

Inspired by classic & electric blues, the **Bridget Kelly Band** has placed their unique stamp on the blues genre, with high-energy live performances and a hybrid sound that mixes Texas and Memphis Blues with various Southern Blues traditions. The powerful and sultry vocals of singer Bridget Kelly and the incendiary lead guitar work of Tim Fik forge a signature hybrid sound that combines female urban blues with riff-driven rockin' blues guitar; held together by a dynamic rhythm section comprised of Curtis Lyons Jr on drums and Greg Mullins on bass.

Performing at clubs and festivals throughout the Southeastern U.S., the Bridget Kelly Band has shared the stage with numerous national blues touring acts including Albert Castiglia, Biscuit Miller and the Mix, the Jeff Jensen Band, Tas Cru and the Tortured Souls, Selwyn Birchwood, the BMA nominated Brandon Santini, and BillBoard charting artist Victor Wainwright.

Bridget is originally from beautiful Prescott, WI. She and husband Tim Fik escape sultry Florida each summer to head North for a summer tour! We are very happy that we can once again have Tuesday Night Blues as a stop! Recent performances include the Jackson, MI Blues Festival, Buddy Guy's Legends Blues Fest, and Muddy Waters in Prescott, WI.

The Bridget Kelly Band is based out of North Central Florida and are active members of the SunCoast Blues society (SCBS), the North Central Florida Blues Society (NCFBS), the Blues Society of Northwest Florida, the Memphis Blues Society, and the Atlanta Blues Society (ABS). In 2014, the Bridget Kelly Band won the NCFBS sponsored Blues Challenge, and went on to compete at the International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis, bringing their stage show and original music to the Blues clubs on Beale Street. The group advanced to the IBC Semi-Finals and were well-received by enthusiastic and cheering audiences at the Jerry Lee Lewis' club, the Blues City Café, and the "Women In Blues Showcase" at the Center for Southern Folklore (Downtown, Memphis).

BKB returned to Memphis in the winter of 2016, representing the NCFBS, and made the IBC Semi-finals once again with stellar performances at Wet Willies and the Tin Roof. The Bridget Kelly Band has returned to the Women in Blues Showcase presented by the National Women in Blues and Endless Blues Records every year since!

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 20, 2023

Bridget Kelly Band



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A Little About the Blues

Award-winning singer/songwriter/vocalist/guitarist **Gaye Adegbalola**'s musical roots run deep. As a founding (and current) member of Saffire-The Uppity Blues Women, Gaye not only rediscovered the blues she first met as a child, she put her stamp on them, helping grow Saffire from local sensation to international phenomenon. With her first solo album, BITTER SWEET BLUES, Gaye Adegbalola reaches deep into her past and creates a musical statement for today and for the future.

Produced by blueswoman Rory Block (who also adds her intense slide guitar and background vocals on half of the album's tracks), BITTER SWEET BLUES features eight Gaye originals ranging from haunting to joyful, plus songs by Keb' Mo', Smokey Robinson, Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey and Gaye's primary inspiration, Nina Simone.

Gaye Adegbalola was born in the small, segregated town of Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1944. Her parents, both community leaders, also held a deep love of music. Her father, Clarence Todd, was the first black school board member in Fredericksburg, and played as a part-time jazz musician. Her mother, Gladys Todd, always brought home the old records when the jukebox was changed at the Youth Canteen where she worked. Gaye played flute in her high school band and was chosen for the all-state band three separate years. After her first job (sorting dirty laundry for forty-five cents an hour), Gaye's interest in the burgeoning civil rights movement began. She participated in many sit-ins and pickets during the 1960s after graduating from high school as valedictorian in 1961. During her teen years and throughout college, Gaye listened to music and danced every chance she had. "I would dance all night long to Chuck Berry, James Brown, Etta James, Ray Charles, The Shirelles, Ruth Brown, Ike and Tina Turner," she recalls, "These artists shaped my musical taste." As she got older, she developed a love of gospel and then jazz and eventually found Nina Simone. "Nina led me to Bessie Smith," says Gaye. "And I've never turned back. The blues roots of jazz became very clear to me."

While at college in New England, Gaye first learned a few chords on a guitar she bought from her roommate. Moving to New York, she became a militant and changed her name to Adegbalola, a Nigerian name meaning "I'm reclaiming my royalty." She participated in a political determination organization in Harlem, New York, in 1966 and became active in the Black Power movement, leading protests and singing political songs. (continued)

After returning to Fredericksburg in 1970, Gaye was a director of the theater group Harambee 3600 and often acted in the productions. She worked as a biochemical researcher and bacteriologist before teaching 8th grade science from 1971 through 1987, and was honored as Virginia State Teacher of the Year in 1982. In 1984, Gaye, along with her friend and guitar teacher Ann Rabson, formed Saffire-The Uppity Blues Women, releasing their self-produced cassette on their own label in 1987. Gaye hit the road full-time to tour with the band in 1988, and then signed with Alligator Records in 1989. Saffire quickly went from playing local clubs to entertaining thousands at concert halls and festivals all over the world, winning praise everywhere they went. Gaye's song, Middle Aged Blues Boogie, earned the Blues Music Award (the Grammy of the blues community) for Song Of The Year in 1990.

As Gaye's and Saffire-The Uppity Blues Women's popularity grew over the course of six albums, Gaye, already a blues lover, dove even deeper into the music she loved, absorbing songs and history as well as vocal and songwriting techniques. She conducts workshops on blues vocals, blues history and women's blues all over the country. She even released an instructional video, Blues Vocal Techniques, available on Homespun Tapes. And in the little spare time she has, Gaye also sits on the Steering Committee of the Blues Music Association, a trade organization she helped to found.

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