

**T**he **Tommy Bentz Band** has been in existence for over 15 years & jams in the style of "Allman Brothers meets Van Morrison". The band performs songs from their 6 original albums, live DVD and CD, and unique covers from Cream/Clapton, The Band, SRV, Beatles, and more. Their latest album "1000 Reasons" was released in May of 2021. TBB tours regionally, has toured overseas for over 10 years and competed in the International Blues Challenge (IBC) with artists from around the world in Memphis, TN in January, 2020, representing the State of Wisconsin.

The band's love of music even expands into helping other musicians. Tommy owns and operates Brickhouse Music, which he started in 1993, a full-line music store located in River Falls, WI. Alex teaches percussion at Brickhouse Music, Clark is the head band instrument repair technician and Doug teaches piano and guitar in Minneapolis.



## 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

July 25, 2023

**Tommy Bentz Band**



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## A Little About the Blues

Someone Like You, the latest album from master guitarist and fan favorite **Albert Cummings**, marks his return to noted roots label Blind Pig Records. **You can catch Albert Cummings in action at Big Bull Falls Blues Fest in Wausau on Saturday August 19th!** <https://www.wausauevents.org/big-bull-falls-blues-fest>

The Massachusetts native learned the requisite three chords on the guitar from his father, but then switched to playing banjo at age 12 and became a fan of bluegrass music. In his late teens he encountered the early recordings of Stevie Ray Vaughan and was floored by the virtuosity. While in college in 1987 he saw Vaughan perform and he returned to the guitar with a new outlook and resolve.

Cummings began his ascent to masterful blues rock guitarist at age 27, with his first public performance on guitar. Soon he was on the Northeast blues circuit with his band, Swamp Yankee. In 1998 he walked into a Northeast Blues Society open jam, which led to Cummings' winning the right to compete in the Blues Foundation's 1999 International Blues Challenge in Memphis. The following year Albert released his debut recording, The Long Way. Bluesprint magazine said it was "a barrage of guitar pyrotechnics that calls to mind a grand mix of the styles of past masters like Albert King, Freddie King, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Jimmie Hendrix."

That opened an opportunity for him to work with Double Trouble, the late Stevie Ray Vaughan's rhythm section. So taken with Albert's fire and passion were bassist Tommy Shannon and drummer Chris Layton that they volunteered to play on and produce Cummings' debut recording, 2003's From the Heart. Recorded in Austin, it featured Cummings fronting Double Trouble (including Reese Winans) in their first recording project since Stevie Ray's passing.

Cummings' soulful and explosive approach to blues and rock caught the attention of Blind Pig Records. On his label debut, True to Yourself, released in 2004, Cummings was again joined by bassist Tommy Shannon. Recorded by producer extraordinaire Jim Gaines (Santana, Stevie Ray, Buddy Guy), the album rocks hard from start to finish. The all-original release showcased Albert's rapidly developing songwriting chops and deeply emotional vocals as well as stunning guitar pyrotechnics.

Soon tours and shows with blues legends B.B. King, Johnny Winter, Buddy Guy and others brought Albert's music to a much larger audience. His second release, Working Man (2006), also produced by Jim Gaines, betrays a growing focus and maturity (continued)

both in Albert's stinging, incisive guitar work as well as in his fluently idiomatic songwriting.

In 2008 Albert recorded his first live album, Feel So Good, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts at the historic Colonial Theatre, a 95-year-old "little jewel box" that's hosted everyone from Will Rogers to Al Jolson. The audience was so supportive they became part of the performance in a way that's rarely heard. Albert and his band responded with a blistering set of great originals and killer covers of Zeppelin, Little Feat and Muddy Waters tunes. With producer Jim Gaines again at the controls and Albert's incredible display of guitar virtuosity and deep emotion, this is one live performance that is bound to become a blues rock classic.

Guitar Edge magazine said, "The blues is best served up live, with an enthusiastic audience and a killin' band, and that's exactly what guitarist Albert Cummings does on his new Feel So Good. Cummings effortlessly shifts from subdued stylings to raucous roadhouse raunch to soaring yet stinging lead lines, driving his audience to frenzy in all the right places."

Cummings' next CD, No Regrets, was self-released in 2012. It was a return to his true musical roots for the six-string virtuoso, poignantly capturing the core of his influences, displaying the impact that R&B, Rock, Soul, Country and the Blues have had on both his playing and writing. It debuted at #1 on iTunes music charts in the USA, Canada and France.

For his newest recording, Someone Like You, Albert chose to record in Southern California with Grammy-winning producer David Z. (Buddy Guy, Prince, Jonny Lang, Gov't Mule) at the helm. Said Z, "Albert Cummings writes, plays and sings the blues like nobody else. What a blast to watch him jell in the studio with some of the best musicians in Los Angeles." Blind Pig Records

### Next Week (August 1) Stefan Geisinger Band

The **Stefan Geisinger Band** plays recognizable covers from Blues guitar greats such as Stevie Ray Vaughan, Albert King, Jimi Hendrix, and Howling Wolf, as well as original tunes. Geisinger's expressive and skillful - not to mention spirited - performances have drawn rave reviews from audiences. Listeners often remark that there seems to be an old soul inhabiting such a relatively young Blues artist.

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**BIG BULL FALLS BLUES FEST**  
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<b>FRIDAY - AUGUST 18</b>	<b>SATURDAY - AUGUST 19</b>
5 PM STEFAN GEISINGER BAND	1 PM KARA GRAINGER
7 PM BAREFOOT JIMMY & THE BLUES DISCIPLES	3 PM GHOST TOWN BLUES BAND
9 PM GABE STILLMAN	5 PM ALBERT CUMMINGS
	7 PM MARCIA BALL W/ THE JIMMYS
	9 PM WALTER TROUT

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