

Three time Grammy award nominee, **Ellen Whyte**, is known for her powerful and playful vocals, as she gracefully moves among genres from blues to jazz to funk and ballads. She's won numerous awards for her work, including consideration for two Grammy Award nominations in 1999 and most recently in 2009 for "Four Way Stop."

"She not only sings like an angel, but brings her own styling and phrasing to every song that is completely individual. Thank God for Ellen Whyte who is one of the last few who can still sing blues and pop and jazz, and still stand up on a stage and sing big band standards with the best of them." Producer Dennis Walker.

Ellen has fronted bands continuously now for 35 years. She was captivated by music since she was a child growing up in Fort Lauderdale Florida. Leaving the humidity and the taffeta dresses of her accordion marching band behind, Ellen branched out to blue grass, gospel, rock, blues and jazz. Her eclectic tastes in music include heroes such as Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, Joni Mitchell, and Bonnie Raitt.

The award winning **Sue Orfield Band** has been making music in the Chippewa Valley for more than fifteen years. They have released 2 albums so far, and are currently working on their third. The Sue Orfield Band is Sue Orfield (tenor sax), Mike Schlenker (guitar), Randy Sinz (bass & vocals) and Dave Schrader (drums & vocals).

Sue Orfield plays the tenor saxophone with the whimsy of Sonny Rollins, the passion of Kurt Cobain, the soul of Bill Withers, and the joy of Ella Fitzgerald. Along with a compelling mastery of her instrument, Sue brings to the stage a powerful presence and joy of all things musical.

Sue has played with many musical greats over the years, including Bo Diddley, Bobby McFerrin, The Indigo Girls, Ann Wilson (Heart), Dizzy Gillespie, Ivan Neville, Jo Dee Messina, among others. She tours internationally with several groups, including The Tiptons Sax Quartet (formerly The Billy Tipton Memorial Saxophone Quartet) (Seattle/NYC), and of course, Ellen Whyte (Portland).

Sue and Ellen met in Eastern Washington in the 1990's, and quickly became friends and musical comrades. After Sue moved back to her home state of Wisconsin in 2004, she invited Ellen to join her and the band for some summer concerts and that tradition continued, and The Whyte Orfield Band was born.

# Tuesday Night Blues 2022

All shows begin at 6:30

May 31: 7 Swings The Blues

June 7: Joyann Parker

June 14: Paul Tweed Band

June 21: Bridget Kelly Band

June 28: Tommy Bentz Band

July 5: Ross William Perry

July 12: Jay Stulo Band

July 19: Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max

July 26: Whyte Orfield Band

August 2: Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal

August 9: Stefan Geisinger Band

August 16: Avey Grouws Band

August 23: Mark Cameron Band

August 30: Mojo Lemon

Find out more about the bands and listen to samples at **TuesdayNightBlues.com**

# Tuesday Night Bluesletter

July 26, 2022 at Owen Park  
**Whyte / Orfield Band**



Photos: Teddy Snider



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## A Little About the Blues

**Charley Patton** was born in Hinds County, Mississippi near the town of Edwards and lived most of his life in Sunflower County, in the Mississippi Delta. Most sources say he was born in April 1891. Patton's parentage and race are uncertain. His parents were Bill and Annie Patton, but locally he was regarded as having been fathered by former slave Henderson Chatmon, several of whose children became popular Delta musicians. Biographer John Fahey described Patton as having "light skin and Caucasian features." Patton was considered African-American, but because of his light complexion there has been much speculation about his ancestry over the years. It is widely asserted by historians that he was between one-quarter and one-half Choctaw. In "Down the Dirt Road Blues", Patton sang of having gone to "the Nation" and "the Territo", referring to the Cherokee Nation's portion of the Indian Territory (which became part of the state of Oklahoma in 1907), where a number of Black Indians tried unsuccessfully to claim a place on the tribal rolls and thereby obtain land.

In 1897, his family moved 100 miles north to the 10,000-acre Dockery Plantation, a cotton farm and sawmill near Ruleville, Mississippi. There, Patton developed his musical style, influenced by Henry Sloan, who had a new, unusual style of playing music, which is now considered an early form of the blues. Patton performed at Dockery and nearby plantations. Tommy Johnson, Fiddlin' Joe Martin, Robert Johnson, and Chester Burnett (who went on to gain fame in Chicago as Howlin' Wolf) also lived and performed in the area, and Patton served as a mentor to these younger performers. He was popular across the southern United States and performed annually in Chicago. Unlike most blues musicians of his time, who were often itinerant performers, Patton played scheduled engagements at plantations and taverns. He gained popularity for his showmanship, sometimes playing with the guitar down on his knees, behind his head, or behind his back. Patton was a small man, about 5 feet 5 inches tall, but his gravelly voice was reputed to have been loud enough to carry 500 yards without amplification; a singing style which particularly influenced Howlin' Wolf.

Patton settled in Holly Ridge, Mississippi, with his common-law wife and recording partner, Bertha Lee, in 1933. His relationship with Bertha Lee was a turbulent one. In early 1934, both of them were incarcerated in a Belzoni, Mississippi jailhouse after a particularly harsh fight. W. R. Calaway from Vocalion Records bailed the pair out of jail, and escorted them to New York City, for what would be Patton's (continued)

last recording sessions (on January 30 and February 1).

He died on the Heathman-Dedham plantation, near Indianola, on April 28, 1934, and is buried in Holly Ridge (both towns are located in Sunflower County). A memorial headstone was erected on Patton's grave (the location of which was identified by the cemetery caretaker), paid for by musician John Fogerty through the Mt. Zion Memorial Fund in July 1990. The Mississippi Blues Trail placed its first historical marker on Patton's grave in Holly Ridge, Mississippi, in recognition of his legendary status as a bluesman and his importance in the development of the blues in Mississippi. It placed another historic marker at the site where the Peavine Railroad intersects Highway 446 in Boyle, Mississippi, designating it as a second site related to Patton on the Mississippi Blues Trail. The marker commemorates the lyrics of Patton's "Peavine Blues", which refer to the branch of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad which ran south from Dockery Plantation to Boyle. The marker notes that riding on the railroad was a common theme of blues songs and was seen as a metaphor for travel and escape.

Screamin' and Hollerin' the Blues: The Worlds of Charley Patton, a boxed set collecting Patton's recorded works, was released in 2001. The set won three Grammy Awards in 2003, for Best Historical Album, Best Boxed or Special Limited-Edition Package, and Best Album Notes. Another collection of Patton recordings, The Definitive Charley Patton, was released by Catfish Records in 2001.

Patton's song "Pony Blues" (1929) was included by the National Recording Preservation Board in the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress in 2006.

In May, 2021, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame posthumously inducted Patton into the 2021 class as an Early Influence.

### Next Week (August 2, 2022)

#### Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal

Night after night at their live shows, **Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal** leave it all on the table, bringing crowds palpably authentic music. This is a real working band; music for the people, by the people. You hear the veracity in Hoyer's voice. You hear the strife of a guitar amp being pushed to its limits. You hear keyboards hammering notes home while emboldened horns soar over the top of a rhythm section akin to a freight train.

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