

## **CASCADE BLUES ASSOCIATION MUDDY AWARD FINALISTS 2025**

Winners will be awarded March 22, 2026

### **CONTEMPORARY BLUES ACT**

This act should draw upon a more smoothed-out take on the genre that incorporates the influences of rock or pop. The style should be more polished, but still definitely soulful. Contemporary can include anything more modern and yes that can be today's electric sounds from Chicago and Texas, but also California's sound and European, it can also include influences such as hip hop and electronic.

**Kivett Bednar Band**

**Nikki Jones Band**

**Taylor Newville and the Riders**

### **“LLOYD JONES” R&B ACT**

This act should possess the style of American music that emerged from the various sub-genres of jazz and blues that were popular throughout the first half of the 20th century. They should have deep roots in a variety of soulful styles including Gospel music, with its rhythmic style and spiritual call-and-response vocal arrangements.

**Fenix Rising Band**

**Ms Vee and a Badass Band**

**Rae Gordon Band**

### **TRADITIONAL BLUES ACT**

This act should be focused on original styles of blues, not necessarily just acoustic, but the classic era of Chicago or Detroit of the 1950s/early 60s with original electric acts (like John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson as examples) and also could include those acts considered Folk, Roots or Americana.

**Bottleneck Blues Band**

**Kivett Bednar Band**

**Tevis Hodge Jr.**

## **NEW ACT**

These acts are the fresh new faces of blues/roots music in the Northwest -- the 2025 acts that have started performing (or came to your attention.)

**Nikki Jones Band**

**Sleeper Wave**

**Taylor Newville and the Riders**

## **REGIONAL ACT**

These should be blues/roots acts that have branched out and performed in 2025 throughout the Northwest with some notoriety BEYOND our local community.

**Ben Rice and the PDX Hustle**

**Johnny Wheels and the Swamp Donkeys**

**Polly O'Keary and the Rhythm Method**

## **"CURTIS SALGADO" MALE VOCALIST**

The 2025 male blues/roots vocalist in our area who has been particularly notable and outstanding.

**Ben Rice**

**Johnny Wheels**

**Kivett Bednar**

## **"DUFFY BISHOP" FEMALE VOCALIST**

The 2025 female blues/roots vocalist in our area who has been particularly notable and outstanding.

**Lilla**

**Lisa Mann**

**Nikki Jones**

### **“ROBBIE LAWS” ELECTRIC GUITAR**

The 2025 electric blues/roots guitarist in our area who has been particularly notable and outstanding.

**Alan Hager**

**Ben Rice**

**Brandon Logan**

**Jason JT Thomas**

**Kivett Bednar**

### **“TERRY ROBB” ACOUSTIC GUITAR**

The 2025 acoustic blues/roots guitarist in our area who has been particularly notable and outstanding.

**Alan Hager**

**Ellen Whyte**

**Tevis Hodge Jr.**

### **BASS**

The 2025 blues/roots bass player in our area who has been particularly notable and outstanding.

**Allen Markel**

**Ben Jones**

**Kevin Kelley**

### **KEYBOARD**

The 2025 blues/roots keyboard player in our area who has been particularly notable and outstanding.

**Brady Goss**

**Dave Fleschner**

**Pat McDougall**

### **"JIMI BOTT" DRUMS**

The 2025 blues/roots drummer in our area who has been particularly notable and outstanding.

**Dave Melyan**

**Edwin Coleman III**

**Jerry Jacques**

### **HARMONICA**

The 2025 blues/roots player in our area who has been particularly notable and outstanding.

**Chad Rupp**

**Johnny Wheels**

**Kim Field**

### **HORNS**

The 2025 blues/roots horn or horn section in our area that has been particularly notable and outstanding.

**Allan Kalik**

**Chris Mercer**

**Fenix Sanders**

**PDX Hustle Horns – John Dover & Pete Peterson**

## **VENUE**

The most notable and outstanding venue for seeing live music in our area in 2025. Sound quality, booked acts, ease of access, great service, food and beverage quality should be taken into consideration.

**Mekong Bistro**

**The Blue Diamond Bar & Grill**

**Billy Blues Bar & Grill**

**HōKū Events on Madison**

## **NORTHWEST RECORDING**

The most notable and outstanding recording released in 2025 and recorded by a Northwest act at a Northwest based studio.

**Fallen Angel – Ben Rice and the PDX Hustle**

**Find My Way - Taylor Newville**

**Live at Wavelength Studios - Nikki Jones Band**

## **NATIONAL RECORDING**

The most notable and outstanding recording released in 2025 and done by any performer at any studio nationally.

**Ain't Done with the Blues - Buddy Guy**

**Hard Road - Christone Kingfish Ingram**

**Help Yourself - Blood Brothers Mike Zito & Albert Castillo**

**The Great Women in Blues (Feat Terrie Odabi) by Lisa Mann's Northwestern All-Stars**

**Blues In My DNA - Ronnie Baker Brooks**

**Room On The Porch - Taj Mahal & Keb Mo**

## **PHOTOGRAPHER**

The most notable and outstanding amateur or professional photographer in 2025 who captured live blues music this last year at any indoor or outdoor event.

**Debra Penk**

**Kathy Rose**

**Kelly Ralph**

## **DANCE AMBASSADOR**

The most notable and outstanding dancer in 2025 who has graced the blues stages with their talent.

**Jeff Loney**

**Tony Sandiford**

**William Crowe**

## **NORTHWEST EVENT**

The most notable and outstanding musical event in the Northwest in 2025.

**Winter Music Festival**

**Sunbanks Blues Festival**

**Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival**

**NW Women R&B Christmas Concert**

**Christmas Guitar Summitt at Salem Historic Grand**

## **PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR**

The most notable and outstanding blues performance in 2025 by any performer.

**Samantha Fish at Aladdin Theater**

**Come to Mama: Celebrating Etta James at Alberta Rose Theater**

**Taylor Newville and the Riders at the Cathedral Park Jazz Festival**

**Christmas Guitar Summit at Salem Historic Grand**