

in 2016 by Dr. Nick Johnson of WPFW Radio and in July 2018 being featured in *Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine* as one of the youngest blues artists to watch. Carly participated in the International Blues Challenge as a duo in 2016 and is honored to represent D.C. at the IBC for the second time with her band.

Celso Salim Band

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY
BLUES SOCIETY

Led by Brazilian guitarist, singer, and songwriter Celso Salim, the Celso Salim Band presents a contemporary



blues sound rooted in the past. With soulful and energetic performances, their music takes on many styles, by mixing deep blues with hints of soul, country, jazz, and rock. With his recently released sixth album, *Mama's Hometown*, Celso has established a solid career and has become one of the busiest and most respected blues artists in Southern California. His band features Mike Hightower on bass, David Kida on drums, Max Butler on keys, Darryl Carriere on harp, and Rafael Cury on vocals.

Charlotte Taylor & Gypsy Rain

SPA CITY BLUES SOCIETY

"Soulful Blues that Rock!"
Fronted by powerhouse vocalist and songwriter, Charlotte



Taylor, the band has been a constant force on the scene in Arkansas and surrounding states for many years. Influenced by traditional blues, soul, rock, and jazz, the band plays an eclectic mix of original tunes, from old-time, low-down Delta blues to up-tempo funky dance songs.

Chicken Shack

TRIANGLE BLUES SOCIETY

Chicken Shack is an eclectic group of seven church musicians who were brought together by their love of playing



the blues. They are led by an energetic, talented violinist/bassist/vocalist and completed by a creative and gifted keyboardist, two brilliant and versatile rhythm and blues guitarists, two soulful and powerful vocalists, and a funky, fun-spirited drummer. Chicken Shack is breaded in blues, fried in funk, and smothered in soul. Let the music open your heart with their clever arrangements, tight rhythm section, vibrant vocal harmonies, and virtuosic solos.

Chris Clifton Band

CHARLOTTE BLUES
SOCIETY

Chris Clifton was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas and has been playing guitar since the age of 12. He has a scholar's dedication and an artist's soul and has become



known as a great guitar stylist. With a long list of venues worldwide, he continues to share his talent playing mostly blues and jazz. He is currently playing with long-time friends and dedicated musician's Peter Hansen (keys), Mark Perrou (bass), and L.A. Freeman (drums).

Cros

PHOENIX BLUES SOCIETY

U.S. Navy Band member, Desert Storm veteran, and current U.S. Army National



Guard 133rd Army Band member, Cros, plays bass, guitar, lower brass, and is also a singer and arranger. By fusing an amazing blend of music and experience,

Cros brings an incredible and unique presence to every performance. You will experience a multitude of feelings and emotions all while sitting back and enjoying the ride through a mixture of soul, funk, blues, rock, rhythm and blues, and folk that will leave you satisfied but clamoring for more all at the same time!

Darren Jay & the Delta Souls

WINDY CITY BLUES
SOCIETY

Darren Jay joined the U.S. Navy in 1996. At age 28, Darren left active duty to



pursue his musical ambitions. By 2006 he had reestablished himself in the Florida panhandle and represented the Sunshine State in the 2008 IBC. The following year Darren was based in Memphis and took on the role of president of the Memphis Blues Society for two years. In 2012, he self-released a new album, *Drink My Wine*. In the last five years, Darren has been performing musically with Grammy Nominees, theatrically with Tony Nominees, and on the small screen in your living room on *Chicago Fire*.

Dave Scott & the Reckless Shots

TREASURE COAST
BLUES SOCIETY

Dave Scott and the Reckless Shots are an edgy, modern blues band. In a sea of bands



where most are interested in where the blues began, the Reckless Shots are more interested in where the blues can go. At the helm, Dave Scott, featured in *Guitar Player Magazine*, *Guitar World*, and *Guitar for the Practicing Musician*, is just the guitarist to get them there. He is supported by a rock-solid funky rhythm section of Pete George on bass, Brian Cunningham on drums, and rounding out and filling in the holes is "Jumpin'" Joe Hastings on harmonica.

Debbie Nelson & In Full Transition

NAPTOWN BLUES SOCIETY

Debbie Nelson & In Full Transition is a high energy group conceived of two dynamic blues bands who combined



their best to create a new, more diverse group that offers classical blues and rhythm and blues from the late '60s up to today. Offering a plethora of blues and R&B sounds from both age-old

favorites and contemporary artists, this group comes out with a bang and leaves their audience wanting more. Debbie Nelson & IFT bring excitement, dynamics, and dimension to the blues with a passion for performing. This is a do not miss!

Deborah Stafford & The State of Affairs

MILE HIGH BLUES SOCIETY

With dynamic vocals, soulful sax, and unforgettable songwriting, Deborah Stafford & the State of Affairs aims straight for the heart. This Boulder based band features the killer vocals of Deborah Stafford, wailing sax of Alayna Simmons, inspired guitar work by Dave "Doc"



Dougherty, intricate bass by Bob Tiger, and in-the-pocket drumming by Doug "JJ" Murphy. Gaining radio airplay, fans, and a nod from MHBS for Best Self-Produced CD with their first effort, *Blused & Confused*, this female-led group is taking Colorado by storm and will always give you the best of the blues!

Deuce 'n a Quarter

COLUMBUS BLUES
ALLIANCE

As the name suggests, Deuce 'n a Quarter is a hard driving blues machine fronted by the powerful voice and wailing harmonica of Brian Peters. The band's forte is its original music, where you'll hear the influences and respect paid