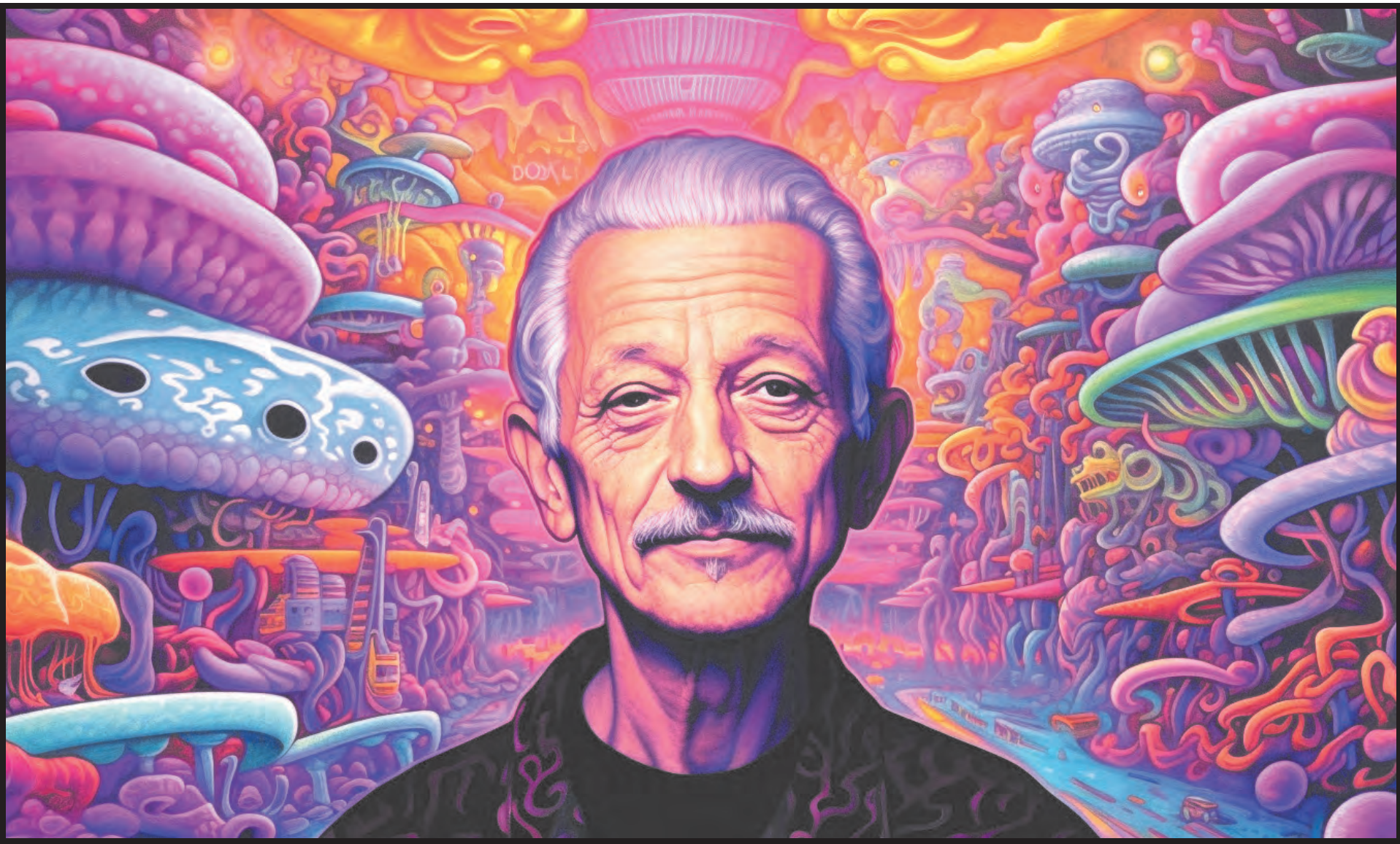


**THE LOCAL VOICE**  
**NORTH MISSISSIPPI**  
**HILL**  
**COUNTRY**  
**PICNIC**

**JUNE 23-24 2023**  
**FESTIVAL GUIDE**

THE LOCAL VOICE 2023 NORTH MISSISSIPPI HILL COUNTRY PICNIC GUIDE - FREE - WATERFORD, MISSISSIPPI - READ AT MAXIMUM VOLUME





# ★ NORTH MISSISSIPPI ★ HILL COUNTRY PICNIC JUNE 23-24, 2023 • WATERFORD, MS

North Mississippi Hill Country Picnic · Festival Guide · June 23-24, 2023 · [NMSHillCountryPicnic.com](http://NMSHillCountryPicnic.com)

## It's Picnic Time Again!

Don't miss this year's stellar lineup and the biggest party of the summer.

SOMETIMES THE PICNIC IS SCALDING AS A FURNACE ON DOUBLE STEROIDS; SOMETIMES IT FLOODS TO MUD. AND SOMETIMES, USUALLY ON SATURDAY, THERE IS A LATE AFTERNOON SHOWER COUPLED WITH A GOD-GIVEN BREEZE THAT FEELS AS MYSTICAL AS THOSE LONG-AGO FIFE AND DRUM GATHERINGS WITH OTHAR TURNER THAT MESMERIZED KENNY BROWN AS A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD. IT IS DURING THESE SWEATY, COMMUNAL MOMENTS, WHEN THE AIR IS LOVE-HEAVY AND THE GROOVE EVEN HEAVIER, THAT YOU REALIZE JIM DICKINSON WAS RIGHT:

"WORLD BOOGIE IS COMING!"

—JIM DEES, EMCEE,  
NORTH MISSISSIPPI  
HILL COUNTRY PICNIC

The Local Voice media company in Oxford, Mississippi is proud to partner with Sara and Kenny Brown again to bring you this official festival guide. There are free souvenir printed copies around the picnic grounds and a digital download is available. Just scan the QR code for more information, videos, and artists' links. See you at the Picnic!

—Newt Rayburn (Publisher) and Nature Humphries (Editor)



### TICKETS & GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Tickets are available online at [nmshillcountrypicnic.com](http://nmshillcountrypicnic.com) and Eventbrite.
- Online ticket sales end Sunday, June 19 at midnight.
- All ticket sales at the gate are CASH ONLY.
- VIP tickets must be purchased online by midnight Sunday June 18, 2023.
- Gates open Thursday, June 22 at 5 pm. No one will be admitted early. Music goes from 4 pm till midnight on Friday and 10 am till midnight on Saturday. All Picnic attendees must be off site by Sunday, June 25 by noon—no late departures.
- Friday Only: \$25
- Saturday Only: \$25
- Camping: \$15 (Flat rate of \$15/person to spend 1-3 nights. If you spend the night you pay \$15, no cars in camp ground.)
- RV Fee: \$100
- Ice Chest inside festival: \$10 (NO GLASS allowed on festival site.)
- CASH ONLY – NO ATM AVAILABLE AT FESTIVAL SITE
- If you go out the ticket gate, you must have your wristband on to re-enter the festival site.
- Parking is FREE!
- Children 12 and under FREE
- Really Cool Art Vendors and Picnic Merch are available for sale on site, Picnic Merch is CASH ONLY!



FRIDAY, JUNE 23

4:00 JOHN MCDOWELL & CHRISTINE CONLEY  
4:45 PROUDHOUND  
5:45 ROBERT KIMBROUGH SR.  
BLUES CONNECTION  
6:45 R.L. BOYCE 7:30 KUDZU KINGS  
8:45 KENT BURNSIDE  
10:00 CARY HUDSON  
11:15 DUWAYNE BURNSIDE

\$25 PER DAY

[NMSHILLCOUNTRYPICNIC.COM](http://NMSHILLCOUNTRYPICNIC.COM)



SATURDAY, JUNE 24

10:00 ROCKET 88  
11:00 JUST GROOVIN' EXPERIENCE  
Noon LIBBY RAE WATSON  
1:00 LAWDOGS w/MARLOW DURROGH  
2:00 WOLFEAGLE ft. TRENTON AYERS  
3:00 MEMPHISSIPPI SOUNDS  
4:00 RISING STARS  
FIFE & DRUM BAND  
5:15 ERIC DEATON  
6:45 CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE DUO  
8:15 KENNY BROWN  
9:30 ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART'S  
MUSCLE THEORY  
11:00 GARRY BURNSIDE

As always, camping is encouraged (and the best way to get the full Picnic experience), but there are some important rules you need to know before you load up your tents and sleeping bags. For everyone's safety, *no glass containers, pets, or motorized vehicles* will be allowed on the festival site. Camping is primitive, and there will be portable toilets, showers, and water faucets available. RVs can park, but there will be no hookups. NO OPEN FIRES ALLOWED ANYWHERE ON THE FESTIVAL SITE.

Don't forget to plan for heat: *bring water, sunblock, a hat, fans, umbrellas for shade or rain, and sunglasses.* Leave your weapons, glass containers, pets, and golf carts at home. Most importantly, bring lots of cash because there will be no ATM on site and you won't want to miss out on the delicious food, art, and awesome Picnic souvenirs for sale. The artist village will again be a highlight of the festival, and vendors will only take cash. **Betty Davis** will also be selling ice cold beer alongside their famous BBQ, catfish, and soul food.

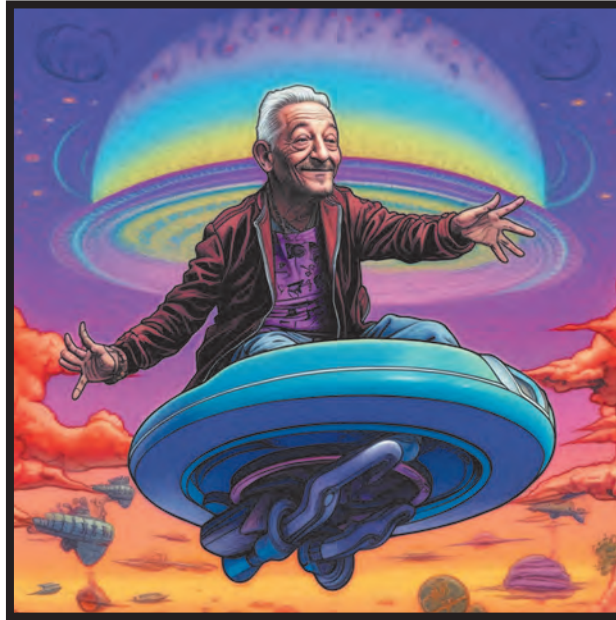
[NMSHillCountryPicnic.com](http://NMSHillCountryPicnic.com)





# Blues Icon Charlie Musselwhite Joins the Hill Country Picnic Family with Duo Performance Saturday at 6:45 pm

**Interview by Nature Humphries & Newt Rayburn**



That is so true!

So Kirk has that background and he's just a fabulous guitar player. I mean, amongst guitar players he is revered. A lot of the people out there might not know him yet, but he's just a great guitar player and one of the nicest people you could ever meet in your life.

**Well, I'm really looking forward to checking that out.**

Kirk knows all the styles too, from not only gospel, but country Blues to city Blues to Chicago Blues to, you know, Delta Blues, whatever you want to name it. He knows it all.

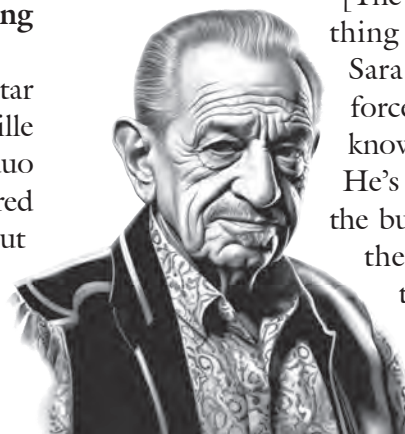
**And so you're doing a duo. Will you have any special guests or anybody sitting in with you?**

Well, if that if that happens, it hasn't been planned yet, but you never know. And then Blues, it's kind of open to that sort of thing, but we're prepared to do a whole set just the two of us, and I'll play some guitar too.

**Let's talk about Kenny Brown. When we saw you at the Picnic last time, it looked like you were pretty good friends, so I'm curious of what your relationship is with Kenny.**

I was just trying to remember how long ago and where was it we first met. It's been so long ago that I'm not clear on it now, but we must have known each other for at least twenty, maybe thirty years, something like that. We all were immediate friends, like you didn't have to get to know each other. We just felt like we knew each other immediately, and I've always liked his style of playing. His attitude toward music just makes sense to me. He and Sarah are just really fine folks. Henrietta and I really love those people. And enjoy working with them and being friends with them and seeing them anytime we can.

[The Picnic] is such a great thing they're doing, and Sara is a real motivating force behind it, too. You know, it's not just Kenny. He's a musician, and she's the business side of it. And they really are a great team. Just like me and Henrietta are a great team. I couldn't get it done without her.



**We saw you sit in at the Hill Country Picnic a couple of years ago in 2021. Is that the only time you played [the Picnic]?**

That was the only time I've been there, and I'm really looking forward to coming back. I have a real powerful memory of that. A nice time.

**What do you think is different about the Hill Country Picnic? How does it stand out from other festivals?**

Well, it didn't have a commercial feel to it, and [there's] a camaraderie. Everybody's so happy to be there in front of the stage and backstage, the people working, the people playing there, the people that come to hear the music. It's like they all come together to constitute one spirit.

**This is your first time being on the bill and having your own set. Can you tell us what to expect and what musicians may be playing with you?**

An old friend of mine, Kirk Fletcher, is a guitar player from California, but he lives in Nashville now. He'll meet me there and we'll play as a duo together. He's played in my band and we've toured together before. He's an old friend. He started out playing guitar in his dad's church. So he has a gospel background, which is really good for Blues. I remember Muddy Waters once said, "If you want to learn how to sing, go to church."

Seventy-nine-year-old Charlie Musselwhite has been around the musical block for decades, sharing stages and studios with fellow artistic giants, winning fistfuls of awards, and generally epitomizing "cool." I remember the buzz that ensued at the 2021 North Mississippi Hill Country Picnic when he was spotted backstage, hanging out and laughing with Kenny Brown and the gang of folks lounging around behind the barricades.

"Look, it's Charlie Musselwhite! I bet he's going to sit in!" I heard lots of excited voices predict. And he did. It's one of countless memorable Picnic moments that make this one of the best weekends of the year in my book.

We spoke to Charlie on a Tuesday morning as he was preparing for a quick West Coast tour before returning home to Mississippi to play the Picnic. His schedule remains full for the rest of the year as well, and he shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.

**TLV: You have legendary status and have been doing this for a long time. What keeps you motivated and energetic and wanting to keep doing it?**

**Charlie Musselwhite:** Well, I just love the music. And to me, Blues is more than just music. It has a lot of substance to it. It feeds the heart and soul, and it's not a fad, you know. [Some] styles of music come and go. Blues is not a fad. It's always here, always has been, and always will be. And it might not be the Top 40, but it's here forever.

**One of the most interesting things to me about Blues is how many sub genres there are within the overall genre of Blues. And since we're talking about the Hill Country Picnic, can you talk a little bit about specifically the Hill Country subgenre?**

Well, it's just delightful music. And I like all the different styles, from urban to country to jazz Blues. If it's got the feeling in it, that's what it's all about. And Hill Country Blues is loaded with feeling. In some instances, it's almost like trance music. It just draws you in. It's just a wonderful experience, and people feel drawn to it. When they hear it, they get hooked on it and they got to have more of it. That's the beauty of it. People really resonate with it. Some people when they hear it for the first time, it's like they've been waiting for this and finally they find something that speaks to them on a heart level.



I was curious to know currently what you're listening to? Let's say you're going on a road trip, and you need some jams. What would you be listening to right now?

Oh gosh, I listen to all kinds of stuff. This morning I was listening to Hank Crawford doing a tune called "Don't Cry, Baby." It's an instrumental, but I was listening to it for ideas. I'd like to play something like that sometime. It's not really Blues, but it's jazz. To me, a good jazz player is playing Blues with different chord changes. I just love all kinds of stuff, you know, big bands from the 40s to RL Burnside, even hillbilly Blues. Anything with heart. Anything they're playing from the heart, that's for me.

You recently relocated back to Clarksdale. I'm curious to know, as an internationally renowned musician with a long career like yours, how has the identity of Mississippian affected your experience as a musician and interacting with other people?

There's a lot to unpack there! [Laughs]

I ask because sometimes when I travel, I get mixed reactions from people finding out I'm from Mississippi, and a lot of times it can be negative. So I'm just curious what your experience is?

To me, it's always seemed like anybody from Mississippi is always from Mississippi, no matter where they go. You'll meet somebody and they'll say, ohh I'm from Iowa or something, and then later you find out, well, actually they're from Nebraska, but they just named the last place they lived or something. But somebody from Mississippi, that's where they're from, no matter where they go. They always say they're from Mississippi because people from Mississippi have a kind of pride that other people don't seem to have.

And people are curious about Mississippi. When I'm in other countries, they know the Blues comes from Mississippi, and a lot of them have these incorrect stereotypical views. I have to correct them over all that. Mississippi seems to have a mystique about it. People feel curious about it. They want to experience it. Last night I met a couple from England and two young ladies from Holland. They came to Mississippi to experience the Blues, to see where it came from. So that's a wonderful thing.

Mississippi has a powerful history in music and art unlike any other place. People here seem compelled to create, whether they're trained or not, they just want to create with this painting or portrait or music or whatever they want to create.

Yeah, it's in our blood.

I think, you know, it's something in the air we breathe.

Yeah, I know. I tell people you can feel the Blues just coming up out of the ground.

Oh, I like that. What other projects do you have going on?

I have an album in the can, as you say. I don't know when I'm going to release it, but it'll be my next band album. The last one [*Mississippi Son*] was just more of a solo thing. I was playing guitar and overdubbing my harmonica on it, but it won some kind of an award. [2023 Blues Music Award for Acoustic Album of the Year]

One of many!

I'm keeping busy, you know.

I just look forward to meeting you all and hope everybody will come to the Picnic. It's just guaranteed a wonderful time and a memorable experience. And we'll play some Blues for you, all right? [TV]



# Blues Tells The Truth in a World That's Full of Lies

Mississippi-born, Memphis-raised, Grammy Award-winning music legend **Charlie Musselwhite** will make his official Picnic debut Saturday evening with a duo performance. He will be joined by **Los Angeles**-born and **Nashville**-based singer, guitarist, and producer **Kirk Fletcher**.

Musselwhite is renowned worldwide as a master harmonica player, a seasoned, truth-telling vocalist, and an original songwriter rooted deep within the Blues tradition. As many of his fans know, he's also a country Blues guitarist of great depth, warmth, and subtlety. On his recent release, the Grammy-nominated **Alligator Records** album, *Mississippi Son*, Musselwhite's straight-from-the-soul vocals and deep Blues harmonica playing are the perfect foil to his deceptively simple, hypnotic guitar work.

Musselwhite recently won the 2023 **Blues Music Award for Acoustic Album of the Year** for *Mississippi Son*. This is the 34th Blues Music Award of his career. In 2022, Musselwhite was honored in France with the prestigious **Charles Cros Academy Grand Prix Blues Award**, and writers and editors of French Soul Bag magazine selected *Mississippi Son* as its 2022 Album of the Year.

Having recently moved back to Mississippi from northern California, Musselwhite recorded *Mississippi Son* in **Clarksdale**, right in the heart of the Delta. His honest, soulful vocals, like his every-note-matters harmonica playing and idiosyncratic guitar work, overflow with hard-earned authenticity and lasting emotional intensity. Musselwhite calls his Blues, "secular spiritual music," a sound he's been perfecting since he, as a young teenager, played his first E7 chord on his Super-tone acoustic guitar. Upon hearing and feeling the chord's blue note, the future Blues master thought, "I have to have more of that."

Charlie Musselwhite doesn't just sing and play the Blues; he is, in every sense of the word, a Bluesman. Growing up, he not only learned the music first-hand from many of the genre's most influential artists, he also absorbed the lifestyle. "It's an attitude," Musselwhite says of playing the Blues. "A way of living life."

A groundbreaking recording artist since the 1960s, Musselwhite has never stopped creating trailblazing music while remaining firmly rooted in the Blues. Over the years, Charlie has released nearly forty albums on a variety of labels, his exploratory recordings including straight Blues but often mixing in elements of jazz, gospel, Tex-Mex, Cuban, and other world musics.

Now, with *Mississippi Son*, Musselwhite has come full circle, returning home to Mississippi after decades in Memphis, **Chicago**, **San Francisco**, and points in between. Amalgamating all he's learned and absorbed throughout his years of worldwide touring, Musselwhite imparts sage wisdom in every song he writes, sings, and performs.

"Blues tells the truth in a world that's full of lies," he intones in "Blues Gave Me A Ride," at once telling his own story and plainly summing up the genre's timelessness. Through his evocative vocals, masterful harmonica playing, and note-perfect Southern country Blues guitar, Charlie Musselwhite leans forward and delivers the Blues' honest truth. [TV]





# Friday, June 23, 2023



## 7:30 pm KUDZU KINGS

Kudzu Kings is an alternative country/roots rock jam band from Oxford, Mississippi. Their sound has been categorized as a blend of country music, bluegrass, and improvisational rock & roll.



## 4 pm JOHN MCDOWELL & CHRISTINE CONLEY

While their love of music began long before their love for each other, Christine Conley and John McDowell have combined the two to create fun and inspiring songs that will leave you smiling.

## 4:45 pm PROUD HOUND

Proud Hound, self-described as Hill Country Blues-Rock, is a four-piece based out of Como, Mississippi. In this year's



**Local Favorites Awards**, published by *The Local Voice*, Proud Hound won Oxford's **Favorite New Band**, **Favorite Guitarist** (1st place to Connor Alexander, 3rd place to Kody Harrell), **Favorite Bassist** (Kane Harrell), and **Favorite Drummer** (Justin Webb).



## 10 PM CARY HUDSON

Cary Hudson is a singer-songwriter and guitarist from the great state of Mississippi who resides somewhere between Memphis and New Orleans. "I grew up on Country music and classic rock, but thanks to being in Oxford, I got to learn Blues, and Hill Country is my favorite kind of Blues."



## 8:45 PM KENT BURNSIDE

Kent Burnside hails from Holly Springs, Mississippi, as the oldest grandson and pupil of blues legend, R.L. Burnside. His playing dots the globe and his style is unlike any other: dark, hypnotic, inviting ... and very dance-able.

## 5:45 pm ROBERT KIMBROUGH SR. BLUES CONNECTION

Robert Kimbrough Sr continues the Cotton Patch Soul Blues style created by his father, the legendary Junior Kimbrough. From an early age, Robert was steeped in the sounds and life of North Mississippi and its distinctive style of blues.



## 5 pm: R.L. BOYCE

R.L. Boyce began his blues odyssey on drums at age fifteen. First recorded at a family picnic September 4, 1970 by famed folklorist Dr. David Evans. R.L. accompanied his uncle Otha Turner's Rising Stars Fife & Drum Band and never stopped.





# Oxford's Favorite New Band Proud Hound Wants You to Embrace the Heat with Them

interview by Nature Humphries



## 11:15 pm DUWAYNE BURNSIDE

Guitarist, singer, and songwriter **Duwayne Burnside** is one of 14 children born to legendary North Mississippi musician **R.L. Burnside**. He has been a frequent performer with the **North Mississippi Allstars** since the early 1990s. The young Burnside learned his first few guitar licks and chords from his father, but proved a quick study and soon began playing with local club owner **Junior Kimbrough** and **The Soul Blues Boys**.



Someone is going to be the lucky winner of this raffle item. This guitar was signed by all the 2022 Picnic artists. Raffle tickets will be available at the Picnic and drawing will help held throughout the day Saturday.

**What is your favorite thing about the North Mississippi Hill Country Blues Picnic? What makes it stand out compared to other music festivals?**

We love the Picnic and come out every year because it just has such a down-home feel. It's simply a time to get out in the woods, enjoy some music, eat some good food, and just hang with friends and family, much like the community picnics that folks in the area used to throw back in the day. Also, I gotta say, with it being held on the last weekend of June, the heat is oddly enough something that we kind of embrace.

**Describe your style. What can picnic attendees expect from your set this year?**

We try to bring a little bit of each of our influences to the mix, but the common denominator between the four of us is our love and respect for Hill Country Blues, so our overall sound is firmly rooted in that music and our live shows tend to draw heavily from that songbook; but after we toss in some rock and psychedelia, we wind up with what you might simply call Hill Country Blues-Rock.

**How many picnics have you attended or performed? Would you share a favorite memory or two from picnics past?**

Between the four of us, we've attended most of the Picnics over the years and have been fortunate enough to have our members take the stage at nearly half of them, performing with acts like Garry Burnside Band, North Mississippi Allstars, RL Boyce, Eric Deaton Trio, Burnside Exploration, and Woodstomp, just to name a few.

One of the most memorable years was back in 2021 when the Picnic sold out and Kody got to play second guitar in Luther Dickinson & Friends (with Cedric Burnside & Sharde Thomas) to close out the music on Saturday night. That was a special show made all the more memorable by the fireworks blasting off over the grounds just as the set was coming to its end.

With that said, though, this is our first Picnic performing together as Proud Hound and we just couldn't be more excited to introduce ourselves to the Picnic family!

**If you've ever attended a Hill Country Guitar Workshop, please tell us all about the experience and how it has influenced your musicianship.**

A couple of us have attended the Guitar Workshops over the years and can say, without a doubt, it has been a key influence in our development as musicians and



members of the Hill Country community.

I'd say the most important thing we've learned from the workshop is that the Hill Country Blues is all about groove. A ripping guitar solo is cool, but working up a steady boogie is by far the most important thing. But beyond that, I'd say that not only is the workshop a forum for getting first-hand instruction on the Hill Country repertoire, but it also opens up opportunities to develop

real relationships with the artists based on a mutual love and respect for the music. We quickly learned that this music is like a language within the community and sharing that common dialect creates strong bonds, which eventually, in our case, has blossomed into opportunities to get to actually work with some of these artists and begin to kick up a little dust along our own path.

**Who are your current favorite musicians? Who would you like to jam with this year?**

We've got great love for so many artists out there. Even if we try to narrow the focus to locals only, it's impossible to name them all, but in an attempt to throw at least a few names out there, we gotta shout out Luther Dickinson, Cedric Burnside, RL Boyce, Kenny Brown, Cam Kimbrough, Sharde Thomas, and Eric Deaton. As far as jamming goes, we'll have to see what happens. We all love to play together, so we'll see what might get cookin' once we're out on the Picnic grounds.

**Do you have any upcoming projects or shows? How can fans learn more about you?**

At this point, the Picnic is Proud Hound's big gig of the summer, but we'll be playing out regularly at other venues across North Mississippi beyond that. We always encourage folks to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube if they want to keep up with our whereabouts or check out our music.

Aside from the band, Kane & Kody have been working on a project they're calling The Harrell Brothers. It's a scaled-down guitar & bass duo that is a little more intimate and slightly more traditional than the usual rockin' Proud Hound gigs. They'll be taking that act across the Gulf South region over the summer and into the fall.

**What are some of your current favorite jams?**

The first one that jumps to mind is a new record by Mississippi Gabe Carter called "Buffalo Road." It's on the Easy Eye Sound label out of Nashville and features our good friends Eric Deaton on bass and Kinney Kimbrough on drums. **EW**



# Saturday, June 24, 2023



**10 am**  
**ROCKET 88**

**Rocket 88** was formed in the summer of 2005 and has since brought its Mississippi-soaked sound to venues all over the Southeast. **Rosamond Posey** (vocals, rhythm guitar), **Jamie Posey** (vocals, lead guitar, harmonica), and **Nathan Robbins** (bass, vocals) make up the core.



**noon**  
**LIBBY RAE WATSON**

**Libby Rae Watson** is an authentic Blues woman who has been playing since the early 1970s, when she discovered the Blues in her hometown of **Pascagoula**. She helped organize the talent for the very first **Delta Blues Festival** in **Greenville, Mississippi**, in 1978. Libby Rae has played many festivals and music venues all over the world.



**1 pm**  
**LAWDOGS w/ MARLOW DURROUGH**

**Marlow Dorrough** is a drummer and guitarist from **Ruleville, Mississippi**. He is the son of legendary Mississippi guitarist **Duff Dorrough**. He has played with **Duff Dorrough & The Revelators**, **Solar Porch**, **Brad MoneyMaker Band**, and more.

**2 pm**  
**WOLFEAGLE ft. TRENTON AYERS**

**Trenton Ayers** has been playing guitar since age four. He has played with **The Electric Mudd**, **Cedric Burnside Project**, and more. He was nominated for a **GRAMMY** in 2015.



**3 pm**  
**MEMPHISSIPPI SOUNDS**

**Memphissippi Sounds** is **Cameron Kimbrough** (grandson of Junior Kimbrough and native of the famed Mississippi Hill Country) on drums and **Damion "Yella P" Pearson** on harmonica. Their custom blend of North Mississippi Hill Country Blues, Memphis Blues and Soul, Rock, Pop, and Hip-Hop has taken them around the state and beyond.

**4 pm**  
**RISING STARS FIFE & DRUM BAND**

Traditional fife and drum music is a vanishing American folk music tradition derived from country blues, martial music tradition, and African rhythms. The late **Otha Turner** founded the **Rising Star Fife & Drum Band**, which is now led by his granddaughter **Shardé Thomas**.



**5:15 pm**  
**ERIC DEATON**

**Eric Deaton** is a torch-bearer of the North Mississippi Hill Country Blues tradition, having received an apprenticeship first-hand from the masters of this particularly hypnotic, backwoods strain of blues. Eric has recorded albums with **The Black Keys** and **Hank Williams, Jr.**



**6:45**  
**CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE DUO**

Mississippi-born, Memphis-raised, Grammy Award-winning music legend **Charlie Musselwhite** is renowned worldwide as a master harmonica player, a seasoned, truth-telling vocalist, and an original songwriter rooted deep within the blues tradition. A groundbreaking recording artist since the 1960s, Musselwhite has never stopped creating trailblazing music while remaining firmly rooted in the blues.





## 8:15 pm: KENNY BROWN

Kenny Brown played for over 20 years with the legend R.L. Burnside, who referred to Kenny as his “white son.” Kenny has released many solo albums and his music has been featured in film on *Black Snake Moan* (featuring Samuel L. Jackson). Most recently, Kenny Brown has been featured on albums by The Black Keys and Hank Williams Jr.



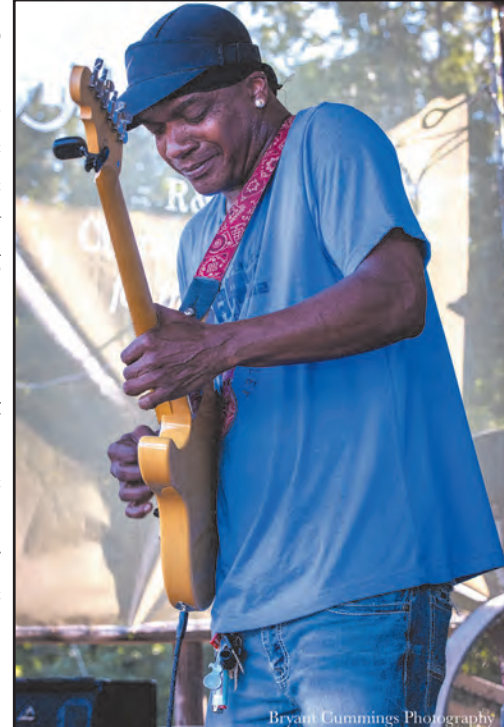
## 9:30 pm: ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART'S MUSCLE THEORY

Known as a “musician’s musician,” Alvin Youngblood Hart’s praises have been sung by everyone from Bob Dylan to guitar gods Gary Moore & Mick Taylor. Alvin was born in Oakland, California, in 1963 to a family of post WWII Mississippi transplants. After

a couple false starts, he began to play the guitar, in earnest, in 1977. The Hart family was never one to stay put. Spending his formative years on the West Coast, in the Midwest, and the Mid-South surely influenced Alvin’s wide ranging musical perspective.

## 11 pm GARRY BURNSIDE

Garry Burnside is a gifted guitarist inspired by his father the late legendary, RL Burnside. Garry Burnside is a native of Holly Springs, Mississippi, and has been playing guitar and traveling the world since the age of 11.



# Talkin' Blues with Jamie and Rosamond Posey of Rocket 88

interview by Nature Humphries

**Tell me about your new duo project, J.R. The first show will be at Proud Larrys on June 16.**

**Jamie Posey:** We’re planning on it being loud and raw! We’re calling it J.R., for Jamie and Rosie. I’m playing an electric guitar wide open. She’s playing drums. So it’s just going to be us so ... our mind meld is more on display. Our telekinesis, I guess you could say. No, not telekinesis, telepathy. We’re not moving shit around.

**Rosamond Posey:** I guess we kinda are, though ...

**You have to move it with your mind.**

**J:** We’ll play some songs from our catalog from Rocket 88 that are really just unrecorded originals. And then we’re going to play some Hill Country for sure because, you know, there’s there needs to be more Hill Country played. You know, we’ve got Garry [Burnside], but really most [Hill Country] players are touring outward, you know, not in town. We’re billing it as a Hill Country Picnic preview. So, we’re going to have Garry and then Kenny [Brown], after that, solo. Both of them solo. And then we’ll close it.

**Well, what made y’all decide to do the duo thing?**

**J:** Well, we had Jimbo’s drums in the house ...

**R:** During Covid.

**J:** So we both learned to play drums because they were there ... I learned to play piano also during Covid. Sometimes it’s just she and I, and that’s what we would do. Switch up too. It’s pretty loose and fluid. And you know, we’re gonna do some covers that we’ve never done. Like I want to do “Riders on the Storm.” I want it to sound hard and edgy, and then like you’re walking into a Quentin Tarantino movie.

**That sounds cool. Well, I hope you do more gigs as J.R. because that sounds killer and I hate to miss it.**

Yeah, we’re going to. And plus, here’s I want to encourage Rosie to do—and she’s on the fence—I want her every show to do something funky with her hair. Like one that’s some big poofy pigtails ...

**R:** No!

**J:** Maybe the next one has some cornrows or whatever. Like every show I want her to do something crazy with her hair, make that part of the deal, because I think that’d be bad ass.



**Yeah, that is a great idea.**

**R:** Now just find me a hairstylist, that’ll be step one.

**J:** Well we all know what she can do with that hair. She can twist it and do all kinds of stuff with it. She’s a *master braider*. [Everyone laughs]

**What’s your favorite thing about the Picnic? Why does it stand out compared to other festivals?**

**R:** I like kicking it off on Friday. We’re always the first band, Rocket 88. We’re going to be first or second this year, too, but I like starting the festival.

**J:** I like the family part of it. It’s a big family reunion. It really is. All those people I was telling you about earlier that are playing out [on tour]. Well, they come back for [the Picnic], so it’s like a family reunion. [Lots of] hugs and laughs and stories, smiles. Oh man, sitting in front of that big fan, watching the next band get ready, and going out front and looking at looking at it there. Of course, you got the crafts and everything on the top of the hill.

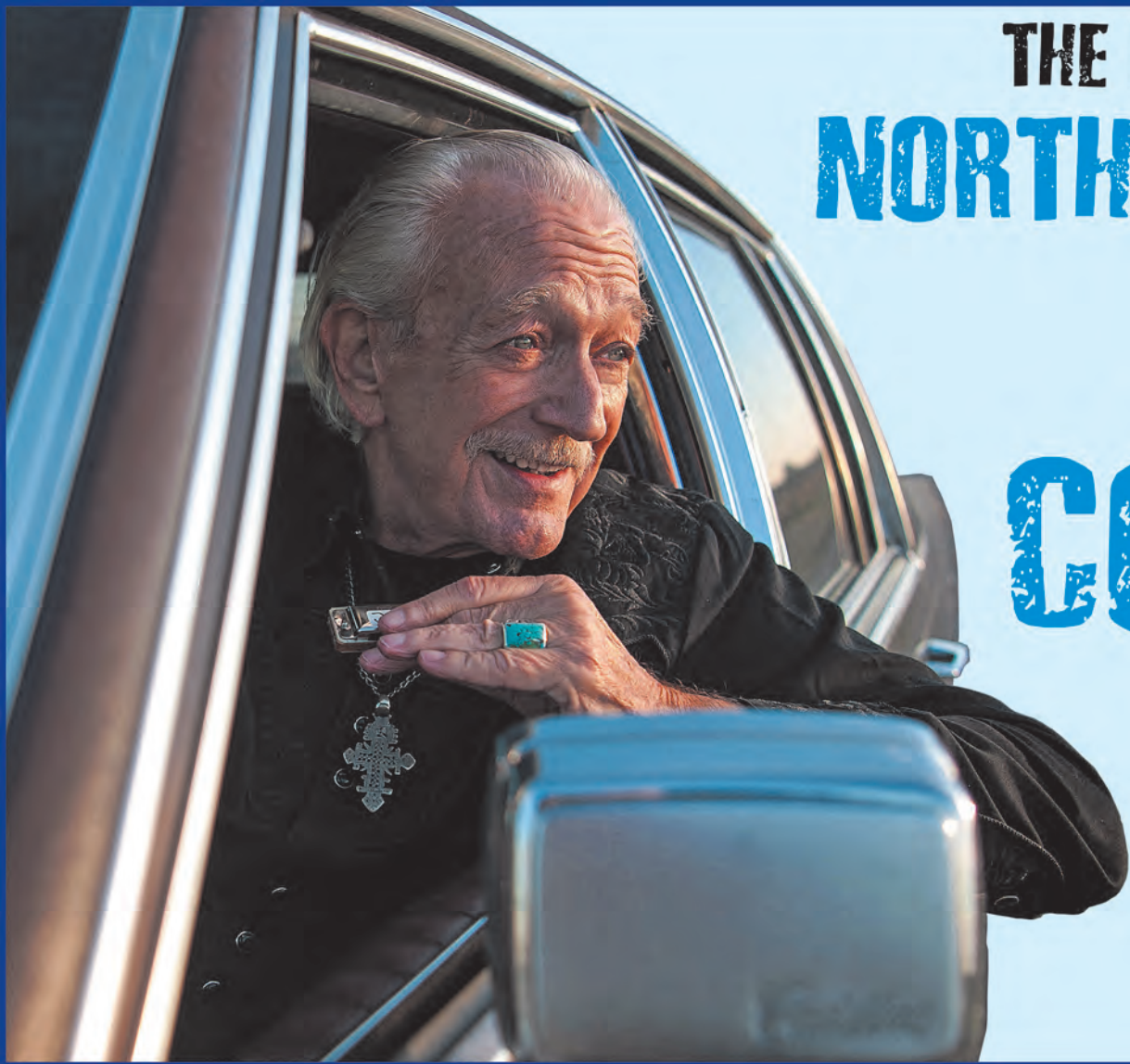
**Who are some of your favorite Hill Country artists? Who would you love to sit in with or collaborate with at the Picnic?**

**J:** R.L. Burnside. You know Junior Kimbrough, of course. T-Model Ford. I’ve played with Garry [Burnside] a few times. Me and Garry went to Garry’s bar [in Ripley] with Patrick McClary and Nathan [Robbins] and played. Garry played drums, and man, it’s one of the best shows I’ve played, we just absolutely crushed it. I love playing with Garry. On Thacker Mountain Radio, me, Garry and Kenny [Brown] all played together.

**What else is Rocket 88 up to? I know y’all play every other Sunday at Rafters for brunch.**

**J:** We do, and that’s kind of like our unplugged version—me, Rosamond, Nathan, and Eric Carlton. And we do a lot of gospel, like moving gospel, hopping, whatever you want to say. It’s not the boring [kind of] gospel. We do it like Duff would sing it. You know, we did some Duff covers. It’s a lively acoustic set. 🎸





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