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## **24<sup>th</sup> Annual WINTHROP RHYTHM & BLUES FESTIVAL! July 15 - 17, 2011**

**This year's festival is shaping up to be the best rhythm & blues PARTY yet! COME SEE WHY!** The Award-Winning Winthrop Music Association presents the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival July 15 - 17, 2011 at **the Blues Ranch in Winthrop, Washington**, nestled in the beautiful Methow Valley in the heart of the North Cascades, surrounded by some of the most spectacular scenery in the Pacific Northwest. The Festival is this year's winner of the Washington Blues Society's B.B. **Award for Best Blues Festival** and the **Best Blues Event** from the Inland Empire Blues Society.

*Featuring:*

**JIMMIE VAUGHAN and the Tilt-A-Whirl Band**

**Featuring Lou Ann Barton**

**Grammy Winner BOOKER T.**

**Commander Cody**

**Lydia Pense & Cold Blood**

**Michael Burks**

**Too Slim & The Taildraggers**

**The Lee Boys**

**Dusty 45s**

**Joanne Shaw Taylor**

**Chris Eger Band**

**Bump Kitchen**

**John-Alex Mason**

**Three days packed full of Rhythm & Blues!** Washington State's largest and longest running blues festival kicks off again on Friday with its **early** show in the BEER GARDEN at the Blues Ranch starting at **7 pm, July 15** with Winthrop favorites **Too Slim & the Taildraggers** and the fabulous **Dusty 45s**, in a special fundraising concert for The Cove Food Bank in Twisp, Wash. Saturday and Sunday music starts at 11 am and runs until 2 am. **On-site camping** (\$40 for the weekend), free showers, food and craft vendors, shade tents, and beer garden are all located on the Blues Ranch grounds on the beautiful Methow River. The Friday night Beer Garden Show is \$10 or free with weekend pass. A weekend pass is \$75 in advance, \$85 at the gate. For complete schedule, tickets, and lodging information please visit our website [www.winthropbluesfestival.org](http://www.winthropbluesfestival.org). You can also find us at [www.facebook.com/winthropbluesfestival](http://www.facebook.com/winthropbluesfestival). For high-resolution photos, artist interviews and press inquiries contact Erika Olsen at 206-818-5934, [rikkito@mac.com](mailto:rikkito@mac.com).

The Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival is brought to you by The **Winthrop Music Association**, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Proceeds from the Festival help support a number of cultural and civic organizations in the Methow Valley and beyond, including **The Cove Food Bank, Little Star Montessori School, Heart of the Methow Pow Wow, Oregon Food Bank/Waterfront Blues Festival, and Washington Blues Society Musician's Relief Fund**. WMA is a member/affiliate of The Blues Foundation, Inland Empire Blues Society, Cascade Blues Society, Washington Blues Society, Methow Valley Arts Alliance.

## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual WINTHROP RHYTHM & BLUES FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, July 15

### Beer Garden Concert Fundraiser for The Cove Food Bank

*For the second year, the Festival opens with a special evening concert, in its Beer Garden, featuring two of the Northwest's hottest acts right now: the **Dusty 45s** and **Too Slim & the Taildraggers**. Admission to the Friday night show is \$10 or free with Festival weekend pass. The Festival's producer, the non-profit Winthrop Music Association, will donate the proceeds of the Friday night concert to The Cove Food Bank in Twisp.*

*The Beer Garden action continues Saturday and Sunday nights with high-level jam sessions featuring festival artists, emceed by Seattle blues-funk diva, **Lady "A"**. Saturday night the jam will be hosted by **Michael Burks**, Sunday by **Joan Shaw Taylor** and the **Chris Eger Band** (more on these acts below). Expect the festival's heavy hitters to turn out for these incendiary jam sessions.*

#### **DUSTY 45s (7:30 pm)**

The **Dusty 45s'** reckless mix of honky-tonk, jump blues, and rock 'n roll, char-broiled by Billy Joe Huels' flame-throwing trumpet, have won them Seattle *Weekly's* "Best of Seattle" award three years running, and recently garnered the band the opening slot on the sold-out Northwest tour of Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Wanda Jackson and Grammy-winner Adele. The Dusty 45s mix roots styles as various as honky-tonk, jump blues, and rock and roll, combine them with classic elements of American music, and produce a sound that breaks free from genre – a sound that is all their own. Singer/songwriter Huels leads the band with an electric stage presence, wailing guitar, and blazing trumpet. His original songs are delivered with panache by Seattle's finest roots-rock wrecking crew: Jerry Battista (lead guitar, vocals), Kelly Van Camp (drums, harmonica, vocals), and Jeff Gray (upright bass, vocals). The Dusty 45s arc is impressive—going back over a decade, with a deep discography, thousands of miles on the tour van odometer, and a committed fan base. The Dusty 45s open the Friday night Beer Garden Show, and perform on the Festival main stage Saturday.

#### **TOO SLIM & THE TAILDRAGGERS (9:30 pm)**

If **Tim "Too Slim" Langford** only played slide he would slither around most other blues guitarists and take a ferocious bite out of their egos. But as the sole six-string slinger, main songster and lead singer of the power trio he founded in 1986, he is a force of nature. Leaving musical tracks others try to follow, with 16 albums and countless gigs notched in his belt, Langford remains as untamed and menacing as ever. His latest release, *Shiver*, may well be the strongest yet in this long string of formidable recordings. The release debuted at #15 on the *Billboard* blues charts last month, and is still climbing as of this writing; the release has hung in *Living Blues* magazine's top 10 for the past two reporting periods. Bassist **Polly O'Keary** and drummer **Tommy Cook** provide bone-rattling punch as Langford makes his estimable presence known via eyeball-melting slide stomps, melancholy ballads and butt-kicking rockers on 12 far-reaching, original tunes. The Taildraggers headline Friday's opening night Beer Garden concert, and hit the main stage Sunday afternoon.

## SATURDAY, July 16

### **JOHN-ALEX MASON (11 am)**

Opening both Saturday and Sunday, **John-Alex Mason**, a one-man band from the front range of Southern Colorado, this winter released his sixth full-length album, *Jook Joint Thunderclap*—a world boogie collaboration of master players from Chicago, Holly Springs MS, Guinea and Colorado that earned this rave from *Living Blues Magazine*: "...his originals are heartfelt and poetic. The quiet grace of Whisper features just Mason's voice—a smoky blend somewhere between Gregg Allman and Warren Haynes... 'Listen close/More than words to hear,' he sings, and this could be said of the entire album."

### **BUMP KITCHEN (12:30 pm)**

Making their first trip to the Winthrop Festival on Saturday, Seattle groove-masters **Bump Kitchen** deliver soul and funk, known for their intense energy on stage and front-man Tony Harper's soulful vocals. Bump Kitchen has a sound that is truly all their own. Imagine, if you will, the musicianship of the finest fusion band with the vocal power of the Neville Brothers. When the Kitchen gets down....you know it. They dig in to solid r&b grooves that bring you back to a time when the stage was full of real musicians. When Tony sings a soul ballad, with 4 part harmonies by the band, he commands the attention of all within earshot. When the boys lay down a funk groove...oh man....lookout! Watch Bump Kitchen on stage, they are having fun. They interact with the audience, they clown around, but they never lose the groove and intensity. These guys are for real.

### **DUSTY 45s (2 pm)**

The Dusty 45s open the Friday night Beer Garden Show, and perform on the Festival main stage Saturday. See Friday listings for info on Dusty 45s.

### **MICHAEL BURKS (4 pm)**

Guitarist/vocalist/songwriter **Michael "Iron Man" Burks** stands tall as a major contemporary blues figure. With a nickname earned by his hours-long, intensely physical performances, fearsome guitar attack, tough, smoky vocals and the thousands of miles logged behind the wheel of his touring van, Burks is a modern blues hero. Nobody in today's blues world successfully bridges searing electric guitar blues with unbridled rock and roll energy like Burks. The *Chicago Sun Times* calls him, "... a flamethrower guitarist...the complete bluesman: songwriter, singer, riff-master, bandleader, and showman...Savage fury and heartfelt tenderness." Burks appears on the main stage, and will also host the Festival's late night All-star jam session on the Beer Garden stage.

### **LYDIA PENSE & COLD BLOOD (6 pm)**

**Lydia Pense & Cold Blood** debuted when San Francisco's Fillmore Ballroom was at its peak as one of the nation's musical Mecca's. During the span of six late-60's, early-70's albums, Lydia and her fiercely funky band, along with Tower Of Power, helped forge a brand of funk/soul and R&B which came to be known as "East Bay Grease."

Pense can still shout like a '60s soul diva and purr a slow blues with spine-tingling subtlety. Her band features a stellar group of musicians who have been playing together for nearly 20 years, as well as with such artists as Elvin Bishop, The Starship, Boz Skaggs, and Albert Collins.

### **BOOKER T. (8 pm)**

Co-headlining Saturday, Hammond B3 alchemist **Booker T. Jones** is one of America's most prolific, distinguished and instantly recognizable musical forces. His 2009 Grammy-winning album, *Potato Hole*, not only re-affirmed his greatness, it also re-introduced the neglected all-instrumental format to a noisy, crowded marketplace crying out for precisely the type of soul satisfying grooves which Jones excels at. Booker's latest, *The Road From Memphis*, is an eclectic mix of retro-soul and hip-hop grooves featuring a wild cast of characters—the hip-hop group, The Roots, neo-soul queen Sharon Jones, Yim Yames from My Morning Jacket, Matt Berninger from the National, and the godfather of punk, Lou Reed.

### **JIMMIE VAUGHAN (10 pm)**

**Jimmie Vaughan & the Tilt-A-Whirl Band** featuring **Lou Ann Barton** in their Winthrop debut. **Vaughan**—co-founder of **The Fabulous Thunderbirds**, and elder brother to the late **Stevie Ray Vaughan**—since the early '70s has been throwing down some of the toughest, leanest, most compelling blues guitar on the planet. Last year's Grammy-nominated *Blues, Ballads and Favorites*, Vaughan's first new studio album in nine years, showcased Vaughan's earthy, roadhouse blues and economical guitar work, lushly backed by the Tilt-a-Whirl Band's swinging horns, and the powerful pipes' of Vaughan's longtime cohort, **Lou Ann Barton**. His follow-up, *More Blues, Ballads and Favorites*, is due for release this summer.

## **SUNDAY, July 17**

### **JOHN-ALEX MASON (11 am)**

See Saturday listing for bio on John-Alex.

### **CHRIS EGER BAND (12:30 pm)**

Chris Eger Band, formed four years ago in the Skagit Valley, have brought their eclectic mix of blues rock, funk, rockabilly and soul to the Mount Baker Rhythm & Blues Festival, Rendezvous Blues Festival, and the

region's major blues clubs. Powered by punchy horns and Eger's riveting vocals and guitar, the band hits the main stage early, and co-hosts with Joan Shaw Taylor the late-night Sunday jam at the Beer Garden.

### **JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR (2 pm)**

In the past two years, **Joanne Shaw Taylor** has gone from a promising young blues talent to a bona fide force on the international music scene. She took home Best Female Vocalist honors at the 2010 British Blues Awards, has supported tours by Joe Bonamassa and Eric Sardinas and impressed legions of fans in the US, Europe and Australia with her high-energy attack. Dave Stewart, of the Eurythmics, was so blown away after first hearing Taylor he hired her into his band: "*I heard something I thought I would never hear... a British White Girl playing blues guitar so deep and passionately it made the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end!*" Taylor appears on the main stage, and co-hosts Sunday's late night jam in the Beer Garden.

### **THE LEE BOYS (3:30 pm)**

In the tradition of the Campbell Brothers and Robert Randolph & the Family Band, **The Lee Boys** serve up 'sacred steel' as only a real band of brothers can. Born out of the traditions of Florida's House of God Church—where the howling, soaring voice of the steel guitar has dominated the fiery Pentecostal worship service for decades—the Lee Boys have delivered their funky sermon at major festivals across the US, playing and touring with the Allman Brothers, Black Crowes, Los Lobos, Gov't Mule, Derek Trucks, the North Mississippi Allstars among many.

### **TOO SLIM & THE TAILDRAGGERS (5:15 pm)**

The Taildraggers headline Friday's opening night Beer Garden concert (see Friday listing for more info on TSTD) and hit the main stage Sunday afternoon, setting a high bar for closer Commander Cody.

### **COMMANDER CODY (7 pm)**

Look in any book on the History of Rock and Roll and you will find **Commander Cody** and his Lost Planet Airmen, whose *Deep in the Heart of Texas* is listed among *Rolling Stone Magazine's* top 100 albums of all time. But the Commander is no mere nostalgia act, as last year's Blind Pig label release, *Dopers, Drunks and Everyday Losers*, proved: "The Commander is stronger than ever," as *Hittin' the Note* raved. "His floor-stomping mix of country, swing, and rockabilly can shake the rafters of any bar or club."