

The Motor City, the Windy City, the Music City, the River Cities and the Crescent City • DEC. 2023/JAN. 2024

*Photo by
Robert Jr. Whitall,
The Palace of Auburn
Hills, Michigan,
August 14, 1992*

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BIG CITY **BLUES** VIEWS

I Ain't Complaining I'm Just Explaining! "Got My Shot!"

The *Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine* was started by two photographers—**Charlie Auringer** and I. So every once and awhile we do a photo issue to celebrate our photogs. I use to play the game and try to take a photo of everyone! At **New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival** with its nine stages and more, I would put on my tennis shoes and hit the track and try to take photos of every musician. As **Dick Waterman** and I discussed, "My wheels don't move that fast anymore!" I use to follow **Ross Marino, Steve Galli, Ken Settle, Sue Plumber** and others to all the venues and clubs in metro Detroit. And later I settled in Ann Arbor and did the same at **Joe's Star Lounge, The Blind Pig** and **Second Chance**. I was so close to the stars that I did not realize until later that **Michael Jackson's** foot touched my hand or **Mick Jagger** almost stepped on me. I am now pretty retired from running around with my cameras and I am enjoying looking back at my work thus **Eric Clapton** on the cover. His image has been sitting in storage for years. I am going to smell my roses! But on May 2, 2024 I hope to be at the AARP photo pit for the **Rolling Stones** at the 2024 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival - a historic event! Thanks **Quint!**

I have a great group of photographers to work with as you can see from this



Chicago is full of wonderful Blues people at Delmark's headquarters in front of the old Jazz Record Mart, November 22, 2012.

issue. My wife **Sugar** is my number one, congratulations to **Laura Carbone** the recipient of the 2024 KBA for photography, **Charles Auringer—Creem Magazine, Roman Sobus, Alan Frohlichstein, Barry Kaiser, Karen McFarland, Capt. Dirk Wissbaum, Tom Foley** and New Orleans smiling photographer **Kim**

Welsh. In the future their work will be revered and appreciated. History is captured.

The two photos on this spread are two of my favorite photos, the **Chicago Jazz Record Mart** group shot with many of our blues stars along with our **Bob Koester** (my friend and photographer **Robert Barclay**

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On the cover: Photo by Robert Jr Whitall At The Palace Of Auburn Hills, August 14, 1992

www.bigcitybluesmag.com



My favorite photo of my work - Robert Jr. Lockwood and friends, "Waiting for a Friend(s)" in Tutwiler, Mississippi where the blues was born - October 12, 2003.

says it is his favorite photo of mine). The other photo on my page was taken in the Year of the Blues at Tutwiler Train Station as a favor to **Robert Jr. Lockwood** who every time that I saw him would grumpily remark, "When are you putting me on the cover?" So after King Biscuit we asked Robert Jr. Lockwood and a few friends to meet us by the Tutwiler train station where **W.C. Handy** first used the word "Blues." This is my favorite shot/cover. I am finishing up my book on my covers to be called "**Happy To Have The Blues**" that will explain how I got them together and why. I have a lot of great stories about my photo cover shoots. A shot out in heaven to my late father-in-law Dr. Eric Cassell who was always amazed how I got all these people to cooperate and show up. Also this is a shout out to Art Kane who put together "A Great Day In Harlem" which was sup-

posed to be all the great drummers but everyone showed up! Smile!

I have shifted my focus lately of my portraits to my "Muses." I am having a show of my portraits on December 8 & 9, 2024 at edo Ramen & Sushi in Royal Oak, Michigan. I have met so many artists who were life changing for me. I hope you enjoy them as much as I enjoyed making them. Thank-you **Frida, Grimshaw** and **R. Crumb!**

Eric Clapton is on the cover because he was one of my heroes growing up with **John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers, Cream, Blind Faith, Derek & the Dominos** and he has quietly become the god of the electric guitar. And Clapton continues with his charity work in Antigua, **The Crossroads Centre** and treatment center for addiction and alcoholism. Play on sir!

Still recovering from the jam-packed Oct. 2024 **#39 Legendary**

Top 11 Songs on Junior's Jukebox

1. Blackburn Brothers - SoulFunk'nBlues
2. Coco Montoya - Writing on the Wall
3. Kingfish - Live in London
4. Bobby Rush - All My Love For You
5. Blood Brothers - Live in Canada
6. D.K. Harrell - The Right Man
7. Anthony Rosano - Cheat the Devil
8. Jason Ricci and the Bad Kind - Behind the Veil
9. Sue Foley - Live in Austin Vol. 1
10. Johnny Rawls - Walking Heart Attack
11. Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine - CD Sampler #34 The Raven Speaks

Rhythm & Blues Cruise. What a wonderful musical package put together by our **Captain Roger Naber**. I have been on 37 cruises and this one was the best! Great music everywhere! I particularly enjoyed the camaraderie of the young guitar slingers—**Kingfish, Mr. Sipp** and **DK Harrell** were all over the ship and had everyone smiling. Get on the ship! No better place to see and enjoy blues! www.bluescruise.com

Ahoy matesys!

Here we are going into 2024. As we go forward in to the winter let these photos remind of warmer days and hot music. I'm already preparing for the **Tampa Bay Blues Festival** and the **New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival** (Rolling Stones!).

Our next **Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's CD Sampler #35 "Got Mojo"** is almost ready to go. We have only a few more cuts available. So if you want to get your music heard, get on board! blues@bigcitybluesmag.com

Happy holidays and happy New Year! See you down the road. Take the high road, when you get to a crossroads - take it, may the river be with you, may the wind be at your back surf's up, mahola, aloha and don't forget to boogie!

Hope, peace, love & happiness,

Best,
Robert Jr. Whitall

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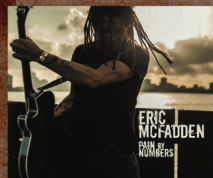
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