

2024 WiB Showcase Line Up

Featured Artist & MC

Gina Coleman with Misty Blues

11:30am & 3:40pm



Gina is the lead singer, founder, songwriter, and cigarbox show house of the 2019 International Blues Challenge finalist, Misty Blues. Her band is based out of Berkshire County, Massachusetts, and has been playing original and traditional blues with hints of jazz, soul, funk, and tent revival gospel since 1999. Gina/Misty Blues have recorded 14 albums with tracks featuring artists like Charles Neville, Eric Gales, Joe Louis Walker, Justin Johnson, and Kat Riggins. They have performed extensively throughout the Northeast and have toured the continental U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom. Misty Blues has been nominated for a number of Independent Blues Music Awards, and they were bestowed the honor of being the 2021 CFAB Music Realm Entertainer of the Year. Their original music is regularly aired on SiriusXM Bluesville, and they have had broad international airplay, as evidenced by chart standings on the Roots Music Report.





Alex Richman

12:00pm

Keyboardist/vocalist/songwriter Alex Richman's music is a conglomerate of styles, with blues at its core, incorporating elements of classical music, Motown, 60s girl groups, soul/jazz, and classic rock. She has spent equal parts of her career as a side(wo)man, playing Hammond organ and piano and singing background vocals, and as a soloist, performing her own compositions, classic blues and random songs of her choosing. She recorded an album, Salty, on Capitol Records, consisting of her own songs. She currently lives in St. Augustine, Florida, and plays with as many local bands as possible.



The Bustle - Sami Chong, Jennifer Swistun, Jenny McPhail

12:20

The Bustle is a tight-knit three-piece from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, consisting of Jen Swistun (Bass and Vocals), Sami Chong (Guitar) and Jenny McPhail (Drums). All three women have been involved in their local music scene for over a decade and competed together in the 2018 IBC with their previous band The Angies. The Bustle's sound, based entirely in originals, is a blend of traditional blues infused with elements of rock, funk, and a touch of gospel. Their goal is to honour the past blues-masters while pushing the boundaries of the genre.



Chantell with Diego Mongue Band

12:40pm

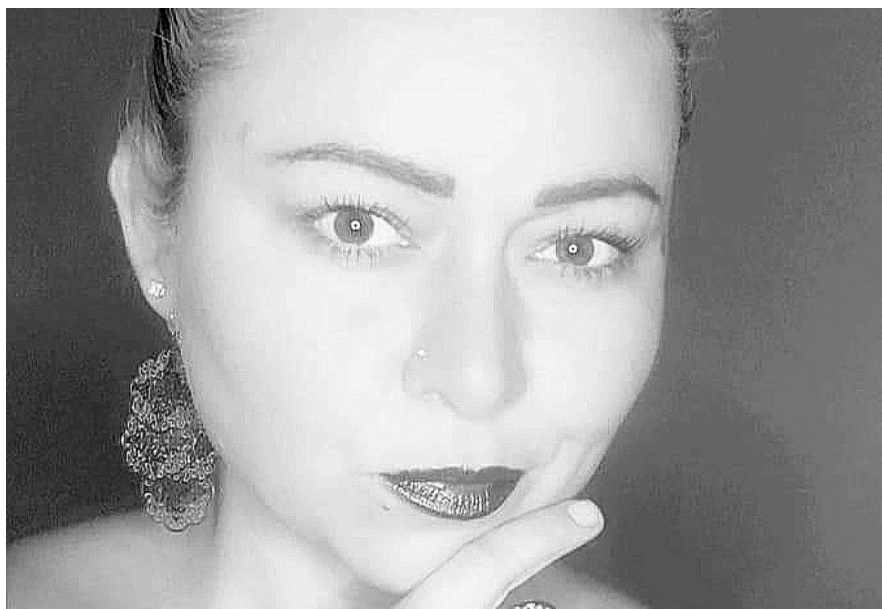
Songstress, Chantell, is a singer/songwriter from Chicago. In her early career, Chantell performed on studio albums for PBS and Sesame Street. During Covid, Chantell performed in a concert dedicated to essential workers with renown cellist, Yo-yo Ma, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra's, Manny Ax. She has been featured with Broadway performers & revered blues acts such as Misty Blues, a previous IBC Finalist. Residing in the hills of Berkshire County, Known for her soulful interpretations, wide vocal range and moving performances. With a performance as dynamic as hers, Chantell is not an artist to miss. In 2023, Chantell joined the Diego Mongue Band as the lead singer. The band is comprised of Diego Mongue, a previous IBC youth competitor, and drummer. Chase Bradshaw on bass and Cameron Bencivenga on guitar.



Dawn Lepere - Lafever

1:00pm

Dawn Lepere is a vocalist, spoon-player, guitarist, and songwriter hailing originally from Ohio where she met her lead guitarist, music partner, and husband, Jeff Starns. They now reside in Western Massachusetts and perform under the name LeFever. LeFever, as a duo, are two-time IBC challengers and are honored to be representing the Capital Region Blues Network this year! Dawn's spirited spoon playing, learned from her father, and rich vocals deliver a depth to Jeff's original blues music that is filled with lyrics that feature colorful characters and female strength, often with a theme of resiliency.



Mandalyn And The Hunters

1:20pm

Mandalyn has been working the local music scene for over Twenty Years bringing every Genre to the Stage while commanding the attention of the room with her powerhouse, sultry, and on point vocals. Now starting a new chapter in her life, she brings Originals by multiple genres the Blues has touched and inspired. Whether it be Country Blues, Southern Rock Blues, or just some good Old School Blues, Mandalyn brings it all to you with the utmost respect for the history of the genre that stole her heart.



Kiersi Joli

1:40pm

Nashville singer/songwriter & harmonica virtuoso, Kiersi Joli (16) impresses every time she takes the stage. Her raw gritty blues harmonica paired with her dynamic vocals clearly surpasses her age. Kiersi has always been musical with piano age 3, harmonica age 6 & by 7 she was performing blues harp. To hear her live, it's obvious she brings an undeniable connection to some deep rooted, genuine soulful blues that is truly felt. She is starting to develop her own unique sound & plans for original releases in 2024. Keep an eye on Kiersi, she's on the verge of being the next rising star.



PK Hanna

2:00pm

Hanna PK is a pianist and singer from South Korea, and now living in Louisiana. She got the surprise of her life when a video of her playing solo piano in a U-Haul storage unit got the attention of blues legend

Kenny Neal-- he contacted her to produce her debut record! Maybe it was her choice of material--"Decoration Day Blues" by the obscure piano genius Curtis Jones-- or maybe it was her soulful, understated singing and charisma-- but either way, it led to a fruitful collaboration. Kenny's label Booga in partnership with Vizztone records released Hanna's "Blues All Over My Shoes" in November of 2021. It debuted at #13 on Billboard's US Blues chart and has garnered strong worldwide blues radio play.



Sunny Bleau

2:20pm

Sunny Bleau is a prolific songwriter and storyteller who lives to perform on stage! Sunny's huge soulful voice and unique style of harp play combined with her energetic charisma and highly interactive live performances are why she is attracting blues fans and bringing new fans to the genre worldwide. "I have stories to tell, and I enjoy telling them" Says Sunny Bleau. Sunny Bleau and her band The Moons have released two studio albums, several singles, spent the summer and fall of 2023 recording a series of live acoustic tracks as well as continuing their work in the studio on their third album for release in 2024.



Gayle Harrod - The Gayle Harrod Band

2:40pm

Baltimore area Band leader, vocalist, and songwriter Gayle Harrod weaves a musical story so vivid that you wind up in the middle of it. She achieves a rare, honest, and spell-binding level of performance with thrillingly rocket-powered vocals, a signature blend of grit, gravel, and pure defiance, yet can summon warm, smoky, velvety tones and draw the listener in with a heartbreaking quiet, confessional intimacy.

The Gayle Harrod Band's Debut CD, *Temptation*, was released in February 2023 and is a beautiful showcase of Blues styles from Chicago to New Orleans, Memphis to the Mississippi Delta and Muscle Shoals; with influences of Motown, R&B, Gospel and Soul. *Temptation* was also chosen by the DC Blues Society for submission to the IBC for the 2024 Best Self-Produced CD.



Niece

3:00pm

Cashbox Magazine has described Niece as a "Raw and Soulful.....Rocking Blues Powerhouse". Produced by Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner former Allman Brothers Johnny Neel, Niece's music has topped charts all over the world for over 3 decades. In 2023, Niece won Best Original Blues and Jazz-Female at the Holland Red Carpet Awards in the Netherlands. *Queen Of The Hill*, Niece's latest release, won USA Female Album Of The Year at the International Singer Songwriters Awards in Atlanta. Blues-E-News voted Niece Top 25 Women In Music. Niece was recently voted Fan Favorite by the LA Music Critics Awards.



Sayed Sabrina

3:20pm

“A tour de force. Sayed Sabrina represents all that today’s musical artist should be: a unique out-of-the-box expression of self.” Sweating, Crying and Stomping Blues. An incredible powerhouse of vocal talent, a native of Los Angeles, her music is rooted in her punk rock, gospel, and reggae background. She made a name for herself and found acceptance in the blues community with her previous releases “Big Boy Blues,” and “Thou Art That” (“☆☆☆☆☆ a world-class singer & songwriter.” – RMR) “A class act” - Sugaray Rayford • “An amazing singer” - BB King • “Just an incredible talent” - Dr. John

Gina Coleman with Misty blues band lending their talents to multiple artists!



R to L: Seth Fleischmann (guitar), Rob Tatten (drums) , Aaron Dean (sax),
Gina Coleman, Benny Kohn(key player), Bill Patriquin (bass).
Liam Giszter (not pictured, will play keys for the showcase)

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