



## Nico Wayne Toussaint

Nico Wayne Toussaint is one of the most talented singers and harmonica players of his generation. He has developed his own individual vocal and stage style over the last fifteen years. Deeply inspired by Muddy Waters' Chicago Blues, he has come into his own, learning along the way from other musicians and album releases. Signed to the Dixiefrog record label, he has released eight albums since 1997. He has a double career in Europe and the States and spends most of his time between France and Florida, collaborating on stage and in the studio with some of the biggest names in Blues (Monster Mike Welch, David Maxwell, Cash McCall, JP Soars, Ray Killer Allison and Rod Piazza). But Nico really comes alive when on stage, his public spellbound by his energy and sincerity. His next album, "The Lonely Number", has been recorded in Canada and will be released with Iguane Records in North America and Dixiefrog in Europe.

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## Awek

«Awek is definitely one of the best Blues bands in Europe, drawing strength from experience, passion for its soul, emotion from its style and talent from going back to authentic Blues and making it ultra-modern.» (Francis Rateau - Xroads Magazine)  
 Voted best Blues band in France in 2004 and 2005, best album for «Just Pick Up The Pieces» by Trophées France Blues, awarded the Cognac Blues Passions in 2008, runner-up at the International Blues Challenge 2008 in Memphis and awarded best harmonica player at the International Blues Challenge 2011.  
 AWEK is now one of the best bands in Europe. The group has performed at most of the biggest Blues and Jazz festivals in France, Europe, India, Québec (Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, Festival de Tremblant etc.) and the United States (Playing with Fire in Omaha, the legendary Antone's in Austin, the Orpheum Theatre in Memphis, etc.).

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## Roland Tchakounté

Once upon a time Africa created the Blues and Roland Tchakounté is proof of the fairytale coming true!  
 ROLAND TCHAKOUNTE is one of the most important personalities on the current African Blues scene!  
 He was the first French Cameroon artist to be invited to play at the prestigious Chicago Blues Festival in 2005 alongside the likes of Buddy Guy, Koko Taylor and Honeyboy Edwards. He has two great influences, John Lee Hooker in America and Ali Farka Touré in Africa, he is a tireless traveler. Wherever he goes he captivates audiences with a repertoire made up of little gems created by a master in the art of mixing African sounds and original Blues from the Mississippi Delta.  
 He is also an artist who fights for the beauty of Africa and the dignity of the African people.

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## Greg Zlap

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Born in Warsaw in 1971, Greg Zlap arrived in Paris at the end of the 80's with a small harmonica in his pocket. Looking for new sounds, this self-taught artist never stopped practicing and soon became one of the most sought-after studio musicians. You'll hear Greg's harmonica in French songs, the Slam movement as well as in film scores.  
 A true ambassador to his instrument, Greg Zlap started his own harmonica school in Paris in 1998. Convinced that music is not just about entertainment, he teaches harmonica workshops in hospitals for children with asthma.

Greg also keeps up with his solo career, writing and performing the authentic Blues music that inspires him without forgetting his Eastern European soul. Leader of his own band, he has released six albums under his name. A captivating singer, Greg Zlap surprises, captivates and entralls his public wherever he goes! With his contagious energy, hellish groove and mesmerizing touch, Greg is at his most natural and human on stage. His passion for Blues and joy at being on stage is infectious and the audience is soon singing from the same hymn sheet.  
 Greg Zlap last cd: «AIR» (Le Chant du Monde/Harmonia Mundi)

## Nina van Horn

Always backed up with outstanding musicians, Nina Van Horn is the kind of singer who's got everything to make you have some fun...if you like deep roots voice, communicative punch and energy, you will be delighted. As a former dancer, Nina knows how to warm up a stage and her last tribute to the Women of the Blues is giving the right dimension to her skills with a choice of committed songs on drugs, alcohol and women rights.  
 Some Hell of a show for a Hell of a Woman!  
 With more than 18 countries where she sung last year, Nina Van Horn is about to be one of the most travelling woman of the Blues!  
 Don't miss the opportunity to watch her on stage and let her and her band of wolves consume your audience with a very communicative energy!



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## Gang

Gang is a bunch of four musicians playing highly energy blues-rock music. Watch out...these four Gang(sters) mean business with their mix of compositions and covers all performed in their unique electrifying style! They have a good fifty concerts under their belts, sharing the stage with some great names such as Jérôme Piétri (Little Blues Story, "Pink Floyd Tribute"), Stringers in the Night, Jason Falloon Band, as well as Cliff Moore, Fred Chapellier, Nina Van Horn and Rob Tognoni. They have also performed at the Fête de l'Humanité in 2009 and 2010. Be warned: Gang's crimes are not restricted to the Haute-Normandie region, they now pop up all over France! To find out more about our four GANGsters, get hold of their first 10-track album released in 2009, "Hold Up". Gang is now up for a second offence...

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## Mathieu Pesqué / Roll Pignault (Blues Bound)

Mat Pesqué & Roll Pignault offer a classy and original Blues repertoire for a trip back in time. Supported on stage by fiery harmonica player Roll Pignault, Mathieu Pesqué sets the record straight! His controlled fingerpicking, slide guitar and his deep voice are irresistible!

We should mention that Mathieu & Roll were never supposed to share the same stage never mind work on the same record! Mathieu Pesqué performed solo to appreciative audiences in the major French Blues festivals (Cahors, Cognac, Blues sur Seine etc.) and abroad (Spain, St Pierre & Miquelon etc.) whereas Roll Pignault played in eclectic bands from trip hop music, folk music to celtic rock but he never forgot his roots



The connection between the two artists makes you wonder why they didn't think of it earlier as they never cease to delight their audiences. Their "Blues Bound" album shows how these inspired and talented musicians spark off each other. You'll be blown away by the covers as well as their compositions. "Blues Bound" will undoubtedly put Mathieu and Roll on the map! MATHIEU PESQUÉ is a great musician, as powerful when performing the Blues as he is discreet in everyday life... one of the mysteries of the Blues... With a voice likened to that of Jack Johnson's and guitar playing like Ben Harper's, his music is both dark and light! ROLL PIGNAULT is not only a great harmonica player and a good singer, he impresses the audience with his energy. He's a real showman. Roll's style is both wild and subtle. His harmonica playing is unique and experimental

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## Yann Lem

YANN LEM is a Blues bard from Brittany, a writer and performer who moved to the Eure & Loir area at the age of 3. He started performing on stage at the age of 15 playing in French street parties and he loves writing and singing his own songs. In 1985, he took his chances and decided to devote his life to his passion. He received the 2010 Paris-Move award «Blues en Français» (singing the Blues in French) at the Blues sur Seine Festival Contest. At the beginning of 2011, La Chaîne du Blues, Zicazic and Paris-Move awarded him as BEST FRENCH BLUES ALBUM OF 2010 for his new CD "Entre Blues et granit". As well as being reviewed in many magazines and in the local press (Brittany and Eure & Loir), Yann's album is played on many radio programmes throughout France, Belgium and Germany. Yann has performed on the Free Wheels 2011 stage.

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## In volt

In Volt shares its influences with rock riffs from the Blues and Rock worlds. Jérôme, Sly, Jeff and Antouane perform a steely and powerful rock. Multicultural and colourful influences from the greatest! There is no holding back the formidable lead vocalist and his band when they play their version of high energy rock. A definitely psychedelic attitude! When they're on stage, everybody else better behave or else! A Live Rock you won't forget. Simple, effective and electric!

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## Slawek

Born in Eastern Europe, Slawek is a guitarist, singer, harmonica player and writer who lives in Rennes in Brittany. His style: international jazzy Blues in three languages (French, English and Polish). Experience: 30 years touring in France and abroad, 4 albums. Musical education: Master 2 in Modern Arts (Musicology) in Rennes - Thesis: The history of French Blues (2010), awarded for his guitar playing and a graduate in music theory at the Conservatoire National de Musique (1991). Studied at the Parisian "Arpège" Jazz School (2009).

2012 projects: new European tour and release of a 5th album, writing a book about L'esprit du blues français (The Spirit of French Blues), presentations during Blues conferences all over Europe. Currently playing in an electro-acoustic duo with Gilles Riaux, (congas, percussion, bass etc.). He also plays in an electric trio and quintet. "...Slawek plays his own style of music...Originally from Poland, he is inspired by sounds from all over the world to create World Blues. The combination of styles, genres and languages make up a delicious mix, sometimes happy and explosive, sometimes soft and melancholic. You cannot help but be touched by it... don't waste any time finding out about it (Événement Télérama)."  
 SLAWEK'S DISCOGRAPHY: "La baignoire pleine d'histoires" - Blue West/N'Less (1996) / "D'Est en Ouest" - Blue West/N'Less (1998) "Istanbul Blues" - Blue West/Socadisc (2003) / "Paris Melesse" - Blue West/Coop Breizh (2005). Live CD/DVD.

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## Jean-Marc Hénaux (Shake your hips!)

I have been playing harmonica since 1994. I have also founded Shake Your Hips (runner-ups at Vauréal's 2006 Harmonica Festival, winners of Festival Blues 'Les Rendez-Vous de l'Erdre 2007' and awarded «Best Electric Blues Group» at 'Tremplin Blues sur Seine' in 2007). Together, we have released 2 albums and been involved in 4 compilations. We've played at many of the best Blues Festivals from Blues sur Seine to Cahors and performed in front of an audience of 20,000 in Montereau! Shake Your Hips is swinging Chicago Blues with a pinch of rock all served by men in black suits! Alongside the band I am also working as a solo artist with various artists (concerts and recordings on a dozen albums) and I teach harmonica in schools.

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## Lorenzo Sanchez

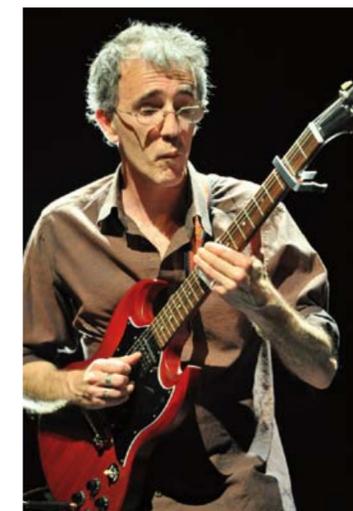
With roots in Andalusia, French-born Lorenzo Sanchez (guitar player and writer) started the Brachay's Blues Band in 1993 (voted «Best French band» in 1999 at the Trophées France Blues). The band has performed in the biggest French Blues festivals.

In 2003 he released his first album «Andaluz Child» followed in 2006 by «Domingo». His music is a mixture of Blues, rock, jazz with Hispanic and Indian tones. He sings in Andalusian and is an adept slide guitarist.

He has been influenced by the greatest Bluesmen (A.King, A. Collins etc.) as well as guitarists such as Ry Cooder, Jeff Beck, Peter Green, Carlos Santana, Derek Trucks, John Scofield etc. During his musical journey, he has collaborated with artists such as Fred Chapellier, Nina Van Horn, Greg Zlap, Johann Dalgaard, Manu Codjia, Hasse Pulsen, Hélène Labarrière etc.

He plays in a trio and a quartet. He is also a solo/acoustic performer using a sampler giving an improvised feel to his performance.

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## The Rolling Dominos

When speaking of New Orleans style rock 'n' roll, rhythm and blues, and swinging jazz, the name of Antoine «Fats» Domino comes readily to mind. «The Rolling Dominos» have chosen to play this music purely for the pleasure and also as a tribute to the great «Fat Man». Heading up the group on tenor sax and vocals, Didier Marty has become a specialist of the New Orleans style. Having played over the years with many varied artists of renown (including Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Paul Personne, Ruby Wilson, Lionel Richie, Martha High, Ernie Johnson and Linda Gail Lewis), Didier's musical collaboration with Jeannot Cirillo (drums) dates back some twenty-five years. Jeannot is a veritable pioneer of the French rock 'n' roll scene, having backed up Gene Vincent, Eddie Fontaine, Vince Taylor, and most of the artists of the «Big Beat» stable. He knows his rock 'n' roll! come hear The Rolling Dominos «laisser les bons temps rouler» in concert!

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## Mr Hardearly



After touring for 20 years with several Blues bands in Europe and playing with French and American artists, Mr Hardearly is back in a trio, playing guitar with Mr Tee (bass/vocals) and Mr Jay (drums). His «Texas Blues» repertoire brings together big names like Hendrix, S.R.Vaughan, Clapton and ZZ Top as well as J.Beck, K.Burrel and the Allman Bros. After two years touring in France and promoting his latest CD "Still alive & well" (released end of 2009 and popular with the specialist press), Mr Hardearly brought out a recording of his new work with the Blues Thangs Orchestra in July 2010.

Joining the holy trinity are Mr Bee on keyboards (piano, Hammond), the Puff Sisters on backing vocals and the Brack Brothers on brass. The mostly Texas blues repertoire is spiced up with soul, gospel and funk to make a real melting pot of music magic.

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## Fool Moon

Fool Moon is a band made up of four die-hard musicians who have previously performed with famous artists such as Paul Personne, Daran, Le Révérend, Nina Van Horn and Fred Chapellier. They played in the best French venues such as the Zénith and Olympia and all over the world from New York, Austin, Milan to Madrid, Montreux and many more besides.

Fans of the Stones, Muddy Waters, Grateful Dead, Van Morrison and Bob Dylan among others, they've been prowling the French rock venues together since 1990 as well as playing festivals like Captain Trip at the Hot Brass, Ship of Fools at the Cithéa, Selmer Festival, the Bol d'Or and Montereau Festival. They also supported big acts (Johnny Winter, ZZ Top, Mick Taylor, Buddy Guy, Popa Chubby, Walter Trout etc.) but they also know how to perform an energetic and great show in the most intimate pubs.

The first 12-song album came out in 1994 and was recorded in the Chenevières recording studio with Gérard Lhomme, Magma sound engineer. FOOL MOON has its own style thanks to its electric and acoustic sound and its very own arrangements. FOOL MOON's signature dish is both refreshing and spicy.

A few years and several well made demos later, they released a live album with 11 songs as a record of their stage magic. Make way for the FOOL MOON!

Confident in their talent and experience, FOOL MOON are working on their own songs and a very personal release is soon to be available in stores (it is currently being mixed).

20 years of experience and numerous concerts later, FOOL MOON is still standing and ready to get venues moving to their beats and riffs...

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## Anquetil Project



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The A.Project is a Power Blues Trio made up of Thierry ANQUETIL on vocals and guitar, Jean-Philippe ROUX on bass and Eric THIEVON on drums.

Thierry ANQUETIL was born in 1958 and has been playing the Blues since 1980.

His influences are Otis RUSH and Freddy KING and he has supported some big names: Ray CHARLES, Memphis SLIM, Otis RUSH, Chuck BERRY, Magic SLIM, Lucky PETERSON, Jimmy JOHNSON, Luther ALLISON, Lowell FULSON etc. CHIGAGO BLUES and TEXAS BLUES are his thing. He went to CHICAGO in 1987.

He has written a dozen songs but he really comes into his own when covering the great Blues standards. This singer/guitarist has a powerful voice and his skilful guitar playing has had all the press in French Blues singing his praises.

## Cisco Herzhaft

Cisco is a singer-songwriter and accomplished guitarist with an accurate and delicate fingerstyle. He was one of the first to sing the Blues in France and is without a doubt one of the last genuine acoustic «blues-pickers». A professional musician, inspired by Big Bill Bronzy, Big Joe Williams and Doc Watson, he accompanied John Lee Hooker at the start of the 70s and shares his unique most personal feelings through acoustic folk blues with a combination of furious ragtime and low down blues. The quality of his performance, his contagious energy, the range of his repertoire and songs and, of course, his passion make him one of the most original and dynamic artists on the blues and folk music scene. A good old treat!

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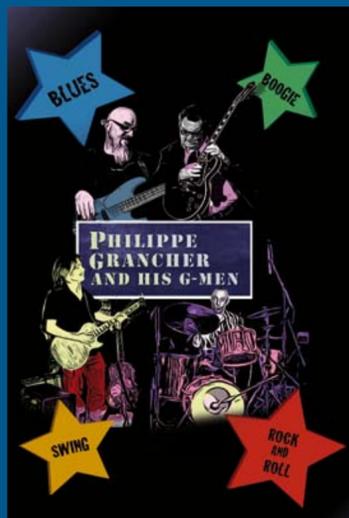


## Philippe Grancher

Philippe Grancher was born in 1956. Guitarist, pianist and singer, he is considered to be one of the best guitar players in France: «Guitarists like him are few and far between on this side of the Atlantic» (Stéphane Colin, Soul Bag); «A sophisticated Blues with guitar playing that explores all the nuances of attack and finesse. His mediator/finger-picking technique is formidable to say the least» (Guitarist); «This brilliant guitarist's command of the guitar is impressive. A mix of Albert King, Texan blues and country, his guitar lends itself to all styles of music: blues and boogie, jazz and funky, rock n' roll and country. There's no one else quite like him in France.» (Christophe Mourot, Soul Bag); «This guy from Normandy is famous for the way he plucks the strings; his range is powerful and his guitar rhythms are sharp and well-placed» (Joël Bizon, Blues Feeling).

Philippe Grancher And His G-Men have famously played in the following festivals: Festival de Blues de Bagneux (2004) Festival de Blues de Thouars (2002) Festival de Jazz de Créteil (2000) Festival de Musique improvisée de La Colle sur Loup (2005), Festival de Musique de la NO de Périgueux (2005 / 2006 / 2007) Festival de Blues de Cognac (2011).

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## Fred Chapellier

Once upon a time in 1981, Fred CHAPELLIER swapped his drum kit for a Gibson guitar and has never stopped strumming since. He tried out a range of different genres but always went back to the Blues.

From 1990 onwards he put different musicians together to form bands and in 1999 he created his own group, the «Fred Chapellier Blues Band». The band went on to record two albums «Blues Devil» released in 2003 and «L'œil du Blues» in 2005.

In 2004 Fred was named Révélation Blues et Meilleur Guitariste de l'année 2004.

Fred's guitar hero is Roy Buchanan and he composed the fantastic track «Blues for Roy» as a tribute to him. He also produced «Fred Chapellier & Friends – A Tribute To Roy Buchanan» with Billy Price in Europe and America.

They performed on stage together in France and the USA. Their partnership was so successful that Billy Price & Fred Chapellier decided to write the «Night Work» together in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. «Night Work» was released on March 12th 2009 and won top prize at Powerblues in France and stayed in the American Blues charts for several weeks.

In 2010, Jacques Dutronc hired Fred Chapellier as guitarist for his new 51 date tour. In 2010 he joined Jacques Dutronc for over 85 concerts and festivals.

In May 2009, he released a new live album, «Night Work Tour and Fred went back in the studio to record the first tracks for his next album, due for release in 2012.

Fred regularly plays in a quartet (guitar-vocals, piano and Hammond B3, bass, drums), with French and English guest stars.

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## Purple Cat (Primitive Electric Blues)

This band from the South of France keeps the sound and feel of the first Urban Blues Orchestras from the 40s and 50s alive and kicking. The Purple Cat band members have been sharing the stage with Chicago blues legends for the last 30 odd years: Junior Wells, Pinetop Perkins, Eddy Clearwater, Jerry Portnoy, Calvin "Fuzz" Jones, Mickey Baker, Bob Margolin, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, Melvin Taylor and many more. Their recently released album pays tribute to Big Walter Horton with the participation of 2 former members of the Muddy Waters Blues Band, the late Calvin "Fuzz" Jones and Bob Margolin, as well as their loyal Italian buddy Guitar Ray Scona.

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## Philippe Ménard «One man band»

Philippe Ménard is a human music box: he sings, plays guitar, percussion (bass drum, snare drum, hi-hat, cymbal, tambourine), and with his harmonica slung over the shoulder, he is certainly original.

What about his technique, it's simply breathtaking! He alternates between acoustic and electric sounds but is always loyal to his blues/rock style. His heroes include Rory Gallagher, Jimi Hendrix, George Thorogood and Johnny Winter.

He's also great at paying homage to the musicians who were there when the genre began such as Blind Boy Fuller, JB Lenoir, RL Burnside, Rev Gary Davis, Louisiana Red...all the while performing his own superb compositions.

Don't miss this generous and true artist!

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We have the pleasure to present a selection of

## 21 french bands and solos/duos

Some have already recorded or toured in the US and European countries, some have even represented France at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis or been programmed at the Chicago Blues festival. Others are emerging talents recognised by the French media.

They could all be an opportunity for your clubs and festivals.

As a go-between for the French Blues community, we would be very grateful if you'd let us know if you decide to play their cds on your radios, review their cds or program them live for your events.

France Blues, member of the European Blues Union and Blues Foundation, is a platform to exchange and support the international recognition and development of the French Blues community in the world.

### The association aims to:

- promote the Blues and related music genres
- promote all those involved in the French Blues community, especially the artists but also associations, festivals, media and specialised websites
- encourage international exchanges and more specifically in terms of cooperation between European festivals
- develop and facilitate access to information, events, all productions associated to the Blues and its related styles
- interact amongst members as in a forum to exchange ideas and skills
- develop actions, programmes in line with the association's goals, such as events, music awards, etc.
- promote initiatives for young people (such as Blues at school)



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