Preserving & Promoting the Blues in the Pacific NW

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bluesnotes

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Youth Jam & Info Session

(L-R) Sebastian Fleschner, Dave Fleschner, Curtis Salgado, Tikylo Hendrix, Jonah Bradbury, Cole Wilson, Cameron Kirkman, Solomon Lamb, Ben Rice, Courtney Odom

A great opportunity for young blues musicians in Oregon

The International Blues Challenge Youth Showcase

The Blues Foundation preserves blues history and celebrates blues music worldwide. The International Blues Challenge (IBC) is the Blues Foundation's signature event, drawing more than 260 acts to Beale Street each January for a five-day competition.

Now in its 42nd year, the IBC—running January 19–23, 2027—brings musicians from around the world together to compete for cash, prizes, and industry recognition, with quarterfinals and semifinals filling the clubs before finals at the Orpheum Theater on Saturday.

The IBC Youth Showcase on Friday gives young musicians a noncompetitive stage, clinics or jams, and a chance to network with performers from across the globe.



Youth Jam & Info Session at Hōkū
(L-R) Jonah Bradbury, Dave Fleschner, Tikylo Hendrix, Cameron Kirkman, Soloman Lamb, Ben Rice

Cascade Blues Association Youth Journey to Memphis (YJ2M)

The Cascade Blues Association (CBA) is actively building a "youth pipeline" for the Portland blues scene, and the YJ2M is one of its most effective tools. This year's YJ2M gives young blues musicians in Oregon and nearby Washington a two-part opportunity.

First, the information and jam sessions leading up to Memphis give budding artists the opportunity to network, learn about the IBC Youth Showcase, glean stage and performance tips, and see how professional musicians "jam" and play together on stage. Then the winning act of the Youth Showcase Challenge—band or solo/duo — earns a spot in the IBC's Youth Showcase.

The first CBA-sponsored Youth Showcase information and jam session took place September 7 at Hōkū Events on Madison, combining live performance with an informational briefing.

Featured youth musicians kicking off the evening included:

- Jonah Bradbury, 15, on keys/vocals–founding member of Sleeper Wave, last year's CBA Youth Representative, and member of the 2025 winner Oregon Bluesberries.
- Cameron Kirkman, 17, on guitar/vocals–also a founding member of Sleeper Wave
- Cole Wilson, 18, on drums
- Solomon Lamb, 20, on bass–an Oregon Bluesberries member who also previously attended the IBC with United By Music.

Their performance set the stage for an information and live jam session led by Curtis Salgado, Dave Fleschner, and Ben Rice. Sebastian Fleschner, on percussion; Tikylo

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Help us promote & preserve the lyrical emotion & sultry sounds of blues music in Portland - become a member!

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Contact:
PO Box 6566, Portland OR 97228
bluesnotes@cascadeblues.org

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Help us promote and preserve Blues Music in the Pacific Northwest.... Become a Member!

By Nancy Collins





Curtis Salgado, Ben Rice & Dave Fleschner help out at the Youth Jam

Hendrix, on drums; and Courtney on keyboards, also participated in the jam session.

When asked what they felt were some of the benefits of participating in the IBC Youth Showcase, Cameron, Jonah, and Sebastian all said they valued the workshops, exposure to different blues styles, and networking opportunities.

Musical Insights and Mentorship

Curtis Salgado, a longtime Portland blues icon, and world-touring recording artist, generously contributed to the young musicians' education at the event.

He emphasized that "the blues is a feeling," one that grounds pop, funk, and soul. Throughout the jam session, he demonstrated the "language of the jam," showing how musicians who've never played together can coordinate using keys (like key of C), feels, and visual cues.

Curtis gave the musicians real-time feedback on their playing, style, and timing, and got them comfortable with the patter and terminology a jam leader uses. His gentle notes on counts and keys, paired with his encouragement, made an impact. After just one song, the young musicians' demeanor and confidence visibly shifted.

Meanwhile, Dave Fleschner sat in on keyboards, working closely with his piano student Chelsea, while also interacting with Jonah, seated to his right.

Other IBC Youth Showcase Events

Kivett Bednar and band Sleeper Wave hosted a second Info Session & Youth Jam at the Old Market Pub on October 4th. The Kivett Bednar Band, along with Kevin Selfe (solo), will represent the CBA at the 2027 IBC.

The session focused on recruiting for the Youth Challenge and building community for young musicians, with Sleeper Wave playing opening set and Kivett leading the jam while offering his mentorship along the way.

The YJ2M Showcase Challenge took over Hōkū Events on October 11th. Registered bands played 20-minute sets, judged by the same criteria as the IBC itself. Fenix Sanders, Lisa Mann, and Johnny Wheels judged the event.

The winner –either a band or solo/duo act–will represent the CBA at the IBC Youth Challenge in Memphis in January. Turn to page 5 to see who won!

How To Support the Youth Journey To Memphis

The CBA helps the winning act fundraise for travel to Memphis. Anyone can pitch in through online fundraising, cash or check donations at events, and online auctions or merchandise sales.

Learn more about our YJ2M competition this year at cascadeblues.org and find out how you can help preserve and promote the blues for the next generation!

About the Author:
Nancy Collins is the Vice President of the Cascade Blues Association. A longtime supporter of Portland's blues community, Nancy enjoys preserving and sharing the stories that have helped shape the region's vibrant music scene.





Help us promote and preserve Blues Music in the Pacific Northwest.... Become a Member!

Hello Blues Fans!

Message from the CBA President

One question I'm asked often—and the answer is one I believe bears repeating "Why should I join the Cascade Blues Association?"

The reasons are many. A CBA membership is a great way to enjoy more music, connect with fellow blues fans, and support the artists and events that strengthen our regional blues community.

For $25/year, you get:

- Free Events: Monthly artist showcases (with CD raffles), the Annual Appreciation Picnic, and the CBA Holiday Party.
- Exclusive Discounts: Savings on Muddy Awards tickets and entry into ticket raffles for local festivals and events.
- Music Competitions: Eligibility to enter our Journey to Memphis competitions and represent the CBA at the International Blues Challenge.
- Member Voting Rights: Vote in the annual Muddy Awards and for Board officers to help shape the CBA.
- Monthly Newsletter: Updates on local news, events, and blues coverage delivered to your inbox.
- Community Impact: The good feeling you get by supporting local musicians and preserving blues music.

We're continually looking for additional opportunities to collaborate with music events, venues, and other blues societies to offer even more value to your membership.

Whether you're a longtime blues fan or new to the music, joining the CBA helps you support our local blues community.

Thank you for supporting our artists and helping showcase the incredible talent of our blues community. If you'd like to donate an auction item or volunteer, please contact me or email president@cascadeblues.org.



Sandy
(CBA President)

Youth Journey to Memphis Showcase

The Kai Wickham Trio is Heading to Memphis!

On Sunday, 10/11, the Cascade Blues Association hosted our Youth Journey to Memphis Showcase at HŌKŪ Events on Madison. Four young acts, with performers ranging in age from 14 to 19, took the stage, and the talent left no doubt that the future of live music in our community is in good hands.

The afternoon also included fun jam sessions, both before and after the winner was announced, with judges Lisa Mann and Johnny Wheels, a bunch of the young performers, and members of Sleeper Wave all joining in.



Here are the four acts who took the stage:

- The Kai Wickham Trio: Kai Wickham (guitar/vocals, 17), Oliver Medley (bass, 19), Tikylo "TK" Hendrix (drums, 16)
- Council Crest: Grant Keller (guitar/vocals, 15), Robbie Otley (keys, 15), Evie Strandberg (bass/vocals, 16), Levi Rainka (drums, 14)
- Drums Sold Separately: Sofia Rodriguez (vocals, 17), Felix Streu (guitar, 16), Courtney Odom (keys, 17), Alex Sotiriadi (bass, 15), Ben West (drums, 15)
- Exotic Birds: Rose Tang (vocals, 15), Samuel Racho (guitar, 15), Sawyer Osterhaus (piano, 16), Alex Sotiriadi (bass, 15), Revir Walker (drums, 16)

After the final set, Jonah Bradbury and Cameron Kirkman of last year's winner, Sleeper Wave, took the stage to announce that The Kai Wickham Trio will represent the Cascade Blues Association and the Pacific Northwest at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee, January 19-23, 2027, with the Youth Showcase on January 22. Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who gave their time, talent, and support to make this showcase possible. We're grateful for your generosity in helping the next generation of musicians shine.

Help send the trio to Memphis: Fundraising events are in the works. To contribute in the meantime, scan the QR code to donate. Stay tuned for upcoming fundraisers.

White Eagle Saloon - Keeping the Blues Alive

Cole Wilson... this kid can play!

There's something magical about the legendary White Eagle Saloon—a place where Portland's history, music, and community collide. Dim lights, antique mirrors, a glowing chandelier, replica eagle, and a mysterious "PALMISTRY" curtain all make the White Eagle feel like a step into another time. It's atmospheric, a little spooky, and wonderfully imperfect—the kind of place where you immediately sense that something special is about to happen.

Then the music starts.

Every Monday night from 6–9 p.m, multi-instrumentalist and bluesman Chad Rupp hosts his Blues Jam, and calling it a "jam" almost doesn't do it justice. Chad kicks things off with his guests, bringing guitar, keyboard, harmonica, humor, and plenty of energy to the stage. Before long, the room feels more like a party than a typical jam night.

The guest musicians make the night even more special. Over the several nights I've attended, I've seen incredible players including Mitch Kashmar, Joel Astley, Polly O'Keary, Taylor Neville, Lisa Mann, and Sonny Hess. You never quite know who might show up—or who might surprise you by taking the stage.





At The White Eagle:
17yo Cole WIlson on stage (left) and with Chad Rupp (right)

But what touches me most is Chad's commitment to young musicians. His motto is simple: "Youth jammers get priority." During the second two hours, he actively invites young players to come up and play.

Every time I've attended, 17-year-old drummer Cole Wilson has been there. And let me tell you—this kid can play! More than once, his playing gave me goosebumps. Watching a young musician throw himself into the music with that much confidence, passion, and natural ability is genuinely exciting.

Cole has loved drumming since fifth grade and went on to lead the Washougal High School band. He got involved with the jams through Timmer Blakely's Lightning in a Bottle (LIAB), a record label that nurtures young musicians, and now brings his powerful rhythm and enthusiasm to the White Eagle stage weekly. He also recently started playing gigs with Sleeper Wave, last year's CBA youth representative at the annual International Blues Challenge.

As chair of Blues in the Schools, I believe moments like this matter enormously. Blues music survives because musicians share it —from one player to another, from one generation to the next. A young musician stepping onto that stage isn't simply playing a song; they're becoming part of a living tradition. Putting youth first isn't just generous—it's how we keep the blues alive, growing, and moving forward.

Programs like Blues in the Schools can introduce young people to the roots, stories, and skills of blues music, but opportunities like Chad's jam bring those lessons to life. When experienced players welcome a young musician onto the stage, that musician alongside gains more than experience—they gain confidence, encouragement, and a sense that they belong.

So, come for the music, stay for the community, and keep an eye on those young players. You might just witness the future of the blues.

And if you'd like to learn more about Blues in the Schools, support our programs, or get involved, please contact me at BITS@cascadeblues.org.

About the Author:
Mercedez Cruz is Cascade Blues Association Chair, Blues in the Schools

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GA-20- "BLUES NOW!" with Charlie Musselwhite

CD Review by Mike Penk



GA-20 went back to the studio with Charlie Musselwhite to reimagine the sound of Chicago blues recordings from the 1950s and 1960s—not simply to cover those records, but to let their spirit shape something fresh. The collaboration has deep roots: members of GA-20 have recorded and toured with Musselwhite, and the album revisits two songs from his 1968 debut, "Stand Back!"— "Strange Land" and "Cristo Redentor." Playing live in the studio with vintage instruments, the musicians turn that shared history into a purposeful, enthusiastic performance that feels both authentic and new.

The album kicks off with "Crazy Love," by prolific songwriter Willie Dixon, and at once turns the energy up to eleven: "If I'm crazy, you'll be crazy too. We gonna have a crazy time just playing crazy music for you." The guitars and drums churn like storm thunder, while Charlie's harmonica sounds the warning that a storm is brewing. That momentum carries into the Elmore James tune "I Can't Hold Out," where Charlie sings with conviction and his own sly swagger as he talks to his girl on the telephone and anxiously waits for her to come home: "Talk to me baby, talk trash to me baby. You know what I wanna hear, lay it on me baby." The band then pushes its groove and hoodoo further on "Stroll Out West," powered by an especially possessed vocal from Cody Nilsen. After building an unsettling crescendo, like a walk through a graveyard at midnight, in the end, the song cleverly falls apart on purpose.

The album closes by turning inward with the slower, more reflective instrumental "Cristo Redentor." It feels like the final scene of a Ken Burns documentary about 1960s blues and R&B, placing the listener in the front row of a small South Side Chicago club in 1963. After the album's earlier fire and swagger, the song provides a graceful, emotionally rich finish.

Released July 31, 2026 on New West Records.

BLUES NOW! Features the Following Musicians

- Charlie Musselwhite on vocals and harmonica
- Cody Nilsen on vocals, guitar, and lap steel
- Matthew Stubbs on guitar and baritone guitar
- Josh Kiggans on drums
- Marty Ballou on bass (Tracks 1,4,5,6,10)

About the Author: Mike Penk is a longtime Cascade Blues Association member and passionate music enthusiast. In addition to his love of the blues, he attends hundreds of live music performances each year and enjoys sharing his insights through album reviews and articles that celebrate the artists and music he loves.

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★ $150

Bruce Powell, Dale Query, Darrel Duffy, Ed Reckford, Gary & Sandra Shuler, Gloria Geiser, Jae Weber - Confluence Winery, Janet Frein, Karen Gaddis, Linda Tuerk, Mark Bowden, Michael Allen & Anne J. Schagen, Nancy Collins, Nelson Kerr, Roxanne Doty, Will & Beth - the Dancers

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1-5 PM
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KIVETT BEDNAR BAND
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CASCADEBLUES.ORG

Blues Calendar: November/December, 2026

Experience the Blues Up Close and Personal

Blues Jams

Mondays

Blues Jam w/ Chad Rupp • The White Eagle • 6pm • PDX

Tuesdays

Vic Sorisio • Billy Blues • 7:30pm • Vancouver, WA

Wednesdays

Toby Worthington & The Fabulous Bad Cats • Dublin Pub • 7pm • PDX

Thursdays

Dan Hess & Friends Jam • Beach Hut Deli • 7pm • Tigard

Josh Makosky Jam • The Lair Bar & Grill • 8pm • PDX

Sundays

Froggy's Blues Jam • Calapooia Brewing • 3pm • Albany

Kevin Selfe Blues Jam • The Blue Diamond • 5pm • PDX

Jerry Jacques Jam • 99 Saloon • 6pm • Vancouver, WA

Trails End Boys Jam • CI Bar & Grill • 6pm • Tualatin

Eric Savage/Bobby Ferrante/Eric Rabe/ Ben Jones • M&M Lounge • 8pm • Gresham

Scott Steele/Kirk Bryant/Josh Makosky (alternating) Jam • Montavilla Station • 9pm •PDX

November 1

- Bayou Boyz, Spirits Pub, 5pm, PDX
- Suburban Slim Band, Slim's, 7pm, PDX

November 2

- Lloyd Jones Blue Monday, Muddy Rudder, 8pm, PDX
- Tevis Hodge Jr. w/ Bayou Boyz, Mekong Bistro, 5:30pm, PDX

November 3

- Blues Dancing, Hōkū Events, 8pm, PDX
- Alan Hager & Albert Reda, Old Market Pub, 7pm, PDX

November 4

- CBA Monthly Showcase,Mekong Bistro, 6:30pm, PDX
- Cascade ZyDecembero, Hōkū Events

November 5

- Ed Neumann & Friends, CI Bar & Grill, 8pm, Tualatin
- Fenix Rising Band, The Blue Diamond, 8pm, PDX

November 6

- First Fridays with Lloyd Jones, Artichoke Music, 7pm, PDX
- Nikki Jones Band, Starday Tavern, 5pm, PDX

November 7

- Myrtle Brown & The Executive Groove, Canary, 6pm, PDX
- Nikki Jones Band, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub * 8pm, Eugene

November 8

- Bayou Boyz, Spirits Pub, 5pm, PDX

November 9

- Tevis Hodge Jr. w/ Bayou Boyz, Mekong Bistro, 5:30pm, PDX
- Lloyd Jones Blue Monday, Muddy Rudder, 8pm, PDX

November 10

- Blues Dancing, Hōkū Events, 8pm, PDX

November 12

- Claes Almroth Trio, Starday Tavern, 5:30pm, PDX
- Ed Neumann & Friends, CI Bar & Grill, 8pm, Tualatin
- Fenix Rising Band, The Blue Diamond, 8pm, PDX

November 14

- Lloyd Jones & Friends, Spirits, 6pm, PDX
- Ms.Vee and Yella P, Jack London, 8:00pm, PDX
- Norman Sylvester Band, Clydes, 9pm, PDX

November 15

- Keith Scott Blues, Confluence Winery, 3pm • Ridgefield, WA
- Bayou Boyz, Spirits Pub, 5pm, PDX
- Lloyd Jones & Mark Shark, Old Market Pub, 7pm, PDX

November 16

- Tevis Hodge Jr. w/ Bayou Boyz, Mekong Bistro, 5:30pm, PDX
- Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle, Alberta Street Pub, 7pm, PDX
- Lloyd Jones Blue Monday, Muddy Rudder, 8pm, PDX

November 17

- Blues Dancing, Hoku Events, 8pm, PDX

November 18

- Cascade ZyDecembero, Hōkū Events, 7pm, PDX
- Vintage Soul, The Blue Diamond, 7pm, PDX

November 19

- Norman Sylvester Trio, sámn Pacific Coast Kitchen (Ilani), 5pm, Ridgefield, WA
- Blues At Produce Row Feat. Tevis Hodge, Jr., 7pm, PDX
- Ed Neumann & Friends, CI Bar & Grill, 8pm, Tualatin
- Fenix Rising Band, The Blue Diamond, 8pm, PDX
- Kevin Selfe and The Tornadoes, Billy Blues, 8pm, Vancouver, WA

November 20

- Ellen Whyte & Sonny Hess, Old Market Pub, 7pm, PDX

November 21

- Soul Vaccination Featuring Lloyd Jones, The Headliners Club, 4pm,PDX
- Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle, Alberta Street Pub, 7pm, PDX
- Terry Robb Quartet + Ty Curtis Trio, Hōkū Events, 7pm, PDX
- NIkki Jones Band, The Blue Diamond * 8pm, PDX
- Claes Almroth Trio, Mock Crest Tavern, 9pm, PDX

November 22

- Bayou Boyz, Spirits Pub, 5pm, PDX

November 23

- Tevis Hodge Jr. w/ Bayou Boyz, Mekong Bistro, 5:30pm, PDX
- Lloyd Jones Blue Monday, Muddy Rudder, 8pm, PDX

November 24

- Blues Dancing, Hoku Events, 8pm, PDX

November 25

- Soul Cookin', The Blue Diamond, 7pm, PDX

November 27

- Curtis Salgado and Alan Hager, Artichoke Music,7pm, PDX
- Lloyd Jones, Willy Barber & Reinhardt Metz, Slow Pour Coffee + Bar, 7pm, PDX

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Blues Around Town | Visit CascadeBlues.org/calendar

November 28
- Curtis Salgado and Alan Hager, Artichoke Music, 7pm, PDX

November 29
- Bayou Boyz, Spirits Pub, 5pm, PDX

November 30
- Tevis Hodge Jr. w/ Bayou Boyz, Mekong Bistro, 5:30pm, PDX

December 1
- Blues Dancing, Hoku Events, 8pm, PDX

December 4
- First Fridays with Lloyd Jones, Artichoke Music, 7pm, PDX

December 6
- Bayou Boyz, Spirits Pub, 5pm, PDX
- Suburban Slim Band, Slim's, 7pm, PDX

December 7
- Tevis Hodge Jr. w/ Bayou Boyz, Mekong Bistro, 5:30pm, PDX
- Lloyd Jones Blue Monday, Muddy Rudder, 8pm, PDX

December 8
- Blues Dancing, Hoku Events, 8pm, PDX
- Alan Hager & Albert Reda, DeNicola's, 7pm, PDX

December 10
- Claes Almroth Trio, Starday Tavern, 5:30pm, PDX

December 12
- Lloyd Jones & Friends, Spirits, 6pm, PDX
- Terry Robb & Adam Scramstad Christmas Show, Sing Acoustic, 7:30pm, PDX
- Nikki Jones Band, The Oswegian, 8:30pm, PDX
- Norman Sylvester Band, Clydes, 9pm, PDX

December 13
- Bayou Boyz, Spirits Pub, 5pm, PDX

December 14
- Tevis Hodge Jr. w/ Bayou Boyz, Mekong Bistro, 5:30pm, PDX
- Lloyd Jones Blue Monday, Muddy Rudder, 8pm, PDX

December 15
- Blues Dancing, Hoku Events, 8pm, PDX

December 17
- Norman Sylvester Trio, sámn Pacific Coast Kitchen (Ilani), 5pm, Ridgefield, WA
- Blues At Produce Row Feat. Tevis Hodge, Jr., Produce Row, 7pm, PDX

December 19
- Claes Almroth Trio, Mock Crest Tavern, 9pm, PDX

December 20
- Bayou Boyz, Spirits Pub, 5pm, PDX

December 21
- Tevis Hodge Jr. w/ Bayou Boyz, Mekong Bistro, 5:30pm, PDX
- Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle, Alberta Street Pub, 7pm, PDX
- Lloyd Jones Blue Monday, Muddy Rudder, 8pm, PDX

December 22
- Blues Dancing, Hoku Events, 8pm, PDX

December 23
- Vintage Soul, The Blue Diamond, 7pm, PDX

December 27
- Bayou Boyz, Spirits Pub, 5pm, PDX

December 28
- Tevis Hodge Jr. w/ Bayou Boyz, Mekong Bistro, 5:30pm, PDX
- Lloyd Jones Blue Monday, Muddy Rudder, 8pm, PDX

December 29
- Blues Dancing, Hoku Events, 8pm, PDX

December 30
- Soul Cookin', The Blue Diamond, 7pm, PDX

December 31
- The Reverb Brothers Revival, Starday Tavern, 5:30pm, PDX
- Lloyd Jones Struggle NYE, Hoku Events, 6pm, PDX

National | Touring Acts

Chris Smither
November 6 • Alberta Rose Theater
• Doors at 7pm • Show at 8pm • PDX

Marc Broussard
November 7 • The Aladdin Theater
• Doors at 7pm • Show at 8pm • PDX

Down In The Delta w/ Ms Vee & Yella P
November 14 • Jack London Revue
• Doors at 7pm • Show at 8pm • PDX

Joanne Shaw Taylor w/ special guest Robert Jon & The Wreck
November 15 • The Aladdin Theater
• Doors at 7pm • Show at 8pm • PDX

Pokey LaFarge
December 11 • The Aladdin Theater
• Doors at 7pm * Show at 8pm • PDX

Eddie 9V
February 19, 2027 • Mississippi Studios
• Doors at 8pm • Show at 9pm • PDX

Blues Festivals

International Blues Challenge
All ages/21+, January 19-23 • Memphis, TN, https://bealestreet.com/events/international-blues-challenge

Poulsbo Blues & Jazz Festival
21+, February 26-27 • Poulsbo, WA, https://poulsborotary.org/poulsbo-blues-jazz/

Winter Blues Music Festival
21+, March 6 • Portland-Milwaukie Elks Lodge, Portland, winterbluesfest.net

Walla Walla Guitar Festival
All ages/21+, March 12-14 • Walla Walla, WA https://wwguitarfestival.ticketbud.com/2027

Sunbanks Blues n Roots Festival
21+, Mid-May (dates TBD) • Electric City, WA, https://www.sunbanksfestival.com/

Gorge Blues and Brews Fest
21+, June • Skamania County Fairgrounds, Skamania, WA, www.facebook.com/GorgeBluesandBrewsFestival/

Find the most up to date info:
CascadeBlues.org/calendar

Celebrate New Year's Eve



with LLOYD JONES STRUGGLE

and special guests

Dec 31st

Door ~ 6:00pm
Show ~ 7:00pm
Champagne Toast ~ 9pm
~NYC countdown~

Reserved seating includes buffet
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General Admission
~ $25 ADV / $35 DOS

Advance ticket purchase recommended:
aftontickets.com
hoku-events.com

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