



Kat Riggins Featured Artist and MC

Not unreconstructed but not modern just for the sake of it...The spiritual granddaughter of Koko Taylor and southern blues show bands, Riggins has the stone cold knack for hitting it out of the park that would make all the blues greats before her quite proud."- Midwest Records Inspired by the variety and abundance of music in her parents' collection, it makes sense that her own music is peppered with hints of R&B, soul, country, gospel, hip-hop, and rock-n-roll. Make no mistake; however, Kat Riggins is undeniably a BLUES WOMAN! She travels the world with the sole mission of keeping the blues alive and thriving through her Blues Revival Movement.

What is a "Blues Revival" anyway? According to Kat, it is a musical revolution that aims to awaken the masses and introduce them to the sincerity behind blues music. *"It's about the raw emotion in every note"*, exclaims Kat Riggins as she attempts to describe her love of the genre. Backed by a dynamic band, Kat invokes said emotion through high energy soul shakers as well as heart breaking ballads. During a meet and greet after a sold out show in Belgium, a fan once jokingly asked Kat if ever there was a time she "phoned it in" to avoid ending up exhausted, sweaty and bruised from the tambourine... *"If I can move someone to feel what I feel when I sing a song, then it's all worth it"*, said the Miami born singer-songwriter. *"The diminutive Ms. Riggins may be small in stature, but she's blessed with a powerhouse voice that will grab listeners."* – Graham Clarke

She has been vocally compared to Koko Taylor, Etta James and Tina Turner to name a few. While obviously influenced by those icons, Mrs. Riggins has a voice and delivery all her own. Full of power, rasp and grit she can belt out one of her contemporary blues originals one minute, then deliver a tender, sultry standard the next. She does this all while making each person in her audience feel as if she is speaking directly to them. Blues Revivals are interactive and personal no matter how large the crowd. This intimacy is what makes every Blues Revival a memorable experience...not only for the audience, but also for Kat. With her five self penned albums (including the award winning Gulf Coast Records project, "Cry Out" AND her NEW release "Progeny") Kat Riggins strives to inspire listeners and to do her part to keep the Blues alive AND THRIVING!

The 2023 WiB Houseband



Hanna PK is a solid pianist, soulful vocalist, and vibrant performer, born and raised in South Korea, currently residing in Rochester, NY. She plays a wide variety of the blues & swing, old school folk, and boogie-woogie. In November 2021, She's released her debut album on the VizzTone Label with Booga Music of internationally-known bluesman, Kenny Neal.Though Kenny had met her in Memphis, and during his tour in upstate New York, what got his attention to sign her to his label was a video of hanna's performance on a Curtis Jones' song "Decoration Day Blues" that she's recorded in her U-Haul storage room. Debuted at #13 on Billboard's US Blues chart, since its released, the album has been played all over the U.S. and the world.



Heather Crosse moved to Clarksdale, MS., home of the famous "Blues Crossroads," in 2008 to pursue her musical passions and is now a seasoned performer of 39 years. She is a singer, songwriter, bass player, music teacher, and band leader for local soul blues band "Heavy Suga' & The SweeTones. After years of backing her mentors she became a recording artist for Ruf Records releasing her debut solo album, "Groovin' At The Crosse Roads" and touring Europe with Ruf's Blues Caravan 2015-Girls With Guitars. Heather has also toured Mexico, Canada, Norway, Australia and Brazil representing Clarksdale sharing her musical legacy with the world. She is currently the bass instructor for Pinetop Perkins Foundation Workshop and is exploring creative routes for her next musical production.





Grace Kuch Whether fronting a band or sitting in with musical heavyweights, Grace Kuch conveys a rare ease & instinct on blues guitar. At 18, she's already distinguished herself nationally playing renowned venues across the U.S.. She was named Best Youth Performer in 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2021 at the Colorado Blues Society Members' Choice Awards. She won a full scholarship to Pinetop Perkins Foundation Workshop, and the John-Alex Mason Memorial Scholarship & Generation Blues Scholarships from the National Blues Foundation. Grace has been promoted to a teaching Intern with the Pinetop Perkins Foundation. In 2016, Smithsonian Magazine profiled Grace in its article "Keeping Blues Alive," about the 32nd IBC. In 2015, she was listed in American Blues Scene Magazine's 10-best list "10 Musicians Under 18 You Should Know". Grace has recently released 2 albums & a newly released single, Got That Style featuring celebrated living Blues Legend Ronnie Earl.

Paige O'Rourke, 18, of Bartlett, II is a Senior at the Visual and Performing Arts Academy at Larkin High School in Elgin, II. She has been playing drums for 10 years. During the school year, Paige is part of the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Marching Band and the Pit Orchestra. Currently, Paige plays at the West Ridge Community Church and the other venues across the city of Chicago including a weekly show with Lindsey Alexander at Buddy Guy's Legends. She has played on stage with Buddy Guy, Joanna Connor, Kingfish, Bob Margolin and Mike Wheeler to name a few. She has attended the Pinetop Perkins Master Class for the last three years. This helped her make connections with members of DG & Co, and the International Crossroads Projects Band and multiple projects with both groups.

The 2023 WiB Showcase Artists



Christina Crofts

"Amid a seemingly endless sea of amazing blues artists, occasionally you'll find one such as Christina Crofts, who is a little harder to define. An accomplished guitarist with a broad love of blues and all its forms has manifested in a style steeped in swampy Texas blues/rock, New Orleans feels along with a definite tinge of country blues/rock, with searing bottleneck and lead guitar, clever tunes and story lines which are often humorous and tad rebellious, but sometimes darker tales of revenge & heartache delivered with an unpretentious and uniquely Australian style and energy."



Elly Wininger

"Inducted into the NY Blues Hall of Fame in 2014, Elly is a veteran of the Greenwich Village scene where she played opening night at CBGB. Elly's deep involvement with the country blues as well as her award-winning original songs have earned her a reputation for highly entertaining performances. Her expert finger style guitar playing has been called "edgy and flawless," "stunning and sparkling." Her most recent album, "The Blues Never End" (Earwig Music 2021) has remained in top positions on the Roots Music Report for over a year."



Alyssa Galvan

Alyssa Galvan (17), is following in the footsteps of some of the great female guitarists including Memphis Minnie, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Bonnie Raitt, and Susan Tedeschi. Alyssa has a powerful guitar/vocal combination which helps highlight her unique vocals that are rich in tone and timbre. She gigs frequently and released a self titled album in 2021.



Kelli Baker Band

With a powerhouse voice dripping with a haunting sensuality that slips easily into growling old school blues-tones, Kelli speaks her heart like a beat poet in a late night dive. Kelli has recently completed two successful national tours, topped off with performing in Paris, France. Now performing with The Kelli Baker Band, she appears regularly at some of New York's most discerning venues. Her most recent track, "Blood on the Nile" was met with critical acclaim, landing on Spotify's coveted editorial playlist, "Blues Roots", and a headlining feature in Guitar Girl Magazine.

The 2023 WiB Showcase Artists



King Bee & the Stingers - Sarah Menefee

Sarah Menefee discovered her love for music at age 2, when she and her twin sister got a karaoke machine for Christmas. With Sarah at the front, King Bee & The Stingers has gone all the way to semifinals at the 2018 and 2019 International Blues Challenges in Memphis. The band's 2019 "Meet Me in Memphis" album earned a leading spot on The Roots Music Report's Top 50 Contemporary Blues Album Chart and spent 7 months on The Roots Music Report's Top Indiana Album Chart. Sarah and the band are thrilled to be releasing a new album in 2023.



Mama & the Rukus - Melissa McKinney

Mama & the Ruckus is from Asheville, North Carolina. Fronted by powerhouse vocalist, Melissa McKinney, she's supported by a group of young men known to raise a Ruckus. The band is built on respect for each other's musical abilities and their heart and passion for the transformative power of Blues Music. They share a deep desire to honor the rich, complicated history that gave birth to the blues. With influences from Albert Collins, Muddy Waters, BB King, Albert King, Big Mama Thornton, and Allman Brothers, you will feel triumph, failure, joy and pain, in each note they play.



Jessica Rogalski

Jessica Rogalski is the power house vocalist and composer for Mojomama . They were semifinals at the IBC in Memphis 2018, 2019 representing the Colorado Blues society . Mojomama has been on top of local radio charts with their brand new album "We are one" and is up for best self produced cd at 2023 IBC . Jessica's vocal style combines raw emotion, soaring vocal range, and powerful messages of a life full of hard knock lessons and love beyond measure. Her motto is "The blues will make ya stronger "Jessica is also a mentor to Voltage 85 IBC Teen band showcase, CBS



Sandy Atkinson

Singer/songwriter/recording artist based in Florida, Sandy is known for her writing and vocal styles. She's recorded 7 CDs and has toured in the US and Norway. Locally, she chaired the Blues in The Schools program for 3 years. "Her vocal talents are nothing short of extraordinary throughout this disc, but what really stands out to me is the great songwriting..." Chuck Dauphin, Music News, Nashville – Review of "Collection" CD. "Tampa area blues queen Atkinson gets soulful, sultry and serious..." Curtis Ross, Tampa Tribune. "Atkinson commands all bases of blues-based music..." Music Connection Magazine

The 2023 WiB Showcase Artists



Julia Magness

Julia Cruz Magness sang with The Original Bells of Joy gospel group from Austin Texas For over a decade until the Pandemic hit. The Bells of Joy have retired and Julia is now focusing on her solo career. She is also a soprano in The Tennessee Mass Choir. In 2012 her band Miss Julia and The Cruzers won the Austin Blues Society's Blues Challenge and represented Austin Texas in Memphis at the IBC, and represented Memphis in 2019 as a duo with Chad Pope. Julia resides in Memphis TN and can be seen at The Peabody Hotel most Fridays in the Corner Bar with Curtis Jones on Piano. She also performs in Austin TX and Memphis with a full band, Julia and Her Mane Men. Julia is focusing on her debut Blues album that will be released in 2023. It is being produced by Boo Mitchell and recorded at Royal Studios with many of the original members of the Hi Rhythm Section. Julia can be heard on songs by artists that include Gary P Nunn, The Push Stars, The Moeller Brothers and Bracken Hale.



Skylar Rogers

Skylar Rogers has lived through pain and suffering to become the artist she is today in the roots rock blues world. Divorce, the military, the death of a child, truck driving and homelessness, taught her lessons that can never be forgotten. After being diagnosed with several autoimmune diseases, she decided to live life on her own terms and not be bound by others' expectations. This rebellious spirit is evident in her music as her voice grips the soul and fills you with energy and passion. Getting recognition by the Grammy Nominating Committee for her song 'Like Father, Like Daughter', and for her album "Firebreather," she has arrived on the grandest of stages. Writing from her own perspective and experiences, there is no doubt that she breaks new ground with every step she makes. Her new CD, Among The Insanity, is scheduled for release March 2023.



Angela Easley

The voice of Angela Easley is guaranteed to stir you...because in the tradition of a really good gumbo roux, her sound is a savory blend of sultry spicy soul that can be ladled just as deliciously over Mississippi R&B or Nashville Country as it can New Orleans Bayou Ju-Ju. Blues or Gospel. She has been a professional performing artist since the age of 12 & recorded her first album at 14. A self-taught musician, She plays piano, guitar, & cigar box guitar on stage, & can add bass, keys & drums in the studio to create full rhythm section demos of her songs. Her fifth and latest album is RISE, released on her own label, Class A Records. A #1 chart-topper for Billboard Magazine, SiriusXM Bluesville, and Soundscan with three #1 's on Roots Music Report, Two #1's on Radio Indie Alliance, #9 Global Digital Radio Tracker. RISE was co-produced by Angela in Nashville with expressly trusted Walter Scott. The lead single, "I Can Let Go," is a backbeat boiler of a blues featuring Angela at the piano singing with a horn section, powerful guitar. And special guests, acclaimed singing quartet The McCrary Sisters who also grace the video.

The 2023 WiB Showcase Closing Artist



Redd Velvet Show Closer

At four years old Redd put her first act together banging on an old upright piano and using a hairbrush for a microphone. As a child, she sang regularly at her grandfather's church in rural Alabama and eventually became the featured soloist in a traveling gospel group. At age 17, Redd successfully landed the role of 'Maggie' in the Studs Terkel's musical "Working" bringing the house down by performing the musical's showstopping number "Cleaning Woman". Redd received classical training under Andrew Gainey of the New York City Opera, and internationally renowned mezzo-soprano Mildred Allen of the Metropolitan Opera who encouraged her to pursue a career as a classical vocalist. Her role as Zerlina in Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni" proved her vocal ability as a mezzo-soprano. But her southern roots kept her anchored to the music that made her the powerhouse vocalist that blows life into blues and soul music. Redd's debut CD "Womanhood 101" was cited as "a new and exciting chapter in contemporary blues" by Living Blues Magazine. Lured by her power and passion, audiences testify to being taken on a journey that goes from the church to the juke joint. Her presence is declared to be electrifying, intoxicating, and even spiritual leaving you with a testimony of your own! With determination and faith, Redd Velvet has emerged from her work as a registered nurse during the Covid-19 pandemic with a new game plan and an even hotter Southern Soul single that is sure to sizzle across the South and beyond. "You Got To Leave", her clap-back answer to King

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