

Tuesday Night Blues 2011

Owen Park, Eau Claire

All shows begin at 6:30

In case of inclement weather, Tuesday Night Blues be held at the House of Rock, 422 Water Street.

*August 3 will be held at Phoenix Park.

- May 31 Lucas K & the Cool Hand Saints**
Facebook.com/LucasAndTheSaints
- June 7 The Jonestones**
AMBlues.com
- June 14 Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max**
HowardLuedtke.com
- June 21 Left Wing Bourbon**
LeftWingBourbon.yolasite.com
- June 28 Sparky & Friends**
Facebook.com/SparkyAndTheWipers
- July 5 Jayson Collins Group**
MySpace.com/JaysonCollins
- July 12 Code Blue with Catya & Sue**
Catya.net
- July 19 The Steve Meyer Band**
MySpace.com/SteveMeyerAndTheBluesDogs
- July 26 Deep Water Reunion**
MySpace.com/DWReunion
- Aug 2 *Pete Neuman and the Real Deal**
PeteNeuman.com
- Aug 9 The Love Buzzards**
LoveBuzzards.com
- Aug 16 The Sue Orfield Band**
SueOrfield.com
- Aug 23 Ross William Perry**
RossWilliamPerry.com/
- Aug 30 Mojo Lemon**
MojoLemon.com

The Harp Styles of Sonny Terry, in 1975. In 1984 he recorded an album with Johnny Winter for Alligator Records called Whoopin'. McGhee also carried on performing but his schedule became much reduced. Sonny Terry died in 1986 in New York and by this time McGhee had virtually retired. He made a final appearance at the Chicago Blues Festival before his death in Oakland, California in 1996.



Friends of the Blues

(Thank you for your donations)

The Timber Lane Toms, Quigly and Schultz.

If you'd like to sponsor Tuesday Night Blues, just talk to one of the CV Blues members at the park.

VolumeOne
CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY



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Tuesday Night Bluesletter

August 23, 2011 at Owen Park



Naomi Pierre 2007

ROSS William Perry

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TICKETS: \$5.00 Each or 3/\$10.00

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A Little About the Blues

There are some blues artists whose names are inextricably linked and **Sonny Terry** and **Brownie McGhee** are two of those. As a blues duo they were a major influence on the blues and folk music scene playing the Piedmont blues, a style lighter than the rough edged blues from Mississippi.

Sonny Terry was born Saunders Terrell in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1911. He was taught to play harmonica by his father who was a farmer and part time musician, playing folk harmonica. When Terry was five years old he lost his sight in one eye and tragically his second eye was injured at age sixteen, leaving Sonny virtually blind. Music was the only career open to him and he began playing the streets locally and he also travelled around the Carolina's with medicine shows. He eventually met up with Blind Boy Fuller who persuaded him to move to Durham, North Carolina. He began recording with Blind Boy and quickly became an established part of the blues scene in Durham. He performed at the Carnegie Hall in 1938 as part of the 'From Spirituals to Swing' concert, and he recorded in his own right in 1940.

Brownie McGhee was born Walter Brown McGhee in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1915. His family were all very musical and his father was a regular member of several local string bands. He was also influenced by his mother, who was particularly fond of the music of Bessie Smith and Lonnie Johnson. His fathers older brother was also a member of string bands and he gave a young Brownie his first lessons in the blues. Brownie McGhee was barely a teenager when he contracted poliomyelitis and he was confined to bed for many months, the illness leaving him disabled. However he put his time to good use, spending most of his time bed practising the guitar. Fortunately an operation increased his mobility and allowed him to take up music professionally. He played the south east States and when he reached North Carolina he met Blind Boy Fuller and his manager, J.B. Long, and they helped McGhee make his first recordings. He first recorded for Columbia Records in 1940, and when Blind Boy Fuller died in 1941, Brownie McGhee's records were issued under the name Blind Boy Fuller 2.

On his third recording session, for Okeh, Brownie played with Sonny Terry and their long-standing partnership, which would last for over thirty years, was formed. They moved to New York in 1942 where they became an important part of the folk scene there, playing with legends Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and Leadbelly. Eventually McGhee opened his own blues school in Harlem, where he taught blues guitar. Both Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee continued to record solo as well as together and both appeared in theatre productions. The folk boom of the early 1960's increased their popularity them a whole new audience. They recorded extensively for a variety of labels including Folkways and Fantasy and toured extensively in the USA, Canada and Europe, becoming regular top liners at folk festivals and appearing on television.

Their partnership finally ended, reportedly acrimoniously, in the mid 1970's and they went their separate ways. Sonny Terry continued to play and he also published a book, (continued on back)

Many an aspiring bluesboy stoked his passion by wearing out albums of the masters and sneaking into bars to hear the locals. Count Ross William Perry among them. But the young guitarist from Minnesota did his peers one better: He raided the library. After discovering the wonders of blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan, Perry made a shopping list of albums by musicians that Vaughan liked. "Then I went to the library and found a ton of books on the blues, and tried to track it that way," a very youthful-sounding Perry says.

"In school we had study halls. I was never doing homework, I was reading books on music and the blues." Perry, who will play at the Roadhouse on Saturday with his three-piece band, was primed at an early age to love music. His father owned a bar with live music, but more importantly jam sessions were held at the Perry house starting when Ross was about 3 years old. A few years later he was given his first guitar. "I'd go out there in the living room and irritate them, strum my open-strung guitars as loud as I could and not make any music," Perry says with a chuckle. "For the first couple of years Dad taught me chords, taught me some surf songs. Then when I was about 7, 8, 9, I wanted him to teach me a song. He said, 'You know what I think, it's time for you to learn on your own.'"

Cutting the leash was tough on the young pup. "It really upset me. I didn't realize what he was doing back then, but I eventually figured how to play by ear." His dad had records from the Rolling Stones, Creedence Clearwater Revival and Booker T. and the MGs. Perry and his buddies were naturally drawn to that music, "but we didn't really know why." "Then I stumbled upon Stevie Ray Vaughan. I started reading some interviews that he did and found out that the style of music that we really liked and didn't know what to call was called blues music." Perry, 24, formed his first band when he graduated from high school and has performed mainly in Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. The gig at the Roadhouse is part of an effort to expand the band's touring base.

Perry has released two albums, 2000's "Live: Blues in Greenville," with a mix of originals and covers such as "Pipeline" and "Superstition," and 2003's "The Move," with all original songs. "I enjoy writing. It's interesting to give your own perspective," Perry says, all of a sudden sounding older. "Playing other people's songs is great, but art is about expressing yourself and sometimes you feel like you can do that better playing your own material." Perry says he struggles with his desire to remain true to the blues yet at the same time expand his horizons. "I don't want people to think that I forgot my roots. I'm torn between two things because I don't want to keep doing what Howlin' Wolf and Muddy Waters have done, I want to come up with my own thing. I don't want it to be a final destination." (Kevin Sheedy, The Wichita Eagle)

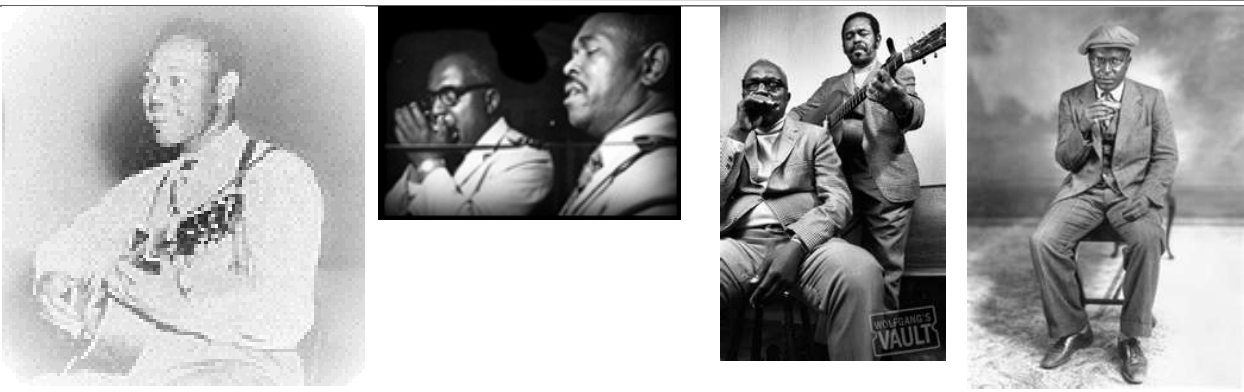
Ross William Perry Upcoming Schedule

8/31 Tally's Dockside, White Bear Lake, MN
9/16 Iron Horse, Spring Valley

Visit them online:
rosswilliamperry.com

Next Week (August 30) Mojo Lemon

Come spend an evening with the Mojo Lemon Blues Band, a staple in the Western Wisconsin music scene for a decade. Mojo's trademark "in your face" blues rock shows have become legendary in the Chippewa Valley. Got Mojo?"



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