

## Benji "The Hitman" Davis

BLUES LOVERS UNITED  
OF SAN DIEGO

15-year-old Benji "The Hitman" Davis has been playing guitar since he was 8. He recognized his passion and has locked himself into the blues. Last year he was



elected 2017 San Diego Blues Lovers United, "Blues In The Schools" ambassador and has been featured in music festivals in the San Diego area for the past three years. He was the youngest featured artist at the 2018 Gator by the Bay Zydeco, Blues & Crawfish Festival. He plays locally in San Diego just about every week at local blues jams, pluggin' in and laying it down with some of the finest blues talent Southern California has to offer.

## Bluesee

KOREA BLUES  
SOCIETY - KOREA

The Bluesee is the blues band from Art High School in Korea. As for studying the



blues, the Bluesee participated in the Seoul Blues Festival

and got an opportunity to go to the IBC. While in Memphis, the Bluesee wants to study blues music more and enjoy the festival.

## Born IV Blues

CAPITAL REGION  
BLUES NETWORK

Born IV Blues was founded in 2017 by a group of audacious 10th graders from Western Massachusetts - Diego Mongue, founder/drummer, Julia Ostellino-Moran, lead vocals, Austin Peck, guitar,



and Josiah Joyce, bass. With their original songs and reinterpreted tributes, these old souls breathe new life into the blues. They are the face of the next generation of blues lovers.

## Carson Deans

MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY

Carson Deans, a 12-year-old guitarist out of Nashville, Tennessee, is quickly emerging as a must-see performer with talent beyond his years. He is frequently seen busking along Lower Broadway entertaining the crowds with his unique playing style that channels a wide variety of influences from traditional blues to modern and classic rock 'n' roll spanning the decades. Despite his early niche as a street musician, Carson is no stranger to the bright lights and has already taken the stage at many of



Nashville's premier venues. The ceiling is nowhere in sight for this youngster, so keep your eye on Carson Deans as he develops into a world-class guitarist.

## Charlie Bedford

MELBOURNE BLUES  
APPRECIATION SOCIETY

18-year-old Charlie Bedford is making the 9,500 mile journey from Australia to Memphis for his third year to



participate in the IBC Youth Showcase! After well received appearances in 2017 with Limelight and 2018's solo acoustic performance, Charlie is returning with a new solo electric show, paying his respect to his favorite blues masters with a B.B. King inspired performance! Charlie is a fresh face on the scene, full of energy, sweet blues, and humor. He'll get your feet tapping and leave a smile on your face!

## Dylan James Shaw

TRINITY RIVER  
BLUES SOCIETY

Dylan James Shaw is an 11-year-old blues piano player from Dallas, Texas. Born in Austin, he began learning the blues piano from his grandmother at just 3 years old. He was born with high functioning Autism, which has given him the gifts of perfect pitch and music memory. Dylan James has been on FOX's *Good Day Dallas* and KETK-TV Longview,



Texas, and was featured in three editorials. Dylan James was sponsored to go to Las Vegas, Austin, and San Antonio to accept national and state awards in blues piano composition, and the U.S. Department of Education invited him to perform in D.C. Dylan James wants everybody to know that if he could, he would've brought his dog Jake-o, who howls by the piano as he plays.

## Ethan Lake Blues Show

BALTIMORE BLUES  
SOCIETY

With a debut three-song EP released August 1, recently turned 16-year-old Ethan Lake hopes through his music to introduce blues music more widely to his generation. As referenced in an August 2018 *American Blues Scene* feature story and September 2018 *Balti-*

*more Sun* profile, Ethan is creating a fresh take on old blues by adding his excep-

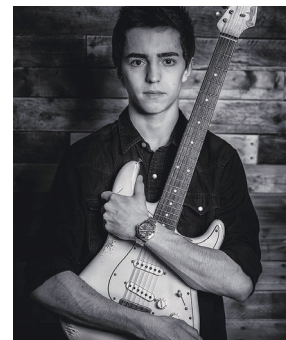


tional guitar improvisation and vocal stylings to traditional blues standards. His talent has captured the attention of noted Memphis blues historian, Robert Allen Parker who has invited Ethan to sit in with his band when in Memphis.

## Gavin McLeod

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

Gavin McLeod is an 18-year-old singer/songwriter, blues guitar player, and YouTube



personality from Milton Ontario, Canada. Gavin has been playing music for over 10 years and has performed as the leader of the band Hawthorne, as a solo artist, and in his blues trio. Gavin has an online following of over 100 thousand subscribers with over 16 million views and has also performed as a musician on 2 seasons of Family Channel's TV show, *Backstage*. Gavin regularly

plays shows around the Greater Toronto Area and hopes to bring an appreciation of blues and rock music back to a younger audience.

## Grace Kuch Band

MILE HIGH BLUES SOCIETY

The Grace Kuch Band from Colorado, features Grace Kuch, Ethan Christi, Matan Birnbaum, and Abe Dashnaw.



This band consists of young players, but each player greatly exceeds what you'd expect from their ages. Grace came to the band with years of experience in the blues genre, as a band leader on guitar and vocals. Ethan's background includes beats on the Djembe drums, which transitioned easily to the full kit. Matan plays with ease in blues, jazz, and rock on the keys. Abe's passion is in the punk genre, but his skills on bass transcend any genre.

## Jacob McDaniel

KENTUCKIANA  
BLUES SOCIETY

Jacob McDaniel is no stranger to the blues. He acquired a love of this classic style after inheriting an acoustic guitar at age 11. It wasn't long before he was not only paying homage to the old standards but writing his own music and performing on the Southern Indiana music circuit. His authentic