

Ellen Whyte has just released her fourth album, appropriately titled: Four Way Stop, a soaring achievement from an accomplished singer songwriter. Long time Portland, Oregon KINK FM 102 Blues Show radio personality, Bob Ancheta raved that it gave him “goose bumps!”

Ellen has fronted bands continuously now for 30 years, as she has three critically acclaimed albums in addition to the latest effort. She was captivated by music since she was a child growing up in Fort Lauderdale Florida. Leaving the humidity and the taffeta dresses of her accordion marching band behind, Ellen branched out to blue grass, gospel, rock, blues and jazz. Her eclectic tastes in music include heroes such as Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, Joni Mitchell, and Bonnie Raitt.

Ellen is known for her astonishing vocals, as she gracefully moves among genres from blues to jazz to funk and ballads. Her percussive rhythm guitar work is well suited to her voice, and she plays solo, in duos and trios, up to a full nine piece band complete with a horn section. She’s won numerous awards for her work, including consideration for two Grammy Award nominations in 1999.

Speaking of such, Grammy award producer Dennis Walker had this to say after working on the third CD, Standing at the Sunrise: “She not only sings like an angel, but brings her own styling and phrasing to every song that is completely individual. Thank God for Ellen Whyte who is one of the last few who can still sing blues and pop and jazz, and still stand up on a stage and sing big band standards with the best of them.”

Ellen, guitarist Garry Meziere, and her husband John Mullin, have collaborated with veteran musicians—“The ‘A’ List Commandos,” as Ellen likes to refer to them-- to produce a sophisticated, yet accessible sound that synchs up well with thoughtful and emotionally infused lyrics.

In addition to the Northwest, Ellen tours in The Midwest and on the East Coast, and was a featured artist in the International Blues festival in Montreal.



**Ellen's Upcoming Midwest Schedule**

Aug 21st Norton's Red Wing, MN  
Aug 22nd Mabel Tainter Memorial Theatre Menomonie

visit Ellen online:  
[www.ellenwhyte.com](http://www.ellenwhyte.com)



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# The Weekly Bluesletter

## A Little About the Blues

The Wizard of Waukesha, **Les Paul**, whose innovations with the electric guitar and studio technology made him one of the most important figures in recorded music, passed away last Thursday (August 13) at the age of 94. Paul's manager said the cause of his death was respiratory failure, and a statement from Gibson indicates Paul was suffering from severe pneumonia and died at a hospital in White Plains, New York. Guitar legend, studio innovator, 1950s hitmaker, musical impresario. Les Paul was all these things and more. He was the original guitar hero and the kindest of souls.

Born in Waukesha, Wisconsin in 1915, Lester William Polfuss began playing semi-professionally by age 13, soon adopting the stage name of Les Paul. Four years later, he dropped out of high school to become a full-time musician and never looked back. He was a guitar and electronics mastermind whose creations, such as multitrack recording, tape delay and the solid-body guitar that bears his name, the Gibson Les Paul, helped give rise to modern popular music, including rock 'n' roll. No slouch on the guitar himself, he continued playing at clubs into his 90s despite being hampered by arthritis.

In the 1930s and '40s, he played with the bandleader Fred Waring and several big band singers, including Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and the Andrews Sisters, as well as with his own Les Paul Trio. In the early 1950s, he had a handful of huge hits with his then-wife, Mary Ford, such as "How High the Moon" and "Vaya Con Dios." His guitar style, heavily influenced by jazzman Django Reinhardt, featured lightning-quick runs and double-time rhythms. In 1948, after being involved in a severe car accident, he asked the doctor to set his arm permanently in a guitar-playing position.

Paul never stopped tinkering with electronics, and after Crosby gave him an early audiotape recorder, Paul went to work changing it. It eventually led to multitrack recording; on Paul and Ford's hits, he plays many of the guitar parts, and Ford harmonizes with herself. Multitrack recording is now the industry standard. But Paul will likely be best remembered, however, for his 1939 invention, which he called The Log: a prototype solid-body electric guitar created from a piece of 4" x 4" lumber with a simple pickup, bridge and guitar neck. While instrument manufacturers were initially uninterested, the inventor persisted, insisting that the electric guitar was the future of music. Gibson eventually released a model based on his ideas in the 1950s, and the legendary Gibson Les Paul model guitar was born. If you've ever heard or seen Howard Luedtke or James Solberg play, you've experienced Les Paul's invention.

Despite dealing with advancing age and arthritis, Paul kept playing and performing until the end; his most recently recorded appearance was on Les Paul And Friends: A Tribute To A Legend, a compilation album featuring contributions from artists like Slash and Joe Bonamassa, which was released late last year. He is enshrined in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Grammy Hall of Fame, the Inventors Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame. He's survived by three sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Until recently he had a standing gig at New York's Iridium Jazz Club, where he would play with a who's-who of famed musicians. Hundreds would come each night, hoping to get a seat, where outside, banners and signs still hang, inviting all comers to see the master play.

# 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**

## 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

(Thank you for your donations!)

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