

Tas Cru is truly a blues eclectic who refuses to let his music be bound to just one blues style. With a repertoire of over 80 original songs from multiple albums and dozens of crowd-pleasing classics, this seasoned road warrior gives folks what they want be it festival, concert, listening room or the dance hall. Tas has been called one of the most unique of bluesmen plying his trade today. His songs testify to his reputation as a bluesman who is accomplished in, and comfortable with most every style of blues. As a writer Tas wants each song to determine what style is the better fit And that's why fans love his stuff and critics sing his praises. A versatile repertoire, great vocal and guitar work, and his trademark well-crafted lyrics make Tas' music an interesting and enjoyable listen. Live performances are captivating – highly entertaining!

Tas Cru is based out of Central New York and performs in multiple formats ranging from solo acoustic to a six-piece backing band. He sings and plays a wide variety of guitars - at home on either electric, acoustic, resonator or cigar box and is known to sprinkle in a bit of harmonica from time to time. Tas is a Delaney Guitars (Austin TX) endorsed artist and is signed to Subcat Records, Syracuse NY.

With four hot albums in the last six years – *You Keep the Money, Simmered & Stewed, Memphis Song, and Drive On* – Cru is now hard at work readying another for 2021 – a double “quasi – acoustic” album *Broke Down – Busted Up*. Cru was honored with his first Blues Music Award nomination in 2018 with *Simmered & Stewed*. That album and the two that followed were all recipients of the Syracuse Area Music Awards (the SAMMY's) for best blues recordings.

In his early bands, Tas was introduced to the great Sun Records sound and the country blues that later served as a counterpoint to the rock-blues he idolized as did so many young aspiring guitar players of his time. Cru grew up in a very musical and generally *unquirky* family (except for him). Unlike his talented brother and sisters, he did not pursue music in school. A brief attempt to play the trombone abruptly ended after being kicked by his 7<sup>th</sup> grade music teacher whose name actually was A (Alden) Sharpe! Tas says he deserved it. Instead Cru explored and developed his talent by taking up with a rougher crowd of older, self-taught musicians where he was introduced to the songs of the Sun Records legends. His first foray into the blues came after leaving the US Navy when he was asked to join a band formed by a former shipmate named Delray Streeter, an Arkansas-raised bluesman with boundless bravado and attitude but rather limited singing and even lesser harmonica skills. This partnership, though short-lived, proved to be very influential as Streeter's repertoire tended toward the older, rough-hewn country blues. Cru's schooling in country blues later served him well

and is heard in his original songs along with the Sun Records and, of course his rock-blues influences.

In addition to his better-known albums is Tas' 2009 release, *Even Bugs Sing the Blues*, an album of original blues music for kids. In 2016 he recorded a blues album for dog lovers and kids called *Doggone Blues* that has now been turned into a three-book series featuring the dog characters from these songs. For more information about these items, including how to purchase them, please visit [dogssungblue.com](http://dogssungblue.com).

As a Blues Foundation, Keeping the Blues Alive award recipient (2014), besides performing, Cru brings his Blues Education programs and workshops to festivals, schools, and hospitals everywhere he travels. In 2019, Tas began his affiliation with United By Music North America; a program serving differently challenged young adult musicians. Thus far, Cru has traveled to the Pacific Northwest and Memphis, TN to mentor participants. Tas says, "Working with UBMNA has brought me back to why I began playing music in the first place – for the pure joy of doing so!"

Tas Cru is managed by the tandem management team of Barrelhouse Talent (personal manager) and Anne Bello Productions (business manager) - Road Dawg Touring Company (USA and Canada booking) Evergreen, CO - Electric Blues Bash (European booking) Bremerhaven, Germany.