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**The WIRED! Band, Brian Lee and the Orbiters and Tim “Too Slim”
Langford garner multiple honors at the 2012 Washington
Blues Society Best of the Blues Awards**

The WIRED! Band built upon their 2012 International Blues Challenge win in Memphis by garnering multiple honors at the 2012 Washington Blues Society Awards held Sunday, May 6th at Seattle’s Triple Door. Voted Best Blues Act, The WIRED! Band also took home BB Plaques in the Graphic Artist, Blues Performer, and Mark Dufresne Male Vocalist categories for the band’s promotional poster designed by drummer Rick Jacobsen, and Kevin Sutton’s work as a performer and vocalist.

Brian Lee and the Orbiters took home the BB Award for their new CD, *Identity Theft*, and front man Brian Lee was voted Best Blues Songwriter.

The recipient of the Best Blues Club Award, proprietor Ed Maloney of the Highway 99 Blues Club in Seattle, accepted Tim “Too Slim” Langford’s awards in the Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement categories. “Too Slim” is in Memphis this week as his BB-nominated CD *Shiver* is also on the prestigious Blues Music Awards ballot in the Rock Blues Album category at the 33rd annual Blues Music Awards on May 10, 2012.

Returning BB Awardees include KSER-FM’s Jonathan “Oogie” Richards as Best Blues DJ, Mark Riley as Best Acoustic Guitarist, Rod Cook as Best Electric Guitarist, Nick Vigarino as Best Slide Guitarist, Malcolm Kennedy as the Best Blues Writer, and Little Bill and the Blue Notes in the Traditional Blues category. Lissa Ramaglia and Scotty Harris each returned to the stage to accept awards for Best Blues Bass and Best Blues Horn, and Suze Sims received another Best Female Blues Vocalist BB Award. Son Jack, Jr. and Michael Wilde received top honors in the Solo/Duo Act category and Lee Oskar received the Paul Green Blues Harmonica award.

New BB Award recipients included the Taste of Music in historic downtown Snohomish in the Best Non-Festival Category, and the Washington Blues Society’s Tony Frederickson received the Keeping the Blues Alive Award. Ron Weinstein was busy working to receive the Blues Piano and Keyboards award, and long-time local bluesman Tom Boyle accepted the Best New Band Award on behalf of Tacoma’s T-Town Aces.

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

Attachment: 2012 BB Award Recipient List

2012 Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues (“BB Awards”) Recipients

Mark DuFresne Blues Male Vocalist Award:

Kevin Sutton

Blues Female Vocalist Award:

Suze Sims

Electric Blues Guitar Award:

Rod Cook

Slide Blues Guitar Award:

Nick Vigarino

Blues Bass Award:

Lissa Ramaglia

Chris Leighton Drums Award:

Andrew Cloutier

Blues Horn Award:

Scotty Harris

Paul Green Harmonica Award:

Lee Oskar

Piano & Keyboards Award:

Ron Weinstein

Acoustic Blues Award

Mark Riley

Blues Act Award:

The WIRED! Band

Traditional Blues Act Award:

Little Bill and the Blue Notes

Solo/Duo Act Award:

Son Jack Jr & Michael Wilde

New Blues Band Award:

T Town Aces

Blues Performer Award:

Kevin Sutton

Blues Songwriter:

Brian Lee

Blues Recording:

Brian Lee & the Orbiters, Identity Theft

Blues Club:

Highway 99 Blues Club

Blues Writer:

Malcolm Kennedy

Blues Image:

WIRED! Washington Blues Poster

Graphic Artist:

Rick Jacobson

Blues DJ:

Jonathan “Oogie” Richards, KSER Everett

Keeping the Blues Alive Award:

Tony Frederickson

Lifetime Achievement:

Tim "Too Slim" Langford

Hall of Fame:

Tim "Too Slim" Langford

Non-Festival Blues Event:

Taste of Music Snohomish

Blues Festival:

Sunbanks Blues Festival

Open Blues Jam:

Oxford Saloon – Monday Night Jam

Blue to the Bone Award:

#1: Lloyd Peterson, Mt. Baker R & B Festival

#2: Victor Coupez, Red Crane, Shoreline