



REGINA BONELLI . LARRY BROWN WAYNE BAKER BROOKS • GRAHAM WOOD DROUT BILL MAYS . ELIZA NEALS . RUSS SPIEGEL

THE SHAE

DECEMBER 2 BRADENTON BLUES FESTIVAL BRADENTON Fronted by Shaelyn Mulberry – a singer and poet who can wail

like Joyce Kennedy, charm like Aretha Franklin, and soliloquize like Erykah Badu – the Jacksonville, FL-based Shaelyn Band ably flavors their blue-based tunes with influences from soul to funk to rock. The daughter of a pastor, Mulberry grew up in the church singing gospel in the choir and on the praise

team. She met her husband Tim Mulberry at the University of Florida where he was the music director of the gospel choir (UGC). Prior to UF, Tim spent years touring with international groups such as the Black Eyed Peas, 112 and The Wailers. The couple launched House of Berry Productions in 2019, then began to assemble their team.

The band formed in 2020 when Tim met lead guitar player Erik Guess. The two quickly added bass player Curtis Harris and background vocalist Mark Barner (who released an EP, My Hat My Blues, via House of Berry Productions in October). The group's newest addition is keyboardist Johnny Lobo. As demonstrated in their highly energized live shows, The Shaelyn Band's stated goal is to ..."spread blues awareness to the younger generation. Not by changing the blues, but by claiming the blues. We believe everything







LYN BAND

we create is 100% blues and we wouldn't have it any other way."

In September 2022 The Shaelyn Band released their self-titled debut, demonstrating their range on songs that lead listeners to dance their cares away, reclaim their lives and destiny, and enjoy moments to reflect on the joys of love and life. And while supporting the release has kept them busy, Tim also continues to serve as Music Director for Kat Riggins and Her Blues Revival.

Now with the brand new release of their second album Juke Joint, The Shaelyn Band is continuing to move and

groove the hearts of the music lovers with intricate lyrics, dynamic intros and smooth harmonies. Their meteoric rise finds them representing The Villages Blues Society at the 2024 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN next month. Of their fast moving career, Shaelyn says, "It has been a whirlwind of attention lately and for that I am truly grateful, but I believe staying faithful to the work, the grind and the true love of music and blues is finally allowing us to reach places we have been working towards... our hard work and dedication to continuing to make ourselves better and unique is being recognized and appreciated."

We agree! More at shaelynband.com.



Larry Brown

As leader of his eponymous trio, pianist Larry Brown heads a terrifically accomplished straight-ahead jazz group, boasting performances at An Die Musik, Blues Alley, the Meyerhoff, the Kennedy Center, the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, and many others. The band reprises the hard-bop style of the legendary Blue Note era, and was recognized by WAMA (Washington Area Music Association)

DECEMBER 10 BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER MERRITT ISLAND

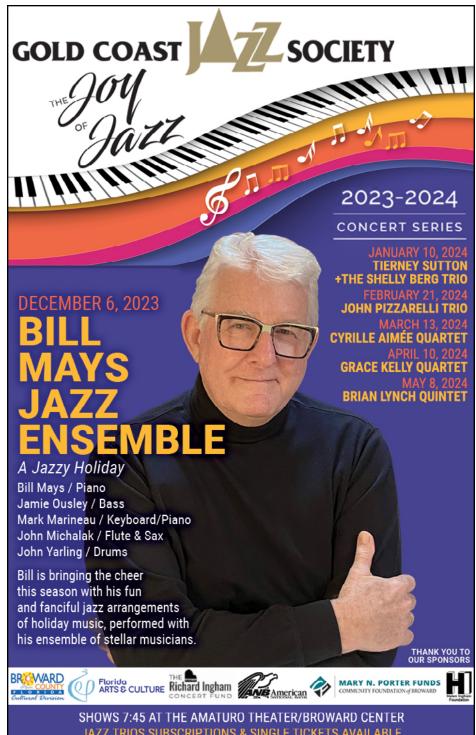
for the Best Jazz Recording for 2006 with a Wammie award for their celebrated release *Hard Bop Café*. They were also recognized with Wammies for Best Jazz Group for 2006, 2008 and 2009. Brown himself received a Wammie for Best Jazz Recording in 2002 for his CD *The Long Goodbye*, recorded

at National Public Radio. The group's four studio CDs receive airplay across the country and in Brazil, Canada, Russia and Japan. As an undergraduate Brown studied with Stan Kenton's favorite arranger/composer Hank Levy, and performed with and composed for the lauded Towson University Jazz Ensemble. After earning his Bachelors Degree in Music Theory, Brown earned his Master of Music degree after studying Composition and Electronic Music at Catholic University. He has appeared on BET's Jazz Discovery where he won in the instrumentalist category, and on their show Jazz Scene as a featured artist. Brown lists his major influences as Bill Evans, Wynton Kelly, and Miles Davis. For this Space Coast Jazz Society show he'll be fronting a trio accompanying vocalist Maddy Winer. More at larrybrownjazz.org.









SHOWS 7:45 AT THE AMATURO THEATER/BROWARD CENTER
JAZZ TRIOS SUBSCRIPTIONS & SINGLE TICKETS AVAILABLE
954.462.0222 | BROWARDCENTER.org | GOLDCOASTJAZZ.org

DECEMBER 14 FILTHY'S VERO BEACH

DECEMBER 15 BLUES & BREWS BISTRO ORMOND BEACH

DECEMBER 16 THE FISH HOUSE MIAMI

Regina Bonelli

Inspired by blues and R&B legends of the '60s and '70s, Regina Bonelli began singing and playing piano at age five. Ten years later, after picking up a guitar, she was performing. Bonelli began playing clubs and coffeehouses first as a solo artist and then eventually formed a funk rock band. She shared the stage with Odetta, Martha Reeves, the Temptations and Little Anthony and the Imperials, among others. Her band was playing at a club in Greenwich Village when talent scouts from TV's Star Search offered to fly Bonelli and her band to Hollywood. There her scorching vocals, impressive songwriting and captivating playing won the competition three

times, including *International Star Search*, performing her original material. Always a lover of blues and soul music, Bonelli's influences include Big Momma Thornton, Howlin' Wolf and Ann Peebles. She began to write blues tunes inspired by her own life raising two children on her own, and the world around her, including the music and lyrics to all the songs on her stunning 2015 debut *Open Up the Door*. The CD did just that, landing a feature spot on SiriusXM's B.B. King's Bluesville and receiving worldwide airplay. Its follow-up, *Love Letter*, is a blues-meets-R&B tsunami of sound, and led to her sharing the stage with acts such as Los Lobos, The Temptations, Kenny Neal, Southside Johnny and many others. *Love Letter* made the Roots Music Report Top 50 Soul Blues Albums in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Her most recent release is 2022's *Truth Hurts*, which landed atop numerous blues charts in the U.S., France and Australia. More at reginabonelli.com.





Wayne Baker Brooks Florida Tour 2023

2023 Chicago Music Award Winner "Best Blues Entertainer"
2023 Little Milton Blues Award "Outstanding Soulful Singer & Guitarist" Induction Into The History Makers: Music Maker Success Chicago Blues Hall of Fame Inductee

Englewood's on Dearborn 12/06/2023

12/07/2023 **Nauti Parrot Oasis**

12/08/2023 Skippers Smokehouse

Earl's Hideaway 12/10/2023

Masaryk Winery 12/15/2023

American Legion Post 13 12/16/2023

Buckingham Blues Bar 12/22/2023

12/23/2023 **Arts Garage** Englewood, FL

Ft. Myers, FL

Tampa, FL

Sebastian, FL

Masaryktown, FL

Tallahassee, FL

Tites,FL

Del Ray Beach, FL

Photo by Kurt Foor

For more info go to: WayneBakerBrooks.com Dates are subject to change More dates may be added

"Down and Dirty, from the-gut-blues" — CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"A Must See" CHICAGO SUN TIMES –

Wayne Baker Brooks may have been born into Chicago Blues Royalty, but that doesn't mean he hasn't paid his dues along the way — ALL MUSIC GUIDE

SPOTLIGHT

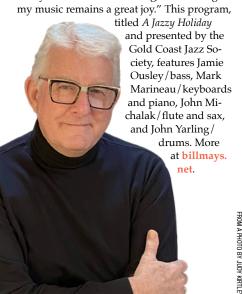
JAZZ

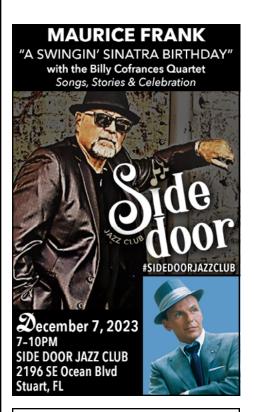
DECEMBER 6
GOLD COAST
JAZZ SOCIETY
BROWARD
CENTER
FT LAUDERDALE

Bill Mays

With a more than six decades as a professional jazz pianist, Bill Mays has accompanied

countless music titans from Al Jarreau to Sarah Vaughan and from Barry Manilow to Frank Zappa. His many recordings as a leader (solo, duo, trio and sextet) are well-documented on more than three dozen albums under his own name (most recently 2019's Mays Plays Mays), and on hundreds more by others. A prolific and acclaimed composer and arranger, Mays also received rave reviews of his first book, 2014's Stories of the Road, The Studios, Sidemen & Singers: 55 Years in The Music Biz. Of his musical journey, Mays explains, "One could say I was born into music. My father was a minister by day and multi-instrument player in his spare time. He would often accompany my mother, a singer with a fine, natural voice. Gospel was the first music I heard, and I started touching the keys of an old spinet in the living room while just a baby. At age five I started piano lessons. In junior high school I took up trumpet and baritone horn. My first exposure to jazz came at 14, my first professional gigs began a year later. It's now been a 60-year career and counting, and sharing







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DEC 8 8:00PM

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DECEMBER 1 BRADENTON BLUES FEST

DECEMBER 8 BLUES & BREWS BISTRO ORMOND BEACH

DECEMBER 9 Z'S MUSIC KITCHEN NAPLES

BRADENTON

DECEMBER 13 CRAZY UNCLE MIKE'S BOCA RATON

DECEMBER 14 LEGACY AT THE RIVERFRONT TALLAHASSEE BLUES

Eliza Neals

G

Powerhouse vocalist, songwriter, musician, producer and recording artist Eliza Neals exemplifies the new modern blues sound in all its forms. Rooted in blues traditions, she infuses her music with her own unique

with her own unique style, creating a fresh and exciting sound and earning rave reviews from critics and fans alike. Long a powerful advocate for promoting the presence of women in blues, Neals records on her own label with special guests including Joe Louis Walker, Lance Lopez, King Solomon Hicks, Barrett Strong, NYC's Poppa Chubby, and Billy 'JC' Davis (Jimi Hendrix). Original compositions have garnered Neals a 2018 Detroit Black Music Award for Blues Artist of the Year, and five Detroit Music Awards. She also boasts 17 Independent Blues Awards nominations and 20 International Blues Awards nominations, along with Get Ready To Rock UK's Best Artist awards in five categories. SiriusXM B.B. Kings Bluesville has had Neals in rotation since her incendiary 2015 blues debut Breaking and Entering. To date, 16 of Neals' songs have been played on SiriusXM, with "Queen of the Nile," a blues ballad from 2022's acclaimed Badder to the Bone, reaching No. 5 on Rackof-Blues. The album delivers another tasty serving of Neals' signature modern bluesrock, validating her spots performing with or opening for such names as George Clinton, The Four Tops, Mike Zito, Walter Trout, Victor Wainwright, and Joe Louis Walker, With all these stats, the real evidence is in seeing Neals perform live, with an energy matched only by her keyboard mastery and four-octave vocal range.





More at eliza

neals.com.



SPOTLIGHT

JAZZ

DECEMBER 23 THE FISH HOUSE MIAMI

Russ Spiegel

Groovy, swinging and sophisticated all at once, versatile guitarist and composer Russ Spiegel covers a wide variety of styles from blues and rock to funk and Latin, along with hard-swinging modern and post-modern jazz. A commissioned composer and arranger, Spiegel has been garnering rave reviews for his performances around the world. He is also a highly respected bandleader, writer, musicologist, and award-winning sound engineer. After receiving his undergraduate degree in philosophy from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, he continued his studies at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Spiegel then spent more than a decade living and performing in Europe before returning to the U.S., where he settled in New York City and quickly established himself on the jazz scene. Meanwhile, he earned his masters degree in Jazz Performance, studying at the City College of New York under the aegis of John Patitucci before going on to receive his doctorate in Jazz Composition at the University of Miami Frost School of Music as a Henry Mancini Institute Fellow. Spiegel has released several albums, scored music for film, and currently performs and leads master classes, workshops, and seminars around the world. His latest CD, 2023's Caribbean Blue, Spiegel takes listeners on a musical journey to some of his favorite places. Included among the stops are "The





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Artists, titles, dates, times and availability subject to change.

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DECEMBER 6 ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN ENGLEWOOD

DECEMBER 7 NAUTI PARROT OASIS FORT MYERS

DECEMBER 8 SKIPPER'S SMOKEHOUSE TAMPA

DECEMBER 10 EARL'S HIDEAWAY SEBASTIAN

DECEMBER 15 MASARYK WINERY MASARYKTOWN

DECEMBER 16 AMERICAN LEGION TALLAHASSEE

DECEMBER 22 BUCKINGHAM BLUES BAR TICE

DECEMBER 23 ARTS GARAGE DELRAY BEACH BLUES

Wayne Baker Brooks

With a signature style that mixes powerful vocals with liquid fire guitar playing, Wayne Baker Brooks honors his rich blues heritage while effortlessly expanding the boundaries of the genre. Born and raised in Chicago, the city laid the foundation for Brooks' innovative style. He regularly witnessed performances by the likes of Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, Muddy Waters... and Brooks'father, blues master Lonnie Brooks. After landing a spot in his father's band, in 1997 he also formed the Wayne Baker Brooks Band, which appeared in the movie Blues Brothers 2000.

His acclaimed 2004 debut Mystery melded blues, blue-rock, soul, funk and more, earning awards and praise from critics and fans. Soon Brooks was touring the world and appearing on national TV and radio programs. One highlight was a performance for First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton at Chess Studios with Bo Diddley and KoKo Taylor. Aside from Guy, Diddley and Taylor, Brooks has performed or recorded with The Black Crowes, Shemekia Copeland, Jonny Lang, Susan Tedeschi, Keb Mo, Robert Randolph, Taj Mahal and many more. While his 2012 EP Tricks Up My Sleeves is his latest studio recording, Brooks stays busy. To date he has performed in 750 + cities in 40+ countries. At this year's Chicago Music Awards, Brooks won for Best Blues Entertainer, and he also recently won the Jus' Blues Foundation's 2023 Little Milton Campbell Real Blues





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DECEMBER 22 THE FISH HOUSE MIAMI

Graham Wood Drout

The Fat Chance Blues Band, led by Graham Wood Drout, began their tenure at Miami's famed Tobacco Road in 1981. When new owners renovated the follow-

ing year, the band – rechristened Iko-Iko – played downstairs, trading sets with the likes of Albert King, John Lee Hooker and Buddy Guy, who held court above. Drout also presided over the Monday night jam, where he coached young blues musicians including Albert Castiglia, Rachelle Coba and Grady Champion. Drout and Castiglia maintained a strong relationship, with

Drout contributing songs to Castiglia's recordings. The club closed its doors after 102 years in 2016, shortly after the release of Iko-Iko's Bullets in the Bonfire Vol. 1, a compilation of songs from the band's first four albums (dating back to 1988) as well as one cut from Castiglia's first album, plus Drout and Albert's acoustic "Bittersweet Sessions." At the center of it all, besides Drout's engaging growl of a vocal, is his lyrical and literate songwriting, a craft he truly realized when he started working with guitarist Nick Kane. In one night, he and Kane came up with the tunes that would comprise the band's debut, Snowstorm in the Jungle, including fan faves "Don't Mess With the Voodoo" and "Too High to Drive." Billboard magazine said of their 2007 release Shine, "Imposing presence and offbeat, down-and-dirty blues hooks define Iko's sound." Now almost 50 years after his Florida debut, Drout remains an active presence on the state's blues scene with the Graham Wood Drout Blues Band, Find him on Facebook.







Regional competitions determine contenders at the International Blues Challenge January 16-20, 2024 in Memphis, TN Presented by The Blues Foundation

SOUTH FLORIDA BLUES SOCIETY

November 12 • Galuppi's, Pompano Beach
BAND The Stoney Brooks Band
SOLO/DUO Antonio Correira

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA BLUES SOCIETY

Cotober 15 • High Dive, Gainesville FL

BAND Southern Junction Blues Band

SOLO/DUO Barry Brogan

SELF-PRODUCED CD: Winter's Coming

Bridget Kelly Band

TREASURE COAST BLUES SOCIETY September 17 Stuart, FL BAND The Kevin McLoughlin Band SOLO/DUO Ronny Hill YOUTH Miles Hoyt

FIRST COAST BLUES SOCIETY

November 5 • Whisky Jax, Baymeadows

BAND Bluesdog and the Howlers

SOLO/DUO Alex Richman

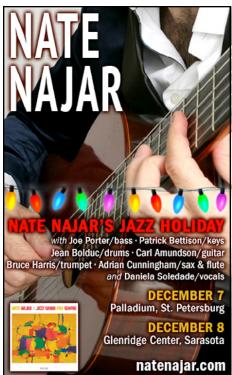
BLUES SOCIETY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA August 13 • Pensacola, FL BAND Max McCann Band SOLO/DUO Corey Hall & Matt Law

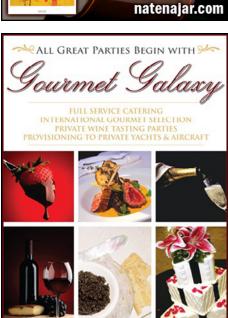
> VILLAGES BLUES SOCIETY September 17, The Villages, FL BAND The Shaelyn Band

The following societies did not hold regional challenges this year:
Orange Blossom Blues Society
Southwest Florida Blues Society
Suncoast Blues Society
Daytona Beach Blues Society

Congratulations to the winners and best of luck at the IBC!







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