

Up and coming blues artist **Kyle Renfro** brings a high energy blues rock guitar show. His setlist is a mix of high energy originals, and classic blues rock covers. Based in La Crosse, WI, Kyle is expanding out as far as he can reach with his newly revamped trio, featuring local powerhouse players Dave Orr (Drums) and Tim Powers (Bass).

Find out more about the band at kylerenfro.com.



Tuesday Night Blues 2023

All shows begin at 6:30

May 30: Paul Tweed Band

June 6: Kyle Renfro

June 13: Jay Stulo

June 20: Bridget Kelly Band

June 27: Joyann Parker

July 4: Lamont Cranston w Nick Foytik

July 11: Sue Orfield Band

July 18: Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max

July 25: Tommy Bentz Band

August 1: Stefan Geisinger Band

August 8: Mark Cameron Band

August 15: Left Wing Bourbon

August 22: Avey Grouws Band

August 29: Mojo Lemon

Find out more about the bands at:

TuesdayNightBlues.com

Tuesday Night Bluesletter

June 6, 2023

Kyle Renfro



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A Little About the Blues

Even with a career cut short by illness and a premature death, guitarist, singer, and songwriter **Rory Gallagher** left his mark in the blues and rock worlds.

As a pre-teen growing up in 1950s Cork, Ireland, in a home with no record player, the single-minded determination that would hallmark Rory's career quickly became apparent. He was already a local, talent show-winning star, brandishing a cheap guitar, when the first down payment was made on the 1961 Sunburst Fender Stratocaster that would become a lifelong tool of his trade.

After enjoying playing in Hamburg, Germany, clubs, Rory put himself center stage in the power trio, Taste. A residency at London's Marquee club in 1968 led to support slots with Cream and Blind Faith. Taste's formidable presence was captured on two studio albums and two live albums including their Live At Isle of Wight album, recorded in 1970. Then, with their world seemingly at their feet, Taste, torn apart by management disputes, imploded, playing their farewell show in Belfast on New Years Eve.

The loss of a band at their incandescent peak hit Rory deep but there was little time to dwell in regret. A natural bandleader, Gallagher regrouped embarking on the most productive decade of his solo career with 1971's self-titled solo debut. 'Deuce', 'Blueprint', 'Tattoo', 'Against The Grain', 'Calling Card', 'Photo Finish', 'Top Priority' – the albums each offered original compositions ('In Your Town', 'Who's That Coming', 'Walk On Hot Coals', 'Tattoo'd Lady') that spoke directly to his audience, attained instant classic status.

A determination to make original music that stayed faithful to the root sounds that inspired him was carried through to the end. Unsullied by jarring studio trickery or momentarily fashionable techniques, cavernous drum sounds or click tracks, what he's left behind is a recorded legacy defined by rugged purity of form and feeling. The unaffected approach highlighted the many flavors – kick ass country, jazzy sophistication, spit n sawdust folk, floorboard quaking roof raising rock – that fed Rory's lovingly nurtured blues. Gallagher's yearly gig quota often would top 300, sweat soaked nights in which he never gave anything less than 110 percent. And he was always ready to give a little more, come Christmas time he would often embark on impromptu tours in rural Ireland. He guested on albums for many including key influences Jerry Lee Lewis, Albert King, Albert Collins and Muddy Waters.

(continued)

By 1990 Rory had played 25 stateside tours and appeared at the UK's Reading festival and Montreux Jazz festival more times than any other act. Sadly, he swelled up as drink and various prescription medications to deal with the rigors of life on the road had prematurely and noticeably aged him. "The blues is bad for your health," he shrugged, "it's as simple as that, it goes with the territory."

Breaking away from major labels and setting up independently, Rory's output had become less prolific as he increasingly agonized over recordings. Even later albums 'Jinx', 'Defender' and 'Fresh Evidence', the last release before his death, showed him still moving forward, breaking new territory. The soaring 'Loan Shark Blues' is a timelessly potent cry of financial desperation while 'Heaven's Gate' and 'Ghost Blues.' His dedication to the muse was absolute, perhaps at a cost to his personal life: he had no marriage, no long-term relationship and no children. The man who could unite thousands in performance lived a solitary unindulgent life away from stage. So tied was he to life on the road that his final years were spent living in a hotel overlooking Chelsea harbor. Rory literally played until he dropped, after collapsing onstage in Rotterdam in January 1995, he was hospitalized in London with liver failure. Following a successful transplant operation, he seemed to be recovering, but he caught an infection and died in June 1995.

Gallagher is commemorated throughout Ireland, a bronze statue in Ballyshannon, a sculpture in Cork where the local theater is named after him, a mounted guitar in Dublin, a plaque in Belfast and his famously battered paint stripped Sunburst strat has been marketed by Fender in a tribute model. There's a Rue Rory Gallagher in Paris, an annual festival in Ireland and tribute concerts held each year in his honor around the world.

Abridged biography by Richard Skelly for AllMusic.com

Next Week (June 13)

Jay Stulo

Jay Stulo first picked up guitar at the age of 14, learning some basic chords from his father, a early rock-a-billy guitarist. He joined his first working bar band gypsy rose at the age of 17. Jay hit the road early with Blues legend Luther Allison, then later with James Solberg. Jay co-founded founded The Mighty Aces in 1996 and toured full-time for a decade leading the The Jay Stulo Band.

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9 PM GABE STILLMAN	5 PM ALBERT CUMMINGS
	7 PM MARCIA BALL W/ THE JIMMYS
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