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| **Hello Vermont Blues Society members!**When we last published this letter in April of this year, this is how we started it: “We blues lovers find ourselves in strange and challenging times indeed. All of us are locked down or providing only essential services for at least the near future. Musicians have had their schedules cleared, clubs are shuttered, dance halls are silent… “ Few of us anticipated that we’d be saying almost exactly the same thing in September. |

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| **The welfare and health of our membership is foremost in our minds.**We hope all are well and finding the support they need during the continuing pandemic era, especially now that many of the initial pandemic funding sources are now depleted. We can always hope that Congress will continue to pursue the issue and that additional assistance to artists and musicians will be forthcoming. Hopefully more to come. |

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| **VBS Annual meeting and Blues Concert, November 15th - Big news!**Vermont Blues Society will hold its annual meeting, virtually, on November 15th starting at 6:30 pm over Zoom, where enhanced sound is now available. There will be a short business meeting where board members will discuss the organization’s finances and status for the benefit of the members. |

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| **Then the fun begins!**VBS has planned an evening of the blues, featuring both Vermont and internationally-known blues artists. The lineup will include:**Dave Keller, Dawn Tyler Watson and Paul DesLauriers, Anika Chambers, Johntavius Willis, and King Solomon Hicks.**All performers will either pre-record or stream their music, and also be present at the meeting for a brief Q&A period right after their performance.  |

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| The link to the meeting and concert on Zoom will be sent to Vermont Blues Society members. New members are free to join up at any time up to and even during the meeting through the Vermont Blues Society website (see membership info below). More information on the line-up and schedule will be forthcoming. This should be a night to remember! Clockwise below: King Solomon Hicks, Johntavius Wills, Anika Chambers and Paul Deslauriers and Tyler Watson |

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| **Upcoming VBS Blues Jam, October 13th at 7:00 pm**Over the summer VBS presented two well-attended on-line Tuesday Bluesday blues jams over Zoom. Our thanks to all the artists and to our faithful audience for their participation. Our next Vermont Blues Society Tuesday Bluesday jam is scheduled for October 13th at 7:00 pm! Vermont-based blues acts and blues society members are welcome to submit either pre-recorded videos of 2 songs, or a request for a live-streaming spot to board member Sal de Francesco, salnesp@gmail.com. Spots are filling fast!Please! If you have a live-stream or any other kind of blues event that you post on your own Facebook page, and would like them to show up on the Vermont Blues Society Facebook page, here’s what you do. First, you must ‘like’ the VBS page. Then, when you are setting up the event on your page, add the VBS as a co-host. Also, Sal DeFrancesco is all set up to post your events for you – just send him your info and dates. His email is, salnesp@gmail.com. |

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| **A Vermont blues musician is honored!**John Fusco is an American screenwriter, producer, and television series creator born in Prospect, Connecticut. His screenplays include Crossroads, Young Guns, Young Guns II, Thunderheart, Hidalgo, Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron and The Highwaymen. He is also the creator of the Netflix series Marco Polo.In recent years, Fusco has returned to music and released his debut LP “The X-Road Riders” on February 11, 2019.   |

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| This year John has received the Governor’s Award for excellence in the Arts. This award is the most distinguished recognition bestowed by the State of Vermont. Accordingly, it is reserved for Vermont artists who have had a profound impact on their field within the state of Vermont and beyond. The Governor selects the recipient from a list of nominations compiled from across the state and vetted by the Arts Council. |

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| **Opportunities**Unlike so many musicians’ assistance funds that have dried up during the ongoing pandemic, here is one opportunity that is continuing to try and raise funds for idled musicians: [https://www.sevenstarsarts.org/musicianaid.html](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=8889dbce13&e=48bc7f959e)[Mockingbird Foundation](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=87ffe478dd&e=48bc7f959e), collaborating with Phish’s own[Waterwheel Foundation](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=eea5ff58f5&e=48bc7f959e), have announced a combined $20,000 grant to be awarded to Queen City-based non-profit Friends For A\_Dog Foundation Ltd. (FFA\_D) in partnership with the[Burlington Music Dojo](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=b7f98da990&e=48bc7f959e). Following the initial announcement of Mockingbird Foundation’s grant of $10,000, Waterwheel Foundation matched the donation in a tremendous show of support for Burlington’s artistic community. This funding will go directly to the “Learning to Fly” program. And speaking of opportunities...**The family of Joe Burrell has placed his saxophones on the market**here: [https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/452533615613560](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=6051b162bf&e=48bc7f959e)Wouldn’t it be wonderful if one or more of those horns could be brought back to Vermont and placed in a museum for future generations?!**VBS Statement on the Black Lives Matter Movement**The Blues is an African American art form, originally created as an artistic expression and response to the oppression, demonization and hatred this population had to endure. The Vermont Blues Society stands with the musicians and members of our community past and present who speak truth through music. In sadness and outrage, the Blues Society pays homage to the memory of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and all the others whose lives were abruptly, unjustly, and hatefully ended. Each of these human beings was taken because of the individual and systemic racism that has pervaded the psyche of America for 400 years. We grieve with the families, and we will join the greater conversation for the eradication of racism in deference to the legacy of the Blues.This statement was developed and originally published by the Blues Foundation, Memphis, Tn. **Update from the Memphis - The Blues Foundation**Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Blues Foundation has decided to defer the International Blues Challenge for this year, along with the rest of their 2020 Memphis get-togethers. The Challenge is usually scheduled for late in the year and early the next year. Last year the blues society held the Vermont event in December, and sent the Nobby Reed Band and Sunny Lowdown to Memphis. Information about the event can be found at this link: [https://blues.org/breaking-international-blues-challenge-winners-announced-the-horojo-trio-and-hector-anchodo-emerge-with-multiple-victories-in-annual-memphis-competition/](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=fe420b59d1&e=48bc7f959e)The Blues Foundation, like most arts organizations, is looking forward to resuming its normal slate of annual activities in 2021. Let’s hope we can look forward to another Vermont Blues Society-sponsored get-together once that is scheduled. **Membership update**If you have not yet renewed your Vermont Blues Society membership, you can renew online or by mail:Renew online:[http://www.vermontbluessociety.org/join.html](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=dcc4da5752&e=48bc7f959e), or mail a check to:VBS, [1617 Hayden Hill Road West, Hinesburg, VT 05461](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=4937a6fa28&e=48bc7f959e). We will not remove members who have not renewed from the email list but you can unsubscribe at any time. We are offering a COVID-19 discount for those financially impacted by the virus, but please consider other renewal options if you are able.* Basic annual membership: $15.
* Covid-19 reduced membership for those financially impacted by the virus: $5
* Subscribe Option:  annual auto-renew on the website $15
* Friend: $25
* Partner: $50
* Supporter: $100
* Patron: $250

Vermont Blues Society is a VT 501c3 non-profit corporation. Your donation is tax deductible to the maximum extent permissible by law.**Your VBS board**Current Vermont Blues Society board members Arlene Sorgen, Sandy Combs and Tom Buckley and Sal de Francesco, who this year joined founding members Dennis Willmott, Marian Willmott, Rebecca Brooklyn and Charlie Frazier. You can reach out to board members at any time at the VBS main address. The board meets monthly and at special times as needed. You can find those board meeting summaries at this link: [http://www.vermontbluessociety.org/news.html](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=a3084b416e&e=48bc7f959e) **Publications & organizations of interest**Here are links to organizations and publications identified by our members that may be of interest to blues fans. While these links may be dated, most or all have information on subscribing or joining should you wish. We will maintain this list in future newsletters Please let us know if any are broken or dead, as they do tend to change from time to time. We would be happy to entertain other such listings sent by members:[https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/EventSearch?eventSection=2181939&v=d](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=5b80b608d6&e=48bc7f959e)[http://www.bluesradiointernational.net/bri-tv/](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=727d6de111&e=48bc7f959e)[https://blues.org/about/](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=11cfe87ce5&e=48bc7f959e)[http://www.bluesblastmagazine.com/issue-13-52-december-27-2019/](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=87d4a4b7cb&e=48bc7f959e)[https://relix.com/?utm\_source=Relix+Daily&utm\_campaign=41487dda59-EMAIL\_CAMP](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=9c7ffe4efc&e=48bc7f959e)[https://mailchi.mp/cfc67d5da06f/chicagobluesnews-apr-21-27-4673229?e=e0ecf672a1](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=d767d59945&e=48bc7f959e)[AIGN\_2020\_04\_09\_03\_50&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_486e6e4b54-41487dda59-29737251&mc\_cid=41487dda59&mc\_eid=e0b91545e6](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=1b5bf75451&e=48bc7f959e)[www.pastemagazine.com](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=6c3e5f137f&e=48bc7f959e)[http://www.bestclassicbands.com/](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=3e585d4b6b&e=48bc7f959e)[https://pickintheblues.com/sunnys-place/?fbclid=IwAR159JQF2Y1eoh2K2WCC-\_bFJ9xEXEDTBit6IsUvF1hM9rqQJ9RMmeLZC5M](https://vermontbluessociety.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=efa0cf63e5d420b4204a1a574&id=19b07cdeac&e=48bc7f959e)**About this newsletter**We appreciate the input from all of you that have provided the substance for this newsletter. This is your letter, and is an opportunity for you to share thoughts, ideas and happenings about all things blues, in Vermont and elsewhere. Please send links, articles and newsworthy events to: newsletter@vermontbluessociety.org. This newsletter will be published periodically, and will be supplemented by e-mailed information to members from the board as the occasions arise.  Again, if you have blues-related events happening NOW or at any time going forward, you can contact Sal de Francesco at salnesp@gmail.com to seek inclusion on the VBS Facebook page. Wishing you all the best,Dennis, Charlie, Marian, Sandy, Arlene, Tom, Sal and Rebecca |

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