harrison Street, Jon Cleary**

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