

**Jay Stulo** has been playing, fronting, and leading blues bands since the late 1980's. He has toured the nation several times and released 5 CD's. Jay 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 The Mighty Aces in 1996 and toured full-time for a decade leading the The Jay Stulo Band. After taking some time away from music in 2006, Jay picked up his guitar returned to the stage in 2016. It did not take long to get back on top of his game, first as part of the West Coast style Jay Edward Band and now leading an all new Jay Stulo Band.

Influenced by multiple genres, Jay is not a traditional blues artist by any means, and this is not your grandfather's blues - versatile, high energy guitar pyrotechnics, rock-tinged hooks, and gut-bucket vocals make for a show to remember.



©Jennifer Stulo

# 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 13, 2023

**Jay Stulo**



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## A Little About the Blues

“I think there’s something to be said about people who were raised in the rural South and came through the same period I did. We’re the last generation who really had a dose of the old-school blues,” observes **Larry McCray**. The 62-year-old guitarist and singer, who was born in rural Arkansas, recalls, “Music is something we did for family entertainment because there was nothing else to do there besides work, farm and go into the woods to shoot guns.”

In 1972, at age 12, McCray relocated to Saginaw, Mich., and moved in with his sister. McCray notes, “B.B. King, Albert King, Freddie King, Luther Allison— that style of music emerged from the post-war blues, which was born from the Delta. I feel blessed that I was able to get a firsthand dose of that. Modern blues is a whole different thing. It’s often nothing but rock-and roll guitar with a blues lyric, but for somebody to really understand the blues—and to know the difference—they need to have had a firsthand experience and a deeper connection than what we have available today.”

McCray drew on those origins as he honed his electric guitar chops as a teenager and, by the time he was 17, he was making the rounds on the local blues circuit with his brothers Carl and Steve on bass and drums. McCray’s debut solo album *Ambition* was released in 1990, the initial offering from Virgin’s blues label, Point Blank Records. It was well-received by aficionados of the genre, but McCray could never quite cross over and reach a more mainstream audience.

He acknowledges his frustration at that time, but also explains, “I used to dream of meeting B.B. King and Albert King and Albert Collins. They were all my heroes. I eventually had a good personal rapport with all three of them and I could see how they struggled in their careers at times and how tough it was for them to make money. So, I came to think, ‘Well, if the greatest ones of this genre have to suffer, who am I to think that things might be better for me?’ And it really made me realize that music had nothing to do with the music business.”

McCray released eight additional records between 1993 and 2015, winning him the support of his peers and a passionate core fanbase, even if he slightly recalibrated his sound at times to chase the broader recognition that he felt had eluded him. “Luther Allison and Albert King told me to stay steadfast because I would try to catch the tail end of the new curve that was popular at the time,” McCray reveals. (continued)

The mid-2010s was a particularly difficult period for McCray, who discovered that he had advanced-stage prostate cancer—it took him a few years of treatment before he received a clean bill of health. Still, he had his friends and boosters, a list that included Joe Walsh, George Thorogood, Jorma Kaukonen and Warren Haynes. (McCray recorded a number of Haynes originals on his early albums, including the first studio version of “Soulshine.”)

Ultimately, Joe Bonamassa helped revitalize McCray’s career. One of McCray’s fans told him that Bonamassa had been playing his music on SiriusXM. McCray reached out through a fellow musician, which, ultimately, led Bonamassa to produce McCray’s new record, *Blues Without You* and issue it on his Keeping the Blues Alive Records label. Bonamassa has said, “Larry McCray is a legend. We have known that for 30 years. He is the last of the great blues shouters from the rust belt. In the spirit of B.B. King, Luther Allison and Little Milton, Larry is among the greats. It’s now up to the world to rediscover him. He has been here all along.”

*Blues Without You* was a nominee for Best Contemporary Blues Album in the 2023 Blues Music Awards. “Blues Without You is a career defining song, that could arguably rival *The Thrill is Gone* or other Blues classics.” -Blues Rock Review

“Larry’s still a relatively young man, with a lot to say, and the world needs to know who he is. It’s the perfect time to have a rebirth of his music,” Bonamassa says. “He knows he’s a badass, he just needs to be reassured and reassure himself that he can stand up there with the greats.”

By Dean Budnick for Relix (abridged)

### Next Week (June 20) Bridget Kelly Band

Inspired by classic blues & electric blues, the Bridget Kelly Band has placed their unique stamp on the blues-rock genre. Two-time IBC Semi-Finalists and #1 RMR Electric Blues charting artists. Recent releases: “Dark Spaces” (2020), “Blues Warrior” (2018), “Bone Rattler” (2017), “Outta the Blues” (2016), available on CDbaby.com, i-Tunes, Amazon.com. Hear the band’s music at [www.reverbNation.com/BridgetKellyBand](http://www.reverbNation.com/BridgetKellyBand).

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