

Minnesota based singer, songwriter and guitarist Mark Cameron has been active in live music for over thirty years. Mark began his performing career in the rich folk-rock scene of the early 1970's and brought this influence into several bands he founded during the 1980's and 1990's. Today Mark's focus is centered on crafting original Blues songs with strong melodies and memorable lyrics. The range of Mark's material stretches the Blues beyond safe limits with a focus on "foot stompin, butt shakin" music that is built for a live audience.

After five studio releases in the 1980's and 90's, Mark turned his focus to the Blues with "Life of Illusion" in 2009. The song "Boxcar Blues" became an instant classic and packs the dance floor at live performances every time. In 2011 Mark released the ambitious project "Built to Bust" which featured the hipster-swing classic "Do Lovin Right" and the Chicago-Blues romp "Tough all over". Mark's 2014 release "One way ride to the Blues" delivered a raucous Blues anthem "Life is good when you've got the Blues" and the gospel inspired classic "In this house". In 2016 the band released "Playing Rough" and followed it up with "Live At Blues On The Chippewa." They followed that with "On A Roll" and Back From The Edge." The band's latest album, "Nasty Business" was released on July 14.

Known as a charismatic front man and soulful guitarist, Mark engages his audience directly in live performances and delivers his original compositions with a mix of sincerity, honesty and often a touch of humor. He is equally at home on acoustic or electrified instruments and retains writer/arranger credits on all of his recorded projects. Marks vocal range stretches from basement baritone to full-on growl and his original lyrics draw the listener in and paint a picture of the many worlds within the Blues.

Mark is joined on stage by Rick Miller on Harmonica, Scott Lundberg on bass, Dan Schroeder on Drums and Shari Cameron on sax, flute & percussion.

Rick's formal musical training was on the Baritone horn, playing in Concert, Marching and Stage Bands. He soon discovered that a harmonica was much easier to carry. Originally from Houston, Scott began classical piano training at the age of six, and added trombone, organ and tuba to his repertoire along the way. Dan channeled his energies into playing drums at a very young age, and according to Cameron, has the "best hair in the blues." When asked what drew Shari to the band, her words say it best: "If I am going to help haul this stuff, I might as well play it too."

## Tuesday Night Blues 2023

All shows begin at 6:30

May 30: Paul Tweed Band

June 6: Kyle Renfro

June 13: Jay Stulo

June 20: Bridget Kelly Band

June 27: Joyann Parker

July 4: Lamont Cranston w Nick Foytik

July 11: Sue Orfield Band

July 18: Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max

July 25: Tommy Bentz Band

August 1: Stefan Geisinger Band

August 8: Mark Cameron Band

August 15: Left Wing Bourbon

August 22: Avey Grouws Band

August 29: Mojo Lemon

Find out more about the bands at:

**TuesdayNightBlues.com**

## Tuesday Night Bluesletter

August 8, 2023

**Mark Cameron Band**



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## A Little About the Blues

**B**eulah “Sippie” Thomas Wallace sang and recorded her best work for Okeh Records between 1923 and 1927 when she was the most frequently recorded female blues singer in the country. The daughter of a Baptist deacon, she was born in Plum Bayou, Arkansas and raised in Houston, Texas. As a child, she sang and played piano in church. Before she was in her teens, she began performing with her brother, pianist Hersal Thomas. By the time she was in her midteens, she had left Houston to pursue a musical career, singing in a number of tent shows and earning a dedicated fan base. In 1915, she moved to New Orleans with Hersal. Two years later, she married Matt Wallace.

In 1923, Sippie, Hersal, and their older brother George moved to Chicago, where Sippie became part of the city's jazz scene. By the end of the year, she had signed a contract with Okeh Records. Her first two songs for the label, "Shorty George" and "Up the Country Blues," were hits, and Sippie soon became a star. Throughout the '20s, she produced a series of singles that were nearly all hits. Wallace's Okeh recordings featured a number of celebrated jazz musicians, including Louis Armstrong, Eddie Heywood, King Oliver, and Clarence Williams; both Hersal and George Thomas performed on Sippie's records as well, in addition to supporting her at concerts. Between 1923 and 1927, she recorded over 40 songs for Okeh. Many of the songs that were Wallace originals or co-written by Sippie and her brothers.

In 1926, Hersal Thomas died of food poisoning, but Sippie Wallace continued to perform and record. Within a few years, however, she stopped performing regularly. After her contract with Okeh was finished in the late '20s, she moved to Detroit in 1929.

The Depression ended Sippie's blues career but her move to Detroit took her from being the best blues singer to leading a gospel choir. In the early '30s, Wallace stopped recording, only performing the occasional gig. In 1936, both George Thomas and her husband Matt died. Following their deaths, Sippie joined the Leland Baptist Church in Detroit, where she was an organist and vocalist; she stayed with the church for the next 40 years.

Between 1936 and 1966, Wallace was inactive on the blues scene -- she only performed a handful of concerts and cut a few records. In 1966, she was lured out of retirement by her friend Victoria Spivey, who convinced Sippie to join the thriving blues and folk festival circuit. Wallace not only joined the circuit, she began recording again. Her first new album was a collection of duets with Spivey, appropriately titled Sippie Wallace & Victoria Spivey, which was recorded in 1966;

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the album wasn't released until 1970. Also in 1966, Wallace recorded Sippie Wallace Sings the Blues for Storyville, which featured support from musicians like Little Brother Montgomery and Roosevelt Sykes. The album was quite popular, as were Sippie's festival performances.



In 1970, Sippie Wallace suffered a stroke, but she was able to continue recording and performing, although not as frequently as she had before. In 1982, Bonnie Raitt -- who had long claimed Sippie as a major influence -- helped Wallace land a contract with Atlantic Records. Raitt produced the resulting album, Sippie, which was released in 1983. Sippie won the W.C. Handy Award for best blues album of the year and was nominated for a Grammy. The album turned out to be Sippie Wallace's last recording -- she died in 1986, when she was 88 years old.

"The Texas Nightingale" performed with many of the greats -- King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Clarence Williams, Victoria Spivey, and Bonnie Raitt. Her powerful delivery of the blues was raucous, brash, and sharp-edged with risqué lyrics that gave her a sound different from others in both eras of her blues career.

### Next Week (August 15) Left Wing Bourbon

**Left Wing Bourbon** is a confluence of musical streams. Influenced by the songs of Jon Cleary, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Robert Cray, Ray Charles, James Brown, Chaka Khan, Koko Taylor, and Etta James, LWB's roots reach deeper than you'd expect for a Blues band from West-Central Wisconsin. They consistently move the masses to swing their hips at summer festivals, mixing soul, boogie, and funk into a kinetic Blues cocktail.

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