

CONVENTION  
PROGRAM  
*of* EVENTS



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**59TH ANNUAL SPAH CONVENTION**

**AUGUST 9 - 13, 2022**

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**TULSA, OKLAHOMA**



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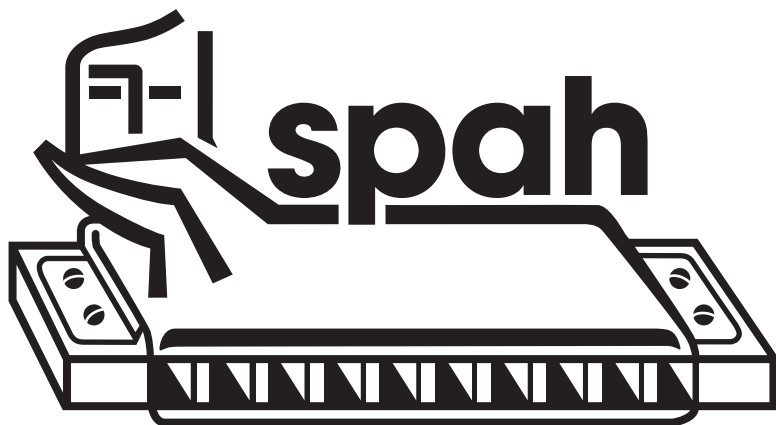


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**SPAH 2022**

59th Anniversary Harmonica Convention  
Tulsa, OK



*Presented by*  
The Society for the Preservation and  
Advancement of the Harmonica

*Hosted by*  
The Route 66 Harmonica Club

Tuesday, August 9th — Saturday, August 13th, 2022

Registrants may collect their registration packets on Tuesday  
starting at 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30 am until 5 pm  
Sat from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm.

Join us at the Lobby Stage for the SPAH Welcome Reception with  
music starting at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 9th

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Winslow Yerxa

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To many others that are too numerous to list,  
SPAH thanks you so much.



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*Please keep in mind that all seminar and performance information is subject to last minute changes. By attending the SPAH convention you acknowledge that SPAH reserves the right to retain and use photographs/videos of you in its publications and promotional material. Except at the designated Swap Meet, SPAH convention attendees are to refrain from visibly marketing or selling any products or services or establishing a place of business in any public areas on the convention premises unless the attendee is an authorized seminar presenter or performer (during or immediately following their seminar or performance) or unless the attendee is a credentialed sponsor or vendor (at their booth). SPAH reserves the right to request any attendee violating this policy to leave the convention premises. Private transactions between attendees—one buyer and one seller—are permitted provided that they do not violate this policy.*

# BLUES HARMONICA SHOWCASE

There are many traditions at SPAH, and one of them which is not to be missed is the traditional Blues Showcase on Wednesday. Hosted by Joe Filisko, this event is one that always draws a crowd of players in the audience, because you never know who you'll see come up on stage, and throw down some blues, and there are sure to be some unrehearsed, in the moment collaborations which wouldn't happen anywhere except SPAH. Joe Filisko always has his ears open for special talent, and whether it's a household name who deserves a spot, or a gospel stalwart who can throw down some mean Albert King, Filisko will be sure to present a showcase that touches you, takes you back, takes you away, and thrills you.

## Electric Blues Open Mic!

*Wednesday August 10th  
Promenade A Ballroom*

SPAH is proud to present the Electric Blues Open Mic Night Jam, sponsored by Hohner. Sign up right after Main Stage on Wednesday night, around 10:30pm, then be ready to play your favorite blues number to the SPAH audience, with a professional backline (drums, bass, guitar). Bring your song choice and your chops to the Promenade A ballroom!

# ROUTE 66 HARMONICA CLUB

Featured Performance



The 2022 Tulsa Showcase features Blind Dog and Little Brother Walker—the father and son duo of Brian and Eric Walker.

You may recognize Brian as the President of the Route 66 Harmonica Club of Tulsa. A trumpet player in high school, Brian picked up the diatonic harmonica at age forty-two. Originally drawn to the instrument by the Blues, his current interests include traditional New Orleans style Jazz, Country, Pop Standards, and Latin music. Neither blind nor a dog, Brian picked up the Blind Dog moniker at a band rehearsal before his first public outing on harmonica. Asked by the band's vocalist how she should introduce each member of the band, Brian—recalling what he had read about creating a blues stage name—chose an affliction and an animal and blurted out, “I want to be Blind Dog.” His tongue-in-cheek response was received with much laughter and... it stuck.

Guitarist and IBC competitor "Little Brother" Eric Walker has been playing solo and band gigs in and around Tulsa for 17 years. Eric has played with Little Joe McLerran, Dorothy Ellis (Miss Blues), Joe Settlemires (From Bob Wills Texas Playboys), and Bonny McCoy (Memphis Minnie's niece.). Eric's fingerpicking style of playing conjures the likes of Big Bill Broonzy, Blind Blake, Mississippi John Hurt, and Johnny Long. He also writes and performs original tunes. Dad occasionally helps fill out the sound on harmonica.

Brian and Eric will be playing together Wednesday night bringing the sounds of the Delta Blues, Traditional Jazz, and one or two Little Brother original tunes to their set.

# HIM & HER TRIO



Him & Her is singer/songwriter Brenda Freed on rhythm guitar and vocals, and Michael D'Eath on diatonic and chromatic harmonica. Add Jonathan Lee on lead guitar and *voila*: the Him & Her Trio. The trio's jazzy, bluesy, folksy originals

and covers reflect their diverse musical tastes, so expect some cool jazz arrangements, coupled with music of their own.

Brenda & Jonathan have teamed up to co-write the group's last two singles released as lyric videos on the Him & Her TX Music YouTube channel. Their Downtime single, co-written by Brenda, Jonathan and Teresa Kenas, will be released as an animated video on YouTube early August. Other releases of Him & Her include *Him & Her On Solid Ground* (2013), *Him & Her In The Groove* (2016), and *Him & Her Do Texas Women* (2018). [www.himandhertx.com](http://www.himandhertx.com).

## Open Mic!

*Here's your chance to play solo or with others.*

*Leave some space in your day to play on the  
Lobby Stage.*

*There will be a PA set up for use daily.*

# MICHAEL RUBIN VARIETY SHOW

Featured Performance

Michael Rubin is from Austin, Texas and has been a regular at SPAH for close to 20 years. He has performed with such luminaries as Cyrille Neville and Ruthie Foster, on television, movies and was the original harmonica player for the Tony nominated Broadway musical *The Civil War*. He plays diatonic, chromatic, bass, harmonetta and chord harps.

Rubin is especially recognized for his work as a teacher. Charlie Musselwhite says, "I think your lessons are the best and when someone asks me about learning the harmonica, I send them to you."

He is also a singer songwriter and his work can be heard on his new album *I'll Worry If I Wanna*, which features diatonic and

chromatic harmonica. Find information at [michaelrubinharmonica.com](http://michaelrubinharmonica.com)

But what truly makes Michael Rubin special is his work as an MC for the Variety Show at SPAH. Never before has anyone introduced people in such a dramatic way, often bringing the audience to tears with a simple turn of a phrase. By the end of a short hour, you will find that, yes, you have learned about the many styles of music the harmonica can be featured in, but more so, you will have learned something about the world we live in, and perhaps most importantly, about yourself.

This year promises to be better than ever as Michael has rounded up what might be his strongest lineup, featuring Paul Messinger (with cellist Jai Ritom Saldana and guitarist Eric Ginsberg), Nedra and Julio, Richard P. Bennett, Brandon O. Bailey, Julie Henderson, The Chris Bauer Trio, Joe Filisko, and Guilio Brouzet!



# RACHELLE PLAS & PHILIPPE HERVOUËT



Rachelle Plas—HOHNER Artist—plays on Golden Melody Hohner harmonicas.

"If I had to choose between judo and music, I'd choose music—you can build your whole life around music."

Rachelle Plas is a modern dance/soul/rock/blues/pop singer-songwriter from France. She complements her smooth, provocative voice with her virtuoso, refined harmonica playing. One of the best players around, she has been using the Golden Melody ever since. Besides her career as a musician, she is a very successful judo sportswoman and vice world champion in this sport.

Rachelle Plas and Philippe Hervouët are "Virtuoso and refined musicians, guitar and harmonica duo, they share their creations for music ranging from rock to blues and from pop to Celtic."

Find them on their websites: [www.rachelleplas.com](http://www.rachelleplas.com) & [www.philippe-hervouet.com](http://www.philippe-hervouet.com)



# DUSTIN ARBUCKLE

Featured Performance

Dustin Arbuckle and Matt Woods have each been hard at work on the blues and roots music scene for nearly two decades. Arbuckle, from Wichita, KS, was a founding member of the critically acclaimed progressive roots rock/blues act Moreland & Arbuckle, with whom he toured internationally and released seven albums from 2002 to 2017.

Woods, a native of central Iowa, has been a fixture of the Midwestern roots music community, averaging over 100 shows per year and recording three albums as a solo artist and two with his former band, The Thunderbolts.

After years of hearing and admiring each other's music, Arbuckle and Woods finally connected and began playing together in 2018. The two quickly developed a strong musical chemistry based on their mutual passion for old-school blues, especially the traditional rural styles of Mississippi and the electric Chicago blues sounds of the 1940s and 50s. Their music combines these influences with elements of gospel, country music, and more, while Woods' fiery voice and tenacious guitar playing blend perfectly with Arbuckle's more subtly soulful singing and harmonica style to give the duo the ability to deliver it all with power and authenticity. Arbuckle and Woods released their self-titled debut album in July of 2020, for which they received nominations for Best Acoustic Blues Album at both the 2021 Blues Music Awards and the *Blues Blast* Magazine Awards.



# YOUTH PROGRAM

Profiles of Youth Scholars in order of performance:

Shubhranill Sarkar is a highly accomplished 19-year-old chromatic harmonica player, living in Howrah, West Bengal, India.

Rohan Singhal is a 16-year-old diatonic harmonica player from Indore, India. He has been playing harmonica for the last 12 years and enjoys playing blues, jazz, funk, rock, and fusion of Western and Indian classical music.

Mighty Michael Mendelson is 14 years old and is a public school student. He has been playing harmonica on stage since he was 7 years old and guitar for the past four years. He performs as the regular special guest at gigs with legendary three-time Hall of Famer, Billy Davis and 'The Billy Davis Rhythm Machine Band' on harmonica, guitar and vocals. He can also be seen at many other metro Detroit jams and gigs.

Elwood Birgden is a 15-year-old Australian harmonica player who began playing blues harmonica in April 2020, during the covid-19 lockdown. Through the support and guidance of accomplished American blues musicians, who tutored him over Skype lessons, Elwood has been able to develop his keen interest in Chicago Blues.

Dhimant Adak is a 20-year-old professional chromatic harmonica player from India. He plays Western and Indian style of music, as well as standards, bebop jazz, and funk pop. He regularly improvises in jamming sessions and live gigs with different genres of songs, always with his own interpretation.

Eduardo Gonçalves is a 22-year-old harmonica player from Brasília, Brazil. Eduardo credits players like Adam Gussow, David Barrett, and Jason Ricci for having a huge positive impact on his life.

Amy Rister, also known by their stage name Artemis Lynn, is a 20-year-old country and blues harmonica player and independent musician based out of Cleveland, Ohio. Known for their stage presence, they have been playing harp for 3 years and shown proficiency on the instrument for their time. Their songs often relate to their personal experience with heavy topics not usually discussed in public.

Sally Ma is a 13-year-old harmonica talent based in Shanghai, China. She has been playing the chromatic harmonica for 8+ years. Sally dreams of becoming a famous harmonica Soloist when she grows up and let her harmonica music bring the joy to others.

Tancy Liu is a 10-year-old harmonica virtuoso on both chromatic and diatonic harmonica from Shijiazhuang city in Hebei Province, China. She has won diatonic harmonica competitions for youth in China during the last several years. She was honored to be an endorser of Seydel harmonicas.

# KONSTANTIN KOLESNICHENKO QUARTET

Featured Performance



Konstantin's distinctive and modern style of harmonica playing won him the recognition of other musicians and a spot among top Ukrainian harmonica players. At different times he got acclaim from world famous musicians including Guy Davis, Adam Gussow, Jason Ricci, Pierre Lacocque, PT Gazell and Bartosz Leczycki to name a few.

A native of Dnipro, Ukraine, Konstantin's career has spanned 15 years. He began playing harmonica at age 19. In 2008 he joined the Bullet Blues Band, a local Chicago blues band and acoustic duo with guitarist Oleg Lavrik. The band opened for such greats as Lurrie Bell, Guy Davis, Keith Dunn and so on.

"Kolesnichenko is one of my favorite living harmonica players playing some of my very favorite music. I am a huge fan of both his playing and his artistic direction to the point of jealousy."- Jason Ricci

"Konstantin Kolesnichenko (don't say it with a drink in your hand) is an exceptionally good Ukrainian harmonica player. He's a modern blues guy."- Adam Gussow

"There is a whole new breed of exciting harmonica players on the scene today. One of the young lions clearly leading the charge is Konstantin Kolesnichenko."- PT Gazell

"I love Konstantin's playing. Soulful, powerful, emotionally strong"- Jelly Roll Johnson

# TONY EYERS



Tony started harmonica as Yale undergraduate in the 1970s. Jim Fitting, a well known, Boston-based player (Treat Her Right), was there, and captivated everyone with his amplified harmonica style.

Tony returned to Australia in the early 1980s and formed The Full House Blues Band, which became well known in Adelaide. He moved to Sydney and was drawn to acoustic music and traditional fiddle tunes. To better play this music he devised the Major Cross tuning, used on his 2003 CD *Black Mountain Harmonica*

and his 2021 release *O'Carolan's Harmonica*.

In 2017 the Seydel harmonica company released a Major Cross version of their Session Steel harmonica model. Tony is a Seydel endorser.

Starting in 2005, he created a series of teaching sites, in Chinese and Spanish, along with the English site "Harmonica Academy." He was a judge at the Asia Pacific Harmonica Festival, and performed in Malaysia and Taiwan. Since 2008 he has written a column for *Harmonica World* magazine.

He also has a strong interest in baroque recorder, and performs with Balmain Baroque, a five piece ensemble he co-founded in 1995. He is the creator of the LearnRecorder.com teaching site.

# THE DIG 3 - WITH RONNIE SHELLIST

Featured Performance



Unfettered by convention, blues superheroes Andrew Duncanson, Ronnie Shellist, and one-man-band Gerry Hundt unite as The Dig 3. Whiskey vocals, masterful harmonica, and keen original songs stay tethered to grooves only possible when the rhythm section is one person. Walking the tightrope between urgency and ease, The Dig 3 creates roots music with power and subtlety—perfected by decades of house-parties and honky-tonks.

## Breakfast on SPAH!

*Saturday Morning – Tulsa North Ballroom*

*Please join us for a complementary Buffet Breakfast on Saturday Morning, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, in the North Tulsa Ballroom. This is simply a small way for SPAH to say “thank you” for coming to the 59th SPAH Convention to be with us in person!*

# JOHNNY SANSONE



Long known for his strong vocals and instrumental prowess, particularly on harmonica and accordion, Johnny Sansone has been growing steadily over 30 years as a highly respected New Orleans songwriter and bandleader. His American Blues Roots songwriting is mixed with a deep appreciation for the culture of Southern Louisiana, as heard in his anthem *Poor Man's Paradise* which vaulted him into the pantheon of New Orleans songwriters.

Sansone has been nominated for numerous awards, including The Blues Foundation, Song of the Year, which he won for *The Lord Is Waiting* and *The Devil Is Too*.

Sansone's most recent recording, *Into Your Blues* has been described as a "Blues Bomb, so funky and greasy that you'll definitely need extra napkins. Backed by a group of ace musicians and guests, this recording stands out as one of the best Blues and R&B releases of 2022."



# RJ MISCHO

Featured Performance



Hohner endorsee RJ Mischo has been playing professional blues diatonic and chromatic harmonica since 1978.

RJ has released 14 albums, is an award-winning musician, and frequently tours internationally.

A passionate vocalist and dynamic band leader, RJ is the type of entertainer that only decades of performing will bring to the stage.

## Let Your Voice Be Heard!

*Come to the SPAH Annual Meeting*

**Saturday, 3:30 p.m.**

**on the Founders' Stage in Promenade A**

# STEVE WATNE & FRIENDS

Pre-COVID, Steve opened his house to a group of chromatic harmonica players in the Twin Cities; arranging, collecting, and re-working duets, trios, quartets, and quintets for the weekly attendees. This year, Steve has marshaled up some SPAH usual suspects: Mike Runyan, Chris Bauer, and Janalyn Miklas to join him to perform some of the Bach to Beatles quartet pieces from those open house sessions. These seasoned players are all well known to SPAH convention regulars, having performed numerous times together and with others. If you're new to the SPAH convention, you're in for a treat. Be sure to check this out! No chords, no basses - just chromatics: it's not your regular harmonica fare!

## Buy, Sell or Trade

*Oklahoma Ballroom, Friday 1—4 p.m.*

Members are invited to join the Swap Meet: pass on some old treasures or acquire new ones. Just find space on a table and you're set to go.

*Note: If you are interested in selling new products, please work with someone in the vendor area. Out of respect for SPAH registered vendors, the Swap Meet is the place to sell your "extra stuff", not a place to set up shop. Thank you.*



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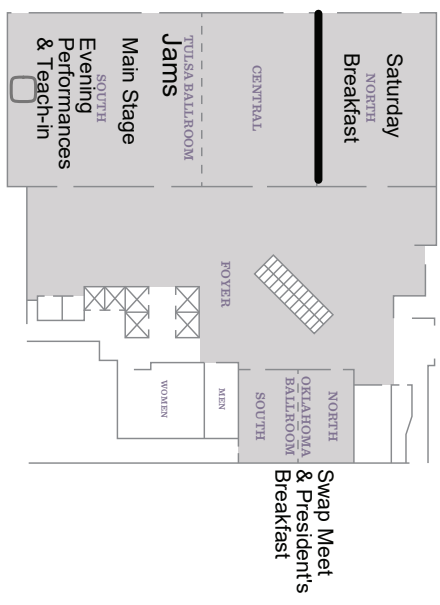
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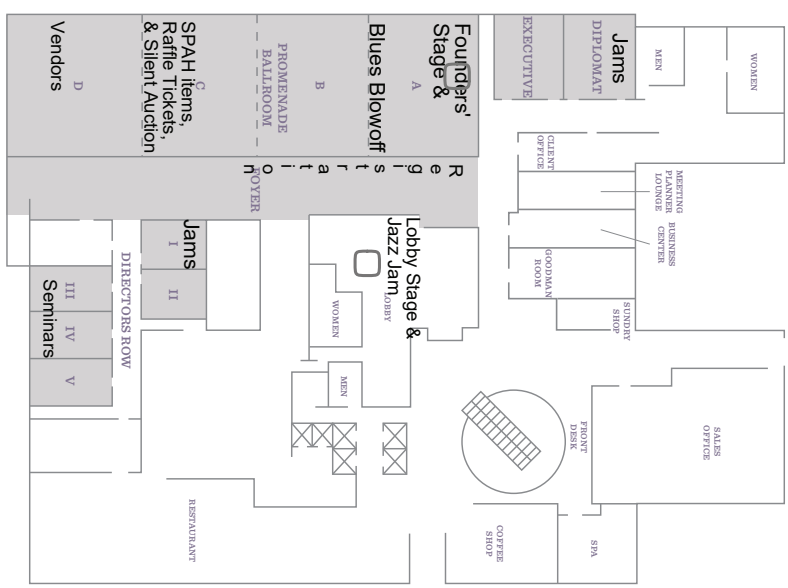
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**MEMBERSHIPS**

**AVAILABLE NOW AT** [badassharmonica.com](http://badassharmonica.com)

# CHECK OUT THE SPAH 2022 VENDORS

*Ask about your entry for the Vendor Treasure Hunt*

From every model of harmonica you could care to see from major manufacturers, to harmonica accessories, microphones, amplifiers, and much more, the vendor area puts it all in one place. a list of just some of our vendors:

BLOWSMEAWAY PRODUCTIONS

BUSHMAN MUSIC WORKS

GEORGE MIKLAS' HARMONICA GALLERY

HOHNER USA

NJR MUSIC

(also offering CDs from performing artists)

PHILHARMONICAS

WINDY CITY AMPS

PLUS:

SILENT AUCTION BENEFITING SPAH

SPAH RAFFLE TICKETS, T-SHIRTS, "GOODIE BAGS", & MORE

SPAH ZOOM LOUNGE

VENDOR ROOM HOURS:

11AM TO 3PM

VENDOR TREASURE HUNT WITH PRIZES DRAWN  
AFTER THE SPAH AGM, SATURDAY 4:15PM



# FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH SHOW

Take a moment to get to know the William Rosebush Youth Scholarship recipients! The Youth Scholarship supports recipients aged 21 years and younger to attend annual SPAH conventions by providing lodging and registration for recipients and their guardians, and gives them the opportunity to perform.

The Scholarship recipients showcased in this performance are, in order of appearance: Eduardo Gonçalves, Elwood Birgden, Dhimant Adak, and Mighty Michael Mendelson. Please refer to the Thursday afternoon showcase for more information about each of them.

Recipients are chosen based on a number of factors, not limited to their musical ability, but also considering innovation, eagerness to develop their skills, and dedication to the art of playing the harmonica. The number of scholarships awarded each year directly depends upon the generous donations of the harmonica community.

## SPAH 2022 President's Breakfast

Dear Harmonica Organizations, Vendors and Corporate Sponsors:

This year, SPAH will host the annual President's Breakfast on Saturday, August 13th at 8:00 AM in the Oklahoma Ballroom. We're inviting a single, leading representative from each Harmonica Club, Blues Club, or similar organization, as well as from each sponsor and each SPAH vendor. This gathering is to further cooperation, information exchange, collaboration, and networking with our partners as we look to the future of the harmonica and of SPAH. SPAH is also looking for organizations that would be interested in hosting future conventions in their city.

We would be pleased if you would attend on behalf of your organization.

Please confirm your attendance by completing the form at the Registration Desk and returning it to the SPAH Registration Desk before 5:00 PM on Wednesday August 10th.

Thanks. Michael D'Eath, president – Jerry Deall, vice president

# DENNIS GRUENLING

Featured Performance



Dennis Gruenling is one of the world's most respected blues harmonica players, an entrepreneur, and a harmonica education innovator. As a musician, he is considered one of the modern masters of amplified harmonica playing. Dennis has not only mastered traditional Blues styles, but he pioneered a new approach to playing jump and swing blues on the diatonic and chromatic harmonica that draws on the classic Blues tradition while still sounding fresh and modern. As an instructor of over 25 years, he has helped students learn the language of blues harmonica both virtually and in person, in addition to pioneering his online Q&A harmonica webinar series. He built his BadAss Harmonica business from the ground up, which not only restores and sells vintage microphones and amplifiers, but offers lessons, webinars, and his own exclusive line of harmonica merchandise. Gruenling spent 20 years teaching and performing on the road before joining forces with the Nick Moss Band and subsequently signing to Alligator Records. As a result in recent years, he has been awarded not only the SPAH "Bernie Bray Player of the Year" award (2019), but also 3 Blues Music Awards - Harmonica Player of the Year (2019), plus "Blues Band of the Year" and "Traditional Blues Album of the Year" (2020) for his work with The Nick Moss Band.

# BLUE NOTE HARMONICA QUARTET



The Blue Note Harmonica Quintet is a newly assembled group of four experienced harmonica players from the US and Sweden who will represent an unusual harmonica ensemble; Two diatonic harmonicas along with bass and chord harmonica.

Mikael Fall is the arranger and first diatonic harmonica player of the group along with Mikael Bäckman on diatonic harmonica, AJ Windmeyer on the chord harmonica and Bill Morris on the bass harmonica.

We will experience newly written arrangements of blues, jazz, western swing and classical pieces in this unconventional harmonica constellation, you don't want to miss this!



# HOWARD LEVY

Howard Levy is an acknowledged master of the diatonic harmonica, a superb pianist, innovative composer, recording artist, educator, producer, and writer.

“Levy has single-handedly revolutionized the harmonica...” (NPR) At the age of 19, he discovered how to play the diatonic harmonica fully chromatically, which opened new possibilities for an instrument previously relegated to playing Folk and Blues.



Equally at home in Jazz, Classical, Rock, Folk, Latin, and World Music, the 2-time Grammy Award Winner is a favorite with audiences worldwide and a recording artist sought after by Kenny Loggins, Dolly Parton, Paquito D’Rivera, Styx, Donald Fagen, Paul Simon, etc. Howard has appeared on hundreds of albums, music videos and movie soundtracks.

Howard’s never-ending musical creativity in improvisation and composition has also yielded many distinctive albums under his own name, including 2 milestones in music history: *Harmonica Jazz*, the first Jazz album recorded by a diatonic harmonica player, and *Concerto for Diatonic Harmonica and Orchestra*, featuring the first true concerto composed for the instrument in classical style.

Being a musician without limits, Howard embraces everything that music offers. So, one shouldn’t be surprised to find among his latest works a solo piano album (*Looking Inward*), a vocal album of his original songs (*12/45*), and a book (*Songs, Poems and Stories*).

Howard tours the world as a solo artist, in a duo with guitarist Chris Siebold, with Trio Globo, Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, and his new band, The Howard Levy 4.

Howard’s quest to elevate the diatonic harmonica to its full potential has been a life-long mission. Along with constantly challenging himself, he generously shares his vast knowledge with thousands of students through his online harmonica school at ArtistWorks.

You can check out Howard’s latest album *Duets with Friends* (2022), the 4th and last of his “From the Vaults” series.

# **SATURDAY MORNING COUNTRY GOSPEL SHOW**

Organized several years ago by L.J. Atkison, former Vice President of SPAH, SPAH presents a Saturday morning harmonica gospel and country harmonica show. In addition to scores of SPAH convention attendees, SPAH welcomes local senior citizens to experience the power of the harmonica. This show attracts many returning SPAH members, who now look forward to a presentation of Gospel music—with a flavor of Country style harmonica—presented by excellent players from within the SPAH harmonica community. Music can be expressed in many ways. In this Saturday morning show you will hear different approaches to gospel music, as expressed on the harmonica. At the end of the program, the players will join together to play, expressing their individual style and interpretation of a popular gospel tune.

The Saturday Morning Country Gospel Show will return as one of SPAH's community outreach programs in 2023. Phil Duncan, a harmonica enthusiast, published author with Mel Bay Publication, Inc., and a Performing Artist with Hohner, Inc., heads the group. He has enlisted the help of several professional harmonica players to express their Gospel/Country performance.

This year, performers will include: Buddy Greene, Todd Parrott, Chris Bauer, Joe Filisko, Phil Duncan to name a few. Over the years, this show has become a popular Gospel venue, offering a reflection on the week's activities at SPAH, enjoyment of the harmonica and thankfulness for the camaraderie of this wonderful harmonica community. We hope to see you there

# ROBERT BONFIGLIO



Robert Bonfiglio has a Master's Degree from Manhattan School of Music, he won the first Milhaud Scholarship to study composition with Aaron Copland. Bonfiglio was signed to an 8 CD deal with RCA Victor, his first recording was the Villa-Lobos Harmonica Concerto which he has performed over 400 times with over 200 Major Orchestras including: Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Pittsburgh Symphony, Teatro Colon - Buenos Aires Philharmonic, Gewandhaus

MDR, Minnesota Orchestra, National Symphony, Boston Pops with John Williams, New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Orquesta Sinfónica de RTVE Madrid, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Mexico City Philharmonic and the Louisville Orchestra. Robert is the Founding Director of the Grand Canyon Music Festival now in its 38 Season.

# HARMONICA VARIETY SHOWCASE, HOSTED BY MIKE RUNYAN

Mike Runyan is pleased to host a not-to-be-missed extravaganza by some of the most entertaining harmonica players around.

From Chris Bauer's chromatic harmonica jazz stylings, to Madcat Ruth's diatonic wizardry, to Ceasar's high-energy stage pyrotechnics, PLUS some surprises along the way, this show will be a great finale to another week of fantastic harmonica music-making. Donald is totally self-taught and with his own unique style and mastery, has played a very significant part in the harmonica having been given a new respect and acceptance; meaning aficionados, professionals and reviewers taking it seriously as a significant part of the Scottish Traditional Music scene.

Using mainly the tremolo or 10-hole diatonic harmonica as lead instrument, his live performances of thoroughly challenging jigs, reels, marches, hornpipes, strathspeys and emotionally charged slow airs/laments have delighted audiences in his native Scotland, as well as England, Italy, Germany, Lithuania, Denmark, Russia and the U.S.A.

Donald has recorded five albums to considerable acclaim; one of them being a joint venture with the highly respected multi-instrumentalist Malcolm Jones of Scottish Celtic – Rock Band Runrig, and is mentioned in four books on the instrument: *The Encyclopaedia of the Harmonica* by Peter Krampert, *Harmonicas for Dummies* by Winslow Yerxa, *Die Mundharmonica* by Cristoph Wagner and *Five Cents and a Boxtop* by Charlie McCoy. He was very honoured to guest on a track on Charlie's latest *Celtic Dreams* album after which Charlie reciprocated by guesting on Donald's latest *Bho m' Chridhe* (From My Heart) album. Over the years Donald has made several TV appearances and enjoyed extensive radio-play both at home and abroad

Throughout his SPAH engagement Donald will be accompanied by Donnie Mackenzie on acoustic guitar.

# **SPA H 2022 PERFORMER TIP JAR**



# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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*by day and by seminar title, alphabetically). Please check the schedule board for any last-minute changes.*

Find photos of presenters at:  
<https://spahstore.org/convention-events/upcoming-convention/seminar-presenters/>

## WEDNESDAY

### **Big Walter Horton Study Session-** *Dennis Gruenling*

An in-depth look into one of the masters of Chicago Blues harmonica, and what makes his playing so special and unique. Tabs and jam tracks will be available to students via download after the session. (See Performer section for Dennis's background.

### **Blues Bass Lines**

*Ronnie Shellist*

In this seminar, Ronnie Shellist will cover a handful of the most relevant blues bass lines on a C diatonic harmonica. Some knowledge of bending required. This is a great way to become more familiar with the most common blues grooves and this will help you improve your improvisation approach to these grooves.

### **Chromatic Double Stops**

*Michael Rubin*

Rubin explains how by playing two notes at one time you can create harmonies, represent chords and create two melodies at once.

### **From 3rd Position to Full Chromatic**

*Giulio Brouzet*

This seminar will help diatonic players who are interested in finally understanding how to easily approach the chromatic harmonica. We will use the well-known 3rd position on the chromatic as a starting point to consolidate some techniques and knowledge, and eventually be able to improvise nice melodic lines. Structure of the workshop: intro / presentation; warm-up / breathing; 3rd position to full chromatic; jam circle.

### **How To Arrange And Play Classical Music On The Chromatic Harmonica**

*Jiayi He*

Jiayi He will explain how to arrange the classical music to fit for the chromatic harmonica. He will show the audience how to practice with 12 keys, why choose different keys to play staccato, legato, trills, double stops, and chords, then demonstrate works include Flight of the Bumblebee, Carmen Fantasy, Rhapsody in Blue, Meditation and more. [www.HeHarmonica.com](http://www.HeHarmonica.com)

### **How To Fit In at a Jam**

*Michael Handler*

It's your turn to get up and jam with folks you don't know. You try to figure what key the band is in, let alone when and what to play. Should you let it all out and let them know you're the MAN, or lay back and maybe miss your cue...? These and other questions are not new to harmonica players who are not used to playing with

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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a band. There's a certain amount of etiquette and patience involved in playing at a jam session, or any musical gathering where you find yourself hold a harp and maybe not knowing what to do with it. Well, we've all been there, and after 50 year of playing, I've got some valuable tips to keep you in the groove and out of trouble. After all, you want to be invited back, right??!?

## **Playing In A Rack: Effective Harmonica Holder Strategies**

*Harmonica John Frazer*

Many racks are uncomfortable and need adjustments. There are some new ones that solve some issues, and others that still need work.

## **Position Playing—Why It Is Important**

*Harmonica John Frazer*

Explaining and demonstrating how position playing can expand your enjoyment and open possibilities to a greater understanding of the harmonica

## **Western Swing Tuning**

*Mikael Bäckman*

I have designed a new tuning for the diatonic harmonica: Western Swing tuning. I will discuss why I felt a need for yet another tuning and demonstrate the benefits of my design. (See Performer section Blue Note Harmonica Quartet for Mikael's background)

## THURSDAY

### **80/20 Music Theory (How To Figure Out Musical Mysteries Using Three Simple Concepts)**

*Richard Sleight*

How to use the major scale, the numbers 1—7, and the circle of fifths to teach yourself music theory. You will learn a simple path to connecting what you already know to more advanced concepts, one clear step at a time.

### **Beginning Blues Jam**

*Michael Rubin*

Michael Rubin coaches how to succeed at a blues jam and we jam! Bring a C harp. All harmonica types welcome.

### **Breathing For Chromatic Harmonica**

*Giulio Brouzet*

In this workshop, we will cover melody building and breathing techniques. I use the concept of eurhythmmy and try to steal the best practices from the Alexander Technique, Feldenkrais Method, Japanese Hara, Prana Yoga, and free-diving breathing. We will use practical examples and a few easy music sheets both in harmonica tabs and music notation to help beginners. The class is built to be fun and engaging and all of the elements of the theory are proposed through practical and musical tasks. Class structure 90 minutes: Introduction/welcoming and warm-up; Breathing technique;

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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Melodies from simple to complex; Examples in Blues, Jazz, and Classical Music; end / greetings.

## **Charlie Musselwhite Q&A with Michael D'Eath**

*Charlie Musselwhite*

Michael D'Eath will interview world-renowned harmonica player Charlie Musselwhite. Bring your questions to ask Charlie!

## **Country Tuned Harmonica and the role of a sideman**

*Larry Regen*

Larry is a full time musician doing about 100 performances a year. In addition, he does studio work, teaches private lessons and has contracts with large retirement developments where he teaches group lessons. In previous years he has had up to 50 people attending his seminars where he explains the advantages of playing C/T harmonicas and when not to play when backing singers or other musicians' solos.

## **Filisko Teach-in**

*Joe Filisko*

Join Joe and all his special guests on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for a series of mini-workshops on every aspect of the harmonica covered by some of the world's very finest specialists. There will be help for beginners, intermediate, advanced, chromatic and diatonic. This informal three-day event allows you to interact with each specialist for a few hours a day in more of an

informal and relaxed setting than ever before.

## **Racking Up & Rocking Out**

*Lonnie Joe Howell*

Lonnie Joe will demonstrate the skills of playing guitar and harmonica simultaneously. Guitar grooves for playing back up on blues country and rock songs will be taught. Howell will show how to create and blend very tasteful Harmonica solo with the guitar. Those who plan to attend should bring at least a Key of C harmonica if they wish to participate in this workshop. Howell will also be hosting the nightly Country in Bluegrass Jams at SPAH, and is one of Joe Filisko's teach-in team members.

## **Singing for Harp Players**

*Richard Bennett*

Whether you're thinking about adding vocals or already front a band and just want to sound better, you'll get some helpful tips in this one hour class. This class covers the basics of singing in a way that's easy to understand with practical advice on how to support properly, improve your sound, and increase your range. It also covers why you should warm up your voice before gigs and how, some of the challenges peculiar to going back and forth between harp and voice, and what getting great tone on your harp and in your voice have in common. The class is geared for blues, country, rock, and related



# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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styles, but the technique works for all styles of music and all are welcome. Bring your voice and harmonicas in C, D, A, and Bb, if you have them. Some of the demonstrations will be done using diatonic harmonicas, but chromatic players are welcome.

## FRIDAY

### **Blues In All Keys (Understanding Relative Keys)**

*Mike Fall*

During this seminar I'm going to talk about basic harmony and music theory, relative keys, The Circle of Fifths, scales and how you can use these to improvise blues in all positions on the diatonic harmonica.

### **Effect Pedals - When is a harmonica not a harmonica?**

*Tommy Cate*

I have experimented and performed with pedals for years. Some pedals work well with harmonicas and some don't. Seminar will be to show what pedals do, how they work together, which ones work well with harp and some pointers on performing with them.

### **Effortless Singing with Brenda Freed**

*Brenda Freed*

Would you like to feel more confident about singing or be able to front your own band? Brenda Freed has an MA in Music Education/Music Therapy. She has been performing since childhood

and has been teaching voice for over 30 years to all ages, ranging from those who could not match pitch to experienced singers. Brenda is intuitive and has the ability to pinpoint vocal problems and offer suggestions on how to make immediate improvement. Her techniques include how to: breathe properly, project and avoid hoarseness, increase vocal range and stamina, improve pitch and tone, and become more confident about singing. This workshop is designed to be experiential, fun, and applicable for all participants who want to sing. Feel free to bring a song you'd like to work on. Handouts provided.

### **Filisko Teach-in**

*Joe Filisko*

(see prior day's description)

### **Shaping Tones - Acoustic Tone Modulation**

*Peter Madcat Ruth*

Harmonica playing is so much more than just playing the right notes. This seminar is about ways to enhance the tone of each note or chord using your hands, your tongue, your breath, your throat, and the acoustic chamber inside your mouth. Tremolo, vibrato, phase-shifting with the hand, phase-shifting with the mouth, hand wah, Leslie speaker effects, trills, warbles, and shakes, will be addressed. The use of these techniques brings a depth and richness to the sound of the harmonica. Multiple effects

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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can be produced simultaneously. And these techniques can be used on both diatonic and chromatic harmonicas.

## **Social Media Marketing for Any Age**

*Derek Frank & Rob Paparozzi*

Helping people of any age get started on social media to grow themselves as a band and get more gigs or students.

## **Stage Presence**

*Donald Ceasar*

Elements of presence during stage performance. Preparation, audience interaction, set lists, etc.

## **SATURDAY**

## **Effortless Harmony Playing on the Harmonica**

*Brenda Freed & Michael D'Eath*

Would you like to play descants so that you can provide interesting accompaniments to other harp players or to a singer? In this fun workshop, participants will learn the basic music theory of harmony and experience singing and playing harmonies with each other. This workshop is designed to be educational, experiential and fun. Bring a C harp. Handouts provided.

## **Filisko Teach-in**

*Joe Filisko*

(see prior day's description)

## **Harmonica Fun 101**

*Lonnie Joe Howell*

This FUN filled presentation will motivate players of all ages and skill levels to learn new sounds, techniques, grooves, and reinforce the basics on harmonica. The program will be a group participation marathon of making the sounds of trains, fiddles, bagpipes, accordions, duck calls, trumpets, and other surprises. A play along section of classic songs with harmonica backup grooves will close out the session. Handouts will be provided.

## **How to Play Sweet Georgia Brown on Blues Harp AND Guitar**

*Richard Sleight*

For intermediate diatonic players (you must be able to play bent notes as melody notes in holes 1-6) and intermediate guitar players (be able to play cowboy chords and simple bar chords). A two hour class - the first hour is devoted to learning the melody on the blues harp as well as a couple of embellishments / variations. The second hour is devoted to playing the guitar chords, getting the right comping sound for the rhythm, and how to approach playing the rack harp & guitar on this tune if you want to go down that road. There will be harmonica tab and suggested guitar chords mapped out in guitar chord diagrams. There will also be discussion of the theory behind the chord progression and how it follows the circle of fifths. You will need a key of A harmonica and / or a guitar.

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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## **Intro To Tongue Blocking**

*David Kachalon*

We will begin an introduction into the tongue block embouchure and discover all its many advantages when playing blues.

## **Rhythms of the Breath**

*Howard Levy*

Underlying everything we play on the harmonica- single note passages, riffs, and licks- are the rhythms resulting from our in and out breathing. Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced players- you will all reach another level with Howard guiding you through his systematic approach to breathing

that nobody else has ever organized and explained. He practices these techniques all the time to elevate his own playing. In this seminar, Howard will demonstrate a variety of the exercises he created, including adapting drum rudiments to the harmonica, that will break down barriers in your playing.

## **Train Chugging**

*David Kachalon & Kevin Burrows*

Train imitation, chugging, moving with rhythmic control.

# JAMS & MORE

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## **Evening Jams**

Do you want to play Blues, Jazz, Country, Gospel, etc.? Bring your harmonicas.

## **Open Mic**

Here's your chance to play solo or with others. Leave some space in your day to play.

## **Swap Meet**

SPAH members are invited to bring their extra "harmonica stuff" to the Oklahoma Room on Friday, 1-4 p.m. Find space on a table and you're set to go. You can sell some old treasures or buy new ones. You are responsible for all your items.

Note: If you are interested in selling new products, please work with someone in the vendor area. Out of respect for SPAH registered vendors, the Swap Meet is the place to sell your "extra stuff", not a place to set up shop. Thank you.

## **Jazz Jam**

Calling all Jazz players and enthusiasts. Please come to the Lobby Stage after the Main Stage performance on either Thursday or Friday, and play or listen to some of the best harmonica jazz. Sign up when you get there. The bar will be open!



1313 Colorado Avenue – Joliet, IL 60435-3704  
PH 815-725-9035 FX 815-725-9097

*SPAH would like to thank Joe Filisko for his continued commitment to bringing the best teachers to SPAH. Find more Teach-In info in the Seminar Descriptions.*

## **SPAH 2022 Joe Filisko Teach-In Sessions**

*featuring:*

"Troubadour" Bill Morris	Jim "Sarge" McDonald
Charlie Barath	George Miklas
Don Ceasar	Rob Roy Parnell
PT Gazell	Todd Parrott
Buddy Greene	Michael Rubin
Dennis Gruenling	Peter "Madcat" Ruth
Deak Harp	Seth Shumate
Lonnie Joe Howell	Richard Sleigh

*and invaluable assistance from:*

Dan Rupp

# AUTOGRAPHS

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# SPA H 2023



# PENTAHARP

Matthias Hohner

PROGRESSIVE

Made in Germany



## PLAY INSIDE THE BOX

The new Hohner PentaHarp is the first harmonica made for guitarists. Most guitar players learn the pentatonic scale as their introduction to soloing and melodies. To play this scale on a standard harmonica, the player will have to perfect advanced techniques that take years to master. This new harmonica makes it easy to play those "Inside the Box" riffs we know, right out of the box.



# HOHNER

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please visit us at  
[www.pentaharp.com](http://www.pentaharp.com)

# I'll Worry if I Wanna



## THE NEW ALBUM FROM **MICHAEL RUBIN**

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I ain't Lyin'!"*

- Charlie Musselwhite -

*"Total Mastery!"*

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