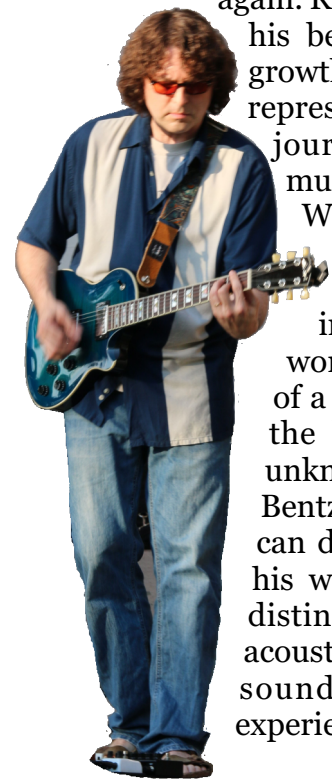


Growing up in a small Wisconsin town isn't always limiting as it sounds. An eclectic musician, Bentz totes history with the violin, oboe, saxophone, guitar, and bass. Putting all of this musical knowledge together to start a band for the first time in high school, Bentz's love of music would give him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

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 four 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.

Tuesday Night Blues 2021

All shows begin at 6:30

- July 6: Stefan Geisinger w/
The Flaming Doublewides
- July 13: Mark Cameron Band
- July 20: Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke
& Blue Max
- July 27: Brian Naughton
- August 3: Sue Orfield Band
- August 10: Mojo Lemon
- August 17: Tommy Bentz Band
- August 24: Dee Miller Band
featuring Craig Clark
- August 31: Joyann Parker

Find out more about the bands and listen to samples at TuesdayNightBlues.com

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VolumeOne
CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY

Tuesday Night Bluesletter

August 17, 2021 at Owen Park
The Tommy Bentz Band



Photo: Gary Eckhart

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(Bonnie Raitt, continued)

By this time, Raitt was also battling drug and alcohol problems as well; she worked on a few tracks with Prince, but their schedules never aligned and the material went unreleased.


Raitt teamed with Don Was and released Nick of Time in 1989. The LP won several Grammys, including Album of the Year, and overnight she was a superstar. Released in 1991, Luck of the Draw was also a smash, yielding the hits "Something to Talk About" and "I Can't Make You Love Me." After 1994's Longing in Their Hearts, Raitt resurfaced in 1998 with Fundamental. Silver Lining appeared in 2002, followed by Souls Alike in 2005, both on Capitol Records. A year later, a bootleg-feel live set, Bonnie Raitt and Friends, was released, featuring guest appearances from Norah Jones and Ben Harper, among others. Raitt stepped back from the life of a professional musician for a few years as she dealt with the passing of her parents, her brother, and her best friend.



The break from recording and touring was redemptive for Raitt in many ways, and she returned focused and renewed in 2012 with her first studio album in seven years, Slipstream, released on her own new Redwing label imprint. The album debuted at number six on the Billboard 200 and would eventually take home the 2013 Grammy Award for Best Americana Album. In February 2016, Raitt issued her 20th studio album, Dig in Deep, again via Redwing. The album included an unusual cover of INXS' "Need You Tonight" as well as a Raitt original, "The Ones We Couldn't Be," dealing with the loss of her parents and brother.

-Jason Ankeny for AllMusic.com

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VOLUNTEER



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If you'd like to help us make these
shows happen, stop at the
membership tent**

**Next Week (August 24, 2021)
Dee Miller Band featuring Craig Clark**

Dee Miller is a Minnesota musician who has a performance pedigree that spans many years on the local and national Blues scene. Dee's "barrelhouse" style of singing has earned her the label "Duchess of the Blues" in the Twin Cities and regionally. Dee was inducted into the Minnesota Blues Hall of Fame as Performer of the Year in 2018.

A Little About the Blues

Long a critics' darling, singer/guitarist, **Bonnie Raitt** did not begin to win the commercial success due her until the release of 1989's Nick of Time; her tenth album, and it rocketed her into the mainstream nearly two decades after she first committed her blend of blues, rock, and R&B to vinyl. Born in Burbank, California, on November 8, 1949, she was the daughter of Broadway star John Raitt, best known for his starring performances in such smashes as Carousel and The Pajama Game, she picked up the guitar at the age of 12 and felt an immediate affinity for the blues.

After picking up the guitar at the age of 12, Raitt felt an immediate affinity for the blues, and although she went off to attend Radcliffe in 1967, within two years she had dropped out to begin playing the Boston folk and blues club circuit. Signing with noted blues manager Dick Waterman, she was soon performing alongside the likes of idols including Howlin' Wolf, Sippie Wallace, and Mississippi Fred McDowell, and in time earned such a strong reputation that she was signed to Warner Bros.

Debuting in 1971 with an eponymously titled effort, Raitt immediately emerged as a critical favorite, applauded not only for her soulful vocals and thoughtful song selection but also for her guitar prowess, turning heads as one of the few women to play slide. Her 1972 follow-up, Give It Up featured material by Jackson Browne and Eric Kaz. 1973's Takin' My Time was much acclaimed. She returned with Streetlights in 1974 and Home Plate a year later. With 1977's Sweet Forgiveness, Raitt scored her first significant pop airplay with her cover of the Del Shannon classic "Runaway." 1979 follow-up The Glow, appeared around the same time as a massive all-star anti-nuclear concert at Madison Square Garden mounted by Musicians United for Safe Energy.

Throughout her career, Raitt remained a committed activist, playing hundreds of benefit concerts and working tirelessly on behalf of the Rhythm and Blues Foundation. By the early '80s, however, her own career was in trouble -- 1982's Green Light, while greeted with the usual good reviews, again failed to break her to a wide audience, and while beginning work on the follow-up, Warner unceremoniously dropped her. (continued)

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