

SOL & FUNK ROOTS



PRESS KIT

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FOR BOOKING CONTACT:


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The Band

Sol - Guitar, Vocals



Sol is a world-class guitarist, bassist, songwriter, and recording artist. His talent stretches from fiery rock to laid back jazz, and from funky innovative grooves to soulful ballads, drawing on a deep background in blues.

Sol began his musical experience gigging with blues luminaries such as **Guitar Gabriel**, Captain Luke, and Macavine Hayes. While earning a degree in Recording Industry, Sol performed extensively throughout VA, NC, SC, TN, and MS fronting his own rock, blues, and funk bands. Sol then graduated to performing nationally and internationally with pioneers of roots, funk, and blues including **Cootie Stark**s, **Lee Gates**, **Neal Pattman**, **Beverly Guitar Watkins**, **John Dee Holeman**, and **Jerry Boogie McCain**.

Additionally, Sol has performed in the studio and on stage with musical heavyweights **Taj Mahal**, **Kenny Wayne Shepherd**, and the international guitar hero **Cool John Ferguson** who he performed with for many years. With **Cool John**, Sol has opened for the great **B.B. King**, the **Derek Trucks Band**, and others.


As a front man Sol has shared the stage with funk, r&b, and jam favorites **Soulive**, **Jon Cleary**, **Phil Wiggins**, **Bettye Lavette**, as well as with members of Jah Works, Hobex, Giant Guerilla Dub Squad, Dynamite Brothers, Carolina Chocolate Drops, and more. Sol has also opened for groups such as **The Wood Brothers**, **Robert Randolph & the Family Band**, and **Jackie Greene**. Sol's roots run deep into the blues but his unique versatility has allowed him to gig with funk, r&b, jazz, latin, African, reggae, gospel, and folk performers.

Sol has frequently toured a part of **Music Maker** Revue, a nonprofit organization that helps support the pioneers of roots, blues, and r&b music.

A musical and cultural globe trotter, Sol has performed in Australia, across Europe, Canada, Central and South America, and all over the US.


Paying homage to the greats, Sol seeks to bring Roots Music to a new generation of listeners.

Mike Tony Echols - Bass, Vocals



Mike Tony Echols has worked with many East Coast musical heavyweights always laying down deep smoldering grooves. His style is equally influenced by the music of Motown, Hendrix, and Jaco Patorius. Mike has performed nationally, predominately in the Mid-Atlantic US, with **Deanna Bogart**, Less Traveled, Annie Sidley, Bobby Thompson, Mary Ann Redmond, Politicks, Buster Brown, and many more. Mike has studied the bass styles of James Jamerson, Paul McCartney, Stanley Clark, Larry Graham, Victor Wooten, Oteil Burbridge and others, and has created his own unique voice on the bass.

Scott Rabino - Drums



Scott Rabino is an incredibly solid drummer who has toured nationally with blues and r&b star **Tommy Castro**. Tommy Castro calls Scott one of his favorite drummers. Scott has over 20 years experience playing in the musical genres of rock, blues, pop, r&b, and latin rock. He has also worked with Johnny Nitro, Billy Woodward, Stone Gato, Idle Americans, and Kevin Kline Band. Scott recorded two critically acclaimed albums with the Johnny Nitro & the Doorslammers, one of which reached the top ten in European charts.

Scott endorses San Francisco Drum Company.

(*Sol with Music Maker Revue*)

Lucerne Blues Festival (Lucerne, Switzerland)
Wasaga Beach Festival (Toronto, Canada)
East Coast Roots & Blues Fest (Byron Bay, Australia)
In Blues Festival (Castel San Pietro, Italy)
Festival Mar de Musica (Cartagena, Spain)
Stimmen Festival (Lorrach, Germany)
Chicago Blues Festival (Chicago, IL)
Savannah Music Festival (Savannah, GA)
Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise (Caribbean)
Mississippi Valley Blues Festival (Davenport, IO)
Poconos Blues Festival (Poconos, PA)

(*Sol*)

Blues Passion Festival (Cognac, France)
Amiens Jazz Festival (Amiens, France)
Vintage Virginia Wine Festival (Washington, D.C.)
Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival (Silk Hope, NC)
FloydFest (Floyd, VA)
North Eastern Folk Alliance Festival (Kerhonkson, NY)
Congressional Blues Fest (Washington, D.C.)
Six Points Music Festival (Silver Spring, MD)
Kinston Blues Festival (Kinston, NC)
Tarara Winery Concert Series (Leesburg, VA)
Songwriters at the Smithsonian (Washington, D.C.)
The State Theatre (Falls Church, VA)
Blue Mountain Music Festival (Martinsville, VA)
Chicken Raid Blues Festival - Northside Tavern (Atlanta, GA)
Blue 5 (Roanoke, VA)
Steppin' Out Festival (Blacksburg, VA)
Ebbitt Block Party (Washington, DC)
5th Annual Blues Festival (Raleigh, NC)
Warehouse Blues Concert Series (Durham, NC)
Capital Ale House (Richmond, VA)
Fat Tuesdays (Fairfax, VA)
Harris Pavilion (Manassas, VA)
UNC Forest Theatre (Chapel Hill, NC)
6th and Vine (Winston- Salem, NC)
Roanoke College (Salem, VA)
Mango Loco's (Outer Banks, Ocracoke, NC)
Sundogs (Outer Banks, Corolla, NC)
V Club (Huntington, WV)
DC9 Nightclub (Washington, D.C.)
Windows on the Cumberland (Nashville, TN)
Patterson Blues Fest (Murfreesboro, TN)
Good Lil Artist's Music & Arts Festival (Fayetteville, NC)

Press

"Sol is an **exceptional guitarist** and a wonderful spirit. Sol is a **great musician/songwriter** who constantly reinvents himself with an extraordinary ability to fit the perfect approach and composition." -*Fred Cannon, a Senior VP at BMI*

"Sol creates a unique blend of **Southern fried rock, blues, reggae**, and way back yonder **funk**.... Tasty original tunes and bluesy greasy jams."- *Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival*

"A **fierce guitarist** and **soulful singer**..." *Woodsy - JamBase*

"Sol is an **impressive guitar player!** Sol has an assured, confident voice that matches well with the bravado of his guitar playing.... displays the **social consciousness** that is at the heart of much **roots music**" - *J. Evan Wade - Home Grown Music Network*

"Sol joyously toys with the guitar with a level of ingenious exuberance."
Ron Goad - Most Supportive of Washington Music WAMMIE 2007-2009

"Sol lays down a **heavy groove!** Sol fluently tears out rock, reggae, blues, and jazz, delivered with **deep soul.**" - *Tim Duffy, President- Music Maker*

"If **Blues is Blood** then Sol bleeds Mississippi Delta water when cut!" *J. Wilson, Roanoke Times*

"Sol pulls together **funk, soul, blues** and **reggae** elements... Sol uses his right hand fingers, not a pick, to get his **bluesy, dirty-sweet** solo lines... You have to admire a **blues/soul singer** who is trying to sound like himself, instead of some old blues guy." - *Tad Dickens Press Review*

"**Ancient truths** of the blues arrive in some new place, through some new voice, through some kid who is Sol"- *Peter Cooper, Nashville TN*

"**Very professional**...Sol consistently lay down some **seriously funky stuff** and attracts a nice crowd everytime... a can't miss **good investment.**"- *J. Martin, Club Owner -Martin's Downtown*

"Sol is an **amazing musician** and **songwriter- the real thing!** It doesn't get much better than this...." *Jean Bayou, President- Songwriters Association of Washington DC*

"One young artist who is crossing that bridge [music of the youth vs. older traditional music] is Sol"- *Karen Olson, Utne Reader*

"When you hear Sol is around, go get a listen, it'll make your feet move and **fill your spirit with joy**" - *Advance Tribune*

"Freedom is one of the **top 15 albums** for **2008!**" - *Funk Soul Director, Green Arrow Radio*

"Sol's instrumentals, vocals and mere stage presence, turn even the most conservative spectator into a human bobble-head...there's not a still foot in the house."- *M. Knipp, City Paper*

"...the shape of blues to come..."- *David Whiteis, Living Blues Magazine*



Releases

Sol - **Freedom** - Satori Recordings 2008

Sol "**Volume: Blue**" (Music Maker)
received reviews in **Living Blues Magazine**.

Radio Play in **Chicago, San Francisco, New York, XM Radio, Australia, France** & more

additional musician highlights on:

- **Taj Mahal** "and the Music Makers"

- **John Dee Holeman** "with Taj Mahal" (*w/ Kenny Wayne Shepherd*)

- **National Resophonic Guitars** Inc. "Artists in Resonance" (*w/ Cool John and Taj Mahal*)

Dixie Frog presents "Last and Lost Blues Survivors" (France release)

Pura Fe "Follow your Hearts Desire"

Lee Gates (Albert Collins cousin) "Lucy's Deuce"

Repertoire

Blues, Reggae, Funk, Rock, Jazz, R&B

Hours of Original Material available

Cover Songs also available by the following artists and others:

Jimi Hendrix Curtis Mayfield Taj Mahal

Parliament/ Funkadelic Marvin Gaye

Bootsy Collins Stevie Wonder The Meters

Bob Marley Ben Harper Bill Withers Carlos Santana

Johnny "Guitar" Watson Toots & the Mahals Miles Davis

Cool John Ferguson Frankie Beverly/ Maze John Coltrane

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