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Music News

BI-2



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December 2025

Friday, December 5
OPAKE, Ekorelik,
When The Sun Dies

Saturday, December 6
Scorn, Ben's,
Bonetooth Serenade

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Antisma, Haserot,
Putrid Womb,
Sigil of Morningstar

Saturday, December 13
AV8, Sugar Ball Express,
Harley

Friday, December 19
Astatic, Side Hustle

Saturday, December 20
Good As Dead, Severed Birth,
Cadaver Factory, Glass Grinder,
Basement Burial

Friday, December 26
Arc Flash, Ash on Ivywood,
Harley

Saturday, December 27
A Sure Thing & Mayvenn

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December 2025

Hi Folks,

Hello Music News readers. I hope you had a great November.

Our cover story for this month is Bi-2. Bi-2, originally from the Belarusian Soviet Socialst Republic is making a rare Concert Tour in America and will be performing at Warehouse Live Midtown on January 8th and we wanted to give you a heads up on this show early because no doubt it will be a sell-out! This band has performed unforgettable performances at every stop on their tour and we're sure they're upcoming show at Warehouse Live Midtown will be great as well!

And now for a special reminder from Warehouse Live Midtown. For the time being, Warehouse Live Midtown will be offering an additional 10% Discount for all Houston Music News readers. That's right, for an additional 10% off the regular ticket price to a show, just use the promo code HOUSTONMUSICNEWS.

Besides Bi-2, Eli & Fur will be presenting a hypnotic dance set at Warehouse Live Midtown this month. We have a story on both of them in this month's issue of Houston Music News. Here's another show you definitely don't want to miss. You can read all about them in this issue and remember, use the special Promo Code HOUSTONMUSICNEWS and you can get a discount on these tickets as well as others.

Now, on to the new issue. In this issue, as usual, we have some great stories and information to pass on to you. Check out stories in this month's issue on Localmania 5, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram and Ghostland Observatory performing at White Oak Music Hall. Here's two more shows you'll definitely want to see. Also in this issue are stories on The Trans-Siberial Orchesstra, Mannheim Steamroller, Alex Skolnick and More. We also have a ton of great pictures of bands performing around the Houston area. I'm sure you're going to be familiar with a lot of these bands. Those bands include Amplified Outlaws, Bert Wills, Death Before Decaf, Honey Island Swamp Band, The Band Of Heathens, Los Rangerz, Nick Gaitan, Travellin Bros, Steve Krase, Tony Vega, The Octanes, Tyson Webb, In The Aftermath, and more!

And be sure to check out our Street Beat Section. We have tons of great bands and events listed there for you to check out. If you're looking for calendar listings to plan out your month, then be sure to check out our Calendar at the back of this month's issue.

Also be sure to check out our Spanish section. In this month's issue we have stories on William Beckman, Rey Ruiz, and Ronald Borjas. The stories are in English and Spanish.

I sincerely hope that everybody reading this new publication finds something here that they like and I would like to encourage you to let your friends and colleagues know about us. Just look for us every month at http://www.houstonmusicnews.net. Just email us at musicnew@airmail.net and in the subject line simply put "Sign Me Up" and we'll email you a copy each month when it is published. Remember, for your convenience, Music News is also now downloadable. You can download the issue into your computer or storage device and save it and read it at your convenience without having to get logged on to the internet every time. Try it now and save every issue. It will make things a lot easier for you.

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From Soviet Beginnings to Global Stages: Bi-2 Arrives in Houston for a Rare and Unforgettable Concert Event At Warehouse Live Midtown

By Greg Fontaine

The internationally acclaimed alternative rock band **Bi-2** will be performing live in Houston at **Warehouse Live Midtown on January 8**, bringing with them a deeply storied musical legacy, a powerful stage presence, and a new world concert tour titled **"All The Best."** This tour marks a new chapter for a band whose artistic evolution has stretched across continents, political eras, and cultural landscapes. For Houston audiences, the January 8 performance offers a rare chance to experience one of Eastern Europe's most enduring and emotionally resonant rock acts, performing their greatest hits in freshly reimagined form.

Bi-2 was originally formed in 1988 in Babruysk, in what was then the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic, by two young artists, **Yegor "Lyova" Bortnik** and **Aleksandr "Shura" Uman**. The two met as teenagers in an absurdist theater studio, drawn together by experimental performance, rebellious creativity, and a shared hunger to explore beyond conventional expression. Their earliest work was less about technical training and more about instinct, drama, and emotional truth. This artistic tension became the DNA of Bi-2's music — theatrical yet intimate, mysterious yet human, anchored in melody and poetry.

In their earliest years, the band cycled through several names, including "Brothers in Arms" and "Shore of Truth," before eventually settling on **Bi-2**, a shortened form of that final name. Their earliest performances were raw, unpredictable, and visually provocative — including one now-legendary performance in which Lyova emerged from a coffin at the start of the show. They toured throughout Belarus, gaining underground momentum, and recorded their first album, *Traitors to the Motherland*, in makeshift Minsk studios. Some of the band's now-famous songs, including *Barbara*, were written and recorded in those early years long before wider audiences discovered them.

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Bi-2

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The collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s scattered millions of young artists and intellectuals across the world, and Bi-2 was no exception. In 1991, both Lyova and Shura left Belarus for Israel, where they continued to write music, record demo tapes, and experiment with new sonic directions. Their style shifted toward more refined arrangements and acoustic textures, emphasizing lyrical depth and atmospheric tone. Though long distance and military service briefly interrupted their collaboration, the two never stopped composing, often mailing cassette recordings and handwritten song sketches across continents. In 1993, Shura relocated to Australia, where he later joined and co-founded the darkwave band Chiron. Lyova later moved there as well, and the two reunited in person, continuing to build what would become their international identity.

By 1999, Bi-2 relocated to Russia and found themselves at a turning point. Although initially performing with only the two founders and various session musicians, everything changed in 2000, when their music was featured prominently in the film *Brother 2*, a cultural phenomenon across the post-Soviet world. Songs from that soundtrack — including "Nobody Writes to the Colonel" — exploded across radio charts and established Bi-2 as one of the most important and definitive voices of a new post-Soviet rock era. Over the next several years, they released successful albums, collaborated with numerous major artists, and became fixtures on MTV Russia, large festival stages, and international tours. Their sound continued to evolve — at times leaning into electronica, orchestral rock, and theatrical performance — while always preserving their lyrical intimacy and unmistakable emotional tone.

Bi-2's impact did not go unnoticed. The group has earned numerous prestigious awards, including **Best Rock Act at the 2007 MTV Russian Music Awards**, ZD Awards, and multiple World Music Awards recognitions. In 2015, they were named **Best Russian Rock Band** by Music Box and later inducted into the **Top Hit Music Awards Hall of Fame**. Their concerts have headlined major festivals across Europe, and their music has accompanied films, theatrical works, and stadium-scale productions.

Recent years, however, have marked a profound shift in the band's story. In **2022**, Bi-2 publicly opposed Russia's invasion of Ukraine and refused to perform in venues displaying pro-war messaging. As a result, many of their concerts in Russia were canceled, and the band ultimately **emigrated**, relocating primarily to Israel. In early 2024, the group briefly made international headlines when members were detained in Thailand over performance licensing issues, a situation complicated by extradition pressure. Diplomatic intervention allowed the band to safely travel to Israel rather than Russia. Despite hardship, displacement, and political pressure, Bi-2 remained musically active throughout — writing, rehearsing, recording, and continuing to perform abroad for global audiences who share their passion for art, freedom, and emotional truth.

Their new world tour, **"All The Best,"** reflects both retrospection and renewal. The tour is named after their recent release, *All the Best Vol. 1*, which features many of the band's most beloved songs — but re-recorded with original arrangements using modern production technology. The intention was not to reinvent their music, but to restore its clarity, depth, and emotional immediacy with the benefit of decades of growth. The songs featured on the album are timeless, deeply woven into the lives of their fans, and on stage they will be performed **exactly as they appear on the new recordings**, but expanded with the living electricity of a live concert.

Bi-2's last major tour, the **Hallelujah World Tour**, spanned more than a year and a half, reaching over 30 countries and more than 60 venues, solidifying their status as a global touring force. Yet even after that accomplishment, the band expressed excitement for what comes next — new cities, new audiences, and new conversations between performer and listener.

As Bi-2 prepares to take the stage at Warehouse Live Midtown on January 8, fans can expect a performance filled with emotional force, powerful lyricism, cinematic atmosphere, and the unmistakable sense that music can carry memory, identity, longing, and hope across borders and time.

Tickets for the Houston performance are available through Warehouse Live Midtown's official channels. For longtime fans and new listeners alike, this is not simply a concert — it is an arrival, a return, a continuation, and a celebration of music's ability to evolve without losing the heart that started it.

Bi-2 — Live at Warehouse Live Midtown
January 8 | Houston, Texas
A night of history, memory, and musical electricity. Be there.



LocalMania 5 Takes Over White Oak Music Hall January 3rd

By Nathan Pugh

As the calendar turns and the echo of New Year's fireworks fades, Houston's underground metal scene prepares to ignite with a fierce declaration of life and vitality. On **Saturday, January 3, 2026**, the stage is set at White Oak Music Hall for **LOCALMANIA 5**, presented by Radiation Productions. After what promoters hint may be a multi-year pause, this fifth instalment of the festival returns with renewed energy, a powerful line-up and a mission to reaffirm Houston's position as a bastion of heavy music.

The poster for the event sets the tone clearly: lightning streaks, bold metallic typography, and the names of hardcore, thrash and death-metal oriented bands that carry the promise of intensity. The ticketing details are straightforward: $20 advance, $30 at the door. The venue, located at 2915 N Main St., is known for delivering shows where fans don't just watch — they become part of the spectacle. According to the venue's listing, doors open at 3:00 p.m. and the event is standing-room only. White Oak Music Hall+1

But LOCALMANIA isn't merely about spectacle; it is also about affirmation — affirmation of the local scene, of the bands that grind week in and week out, and of the idea that heavy music thrives when it's rooted in community. One recent social-media post from the promoter noted the return of the series after an eight-year hiatus. Instagram That gap underscores how significant this edition is: it isn't just another show, but a revival, a chance to reclaim something that has been quiet for too long.

The line-up is a showcase of Houston's underground in full force: bands like Apex Fallen, Notions and Realms of Death take center billing, with a supporting cast including Vox Nostra, Hatewaker, The Poserz, Deep 6, Left IV Dead, Lost Cause, Chaoswitch, Nemesis and many others. The sheer breadth of the roster speaks to a scene that is inclusive of multiple sub-genres — death metal, thrash, hardcore, and crossover — and one that has enough momentum to fill a full-day event.

For many of these acts, appearing on LOCALMANIA 5 represents more than another date in the diary. It means stepping into a spotlight previously reserved only for touring bigger names, grabbing the attention of fans, critics and promoters alike. One band member recently commented: "We're not just playing for ourselves — we're playing for every metalhead in Houston who's ever felt like they didn't get enough stage-time." Another voice added: "This is our chance to show that Houston's heavy scene can match any city's — energy, volume, community."

The venue itself plays a crucial role in the storytelling. White Oak Music Hall's downstairs room is widely regarded as one of the most suitable spaces in the city for heavy show production — the acoustics, sight-lines and crowd proximity create an environment where a breakdown doesn't just resonate; it reverberates. In previous years, local shows here have been described as near-physical experiences, where you feel the floor move underfoot, the bass wave through the crowd, and the entire room unite in movement. This environment amplifies the narrative of LOCALMANIA: it's not a passive gathering — it is a cross-section of a scene in motion.

Community is woven into the event's DNA. Fans from across Greater Houston, long-time underground stalwarts and first-time showgoers alike converge. Many bring merch from their favorite bands, strike up conversations by the bar or merch table, and in the pit they form alliances not just for the night but for years to come. Organizers of the event highlight that one of the goals is to foster *networking*

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ZEPHYR ISLAND 8:45-9:15
COAXIAL WAKE 9:30-10:00
HONEYCUTT SOUTHERN 10:15-11:00





(continued from Page 8)

among bands, promoters and fans — to keep the scene thriving beyond a single show. As one promoter put it: "We're planting seeds for the next five, ten years of Houston heavy music."

Importantly, the event signals that heavy music doesn't need to be niche or hidden any longer. It demands space, attention and respect. LOCALMANIA 5 is a statement: heavy music remains vibrant, the local circuit still matters, and communities built around sound still thrive. With an early-January slot, the festival also stakes a claim on the year ahead — a reminder that the new year for metal believers starts not with quiet resolutions, but with full-volume affirmation.

Looking at this in broader context, Houston has long had bubbling underground scenes — metal, hardcore, punk, crossover — but festivals like LOCALMANIA crystallize the energy into a singular moment. They give the scene a focal point, a homecoming, a place to rally. The fact that this iteration returns after a considerable interlude adds both urgency and excitement — deals done, bands booked, fans waiting: the ingredients are aligned.

For attendees, the practical details matter too: the event is standing-room only, and the venue is cashless, which means bring your card. Early arrival is advised — doors at 3 p.m. — and while the poster lists advance pricing at $20, arriving to secure your spot and pre-event energy is wise. The day promises successive sets from multiple bands, and while the schedule may shift, the cumulative effect will be one of density: many songs, many bands, many memories.

When the final amplifier is switched off, the last feedback dissipates and the crowd files out into the Houston night, they will carry more than just rocks in their pockets or merch in their bags. They will carry proof — that Houston's heavy-music heart still beats loud; that local scenes matter; that when fans, bands and promoters come together, they can create something memorable, raw and resonant.

In that sense, LOCALMANIA 5 is not simply a festival. It is a **return**. It is an **affirmation**. And for those who care about metal in Houston, it may very well be the night they remember when the scene roared back to life.

Here's a few of the great band that will be performing:

Apex Fallen

Emerging from the Houston scene with unapologetic power, Apex Fallen melds the aggression of metalcore and the technical edge of modern djent. Formed circa 2020, the band has released tracks such as **"Hollow"** and the album **Sum of It All**, which explores themes of betrayal, self-loathing and resilience. Known for blistering breakdowns and vivid live presence, Apex Fallen has rapidly become one of the city's go-to names for shredding intensity — making their spot on LOCALMANIA 5 a highlight of the evening.

Notions

Representing the heavier side of the Texas corridor, Notions draws a path that crosses hardcore roots with metallic mania. Based out of Austin (and familiar with the Houston scene), Notions has released visually striking music videos — including the clip for **"Archetype"** — and invests in high-impact performance and tight riff-craft. Their selection for LOCALMANIA 5 signals a bridge between established touring acts and hometown talent, and offers festival-goers an opportunity to see a band actively pushing their reach.

Realms Of Death

With roots in death-metal inspired crossover, Realms of Death present an unrelenting sonic assault. Though noted as originating in San Antonio, they remain firmly embedded in the Texas underground-metal identity. Their album **RUIN** (released November 2023) features tracks such as the title cut and "Virus" — dark, fast, and unafraid of intensity. As part of LOCALMANIA 5's lineup, Realms of Death bring the brute force end of the spectrum, offering festival-goers one of the heavier anchors of the night.

Vox Nostra

Out of Houston, Vox Nostra has positioned themselves as one of the most technically ambitious rising metal acts in the area. According to a December 2024 interview, the band began in 2022 when vocalist Nathan Buckhoff and bassist Jahaziel Ramirez teamed up via a Facebook group, later recruiting Steven Pedini (drums) and Juan Diaz (guitar) to complete the lineup. The group describes themselves as modern death-metal/hardcore, rooted in technical riff-craft and punishing rhythm sections. Their live debut in December 2023 (supporting a national act) put them on the radar of Houston's metal faithful. Being part of LOCALMANIA 5 offers the band a shot at consolidating that momentum and reaching a broader local audience.

Hatewalker

Hatewaker, from San Marcos, Texas, tread the territory of metalcore/deathcore with hard-edged energy and heavy breakdowns. Their profile on Viberate identifies the group as a force in the genre, combining aggressive vocals, thunderous drums, and riffs that don't relent. The band's album *Blasphemy* (2019) and subsequent singles such as "Icarus" (2022) and "Diseased" (2023) reflect a continuous evolution of sound. For fans of LOCALMANIA, Hatewaker brings familiarity and power — a band whose output and live reputation suggest they'll deliver one of the heavier sets of the day.

The Poserz

The Poserz lean into the hardcore/metal-crossover end of the spectrum. Their EP *Self Hate* and latest single "Flesh Machine" showcase tight, punchy riffs and a no-frills attitude. Active in the Texas underground, the band has built a following through energetic local shows and steady output. Their inclusion at LOCALMANIA 5 signals the festival's embrace of diversity—not only pure metal but also the hardcore side that fuels the pit culture. Expect a set that's compact, intense, and built for live audience connection.

Nemisis

Nemesis describes themselves as a thrash-metal band based in Houston: "fast technical riffs and rich musical lyrics driving the pit wild," according to their website. Nemesis With guitar-heavy attack, vocal grit, and a hometown base, Nemesis offers bridge-work between old-school metal influences and the modern underground. Their performance at LOCALMANIA 5 promises to bring that classic thrash eruption into the current scene context — a connection between generational sounds and today's energy.

Bounty, TX

From Houston, Bounty TX carve a niche by blending "new wave death metal and old school metalcore," per their Bandcamp profile. Their 2022 release *Lonestar Death Vol.1* positions them as a group rooted in local identity ("Lonestar") and heavy-music ambition. As a band on the LOCALMANIA 5 lineup, Bounty TX brings that fusion mentality—respecting tradition while pushing forward—and gives the audience a locally-grounded set that may be one of the discover-moments of the festival.

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William Beckmann Brings Las Posadas Holiday Tour to Bayou Music Center December 20

By Albert Schwartz

Texas-born singer-songwriter William Beckmann will bring his celebrated Las Posadas Holiday Tour to the Bayou Music Center on December 20, offering Houston a warm, spirited, and musically rich celebration of the season. Now in its fourth year, the tour has become a cherished annual tradition for Beckmann and his fans, blending holiday classics with crooner standards, Spanish-language favorites, and hand-picked originals that highlight his distinct voice, cultural heritage, and musical craftsmanship.

The Las Posadas tour is inspired by cultural traditions drawn from Beckmann's upbringing in Del Rio, Texas, a town on the border where holiday gatherings are as much about community and storytelling as they are about music. This year's shows will feature a full band created exclusively for the tour, including a complete horn section, adding warmth and vintage grandeur to the performance. Each concert is designed not simply as a live show, but as a shared holiday experience rooted in togetherness, gratitude, and musical connection.

Just as meaningful as the music itself is the cause behind the tour. 100% of proceeds from VIP ticket sales will be donated directly to George Strait's Vaqueros Del Mar Relief Fund to support families affected by recent Texas flooding. For Beckmann, giving back is not an obligation, but a responsibility. "Christmas is about coming together and being with family," Beckmann shared in announcing the tour. "This year I will be teaming up with Vaqueros Del Mar to help with the Texas flood relief. All of the VIP ticket sales from these shows will be donated to this cause. We want to do our best to help the families that were affected by this tragedy."

The tour arrives at the end of a milestone year for Beckmann. In 2025 alone, he performed more than 100 shows, appeared at the Academy of Country Music Awards, and served as direct support for acts including Flatland Cavalry, Midland, and Parker McCollum. In July, Beckmann joined George Strait onstage at his Strait To The Heart benefit concert, helping raise more than $6 million for flood relief efforts—an experience he has called one of the most meaningful moments of his career.

Beckmann's rise has been steady and organic, shaped not by overnight exposure but by touring, songwriting, and storytelling rooted in authenticity. Born and raised on a cattle ranch, his childhood was filled with the sounds of classic country, mariachi, Norteño, and the timeless voices passed between families and generations. His bilingual upbringing continues to shape his music today; he regularly includes Spanish-language songs in his live sets as a way to honor the traditions and identities that shaped him. "People who have never heard Spanish songs before think it's unique, and for the people who are Hispanic, they feel seen and represented," he has said.

Beckmann first gained industry attention with his self-released EPs Outskirts of Town and Faded Memories, the latter containing his breakout track "Bourbon Whiskey." His career accelerated after his emotional performance of "Volver, Volver" went viral following his Grand Ole Opry debut in 2023. Known for his deep, resonant baritone and storytelling style reminiscent of Roy Orbison, George Strait, and Vicente Fernández, Beckmann has carved out a sound that feels at once classic, border-born, and distinctly modern.

His forthcoming major-label debut album, Whiskey Lies & Alibis, set for release next summer via Warner Music Nashville, will capture what Beckmann describes as "a snapshot in time" — an album built to endure, reflect, and tell the truth of where he stands now as an artist and as a man.

But before that next chapter arrives, Beckmann closes 2025 with something more personal, communal, and heartfelt: the simple act of sharing music, culture, and holiday warmth with the people who have carried him forward.

On December 20, the Bayou Music Center will become something more than a venue — it will become a gathering place, a moment of connection, a reminder of the ties that hold families, neighbors, and communities together.

William Beckmann
Las Posadas Holiday Tour
Bayou Music Center – December 20, Houston, TX
A voice of Texas. A celebration of culture. A holiday performance with heart.

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Friday, December 5
Kane Alvarado



Saturday, December 6
Shayne Porter & The Shady Trees



Friday, December 12
Marcelo Naves & The Tigermaen



Saturday, December 13
Tony Vega Band
2pm: Blue Heron Music School Christmas Recital



Sunday, December 14
The Octanes
Adam's Birthday



Friday, December. 19
Josh Garrett Band

Saturday, December 20
Ezra Charles Band





Friday, December. 26
The Swanson Brothers

Saturday, December 27
Eric Demmer



Wednesday December 31
New Year's Eve Party
William James with Jill Donahue



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED CALL, EMAIL OR FACEBOOK MESSAGE	1 closed	2 6:30pm THE 34th Annual HUMBLE CHRISTMAS PARADE of LIGHTS	3 8-11 pm WILLIAM JAMES hosts OPEN JAM SESSION	4 8-11pm $5 cover SHAWN ALLEN Hosts Soul, & Blues JAM	5 8:30PM $20 KANE ALVARADO	6 8:30PM $15 SHAYNE PORTER & THE SHADY TREES
7 5PM $15 BUCK YEAGER, MIKE PATTON & ANDREW DOUGLAS	8 closed	9 7pm $5 CASEY BOWEN Come celebrate Kim's birthday!	10 8-11 pm CHRIS CASTANEDA hosts OPEN JAM SESSION	11 8-11pm $5 cover SHAWN ALLEN Hosts Soul, & Blues JAM	12 8:30PM $15 MARCELO NAVES & THE TIGERMEN	13 8:30PM $15 TONY VEGA BAND 2pm Blue Heron Music School Christmas Recital
14 5PM $15 THE OCTANES ADAM'S BIRTHDAY	15 closed	16 4-7pm HAPPY HOUR TBA	17 8-11 pm CRIS CROCHEMORE hosts OPEN JAM SESSION	18 8-11pm $5 cover SHAWN ALLEN Hosts Soul, & Blues JAM	19 8:30PM $20 JOSH GARRETT BAND	20 8:30PM $15 EZRA CHARLES TRIO
21 5PM GREEN OAKS TAVERN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY Food, beverages & our gift exchange	22 closed	23 4-7pm HAPPY HOUR TBA	24 closed CHRISTMAS EVE	25 closed MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 8:30PM $15 THE SWANSON BROTHERS	27 8:30PM $15 ERIC DEMMER BAND
28 closed 1-9pm BENEFIT FOR BARRY SEELEN at THE BIG EASY	29 closed	30 4-7pm HAPPY HOUR TBA	31 8:30pm $40pp/$75 Couple NYE BASH with WILLIAM JAMES BAND Featuring JILL DONAHUE	UPCOMING SHOWS – Paul Ramirez Band, Jonn Del Toro Richardson, PotRoast, Van Wilks, Tweed Smith & The Internationals, The Lasses-Rogers Band, Jay Hooks Band		

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED (call, email or FB message us) • Happy Hour Tues-Sat @ 4-7pm



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SHADY ACRES SALOON

NO COVER NO COVER

DEC4 SNIT'S DOG & PONY SHOW
DEC5 WALKER COUNTY LINE
DEC6 KEVIN ANTHONY & C-TOWN
DEC11 ERIC DEMMER
DEC12 SAM TURNER & CACTUS CATS
DEC13 MASON NORRIS
DEC18 NATHAN QUICK
DEC19 A.B. HILL
DEC20 ZACHARY BURNETT
DEC26 COOPER MOHRMANN
DEC27 HONKYTONK HOOLIGANS
DEC31 HARD LUCK REVIVAL

SUNDAYS:
8PM BINGO
7PM POOL TOURNAMENT
MONDAYS:
INDUSTRY NIGHT SPECIALS
TUESDAYS:
9PM COUNTRY KARAOKE
THURSDAYS:
8PM LIVE BAND
FRIDAYS:
8:30PM LIVE BAND
SATURDAYS:
8:30PM LIVE BAND

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Dog Friendly









Houston Blues Series

December 4
Snit's Dog & Pony Show
December 11
Eric Demmer
December 18
Nathan Quick
December 26
Cooper Mohrman



Dec. 4
Snit's Dog & Pony Show



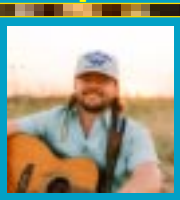
Dec. 5
Walker County Line



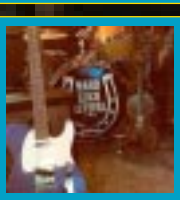
Dec. 11
Eric Demmer



Dec. 18
Nathan Quick



Dec. 26
Cooper Mohrman



Dec. 28
Hardluck Revival

Sundays - Bingo @ 3 - 6 pm

December 2025 Entertainment Schedule

12/4 - Snit's Dog & Pony Show
12/5 - Walker County Line
12/6 - Kevin Anthony & G-Town
12/11 - Eric Demmer
12/12 - Sam Turner & Cactus Cats
12/13 - Mason Norris
12/18 - Nathan Quick
12/19 - A. B. Hill
12/20 - Zachery Burnett
12/26 - Cooper Mohrman
12/27 - Honkytonk Hooligans
12/28 - Hard Luck Revival



Hot Rocks, The Rolling Stones Tribute Band consisting of Jackie Hubbard, Bobby Lewis, Jeff Evans, Chad Lyons, Craig Gysler, and Jeff Enlow would like to invite everybody out to see them this month on **December 19th at Toddy Oaks in Katy.** They tell us that they deliver a concert experience that you'll be talking about for months. Seeing that the actual Rolling Stones won't be in town for quite a while, we'd suggest you check them out. You might just find yourself singing along to "Gimme Shelter" a whole lot louder than you planned.

Just thought we'd let you know that Illscape Studios is bringing the fantastic **Dwayne Dopsie & the Zydeco Hellraisers** to **Rockefeller's** on **Friday, January 30th**. Here's a chance to celebrate a little of that Mardi Gras feel with one of the best Zydeco bands around. We thought we'd give you a heads up on this so you can get your tickets early. No doubt it will be a sell-out, and I know some of you won't want to spend your time outside Rockefeller's on the sidewalk trying to listen to them. Believe me, it's a lot more fun inside.

Feo Y Loco tell us that they are deep into writing and recording some new music right now. Be on the lookout for them and, by the way, they are looking for a new drummer. If you can bash the skins and you need a gig, try emailing Tom at **bigmightytom@gmail.com**. Opportunity knocks — sometimes loudly.

Seek & Destroyerz wanted us to mention them in this month's edition of Street Beat. They recently played at **BFE Rock Club on November 29th**. We don't have a date for their next appearance yet, but as soon as we do, we'll pass that on to you. In the meantime, Seek & Destroyerz is manned by Drew "NYC Beast" – Lead Guitar, Tarek "The Reaper" – Vocals, Chris "Hellhound" Totten – Rhythm / Lead Guitar, Jay "The Mad Arab" – Bass Guitar, and Tony "The Satanic Hispanic" – Drums. Catch them when you can.

Now something big is coming down the road for fans of theatrical rock and glittering cosmic energy — **The Orion Experience** is bringing its shimmering glam-rock/power-pop **Magical Animals Tour** to **The End on December 12th**, supporting their latest album, *Magical Animals*. This Los Angeles-based cosmic pop outfit has built a reputation for high-energy shows filled with neon-bright spectacle, retro-futuristic style, out-of-this-world costuming, and a community-powered atmosphere where joy and freedom are the rule. Their performances are legendary for creating a kind of magical uplift that transports audiences completely out of the ordinary. Openers **Dead Nebula** and **Blytz** kick the night off. Doors at 7pm, show at 8pm. Tickets are $25 advance GA and $75 VIP. This all-ages event promises to be an unforgettable experience — and one of the most visually striking nights of the month. If you're ready to launch into another dimension, here's your ride.

Haserot has announced that they now have bassist **Keegan Kelly**, formerly of **Oceans of Slumber** and currently performing with **Spectral Manifest** and **Metropolis Burning**. He joins following the departure of Helstar bassist Garrick Smith. Two shows are coming up: one opening for **Castrator and Desolus** on **December 8th at Black Magic Social Club**, and another on **December 12th at the 19th Hole**, celebrating a birthday bash with **Antisma, Haserot, Putrid Womb, and Sigil of Morningstar** (who will be performing their first show, featuring **Lazaro Sanchez** of Funeral Rites and Ninth Kingdom).

Carranza would like to let everybody know they have a gig coming up at **Bad Astronaut Brewing on January 3rd**. The new CARRANZA band is back in action and includes Thomas Meehan on bass, Brian Jones on drums, and Rob Carranza on vocals and guitar. Rob Carranza's musical journey has deep roots in Houston — from smoky dive bars to intimate songwriter rooms — drawing on the timeless spirit of Texas blues-rock along with the gravity and grit of King's X. If you're looking to see a musician with real musical mileage and heart, mark this one.

For fans of powerhouse rock vocals, **Fired Up: A Tribute to Pat Benatar** is bringing that iconic intensity to **Rock Neutney's** on **Saturday, December 6 at 9 PM**, alongside **Epic Leppard**, a Def Leppard tribute. Fired Up features Misty Haze on lead vocals, Won Kim on guitar, Mike Witmer on drums and vocals, Leo Garcia on bass, and Ethan Fasnacht on keys and vocals. This is Houston's premier tribute to Benatar & Neil Giraldo, capturing every ounce of spirit and fire from the originals.

And speaking of fire — here's the expanded spotlight we promised: **Metropolis Burning** is one of the most exciting rising metal forces in the region right now. They are a melodic death metal band from Houston delivering a precision attack of intense riff work, controlled aggression, and razor-sharp musicianship. The current lineup features Raul Tarsus on guitars, Aldo Guerra Guajardo on drums, Kendall Mason on vocals, Anthony Jones on guitars (from Dawn Of Dissolution and Black Market Tragedy), and newly added bassist Keegan Kelly, known for his work in **Oceans Of Slumber**. Together they deliver a sound that is both brutally heavy and darkly atmospheric. They are opening for **DRI** at **Scout Bar on**

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December 6th, and then playing **January 10th at 1810 Ojeman**. They recently placed in the **Top 10 at 10** on DigitalRevolutionRadio.com and are now competing in the **Top 50 on NYE** — momentum they've earned the hard way. See them now before the rooms get bigger.

If you're looking for a place where December goes all-in on high-impact shows and the kind of nights that leave you hoarse the next morning, **Warehouse Live Midtown** is your battlefield. This month's lineup hits harder than an early Christmas Eve blizzard on the Gulf Coast. Things ignite right away with **Drowning Pool on December 4**, followed by the thunderous **Fit For A King on December 5**, and then the legendary **Zakk Sabbath on December 9**, celebrating the legacy of Ozzy Osbourne with a show that's already buzzing through town like a lit fuse. The energy keeps coming: **Monaleo** brings full-power Houston heat on December 10, **Death Angel** rips through on December 11, and December 13 turns the whole building into a festival with **It's A Fake Wedding** and **Christmas With Treety** under the same roof. Add a **Tina Turner Tribute** on the 18th, **Emo Nite** on December 19, **Eli & Fur** on December 27, and a full-throttle **New Year's Eve blowout party**, and you've got a venue running wide open with zero intention of slowing down. If your plan was to rest in December, Warehouse Live has other ideas.

Just down the road, **White Oak Music Hall** continues proving why it's one of the most respected and diverse live music rooms in the state. December downstairs fires off with **The Bouncing Souls on December 4**, **Danny Brown on December 6**, and **Christone "Kingfish" Ingram on December 7**, a guitarist so electrifying that even his quiet moments shake the walls. Then it's **Yan Block on December 14**, and the explosive **Ghostland Observatory on December 29**, sure to be a neon storm of lasers, funk-rock chaos, and cosmic dance-floor insanity. Meanwhile, **Upstairs** is equally packed with highlights including **Kodoku on December 3**, **Isaia Huron on December 4**, **The Haunt on December 7**, **Omnium Gatherum on December 8**, **Teenage Bottlerocket on December 11**, **BTS K-Pop Night on December 13**, and **Seven Kingdoms on December 18**. If you love music discovery, this is where you show up with an open mind and leave with three new favorite bands.

Sitting among the heavyweights with equal pride — and carrying decades of Houston rock DNA — is **The 19th Hole** in Conroe, a venue as raw and real as the musicians who bleed on its stage. December here feels like a steel-toed boot to the chest in the best possible way. Things explode immediately with **OPAKE, Ekorelik, and When The Sun Dies on December 5**, followed the next night by **Scorn, Ben's, and Bonetooth Serenade** on December 6. The momentum only builds from there: **Antisma, Haserot, Putrid Womb, and Sigil of Morningstar** take over on **December 12**, celebrating birthdays and first-ever performances in the kind of tightly packed crowd that makes every note feel personal. Then it's **Astatic and Side Hustle** on December 19, **Good As Dead, Severed Birth, Cadaver Factory, Glass Grinder, and Basement Burial** on December 20, **Arc Flash, Ash on Ivywood, and Harley** on December 26, and finally **A Sure Thing & Mayvenn** on December 27 to close out the month swinging. This is where the underground breathes — sweaty, loud, unapologetic, and alive.

Over at **Toyota Center**, the December stage is stacked with huge performances and high-stakes games. The Rockets are battling the West all month long including clashes with the **Sacramento Kings on December 3**, **Phoenix Suns on December 5**, **Oklahoma City Thunder on December 18**, and **Los Angeles Lakers on December 28**. Meanwhile the arena transforms into a holiday spectacle with **Trans-Siberian Orchestra**, **Pentatonix**, **Brandy & Monica**, and a massive **New Year's Eve performance with Treaty Oak Revival**. Stadium energy, thousands of voices, and nights built for memory.

If you're looking for someplace to party at inside the loop, **The Re:Hab Bar** has a great lineup for you this month. **Wednesday Nights** feature **Hump Night** with **The Mitch Jacobs Band**, Thursdays are rockin' there with **Grave City** on December 18. Fridays are hot with **The Hightailers** on December 12 and **Chris Castaneda** on December 26th and Saturdays are cookin' with **Raa' Tansiel** on The 6th, **Lauren Suzuiki Band** on the 20th and **Seven's Edge** on the 27th.

In Sugar Land, **Smart Financial Centre** delivers elegance, precision, and production power — bringing in the dazzling violin sorcery of **Lindsey Stirling**, the breathtaking theatrical beauty of **Vienna Light Orchestra**, the powerhouse soul of **Cece Winans**, the unmatched vocals of **Sarah Brightman**, and the seasonal magic of **Mannheim Steamroller**. If you want the big-room experience with perfect sight lines and flawless sound, December is a feast.

For those who want intimacy, warmth, and musicianship up close without a single distraction, **Green Oaks Tavern** in Humble continues to be one of the most beloved listening rooms in Texas. December here is packed with artists including **Shayne Porter & The Shady Trees**, **Marcelo Naves & The Tigermen**, **Tony Vega Band**, **Kane Alvarado**, the **Green Oaks Christmas**

continued on next page



Party, and a special **New Year's Eve celebration featuring the William James Band with Jill Donahue**. This is a venue that treats music with reverence — and the musicians return that respect tenfold.

Meanwhile, **Toddy Oaks Brewery** continues building a reputation for outstanding tribute shows and big outdoor sound, hosting everything from **Nightbird** to **Texas Eagles**, **Mary Jane**, **AM/FM**, and of course the much-anticipated **Hot Rocks** Rolling Stones experience on **December 19**.

If you're looking for the beating heart of Houston's underground in December, **Bad Astronaut Brewing** is a powder keg ready to blow sky-high. This place has become ground zero for alternative culture — punk, metal, art, wrestling, street markets, and enough creative chaos to power the city grid.
On **Friday, December 12**, the brewery hosts **Combat Sports Grappling 38**, an adrenaline-fueled tournament that draws a packed house every time. The next night, **Saturday, December 13**, the **Second Saturday Pop-Up Art Market** brings dozens of artists and creators into the space, and the energy rolls straight into the night. **Sunday, December 14**, the **Thorn & Moon Mystical Market** turns the brewery into a bohemian bazaar of gothic fashion, music, candles, spells, and live performances.
And then circle **January 3rd** in red ink — the powerful, reassembled **Carranza** returns to the stage with **Thomas Meehan (bass), Brian Jones (drums), and Rob Carranza (vocals & guitar)** bringing the house-shaking firepower they're known for. If you want to hear a band at the moment they detonate, this is it.

December at **The Continental Club** is stacked like a holiday playlist with the shuffle button broken. **Culture Wars** explode onto the stage **Friday, December 5**, already a near sell-out, followed by **Mike Stinson with John Egan opening** on **Saturday, December 6** in a full-band show built for outlaw country fans who like their guitars hot and loud. Then buckle up — **Thursday, December 11** brings **Hairy Apes BMX and Thunderado**, a noise-rock carnival that leaves the speakers smoking. **Friday, December 12** blows the roof off with **Los Skarnales, Cencha Berrinches, Los Kurados, and DJ Moonstmp**, one of the most stacked multi-band nights anywhere in Houston. If you like dance-floor sweat, the legendary **Disco Expressions – Disco Wonderland** arrives **Saturday, December 13**, and **The Xanadudes** host an all-out 80s altar to neon excess on **Saturday, December 20**.

Next door, **Shoeshine Charley's Big Top** keeps the circus roaring. **Bobcat / Zombilly** hit the early show **Friday, December 12**, and **Jeff Crosby Band** headlines **December 13**, followed immediately by **Randy and Caleb Lindley's Birthday Bash hosted by Amber Digby**. On **December 19**, Houston's own **A.S.S.** tear into the stage, and the legendary tradition continues with **Beetle Boxing Day** on **December 26**, followed by the **Light Rock Express** on **December 27**, and a **New Year's Eve Bash** that turns the tent into a confetti storm.

The End stays true to its name — where the night ends if you're brave enough to keep going. The spotlight belongs to **The Orion Experience** on **December 12**, bringing their cosmic glam-rock spectacle to Houston with openers **Dead Nebula** and **Blytz**. For the heavy crowd, **IHMAIWTD with Geurillas and Hemp** lands **Friday, December 19**, followed by **Braindead with Padlock, Happier Than You and more** tearing the walls down **December 20**. December is loud at The End — and that's exactly how we like it.

Clear Lake doesn't sleep, and **Rock Neutney's Sports Bar** makes sure of it. **Epic Leppard** joins **Fired Up: A Tribute to Pat Benatar Saturday, December 6**, followed by **AM/FM** on **December 13**, **Mambo Jazz Kings December 20**, and **The Slags** closing out **December 27**.

One of the busiest rooms on the coast, **Jackie's Brickhouse** is a magnet for packed dance floors all December long. **Meaux Cotton & The Feel** lands **December 13**, **Mr. Wonderful** headlines the **80's Party on December 19**, and **The Slags Annual Ugly Sweater Party** takes over **December 20**.

Main Street Crossing – Tomball is a listening room with world-class acoustics and acts worth the drive. **Gene Watson** plays back-to-back **December 5–6**, followed by **Hamilton Loomis Christmas Show December 14**, **Roger Creager December 16–18**, and **Vince King** triple-running **December 19–21**.

Deep Roots Vineyards – Montgomery has wine, fire pits, and rock under the trees. **AM/FM – The 70s Rock Experience** brings arena nostalgia **December 5**, **Fleetwood X** on **December 6**, and **1% Skynyrd** on **December 13**.

Cowboy Surfer Bar – Two Locations: Memorial & Kingwood

One of the fastest-growing live-music stops in the Houston scene, **Cowboy Surfer Bar** is firing on all cylinders this December — and remember, there are **two locations**, each with its own flavor.

At the **Memorial** location, music lovers can settle in for intimate acoustic sets and legendary players up close. **Sunday, December 7**, don't miss **Mark Andes & David Lee Holt**, two iconic Texas musicians with resumes longer than the highway. A week later, **Sunday,**

continued on next page



December 14, the incomparable **Dana Cooper** brings his poetic Americana storytelling. Then, on **December 21**, **Texas Turbines** blow the doors open with electrified Texas roots rock. Memorial closes the month **December 28** with a big one — **Hayden Jones Record Release**, celebrating new music live.

Meanwhile, over at the **Kingwood** location, the volume cranks up and the stage stays hot. **Saturday, December 6**, **Christina Renee & The RETROspective** bring retro soul power, followed by **Soul Fixx** on **Saturday, December 13**, a high-octane R&B/soul explosion that turns the room into a dance floor. **Saturday, December 20**, the **Big Al Bettis Band** brings guitar fireworks and blues-soaked rock, and the month closes with **The Examiners** on **December 27**, delivering their signature style of driving classic rock and power vocals.

Katy Crossing Icehouse has good food, cold drinks, and some of the best live bands in the area. **Wednesday, December 3**, **Ava Connell LIVE** kicks things off, followed by **Taylor Marberry LIVE Friday, December 5**. On **Saturday, December 6**, the always rowdy **100 Proof** takes the stage. Circle **December 20** for the **Ugly Sweater Christmas Karaoke Party**, one of the funniest and loosest nights in town.

The Corner Pub – Conroe is a north-side favorite and a creative incubator for rising Texas talent. **December 13**, the badass duo **Amy N Me** light up downtown Conroe, surrounded throughout the month by open mic nights where future stars sharpen their blades.

If metal is your oxygen, **1810 Ojeman** is where you breathe. **Friday, December 12**, prepare for a sonic onslaught with **Noisegate, Mars God, The Shroons, Happier Than You, and Silver Age**, an explosive multi-band lineup that shakes the walls. Then mark **January 10** for the crushing return of **Metropolis Burning**, with **Raul Tarsus (guitars), Aldo Guerra Guajardo (drums), Keegan Kelly (bass), Kendall Mason (vocals), and Anthony Jones (guitars)** — a machine built for volume and velocity.

If December had a soundtrack, it would sound like the **Zydeco thunder** rolling out of **Jax Grill on Shepherd**. **Keyun Dickson & The Zydeco Masters** ignite the stage, followed by **Nooney & The Zydeco Floaters**, **L.T. & The Zydeco Mob**, and **Marcus Ardoin & The Zydeco Legendz** closing out the month with unstoppable Louisiana fire.

T-Bone Tom's – Kemah is one of the most beloved live-music patios on the Texas Gulf Coast. **Navigators**, **Radio Frequency**, **ZaGo Experiment**, **Rory Price**, **Sonic Seduction**, **Sheila Marshall**, and more keep the stage lit from the first guitar note to the New Year's Eve countdown. Whether you want party energy or smooth acoustic groove, this is the spot.

Armadillo Palace – Kirby Drive is where Texas tradition meets world-class performance. **Friday, December 12**, **Roger Creager's Piano Bar** brings wild energy and storytelling charm — a two-hour party disguised as a concert. Perfect holiday spirit, perfect cold whiskey, perfect night out.

The Old Quarter Acoustic Café – Galveston is a holy sanctuary for singer-songwriters. **Jason Eady** holds court **December 13**, and the legendary **Fred Eaglesmith featuring Tif Ginn** takes over **December 27** (already sold out). If you love songs that break your heart and repair it in the same breath, go early, stay late, and drink deep.

Escapade 2001

One of the biggest dance floors in the city shakes hard this month with **La Leyenda, Intenso, Notable, J Manny, and Dosis en Vivo** on **December 5**, followed by **Sonido Latin Entertainment** on **December 12**, and **Fury Fighting Championship 112** unleashing MMA chaos **December 14**. Sound, lights, crowds — everything big.

Grand 1894 Opera House – Galveston is elegant, historic, and packed with seasonal magic. **Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol** takes the stage December 5–6, and **The Nutcracker** fills the room for multiple showings December 13–14, making it season perfection whether you're bringing a date, a family, or a camera.

The Goose's Acre – The Woodlands has one of the best patios for acoustic music anywhere north of Houston. With **Johnny B**, **Brett Axelson**, **Jeff Canada**, **Steve Garcia**, **Justin Pena**, and more rotating shows all month long, every visit feels different — and every night feels like the right night.

If you've never experienced live music under the trees at **Toddy Oaks Brewery** in **Katy**, December is your invitation. Tribute fans, don't miss **Hot Rocks – A Salute to the Rolling Stones** on **December 19**, followed by a full run of killer shows through the end of the month. This is a venue built for singing along until your voice wears out.

Blues lovers welcome — and be ready, because the **The Neon Possum – Humble** gets loud when the guitars start crying. **Blue Mondays** every Monday at 7PM keep the soul alive, and Wednesday jams with **Charles Peters** turn into full-blown musical throwdowns. A bar built for real players and real music fans — nothing fake, nothing polished, everything raw.



Trans-Siberian Orchestra Brings "The Ghosts of Christmas Past" to Toyota Center December 19 for Two Epic Holiday Performances

By Albert Schwartz

The holiday season in Houston shines a little brighter each year when the Trans-Siberian Orchestra comes to town, and this December, the world-renowned symphonic rock phenomenon returns to the Toyota Center on December 19 for two spectacular performances at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The 2025 edition of their winter tour features an all-new staging of "The Ghosts of Christmas Past," continuing TSO's long tradition of combining breathtaking musicianship, dazzling visuals, and emotionally moving storytelling into one of the most unforgettable live shows of the season.

For nearly three decades, Trans-Siberian Orchestra has redefined what a holiday concert can be. Their performances are not simply concerts—they are rock operas, immersive spectacles that blend symphonic orchestration, electric guitars, choral harmonies, pyrotechnics, laser displays, towering video backdrops, and theatrical storytelling into a single, soaring experience. No other holiday tour has matched the scale, ambition, or emotional resonance of TSO's annual winter performances, which have become a beloved tradition for families, music lovers, and theater-goers alike.

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra began as an idea in the mind of producer, composer, and visionary Paul O'Neill, who believed that rock music could be fused with classical composition to create something new—something cinematic in scope and deeply human in theme. O'Neill imagined a 60-piece orchestra with the power, volume, and electricity of a stadium rock band, brought together to tell stories of hope, redemption, faith, and the enduring magic of the holiday season.

Before founding TSO in 1996, O'Neill had already built a remarkable musical career. A professional guitarist who performed in Broadway productions of *Hair* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, he later became a producer and tour organizer, working with artists such as Aerosmith, Sting, Madonna, Bon Jovi, Scorpions, and Joan Jett. His early creative influences included Queen, Yes, The Who, Jim Croce, and Harry Chapin, artists whose powerful melodies and storytelling he admired. But O'Neill always carried with him a larger vision—one that would eventually become Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

TSO first rose to national prominence with their 1996 debut album, "Christmas Eve and Other Stories." The album introduced what would become the band's signature sound: majestic symphony-meets-rock arrangements, soaring story-driven lyrics, and deeply emotional themes. The record also featured the now-iconic instrumental "Christmas Eve / Sarajevo 12/24," a dramatic reinterpretation of "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" and "Carol of the Bells" that has since become one of the most recognizable and played holiday songs in America.

From that point on, TSO's Christmas rock operas became annual essential listening—and eventually, essential viewing. The group began touring in 1999, and soon became known for

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BARRY SEELEN'S

Big Benefit





SUNDAY
DECEMBER 28TH 2025

Annika Chambers & Paul DesLauriers
Malford Milligan · Brad Absher & The Superials · Jonn Del Toro Richardson
Blues Survivors feat. Ellen Rogers · John Calderon · Nick Diaz · William James
Shawn Allen · Jay Hooks + many more!

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The Big Easy
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"House of Mixology"

DOOR 12:00PM

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Trans-Siberian Orchestra

(continued from previous page)

putting on the most visually and technically elaborate holiday shows in the world. Massive lasers, animated LED screens, rising stage platforms, snow effects, fire bursts, and a full rock orchestra have made TSO performances feel like a Broadway musical, rock concert, and cinematic experience all at once.

"The Ghosts of Christmas Past" continues this storytelling tradition. Inspired in part by O'Neill's love of classic literature and timeless holiday tales, the production traces a story of reflection, memory, and second chances, wrapped inside TSO's trademark blend of narration, soaring vocals, and powerful instrumental interludes. The show explores how the choices we make—from small acts of kindness to profound life-defining decisions—shape our lives and the lives of those around us.

Though the Trans-Siberian Orchestra is often thought of as a single band, the group actually tours with two complete touring ensembles, allowing them to perform in multiple cities across North America every holiday season. Each ensemble is composed of top-tier vocalists, guitarists, orchestral musicians, keyboardists, narrators, drummers, and string players, all performing with the precision and passion TSO is known for.

Over the years, TSO has become not only a musical powerhouse but also a major philanthropic force. The band is widely recognized for donating over $20 million to charity, with each tour stop contributing to local community organizations. Their commitment to giving back is as central to their identity as their music itself.

TSO's concerts have repeatedly been described as "life-changing," "moving," "thrilling," and "spectacular," and it is easy to understand why. The music is lush and theatrical, full of crescendos, delicate interludes, and explosive peaks. The visual production is state-of-the-art, creating full worlds of light and atmosphere on stage. And above all, there is a sense of warmth and wonder—a reminder of the emotional heart of the holiday season.

In Houston, TSO's arrival often marks the moment when the holidays truly begin. Entire families attend year after year, some wearing Christmas sweaters, others introducing children or grandchildren to the music for the first time. The experience feels communal—a shared celebration of memory, joy, reflection, and tradition.

This year's performances at Toyota Center are expected to draw enormous crowds, and with two showtimes on December 19, fans will have the rare opportunity to choose between an early afternoon performance full of family atmosphere or an evening performance that highlights the show's dramatic lighting and theatrical dynamics.

For longtime fans, this year's return of *The Ghosts of Christmas Past* rekindles one of TSO's most beloved storylines. For newcomers, it offers a dazzling introduction to the magic, power, and emotional force that has made Trans-Siberian Orchestra one of the top-selling live acts in the world, with more than ten million tickets and ten million albums sold.

Whether you're drawn to soaring symphonic crescendos, rock guitar heroics, moving holiday storytelling, or simply the joy of experiencing something grand and unforgettable with loved ones, Trans-Siberian Orchestra's performance is a holiday event not to be missed.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra – The Ghosts of Christmas Past
Toyota Center – December 19, 2025
Performances at 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM

A celebration of music.
A story of memory and meaning.
A holiday tradition that continues to inspire.

Music News



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

WAREHOUSE LIVE

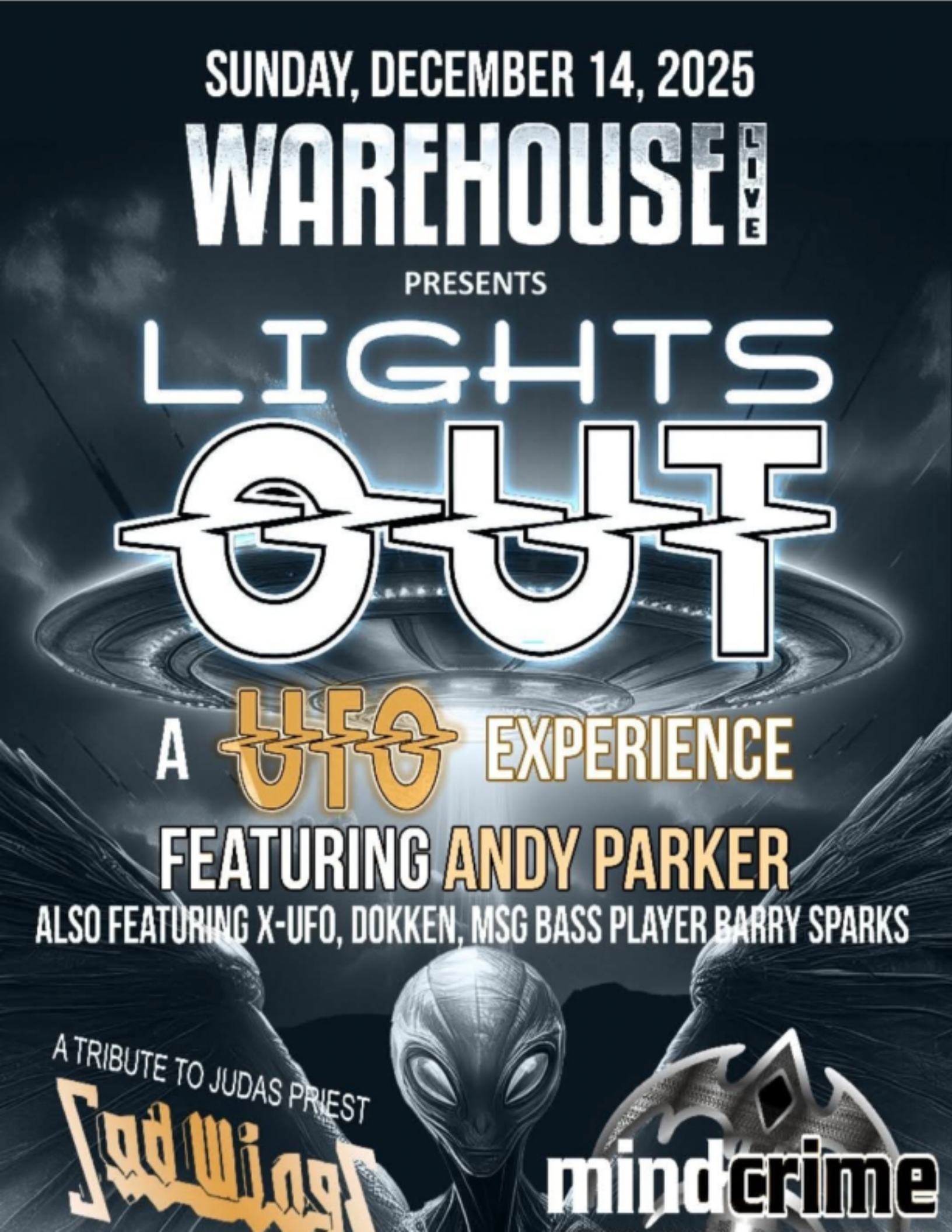
PRESENTS

LIGHTS OUT

A UFO EXPERIENCE

FEATURING ANDY PARKER

ALSO FEATURING X-UFO, DOKKEN, MSG BASS PLAYER BARRY SPARKS



A TRIBUTE TO JUDAS PRIEST

Sad Wings

mindcrime



Mannheim Steamroller to Close Out Their Annual Christmas Tour at Smart Financial Centre on December 30

By Albert Schwartz

Every holiday season carries certain traditions. Some are small — a favorite ornament, a special recipe, a candle lit on a winter night. Others are larger, shared experiences that bring people together year after year. For millions of families across the United States, one of those traditions is the unmistakable sound of Mannheim Steamroller. This year, the iconic group brings their beloved holiday spectacle to Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land on December 30, marking the final performance of their annual Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Tour, which began on November 12 and traveled to cities nationwide.

The Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Tour is not just any holiday performance — it is the longest-running concert tour in the entertainment industry. While artists, trends, and genres shift across decades, Mannheim Steamroller has remained constant, faithfully touring the country every December season for more than 35 years. To accomplish this massive undertaking, the tour travels with two full ensembles, performing simultaneously in different regions of the country to ensure fans everywhere can continue their holiday tradition.

The tour's origin reaches back to 1984, when Mannheim Steamroller released what would become one of the most influential holiday albums in modern music history. At the time, the idea of releasing a full Christmas album — especially one blending classical influences with synthesizers and modern pop production — was viewed as risky. But founder and composer Chip Davis believed in the sound. When critics and executives said that focusing so heavily on Christmas music would never work, Davis pressed on anyway.

"I remember when I came out with my very first Christmas album in 1984 followed by our first tour," Davis recalls. "Back then, many said focusing on Christmas just wouldn't work. Now over more than 35 years later, we are still going strong — and are the longest running concert tour in the entertainment industry! I want to thank all our fans for making us part of their holiday tradition."

That debut Christmas record did far more than sell well — it reshaped the holiday music landscape. Certified 6x Platinum, the album remains one of the best-selling Christmas albums in U.S. history and has influenced nearly every major artist who has since released holiday music. Before Mannheim Steamroller, Christmas albums were often treated as casual side projects. After Mannheim Steamroller's breakthrough, they became essential.

The group's distinctive sound — often described as "18th-century classical rock" — was built on Davis' innovative approach to instrumentation and recording. Many of the arrangements pair instruments that were historically never heard together: harpsichord and synthesizer, French horn and electronic percussion, acoustic guitar and orchestral wind sections. The result is music that feels at once timeless and modern, comforting and exhilarating, full of warmth and

continued on next page

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Richard Saldivar's Birthday Bash with Los Souldees 6-10pm
Sunday, December 28
Barry Seelen's Benefit 1-3pm

New Year's Eve - December 31

New Year's Eve Bash with The Big Easy All-Stars





Mannheim Steamroller

(continued from previous page)

grandeur.

The December 30 performance at Smart Financial Centre will offer audiences the complete Mannheim experience: 15 live musicians performing on more than 20 instruments, surrounded by immersive multimedia visuals. Concertgoers can expect to hear classics like "Deck the Halls," "Carol of the Bells," "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," and "Silent Night," each reimagined in the unmistakable Mannheim Steamroller style. The show blends celebration and intimacy, nostalgia and excitement — a reminder of how music can expand a moment and deepen its meaning.

Over the course of his career, Chip Davis has become not just a successful musician, but one of the most influential independent artists in American music. In 1974, when record labels refused to release his early instrumental work, Davis founded American Gramaphone, now one of the largest and most successful independent labels in the industry. He has since earned a Grammy Award, 19 gold records, 8 multi-platinum albums, and 4 platinum-certified releases, achievements that place Mannheim Steamroller in the same elite category as artists like U2, The Beach Boys, and Jay-Z.

Davis' innovations extend beyond music. His ongoing work in psychoacoustic technology — which explores how sound affects human emotion and healing — has been embraced by major medical institutions, including the Mayo Clinic, where his sound research is used in patient therapy and stress reduction. His career represents the rare combination of artistic creativity and scientific curiosity.

Mannheim Steamroller's music has also become deeply connected to shared memory. For many people, their first exposure to the group occurred in the background of a childhood holiday — a parent putting on one of the Christmas albums while decorating the tree, or hearing those bright synthesizer chords ringing through a shopping mall in December. The music does what the best holiday traditions do: it returns listeners to earlier years, earlier rooms, earlier moments — while creating new memories at the same time.

The Smart Financial Centre performance marks the final show of this year's tour, giving Houston-area audiences a unique chance to experience the grand finale of a coast-to-coast celebration. The atmosphere of a final tour stop often brings an added electricity — a sense of culmination, reflection, and gratitude shared between performers and audience. For many, attending this concert will mark the symbolic end of the holiday season, as the year prepares to turn and a new one begins.

The appeal of Mannheim Steamroller's live performances stretches across generations. Grandparents who grew up with the group's early Fresh Aire recordings now bring their grandchildren to the concerts. Parents who first heard the band on cassette or vinyl now stream the music while wrapping presents. The audience is a reflection of the music: connected, familiar, warm, and welcoming.

Even in a world of rapidly changing technology, Mannheim Steamroller continues to feel contemporary — not because it chases trends, but because it stays true to the timeless qualities that define winter celebrations: light, comfort, memory, community, and wonder.

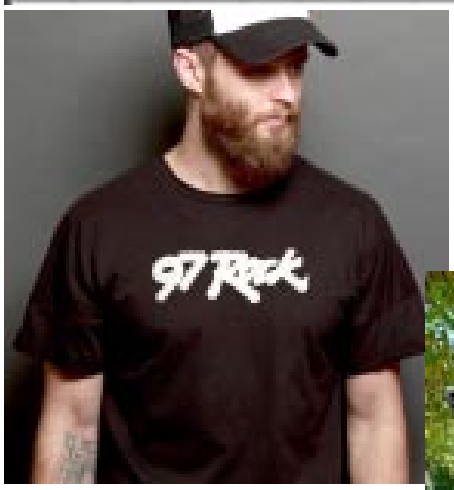
On December 30, the stage at Smart Financial Centre will shine with that familiar glow. Musicians will take their places. The lights will fall. The first notes will rise like a breath in cold air.

And for a couple of hours, audiences will remember the beauty of the season — not in the rush of it, but in the *experience* of it.

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas
December 30 — Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land
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Queensrÿche to Bring the Monumental "Volume and Vengeance Tour" to Houston's House of Blues on December 11

By Nathan Pugh

Progressive metal legends Queensrÿche will bring their monumental "Volume and Vengeance Tour" to Houston's House of Blues on December 11, marking one of the most anticipated heavy metal concert events of the season. The tour, which pairs Queensrÿche with German-American metal titans Accept, began on November 7 in Denver and will stretch across more than 30 U.S. cities before concluding on December 20 in Temecula, California. For Houston fans, the December 11 show represents an opportunity to witness two of metal's most influential and enduring bands sharing a stage in a setting built for intensity, atmosphere, and the up-close connection that both bands are known to deliver in their live performances.

The "Volume and Vengeance Tour" is the result of conversations that have been circulating behind the scenes for many years. Queensrÿche vocalist Todd La Torre explained that both bands have long wished to properly join forces on a full-scale tour, rather than simply appearing together on isolated festival lineups. As La Torre himself put it, "For years and years both bands have discussed wanting to do a proper tour together, and the time has finally arrived. And while we both have our unique stylistic approaches, both bands continue to have a deep and revered history, shared by an amazing fanbase that is sure to enjoy this moment in time. So it is with great pleasure that we invite you to experience the 'Volume And Vengeance Tour' with Queensrÿche and Accept, and be part of metal musical history with us."

For Queensrÿche, this tour comes at a time of renewed artistic momentum and strengthened identity. Formed in the Seattle suburb of Bellevue in 1981, the band quickly distinguished itself from the mainstream American metal sound of the era. Where many U.S. metal bands were leaning into glam theatrics and arena-friendly pop hooks, Queensrÿche drew inspiration from more intricate and atmospheric sources, including the progressive structures of Pink Floyd, the theatrical ambition of Queen, and the hard-edged precision of British metal. Early releases like The Warning and Rage for Order laid a foundation, but it was 1988's groundbreaking concept album Operation: Mindcrime that permanently changed the band's legacy—and arguably heavy metal itself. A complex narrative about corruption, manipulation, and power, Operation: Mindcrime is still widely studied and praised as one of the greatest concept records in rock history. Its follow-up, Empire, propelled the band even further into the mainstream, with the single "Silent Lucidity" becoming a massive hit across radio and MTV and securing Queensrÿche's place as both innovators and commercial heavyweights.

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Queensrÿche

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Over the decades that followed, Queensrÿche navigated lineup changes, stylistic shifts, industry transitions, and the kind of internal growing pains that many long-running bands experience. The most public turning point came in 2012 with the departure of original vocalist Geoff Tate, whose theatrical vocal presence had been central to the band's identity. The entrance of Todd La Torre marked not only a new era, but a restoration of the band's foundational spirit. La Torre, a multi-instrumentalist with deep ties to metal's technical tradition, brought back the sharper-edged, forward-driving sound that defined Queensrÿche's celebrated early years. Guitarist Michael Wilton has been candid about La Torre's impact, stating that La Torre did more than assume a role—he reawakened a creative chemistry that had always been at the heart of the group. "He's a great songwriter, but he's not just a vocalist and a lyric writer," Wilton explained. "He's a drummer. He can play guitar. He grew up in the metal era. And he's got a killer voice. He helped bring back the heavier approach that was always part of who we were."

The band has continued to write and record actively, with 2022's Digital Noise Alliance serving as yet another reaffirmation of Queensrÿche's musical identity—progressive, melodic, powerful, and emotionally textured. Wilton has confirmed that the band is in the early stages of developing new music, although heavy touring schedules mean finding studio time must be carefully planned. Drummer Casey Grillo, who joined in 2017, has become another essential creative contributor, bringing both technical finesse and dynamic energy to the band's live performance and writing process. Grillo's presence reflects the band's ability to evolve while preserving the musical character fans continue to connect with.

Accept's role in this tour adds further historical weight and performance intensity. Emerging from the German metal scene in the late 1970s, Accept helped define the muscular, riff-driven European power metal sound that would later influence bands across multiple continents. Albums such as Restless and Wild, Balls to the Wall, and Metal Heart stand today as cultural benchmarks of the genre. Their performances, even after decades on the global stage, remain charged with raw precision and commanding presence. For many fans, the opportunity to see Queensrÿche and Accept together is not simply convenience—it is a rare alignment of two influential forces who helped shape what metal became on both sides of the Atlantic.

The House of Blues setting adds to the significance of the event. Known for its intimate stage-to-audience layout, strong acoustics, and warm-but-electrified atmosphere, the venue allows fans to experience the technical skill and emotional weight of both bands with clarity and closeness that larger arena venues cannot provide. For those who have followed Queensrÿche since their earliest era, and for newer listeners discovering the band's work through the resurgence of interest in classic and progressive metal, the December 11 performance is likely to be a night that bridges generations—fans who were there in 1988, and fans hearing "Eyes of a Stranger" or "Walk in the Shadows" live for the first time.

Ticket sales for the tour have already shown strong demand nationwide. VIP packages, which include meet-and-greet access, exclusive merchandise, autographed memorabilia, and professional photo opportunities, are available and have been selling quickly in several cities. Given Houston's historically dedicated metal fanbase, early ticket purchasing is strongly recommended.

Queensrÿche and Accept will perform at House of Blues Houston on Wednesday, December 11. Tickets and VIP packages are available through HouseOfBlues.com and QueensrycheOfficial.com. For metal fans, longtime followers, and those who simply value musical performance at its most skilled and intentional, this is a night that promises not just nostalgia, but living history—performed with the passion and power that has defined these bands for more than four decades.



Salsa Legend Rey Ruiz to Bring Romantic Rhythms to The Arena Theatre December 13

By Jose Martinez

Cuban salsa sensation Rey Ruiz, known to fans as "El Bombón de la Salsa" (The Salsa Heartthrob), will perform at The Arena Theatre on Friday, December 13, bringing his signature romantic salsa style to Houston audiences for one unforgettable night.

With a career spanning more than three decades, Ruiz has established himself as one of the most beloved voices in salsa romántica since his breakthrough in the early 1990s. The Havana-born singer, who began his musical journey as a child performer on Cuban television before studying at the prestigious Conservatorio de Música de la Habana, has earned multiple platinum albums and countless awards throughout his illustrious career.

Ruiz's path to international stardom took a dramatic turn in 1991 when he defected from Cuba during a Cabaret Tropicana tour in the Dominican Republic, eventually settling in Miami just as the salsa scene was exploding in the United States. His 1992 self-titled debut album for Sony Records went platinum and earned him the Tropical New Artist of the Year award, launching a remarkable streak of commercial and critical success.

Houston audiences can expect to hear classics from Ruiz's extensive catalog, including hits like "No Me Acostumbro," "Si Te Preguntan," "Estamos Solos," and "Miénteme Otra Vez" – songs that have made him a fixture on Latin music charts for decades. His smooth vocal style and romantic approach to salsa have earned him comparisons to Elvis Presley, with some fans dubbing him "El Elvis de la Salsa."

The concert comes on the heels of Ruiz's June 2024 single release "La Guerra Acaba," which demonstrates the 58-year-old artist's continued relevance in the contemporary salsa scene. Throughout his career, Ruiz has consistently evolved his sound while maintaining the romantic essence that first captured audiences' hearts. His 2023 album "Insuperable" showcased his versatility by reimagining classic standards from around the world with big band arrangements.

Known for his phenomenal stage presence – a quality he references in his signature catchphrase "fenomenal" that appears throughout his music – Ruiz promises to deliver an evening of passionate performance and timeless salsa romántica. His ability to connect with audiences has made him a favorite at major venues including New York's Madison Square Garden, and his Houston appearance is expected to be no exception.

The Arena Theatre, located at 7326 Southwest Freeway, provides an intimate setting perfect for experiencing Ruiz's romantic salsa style. The venue's configuration ensures that every seat offers an excellent view of this legendary performer who has been captivating audiences since his days performing at Havana's famed Tropicana nightclub.

Tickets for Rey Ruiz's December 13 performance at The Arena Theatre are available through the venue's box office and official ticketing partners. Given Ruiz's enduring popularity in Houston's vibrant Latin music community, fans are encouraged to secure their seats early for what promises to be one of the season's premier salsa events.

For more information about the show and ticket availability, visit The Arena Theatre's website or call the box office directly.

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Venezuelan Salsa Star Ronald Borjas to Light Up The Arena Theatre December 13

By Jose Martinez

Venezuelan salsa sensation Ronald Borjas will bring his dynamic vocals and infectious energy to The Arena Theatre on Friday, December 13, promising Houston audiences an unforgettable night of contemporary salsa and romantic ballads.

The Maracaibo-born singer, who rose to international prominence during his 11-year tenure with Venezuela's legendary Guaco superband from 2002 to 2013, has since established himself as one of Latin music's most compelling solo artists. At 43, Borjas continues to captivate audiences with his powerful voice and commanding stage presence that critics have called him one of the most attractive Venezuelan salsa performers of recent times.

Borjas' musical journey began in his hometown of Maracaibo, where he discovered his passion for music at age 10, initially drawn to the timbal before finding his true calling as a vocalist. After studying music at Universidad Cecilio Acosta and performing with various orchestras including Caribe Song, Orquesta Secretos, and Bacanos, his career reached new heights when he joined Guaco, Venezuela's most celebrated musical export.

Since launching his solo career in 2013, Borjas has released three studio albums – "De capo" (2015), "Bailamos otra vez" (2021), and his latest, "Joyas que bailan" (2024). His repertoire spans salsa and pop-balada, showcasing hits like "Te busqué," "Si tú me amas," "Ya lo decidí," and "Dame tu amor" that have resonated throughout Latin America and beyond. His talent earned him a Latin Grammy nomination for Best Tropical Song in 2014.

The multi-instrumentalist, who plays bass, guitar, and trumpet alongside his vocal duties, has collaborated with some of the biggest names in Latin music. His 2023 duet "Te busqué" with salsa legend Tito Nieves and his 2024 collaboration "Y si mañana" with Nicaraguan singer-songwriter Luis Enrique demonstrate his ability to bridge generations and styles within the Latin music world. Earlier this year, he performed with Gilberto Santa Rosa on "Ellas te van llevando," further cementing his status among salsa's elite.

Houston's salsa fans can expect an electrifying performance featuring material from across Borjas' career, including selections from his popular live sessions "Los Pikis éxitos de salsa erótica" series, recorded with fellow Venezuelan artists Nando de la Gente and Adelmo Gauna. Fresh from his appearance at the 2024 Festival De La Salsa in Miami, Borjas arrives in Houston at the peak of his artistic powers.

The Arena Theatre concert represents a special opportunity for Houston's vibrant Venezuelan community and Latin music enthusiasts to experience one of South America's most dynamic performers in an intimate setting. Borjas' ability to seamlessly blend traditional salsa with contemporary pop elements has made him a favorite among both longtime salsa aficionados and younger audiences discovering the genre.

The Arena Theatre, located at 7326 Southwest Freeway, offers the perfect venue for Borjas' passionate performance style. The theater's acoustics and sight lines ensure that every patron will experience the full impact of this Venezuelan powerhouse's musical artistry.

Tickets for Ronald Borjas' December 13 performance at The Arena Theatre are now available through the venue's box office and authorized ticketing outlets. Given the artist's growing popularity in the United States and Houston's strong Latin music scene, early ticket purchase is recommended.

For more information about the show and ticket availability, visit The Arena Theatre's website or contact the box office directly.

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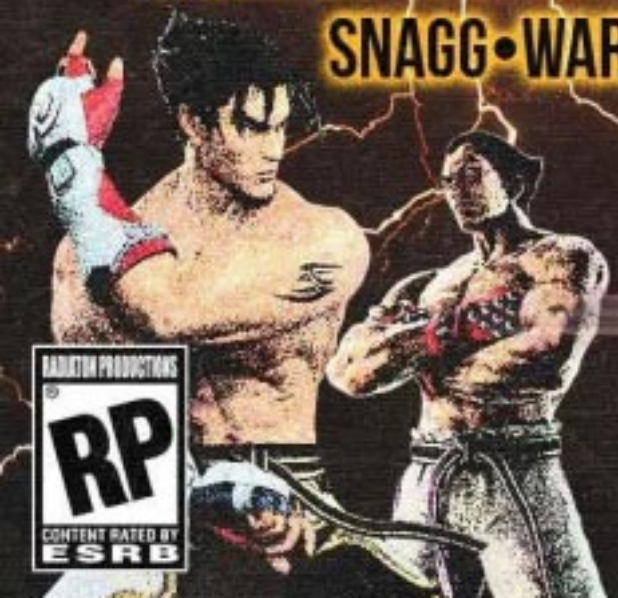
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Nightfall in Motion: Eli & Fur Set to Transform Warehouse Live Midtown with Hypnotic Dance Set

By Albert Schwartz

The acclaimed London-based electronic duo Eli & Fur are set to appear live at Warehouse Live Midtown in Houston, bringing their signature blend of atmospheric house, introspective songwriting, and nocturnal emotional storytelling to one of the city's most beloved performance spaces. For fans of modern electronic music that values depth as much as rhythm, this appearance represents a rare opportunity to step into a sound world that feels both deeply intimate and effortlessly transportive — music that moves the heart as much as it moves the body.

Eli & Fur is the artistic partnership of Eliza Noble and Jennifer Skillman, two lifelong friends who met as teenagers and discovered early on that they shared not just a love for music, but a fascination with how emotion and memory could be shaped through sound. Before they ever stepped onto a stage as DJs or performers, the two were working behind the scenes in London's pop world, writing songs for major British acts including Girls Aloud and The Saturdays. Their background in pop songwriting shaped their sense of structure and melody — but they were also drawn to something more nocturnal, atmospheric, and internal.

That instinct led them into the London club circuit, where they began DJing and immersing themselves in house music of all shades — deep, tech, minimal, melodic, and ambient. The club environment gave them something pop alone did not: freedom. A stage where emotion didn't need to be explained, but simply *felt*. In 2012, they began to release songs under their own imprint, NYX Records, which quickly drew the attention of DJs, music blogs, and listeners who were discovering electronic music not only as a high-energy escape, but as a space for reflection, connection, and introspection.

Their early breakthrough came with the 2013 track "You're So High", a song that captured the imagination of listeners around the world. With its cool, ethereal vocals floating over a restrained but hypnotic groove, it stood apart from the loud, maximalist electronic trends of the time. Where others chased the drop,

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Eli & Fur

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Eli & Fur chased the lingering feeling — the afterglow of a memory that refuses to fade. "You're So High" didn't just climb online charts; it marked the beginning of the duo's emergence as one of the defining voices of emotionally driven house music.

Momentum continued quickly. They were featured on Davidian's "Could Never" on Kitsuné Music and worked with Shadow Child on the Defected release "Seeing Is Believing," while also gaining the attention of the influential Anjunadeep label. Their 2014 single "Feel the Fire" released through Anjunadeep became a milestone, expanding their global audience and connecting them with listeners who gravitate toward melodic, atmospheric, story-driven electronic music. The duo's connection with the label deepened, and they became a recurring presence in the global Anjunadeep touring ecosystem.

Their California Love EP in 2015 introduced an even more emotional and cinematic side to their songwriting, earning them recognition from Beatport as an Artist to Watch and leading to their first North American tour. The duo became known for DJ sets that weren't simply sequences of tracks, but journeys — curated landscapes of rising rhythm, dusky vocal lines, and slow-burning crescendos that dissolve into weightless stillness before building again. Their live presence developed further as they played major festivals including Coachella, Glastonbury, Electric Daisy Carnival, and Tomorrowland — stages where they managed to create moments of stillness and intimacy even in front of massive crowds.

In 2018, they released the Night-Blooming Jasmine EP, a moody and beautifully restrained collection of songs that captured the emotional electricity of nighttime — the way darkness brings truth to the surface. The EP became one of the defining releases of their career and cemented their role as artists who create electronic music not just for dancing, but for feeling.

Their 2021 debut full-length album, Found in the Wild, represented a major artistic milestone. Designed as a record in *two halves*, one part showcased their pop songwriting sensibilities — warm chords, lyrical clarity, and emotional storytelling — while the other part focused on the hypnotic club sequences that define their DJ sets. The duality of the album reflected the duality of their identity: always shifting between spaces inward and outward, personal and communal, whispered and pulsing. Critics praised the record for its emotional maturity and ability to merge two worlds without compromise.

Following collaborations with artists such as Camden Cox and MEDUZA — including the 2023 single "Pegasus", which became a staple across international DJ playlists — Eli & Fur continued developing what would become their second full-length release. By 2024, their sound had evolved again, emerging in the form of Dreamscapes, an album shaped by quiet hours, blurred edges, early mornings, empty roads, and thoughts that only arrive when the world is still. It is an album concerned with the emotional landscapes between dusk and dawn — the spaces where clarity and memory become fluid and open.

This is the sound Eli & Fur now bring to the stage — not maximalist spectacle, but a beautifully controlled atmosphere that speaks of inner worlds, quiet revelations, and deep emotional resonance. Their performances are less like concerts and more like guided journeys, where rhythm becomes a pulse, melody becomes memory, and the audience is invited to step inside and feel instead of simply watch.

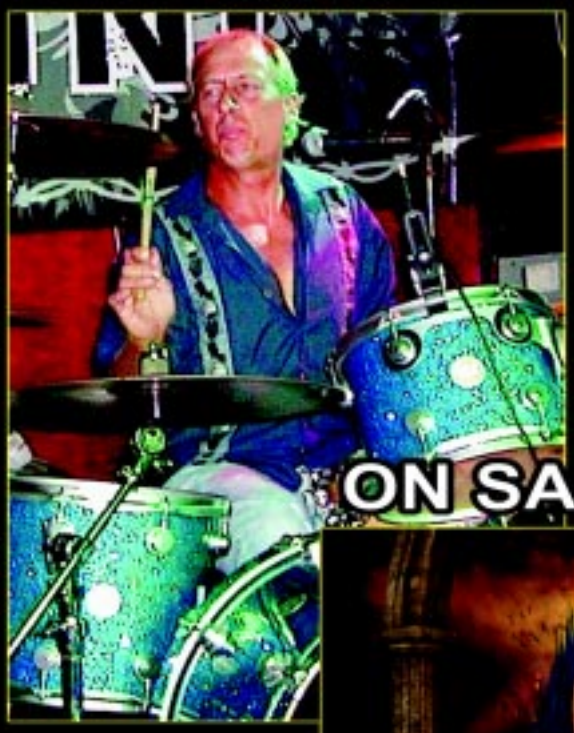
When Eli & Fur arrive at Warehouse Live Midtown, the room will become that dream space — dim lights, warm bass, breath-soft vocals, beats that feel like the slow draw of nighttime breathing. The venue's intimate layout makes it the perfect environment for the duo's music, where listeners will be close enough to feel the ebb and flow of every shift and subtle movement.

For Houston's electronic music community, this is more than a show — it is a night to dissolve into sound and emerge changed, however quietly.

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Christone “Kingfish” Ingram Brings the Soul of Modern Blues to White Oak Music Hall on December 7

By Robert Wilkins

Christone “Kingfish” Ingram, one of the brightest and most electrifying young stars in American blues, will bring his soulful fire and genre-blending guitar mastery to White Oak Music Hall on Sunday, December 7, 2025. For Houston fans, this performance represents far more than a concert — it’s a chance to experience a once-in-a-generation musician who’s redefining what the blues can sound like in the modern era.

Born in Clarksdale, Mississippi — the same Delta soil that gave rise to legends like Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker — Christone “Kingfish” Ingram carries the lineage of the blues deep within his DNA, but his sound belongs firmly to the twenty-first century. Still only in his mid-twenties, Kingfish has already built a résumé that most artists spend decades chasing. His music bridges generations, fusing traditional blues grit with the visceral edge of rock, the emotional depth of R&B, and the rhythmic swagger of hip-hop. When he steps on stage, his tone, technique, and presence recall the giants of the past while pushing the genre into thrilling, uncharted territory.

It’s a remarkable journey for a young man who began playing drums at the age of six, bass at nine, and guitar by eleven. Ingram’s introduction to the blues came when his father showed him a documentary on Muddy Waters — an experience that changed the course of his life. His parents recognized his passion and bought him his first guitar, enrolling him in classes at Clarksdale’s famed Delta Blues Museum, where he came under the guidance of local icons Bill “Howl-N-Madd” Perry and Daddy Rich. Perry saw the spark in the boy’s playing and affectionately nicknamed him “Kingfish,” a name that would stick as the young guitarist quickly earned a reputation for his dazzling skill and old-soul feel.

By his early teens, Ingram was already turning heads well beyond Mississippi. He appeared at Clarksdale’s Ground Zero Blues Club, played for First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House in 2014 as part of a student performance from the Delta Blues Museum, and won the Rising Star Award from the Rhythm & Blues Foundation the following year. Around that same time, blues drummer Tony Coleman — known for his long tenure with B.B. King — arranged for Ingram to meet King himself, an encounter that solidified Kingfish’s connection to the heart of the blues tradition.

The years that followed saw his talent blossom into national attention. Blues guitarist Eric Gales invited Ingram to perform on his 2017 album *Middle of the Road*, and soon the praise began pouring in from some of the biggest names in music. Legends like Buddy Guy, Bootsy Collins, Dave Grohl, and Rakim all took notice of the young phenom. Hollywood soon came calling as well: producers for the hit Netflix/Marvel series *Luke Cage* cast Ingram in a supporting role, featuring his performances of “The Thrill Is Gone” and “I Put a Spell on You” on the show’s soundtrack.

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Christone “Kingfish” Ingram

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When he released his debut album *Kingfish* in 2019, produced by Tom Hambridge and featuring guest appearances from Buddy Guy and Keb’ Mo’, it confirmed what the blues world already suspected — that Ingram wasn’t just a promising talent, but a force of nature. His playing had both muscle and emotion, weaving together thunderous modern blues-rock riffs with moments of delicate, acoustic introspection. The album was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Traditional Blues Album, and at the Blues Music Awards, Ingram walked away with five trophies, including Album of the Year.

His follow-up, *662*, arrived in 2021 and took its title from the area code of his native Mississippi Delta. Like its predecessor, the album was co-written and produced with Hambridge, capturing Kingfish at a creative high point. It was a record that revealed both growth and grit — songs that spoke of identity, resilience, and a deep love for the musical heritage that shaped him. *662* earned another Grammy nomination and cemented Ingram as one of the key torchbearers of modern blues.

In 2023, he released *Live in London*, a vivid, two-disc snapshot of his explosive touring band, featuring drummer Christopher Black, bassist Paul Rogers, and keyboardist Deshawn Alexander. Recorded in front of a sold-out U.K. audience, the album captured Kingfish at his most spontaneous and fiery, stretching songs across extended improvisations that showcased his uncanny ability to make the guitar sing, shout, and whisper.

Now, in 2025, Christone “Kingfish” Ingram enters a new phase of his career — one marked by creative independence and reinvention. Early this year, he founded his own label, Red Zero Records, and began releasing a series of singles that expanded his sonic universe even further. Collaborations with Playing For Change, Sierra Hull, and Keb’ Mo’ led to a stirring cover of “Crossroads” for the soundtrack of Ryan Coogler’s film *Sinners*. Each new release hinted at a broader musical palette: the gritty funk of “Bad Like Me,” the Chicago-style drive of “Voodoo Charm,” and the soul-soaked warmth of “Nothing But Your Love.”

That creative momentum culminated in September with the release of *Hard Road*, an 11-track studio album that critics have called his most personal and adventurous work to date. On *Hard Road*, Kingfish explores themes of love, loss, identity, and redemption with an emotional honesty rarely found in contemporary blues. The record blends thick, swampy grooves with introspective slow-burners, bringing together the best of his influences — from B.B. King and Albert Collins to Prince, Hendrix, and D’Angelo. It’s an album that reaffirms his command of tradition while proving that he’s equally comfortable pushing beyond it.

The December 7 show at White Oak Music Hall will showcase music from across his career — the searing solos of *Kingfish*, the anthemic drive of *662*, the live improvisations of *Live in London*, and the introspective storytelling of *Hard Road*. Fans can expect to see a performer at the height of his powers, surrounded by a crack touring band that balances tight precision with room for spontaneity. Ingram’s guitar tone — thick, singing, and deeply expressive — remains the centerpiece, but his voice and songwriting have evolved into equally potent tools.

More than just a technical virtuoso, Ingram plays with emotional intelligence, channeling every note through his life experience. You can hear the Mississippi Delta in his bends, the pain and joy of the blues in his phrasing, and the restless creativity of modern music in his arrangements. He’s an artist who’s not content to imitate the past; he’s reshaping it for the present.

In a musical landscape where genres blur and attention spans are fleeting, Kingfish stands out as an artist who demands to be heard in full — live, loud, and in person. His concerts are immersive, heartfelt celebrations of everything the blues can still mean: joy, struggle, catharsis, and release. Each solo feels like a conversation with history, and every lyric carries the weight of both tradition and youth.

When he takes the stage at White Oak Music Hall this December, the energy will be electric. For Houston’s vibrant blues community, this is more than another date on the calendar — it’s a homecoming of sorts, a chance to witness one of the most gifted young artists in America channeling the spirit of the Delta into the heart of the city. Christone “Kingfish” Ingram isn’t just the future of the blues — he’s its living, breathing present, and he’s ready to make White Oak tremble with every note.

Tickets are available now through White Oak Music Hall’s official website and authorized ticket outlets. Doors open at 7 p.m. This will be a night where the blues are alive, evolving, and unapologetically loud — a celebration of a legacy carried forward by a young artist whose time has truly arrived.

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Ghostland Observatory Brings a Laser-Lit, Adrenaline Rush to White Oak Music Hall on Dec. 29

By Nathan Pugh

Ghostland Observatory's return to Houston has been a long time coming. On Sunday, December 29, the Austin-based electro-rock duo will bring their wildly cinematic live show to White Oak Music Hall, closing out the year with a kaleidoscopic storm of light, rhythm, and raw electricity. For fans who've been waiting years to see the band perform again, the date carries the weight of both nostalgia and new beginnings—a long-awaited reunion between one of Texas' most dynamic live acts and the audiences that helped turn their performances into modern legend.

Ghostland Observatory has never been a group you simply listen to. They are an experience—an interstellar collision of laser beams, pounding synths, and primal rock energy that transcends genre. Their music vibrates somewhere between electronic euphoria and rock 'n' roll rebellion, driven by frontman Aaron Behrens' soaring falsetto and producer Thomas Turner's unrelenting command of rhythm and light. Together, they've created a sound that blurs boundaries and a live presence that ignites rooms into orbit. When Ghostland takes the stage, they don't just perform; they detonate.

For many fans, this show represents the end of a half-decade wait. It's been years since Houston audiences last stood shoulder to shoulder beneath Ghostland's pulsing lasers, and the anticipation has been building like pressure in the air. Those who remember the band's earlier performances recall the sensory overload—the moment when the lights went dark, the synths kicked in, and the crowd transformed from a static audience into a kinetic wave of energy. The memory lingers not because of a single song, but because of the atmosphere they create—something spiritual in its intensity, something almost ritualistic.

When they hit the stage at White Oak Music Hall, expect a show that travels through a full emotional and sonic spectrum. Ghostland doesn't play in straight lines. They build tension and release in cycles, crafting a rollercoaster of rhythm and sensation. The night will surge through adrenaline-soaked peaks where the crowd jumps in unison, the floor trembling beneath their feet, and then sink into moments of seductive

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Wednesday, December 10 - Wednesday Night Jam with Bob Emmons
Thursday, December 11 - Tyson Webb
Friday, December 12 - Daddy Longnecks
Saturday, December 13 - Chris Castaneda
Sunday, December 14 - Katie's Sunday Blues Jam with guest host Jay Hooks
Wednesday, December 17 - Wednesday Night Jam with Chris Castaneda
Thursday, December 18 - Josh Gasarret
Friday, December 19 - Pierce And The Purple Moon
Saturday, December 20 - Dirtbags
Sunday, December 21 - Katie's Sunday Blues Jam with guest host Felix & The Cats
Wednesday, December 24 - Wednesday Night Jam with Bob Emmons
Thursday, December 25 - Merry Christmas
Friday, December 26 - Felix & The Cats
Saturday, December 27 - Jay Hooks
Sunday, December 28 - Katie's Sunday Blues Jam with guest host Jay Hooks
Wednesday, December 31 - New Year's Eve with The Big Jordan Band

Katie's Blues Jam
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Ghostland Observatory

continued from previous page

calm, where the lights dim and the music slows to a heartbeat, drawing everyone in close before the next eruption of energy. That contrast is their art—the juxtaposition between chaos and intimacy, sound and silence, light and shadow.

Fans who've seen them describe their shows with awe. "Amazing show! All of my expectations were exceeded," said one recent concertgoer. "Well worth the half-decade-long wait. They take you through adrenaline-filled, crowd-jumping moments to sensual intersessions. Production was as colorful as it was clever. Could not recommend enough to people who enjoy live music. Or lasers in general." That statement captures Ghostland's essence. They're not a nostalgia act; they're a living, breathing experiment in what happens when performance art, technology, and unfiltered passion meet on the same stage.

The White Oak date feels particularly special—not just because of the timing, but because of the venue itself. Known for its excellent acoustics, open floor design, and intimate proximity to the stage, White Oak Music Hall is a space built for connection. When Ghostland brings their full production into that setting, the room will become a living, pulsating organism. The lasers will dance through the haze, slicing across faces illuminated by LED bursts and reflected color. The bass will roll like thunder, shaking walls and stirring every heartbeat into rhythm. It will be immersive, overwhelming, and unforgettable.

Their shows are often described as "transformative" for good reason. Ghostland's performances are carefully engineered to be sensory journeys. Thomas Turner's setup—rows of synths, drums, and sequencers—serves as the nervous system for the entire production, while Behrens becomes its pulse, a frontman who channels both shamanic presence and rock 'n' roll chaos. He moves like a spark caught in a current, pulling the crowd along with him. The sound expands outward, every beat and laser beam calibrated to trigger both instinct and emotion. It's not about spectacle for spectacle's sake; it's about communion, about the connection between performer and audience in a shared, explosive moment of release.

At its best, a Ghostland Observatory concert is a conversation between light and sound. The duo's artistic vision extends far beyond the music—it's in the design, the timing, the visuals, the pacing. Their use of lasers is more than decoration; it's choreography. Each burst of light is synchronized with rhythm, color-coded to mood, and layered to create a living canvas. As fans move, the light moves with them, wrapping the entire space in color and motion. It's the kind of experience that turns casual observers into devotees.

Houston has always been good to Ghostland Observatory. From their early days performing in small clubs to their later, sold-out spectacles, the city has embraced their blend of art, energy, and experimentation. This return to White Oak is both a homecoming and a renewal—a chance for longtime fans to reconnect and for newcomers to finally understand what all the excitement is about. It's also a reminder of how vital live music remains, especially at a time when so much of our entertainment lives behind screens. A Ghostland show is the antithesis of passive experience—it's participatory, physical, and immediate.

As the year draws to a close, their December 29 performance promises to be a fitting finale to 2025—a night of intensity, beauty, and total immersion. Expect fans from across the region to make the trip, drawn by the promise of that singular Ghostland atmosphere. The night will start with anticipation, swell into chaos, and end with that familiar glow—the post-show haze when your ears are still ringing, your pulse is still racing, and you're wondering how soon you can see them again.

For Houston's live music faithful, this show is shaping up to be one of the year's defining moments. It's the kind of concert that will leave you exhilarated, exhausted, and smiling at the sky on your way out the door, lasers still burning behind your eyelids. For those who crave live performance that goes beyond sound and into sensation, Ghostland Observatory's appearance at White Oak Music Hall will be the event to mark on your calendar. Come ready to move, ready to sweat, ready to surrender. The wait is over—Ghostland is coming home.



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Alex Skolnick Trio Brings Genre-Bending Jazz to Dosey Doe Big Barn on January 8

By Albert Schwartz

Brooklyn's Alex Skolnick Trio will perform at Dosey Doe Big Barn on January 8, bringing one of the most exciting and shape-shifting live jazz experiences to The Woodlands this month. Known for smashing genre boundaries and defying musical expectations, the Trio blends jazz sophistication, rock intensity, and fearless improvisation into a sound that resonates with jazz lovers, classic rock fans, and metal audiences alike.

The group is led by Alex Skolnick, a world-renowned guitarist best known as one of the founding members of the legendary thrash metal band Testament, where he helped define a generation of high-intensity guitar playing. A protégé of Joe Satriani, Skolnick became internationally known as one of metal's most gifted and expressive lead players before shifting course entirely — immersing himself in the world of jazz, eventually earning a degree in Jazz Performance from The New School in New York City.

It was the beginning of a second act few could have predicted, and even fewer could emulate.

The Alex Skolnick Trio has now become a global touring force, performing at major jazz festivals, headlining international venues, and sharing stages with artists like Rodrigo y Gabriela at storied landmarks including Radio City Music Hall and London's Shepherd's Bush Empire. Their music has been praised by Billboard, NPR, Downbeat, and countless critics who admire the Trio's rare ability to bring both sophistication and adrenaline to the stage.

The Trio's latest album, Prove You're Not a Robot (2025 / MoonJune Records), is their sixth studio release and captures every-

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Alex Skolnick Trio

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thing that has made the group a standout act across genres — daring original compositions, electrifying improvisation, and bold reimaginings of songs by artists ranging from Tom Petty to Chick Corea. The album carries a playful challenge to the listener: stay human, stay awake, stay engaged. It's music meant to be felt, not just heard.

Skolnick's musical journey has never followed a traditional path. After his initial rise with Testament, Skolnick stepped out of the world of heavy metal at the height of its acclaim to explore something more personal and exploratory. His curiosity led him from metal clubs to jazz clubs, from international rock festivals to intimate acoustic rooms, and from the mosh pit to the thoughtful hush of late-night jazz audiences. Along the way, he recorded with Trans-Siberian Orchestra, toured with Savatage, contributed to Metal Allegiance, and even recorded with Lamb of God — all while building a completely separate identity in the jazz world.

This dual lineage — metal and jazz — is what makes the Alex Skolnick Trio unlike any other group on the touring circuit. Skolnick performs jazz with the emotional intensity of a rock guitarist, and plays rock with the nuance and phrasing of a jazz improviser. The result isn't fusion — it's something far more personal, fluid, and authentic.

Onstage, the Trio is known for dynamic sets that shift organically from deep swing to atmospheric soundscapes to fiery bursts of melodic improvisation. Their performances feel alive — unscripted, responsive, playful, and deeply in-the-moment. No two shows are the same, and audiences often walk away with the sense that they witnessed something not just performed, but created right there in the room.

Dosey Doe Big Barn, known for its warm acoustics, intimate environment, and deep appreciation for musicianship, is the ideal setting for the Trio's upcoming performance. The venue's close-up sightlines and resonant wood interior will allow attendees to hear every subtle detail and every explosive burst of energy — the quietest brush of cymbal, the slow burn of a melodic line, and the full crackle of improvisation at its peak.

For fans of jazz, rock, metal, and boundary-pushing guitar artistry, January 8 will be a night to remember — a rare chance to hear one of the world's most distinctive guitar voices in a space designed for deep musical connection.

Alex Skolnick Trio
January 8 – Dosey Doe Big Barn
A night of fire, finesse, and fearless musical conversation.

The Biker & Some Crazy Ass December Experiences



I'm not saying it happened but then again I am not saying it didn't happen. I am saying I was there. People that talk about UFO's are never looked at the same way but then again when in Rome as the saying goes do as the Romans do. In New Mexico and not just Roswell the entire state is touchy about such talk. Enough so that I began to wonder if I should walk around with aluminum foil on my head. Good people, smart people, very nice people but they are definitely into their sightings. Not too surprising either because when you leave a place named Marfa Texas and head west into New Mexico the stars in the sky go all the way up to heaven. They're clear as can be and the only sounds you hear are of the night. More than once while setting up camp in the rather desolate desert and mountainous areas of the land of enchantment I turned on Witchy Woman by the Eagles and A Horse With No Name by America. Sometimes even Hotel California. The night can stir the soul and while not creepy it can be eye opening. The American Indians could feel the night embracing the soul and highly respected it. I started a small campfire and chomped away on some beef jerky. Sometimes when you get in touch with the outdoors you just take it all in not even talking to yourself but looking and listening in awe. What is really cool about it is that the nightly commotions and noises felt in any city are noticeably absent when you are away from it. If you are comfortable in your own skin you meld with the night. Your soul fills with either incoming thoughts, revelations, of everlasting life that is bigger than yourself, bigger than humanity. The Indians still feel it and celebrate its presence. Now what doesn't fit into this compelling tapestry is when the cosmic connection gets all too real. For example you look up and see something speeding through the sky and it circles back and hovers. Oh yes that will get your attention. Not a good time to hear the lyric "and she drove herself to madness with a silver spoon". So there I was with my iron horse that had no name and a boat load of curiosity. I felt like I had checked in and wondered if I could check out. You might wonder what I am talking about and let me tell you it was what you read about in the Enquirer or another tabloid. This thing, this super fast flying thing, this red streak tail was all I could see at first and then it turned around and came back. Well at least it seemed that way. It slowed down but all I could see was this white dot like a bright star might look like in a clear night sky. It was getting larger as it seemed to be getting closer but it was not scary. It just generated this huge amount of curiosity within me. I had already made up my mind that if anal probing was on their mind well homey ain't into that. Then I thought no most likely it was the air force doing some kind of testing on a new type of aircraft at night. However, whatever it was my curiosity was on maximum for sure. A brief gust of wind came up and it felt good, relaxing, and my mind attempted to move on to other topics but no luck this was really interesting. Soon as fast as it circled back my way it turned and zoomed super fast in the opposite direction. I was reminded of the scene from Easy Rider when Peter and Dennis were sitting by the campfire. Not much else going on just the night sky and candid conversation. All I had were my thoughts, which had been inhabited by thoughts of aliens, space ships and government experiments. In the morning my hunger alarm went off and it was time to move northwest toward Albuquerque

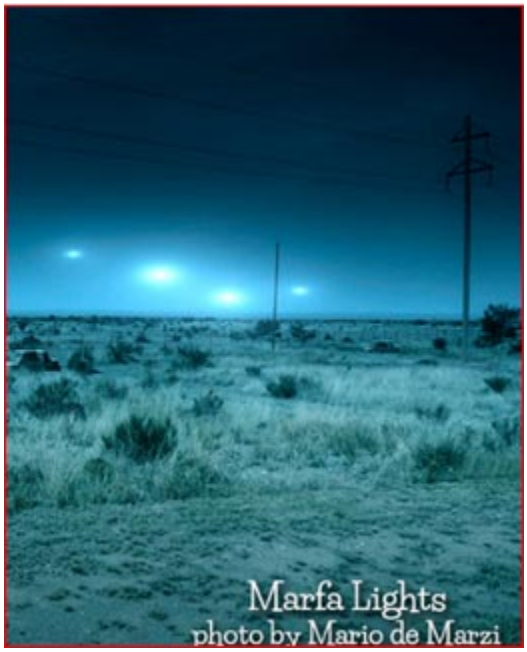




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The Biker & Some Crazy Ass December Experiences

from the Marfa area of Texas. It's about three and a half hours to Las Cruces so if I could get close to Las Cruces and find a motel that would be good. First stop was in Van Horn Texas at the El Ranchito Restaurant. Nice place, friendly, food was good and then I moved on. I still had the experience from the night before on my mind but nothing earth shaking banging around inside. About two and half hours more to Las Cruces but the nice part was that it's just about all freeway riding on Interstate 10. Other than grabbing some gas and checking the oil nothing held me up. I rode just past Anthony Texas and decided to stop for awhile at a roadside rest. As I sat there a young family, Mom, Dad and two kids got out of an SUV and used the facilities. Then they sat at a table close to mine. The young boy asked his father if telescopes only see pictures in the sky or do some of them hear noises? His father was delighted with the question and told him that actually there are both kinds. So then the young boy wanted to know well if that is correct then how come we never see or hear UFOs? Ok now they had my interest too. He told his son that over time we may hear things and see things we cannot explain. Basically, the government may not think we are adult enough to handle the truth. I sat there going to myself huh, what? Then he told his son that tonight as the drove north to look through the sun roof and you just might see something special. I thought what the hell does that infer? Why play around with some kid and get him all worked up with expectations. Then his father said something that really prompted my curiosity. He said all the years that he worked at NASA there were times that we learned about things in the sky that we couldn't talk about. All I can tell you is that there is something or some things in our skies. Whoa! Anyone got a scotch and a cigar? This is just too cool especially after the night before. I was only about thirty minutes out of Las Cruces so no need to rush going north so I didn't. Another biker pulled up and parked next to my bike. He came over, said hi, placed his helmet on the picnic bench were I was sitting and went inside the facility. When he came out he asked me if I was there to see the lights. I asked what lights? He said man the skies just up the way normally light up this time of year. Ok so by this time with the night sky the night before, over hearing a conversation about UFOs and then this guy asking me if I was there to see the lights well it was getting a bit freaky. I told him it was my first







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The Biker & Some Crazy Ass December Experiences



left and goes west to Deming New Mexico. Now if you read my articles you may remember that about three years ago I wrote a piece for Music News about a pretty girl hitchhiking by the freeway and her Dad being the sheriff. Some things you don't learn until much later. That was an experience that I will not forget for a long time. That woman was a wild child and she took me places and we didn't even leave the room. No siree. Mick Jagger might sing "I've been holding out so long, I've been sleeping all alone Lord, I miss you" You know the more I think about it I really do like New Mexico. The motel front desk guy told me about a combination restaurant and distillery named Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery. Nice day so I sat outside, lit a cigar, ordered a scotch and some bar food. That stretched into a couple or three hours and by now I was ready for the night sky. New Mexico did not disappoint, that sky was full of stars and some fast moving objects and it didn't cost me a dime. I just had to show up and kick back and so I did. If you are a scooter person try New Mexico. I am going back again, lots more to explore. As I close out the year I want to say thanks to Music News for running my articles. It's been somewhere around three years now so that's about thirty to thirty six issues. Wow you guys are a glutton for punishment putting up with me and my musings. Wishing everyone peace -

The Biker



time making this run and he said it was his third or fourth. He said some years the night sky looks like it is playing ping pong with something and you can see trails zooming across the night sky. All I could think to say was "really?" He assured me that if the sky was right I would see what he means. I nodded ok. I asked him if he knew of a no tell motel that welcomed bikers in Las Cruces and he said he did and shared it with me. I accessed the GPS on my phone and sure enough there it was so I was off and running. As I was riding along I began to wonder about what I thought might be an airbase located north of Las Cruces. Hmmm that would be interesting if it were tied into these trailing light shows somehow. When you enter into Las Cruces Interstate 10 veers to the





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Home for the Holidays Brings Carolyn Wonderland, Shelley King, Rosie Flores & Kevin Russell to The Heights Theatre December 19

By Robert Wilkins

Houston will be treated to a rare night of musical fellowship on December 19, when *Home for the Holidays* brings four celebrated Texas artists — Carolyn Wonderland, Shelley King, Rosie Flores, and Kevin Russell — together on one stage at The Heights Theatre. More than a concert, this evening is a gathering of powerful voices, rich histories, shared roots, and decades of musical storytelling that represent the very heart of Texas music. This is a showcase of artistry shaped by long highways, late-night jam sessions, dancehalls, honky-tonks, theaters, and festival stages — a living tapestry of the music that defines the Lone Star spirit.

The event reflects a tradition that has always been strong in Texas: musicians lifting one another up, sharing songs openly, and treating the stage as a communal home. On a night dedicated to reflection and joy, the performers will trade songs, stories, and spontaneous musical moments. Audiences can expect original material, holiday songs reimagined through Texas soul and Americana flavor, surprising collaborations, and the unmistakable sense of warmth that comes from artists who know and deeply respect one another.

Born and raised in Houston, Carolyn Wonderland has long been recognized as one of the most arresting voices and guitar talents to emerge from the Texas blues tradition. From her teenage days performing at Fitzgerald's to decades spent on the road, Wonderland has built a career defined not by hype, but by sheer skill and emotional depth. Her guitar work — fierce, fluid, expressive — has drawn comparisons to the great Stevie Ray Vaughan, while her vocals carry the raspy soul-fire of Janis Joplin. Wonderland is just as likely to stun a room with a quiet whisper as she is with a roaring blues crescendo. Her ability to whistle melodies with pitch-true clarity adds another unexpected dimension to her performances, a musical signature that audiences never forget. With a global touring schedule and her tenure as guitarist in John Mayall's Blues Breakers, Wonderland stands today not only as a torchbearer of the Texas blues, but as an innovator continuing to expand and uplift the tradition.

Shelley King, a former Texas State Musician, brings her gift for songwriting and heartfelt storytelling. Her music blends blues, gospel, folk, and roots-rock, creating songs that feel lived in, familiar, and deeply human. Raised between Arkansas and Texas, King developed her voice in the presence of musical elders, learning both the craft of songwriting and the responsibility of community. She has spent her life touring from town to town, building her audience one room, one conversation, one chorus at a time. Her collaborations read like a family tree of Texas heritage: Marcia Ball, Sarah Brown, Cindy Cashdollar, Carolyn Wonderland, Delbert McClinton, and countless others. King has always described music not as an industry, but as a *connection* — a sentiment that resonates powerfully during the holiday season.

Where Wonderland and King carry deep Texas roots, Rosie Flores represents a pioneering—and often trailblazing—force in American music. With a radiant stage presence and unmistakable voice, she carved space for women in genres historically dominated by men, becoming the first Latina artist ever to appear on Billboard's country charts. Over the years, Flores has evolved from San Antonio's rockabilly queen into a respected cultural guardian, helping revive the careers of Wanda Jackson and Janis Martin while nurturing the next generation of roots musicians. Flores' decades of work were honored in 2024, when she was named a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow, one of the highest cultural honors in the United States. Her music bridges decades of tradition — from Western swing and rockabilly to Tejano roots and Americana — always delivered with fire, humor, and undeniable swagger.

Rounding out the evening is Kevin Russell, the larger-than-life frontman of the beloved Shinyribs, and formerly of The Gourds. Russell is known for his soulful voice, quick-witted stage banter, and joyful, theatrical performance style. Whether leading a full band or playing intimate acoustic songs, Russell brings warmth and levity, turning live shows into celebrations of community. He has a rare ability to make audiences feel included — singing along, laughing, and leaning into the moment together. His music draws from Gulf Coast swamp-pop, Louisiana soul, East Texas roots, and the timeless spirit of front-porch storytelling.

The Heights Theatre is the perfect setting for this event. Its intimate size, warm acoustics, and restored architectural charm foster a closeness between audience and performer that few venues can achieve. The room feels personal. The music feels near. And on a night devoted to friendship and reflection, that atmosphere becomes its own part of the performance.

Home for the Holidays *is not simply a lineup of accomplished artists — it is a gathering of musicians who have traveled similar roads, shared stages, swapped songs, and supported one another through decades of creativity and growth. The stories behind the music will be just as meaningful as the performances themselves: stories of long drives between shows, nights spent in dancehall parking lots, borrowed guitars, shared meals, borrowed rooms, heartbreak turned into melody, laughter turned into harmony.*

At a time of year when the world slows, memories settle in, and people gather close, this concert invites Houston to come together in the spirit of home — to listen, to celebrate, and to feel part of something bigger.

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Music News En Español



William Beckman



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William Beckmann Trae Su Gira Navideña Las Posadas al Bayou Music Center el 20 de Diciembre

Por Jose Martinez

El cantautor nacido en Texas, William Beckmann, traerá su celebrada Gira Navideña Las Posadas al Bayou Music Center el 20 de diciembre, ofreciendo a Houston una celebración cálida, animada y musicalmente rica de la temporada. Ahora en su cuarto año, la gira se ha convertido en una querida tradición anual para Beckmann y sus fanáticos, mezclando clásicos navideños con estándares de crooner, favoritos en español y originales cuidadosamente seleccionados que destacan su distintiva voz, herencia cultural y maestría musical.

La gira Las Posadas está inspirada en tradiciones culturales extraídas de la crianza de Beckmann en Del Rio, Texas, un pueblo en la frontera donde las reuniones navideñas tratan tanto de comunidad y narración de historias como de música. Los espectáculos de este año contarán con una banda completa creada exclusivamente para la gira, incluyendo una sección completa de metales, añadiendo calidez y grandeza vintage a la presentación. Cada concierto está diseñado no simplemente como un show en vivo, sino como una experiencia navideña compartida enraizada en la unión, la gratitud y la conexión musical.

Tan significativa como la música misma es la causa detrás de la gira. El 100% de las ganancias de las ventas de boletos VIP serán donadas directamente al Fondo de Ayuda Vaqueros Del Mar de George Strait para apoyar a las familias afectadas por las recientes inundaciones de Texas. Para Beckmann, devolver no es una obligación, sino una responsabilidad.

"La Navidad se trata de reunirse y estar con la familia", compartió Beckmann al anunciar la gira. "Este año me uniré con Vaqueros Del Mar para ayudar con el alivio de las inundaciones de Texas. Todas las ventas de boletos VIP de estos shows serán donadas a esta causa. Queremos hacer nuestro mejor esfuerzo para ayudar a las familias que fueron afectadas por esta tragedia".

La gira llega al final de un año histórico para Beckmann. Solo en 2025, realizó más de 100 espectáculos, apareció en los Premios de la Academia de Música Country, y sirvió como apoyo directo para actos incluyendo Flatland Cavalry, Midland y Parker McCollum. En julio, Beckmann se unió a George Strait en el escenario en su concierto benéfico Strait To The Heart, ayudando a recaudar más de $6 millones para los esfuerzos de ayuda por inundaciones—una experiencia que ha llamado uno de los momentos más significativos de su carrera.

El ascenso de Beckmann ha sido constante y orgánico, formado no por exposición de la noche a la mañana sino por giras, composición y narración de historias enraizadas en la autenticidad. Nacido y criado en un rancho ganadero, su infancia estuvo llena de los sonidos del country clásico, mariachi, norteño y las voces atemporales transmitidas entre familias y generaciones. Su crianza bilingüe continúa moldeando su música hoy; regularmente incluye canciones en español en sus presentaciones en vivo como una forma de honrar las tradiciones e identidades que lo formaron. "Las personas que nunca han escuchado canciones en español antes piensan que es único, y para las personas que son hispanas, se sienten vistas y representadas", ha dicho.

Beckmann ganó atención de la industria por primera vez con sus EPs auto-lanzados Outskirts of Town y Faded Memories, el último conteniendo su tema revelación "Bourbon Whiskey". Su carrera se aceleró después de que su emotiva interpretación de "Volver, Volver" se volviera viral tras su debut en el Grand Ole Opry en 2023. Conocido por su profundo barítono resonante y su estilo narrativo que recuerda a Roy Orbison, George Strait y Vicente Fernández, Beckmann ha forjado un sonido que se siente a la vez clásico, nacido en la frontera y distintivamente moderno.

Su próximo álbum debut con un sello importante, Whiskey Lies & Alibis, programado para lanzarse el próximo verano a través de Warner Music Nashville, capturará lo que Beckmann describe como "una instantánea en el tiempo" — un álbum construido para perdurar, reflejar y contar la verdad de dónde se encuentra ahora como artista y como hombre.

Pero antes de que llegue ese próximo capítulo, Beckmann cierra 2025 con algo más personal, comunitario y sincero: el simple acto de compartir música, cultura y calidez navideña con las personas que lo han llevado adelante.

El 20 de diciembre, el Bayou Music Center se convertirá en algo más que un lugar — se convertirá en un lugar de reunión, un momento de conexión, un recordatorio de los lazos que mantienen unidas a las familias, vecinos y comunidades.



La Leyenda de la Salsa Rey Ruiz Traerá Sus Ritmos Románticos al Arena Theatre el 13 de Diciembre

Por Jose Martinez

La sensación cubana de la salsa Rey Ruiz, conocido por sus fanáticos como “El Bombón de la Salsa”, se presentará en el Arena Theatre el viernes 13 de diciembre, trayendo su distintivo estilo de salsa romántica al público de Houston para una noche inolvidable.

Con una carrera que abarca más de tres décadas, Ruiz se ha establecido como una de las voces más queridas de la salsa romántica desde su gran éxito a principios de los años noventa. El cantante nacido en La Habana, quien comenzó su trayectoria musical como artista infantil en la televisión cubana antes de estudiar en el prestigioso Conservatorio de Música de la Habana, ha ganado múltiples álbumes de platino e innumerables premios a lo largo de su ilustre carrera.

El camino de Ruiz hacia el estrellato internacional tomó un giro dramático en 1991 cuando desertó de Cuba durante una gira del Cabaret Tropicana en la República Dominicana, estableciéndose finalmente en Miami justo cuando la escena de la salsa estaba explotando en Estados Unidos. Su álbum debut homónimo de 1992 con Sony Records alcanzó disco de platino y le valió el premio de Artista Nuevo Tropical del Año, lanzando una notable racha de éxito comercial y crítico.

El público de Houston puede esperar escuchar clásicos del extenso catálogo de Ruiz, incluyendo éxitos como “No Me Acostumbro”, “Si Te Preguntan”, “Estamos Solos” y “Miénteme Otra Vez” – canciones que lo han convertido en un elemento fijo en las listas de música latina durante décadas. Su suave estilo vocal y su enfoque romántico de la salsa le han ganado comparaciones con Elvis Presley, con algunos fanáticos apodándolo “El Elvis de la Salsa”.

El concierto llega después del lanzamiento del sencillo de Ruiz en junio de 2024, “La Guerra Acaba”, que demuestra la continua relevancia del artista de 58 años en la escena contemporánea de la salsa. A lo largo de su carrera, Ruiz ha evolucionado consistentemente su sonido mientras mantiene la esencia romántica que primero capturó los corazones del público. Su álbum de 2023 “Insuperable” mostró su versatilidad al reimaginar estándares clásicos de todo el mundo con arreglos de big band.

Conocido por su fenomenal presencia escénica – una cualidad que referencia en su frase característica “fenomenal” que aparece a lo largo de su música – Ruiz promete ofrecer una velada de interpretación apasionada y salsa romántica atemporal. Su capacidad para conectar con el público lo ha convertido en favorito en importantes escenarios incluyendo el Madison Square Garden de Nueva York, y se espera que su presentación en Houston no sea la excepción.

El Arena Theatre, ubicado en 7326 Southwest Freeway, ofrece un ambiente íntimo perfecto para experimentar el estilo de salsa romántica de Ruiz. La configuración del lugar asegura que cada asiento ofrezca una excelente vista de este legendario intérprete que ha estado cautivando audiencias desde sus días actuando en el famoso club nocturno Tropicana de La Habana.

Los boletos para la presentación de Rey Ruiz del 13 de diciembre en el Arena Theatre están disponibles a través de la taquilla del lugar y los socios oficiales de venta de boletos. Dada la perdurable popularidad de Ruiz en la vibrante comunidad de música latina de Houston, se anima a los fanáticos a asegurar sus asientos temprano para lo que promete ser uno de los principales eventos de salsa de la temporada.

Para más información sobre el espectáculo y la disponibilidad de boletos, visite el sitio web del Arena Theatre o llame directamente a la taquilla.



La Estrella Venezolana de la Salsa Ronald Borjas Iluminará el Arena Theatre el 13 de Diciembre

Por Jose Martinez

La sensación venezolana de la salsa Ronald Borjas traerá su dinámica voz y energía contagiosa al Arena Theatre el viernes 13 de diciembre, prometiendo al público de Houston una noche inolvidable de salsa contemporánea y baladas románticas.

El cantante nacido en Maracaibo, quien alcanzó prominencia internacional durante sus 11 años con la legendaria superbanda venezolana Guaco desde 2002 hasta 2013, se ha establecido desde entonces como uno de los artistas solistas más cautivadores de la música latina. A sus 43 años, Borjas continúa cautivando audiencias con su poderosa voz y presencia escénica dominante que ha llevado a los críticos a llamarlo uno de los intérpretes venezolanos de salsa más atractivos de los últimos tiempos.

El viaje musical de Borjas comenzó en su ciudad natal de Maracaibo, donde descubrió su pasión por la música a los 10 años, inicialmente atraído por el timbal antes de encontrar su verdadera vocación como vocalista. Después de estudiar música en la Universidad Cecilio Acosta y actuar con varias orquestas incluyendo Caribe Song, Orquesta Secretos y Bacanos, su carrera alcanzó nuevas alturas cuando se unió a Guaco, la exportación musical más celebrada de Venezuela.

Desde que lanzó su carrera como solista en 2013, Borjas ha lanzado tres álbumes de estudio – "De capo" (2015), "Bailamos otra vez" (2021), y su más reciente, "Joyas que bailan" (2024). Su repertorio abarca salsa y pop-balada, presentando éxitos como "Te busqué", "Si tú me amas", "Ya lo decidí" y "Dame tu amor" que han resonado en toda América Latina y más allá. Su talento le valió una nominación al Grammy Latino a Mejor Canción Tropical en 2014.

El multi-instrumentista, quien toca bajo, guitarra y trompeta además de sus deberes vocales, ha colaborado con algunos de los nombres más importantes de la música latina. Su dueto de 2023 "Te busqué" con la leyenda de la salsa Tito Nieves y su colaboración de 2024 "Y si mañana" con el cantautor nicaragüense Luis Enrique demuestran su capacidad para unir generaciones y estilos dentro del mundo de la música latina. A principios de este año, actuó con Gilberto Santa Rosa en "Ellas te van llevando", consolidando aún más su estatus entre la élite de la salsa.

Los fanáticos de la salsa en Houston pueden esperar una actuación electrizante con material de toda la carrera de Borjas, incluyendo selecciones de sus populares sesiones en vivo de la serie "Los Pikis éxitos de salsa erótica", grabadas con sus compatriotas venezolanos Nando de la Gente y Adelmo Gauna. Recién llegado de su presentación en el Festival De La Salsa 2024 en Miami, Borjas llega a Houston en la cima de sus poderes artísticos.

El concierto en el Arena Theatre representa una oportunidad especial para la vibrante comunidad venezolana de Houston y los entusiastas de la música latina de experimentar a uno de los artistas más dinámicos de Sudamérica en un ambiente íntimo. La capacidad de Borjas para mezclar sin esfuerzo la salsa tradicional con elementos pop contemporáneos lo ha convertido en favorito tanto entre los aficionados de la salsa de toda la vida como entre las audiencias más jóvenes que descubren el género.

El Arena Theatre, ubicado en 7326 Southwest Freeway, ofrece el lugar perfecto para el apasionado estilo de interpretación de Borjas. La acústica y las líneas de visión del teatro aseguran que cada asistente experimente el impacto completo del arte musical de este poderoso venezolano.

Los boletos para la presentación de Ronald Borjas del 13 de diciembre en el Arena Theatre ya están disponibles a través de la taquilla del lugar y puntos de venta autorizados. Dada la creciente popularidad del artista en Estados Unidos y la fuerte escena de música latina de Houston, se recomienda la compra anticipada de boletos.

Para más información sobre el espectáculo y la disponibilidad de boletos, visite el sitio web del Arena Theatre o comuníquese directamente con la taquilla.

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Photos By Kevin D. Wildman



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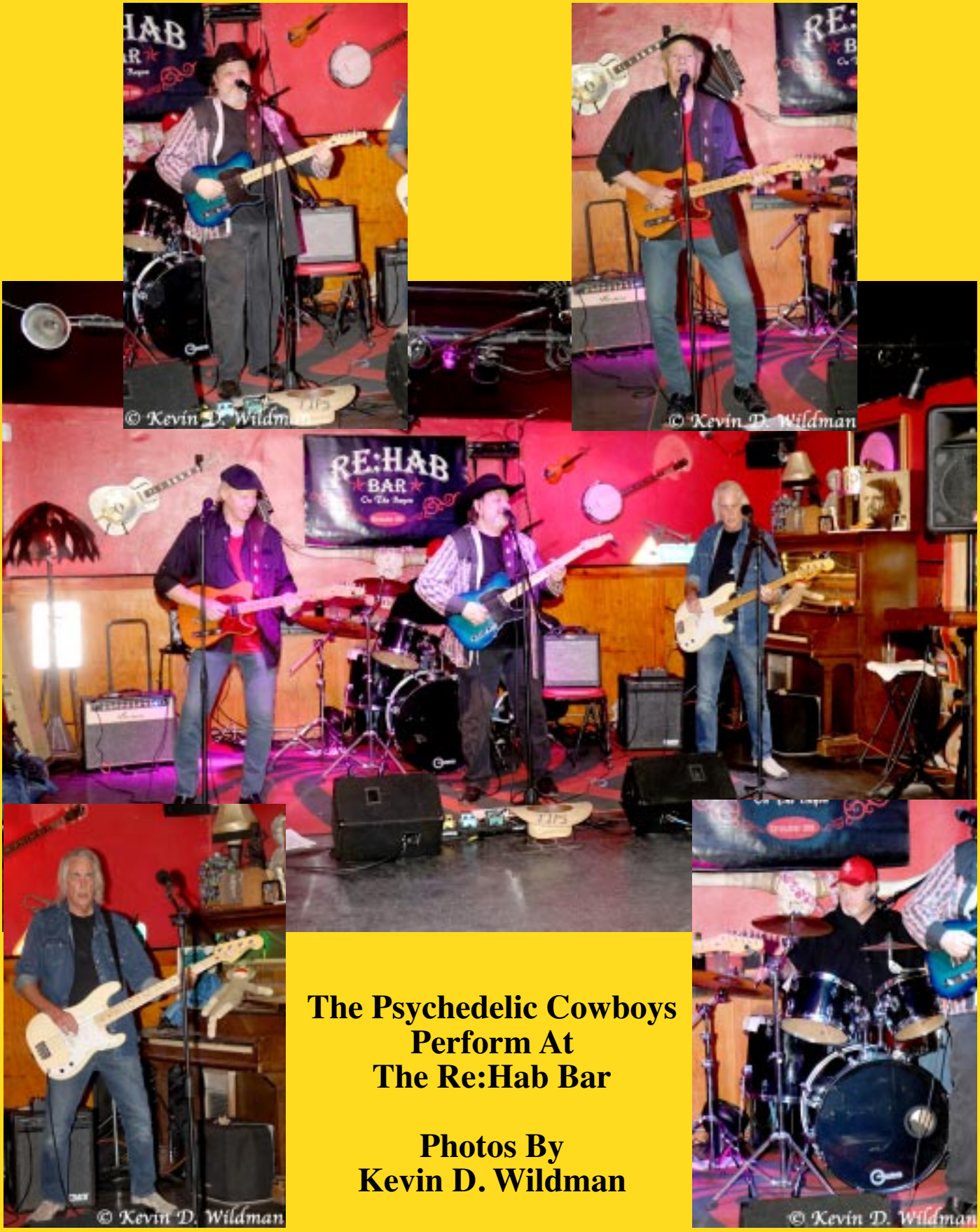
December Band List

Wed 3rd	Hump Night w/ The Mitch Jacobs Band	8pm
Fri 5th	The Mitch Jacobs Band	9pm
Sat 6th	Raa' Tansiel	9pm
Sun 7th	Mitch Jacobs Tiki Tonk Band	4pm
Wed 10th	Hump Night w/ The Mitch Jacobs Band	8pm
Fri 12th	The Hightailers	9pm
Sat 13th	Out of Blues, Head Coach, Charm	9pm
Sun 14th	Engine Driver	4pm
Wed 17th	Hump Night w/ The Mitch Jacobs Band	8pm
Thu 18th	Grave City	9pm
Fri 19th	White Elephant Christmas party	8pm
Sat 20th	Lauren Suzuki Band	9pm
Sun 21st	Los Vertigos	4pm
Wed 24th	Hump Night w/ The Mitch Jacobs Band	8pm
Fri 26th	Chris Castaneda	9pm
Sat 27th	Seven's Edge	4pm
Sat 27th	Band on the Run	9pm
Sun 28th	PsychSundaze w/ Engine Driver	4pm
Wed 31st	Hump Night w/ The Eric Korb Band	9pm

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The Psychedelic Cowboys Perform At The Re:Hab Bar

Photos By Kevin D. Wildman

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Bert Wills and Friends Perform at The Hideout In San Leon (l-r: Spoons, Clint Boyd, Benny Brasket, and Bert Wills Photos By Kevin D. Wildman




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Diunna Greenleaf Performs at Green Oaks Tavern

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Felix And The Cats Perform At Katie's Bar In Bacliff
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Nick Gaitan Performs At Shady Acre Saloon
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Steve Krase and Friends Perform At The Big Easy For Blues For Food

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Tyson Webb Performs At Katie's Bar In Bacliff
Photos By Kevin D. Wildman

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The Octanes Perform At The Big Easy

Photos By Kevin D. Wildman

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Tony Vega And Friends Perform At The Big Easy For Blues For Food

Photos By Kevin D. Wildman

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The Travellin' Brothers Came All The Way From Spain To Perform At Green Oaks Tavern With Special Guest Steve Krase
Photos By Kevin D. Wildman

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Amplified Outlaws Perform At The 19th Hole

Photos By Kevin D. Wildman



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Bar Rats Perform At The BFE Rock Club

Photos By Kevin D. Wildman



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Chris Castaneda Performs At Katie's Bar In Bacliff
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Death Before Decaf Perform At The Re:Hab Bar In The Heights

Photos By Kevin D. Wildman



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Honey Island Swamp Band Bring A Little Swamp Rock To Dan Electro's

Photos By Kevin D. Wildman



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Los Ramgerz Perform At Shady Acres Saloon

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Social Seperation Perform At The 19th Hole

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In The Aftermath Perform At The BFE Rock Club

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Split Grin Perform At The 19th Hole
Photos By Kevin D. Wildman

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The Spicolis Perform at Sawyer Park Icehouse

Photos By Kevin D. Wildman



RANDOM SHOTS













Mike Ryan
Performs at
The Sawyer Park Icehouse

Photos By
Kevin D. Wildman



Monday, December 1

Goldlink (House of Blues Houston)
Blue Mondays (The Neon Possum – Humble)
Goose's Acre Running Club (The Goose's Acre)
MONDAY NIGHT COMEDY!, Wheel of Death, Graveyard Shift Late Night Open Mic (The Secret Group)

Tuesday, December 2

Xavi (Smart Financial Centre)
Bobby Lyle – Holiday Jazz (Dosey Doe – The Big Barn)
Horni Tonk Tuesday featuring Christopher Seymore & The Western Cosplay (The Continental Club)
Jesse & Joy (713 Music Hall)
FOR THE CULTURE, C U Next Tuesday, PASS THE MIC (The Secret Group)
Philip Smith Acoustic (The Goose's Acre)
Sean Chilson Open Mic (The Corner Pub – Conroe)
Karachi (19th Hole)
Brett Axelson (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)

Wednesday, December 3

Kodoku (White Oak Music Hall – Upstairs)
James Roosa Acoustic (The Goose's Acre)
Marc Broussard with Taylor Rae (The Heights Theatre)
Hudson Mueller and Friends (Shoeshine Charley's Big Top)
Hump Night w/The Mitch Jacobs Band (RE:Hab Bar)
Amber Digby (Under The Volcano)
Ava Connell LIVE (Katy Crossing Icehouse)
Jam with Charles Peters (The Neon Possum – Humble)
Pigeon Pit w/ June Henry (The End)
$2 BILL Two Dollar Comedy Show, Hurricane Wisdom, The Passing Lane, Witchy Wednesdays Open Mic (The Secret Group)
Frank Martin Gilligan & Joe Gavito (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)
Houston Rockets vs. Sacramento Kings (Toyota Center)
Lindsey Stirling (Smart Financial Centre)
Wednesday Night Jam with Jay Hooks (Katie's Bar)

Thursday, December 4

Drowning Pool (Warehouse Live Midtown)
The Bouncing Souls (White Oak Music Hall – Downstairs)
Eric Demmer (Katie's Bar)
Snit's Dog & Pony Show (Shady Acres)
The Rustics (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)
Brian Regan (Bayou Music Center)
Shane Smith and The Saints (713 Music Hall)
Seger System – Bob Seger Tribute (Main Street Crossing)
Griffin Swank's Hubble Space Parade (Shoeshine Charley's Big Top)
Shawn Allen hosts Soul & Blues Jam (Green Oaks Tavern)
Jenny Oaks Baker & Family Four (Stafford Centre)
Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones (Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe)
Dirty Mike & The Boys Thursday Laughs, Karaoke, Back of the Bus Open Mic (The Secret Group)
ARIEL PINK – With You Every Night Tour (Bad Astronaut Brewing)
Jeff Canada Acoustic (The Goose's Acre)
Hayes Carll – Night 1 (The Heights Theatre)

Friday, December 5

Fit For A King (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Dave Gomez (Katie's Bar)
Walker County Line (Shady Acres)
OPAKE, Ekorelik, When The Sun Dies (19th Hole)
The Mitch Jacobs Band (RE:Hab Bar)
La India Yuridia (The Arena Theatre)
Nightbird – Fleetwood Mac & Stevie Nicks Tribute (Toddy Oaks Brewery)
Gene Watson (Main Street Crossing)
Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol (Grand 1894 Opera House)
Ruben Moreno & The Zydeco Re-Evolution (Jax Grill – Shepherd)
713v3 Virtua Fighter 5 & Tekken 8 Tournament (Bad Astronaut Brewing)
Michael O'Connor & Jeff Plankenhorn (Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe)
Culture Wars (The Continental Club)
Johnny B Acoustic (The Goose's Acre)
INOHA, Best of Secret Group 8pm, NOTHING MATTERS, Showcase 10pm, Late Night Dirty Show (The

continued on next page



Secret Group)
Houston Rockets vs. Phoenix Suns (Toyota Center)
AM/FM – 70s Rock Experience (Deep Roots Vineyards)
The Spicoli's (Jackie's Brickhouse)

Saturday, December 6

Its A Fake Wedding (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Christmas With Treety (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Bayou Gipsies (Katie's Bar)
Scorn, Ben's, Bonetooth Serenade (19th Hole)
Raa' Tansiel (RE:Hab Bar)
Kevin Anthony & G-Town (Shady Acres)
Texas T Tavern Christmas Party (Texas TNT)
Mike Stinson (The Continental Club)
Big Top Closed for Private Party (Shoeshine Charley's Big Top)
100 Proof LIVE (Katy Crossing Icehouse)
Navigators (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)
Danielle Nicole (Dosey Doe – The Big Barn)
Shayne Porter & The Shady Trees (Green Oaks Tavern)
Christina Renee & The RETROspective (Cowboy Surfer Bar – Kingwood)
Epic Leppard (Rock Neutney's)
Fleetwood X (Deep Roots Vineyards)
Post Punk Goth Night (The End)
Toy Drive Show (1810 Ojeman)
The Haunt (White Oak Music Hall – Upstairs)
Danny Brown (White Oak Music Hall – Downstairs)
Houston Cougars vs. Florida State (Toyota Center)
That 70's Thing (Jackie's Brickhouse)

Sunday, December 7

Katie's Sunday Blues Jam (Katie's Bar)
Buck Yeager, Mike Patton & Andrew Douglas (Green Oaks Tavern)
LOL Podcast Live (House of Blues Houston)
Mark Andes & David Lee Holt (Cowboy Surfer Bar – Memorial)
Vinyl Radios (Main Street Crossing)
The Mando Christmas Market (Bad Astronaut Brewing)
Good Time Muffin Duo (The Goose's Acre)
Chrome Zero w/ Peace Attack (The End)
The Last Laugh, The (secret) Secret Show, Comedy Dojo (The Secret Group)
Brandy, Monica, Kelly Rowland & Muni Long (Toyota Center)

Monday, December 8

Blue Mondays (The Neon Possum – Humble)
MONDAY NIGHT COMEDY!, Wheel of Death, Graveyard Shift Open Mic (The Secret Group)

Tuesday, December 9

Zakk Sabbath (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Payton Riley (Dosey Doe – The Big Barn)
3 Redneck Tenors (Main Street Crossing)
Horni Tonk Tuesday ft. Western Cosplay (The Continental Club)
Casey Bowen (Green Oaks Tavern)
Tower of Power (House of Blues Houston)
FOR THE CULTURE, C U Next Tuesday, PASS THE MIC (The Secret Group)
Jacob Pickering (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)
Karachi (19th Hole)

Wednesday, December 10

Monaleo (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Isaia Huron (White Oak Music Hall – Upstairs)
The Lowdown Drifters (Dosey Doe – The Big Barn)
Hump Night with The Mitch Jacobs Band (RE:Hab Bar)
Gary P. Nunn (The Heights Theatre)
Chris Castaneda hosts Jam (Green Oaks Tavern)
BINGO, Bourbon & More (Shoeshine Charley's Big Top)
Ian Moore's Acoustic Family Christmas (Main Street Crossing)
Sevendust (House of Blues Houston)
$2 BILL Show, The Passing Lane, Witchy Wednesdays (The Secret Group)
Jam with Charles Peters (The Neon Possum – Humble)
Claudio (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)

Thursday, December 11

Death Angel (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Seven Kingdoms (White Oak Music Hall – Upstairs)
Tyson Webb (Katie's Bar)
Eric Demmer (Shady Acres)
Max & Heather Stalling (Main Street Crossing)
Shawn Allen Soul & Blues Jam (Green Oaks Tavern)
Billy Wayne Davis, Thursday Laughs, Karaoke, Back of the Bus (The Secret Group)
Tune-Yards (The Heights Theatre)
Queensrÿche (House of Blues Houston)
Pierce & The Purple Moon (Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe)

Friday, December 12

Daddy Longnecks (Katie's Bar)
Antisma, Haserot, Putrid Womb, Sigil of Morningstar (19th Hole)
Ezra Ray Hart (Smart Financial Centre)
Combat Sports Grappling 38 (Bad Astronaut Brewing)
Hamilton Loomis (Jackie's Brickhouse)
The Hightailers (RE:Hab Bar)
Leftöver Crack, Best of Showcase 8pm, NOTHING MATTERS, Showcase 10pm, Late Night Dirty Show (The Secret Group)
Walk This Way (Main Street Crossing)

continued on next page



Galvezton Record Release (Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe)
Comedy Night (Deep Roots Vineyards)

Saturday, December 13

Its A Fake Wedding (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Christmas With Treety (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Chris Castaneda (Katie's Bar)
AV8, Sugar Ball Express, Harley (19th Hole)
Jack's Pub Christmas Party (Texas TNT)
Out of Blues, Head Coach, Charm (RE:Hab Bar)
Disco Wonderland (The Continental Club)
Jeff Crosby Band (Shoeshine Charley's Big Top)
Jason Eady (Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe)
Tony Vega Band (Green Oaks Tavern)
Second Saturday Pop-Up Art Market (Bad Astronaut Brewing)
Randy Rogers Band (713 Music Hall)
The Gatlin Brothers (Dosey Doe – The Big Barn)
Cory Morrow (Main Street Crossing)
Yan Block (White Oak Music Hall – Downstairs)
The Nutcracker Tea & Performances (Grand 1894 Opera House)
Team Alice / CRIMEWAVE (The End)
AM/FM (Rock Neutney's)
Soul Fixx (Cowboy Surfer Bar – Kingwood)
Meaux Cotton & The Feel (Jackie's Brickhouse)

Sunday, December 14

Katie's Blues Jam (Katie's Bar)
Jay Hooks hosts Jam (Green Oaks Tavern)
Andrew Peterson (713 Music Hall)
The Nutcracker (Grand 1894 Opera House)
Engine Driver (RE:Hab Bar)
Thorn & Moon Market (Bad Astronaut Brewing)
Robert Earl Keen (House of Blues Houston)
Vinyl Radios (Main Street Crossing)
Dana Cooper (Cowboy Surfer – Memorial)
Sip & Shop (Deep Roots Vineyards)
The Last Laugh, Secret Show, Comedy Dojo (The Secret Group)

Monday, December 15

Blue Mondays (The Neon Possum – Humble)
The Cowsills (Main Street Crossing)
MONDAY NIGHT COMEDY!, Wheel of Death, Graveyard Shift (The Secret Group)

Tuesday, December 16

Roger Creager (Main Street Crossing)
The Moth Houston GrandSLAM (The Heights Theatre)
FOR THE CULTURE, C U Next Tuesday, PASS THE MIC (The Secret Group)
Karachi (19th Hole)

Wednesday, December 17

Chris Castaneda Jam (Green Oaks Tavern)
James Roosa (The Goose's Acre)
Django & Tango (Shoeshine Charley's Big Top)
Hump Night with The Mitch Jacobs Band (RE:Hab Bar)
$2 BILL Show, Passing Lane, Witchy Wednesdays (The Secret Group)
Sergio's Xmas Extravaganza (Under The Volcano)

Thursday, December 18

Simply The Best – Tina Turner Tribute (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Josh Gasarret (Katie's Bar)
Nathan Quick (Shady Acres)
Roger Creager (Main Street Crossing)
Grave City (RE:Hab Bar)
Tony Tenors (Dosey Doe – The Big Barn)
Dirty Mike & The Boys, Karaoke, Back of the Bus (The Secret Group)
MARK BATTLES (Bad Astronaut Brewing)

Friday, December 19

Emo Nite (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Pierce & The Purple Moon (Katie's Bar)
Astatic, Side Hustle (19th Hole)
A.B. Hill (Shady Acres)
Hot Rocks – Rolling Stones Tribute (Toddy Oaks Brewery)
White Elephant Christmas Party (RE:Hab Bar)
Vince King (Main Street Crossing)
Josh Garrett (Green Oaks Tavern)
Spray City Walls Battle / Die Spitz (Bad Astronaut Brewing)
Maxo Kream (House of Blues Houston)
Home for the Holidays (The Heights Theatre)
Best Showcase 8pm, NOTHING MATTERS, Showcase 10pm, Late Night Dirty Show (The Secret Group)
Houston Rockets vs. L.A. Clippers (Toyota Center)
Keyun Dickson (Jax Grill – Shepherd)

Saturday, December 20

Dirtbags (Katie's Bar)
Good As Dead, Severed Birth, Cadaver Factory, Glass Grinder, Basement Burial (19th Hole)
Zachery Burnett (Shady Acres)
Merry Christmas – Backwoods Saloon (Texas TNT)
Couples Therapy (Dosey Doe – The Big Barn)
Laurne Suzuki Band (RE:Hab Bar)
The Footnotes / Charles P and the 10% (Shoeshine Charley's Big Top)
ZaGo Experiment (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)
The Casualties (Bad Astronaut Brewing)
William Beckmann (Bayou Music Center)
Xanadudes – 80s Dance (The Continental Club)
Passion Unknown / Secret Group Show Blocks (The Secret Group)
Mambo Jazz Kings (Rock Neutney's)

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Big Al Bettis Band (Cowboy Surfer Bar – Kingwood)
Ugly Sweater Karaoke (Katy Crossing Icehouse)
Braindead (The End)
Urban Nutcracker (Stafford Centre)

Sunday, December 21

Katie's Blues Jam (Katie's Bar)
Green Oaks Christmas Party (Green Oaks Tavern)
Texas Turbines (Cowboy Surfer – Memorial)
Los Vertigos (RE:Hab Bar)
DC Acoustic (The Goose's Acre)
Urban Nutcracker (Stafford Centre)
The Last Laugh, Secret Show, Comedy Dojo (The Secret Group)
Robert Earl Keen (House of Blues Houston)

Monday, December 22

MONDAY NIGHT COMEDY!, Wheel of Death, Graveyard Shift (The Secret Group)
Closed (Green Oaks Tavern)
Blue Mondays (The Neon Possum – Humble)

Tuesday, December 23

Happy Hour (Green Oaks Tavern)
Will Hearn's Christmas Show (The Heights Theatre)
FOR THE CULTURE, C U Next Tuesday, PASS THE MIC (The Secret Group)
Stacey Steele / Kent Newman (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)

Wednesday, December 24

Closed Christmas Eve (Green Oaks Tavern)
$2 BILL Show, Passing Lane, Witchy Wednesdays (The Secret Group)
Hump Night with Mitch Jacobs Band (RE:Hab Bar)

Thursday, December 25

THURSDAY LAUGHS, Karaoke, Back of the Bus (The Secret Group)
30 Foot Fall (Bad Astronaut Brewing)

Friday, December 26

Felix & The Cats (Katie's Bar)
Arc Flash, Ash on Ivywood, Harley (19th Hole)
The Swanson Brothers (Green Oaks Tavern)
Radio Frequency (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)
Chris Castaneda (RE:Hab Bar)
Dale Watson (Main Street Crossing)
Beetle – Boxing Day (Shoeshine Charley's Big Top)
Best Showcase 8pm, NOTHING MATTERS, Showcase 10pm, Late Night Dirty Show (The Secret Group)
L.T. & the Zydeco Mob (Jax Grill – Shepherd)

Saturday, December 27

Eli & Fur (Warehouse Live Midtown)
Jay Hooks (Katie's Bar)
A Sure Thing & Mayvenn (19th Hole)
Honky Tonk Hooligans (Shady Acres)
Seven's Edge with Band On The Run (RE:Hab Bar)
Mary Jane – Tom Petty Experience (Toddy Oaks Brewery)
Light Rock Express (Shoeshine Charley's Big Top)
Empire of Ashes & More (Iron Horse Bar)
Escape – Journey Tribute (Main Street Crossing)
Dead Radio (Jackie's Brickhouse)
The Slags (Rock Neutney's)
The Examiners (Cowboy Surfer Bar – Kingwood)

Sunday, December 28

Katie's Blues Jam (Katie's Bar)
Closed – Benefit for Barry Seelen (Green Oaks Tavern)
Hayden Jones Record Release (Cowboy Surfer – Memorial)
PsychSundaze w/ Engine Driver (RE:Hab Bar)
Stacey Steele (The Goose's Acre)
The Mighty Orq's Blues Extravaganza (Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe)
The Last Laugh, Secret Show, Comedy Dojo (The Secret Group)
Houston Rockets vs. Indiana Pacers (Toyota Center)

Monday, December 29

Toadies (House of Blues Houston)
Blue Mondays (The Neon Possum – Humble)
MONDAY NIGHT COMEDY!, Wheel of Death, Graveyard Shift (The Secret Group)

Tuesday, December 30

Mannheim Steamroller (Smart Financial Centre)
FOR THE CULTURE, C U Next Tuesday, PASS THE MIC, Tanael (TJ) Joachim (The Secret Group)
Blake Butler (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)

Wednesday, December 31

New Years Eve (Warehouse Live Midtown)
NYE Bash (Green Oaks Tavern)
NYE with Shame On Me / TV Dolls / Brightwire (Shoeshine Charley's Big Top)
The Wilder Blue NYE Party (Dosey Doe – The Big Barn)
Skyrocket (Rockefeller's)
Hump Night with Mitch Jacobs Band (RE:Hab Bar)
Treaty Oak Revival (Toyota Center)
Ali Siddiq with David Banner & Ryan Davis (Smart Financial Centre)
The Spicolis – 80s MTV Rock NYE (Deep Roots Vineyards)
New Year's Eve with Shape Shifters (Jackie's Brickhouse)
NYE Bash with The Big Jordan Band (Katie's Bar)
New Year at Aspens (Texas TNT)
$2 BILL Show, Passing Lane, Witchy Wednesdays (The Secret Group)
New Year's Eve Bash DJ George (T-Bone Tom's – Kemah)