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Embracing the blues

Concert aims to make live music accessible for broad audiences

By Troy Espe

Leader-Telegram staff

Mojo Lemon plays blues but not the kind that induces depression.

"It's not cry-in-your-beer blues," drummer Jason "Big J" Introwitz said.

The Eau Claire group prefers up tempo, high-energy blues by the likes of B.B. King and Buddy Guy.

Mojo Lemon will play during the "Lust for Blues" concert Saturday at Westgate Sportsman Club.

The daylong event is a fundraiser for Chippewa Valley Blues Society. With more than 100 members, the group formed in September to promote blues in the Chippewa Valley.

"Lust for Blues" will raise money to stage blues concerts and entice national acts to the Chippewa Valley," club President Ken Fulgione said.

The family-friendly concert has early starting and ending times. As one of its goals, the Blues Society wants to make live music accessible.

"Blues are the root of all music," Fulgione said. "We want people to experience the blues."

Mojo Lemon members have been active in the Chippewa Valley Blues Society.

"We're trying to bring (blues) to the surface," bass guitarist "Mojo" Terry Demars said. "There's so many good things coming out of (the society)."

The club gives blues fans a unifying voice, Demars added.

"There's always been a demand for blues around here," he said. "With this blues society, I think it's only going to improve."

Mojo Lemon formed in 1999. The group played practically every week until dissolving in 2005. The band got back together in July of last year.

"We've all been around in different bands, and people are



Eau Claire blues band Mojo Lemon will play during the "Lust for Blues" concert Saturday. Band members are, from left, bass player "Mojo" Terry Demars, guitar player Josh Entzminger and drummer Jason "Big J" Introwitz. Not pictured is keyboard player Willie Chopper.

Staff photo by Shane Opatz

If You GoScheduleThese bands are scheduled to play Saturday during "Lust for Blues":

What: "Lust for Blues" concert, presented by the Chippewa Valley Blues Society.

When: Noon to 9 p.m. Saturday.

Where: Westgate Sportsman Club, 4909 Sportsman Drive.

Tickets: \$10, adults; free, children 11 and younger.

Phone: 577-4197.

Web: cvblues.com.

2 p.m. - The Pumps.

4 p.m. - Mojo Lemon.

6 p.m. - Deep Water Reunion.

starting to know who we are," Demars, 37, of Eau Claire, said.

Mojo Lemon has an original instrumental called "Just Joshin'." The group boasts an extensive repertoire of cover songs from John Lee Hooker to Bob Dylan.

"We experiment with a lot of different material," Introwitz, 37, of Chippewa Falls, said. "If it feels good to us, we play it."

With decades of combined experience, members pride themselves on audience interaction.

"We're all very personable," Demars said. "We don't just come in and play and go home. We like to hang out and let people know we appreciate them."

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