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**Hello Vermont Blues Society members!**

**Live Music Returns to Vermont!!!**

The blues community in Vermont has something really special to celebrate: the return of live music to Vermont! After months of waiting the warm weather is finally arriving, the COVID vaccination rates are increasing, and restrictions gradually lifting. VBS hopes you were able to enjoy some of our virtual blues jams and concerts over the past 15 months, and now we are looking forward to seeing you in person at some live events. Live performances may not look exactly like they did before the pandemic, but it's a welcome start back on the road to sharing good music with good people.

Check out the blues news below, followed by the last section with some upcoming live shows

### **Ways To Support VBS As Live Music Returns**

Blues fans and musicians can support VBS and learn about music events and resources by **joining or renewing** their membership at [www.vermontbluessociety.org/join.html](http://www.vermontbluessociety.org/join.html).

While you are visiting the VBS website don't forget to check out Charlie's Top 25 picks of music, and the event calendar. The website calendar has been cleared except for recently scheduled or upcoming events.

### **Blues Musicians Submit Your Gigs:**

Vermont Blues Society (VBS) members can submit gigs to the Vermont Blues Society (VBS) **Website calendar**:

[www.vermontbluessociety.org/calendar.html](http://www.vermontbluessociety.org/calendar.html) Please call if you have started a repeating jam and we can set that up in the website calendar.

Musicians' shows can appear in the events section of the Vermont Blues Society Facebook page. Here's how: 1) like the VBS page, 2) create an event in your Facebook page and **add VBS as a co-host**. Your event will now appear in the VBS event calendar. For more info message Sal DeFrancesco.



### **RIP: Bassist Tony Markellis**

The music world mourns the death of legendary bassist Tony Markellis. Sadly, Markellis died in his sleep on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the age of 68. Markellis was a co-founding member of two Vermont based bands with musicians Paul Asbell and Chuck Eller: Kilimanjaro, and the Unknown Blues Band (UBB) featuring Big Joe Burrell. He was also a co-founding member of the Trey Anastasio Band, and often played with Phish.

Markellis made his mark on the music world at a young age. According to JamBase.”... At the suggestion of friend Bonnie Raitt, Markellis moved to the East Coast in 1972 where he quickly found work performing with Joel Zoss. The following year, Markellis started performing with the David Bromberg Band, playing alongside such guests as Dr. John, Vassar Clements, Emmylou Harris, Maria Muldaur, John Hartford, Sam Bush, Steve Goodman, Jimmy Buffett, Jerry Jeff Walker and others..”

VBS offers sincere condolences to Markellis' friends, family and fellow musicians.



### **Two Vermont Musicians Receive Multiple Nominations for the 2021 Independent Blues Awards**

Check out the Independent Blues Awards 2021 website: <https://www.makingascene.org/independent-blues-awards-2021-vote-now/> for a complete list of nominees, and info about how to vote for your favorites. Voting is open until **august 2021**.

Congratulations to Vermont musicians Dave Keller and John Fusco, who were each nominated for 3

Independent Blues awards.

### **Dave Keller**

Best R&B/Soul CD (You Get What You Give)

Best Live CD (Live At The Killer Guitar Thriller)

Best Song For The Common Good (“Land Of The Lonely” - duet with [Johnny Rawls](#) (You Get What You Give)

### **John Fusco & The X-Road Riders**

Best Modern Roots Band: John Fusco & The X-Road Riders (John The Revelator)

Best Roots CD: John Fusco & The X-Road Riders (John The Revelator)

Best Modern Roots Song: The Hottest Part of the Flame (John The Revelator)



**The 42<sup>nd</sup> BMA** will be presented as a virtual event on [Sunday, June 6, 2021](#) starting at 5 pm ET. The event will be live streamed on the Blues Foundation Facebook and YouTube channel.

For more info about nominees check out the Blues Foundation website: <https://blues.org/blues-music-awards/>

### **Blues For Breakfast Is On the Menu (and Your Radio Too)**

Satisfy your cravings for good blues with the radio show Blues For Breakfast [Sunday](#) mornings 9-11 am on WIZN (106.7 FM) hosted by Mr. Charlie.



Get your juices jumping and your heart pumping with a great selection of classic and recent blues tunes.

**Now What Everyone Has Been Waiting For: Live Music Announcements:**



**JSB Band** - Jeff Salisbury, Jimmy Carter, Steve Hirsch, and Bob Butterfield  
**MAY 14th** at the Spank Puppy 6 - 9 pm  
on the OUTSIDE deck.

No reservations are needed for less than 6 people. Great food, drink and music. It's been a long, hard slog of a year. Let's party.

**Tom Caswell and Tom Buckley**

Saturday, **May 15**

Twiggs, 28 N Main St, St Albans

**Seth Yacovone Band**

Sunday, **May 16, 5 pm**

Moogs Joint, 1015 VT-15, Johnson, Vt

Vermont's finest power rock trio returns to the Joint 5/16 at 5pm. Outdoor seating, socially distanced, please wear a mask.

Cover is \$20 per person, all money goes to the artists. To purchase tickets, please use the Venmo link on [www.moogsjoint.com](http://www.moogsjoint.com).

**John Lackard Blues Band**

FRIDAY, **MAY 21**, 2021 AT 5 PM

Come dance your blues away at Moogs Joint 5/21 at 5pm. Outdoor seating, socially distanced, please wear a mask.

Cover is \$10 per person, all money goes to the artists. To purchase tickets, please use the Venmo link on [www.moogsjoint.com](http://www.moogsjoint.com)

**Jim Branca and Tom Buckley**

Sunday, **May 28, 7 pm**

McClurg's Pub, 303 Main St, Enosburg, VT

**Dave Keller Band Deck Concert**

**Brooklyn Music in Vermont Presents:**

Sunday, **May 23**, 5-8 pm

4 Tyler Place, Jericho, VT

Outside Concert

**\$20, Reservation and Advanced payment**

required

RSVP [Brooklyn.musicinvt@gmail.com](mailto:Brooklyn.musicinvt@gmail.com)

Payment: <http://PayPal.me/Brooklynmusicinvt> or

VENMO - @rebecca-brooklyn



### All proceeds go to musicians

Bring your own chair, food and drink or

Optional catered box dinner for \$20 (separate from ticket) available from Susanna's Catering. Must reserve dinner box in advance



### The Burlington Discover Jazz Festival- June 4-13

<http://flynnvt.org/Community/Burlington-Discover-Jazz-Festival>

One of the largest annual events in Vermont, the festival is nationally recognized as an outstanding

cross-section of contemporary jazz, and is renowned for welcoming up-and-coming artists, of-the-moment sensations, and established icons. This year, we are excited to offer free shows throughout, at different sites in and around Burlington, so that everyone has the opportunity to rediscover the healing power of live music. All week, artists will showcase a fusion of styles and cultures, embracing togetherness, spontaneity, and musical alchemy in a spirited celebration of community.

**Saxophone Orchestra** on the Waterfront [Friday, June 4](#) at 6 pm.

**Sign up to participate** at the Burlington Discover Jazz website:

<http://Flynnvt.org/Events/2021/6/50-saxophones>

## 50 SAXOPHONES ON THE BURLINGTON WATERFRONT

This year's Burlington Discover Jazz festival is a celebration of our many communities reuniting after more than a year of loss and isolation. So what better way to launch the festival than with a participatory community procession on the Burlington waterfront? Any and all saxophonists in the area are invited to join in this moment of chaotic and harmonious communal release.

**Friday, June 4 at 6 pm.**

[SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE](#)



### About 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](mailto:newsletter@vermontbluessociety.org). This newsletter will be published periodically.

Wishing you all the best,

Dennis, Charlie, Marian, Sandy, Arlene, Tom, Sal and Rebecca



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