

the longest running in Canada at 28 years. His band features Joe on vocals, harmonica, guitar, mandolin and



accordion, Ian O'Donnell on drums, 24th Street Wailer's guitarist Mark Doucet on guitar, Rochon Rheo on bass, and Trevor Wentzell on keyboards and sax. Joe's music spans blues, rhythm and blues, soul, Cajun, and zydeco.

## Johnny Fink & the Intrusion

CINCY BLUES SOCIETY

This band made a statement by reaching the semi-finals in 2016 at their first IBC, then the finals in 2017. Hailing from southwestern Ohio, JFI features Johnny Fink on gui-



tar and vocals, Doug Moore on drums, and Matt Newman on bass. The band continues into a new era as a tighter, more dynamic, three-piece unit. Their original music (semi-finalist in the Best Self-Produced CD category in 2018), contains true conviction and passion often missing in the genre. Once they open a song, it becomes ob-

vious that the band has world-class talent, originality, and showmanship.

## Jose Luis Pardo & the Mojo Workers

ASOCIACION BLUES  
R US MADRID

Born in Argentina in 1981, Jose Pardo started playing local clubs at only 15. Now, at 37, he has recorded eight CDs and toured the whole



world with his project. His last three CDs contain all original songs that mix both blues and soul at their best. All this has led him to become the Director of the Madrid Blues School for the last seven years. His Mojo Workers are Spanish top drummer Pascu Monge, David Salvador on bass, and Argentine Hammond virtuoso Guillermo Raíces.

## Juke & Stop Time

LOWCOUNTRY BLUES CLUB

Juke and Stop Time is the creation of John Winkler, AKA Juke Joint Johnny, blues harmonica titan and crooner extraordinaire. He is ably assisted by Billy Gadol on guitar, Bill Nance on keys,



and J.T. Rollerson on drums. They perform a lively mix of blues, combining traditional and modern approaches

to classic blues material, as well as original compositions. Juke, Billy, and Bill are seasoned blues musicians having participated in past International Blues Challenges. J.T. Rollerson adds his massive R&B grooves to the group to create a soul pleasing experience for the listener.

## Justin Saladino Band

MONTREAL BLUES SOCIETY

At 24 years old, Justin Saladino leads a guitar-driven, blues-rock group with an elite prowess. The group has two original releases under their belt, "No Worries" and "A



Fool's Heart." Having performed at the Mont-Tremblant International Blues Festival and the Montreal International Jazz Festival, the group is carving their space in the Canadian music scene. In 2018, they were nominated for a Maple Blues Award as "New Artist of the Year." The Justin Saladino Band's sound is a rich and colorful palette of timeless music that is sure to move and captivate audiences - spanning style and generation.

## Keith Johnson & the Big Muddy

VICKSBURG BLUES  
SOCIETY

Keith Johnson is a young man with the soul and voice of an older authentic bluesman. Born and raised in the Mississippi Delta, and the great nephew of blues icon,



Muddy Waters, Keith bears a profound blues DNA. His songwriting is mesmerizing, telling stories about life in Mississippi. He performs with passion, energy, and a stage presence that is exciting and natural. Gifted, Keith is also formally educated in the entertainment industry. Touring internationally, he often represents his alma mater, Delta State University, as an ambassador. A rising star, Keith is carrying on his family's legacy.

## King Bee & the Stingers

SOUTH CENTRAL INDIANA  
BLUES SOCIETY

Founded in 2006, King Bee & the Stingers, from Bloomington, Indiana, took on a new groove in 2013 when Sarah Menefee started singing with the band. Since then, the band has really come into its own, and is excited to be returning to the International Blues Challenge

in 2018. The band - Mark "King Bee" Menefee, guitarist DK Buchanon, bassist Ken



Meadows, and drummer Buddy Mitchell - delivers originals ranging from roadhouse rockin' to slow and soulful and puts its own spin on blues classics.

## Kingsize Blues Band

DETROIT BLUES SOCIETY

Kingsize Blues Band presents soulful blues from a heartfelt and relatable per-



spective. KSBB opens its heart with original lyrics, epic guitar, horns, and harp. They have listeners pining, dancing, and commiserating with a pulse that represents the sounds from their home of Detroit. Kingsize Blues Band truly finds a way to communicate the blues in a way that will move you.

## Kyla Brox

UK BLUES FEDERATION

Blues and soul become inextricably entwined in Kyla Brox, whose raw talent has

seen her described as "the finest British female blues singer of her generation." Born in Manchester, England, Kyla began her career as a teenager in her father's blues band and has now honed her



own sophisticated sound, as heard on her critically acclaimed 2016 album, *Throw Away Your Blues*. Her voice; tender, urgent, gritty, blurring the distinction between pleasure and pain, mixed with fluid guitar work and a driving rhythm section, all combine to make a unique, powerful, and emotional experience.

## Lenny "Fuzzy" Rankins

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
BLUES SOCIETY

There's an element of the unknown when you first walk into a Lenny "Fuzzy" Rankins show and you discover later



that anticipation is an active ingredient in the experience. Guarantees that go with the entertainment choice include a highly energetic, musically diverse, fan-interactive program. The best part is being