

Tuesday Night Blues 2014

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 5 will be held at Phoenix Park.

May 27 Davey J & the Jones Tones

AMBlues.com

June 3 The Sue Orfield Band

SueOrfield.com

June 10 Sparky & Friends

Featuring Paul Hinz

June 17 Mojo Lemon

Mojolemon.com

June 24 Charlie Parr

CharlieParr.com

July 1 Left Wing Bourbon

LeftWingBourbon.com

July 8 The Dave Rogers Band

DavesGuitar.com

July 15 Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max

HowardLuedtke.com

July 22 The Swamp Kings

theswampkings.com

July 29 The Kingsnakes

facebook.com/KingsnakesEC

August 5 Dave Arcari*

DaveArcari.com

August 12 Code Blue w/ Catya & Sue

Catya.net

August 19 Tommy Bentz

TommyBentz.com

August 26 The Rhythm Posse

facebook.com/RhythmPosse

In 1979, Musselwhite recorded The Harmonica According to Charlie Musselwhite in London for Kicking Mule Records, intended to go with an instructional book; the album itself became so popular that it has been released on CD. In June 2008, Blind Pig Records reissued the album on 180-gram vinyl with new cover art.

In 1990 Musselwhite signed with Alligator Records. In 1998, Musselwhite appeared in the film Blues Brothers 2000. He provided the harmonica position in the super-ensemble The Louisiana Gator Boys, which also featured many other rhythm and blues legends.

His past two albums, Sanctuary and Delta Hardware have both been released on Real World Records.

Musselwhite plays on Tom Waits' 1999 album Mule Variations. He can be heard saying "I love it" at the beginning "Chocolate Jesus. In 2002, he featured on the Bo Diddley tribute album Hey Bo Diddley - A Tribute!, performing the song "Hey Bo Diddley".

Charlie Musselwhite was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2010. The same year, he appeared on the JW-Jones recording "Midnight Memphis Sun" along with Hubert Sumlin.

In 2012, Musselwhite teamed up with Ben Harper to record the album Get Up!, which was released in January of 2013. In January 2014, the album won a Grammy Award for Best Blues Album.

In 2014, he won a Blues Music Award in the 'Best Instrumentalist – Harmonicist' category.
From Wikipedia

Tuesday Night Bluesletter

August 19, 2014 at Owen Park

Tommy Bentz Band



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A Little About the Blues

In 1972 I made a point of catching an act at a Minneapolis blues club called the Silver Dollar on South Lake St. A musician I had recently started following was playing and I didn't want to miss it. I was rewarded with the smoothest blues harp sounds I had heard before or since.

Charlie Musselwhite was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi. He's said he's of Choctaw descent, however, in a 2005 interview, he said his mother had told him he was actually Cherokee. His family considered it normal to play music, his father played guitar and harmonica, his mother piano, and a relative was a one-man band. At three, Musselwhite moved to Memphis. When he was a teenager, Memphis music was combining to give birth to rock and roll. The period featured Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash, as well as lesser known musicians such as Gus Cannon, Furry Lewis, Will Shade, and Johnny Burnette. Musselwhite supported himself by digging ditches, laying concrete and running moonshine in a 1950 Lincoln automobile. This environment was Musselwhite's school for music as well as life.

Musselwhite then took off in search of the rumored "big-paying factory jobs" up the "Hillbilly Highway", the Highway 51 to Chicago, where he continued his education on the South Side, making the acquaintance of even more legends including Lew Soloff, Muddy Waters, Junior Wells, Sonny Boy Williamson, Buddy Guy, Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, and Big Walter Horton. Musselwhite immersed himself completely in the musical life, living in the basement of, and occasionally working at Jazz Record Mart with Big Joe Williams and working as a driver for an exterminator. He spent his time hanging out at the Jazz Record Mart at the corner of State and Grand and the nearby bar, Mr. Joe's, with the city's blues musicians, and sitting in with Big Joe Williams and others in the clubs, playing for tips. There he forged a lifelong friendship with John Lee Hooker; though Hooker lived in Detroit, the two often visited each other, and Hooker served as best man at Musselwhite's third marriage.

In time, Musselwhite led his own blues band, and, after Elektra Records' success with Paul Butterfield, he released the legendary Stand Back! Here Comes Charley Musselwhite's Southside Band album in 1966 on Vanguard Records to immediate and great success. He took advantage of the clout this album gave him to move to San Francisco, where he held court as the king of the blues in the exploding countercultural music scene, an exotic and gritty figure to the flower children. Musselwhite even convinced Hooker to move out to California.

Musselwhite has released over 20 albums, as well as guesting on albums by many other musicians, such as Bonnie Raitt's Longing in Their Hearts and The Blind Boys of Alabama's Spirit of the Century, both winners of Grammy awards. He also appeared on Tom Waits' Mule Variations and INXS' Suicide Blonde. He has won 14 W. C. Handy Awards and six Grammy nominations, Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Monterey Blues Festival and the San Javier Jazz Festival in San Javier, Spain, and the Mississippi Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

(continued on back)

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. When asked for his resume, Bentz's list goes on...

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 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 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.

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

Tommy Bentz Band Upcoming Schedule

- Aug 23 Northern Lights Music Fest., Cross Lake, MN
- Aug 25-28 Famous Daves, MN State Fair
- Aug 29 Music in the Park, Veteran's Park, River Falls
- Sept 1-14 UK Tour
- Sept 19 Harriet Brewing, Minneapolis, MN
- Sept 20 Valhalla Music Fest., Franklin, MN

TommyBentz.com

Next Week (August 26) The Rhythm Posse

The Rhythm Posse has its origins embedded within their Stage Fright shows, where the movie 'The Last Waltz' is recreated every Thanksgiving Night with a diverse group of local musicians. Last year, Levi Felling, Jeremy Holt, Luke Fischer, and Billy Angell chose to take it to a new level by recreating the musical score from the legendary "Blues Brothers." This year, we close the series with a command performance of that show.

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