

## About the Performers

### The Twin Sinners

**Allan Combs II** and **Stacia Abernatha** are working musicians in Central Pennsylvania. Some of their common musical influences include The Beatles, Susan Tedeschi, and Robert Johnson.

Allan is a singer songwriter from Bloomsburg, PA. He has been a full-time musician for over a year, playing over one hundred gigs in the last year! His first solo album, *I Get My Kicks For Free*, was released this summer, and he's currently recording his sophomore album. Stacia hails from Billtown herself, and has been performing as a singer, dancer and multi-instrumentalist since early childhood. She is currently involved in multiple local recording and live performance projects. Stacia performed this summer at the *Silkroad's 2016 Global Musician Workshop*.

### J-Bone & Miz Ida

There has been a musical presence in the Billtown area for as long as there have been people here. Somewhere between when God was young and man crawled out of the primordial soup a thriving Blues scene developed. One of those small groups who gathered to jam developed around **Jay Short (aka Bone)** and friends who had a deep love for music with Blues at its core. That small group eventually relocated to the home of Susan and Terry Bacchieri, at a place called *The Juke*, which was essentially modeled after Juke Joints, or Roadhouses of old, where people would gather at week's end to cut loose, relax and let go of the pressures of the week just past. Somewhere in the early 1990s that group was joined by **Cheryl Miller (aka Miz Ida,)** who previously had not sung in public. Encouraged by friends, who saw tremendous potential, *Blues Incorporated* was formed. The unit consisted of Cheryl Miller on vocals, Jay Short on guitar and vocals, Stu Rennick on bass, Terry Bacchieri on drums and Steve Reed, later to be dubbed "Blue Willie" on harmonica and comic relief. That unit opened for Rod Piazza at Ski Sawmill on July 24, 1994. As time passed, the band would restructure itself...like the Phoenix, rising from the ashes of the previous band, each rendition carrying the best elements of those past as they made their way to bigger and better things. After countless renditions, including *King Biscuit*, *King Bee*, *Blues Incorporated*, *Mo' Blues*, *Blues & Gasoline*, *Blue Willie & the Billtown Jukes*, *Dirty Bird*, *Crooked Letter*, *Miz Ida & the All Nightas* and more, we come to the present.

Jay Short, an accomplished guitarist with roots that stretched back to Mississippi, and Cheryl Miller with both a love and knowledge of women's roles in Blues History and an incredible stage presence have reunited to form a solo/duo act. Their knowledge of the music and its history combined with their many years of working together ensure a delightful experience for all within earshot. Though they may be a duo, they bring with them all the experience of their many years working with countless blues combos. The result is sure to be enlightening and entertaining.

### Mums the Word

*Mums the Word* is one of central PA's best kept secrets and it's no secret they have been laying down some mean and nasty blues since their inception in November 2015. Based in Williamsport, PA, *MtW* is a hard rockin', in your face blues band. The band is a three piece power trio that can rock you till' you drop, soothe you with a soulful, gut wrenching slow blues, or get your toes tapping with an upbeat country-rock number. The members of the band bring in over one hundred years of musical experience. They are heavily influenced not only by guitar driven bands like Johnny Winter, Eric Clapton, Leslie West, Gary Moore, etc. but a wide range of musical styles including jazz, funk, and country as evidenced by their eclectic, high energy shows. The band is currently booking shows in the central PA area and is rehearsing and writing material for their upcoming CD with a spring 2017 release date.

**Michael 'Mums' Mummey** – Drums/Lead Vocals: Mike is a veteran of the central PA music scene. Mike honed his drumming skills listening to drummers like John Bonham and Ginger Baker. He quickly became one of the areas 'go to' drummers for a variety of bands including *Good Time Charlie* that took him to the Wrangler Country Showdown semi-finals as well as the International Blues Competition in Memphis with his band *Blues and Gasoline*. Mike has played with national blues artists Big Jack Johnson and Chris Beard. Mike also hosts a long running open mic in Williamsport and is often called as a fill in drummer for local bands. Mike brings his gregarious personality, excellent percussion skills, and unique vocal style which helps set *Mums the Word* apart from the rest.

**Steve 'Blue Lou' Loukus** – Bass/Lead Vocals/Sax: Steve is a recent Williamsport transplant from northern Michigan. Steve is an accomplished, professional musician who plays bass, saxophone, guitar, and drums. Steve was born and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where he began playing saxophone in middle school band. While in high school he helped form the *On the Spot Blues Band* which performed in the Youth Showcase of the International Blues Challenge in 2009. He has performed with various local jazz, blues and rock bands in Michigan and brings a positive and youthful energy to *Mums the Word*. Steve's soulful vocals and solid, driving bass skills help define *Mums the Word* as not your Mama's blues band.

**Shane Kelly-Woodward** - Lead Guitar/SlideGuitar/Lap Steel/Dobro/Bass: Shane is a Williamsport native who spent his youth in local bands such as *After the Cat* and *XYZ* as a professional bassist. After moving to Boston and then South Florida he continued working with professional musicians which brought him close to signing major record deals twice. He then moved to guitar and formed *The Helldorados* a well known South Florida blues/rock band who opened for numerous acts such as Johnny Winter, *The Yardbirds*, Pat Travers, etc. and also competed in the International Blues Challenge in the mid 2000's. He has helped design and build some of his own guitars over the years but is most well known for his use of Gibson Firebirds. He picked up the nickname 'Sultan of Slide' while briefly living in Shreveport, LA where he was steeped in blues history and invited to play at the *Leadbelly Festival* numerous times. He had the opportunity to sit with Johnny Winter who showed him tips and tricks on slide guitar. His fascination with slide led him to the lap steel and electric Dobro which he brings out on occasion to the live shows. Shane's first love has always been

the blues. His intensity, passion, and unique style as guitarist helps define *Mums the Word* as not just another power trio but a diverse, eclectic, and highly entertaining musical experience. Shane's favorite quote: "If there ain't no groove, then there ain't no song."

## Jeff Fetterman Band

"When talking about hotbeds of blues, cities like Memphis, Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis and even London and Toronto come out in the conversation. Bradford, Pennsylvania is rarely, if ever, mentioned; for now. A guitar slinger, singer and songwriter from that very city by the name of Jeff Fetterman has just released his third album, *Bottle Full of Blues*, and as Sam Cooke said, "A change is gonna come." (JD Nash, American Blues Scene Magazine, Missouri)

**Jeff Fetterman** is a self-taught blues/rock guitarist influenced by Jimi Hendrix, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Jimmy Page. Jeff's aggressive style of playing is both passionate and heart-felt. He blends the genres of rock and roll, blues, Motown, and funk, molding them together to create his own driving sound on the guitar. His vocals are gritty and solid, giving his lyrics meaning beyond the paper. *Bottle Full of Blues* is receiving critical acclaim both in the US and the UK. "The album is an elegant exercise of songwriting skills and phenomenal music ability, not just by Fetterman himself but by the whole array of musicians..." "Southbound" is a rock tune that would have made Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis ecstatic with joy...incredible guitar ability with some very powerful vocals..." (Gio Pilato, Blue Bird Review, United Kingdom)

Jeff's resume includes a world-wide endorsement with Zemaitis Guitars,; a three-song publishing deal with Transition Music in California, which put the songs in film and television: NBC's *The Passions*, TNT's *The Closer* and the Spanish film *The Tough Guy* and Ford auto commercials; winner of the studio awards program scholarship from ASCAP; and being named Best Up and Coming Blues/Rock Guitarist by Ohio radio station WREO in Ohio.

As the backbeat and foundation of the *Jeff Fetterman Band*, **John McGuire** has dabbled in bluegrass, country, psychedelic, and contemporary rock. He has much experience as a studio musician recording with several bands that took him to Nashville.

Bassist **Ralph Reiting III** has spent seventeen years playing across the US, Canada, and the UK, touring with Blind Pig Record's blues artist Harper. He toured with Anthony Gomes and has opened for greats like Gary Moore, Van Morrison, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, and Buddy Guy. He was chosen as the Rock Erie Music Awards Best Bass Player in 2010, 2011, and 2013.

"This is a band in the old-school sense, playing together to the point where they know instinctively where things are going even if not rehearsed." (Bill Wilson, Billtown Blues Magazine, Williamsport, PA.)

*Jeff Fetterman Band* has shared the stage with both Ana Popovic twice and Kenny Wayne Shepherd three times, Stephen Stills, Tony Coleman (the drummer for BB King, Aretha Franklin, and Buddy Guy), *Mato Nangi & Indigenous* twice, Chris Duarte, Molly Hatchet, .38 Special, and others.

## The Dirty Mojo Blues Band

The Dirty Mojo Blues Band is a five-piece, guitar and harmonica driven band that blends blues and rock with a little bit of funk and soul, formed in 2009 by **Shawn Strickland** and his father, **Gary Strickland**. Initially performing as a four-piece band at local clubs, festivals, and fundraising events, it was not until 2013 that they finally felt that they found their true sound with the addition of **Al Meck** on second guitar, and the rhythm section of **Mark Peterson** on drums and **Tim Reinhard** on bass. The now five-piece combo who typically plays throughout central PA are hoping to extend their playing range into northeastern Ohio. Hot on the heels of their debut album release, *Made Cents At The Time*, they are on fire and ready to bring their music to the world. All of the band members have performed at the International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis, TN. Shawn Strickland competed solo in the solo/duo category in 2012 representing the Billtown Blues Association (BBA) and in 2013 representing the Natchel Blues Network Virginia Beach, VA. Shawn and his father Gary Strickland competed as a duo in 2015 representing the Natchel Blues Network. Al Meck competed in 2011 with *Miz Ida and the All-Nightas* representing the BBA. Tim Reinhard and Mark Peterson competed in 2013 with *Roy G. Blues* representing the BBA. They all hope to make it back to the IBC and experience that again.

**Shawn Strickland** (Harmonica/Vocals) After hearing his first Muddy Waters album at fourteen, Shawn instantly picked up the harmonica and guitar, sparking a lifelong pursuit of listening to and playing music-- especially blues. He first began performing at age 16; playing harmonica in his father's classic rock band. Eventually he began to perform solo and in duos on guitar and harmonica, playing some originals and a lot of acoustic blues standards with his personal style. In 2016, Shawn officially became an endorsee of Seydel Harmonicas.

**Gary Strickland:** Guitar/Vocals

Gary started his musical journey playing bass in his grandfather Red Edward's bluegrass band in the mid seventies, followed by thirty years of playing rock and classic rock. When his son Shawn began playing music he learned --as Muddy Waters said-- "The blues had a baby and they called it rock & roll." After his own search into the blues, his influences broadened into a very long list from Albert Collins to Allen Collins and everyone in between.

**Al Meck:** Guitar

Al is a veteran of the central Pennsylvania music scene, performing with a variety of different musical acts playing blues, hard rock, soul and ska. Al draws his main inspiration from the blues; he cites Jimi Hendrix, Freddie King, Peter Green, RL Burnside and Jimbo Mathus among his many musical influences. His experience includes roles in various popular, central PA acts such as *The Riverside Blues Band*, and *Miz Ida and the All-Nightas*-- ultimately finding a home in *The Dirty Mojo Blues Band*.

**Tim Reinhard:** Bass

Tim is a self-taught musician originally from Canton, PA and currently residing in the Williamsport area. Tim's love for music started in his teen years- in the early 70's- playing bass at local dances with his high school cronies. His influences came from various musicians and multiple genres such as Chris Squire, Stanley Clarke, Paul McCartney, Jaco Pastorius, Louis Johnson, James Jamerson,

and Larry Graham (just to name a few). It wasn't until 2004 that he acquired a greater appreciation for the blues by breaking into the Williamsport blues-scene with the band, *Round Dog*. Later, he performed as one of the original members of the band, *Roy G Blues*; now he continues his journey with *The Dirty Mojo Blues Band*.

**Mark Peterson:** Drums

Groove, the power of swing, dynamic soloing abilities and a relentless pursuit of musical knowledge are all essential elements that define the success of many drummers of past and present. Williamsport musician Mark Peterson has all of these in abundance. Mark's passion for drumming began at age twelve and to this day that fire within him still burns white-hot! Peterson can play in a variety of styles including rock, blues, latin, and jazz. In 2012, his band *Roy G. Blues* won the Billtown Blues Association IBC audition concert and subsequently appeared at the Billtown Blues Festival in Hughesville, PA where they shared the stage with such notable acts as Bernard Allison and the legendary Johnny Winter.