

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. Also in 2018, The Dee Miller Band was selected to represent Minnesota at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis in January of 2019. The band advanced to the Semi Finals. Her awards prior to that include a Minnesota Blues Hall of Fame award in 2017 for "Best Song" for the original song "Leopard Print Dress" cowritten with Jimi "Primetime" Smith. The band is also a two time winner of the Battle of the Bands in Minneapolis.

The recently released album "Leopard Print Dress" (October, 2018) is garnering national and international airtime and is receiving rave reviews from all over the world.

During her career Dee has shared the stage with Koko Taylor, Janiva Magness, Bobby Messano as well as local favorites Lamont Cranston, Annie Mack, Renee Austin, Mick Sterling, and many more incredible musicians. International guitarist Jimi "Primetime" Smith was an integral part of the Dee Miller Band for several years.

From her early days as a child listening to her mother singing the blues around the house in Maplewood, MN, Dee has been a singer. She first started singing along with Dione Warwick and Aretha Franklin recordings as she crafted her skills. The sounds of Etta James, Bonnie Raitt, and Mahalia Jackson were part of a life spent singing as she walked down the railroad tracks that were right next door to her house. During these times, Dee realized the power of music and what a refuge it is for her.

Dee's first professional gig was with the blues band "Minnesota Barking Ducks". She has also been a member of "Liberty Street", "Bottom Line", "Night Train" and several others before she started the Dee Miller Band in 2004.

Dee has performed in many local music establishments. On a national level, Dee has performed in Chicago at Buddy Guy's Legends, and in Washington D.C. at Madam's Organ. Dee has also performed on stages in Memphis, Clarksdale, Mississippi, San Francisco, Greenwich Village, Key Largo and Florence, Italy.

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

Tuesday Night Bluesletter

August 24, 2021 at Owen Park

Dee Miller Band
featuring **Craig Clark**



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1992's *Fight* registered on the blues charts in several countries. 1993's *Living on the Road and Rock and Roll Gypsy* (1995) were cross-licensed by Germany's Ruf Records label; they cemented her reputation as a headliner and radio staple across the continent. 1996's *Big Girl Blues* charted in Europe and established her as a formidable singer as well as a guitarist. 1998's *Slidetime* showcased her love of R&B and early blues. *Nothing But the Blues*, was a live recording of a 1999 show in Germany that appeared to rave reviews on the German In-Akustik label in 2001.

After playing in Deborah Coleman's bands for *I Can't Lose* and *Where Blue Begins*, Connor left *Blind Pig* and signed to small indie label M.C. Records in 2002. Her debut, *The Joanna Connor Band*, found Connor expanding her sound to reflect her many musical interests that included funk, jazz, and soul. She issued *Mercury Blues* in 2003, a collaboration with Europe's Mercury Ensemble. Among its most notable selections were performances of *Blind Faith's Can't Find My Way Home*, *Jimi Hendrix's "Manic Depression"*, *Aretha Franklin's "I Never Loved a Man"*, and the Beatles, *"Within You, Without You."*

Connor played locally while raising her children. She issued the live *Unplugged at Carterco* with Lance Lewis and appeared with mentor Luther Allison & Friends on *Pay It Forward*. In 2014, a fan's live video captured an incendiary portion of her performance at the North Atlantic Blues Festival; it went viral on YouTube. Based on its success, M.C. Records coaxed her back into the studio for 2016's *Six String Stories*. The set contained sophisticated originals co-written with longtime bandmate Lance Lewis as well as covers of Jill Scott's *"Golden"* and Elmore James' *"The Sky Is Crying."* Connor even ventured into soul-gospel with *"Heaven,"* featuring the Lewis Family on backing vocals.

In 2020, Connor signed to Joe Bonamassa's *Keeping the Blues Alive* (KTBA) label. The goal was to cut a personal homage to the school of Chicago blues that nurtured her. The ten-song full-length was released in February of 2021. The album debuted at number one on the blues charts.

-Artist Biography by Thom Jurek for Allmusic.com

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Next Week (August 31, 2021) Joyann Parker

"**Joyann Parker** is the best Twin Cities female singer you've never heard. Imagine a sober Janis Joplin. And that's a good thing. Imagine a taller Shemekia Copeland without the my-dad-was-a-blues-star pedigree. And that's a really good thing. There's pain in Parker's heart - and in just about every song she writes and sings. And, onstage, the grimace on her face, the clenched fists and the ache in her roar let her listeners know that she knows hurt...Whatever she plays, Parker owns it." -Jon Bream/Minneapolis Star-Tribune

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A Little About the Blues

Since her first release in 1989, Chicago-based guitarist and singer/songwriter **Joanna Connor** has revealed herself as a virtuoso stylist in modern electric blues, R&B, and blues-rock. Her take-no-prisoners playing style joins fiery single-string runs to dazzling, rough-and-ready slide guitar pyrotechnics in an approach at once incendiary and deeply soulful.

Connor was born in Brooklyn, New York, but at age four she moved to Worcester, Massachusetts. She benefitted from her mother's huge collection of blues and jazz recordings, and was taken to see musicians like Taj Mahal, Bonnie Raitt, Ry Cooder, and Buddy Guy in concert. She got her first guitar at age seven and devoted herself to blues and roots rock. At 16, she began singing in Worcester-area bands and formed the Pino/Connor Band with guitarist Ken Pino; they performed at clubs and colleges across New England. In 1984, at age 22, she boarded a Greyhound bus with a one-way ticket to Chicago. She spent her first three weeks in the Windy City haunting clubs and sitting in wherever she could. She approached Lonnie Brooks one evening, and he referred her to his rhythm guitarist Dion Payton. He invited her up to play and she left quite an impression; she was asked to replace Payton after he left. After joining the combo of slide guitar great Johnny Littlejohn a bit later, Payton invited Connor to join his popular 43rd Street Blues Band. Payton, a big draw locally, showcased her talents in prime city clubs such as Kingston Mines, B.L.U.E.S., and the Checkerboard Lounge. Connor set the town's hallowed blues bars on fire with her slashing lead guitar work, her passionate slide solos, and soul-drenched vocals. With Payton, Connor was regularly featured alongside Chicago legends including James Cotton, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, and A.C. Reed. She performed with Payton at the 1987 Chicago Blues Festival. Later that year, she was ready to put her own band together.

Her 1989 debut for the Blind Pig label, *Believe It!* got her out of Chicago clubs and into clubs and festivals around the U.S., Canada, and Europe. From the beginning, Connor proved herself a road warrior, touring on her own, in package revues, and as a hired gun with other artists.

(continued)

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