

BEAUCHE BOY

The French blues Godfather since the 70's. There is some kind of obvious health in this character, of happy riches, of happiness desire... And yet he sings the Blues. On stage, surrounded by his faithful Tortilliers - Louisiana Creole French for "Twisters" - (Stan Noubard Pacha on guitar, Thibaut Chopin on bass guitar and doublebass, Fabrice Millerioux on drums) he creates a shock, generates a fervor of collective joy in the crowd. A harp player filled with energy, he takes us from Montmartre to the Bayous, from Barbès to the West Coast and invites us to "Descendre au Café" (Go down to the Cafe), claiming "Dans la vie, y pas qu'argent" (There's not only money in life).

It's hard not to have any respect for Benoît Blue Boy because of his musical credibility. Benoît Blue Boy is without any doubt the King on the French blues chessboard. His impressive discography in which can be found his accomplices Paul Personne and Patrick Verbeke as well as Lazy Lester, Franck Goldwasser, Freddie Roulette, The West Side Horns, and Geraint Watkins; this rich inheritance of a passion is the reflexion of a long and fantastic story. Legends live! Best blues artist at the 1998 France Blues Trophies. Best French blues songwriter in 2001. "Benoît Blue Boy en Amérique" best French blues album in 2001.

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MALTED MILK

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Malted Milk is one of these bands that made themselves. Forged on the road, the band, first a Delta Blues acoustic duo, then a Chicago blues quintet has played every stage in France and Europe. A short trip to Memphis, an encounter with American singer Karl W. Davis and the tour that followed (Karl W. Davis & The Milkmen) will see a new artistic turn for Arnaud Fradin's crew: Malted Milk will be Soul!!!

If Malted Milk today is resolutely soul through references to fathers of the genre (Al Green, James Brown, Johnny 'guitar' Watson...) as well as to the new international scene (Raphael Saadiq, Eli 'Paperboy' Reed...), it remains dyed in its original blues, be it from Chicago or from Memphis. The band approaches this music naturally, a legit evolution considering the number of bridges between the devil's music and soul are numerous.

After the success of its latest album "Sweet Soul Blues" and a 70 dates tour in 2010, Malted Milk is back with 4 new originals pressed in plastic, 4 funky and sexy gems served by a top notch old school production. This new EP confirms Malted Milk's place of choice in today's French soul scene and is a preview of a 2012 album that promises to be resounding!!!

Nina Attal

Still a teenager, while most people her age only listen to pop issued from reality shows, Nina Attal grew up on Blues, Soul and Funk; her heroes are the founding fathers first, such as BB King, Albert Collins, Albert King, Etta James, but very soon she also discovers Sharon Jones, Prince, Larry Graham and Lenny Kravitz, to only name a few. She decides to make music professionally at the age of 17, and in only two years, this 19-year old artist managed to seduce her audience by travelling French and international stages in no less than 100 shows. A songwriter, a singer and a musician, after an acclaimed EP, "Urgency", in 2010, she released her first album, "Yellow 6/17" in 2011.

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MELLOW BLUES DUO (Renaud Villet & David Paquet)

Mellow Blues Duo is a duo from Clermont-Ferrand formed in 2009 by R. Villet on vocal and guitar and D. Paquet on harmonica. Their repertoire is made of their own originals and blues standards (R. Johnson, JB Lenoir, The Rolling Stones, E. James, B. Diddley, M. Waters...).

After 2 albums of covers acclaimed by blues critics, Mellow Blues Duo is working on a new CD of originals only for the end of 2011. With about 70 shows under its belt, the act just got back from a 2-week American tour during August, 2011, including 10 shows in Chicago (with Dave Specter, Mississippi Gabe Carter, a jam at Buddy Guy's Legends...), Saint-Louis at BB's, Clarksdale (Sunflower River Blues Festival, jam at Ground Zero...), Greenwood and Memphis. MBD recently played at the Cognac Blues Passions festival, Cahors Blues festival, Sathonay Blues festival, accompanied by the American guitar player Jake Walker during a mini French tour, and also opened for Tad Robinson, Mississippi Heat, David Evans, Boo Boo Davis, Mountain Men, Nina Van Horn, Dave Riley and Bob Corritore...



The duo also made the finals of the Jazz à Vannes Blues festival and Rendez-vous de l'Erdre blues contests.

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ERIC TER

Guitarist, author, composer, performer and creator of over 250 registered songs in French as well as English, E.T. developed along numerous years of practice of his instrument a very personal style which he qualifies as "funky finger-picking". After numerous recordings including 4 official albums and a fifteen-year stay in the U.S.A, his new album "Nu-Turn" is out under the Bluesiac/Brennus label. This is indeed a "new turn" on his musical path. Eric Ter, this time, while spreading his picture with some electric guitar, bass, percussions, and even trumpet or violin, lets his particular acoustic guitar playing widely express itself. As the songs play, a feeling of quiet space seems to allow the listener to expand his own inner space. From one song to the next, one can sense a fluxional love between the artist and his instruments, that kind of intimate and strong relation that pushes one and the other to give their best. The album evolves on some folk-blues soil, seasoned with rock and country spices on which lays a voice which seems to have gained simplicity and warmth.

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MOUNTAIN MEN

The Mountain Men duo: Two characters in the blues world, a blues of their own, OUT OF THE BOX. Ian Giddey, an Australian harmonica player, and Mathieu Guillou, a singer and guitar player, met in 2005 at a jam. Mat's gravely rough voice and Iano's harmonicas never are scholarly imitating, copy and paste of long lost songs brought back in style. This true blues is in the tradition but new, fresh, from our times.

- 2006, 1st self-produced album, it's an immediate success!
- Tremplin Blues-sur-Seine electro-acoustic award in 2006,
- FestiBlues International de Montréal in 2007,
- 2008 and 2011: semi-finalists in the solo/duo category at the International Blues Challenge (Memphis, USA).
- More than 150 shows at numerous prestigious festivals (Blues sur Seine, Jazz sous les Pommiers, FestiBlues de Montréal, Nancy Jazz Pulsations, Blues festival in Zagreb, Cognac Blues Passions...).

In June 2009, their first studio release "Spring Time Coming" comes out, and gets praises from the critics (Blues Magazine) and is nominated in the "best self-produced" category at the Memphis Blues Foundation Awards. In France, it will be an immediate No. 1 in blues sales (10 000 albums sold in 2011). They release their first live album and get unanimously acclaimed at the JAZZ A VIENNE festival.

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KARIM ALBERT KOOK

Born on a January evening in Algiers, Algeria, in the Hussein Dei area, it's in the South of France that Karim Albert Kook, one of 11 children, migrates with his family, leaving everything behind in the hope to find a cure for the illness that will force him to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. A guitar player, singer and songwriter, but also performing standards, Karim sings his peculiar path with words and musics that mix eras and genres into an original style that refers to the masters of American rural and urban blues alike sometimes blended with his North African roots. Told in French or in English, Karim Albert Kook's blues evolves depending on different stages and encounters that end up on his recordings (Luther Allison, Bill Thomas, Louisiana Red, Magic Slim, John Primer, BB King). 3 albums produced and distributed that let a multi influenced and flavored blues out, a "world" sound with intimate themes, a "world blues" resolutely modern and alive.

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KATHY BOYÉ & Purple Soul

Kathy sings the blues with everything she is, and with a deep and powerful voice to serve the emotion. Every original and cover is remodeled to her own views, like the spirituals she's been singing for years, they evolve with every show depending on the feeling of the very moment. As a child already, her references were Billie Holiday, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Mavis Staples... This is why in 1997, when she met La Velle and Jerome Van Jones, they took her to give her the depth and colors of gospel and blues. It was providential for this singer as white as she feels dyed by this musical world she approaches with her own vocal flavor and roots.

Tightness and sharing are the priority, this is when the music becomes complete in her view and she knows she is marvellously supported by those talented and charismatic musicians from the European jazz and blues scene. A groovy blues song from her guts and played in a "take no prisoner" way by impetuous Mister Tchang, Daniel Stec and Greg Aguilar either on piano or at the Hammond B3, devilishly bluesy, André Neufert on drums and his acolyte Marcus Rouvière on bass guitar carrying it all! On special occasions, they are joined by Rodolphe Tissinier on trombone, Tim Saour on saxophone and Pierre Bousquet on trumpet.



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BIG JOE & The Space Cowboys

Known worldwide as George Hamilton V's Tele-slinging sidekick, Big Joe Barret finally stepped up to bat in 2006 with his first album "SPECIAL SAUCE". Of course the album was produced in NashVegas, Tennessee by big brother & "NashVegas Nomad 1" --Geo. V, who is also co-writer on several of the songs. The inspiration is mainly Southern Rock and Roots, but the screamin' guitar always has the St. Louis hometown flavor: the Blues. Big Joe is in France at the moment playing a steady gig at "Billy Bob's" (Disney Village), and numerous shows all around the world either with Geo. V or The Space Cowboys. In 2008 he released the "Watchin' Somethin'" single, including the hit song "You & Me". The "Watchin' Somethin'" song is heavily used by two of his endorsers, Duesenberg Guitars and Mad Professor Amps, and was also picked to appear on a Warner Music compilation called "Country Roads II"... Right now Big Joe is getting ready to record his next album "What the Blues is going on!" that should be released in March 2012.



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BLUESY ROOSTERS

BLUESY ROOSTERS practices a very rootsy blues that favors the "party" side of things as well as authenticity with no kind of artificial effect. The point being to be able to busk unplugged, but also to deliver spellbinding beats that can also be played electrically on all types of stages. The French lyrics are not for the faint of heart. They mention abuse as well as sex, bad luck as well as gambling with destiny. Influences range from Blind Lemon Jefferson to Bo Diddley with a desire to make the form modern while remaining faithful to the core. CHRISTIAN AIME (bass) has played with Scalen Co, Alan Jack, Omega Plus, Les Planets (with the Engel brothers), and the Tours Symphonic Orchestra... DOC PILOT (vocal, slide guitar) has played with X-Ray pop, Bocal 5, Doc Machine, Gueule d'amour... JOSE LARACELLETA (lead guitar) has played with Tayfa, Foued, Alan Jack, Mitch Richard Band... CHRISTIAN JACQUET (drums) has played with Alan Jack, Matchbox... SONYA KONE (vocal) takes part in different gospel groups... PIERRE DORIAN (harmonica) has played with Foued and the Pierre Dorian blues band...

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THE KAT & The Midnightsun

2011 album "I'm the Kat!" was released under the Midnightsun Music Label with 16 artists among which J.J.Milteau (Harmonica), Kenny Neal (guitar), Ron Smyth, Michael Robinson (vocal). Kat chose Boney Fields as her artistic director. Kevin Bowe, author of the famous "The Blues is my Business" by Etta James also participates by sending her two songs. An album at the roots of the Blues with originals in French and in English, for which she wrote 2 songs.

For the CD release The Kat unveiled her musical show for her hometown crowd at the Théâtre La Luna for 3 weeks during the Avignon festival. To be noted also, a video clip and a CD cover painted by artist J-Paul Bocaj. "I'm the Kat!" attracts a wide audience thanks to arrangements built around rock-blues-jazz and funk! About a hundred French and American radios have already adopted it.

Lucky Peterson lets her sit in on the Rockstore stage in Montpellier in 1999 and decides to let his audiences find out about her at the New Morning and the Bagnols Blues Festival. Boney Fields, Bernard Allison, Ron Smyth, Jimmy Johnson, U.P Wilson, Tom Principato and Kenny Neal (Mériadien, 2010) did the same at different jazz and blues festivals. A few of these places are: Festivals: Enghien Jazz Festival, Blues in Aout (Montreuil sur Mer-62), Les Kiosqueries d'Houlgate. Parisian clubs: Petit journal Montparnasse, Scène Bastille, Théâtre La Reine Blanche. Cultural Centers: Le Lièvre d'or (Dreux), Georges Simenon (Rosny sous Bois), Le Forum (Les Angles-30).



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OLD BILLIES

Founded in 2006 by Richard Ringot, Old Billies is today the powerful melting pot of different influences... Blues, Rock, Pop, always delivering with sincerity a music drenched in the blues! As deserving live musicians, the 4 Old Billies bandmates: Richard Ringot (guitar & vocal), Steve Sacquépée (guitar & vocal), Fabien Barry (drums) and Daniel Delattre (bass), visit a few standards to connoisseurs' pleasure and let you enjoy their more original tunes which always are, of course, about love, joy, hope and long roads travelled with a guitar in hand... Keep bluesin' guys, and see you at the Crossroads... At 2011 Cahors Blues Festival Challenge, Old Billies won the "France Blues Award".

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HOBO BLUES



HOBO BLUES is Marine and Antoine, a couple on stage as well as in real life, who, just like last century hoboes, carries its music around: they've been travelling French and European roads alike for a few years already!

Every show is a new chance to play "their" blues and to share it intensively with their audience. Finalists at the 2010 Blues sur Seine Festival contest in the electro-acoustic category, their appearances at festivals multiply and notably open for many acts. During their sets, Marine and Antoine play electro-acoustic and resophonic guitars, harmonica, different homemade percussions, washboard, and sing lead and backing vocals, all of which with impressive conviction, complicity and energy.

This "power duo" plays an explosive and original repertoire with a sound all its own.

Rest assured Hobo Blues won't leave you cold!

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SLIM BATTEUX

A singer and an organ player, played live with numerous artists like Beverly Jo Scott, Percy Sledge, Amos Garrett, and also with Autour du Blues. Currently working on an album entirely in Lakota language with numerous traditional songs.

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BONEY FIELDS & The Bone's Project

Wherever they play, Boney Fields and The Bone's Project leave behind them a lasting impression. Like a high energy gunpowder trail, dispensing a cross of blues and funk which unites and rallies the masses in a heavenly musical communion. Fronted by the dynamic, trumpet player, singer/songwriter Boney Fields, the combo has gained a bigger and bigger following. The bowler-hatted musician has come a long way since founding his own band, ten years ago. If he comes from Chicago Blues, he has expanded the contours with an iron willed determination. A lover of soul, groove, jazz, Boney Fields knows, as do certain other musicians of his generation, that the life of blues exists through constant evolution and rejuvenation. With humility and conviction, he follows his own path finding his own originality on the way. A man resolutely of his time, yet also immersed in the heritage of his musical forefathers, Boney Fields proves that the blues still has some great days ahead of it.

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RENAUD CUGNY

HAMMOND B-3 organ & piano During his classical piano training, when, for the first time he heard Jimmy Smith in "The Cat", Renaud CUGNY immediately understood that the "B3" would be his instrument of choice. Influenced by rock, blues and pop from as long as he can remember, his taste in music is very eclectic and he likes to carry out different artistic experiments.

Renaud took part in many festivals and backed up onstage as well as in the studio prestigious artists such as Billy BRANCH, Fred CHAPPELLIER, WES MACKKEY, MIGUEL M, Roland TCHAKOUNTE, Janet ROBIN, Arthur LOUIS, Neal BLACK... so many chances to let the B3 ring!

It is to be noted that Renaud always brings his own vintage instruments to gigs, especially a 1962 Hammond B3 and its Leslie cabinet, which gives the bands he plays with an authentic "blues" soul sound.

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LEFTY DOM

Somewhere between the Loire estuary and the Mississippi delta, Lefty dom laid his guitars. Influenced by Arthur Rimbaud's writings as much as by Calvin Russell's and Tony Joe White's songs, his musical world leaves room for emotion mostly. Lefty dom expresses himself in both French and English. Acoustic guitars and his warm voice reinforce the intimate side of his songs. Welcome inside!

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THE BIG MUDDY

Soul, Jazz and Rhythm 'n' Blues The Big Muddy is a trip to Donny Hathaway, Mavis Staples and Ray Charles land. Coming from somewhere between Soul, Jazz and Rhythm 'n' Blues, this Paris area band digs into the sixties roots, from the other side of the Atlantic ocean.

The Big Muddy makes sure to carry on those icons' heritage and takes us to a world between roughness and subtlety.

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CHRISTOPHE MARQUILLY

It all began in the 80's, in Lille, in the North of France: the young rock band STOCKS, founded by Christophe Marquilly, is a quick success with French lyrics and a 100% Southern Rock energy.

It's a first in France, they release their first album live, under the W.E.A. label in 1982 (with its live version of Cocain!). The album enters the hit parades, revealing Christophe's skills as both a guitar player and a songwriter.

In 2005, after 3 albums and a stadium tour with Johnny Hallyday, the trio celebrates its 25 years of existence as well as its ending at a show near Lille. Christophe Marquilly continues on his musical path by himself while he opens up to new influences, more on the acoustic and folk side of things. Still as a trio, he releases "Rien n'est joué" in 2009: Christophe will play its "Rêve d'Irlande" track, written as a tribute to Rory Gallagher, together with the European Symphonists and a choir of 150 at the first Lyricroll festival. Then he's back in the studio, to record the only J.J. Cale authorised french version of Cocain.

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XAVIER PILLAC BAND

"Sublime guitar playing, both sober and incredibly efficient, always well placed, never too much, only the right note where expected, flavored with a spirit of sincerity, generosity, and soul that fits the blues so well" (CROSSROADS - Francis Râteau). With a strong experience of stages throughout Europe (France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Italy) and in the States, in just 10 years XAVIER PILLAC became a European Blues staple to be reckoned with.

In 2010, with the release of his funky "Trio Live" album, he received accolades from the national press: "conveyed with a timeless honesty, Pillac releases a splendid album." (ROCK & FOLK - Christian Casoni).

That same year, Xavier is invited by EDDY LOUISS to play the OLYMPIA (Paris) for his album release.

With his band, Xavier has played the main French and European festivals. He shared the bill with the likes of Lucky Peterson, Bernard Allison, Ana Popovic, Liz McComb, Byther Smith, Brian Templeton & Enrico Crivellaro...

These days, Xavier gigs with a quartet (Guitar-Vocals, Bass, Drums, Hammond B3 / Piano).

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ANTOINE ESCALIER

Bass player. Sideman for Xavier Pillac since 1999.

Also backs up other French and foreign artists alike in the blues, funk and soul genres.

JIMMY BURNS, ENRICO CRIVELLARO, BRIAN TEMPLETON, STEVE STRONGMAN, MALTED MILK, XAVIER PILLAC.

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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 recognized 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 specialized 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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