

surrounded by other music enthusiasts also there to experience Fuzzy's amplified, hyperactive labor of love up close and personal. His music catalog is a gumbo of different music focused on gnarly low-down dirty 12-bar blues! You're sure to walk away wanting more of Fuzzy's gumbo!

## Lower Case Blues

CENTRAL DELAWARE  
BLUES SOCIETY

Lower Case Blues is a jam-fueled blues band whose motto is: "no song is ever played the same way twice!" Featuring Jake Banaszak on guitar, BJ Muntz on bass and vocals, Pauli "Walnutz" Weik on drums, these guys have crafted a style of blues that is all their own. They're thrilled



to be in Memphis competing at the IBC, having played 15 years together honing their skills, writing music, and performing countless shows up and down the Delmarva Peninsula and surrounding region. Their live shows are filled with creativity, freedom, and improvisation that impresses even seasoned blues performers.

## Manu Hartmann & the City Blues Band

SWISS BLUES SOCIETY

The Swiss singer and songwriter, Manu Hartmann, keeps attracting attention

with her expressive voice and energetic stage presence. Manu's vocals combine quiet longing with loud pain. She knows how to put herself in a song and enjoy it. She breaks down boundaries and does



not care about musical classifications. She mixes blues with soul, jazz, and funk, and if a song needs a scat, Manu does it too. Five years ago, she founded Manu Hartmann & the City Blues Band, winning with them the Swiss Blues Challenge in 2018 and placing second at the Blues Festival Basel in 2015.

## Mark May Band

HOUSTON BLUES SOCIETY

Hailing from Houston, Texas and representing the Houston Blues Society, the Mark May Band brings their own unique style of blues to the IBC. The band includes Mark May on lead vocals and guitar, Billy Wells on guitar and vocals, Darrell Lacy on bass and vocals, Brandon Jackson on drums, and Barry Seelen on keyboards. With six CDs under their belt and the seventh about to drop, the band continues to forge new ground with smooth three-part vocal harmonies, twin lead guitars, and exciting live shows. Mark's sixth CD,



*Blues Heaven*, reached number six on the Billboard Blues Chart and remained in the chart for five weeks.

## Matt & the Barnburners

MAINE BLUES SOCIETY

Together for a decade, Matt & the Barnburners are central Maine's premier blues act and draw enthusiastic crowds wherever they perform. They are three-time



winners of the Maine Blues Society's Road to Memphis Competition. Their freshman release, *Feel the Heat*, represented Maine in the 2018 International Blues Challenge in the Best Self-Produced Album category. Known for their engaging, energetic, and sometimes off the hook live performances, Matt & the Barnburners' repertoire spans the gamut of classic and modern Chicago, Texas, Memphis, and original blues music, as well as boogie, funk, and soul.

## Meg Williams Band

KENTUCKY BLUES SOCIETY

Nashville-based guitarist, singer/songwriter, Meg Williams, has performed at well-respected venues and festivals across the country, including RedGorilla Music Festival (Austin, Texas), Blues Radio International during the BMA's (Memphis, Tennessee), and Tennessee Motorcycles & Music Revival (Hurricane Mills, Tennessee).



Meg's EP, *Maybe Someday*, features guitar-driven songs, soulful vocals, and lyrics exploring empowerment, love, and heartbreak. The EP has been played on SiriusXM's *Bluesville* and radio stations world-wide, peaking at number 10 on the blues-rock album charts (Roots Music Report).

## Michael J Howe

WEST MICHIGAN  
BLUES SOCIETY

Michael J Howe features two Mike Howe's for the price of one. Armed with Gibson guitars and voices they are here to keep the blues alive. Anthony Weaver, a lifelong friend of Junior's, holds the bass position. Darrel Green, a longtime friend of Senior's, sits behind the drums. This team breathes the same air. They have experience, talent,



blazing guitars, and a bottom end that makes you move. There are multiple writers in the band. They write songs that use the blues language to deliver relevant messages. Michael J Howe is honored to be part of the 35th International Blues Challenge.

## Mike Watson & The 6L6's

CALGARY BLUES  
MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Take the influences of 1920s and '30s Delta blues, play it through amps and recording technologies of the 1950s, then filter it through the musical sensibilities of a child of the grunge-era '90s, and you have Mike Watson and The 6L6's. Plugged into a 1950s octal lunchbox amp, Mike Watson channels the old records of bluesmen, hill



people, hollers, and prewar gospel with a tone that evokes the character of vintage vinyl. Backed by a rhythm section built with bricks, Watson's incendiary slide guitar and emotive singing will leave you sanctified and resonating with the power of joyful noise.

## Milena Barrett Band

SYDNEY BLUES SOCIETY

Hailing from Sydney, Australia, the powerhouse vocalist that is Milena Barrett is considered by many as the wild child of Etta James and Steve Marriott. Her voice is filled with pure spontaneous



passion and fueled with raw emotion that has brought even the most seasoned of blues journeymen to tears. Armed with an arsenal of well written original songs that are delivered with the honest conviction intended, she means every word she sings! Milena revives the passion, power, and soul which resonates throughout the blues, soul, and roots rock era, bringing her unique, edgy energy and contemporary twist.

## Misty Blues

CAPITAL REGION  
BLUES NETWORK

Misty Blues is a female-led band from Berkshire County, Massachusetts playing traditional/original blues with a hint of funk, soul, and tent revival/gospel. The band has played together since 1999 and features Gina Coleman on lead vocals/cigar-box gui-