



# BLUES NEWS

## From your President...

'Tis summer and that means festival season for blues lovers. All kind of festivals. Big ones, little ones, in between ones all through the summer. Dot and I have given up on the big festivals because neither of us travel well anymore. But there is still plenty of good music to be experienced locally and regionally. The annual Mississippi Railroad Picnic is on July 16th at the Mechanicsburg Club picnic grounds. Free to current BSCP members and byo food and drink. Music by Mark "Muleman" Massey and Billy Earheart from Mississippi. Don't miss this show. We also have a show scheduled October 7th at Champions featuring Billy Price. This Saturday night show is a pretty large undertaking by BSCP and we will really need your support. We will close out the year in December with another free to members show at our annual Christmas party at Hummelstown Fire Hall on December 3rd with the band to be announced. These are just our events locally. Pick up a Festival Guide to find the national and regional events. Like I say, there are plenty. Also, on December 3rd, BSCP will be having elections for president, vice-president and secretary. Currently the positions are filled by: President Buster Grubb (me), Vice-President Mike Knott, and Secretary Andy Kehe. It is important that these positions be filled with responsible people and with a current membership of over 300 people, there's got to be some who want to take a role in keeping BSCP going. Interested parties should contact any board member.

- Buster





# **BSCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President:** Buster Grubb

**Vice President:** Mike Knott – Chair, Events and Public Relations Committees

**Secretary:** Andy Kehe

**Treasurer:** Gary “Rocky” Rothrock – Chair, Jam Committee and Bylaws Committee

Dot Grubb – Chair, Membership Committee

Nina Vacante – Chair, Newsletter Committee, and Webmaster

Greg Hogg – Chair, IBC Committee

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Virginia “Mom” Ivanoff – Member-at-Large

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Sherman Smith – Member-at-Large

Rocky Woodling – Member-at-Large



# Billy Price

COMING TO HARRISBURG!

By Andy Kehe

Heading to a concert featuring a soulful blues vocalist with four-plus decades of performing under his belt as well as 15 albums and CDs, you might think you're about to experience an iconic figure in the genre. His soulful sounds might suggest it too, but truth is, you might instead be witnessing one of the genre's best kept secrets. With his 15th and possibly best release, *Alive and Strange*, Billy Price, well known in the Pittsburgh region but not so much, say many reviewers, outside of it despite his association with Roy Buchanan for three years, might finally at age 67 be close to nailing down that illusive iconic status.

The Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania welcomes Price to the Champions Sports Bar and Grill stage in Highspire on Oct. 7. Charlie Owen & Pocket Change will open the show at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20. Card carrying BSCP members will be admitted for \$15.

"Price is a terrific vocalist who deserves to be a bigger star," said Hal Horowitz of Blues Revue, in which he was reviewing his 2009 release *Night Work*. Horowitz called that release "a thrilling collaboration that...should delight lovers of soul or blues." With *Night Work*, Price gathered some momentum toward emerging from the shadows. He kept the ball rolling with his Blues Music Award winning (Best Soul Blues album) 2015 release with the late Otis Clay *This Time For Real*, and gained more steam, and national recognition, with *Alive and Strange*. "Catch him live on tour. You'll feel his pain, his joy, and won't be able to sit still," said reviewer Jim Hynes of *Elmore Magazine*. "Don't be surprised if (*Alive and Strange*) leaves your CD player smoldering."

Price was born in Paterson, New Jersey as Bill Pollak. In a 1999 interview with *Deep Soul* magazine, Price explains how he became known as Billy Price. "Billy Price initially came from Lloyd Price. In a talent contest - which I won - one night at a club they asked me my name. I was a kid then - about sixteen years old - and I guess Lloyd Price was in my mind, so I said 'Billy Price'."

Price has been entertaining audiences in the Pittsburgh region since the mid 1970s, so much so that he's been officially recognized as a Pittsburgh Rock and Roll legend, according to his website [billyprice.com](http://billyprice.com). Some notoriety came his way when Price joined up with Buchanan and became his vocalist on two of his albums. Price formed the Billy Price and the Keystone Rhythm Band in 1977, and before their breakup 13 years later the band had recorded four albums. Shortly after the breakup came the Billy Price Band, which still tours today. In addition to performing popular songs from Price's years with Buchanan and the Keystone Rhythm Band, the Billy Price Band features new interpretations of blues, R & B, and soul classics. Members of the Billy Price Band are Steve Delach (guitar), Paul Thompson (bass), Dave Dodd (drums), Jimmy Britton (keyboards), Joe Herndon (trumpet), Eric DeFade (tenor sax) and Rick Matt (baritone and tenor sax).

In April 1997, Billy Price released the critically acclaimed *The Soul Collection*, which featured a duet by Price and Clay, his friend and mentor, called "That's How It Is." In the Sept/Oct, 1997 edition of *Living Blues*, Bill Dahl called *The Soul Collection* "an inspired stroll through the glorious history of soul music [invested with] uncommon passion



and authenticity.” The Washington Post’s Mike Joyce described The Soul Collection “an R & B homage full of revealing and compelling performances. Price is a terrifically expressive soul singer.” Then the Post summed up Price in a way that comes as no surprise to folks in the Steel City: “Unlike so many blues revivalists, Price is not an imitation of older, better singers--he’s the real thing.”

Vocalist Charlie Owen brings a bit of San Francisco soul to the stage, despite spending most of his life on the East Coast. After a stint in the house band at the Stardust Lounge in Maryland, a stopping off place for many national acts in the 1970s, Owen fronted The Dynatones in the Bay area in the early 1980s. Now back in Maryland again, Owen released a CD Worth the Wait in 2015 featuring several of San Francisco’s finest sidemen. Owen will no doubt perform cuts from Worth the Wait, which, according to Blues Blast, celebrates the heyday of American rhythm and blues. “He has the perfect voice for vintage R&B,” said Blues Blast. “Just a little rough on the edges and full of soul.”

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## **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**A SOUL/BLUES EXTRAVAGANZA**

**Featuring the BILLY PRICE BAND**

**OPENING ACT TBA**

**DETAILS FOLLOWING SOON ON OUR WEBSITE**

**@ [www.bscpblues.org](http://www.bscpblues.org)**



## **ACOUSTIC STEW GIG SCHEDULE**

**JULY 15**

**Champions Sports Bar Deck  
Highspire, PA  
7 - 10 pm**

**AUGUST 4**

**Hauser Estate Winery  
Orianna, PA  
7 - 10 pm**

**AUGUST 29**

**Private Party**

**OCTOBER 1**

**Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat  
Harrisburg, PA  
5:30 - 9 pm**



## CD Review – “Still Standing”

CD Review by Blues Matters Magazine

Article by John Henry, [Third Street Cigar Records](#)

I wanted to drop everyone a note that has supported the debut CD [“Still Standing”](#) by Bobby G with Curtis Grant and The Midnight Rockers! The Label, Bobby G and the Band are grateful for those that have played, bought and passed along information on this wonderful CD. At 73 Bobby G has waited a long time for this moment we are working very hard to chart Bobby on the Living Blues Charts and gain him the recognition we think he deserves. Your support is greatly appreciated, we hope you personally like the CD, we have received very positive feedback and reviews like the review from Blues Matters

### ***BOBBY G WITH CURTIS GRANT, JR. & THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS |STILL STANDING |*** [Third Street Cigar Records](#)

*What a find! This is pure blues, no hybrid here. Unbelievably, this is Bobby G’s first feature album, laid down at age 73. There’s a wealth of living in his singing. The backing music is superb, usually lead guitar over a walking bass. This is also the debut album for this label; one can only hope for more CDs of this quality. Perhaps in deference to Bobby G’s many years of living, the first song, the title cut, describes a life without regrets. “I’m still standing/I’m standing here to tell you/I wouldn’t change/I wouldn’t change a thing,” he sings, and he sounds like he means it. The musicianship of Curtis Grant, Jr. & The Midnight Rockers is stellar, sparkling clean and bluesy as hell. The guitar work is sometimes reminiscent of the great soul guitarist Steve Cropper. But more often, as on Good As Gold, a beautiful slow blues love song, it’s evocative of B.B. King. Ball And Chain features more B.B.-style guitar over a walking bass that will have you groovin’ across the floor. Love Love Love has a more hard-ass feel, featuring a propulsive guitar line punctuated by hand claps. By contrast, Little Bitty Woman, about the singer’s tough little woman who gives him everything he needs, is almost entirely bass-driven. Definite shimmying material. As a blues singer, Bobby G is the real deal. You can hear it in every syllable he sings. He grew up in Mississippi and it shows. “Feels so good to be back home,” he sings in the closing track. And let me tell you, it feels just great to be back home in real, deep blues. All 10 songs on the album were written or co-written by the producer, Johnny Rawls, a guitarist, keyboardist and singer in his own right. So, while there’s variety here, there’s also just a bit of sameness to the album’s 10 tracks. But no matter. I could listen to this stuff all day.*

If you haven’t seen Bobby in action here is a link of Bobby G playing at a recent event the title song [“Still Standing”](#), I thought you might like it. We have received request from Blues Society’s and organizations from around the world who are doing reviews and articles for photos to accompany these efforts, please [contact us](#) and we would be glad to fill all request. Thank you for those that have requested information and pictures and we welcome and encourage others, we would love to hear from you. The CD is available at [Third Street Cigar Store](#), [Label Website](#), [CD Baby](#), [iTunes](#), and [Amazon](#).

# ROGER HAMMER MUSIC



MoMos BBQ  
in Harrisburg  
July 21, Fri 7:00-10:00



Reid's Home Winery  
in Orrtanna  
July 22, Sat 2:00-5:00



Reid's Cider House Cafe  
in Gettysburg  
July 28, Fri 7:00-10:00

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Moo-Duck Brewery in Elizabethtown  
July 29, Sat 5:30-8:30

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Champs Bar in Highspire  
Aug 19, Sat 6:00-10:00

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Eagle Hotel in Fredericksburg  
Sept 8, Fri 6:00-9:00

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Fall Furnace Festival in Pine Grove Furnace State Park  
Oct 21, Sat 2:30-4:30



## Upcoming Dates

<b>Jul 16</b>	<b>4:30p</b>	<b>Spring Gate Vineyard</b>
<b>Jul 22</b>	<b>9p</b>	<b>Bridges Social Club</b>
<b>Jul 28</b>	<b>10p</b>	<b>The Blue Moose Bar &amp; Grille</b>
<b>Aug 11</b>	<b>7:30p</b>	<b>Capital Gastropub</b>
<b>Aug 12</b>	<b>9p</b>	<b>Savannah's On Hanna</b>
<b>Aug 19</b>	<b>8p</b>	<b>River City Blues and Darts Club</b>
<b>Aug 26</b>	<b>9p</b>	<b>Bridges Social Club</b>
<b>Sep 16</b>	<b>7:30p</b>	<b>Capital Gastropub</b>
<b>Sep 22</b>	<b>10p</b>	<b>The Blue Moose Bar &amp; Grille</b>
<b>Oct 6</b>	<b>7p</b>	<b>MoMos BBQ</b>

[switchfu.com](http://switchfu.com)



# BSCP Proudly Presents Mark “Muleman” Massey

By Andy Kehe

Blues artists by nature draw inspiration from hard times. Then there’s Mark “Muleman” Massey of Clarksdale, Mississippi. Massey draws inspiration from hard times and doing hard time. The end result is a hard-edged, sizzling blend of soulful hard-driving blues that have entertained audiences for decades, back to when a prison-mate exposed blues to Massey, turning his life around and in pursuit of performing forever.

Massey along with Billy Earheart, a legend in his own right, are the featured artists July 16, when the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania presents its annual Mississippi Railroad Picnic at the Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds. The concert starts at 2 p.m. It is a bring your own food and beverage event. Admission is free to BSCP members. Admission for non-members is \$10, which also comes with a year’s membership.

Massey, with two albums to his credit - - “Mississippi Lockdown” (2010) and “One Step Ahead of the Blues” (2014) - - was introduced to the concept of music being the cleansing elixir at the Parchman Prison by David Kimbrough, son of legendary bluesman Junior Kimbrough. Kimbrough taught Massey the blues basics, and soon Massey was performing with the Parchman Prison Band. Once released, Massey, now being mentored by Big Jack Johnson, set out to play and sing at joints all over Northern Mississippi. It wasn’t long before Massey was performing at B.B. King’s on Beal Street in New Orleans and Morgan Freeman’s Ground Zero, according to Broadwayworld.com.

Today, “Muleman” tours with his own band the Mark “Muleman” Blues Band, or in tandem with Earheart, one of the founding members of the Amazing Rhythm Aces and a long time performer with Hank Williams Jr. Earheart plays piano and organ in Massey’s band. Other band members include Torey Todora, former bass player with Super Chicken, and former Black Oak Arkansas drummer Joel Williams. Earheart still tours with the Amazing Rhythm Aces, with whom he won a Grammy in 1976 for “The End is Not In Sight.” With Earheart, the band earned a Grammy nomination for Best New Artist in 1975.

Massey’s latest cd, “One Step Ahead of the Blues” released on Icehouse features the band with special appearances by Bobby Rush, Willie Clayton, Eric Gales and Don Nix. Said reviewer Bob Gottlieb of Elmore Magazine: “From the album’s opening notes, it’s evident that Massey has worked hard at his crafts, both the guitar playing and the singing, and neither comes at the expense of the other. He has a smooth voice which has no trouble reaching for notes, and his playing is equally fluid and very tasty without overplaying things at all. This is an album that beautifully fuses blues, gospel and soul into one package that shouldn’t be missed.”





THE BLUES SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PA  
IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE



# MISSISSIPPI RAILROAD PICNIC



**MARK "MULEMAN" MASSEY**  
& **BILLY EARHEART**

**SUNDAY JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**AT THE MECHANICSBURG CLUB  
PICNIC GROUNDS**

199 Glendale Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
GATE OPENS AT 1 PM SHOW STARTS AT 2 PM BYOB & FOOD

**FREE TO BSCP MEMBERS, \$10 NON-MEMBERS**

# Tumbling Dice

FEATURED AT BSCP JAM

By Nina Vacante

The Blues Society of Central PA (BSCP) was thrilled to host a young, talented group of young men displaying their blues talents at our Thursday night jam on May 11th of this year.

Tumbling Dice has been performing together since 2014. They learned about the blues through their father, a veteran of the Tidewater, Virginia blues circuit. As a member of the Virginia Beach based blues band, The R&B All-Stars, he toured up and down the east coast in the 90s, and played with the likes of Koko Taylor and Carey Bell. Their first gig was in August of 2014, when Tumbling Dice was the opening act at the R&B All-Stars reunion show in Virginia Beach.

Blues, rock n' roll, and soul music were a large part of their childhood in Virginia Beach, with Robert Johnson, B.B. King, Chuck Berry, and various Motown and Stax artists being favorites. They moved to Central Pennsylvania in 2008, and it was here that they became musicians and formed their band.

They began playing mostly free gigs around the Hershey area in early 2016, including the district art show, the Hummelstown Veterans Benefit picnic, and the Lower Dauphin High School Mini-Thon, a marathon fundraiser for children's cancer. They have played at other venues around Hershey and Hummelstown as well, and recently had a gig at Ted's Bar & Grill in Harrisburg in June.



They also hope to return to Champion's fairly often, which BSCP and all blues fans definitely would like to see.

The band consists of:

Robert Morris

Guitar, Lead Vocals, Harmonica

From Virginia Beach

Age 21, Graduate of Lower Dauphin High School Class of 2014

Influences: Chuck Berry, The Rolling Stones, Steve Cropper, Magic Sam, Robert Johnson, B.B. King

Thomas Morris

Drums, Occasional Vocals

From Virginia Beach

Age 18, at the time of publication he will have just graduated from Lower Dauphin High School

Influences: Charlie Watts, John Bonham, Steve Jordan

Derv Morris

Bass and Dancing

From Virginia Beach

Age 16, currently a junior at Lower Dauphin High School

Influences: Bill Wyman, Donald "Duck" Dunn, John Paul Jones, Rick Danko, Bob Dylan

These guys really display a real talent and we look forward to seeing them again at future jams. We predict this band will continue to building a name for themselves within the blues community and we encourage everyone to try to see them at any of their future gigs.



## THANK YOU!

I want to send out a big **THANK YOU** to all who made this year's Blues Society of Central PA's Treasurer's Picnic such a big success!. To all the volunteers who cooked, cleaned, removed trash, hauled gear and otherwise helped out. To all the musicians who donated their talents and played great music all day. To all our old and new friends who came out to party with us. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!** It was our big fundraiser and your participation has already borne important fruit, as BSCP was able to donate \$1,000 of the proceeds to the Music Maker Relief Foundation. For more information on this important charity, please visit [www.musicmaker.org](http://www.musicmaker.org).

And we will use more of the proceeds to pay for our next big event - **The Mississippi Railroad** concert featuring **Mark "Muleman" Massey and Billy Earheart**. This will be held on **Sunday, July 16 at 2 pm** at the Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds and is **FREE** to current BSCP members! (Or you can join for \$10 at the gate!) This is a BYO Food & Drink event and gives us an opportunity to hear some authentic Mississippi bluesmen in action. You can find out more about these fine musicians at their Facebook and ReverbNation pages and on YouTube.

Again thank you so much for making our events and our blues society the best!

*Gary "Rocky" Rothrock  
Treasurer, BSCP*



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