

Growing up in a small Wisconsin town isn't always as 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 and bluegrass bands. When asked for his resume, Bentz's list goes on.

His unique quality stems from the many faces and different genres of music, which have allowed him to create his own style: sound 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 music 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 musician's technical prowess or his warm timbre and soulful vocals. There's a distinct blend of a "southern jam-style" rock and acoustic singer-songwriter flair, with his well-rounded sound being completed by his experience in jazz and classical performance.

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

Tommy's Upcoming Schedule

- Aug 14 Music in the Park Series, River Falls
- Aug 14 Shooter's Pub, River Falls
- Aug 15 Plum's, St. Paul, MN
- Aug 22 Red Ram Saloon, Alma
- Aug 24 One and One, New York, NY
- Aug 29 Vino in The Valley, Maiden Rock
- Sep 5 Neumann's bar, St. Paul, MN
- Sep 12 The Hat Trick Lounge, St. Paul, MN
- Sep 17 Vino in The Valley, Maiden Rock
- Sep 26 Spirit of St. Croix Days, Hudson

www.tommybentz.com

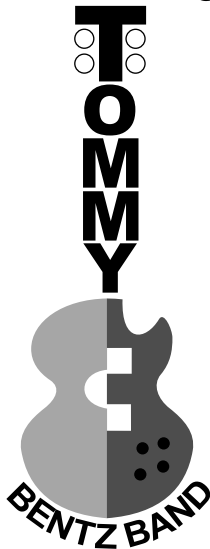
Next Week
Catya's Trio

Catya's Trio performs a mix of original and traditional blues, swing, contemporary acoustic music, and some familiar and some not so familiar stuff. Catya's Trio Features:Singer / songwriter / guitarist, Catya; Tenor saxophonist, Sue Orfield; Randy Sinz on bass.

www.catya.net

The Chippewa Valley Blues Society presents
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on the River
at Owen Park*

August 4, 2009 and Every Tuesday



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The Weekly Bluesletter

A Little About the Blues

Otis Spann was born in Jackson, Mississippi, on March 21, 1930 and passed on in Chicago's Cook County Hospital on April 24, 1970. By age 14, Spann was playing gigs around Jackson at juke joints, taverns and clubs. When his mother died in 1947, Spann was sent north to stay with relatives in Chicago, where he finally met his idol and stylistic mentor, Big Maceo Merriweather, who accepted the young man as his prodigy. When Otis Spann replaced Merriweather as a member of Muddy Waters group in 1952, the band took on a new, piano-driven, Blues sound. Spann made his recording with the Muddy Waters Band on September 24, 1953.

For eleven years from 1952 onwards Otis Spann played in numerous Muddy Waters recording sessions. He recorded with artists like Bo Diddley, Sonny Boy Williamson, Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Rogers and Little Walter. He released one single in 1954, 'It Must Have Been the Devil', with BB King on guitar, cut a few tracks that were shelved until the 90s, and remained a Chess sideman. His big break came after the Muddy Waters Live at Newport LP from 1960, where his stunning boogies and one lead vocal track by him showed his potential as a recording artist. It was also in 1960 that he recorded his first full-length LP, 'Otis Spann is the Blues', with Robert Jr. Lockwood on guitar, for Candid Records. Before he died in 1970, Otis Spann had time to record other fine records for Storyville, Decca, Prestige (The Blues Never Die!, w/ James Cotton), Testament, Vanguard. He also recorded with the early Fleetwood Mac (Peter Green, Mick Fleetwood and John McVie) - the resulting album, 'The Biggest Thing Since Colossus' proved to be Spann's last significant work.

Just as Spann's superb and singular talent was being recognized as worthy of far more than sideman status, his health started to fail. A measure of recognition and respect in which Spann is held took place at a ceremony held at the 1972 Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Festival, when Muddy Waters presented Spann's widow, Lucille, with a plaque which read: 'The people of Ann Arbor Michigan in recognition of the talent, the genius of the late Otis Spann, sweet giant of the Blues, formally dedicate the Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Festival, 1972 in the grounds upon which it stands to the memory of this great artist.' That September the performance area where the plaque was placed became known as The Otis Spann Memorial Field and remained so for the ensuing years of the festival. Probably best remembered for the much needed subtle and complementary support he provided for Muddy Waters music, both on stage and in the recording studio. Otis Spann was inducted into the Blues Foundation's Hall of Fame in 1980.

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THE MOUSETRAP

Tuesday Night Blues 2009

All shows begin at 6:30

May 26 Howard "Guitar" Luedtke & Blue Max
 howardluedtke.com
 myspace.com/howardluedtke

June 2 Mojo Lemon
 www.mojolemon.com
 myspace.com/mojolemonbluesband

June 9 Sue Orfield Band
 www.sueorfield.com

June 16 The Blues Dogs

June 23 The Pumps
 www.thepumpsband.com
 myspace.com/thepumpsband

June 30 Young Blues Night

July 7 Left Wing Bourbon
 myspace.com/leftwingbourbon

July 14 Lucy Creek
 www.lucycreek.net

July 21 Deep Water Reunion
 www.myspace.com/dwreunion

July 28 The Love Buzzards
 www.lovebuzzards.com
 www.myspace.com/lovebuzzardsbluesband

Aug 4 The Tommy Bentz Band
 myspace.com/tommybentzband

Aug 11 Catya's Trio
 www.catya.net

Aug 18 Ellen Whyte
 www.ellenwhyte.com

Aug 25 The Jones Tones
 www.amblues.com

Sept 1 Mojo Lemon



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About the Series

The event you're attending this evening was the brainstorm of several Blues Society members during the non-stop drizzle at Coalition Blues 2008. What was originally intended to be a once a month get-together quickly evolved to a weekly community event and will hopefully flourish and continue for years to come. What we hope to accomplish throughout the summer is to give the people of Eau Claire and the Chippewa Valley somewhere to gather and unwind, while presenting some of the finest blues bands from throughout the area at no charge. So sit back and enjoy the outdoors and the music with your family and friends.

This series is being made possible through the generous donations of the sponsors, whose names are contained within this flyer. If you like what you're hearing and would like to show your appreciation, please do so by giving them your patronage.

The Chippewa Valley is teeming with great live music no matter what your tastes are. Whether you decide to become a member of the Blues Society, pick up one of the CDs offered by the bands, or just sit back and show your appreciation by applauding, your attendance at today's event is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Friends of the Blues

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