

“Short & Company,” and spent the last year on the road in support of his newest release, *Lost in a Spin*. Touching on addiction, his



shameless love of a strong-willed woman, and his need to escape and hit the road, Short’s songs show he is unafraid to share both where he comes from and what it is he’s out to accomplish.

Joe Flip & Tony Cuchetti

MINNESOTA
BLUES SOCIETY

Tony Cuchetti has spent his life in and around music. He was born the eighth child of ten siblings in a very musical family. His family even traveled the country for 15 years performing as a musical family act. It was through all this that Tony gained his wide spectrum of musical tastes that would later help craft his own unique sound. Whether Joe Flip is performing shows,



building oil can guitars, or teaching blues for kid’s workshops, his dedication to blues music is without question. Together, Tony and Joe bring a soulful mix of down-home blues to your ears.

John Bull & Ed Pickett

THE MUSIC
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

This Montgomery, Alabama based duo of harp player, John Bull, and guitarist, Ed Pickett, take their blues all over the southeast but are most at home in the real-deal juke joints of Alabama and Mississippi. Their relaxed



delivery is the result of decades spent entertaining in these venues. John teaches harmonica to students as part of the Alabama Blues Project’s Blues In The Schools program. Ed is a multi-instrumentalist whose rural Alabama roots give a down-home groove to his acoustic and electric guitar.

John Egan

HOUSTON BLUES SOCIETY

Musician John Egan has a unique sound ranging from traditional country blues to a more modern songwriter style. He is a masterfully skilled guitar player who uses poetic lyrics and vintage resonator guitars to create expressive, personal music. Egan often performs solo, and his guitar playing style includes, in effect, playing rhythm, lead, and drums at the same time. He has immersed himself in his music, resulting in a wide body of

work that documents the progression of an artistic life. His latest release, *Magnolia*



City, features his voice, stomping boots, and a National steel guitar.

Jon Shain

TRIANGLE BLUES SOCIETY

Jon Shain had the good fortune to learn the Piedmont blues directly from several of North Carolina’s older blues players, such as Big Boy Henry and John Dee Holeman. Known for his original songs and his fiery acoustic



guitar work, Shain has released eleven solo albums including this year’s *Gettin’ Handy with the Blues – a Tribute to the Legacy of W.C. Handy*. Shain was a finalist (along with bassist FJ Ventre) in the 2009 International Blues Challenge in the solo/duo category, representing the Triangle Blues Society.

Josh “The Pitbull of Blues” Rowand

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
BLUES SOCIETY

Josh Rowand is widely known as the always entertaining and fun-loving band leader of The Pitbull of Blues Band. Now based on the Southwest Coast of Florida, Josh has been making a name for himself over the last 23 years



onstage and for the last 18 under the alias and stage name of “The Pitbull of Blues,” which his father and fellow band mate gave him to describe his aggressive and no fear playing style. This time he brings his original song writing and unique guitar playing back to the International Blues Challenge stage as a solo act.

Kathie Holmes

ATLANTA BLUES SOCIETY

Atlanta native Kathie Holmes has a fiery New Orleans piano style, soulful vocals, and a leave-it-all-on-the-stage personality but is best known for electrifying the crowd with her sultry, funky, and rocking blues flute. She performs at festivals and clubs throughout the Southeast as a mem-

ber of several blues, rock, and funk bands and is an in-demand artist for recording sessions. Her recently completed CD showcases her



captivating songwriting and spirited performance on keyboards, vocals, and flute.

Kristine Jackson

NORTHEAST OHIO BLUES
ASSOCIATION (NEOBA)

Kristine’s roots as a trumpet player paved her way into the blues world and by the age of 24, she was singing, playing guitar, and fronting her own show. She has a voice that’s unique only to her. It’s smooth and polished, yet she can also make it ring with grit and gravel.



Many of her songs are stories of personal struggle and triumphs, while others are just fun! KJ also puts her

own spin on traditional blues, breathing new life and energy into an old message. No matter what stage or venue you find her, you can tell she loves to connect with the audience and bring everyone into the moment.

Lacey & Tom

FORT SMITH RIVERFRONT
BLUES SOCIETY

A well-known musical presence on the Arkansas/Oklahoma border, best friends Lacey and Tom have been performing together for 37 years. They grew up in Fort Smith, Arkansas, but have played all over the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia. In the late ‘80s they were signed to Mercury/Polygram Records. Lacey’s distinctive bluesy growl, along with Tom’s unique finger-style guitar and harmonies, have found



a welcome home in bars, theaters, churches, arenas, and festivals. Their songs range from gritty, honest originals to inventive covers of American blues, roots, and rock music.

Lil’ Red & The Rooster

CINCY BLUES SOCIETY

“Ca swingue!” praised prestigious *Soul Bag Magazine*. With contagious charm and serious blues, the international couple, Jennifer Mil-