

Night after night at their live shows, Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal leave it all on the table, bringing crowds palpably authentic music. This is a real working band; music for the people, by the people. You hear the veracity in Hoyer's voice. You hear the strife of a guitar amp being pushed to its limits. You hear keyboards hammering notes home while emboldened horns soar over the top of a rhythm section akin to a freight train. The raucous funk and smooth soul emanating from the stage dutifully pays homage to the past soul giants while simultaneously charging forward, piloting themselves into the modern era.

Hoyer formed Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal in 2012 in famed blues town Lincoln, Nebraska. The award-winning five-piece band includes some of the area's most revered and accomplished musicians. Joining Hoyer (keyboards/vocals) is James Cuato (saxophone), Blake DeForest (trumpet), Mike Keeling (bass), Benjamin Kushner (guitar), and Harrison ElDorado (drums). Inspired by the sounds of Stax, Motown, Muscle Shoals, New Orleans, Philly and San Francisco, the band continuously crosses musical boundaries both in style and era, and joins forces each show with a common goal - to have the crowd dancing so much they forget even their smallest troubles.

The band just finished a massively successful tour of Spain in July/August of 2021, headlining three major Blues and Funk festivals with sold out club dates across the country. Touring in support of their April 2021 release, "Natural Born Hustler." The album is their first with Denver based label, Color Red. The label is owned in part by Eddie Roberts of The New Mastersounds. Hoyer and company will be recording their 2nd Color Red album, and 6th overall, in November of 2021.

On January 18th, 2019, Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal released Do It Now, their fourth full length studio album. The album was recorded at Silver Street in Ashland, NE and at Make Believe Studios in Omaha, NE. Upon its initial European release in August 2018, the album drew rave reviews from European publications with Blues Magazine stating, "Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal still prove to be at the top of the contemporary soul movement."

In 2017, Josh was featured as a contestant on NBC's The Voice, and the band completed their first European tour; a 27-city stint capped with a live album release from their show in Brussels, Belgium. The hard working band completed several national tours from 2015-2017, playing more than 150 shows in 32 states each year, including opening for George Clinton, Charles Bradley, Booker T Jones, and Muscle Shoals Revue.

Tuesday Night Blues 2022

All shows begin at 6:30

May 31: 7 Swings The Blues

June 7: Joyann Parker

June 14: Paul Tweed Band

June 21: Bridget Kelly Band

June 28: Tommy Bentz Band

July 5: Ross William Perry

July 12: Jay Stulo Band

July 19: Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max

July 26: Whyte Orfield Band

August 2: Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal

August 9: Stefan Geisinger Band

August 16: Avey Grouws Band

August 23: Mark Cameron Band

August 30: Mojo Lemon

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

Tuesday Night Bluesletter

August 2, 2022 at Owen Park

Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal



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A Little About the Blues

St. James Infirmary Blues is an American folk song of anonymous origin that we often hear played live by blues bands. The song "St. James Infirmary Blues" is sometimes credited to the songwriter Joe Primrose (a pseudonym for Irving Mills), who held copyrights for several versions of the song, registering the first in 1929. He claimed the rights to the title and won a case in the U.S. Supreme Court on the basis that the defendants failed to produce evidence that the song had been known by that name for some years.

Variations of the song typically feature a narrator telling the story of a young man "cut down in his prime" (occasionally, a young woman "cut down in her prime") because of morally questionable behavior. For example, when the song moved to America, gambling and alcohol became common causes of the youth's death.

As with many folk songs, there is much variation from one version to another. These are the first two stanzas as sung by Louis Armstrong on a 1928 Odeon Records release:

*I went down to St. James Infirmary,
Saw my baby there,
Stretched out on a long white table,
So cold, so sweet, so fair.
Let her go, let her go, God bless her,
Wherever she may be,
She can look this wide world over,
But she'll never find a sweet man like me.*

Later verses commonly include the speaker's request to be buried according to certain instructions, which vary according to the version. Armstrong's version includes the following as its third stanza:

*When I die, want you to dress me, straight-lace shoes,
Box-back coat and a Stetson hat.
Put a twenty-dollar gold piece on my watch chain,
So the boys'll know that I died standin' pat.*

The song was first recorded (as "Gambler's Blues") in 1927 by Fess Williams and his Royal Flush Orchestra. This version mentions an infirmary but not by name. The song was popular during the jazz era, and by 1930 at least eighteen different versions had been released. The Duke Ellington Orchestra recorded the song using pseudonyms such as "The Ten Black Berries", "The Harlem Hot Chocolates", and "The Jungle Band", while Cab Calloway performed a version in the 1933 Betty Boop animated film Snow White, providing vocals and dance moves for Koko the clown.

Country music singer and yodeller Jimmie Rodgers recorded a version in 1930 (as "Those Gambler's Blues"). In 1932 Rodgers recorded "Gambling Bar Room Blues", co-written with Shelly Lee Alley, which featured new lyrics but followed a similar melody to "St. James Infirmary Blues", with similar themes of alcohol abuse, violence and despair. Cajun string band the Dixie Ramblers recorded "Barroom Blues" in 1935, with lyrics largely matching Rodgers' "Those Gambler's Blues".

In 1961, Bobby "Blue" Bland released a version of "Saint James Infirmary" on the flip side of his No. 2 R&B hit "Don't Cry No More" and included it in his album Two Steps from the Blues. In 1967, the French-American singer Joe Dassin recorded the song. In 1968, Don Partridge released a version on his self-named album, as did Eric Burdon and the Animals on their album Every One of Us. Dock Boggs recorded a version of the song entitled "Old Joe's Barroom" (1965).

The song was often performed by cabaret surrealists The Mystic Knights of the Oingo Boingo in Southern California; the band's vocalist and songwriter, Danny Elfman, often cited Cab Calloway as his inspiration in his youth. The White Stripes covered the song on their self-titled debut album, and Jack White says he and fellow band member, Meg White, were introduced to the song from the Betty Boop cartoon. In 1981, Bob Dylan adapted the song when he wrote and recorded "Blind Willie McTell". The song was written for his 1983 release, Infidels, but was not released until The Bootleg Series, Vol. 1-3: Rare and Unreleased, 1961-1991 (Columbia, 1991). In 2012, Trombone Shorty and Booker T. Jones performed an instrumental version as the opening number of the "Red, White, and Blues" concert at the White House. Other artists that have recorded versions of St James Infirmary include Doc Watson, Arlo Guthrie, Rickie Lee Jones, Dave Van Ronk, Joe Cocker, Lou Rawls and John Batiste, among many, many others.

Next Week (August 9, 2022) Stefan Geisinger Band

The Stefan Geisinger Band plays recognizable covers from Blues guitar greats such as Stevie Ray Vaughan, Albert King, Jimi Hendrix, and Howling Wolf, as well as original tunes. Geisinger's expressive and skillful - not to mention spirited - performances have drawn rave reviews from audiences. Listeners often remark that there seems to be an old soul inhabiting such a relatively young Blues artist.

AUGUST 4-6 2022

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