

interpretation of blues and folk music is both fresh and at the same time nostalgic.



An adept singer/songwriter, his talents are showcased on his 2018 release, *An Untitled Life*. Highlighted appearances include both the Ferdinand Singer-Songwriter Showcase and Folk Festival and Live at Lettersong.

Johnny Jensen

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
BLUES SOCIETY

Johnny Jensen, a 15-year-old, award-winning, blues enthusiast from Captiva, Florida, began playing drums at age 4 and guitar at age 9.



He has played at many festivals and blues clubs across the country and just released his first EP on iTunes and Spotify. His original music has been compared to Matt Schofield, Robben Ford, Kirk Fletcher and Josh Smith; all of whom he considers his influences and why he is proud to play the music he loves...the blues! Johnny is honored to be representing the Southwest Florida Blues

Society and is humbled to be with such an esteemed group of musicians.

Miranda Kitchpanich & Nick Mardon

WASHINGTON
BLUES SOCIETY

The duo of Miranda Kitchpanich and Nick Mardon displays the best of Washington's young talent. 17-year-old Miranda Kitchpanich is a dynamic vocalist, songwriter, bassist, and guitarist, vocally influenced by



Beth Hart and Etta James. She has been representing the Washington Blues Society for three years as the Youth Showcase act in Memphis. Accompanying Miranda is 18-year-old Nick Mardon, a talented multi-instrumentalist, performer, songwriter, and music teacher. Nick plays around 200 gigs a year throughout the Pacific Northwest while running a private instruction studio and recording his own music.

No Solution

ATLANTA BLUES SOCIETY

No Solution, a blues band from Atlanta, Georgia, performs current blues while mixing their own influences into these songs and showcasing all the band members' unique talents. No Solution has won the Atlanta Blues Challenge youth cat-



egory three times. They also won the AJMF Teen Battle of the Bands and have twice won the Sandy Springs Battle of the Bands. They have performed in many festivals in Atlanta including the Atlanta Dogwood Festival, Georgia Blues & Roots Festival, Atlanta Arts Festival, Atlanta International Music Fest, Next Generation Music Festival, EGGtoberfest, and Blues Stotts.

Nolan Leite Experience

BOSTON BLUES SOCIETY

The Nolan Leite Experience is an upcoming blues band from Rhode Island. Young



guitarist Nolan Leite plays alongside Eric and Ronnie Robidoux, who accompany Nolan on the bass and drums. Their sound can be described as modern blues, with heavy guitar riffs while sticking to original blues progressions. The three met while participating in a School of Rock program where they were paired together to make a three-song demo CD. Sensing a strong connection, Nolan later invited the brothers to help him start the band. They

have been together for over a year, playing at venues across New England.

Pierce Dipner

BLUES SOCIETY OF
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Fifteen-year-old bluesman, Pierce Dipner is returning to the IBC after his 2017 Showcase. He has played guitar,



drums, and vocals since he was 8 years old. He participated in a Blues Society Youth Blues Jam and fell in love with the blues. He performs at festivals and music venues around Pittsburgh playing solo or with his band, Pierce Dipner and the Shades of Blue. His interests range from traditional blues to contemporary blues with influences ranging from Eric Clapton and Gary Clark Jr. to B.B. King, Muddy Waters, and Elmore James. Pierce is also a cellist with the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra.

Spa City Youngbloods

SPA CITY BLUES SOCIETY

Coming from the Blues In The Schools program, the Spa City Youngbloods represent the Spa City Blues Society in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Lead guitarist and vocalist, Clarke Elmore, is in his first year leading the band and plays a mean blues harp. Senior



member Marston Murdock holds down the rhythm section on a thumping bass. Tobias Mendenhall shows out on the drums and as a vocalist. The band comes together with newest member James "Sweet Baby" Ballard who is a triple threat on drums, cigar-box guitar, and vocals. Together, they honor the memory of the late Sherree Hughes with their blues.

The BITS Band

CINCY BLUES SOCIETY

In 2000, the BITS Band was formed as part of the Cincy Blues in The Schools Program (BITS). The BITS Band



was the first group of students who performed as the opening act for the Cincy Blues Fest that year and have been performing as part of the Saturday afternoon lineup ever since! They are now regularly featured at the Winter Blues Fest, too. This is the fifth year the BITS Band has participated in the IBC Youth Showcase and it is an honor to keep the blues alive. With Chuck Brisbin/Director, BITS Program and John Redell/Mentor, The BITS Band members include Braden on Bass/Guitar, Joshua on

Drums, Aaron on Drums, Gabe on Guitar, and Elena on Bass/Vocals.

The C-Notes

MINNESOTA BLUES
SOCIETY

The C-Notes are a Minnesota blues band out of the Twin Cities, fronted by singer Izzy Cruz, guitarist Colin Bracewell, Will Suit on bass, and



Evan Campbell on drums. Despite their ages, all four members prove themselves strong contributors to Minnesota's rich blues scene. Passion for the blues and soulful music new and old influenced this quartet to evolve into something truly special. The group met through a music camp, Blues U, where the fresh and exciting sound of the C-Notes was born. What's harder to ignore than pure love for music? The atmosphere they create will leave you amazed.

The Instinct

CANADA SOUTH
BLUES SOCIETY

The Instinct formed in the summer of 2016 when the five members met at the Fernando Jones Blues Camp and immediately connected through their love of music. The band has performed at shows, concerts, and festivals since 2016, including Bluesfest Windsor and the Chicago Blues Fest. 2019 is