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### **Washington Blues Society Announces 2015 Best of the Blues Awards ("BB Awards") Show April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Kirkland Performance Center**

The Washington Blues Society's annual Best of the Blues Awards ("BB Awards") returns to the Kirkland Performance Center on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> to honor musicians and artists nominated by blues society members in 31 award categories. The 2015 BB Awards features performances by over 45 select nominees and recognize new inductees into the Washington Blues Society Hall of Fame.

The nominees once again represent the very best blues performers from throughout the Pacific Northwest. Long-time favorites Brian Lee and the Orbiters lead nominations with members receiving seven categories such as Mark Dufresne Male Vocalist, Slide Blues Guitarist, Chris Leighton Blues Drummer, Blues Act, Blues Performer, and Blues Songwriter. Fresh from their 2015 International Blues Challenge performances in Memphis, the Rafael Tranquilino Band, the CD Woodbury Band and Nick Vigarino are also on this year's ballot. First-time nominees include vocalist Leah Tussing, guitarist Andrew Norsworthy, graphic artist Andy Cotton, the Feedback Lounge, solo blues artist Eric Freeman and electric guitarist Chebon Tiger. This year, the blues society will recognize community-based blues festivals in Everett, Des Moines, Leavenworth and North Bend in the first-ever Best Community Blues Festival category.

"I am confident that the 2015 BB Awards show will be the highlight of the year in the Pacific Northwest" said Tony Frederickson, Washington Blues Society President "We are going to celebrate with the very best performers in Washington State at the Kirkland Performance Center, followed by a very special after-party at Hector's in downtown Kirkland."

The BB Awards will be held on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Kirkland Performance Center. Advance tickets are \$20 for Washington Blues Society members, \$30 for non-members, and \$25 for seniors. Youth 15 and under free. Tickets: <http://www.kpcenter.org>

The Washington Blues Society is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, preserving and advancing the culture of blues and roots music in Washington State and is affiliated with the Blues Foundation ([www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org)) in Memphis, Tennessee. More information: [www.wabluessociety.org](http://www.wabluessociety.org)

## 2015 Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") Nominees

### ***Mark Dufresne Male Vocalist Award***

Kevin Sutton  
Chris Eger  
Brian Lee  
Randy Norris

### ***Blues Female Vocalist***

Polly O'Keary  
Stacy Jones  
Leah Tussing

### ***Electric Blues Guitar***

Chebon Tiger  
CD Woodbury  
Rod Cook

### ***Slide Blues Guitar***

Nick Vigarino  
Brian Lee  
Mark Riley

### ***Blues Bass***

Polly O'Keary  
Mike Fish  
Rob Baker  
Farko Dosumov

### ***Chris Leighton Blues Drummer Award***

Steve Sarkowsky  
Don Montana  
Rick Bowen  
Russ Kammerer

### ***Blues Horn***

Mike Marinig  
Joe Blue  
James King  
Ron Hendee

### ***Paul Green Blues Harmonica Award***

Joe Blue  
Stacy Jones  
Jim McLaughlin

### ***Blues Piano/Keyboard***

Chris Kleiman  
Arthur Migliazza  
Eric "Two Scoops" Moore  
Doug Skoog

### ***Acoustic Blues Guitar***

Andrew Norsworthy  
Rod Cook  
Mark Riley  
Ryan La Plante

### ***Instrumentalist - Other***

Angelo Ortiz, Percussion  
Dan Tyack, Pedal Steel  
Mike Marinig, Flute

### ***Blues Act***

Hot Wired Rhythm Band  
CD Woodbury Band  
Brian Lee & The Orbiters  
Stacy Jones Band

### ***Little Bill and the Blue Notes Traditional***

#### ***Blues Act***

Brian Lee & the Orbiters  
Nick Vigarino Back Porch Stomp  
Steve Bailey & The Blue Flames

#### ***Solo/Duo Blues Act***

Wide Willie Washburn  
Nicely & Norris  
Eric Freeman  
Nick Vigarino Back Porch Stop

#### ***New Blues Band***

Seth Freeman  
Steve Bailey and The Blue Flames (New)  
Rafael Tranquilino Band

#### ***Blues Performer***

CD Woodbury  
Brian Lee  
Lady A  
Nick Vigarino

#### ***Blues Songwriter***

Brian Lee  
Billy Stoops  
Polly O'Keary  
Stacy Jones

#### ***Washington Blues***

##### ***Recording***

New Way of Working by Steve Bailey and  
The Blue Flames (New Line-Up)  
Compass by Polly O'Keary and the Rhythm  
Method  
When It Rains by El Colonel

##### ***Blues Writer***

Rick Bowen  
Eric Steiner  
Eric Maloney  
Malcolm Kennedy

##### ***Blues Club***

Highway 99 Blues Club  
Wild Hare Bar & Grill  
Salmon Bay Eagles  
Engel's Pub  
Feedback Lounge

##### ***Blues Image***

Tom Hunnewell Bluesletter Cover  
by Jef Jaisun  
Mt. Baker Blues Festival Art by Stephen  
Perringer

Blues for the Burn by Andy Cotton

##### ***Blues Graphic Artist***

Sean Donovan  
Dennis Hacker  
Stephen Perringer  
Jon Paul Jones

##### ***Blues DJ***

Janice Cleven Gage  
Robin K  
Jonathon "Oogie" Richards  
Clancy Dunagin  
John Horn

##### ***Keeping the Blues Alive Award***

Tom Hunnewell  
Rick Bowen  
Eric Steiner

##### ***Lifetime Achievement Award***

Jim McLaughlin  
Raven Humphres  
Russ Kammerer

##### ***Blues Hall of Fame***

Scott E. Lind  
Kevin Sutton  
Eric "Two Scoops" Moore

##### ***Blues Hall of Fame – Band***

Steve Bailey & The Blue Flames  
(Original Line-up)  
Tim Casey & The Blues Cats  
Jr. Cadillac

##### ***Non-Festival Blues Event***

Raven's Jam(s) for Cans  
Jones Family X-mas  
Blues Bash at the Red Crane

##### ***Best Regional Blues Festival***

Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival  
Mt. Baker Rhythm & Blues Festival  
Sunbanks Festival

##### ***Best Community Blues Festival***

Ebey Island Freedom Fest  
Poverty Bay Blues & Brews Fest  
Leavenworth Blues Festival  
North Bend Blues Walk

##### ***Best Open Blues Jam***

Raging River Blues Jam  
Unbound Jam at The Madison  
School of Jam at The Oxford  
Monday 88 Keys (w/Blues on Tap)  
Taylor Tuesdays at Peabo's