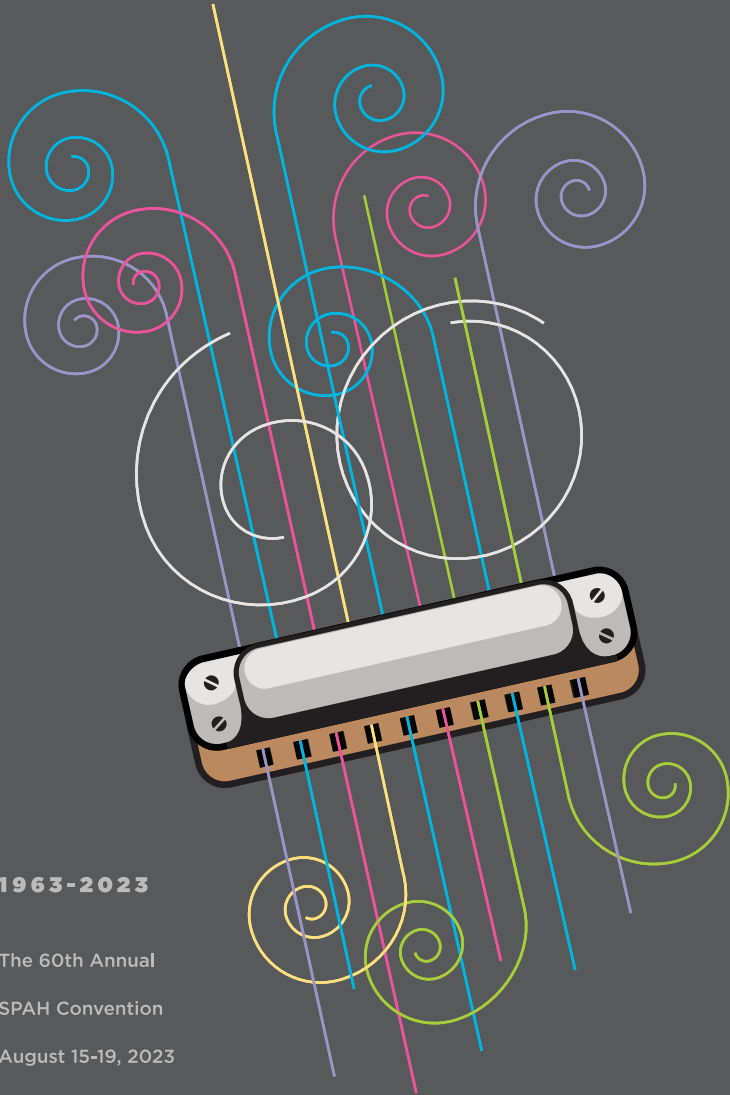


PROGRAM OF EVENTS



**1963-2023**

The 60th Annual

SPAH Convention

August 15-19, 2023

Sheraton Westport Chalet

St. Louis, Missouri

*hosted by the*  
Gateway Harmonica Club





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in Europe

*Congratulations SPAH's 60<sup>th</sup>*



# HARMONICA GALLERY

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2023 Inductee:  
Who's Who  
in America

*Dr. George Wallace Miklas*

Author: Harmonica Pedagogy for the Full Inclusion Instrumental Music Classroom, Expanding Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

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**SPAH 2023**

60th Anniversary Harmonica  
Convention  
St. Louis, MO



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

*Hosted by*  
The Gateway Harmonica Club

Tuesday, August 15th — Saturday, August 19th, 2023

Attendees with pre-paid registration may collect their registration packets on Tuesday starting at 1:30 pm  
Registration opens for all others at 3:30 pm Tuesday  
Registration is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30 am until 5 pm Sat from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm

Join us in the Convention Hotel Lobby for the SPAH Welcome Reception with music starting at 3:30 pm, Tuesday, August 15th

# SPAH BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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Cynthia Dusel-Bacon, Winslow Yerxa, Kyle Rowland  
& Michael Mendelson — Committee Members

## PAST PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

Winslow Yerxa  
Paul Davies  
Tom Stryker

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.*

## DAILY SCHEDULE



## DONATE TO SPAH





# CHECK OUT THE SPAH 2023 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:

BLOWS ME AWAY PRODUCTIONS  
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NEW HARMONICA

SEE SCHEDULE FOR VENDOR ROOM HOURS

SPAH WILL, ONCE AGAIN, SPONSOR A VENDOR "TREASURE HUNT", OFFERING PRIZES FOR ATTENDEES WHO VISIT ALL THE VENDORS DURING THE SPAH CONVENTION. PRIZES FOR COMPLETED CARDS WILL BE SELECTED AT RANDOM AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, FOUNDERS' STAGE.

# 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.

## Join us for Companions' Breakfast

*Saturday, 8:30-10:00am, Bern room*

*(aka Hospitality Suite)*

Complimentary breakfast hosted by the Gateway Harmonica Club is offered, courtesy of SPAH, to a companion of each registered SPAH Convention attendee.

- Seating is limited to the first 80 companions of registered convention attendees who RSVP (see below)
- This special event includes prizes, entertainment and surprises.

Here's how to reserve a place at the Companions Breakfast if you have not already done so:

- Complete your registration for the 2023 SPAH Convention
- Complete the Companions Breakfast reservation form at the Registration Desk before noon on Wednesday, August 15th.

# ST. LOUIS GATEWAY HARMONICA CLUB

Featured Performance

Known for its four-part harmonica music and big band sound, the Gateway Harmonica Club plays a variety of music. Their SPAH convention performance will feature local favorites, '50s and '60s pop, tin pan alley hits, and more. For 36 years, the band has been providing musical entertainment in the St. Louis area and is on its way to a record-setting year...60 performances in 2023!

## SPAH 2023 President's Breakfast

Dear Harmonica Organizations, Vendors and Corporate Sponsors:

This year, SPAH will host the annual President's Breakfast on Saturday, August 19th at 8:00 AM in Alpine 1. 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 16th.

Thanks.

Michael D'Eath, president - Jerry Deall, vice president

# MICHAEL RUBIN VARIETY SHOW



Michael Rubin is a harmonica performer / teacher from Austin, Texas. Of his harmonica work on his recent debut album, entitled *I'll Worry If I Wanna*, RJ Mischo says, "Total Mastery!"

Charlie Musselwhite says of Rubin, "I think your instructions are the best. When someone asks me about learning harmonica, I send them to you."

His hidden talent is MCing the annual hit Variety Show at SPAH. Year after year, Rubin gathers together the greatest of performers from around the world. He has a special talent for including wonders who have not yet wound up on the SPAH stages placed alongside the biggest heroes of SPAH.

This year's program includes Mighty Mike, Dov Hammer, Sally Ma, Bo Stevens, Scott Albert Johnson, Todd Parrott, Gary Glazner, and The Family and Friends Quartet made up of Cynthia Dusel-Bacon, George Miklas, Boaz Kim and Janalyn Miklas.

Don't miss what promises to be the best Variety Show ever!

## Open Mic!

*Here's your chance to play solo or with others. Leave some space in your day to play on the Lobby Stage, in the Hotel Bar near Registration. There will be a PA set up for use daily.*

# IL HARMONICA TRIO

Il Harmonica Trio is a group of diverse popular music composed of three prestigious Argentine musicians: Cristian “Crispy” Aguirre (chords, Harmonetta and chromatic harmonica); Lucas Chamorro (chromatic, chords and diatonic harmonica); and Andrés Chorny (bass and chromatic harmonica).



Playing both covers and songs of their own, they include popular genres like Tango, Jazz, Waltz and others and perform in various places, for example bars, pubs, theaters, conventions and festivals. Moreover, the group makes a contribution to harmonica learners and the public in general by presenting talks, seminars, master classes and didactic concerts, spreading the interest in and acknowledgement of these kinds of formations.

The group has received several awards and recognitions for many audiovisual works. Among the most important ones, we could highlight a subsidy given by the National Music Institute (INAMU) which drove the trio to record their first studio album - Il harmonica I - and high-quality produced videoclips.

At present, besides performing live, “Il Harmonica Trio” works at varied cultural and educational spaces, encouraging their listeners to get interested in these sorts of formations. It inspires and spreads the orchestral use of the harmonica through talks, seminars, masterclasses and didactical concerts. This is not only in Argentina, but also worldwide, taking part in prestigious conventions and festivals, such as the SPAH Society Convention in The USA, where “Il Harmonica Trio” offered a didactic concert in August, 2021.

# WILL WILDE



Will Wilde has taken the harmonica way beyond its blues roots since he first emerged on the music scene in 2010. Always pushing forward, evolving and redefining his sound, Wilde is now taking the rock world by storm with his band Bad Luck Friday. Wilde's hard-edged harmonica steals the spotlight from the traditional rock guitar, with a sound that owes as much to Slash or Gary Moore as it does to Sonny Boy Williamson or Little Walter.

## Let Your Voice Be Heard!

*Come to the SPAH Annual Meeting*

Saturday, 3:30 p.m.  
on the Founders' Stage in Matterhorn

# JAMES CONWAY

Featured Performance

James Conway is an Irish-American musician based in Chicago, Illinois, and is particularly known for playing traditional Irish music on the harmonica and tin whistle. He also plays guitar, bodhran, and plays folk and country blues music. Jason Ricci said of Conway's playing, "This guy is the king of tongue switching (playing out of both sides of your mouth) – his octave leaps, effortless complex melodies, and chords are mind melting to the harmonica player while natural to the listener.



## Electric Blues Open Mic!

*Wednesday August 15th  
Founders' Stage - -Matterhorn 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 Matterhorn Ballroom!

# ROSEBUSH YOUTH SHOWCASE

Profile of 2023 SPAH William Rosebush Youth Fund Scholars

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, 15-year-old **Harrell "Young Rell"**

**Davenport** fell in love with the blues at a young age. Challenged by many struggles, he started learning guitar and harmonica at the age of 10 to express his anguish. Influenced by legends such as Jimmy Reed, Eddie Taylor and Billy Branch, Rell played his first concert at the age of 10, followed by writing his first song at 11.

**Cale Fladager** is a 16-year-old self-taught harmonica player and multi-instrumentalist originally from Saskatchewan, Canada, though he currently lives in Poland. He's only been playing harmonica for 1.5 years—jazz on the chromatic harmonica, and blues and folk on diatonic and tremolo harmonicas. Cale is currently playing and leading original jazz compositions for harmonica with various ensembles at European international school music festivals.

**Aramis St-Gelais** is a 21-year-old Canadian diatonic, chromatic, and harmonetta player who plays jazz, new music, and Classical pieces. He fell in love with the harmonica at age 15. Aramis studied jazz harmony and composition in high school and, upon graduation, was awarded Composer of the Year. While at University in New Brunswick, Canada, he became the first harmonicist in the jazz band. Aramis composes and arranges pieces and études for harmonica and mixed ensembles, including big bands.

**Alexander Harris** is an 11-year-old from Virginia who has been playing the harmonica for 6 years. He has been instructed by Dr. George Miklas. Alexander enjoys playing diatonic, 12, and 16 hole chromatic. His harmonica styles are Classical, traditional, patriotic, and folk.

**Sally Ma** is a 14-year-old harmonica talent based in Shanghai, China. She began to learn chromatic harmonica in kindergarten at age 5, and, starting at age 7, studied under harmonica virtuoso Zhao Chenxi, and is currently also a student of Mr. Gordon Lee (Harmonica World Champion). Sally won 1st Runner Up Chromatic Harmonica Solo in the 13th Asia Pacific Harmonica Festival Youth Group (2022), Gold Award in Taiwan Harmonica Music Competition in harmonica solo junior (2020), and Champion in China national harmonica competition Junior Group (2019). She opened her first harmonica solo concert in Shanghai in 2020 and has performed harmonica on live TV. Sally was a SPAH Youth Online Scholar in 2021 and 2022.

**David Manche** is a 20-year-old college student from Kentucky who is self-taught on the diatonic harmonica and enjoys playing country, bluegrass, and gospel. He has been playing for 5 years. The college band in which he plays recently came in 1st in a battle-of-the-bands competition.



# JASON KEENE

Featured Performance

Jason Keene is a Chromatic Harmonica player who resides in Los Angeles, California.

His main interest has always been West Coast Jazz, influenced by melodic players like Chet Baker, Gerry Mulligan, Stan Getz, and is also a huge fan of Nat “King” Cole and other great vocalists from the 1940’s through the 1960’s.

Jason is also interested in Electronic music, and hopes to expand the role of harmonica players in

contemporary styles via the MIDI Harmonica recently invented.

Jason has been blessed to study with many wonderful harmonica players, Wim Dijkgraaf, Laurent Maur, Ron Kalina and most recently Los Angeles Woodwind legend Terry Harrington.

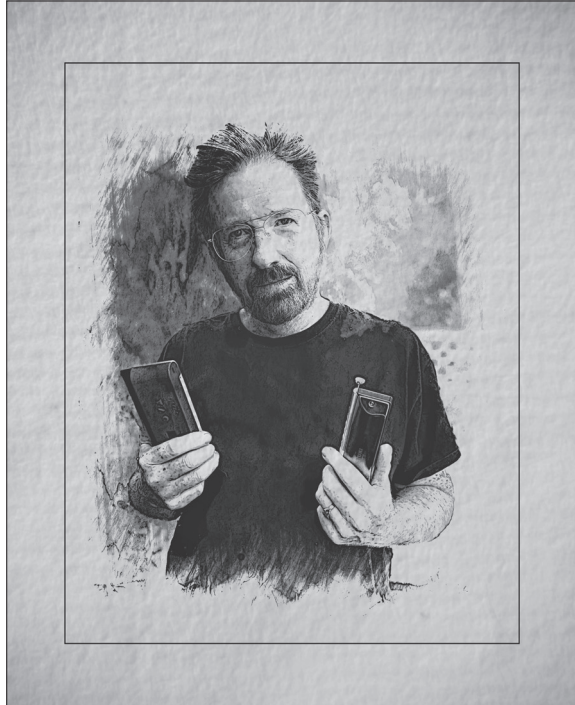
He has performed on stage and/or recorded with many Los Angeles players of note: Dean Parks, Jim Cox, Larry Goldings, David Jackson, Geoff Pearlman, George Doering, Dillon O’ Brian, and many others. He has toured the States and Europe extensively with the Kyle Gass Band.

With the invention of the Lekhoilm DM48 MIDI Harmonica, Jason has actively pursued the mastery of this amazing instrument as well, as it has opened up an entirely new world of options for harmonica players that wish to use electronic sounds like Synthesizers, and instrument modeling apps like SWAM Horns and more.

His preferred chromatic harmonica company is SEYDEL, and is proud to be an endorsee.

Jason Keene’s website is: [Jasonkeeneharmonica.com](http://Jasonkeeneharmonica.com)

YouTube channel is: [YouTube.com/Bluesbop](http://YouTube.com/Bluesbop)



# JOE FILISKO & ERIC NODEN



Joe Filisko and Eric Noden are an internationally acclaimed roots duo from Chicago, Illinois. They have been performing and recording music together for 20 years. Their original blues songs, train imitations and harmony singing are reminiscent of the 1920's and 30's when acoustic music was prevalent. Joe and Eric use their virtuosity and song writing skills to illustrate nearly forgotten styles of American Music.

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IN THE HOTEL LOBBY.**



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*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 2023 Joe Filisko Teach-In Sessions**

*featuring:*

Brandon Bailey	Lonnie Joe Howell
Charlie Barath	George Miklas
Chris Bauer	Dennis Oellig
Don Ceasar	Todd Parrott
James Conway	Michael Rubin
Grant Dermody	Ronnie Shellist
PT Gazell	Seth Shumate
Deak Harp	Richard Sleigh
	Will Wilde

*and invaluable assistance from:*

Dan Rupp

*SPAH Welcomes Troubadours:*

Jerry Devillier, Buzz Krantz and Bill Morris,  
Please visit with them in the Zermatt Room,  
(Thu-Sat) or out and about in the hallways!

# JASON RICCI & THE BAD KIND



Multiple award winning jazz, funk and blues harmonica player, singer, songwriter Jason Ricci has played with, toured and recorded with some of the world's most esteemed blues, jazz, rock and New Orleans musical legends. Jason is included in nearly every top ten and top twenty lists of harmonica players in magazines and all over the internet. His fascinating career and life has led him up to the highest musical mountain tops such as performing at The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, recording a Grammy winning record with Johnny Winter, winning three Blues Music Awards and numerous nominations from The Blues Foundation only to fall all the way down to the lowest valleys of addiction, homelessness, jails and back up again. Today his sincere recordings, shows, songs and incendiary harmonica playing continue to tell the story of life and garner new fans to add to an emotionally devoted following of dedicated music lovers.

# THE BIG BAND

Featured Performance

By popular demand, a repeat performance of Big Band harmonica arrangements written by prominent and great harmonica players of the past/present. These include: Joe Mullendore (Cappy Barra leader/composer/arranger & of Hollywood movie fame), Dave Doucette (“The Pencil”), Chuck Fendall, David Bugli, Steve Watne & Chris Bauer, all incredible harmonica geniuses. These arrangements will be performed by some of best players of our

time. They include: Tom Stryker, Chris Bauer, Mike Runyan, Winslow Yerxa, Steve Watne, Janalynn Miklas, George Miklas, Alex Windmeyer and Boaz Kim. The band will be directed by Maestro, SPAH member, David Bugli.

You can be sure each has worked very hard to bring back the sound of The Big Band Harmonica Groups, all while living in different part of the U.S. and Europe.

This is a harmonica treat not to be missed.

## SPAH In Memoriam

Please join us at the SPAH Awards Banquet to remember those we have lost in the past decade.

SPAH will present a short In Memoriam video so that we can reflect on the many SPAH members and influential harmonica players who have lost their lives in the last decade.

Over the course of the past several months, SPAH members and friends have submitted the names of those we have lost, together with photos, brief bios, and information about their relationship with SPAH & harmonica clubs.

If we have missed someone, please submit their names to us next year.

# GREGORY HOMMERT



Born, raised, and residing in St Louis Missouri, Greg can currently be found somewhere between the local music scene and chasing his kids. A multi-instrumentalist by trade, Greg has (since the COVID-19 pandemic) shifted his focus towards combining his interests, becoming an avid participant and supporter of the harmonica neck-rack community. A SPAH attendee since 2004, Greg is delighted to join the 2023 convention as a performer and share happily in all of the free-reed festivities.

## Buy, Sell or Trade

*Versailles Foyer, Friday 1–4 p.m.*

SPAH members are invited to bring their extra “harmonica stuff” to the Swap Meet. 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 one of our registered vendors in the vendor area. Out of respect for those vendors, the Swap Meet is the place to sell your “extra stuff”, not a place to set up shop. Thank you.*

# NIC CLARK

Featured Performance



Nic Clark is a harmonica player from Denver, CO. He has played with musicians like Jason Ricci, Rick Estrin & The Nightcats, Big Head Todd & The Monsters, Lazy Lester, and Ronnie Shellist. Nic plays Hohner harmonicas.

 <p><i>Effortless Singing</i> with breath &amp; freedom A Vocal Instruction Course 2 CD Set</p>	<p><b>SEMINARS</b> Practical tips for singing and harmonizing for the harmonica player Singing 10:45am Friday Alpine 2 Harmony 10:45am Saturday Alpine 1 <a href="http://www.EffortlessMusicInstruction.com">www.EffortlessMusicInstruction.com</a></p>	 <p><i>Effortless Harmony Singing</i> with breath &amp; freedom A Vocal Harmony Instruction Course 2 CD Set</p>
<p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/EffortlessMusicInstruction">www.facebook.com/EffortlessMusicInstruction</a></p>		

# ROSEBUSH YOUTH SHOWCASE

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 Harrell Davenport, Cale Fladager, Aramis St-Gelais, Alexander Harris, Sally Ma, and David Manche. 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 receives the majority of Scholarship Fund donations during the SPAH Convention and from the purchase of raffle tickets. Raffle tickets are available for items generously donated by our vendor community, and for a "50/50" cash prize drawing, shared with the Scholarship Fund. Both raffles are held at the end of the Saturday evening banquet.

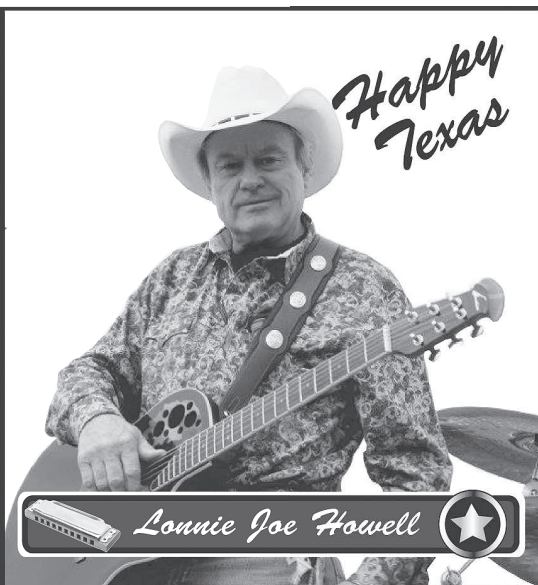
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and the  
SPAH convention!



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St. Louis, Missouri

**SPAH convention hosts**

1996 1999 2004 2008 2013 2014 2018 2021 2023

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*celebrating harmonicas, music & friends*

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Expires **9.30.2023**

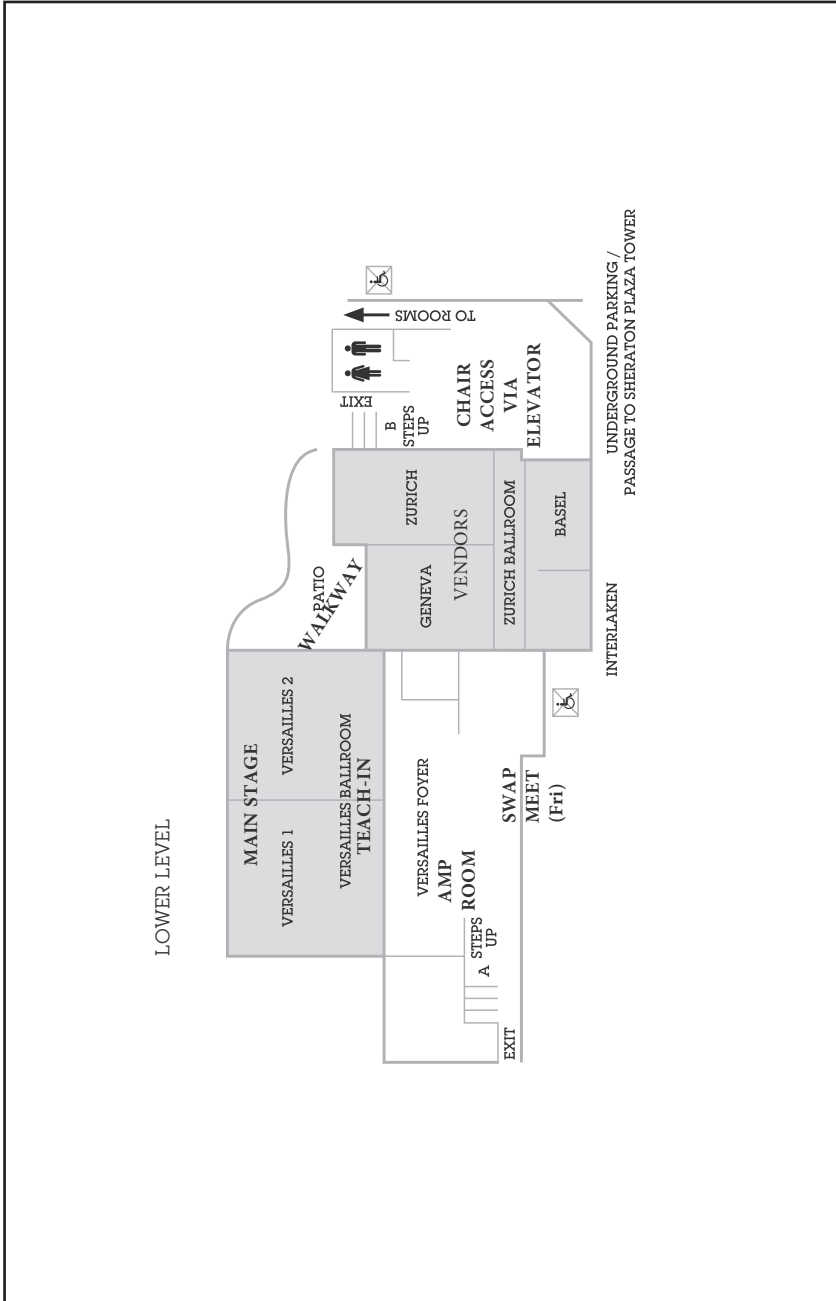
Phil Duncan





# HOTEL FLOORPLAN

NOT TO SCALE



# CHRIS BAUER'S HARMONIKINGS



Combining the chromatic, chord, and bass harmonicas together creates the unique sound of the harmonica trio. Chris Bauer's Harmonikings features Chris Bauer on the chromatic, A.J. Windmeyer on the chord, and Boaz Kim on the bass.

Originally from Long Island NY and now a Connecticut resident, Chris has been playing harmonica for over 50 years and is influenced by Jerry Murad, Toots Thielemans, Pete Pedersen, Charley Leighton and many others. His father, Bob Bauer, was a legendary chord player and Chris grew up playing in his dad's trio, the Harmonikings. While Bob was playing with Jerry Murad's Harmonicats, Chris was called in to create and record harmony parts on the Cats "Magic" record. Chris was also lead player for the Harmonica Masters with Bud Boblink and Frank Warner.

AJ Windmeyer developed a love of the harmonica at an early age and has been around the SPAH scene for quite a few years, taking to the chord and harmonetta. Inspired by some of the great chord players including Al Smith, Al Fiore, and Manny Smith, along with some of the great harmonica trios including the Harmonicats, the Harmonikings, and the Stag McMann Trio. He also is an ardent historian of harmonica ensembles and has an immense library of recordings that he curates onto his YouTube channel "The Harmonica Archivist."

Boaz Kim hails from the Philadelphia PA area and is not only a superb bass harmonica player, but is also extremely talented on many other harmonicas including diatonic, polyphonia, and chord, and is adept in all types of music including classical, jazz, and certainly the harmonica trio. He is in demand for studio work and other performances and is a superb harmonica technician and instructor.

Together, they bring a fresh sound to well-known harmonica trio tunes that is certain to entertain SPAH 2023!



# WILL GALISON

Featured Performance

You may not know you know Will Galison's music, but you do. You've heard his unique harmonica sound on the themes of *Sesame Street*, *The Untouchables*, *Bagdad Café* and hundreds of other movie scores, albums and commercials. Harmonica master, Toots Thielemans, called Will "The most original and individual of the new generation of harmonica players". While Will is indeed one of the top exponents of the jazz harmonica, his career as a studio musician has allowed him to explore and embrace many other musical idioms, from rhythm and blues to classical concertos. That's why he has recorded and/or performed with stars as varied as Sting, Donald Fagen (Steely Dan), Tommy Emmanuel, Barbra Streisand, Carly Simon, Chaka Khan, Ruth Brown, Jaco Pastorius, the O'Jays and Peggy Lee.



Will has released numerous albums under his own name (on Verve, PolyGram and Aosis records) and recorded as co-leader with other major talents from around the world. He's also delighted audiences at Jazz festivals and clubs around the world, recently in Japan and India. At home in New York, he has performed at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Joe's Pub and The Blue Note.

Will's self-produced 2011 CD, *Line Open* features Galison as harmonica virtuoso, guitarist, composer, lyricist, singer and arranger. Together with some of New York's top musicians, Will produced an album spanning a wide musical and emotional range, yet unified by his sly wit, compassionate outlook and deeply rooted musicality.

In 2023, Will produced the album "Let Your Heart Lead the Way" with singer Marilyn Kleinberg, pianist John Dimartino, drummer Victor Lewis and bassist Noriko Ueda, with Will playing harmonica.

While in New York, Will hosts house concerts, featuring premiere jazz musicians. A recent concert was a duo with jazz piano master Kenny Werner, who said of Will: "Will has always been a superb player, but his playing just gets deeper and deeper. I've played with the master, [Toots Thielemans] and Will is right up there".

# MADCAT'S C.A.R.MA. QUARTET



Grammy Award winner, Peter Madcat Ruth, has established an international reputation through his exhilarating, riveting virtuosity on the harmonica. His expertise on this instrument has amazed audiences world-wide. He is equally at home playing blues, folk music, jazz, country, or rock and roll. Performance Magazine refers to him as "A harmonica virtuoso who is rapidly approaching legend status."

Madcat's music has been evolving for over 60 years. It started in the Chicago area in the early 1960s, with Madcat playing folk/blues on guitar and harmonica. By the late 60s he had immersed himself in the Chicago Blues and was studying harmonica with Big Walter Horton. In the early 70s Madcat moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan where he was a key presence in two of Ann Arbor's finest progressive rock bands. By the mid 70s Madcat was touring the world with jazz pianist Dave Brubeck. In the 80s, Madcat went solo infusing the folk/blues tradition with elements of rock and jazz. In 1990, Madcat teamed up with guitarist/singer Shari Kane to form the duo Madcat & Kane. For twenty-four years they toured nationally and internationally.

In 2021 Madcat formed the C.A.R.Ma Quartet.

The C.A.R.Ma Quartet plays eclectic traditional and improvisational music.

C. is for John Churchville - (tabla drum set)

A. is for Brennan Andes - (bass)

R. is for Dan Ripke - (guitar and vocals)

Ma. is for Peter Madcat Ruth - (harmonica, jaw harp, ukulele, and vocals)

Madcat has been a member of SPAH since 1980. In 1997 Madcat received the Bernie Bray Harmonica Player of the Year award, and in 2014 he received the Pete Pedersen Special Lifetime Achievement Award.

# SATURDAY MORNING COUNTRY GOSPEL SHOW

Featured Performance

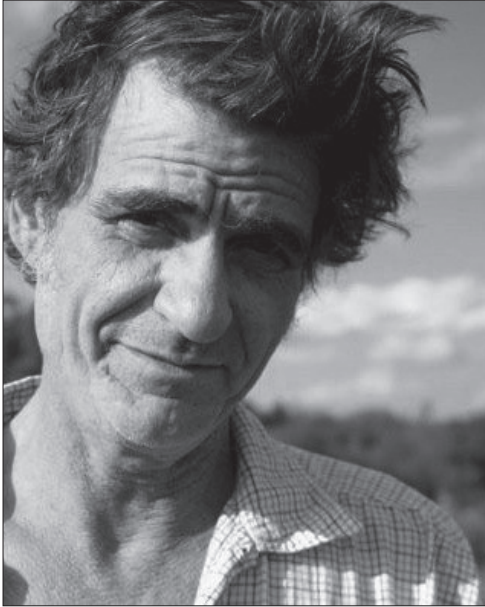
Organized several years ago by L.J. Atkison, former Vice President of SPAH, SPAH presents a Saturday morning harmonica gospel and country harmonica show. In addition to scores of SPAH convention attendees, SPAH welcomes local senior citizens to experience the power of the harmonica. This show attracts 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, Charlie Barath, Joe Filisko, and Phil Duncan. 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

Please follow us and tag  
SPAH on Instagram when  
posting pics of the convention.  
**#Official\_spah63**

# DAVE MOORE



Dave Moore is a singer-songwriter, who plays guitar, button accordion, and harmonica. He was influenced by country blues and conjunto music. Dave lives in Iowa City, records for Red House Records, and was a frequent performer on "A Prairie Home Companion". He has toured throughout the United States and Canada. The harmonica was his first instrument, and he continues to play it, mostly on a neck rack.

## 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!

# TOM STRYKER

Featured Performance



Tom has played Chromatic Harmonica since 1955, professionally since 1980 with groups such as the Johnny Puleo Harmonica Gang, Harmonica Express, Impromptu along with orchestras, on cruise ships and at international venues. He now plays regularly in the clubs in Reno, Nevada.

Tom has been a strong supporter and member of SPAH since 1980 and was president from 2006 - 2012. He also has been a consultant/endorsee for Hohner, Suzuki and Eastop harmonica companies.

Tom's performance on Saturday evening will feature songs from the American Songbook & others. During the show Tom, and his co-host Carolyn Dolan, will bring a number of talented harmonica players to the stage to chat and perform with Tom for your pleasure. The performers to be featured with Tom are Carolyn Dolan, Chris Bauer, Mike Runyan, PT Gazell, Slideman Slim, Jason Keene, Alex Windmeyer and Boaz Kim.

## PERFORMER TIP JAR



## SEMINAR BIOS & PHOTOS



# 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

### **Beginners Blues Jam**

*Michael Rubin*

Join Michael Rubin to learn some secrets to successfully sitting in at a blues jam session. Basic rules of thumb, advice, and priceless tips will be provided to participants. There will be a beginner's blues jam circle with instructions/feedback with approaches to help develop ideas and play fluidly.

### **Country Tuned Harmonica & The Role of a Sideman/Woman**

*Larry Regen*

We will explain the advantages of playing Country Tuned harmonicas and isolate and analyze the times where we should not to play when backing singers or other musicians taking solos.

### **Demonstration & Workshop of the Lekholm DM48X MIDI Harmonica**

*Jason Keene*

A demonstration of the many capabilities of the DM48X MIDI harmonica, followed by discussion, tips, etc. The DM48 can give harmonica players an amazing new sound option for live and studio performances that previously only keyboard players could implement. Synthesizers, electric pianos,

Percussion, horn sections, and individual emulated instruments are just the beginning. From jazz to classical, ambient, blues, rock and every genre in between the DM48 can be a unique tool for all harmonica players.

### **Harmonica Effect Pedals**

*Tom Cate*

When is a harmonica not a harmonica? When it needs to be an organ or an accordion or even an orchestra. The harmonica is great for fills and lead breaks but can also lay down a rich background under other instruments. This session will talk about different effect pedals, what they do, what they sound like, and some examples of when they can be used. If time and circumstance allow there may also be an opportunity for some hands-on experimentation at the end of the session.

### **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.

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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## **How to play Sweet Georgia Brown on Guitar and Harmonica**

*Richard Sleigh*

Part 1 – The harmonica session will focus on first learning the melody (adapted for blues harmonica) and then learning to play the notes of the chords. As time permits, we will then focus on creating variations for the phrases of the melody using chord tones.

Part 2 - The guitar session will focus on using shell chords that are easy to grab.

This is a 90-minute session, so I will adapt the ratio of harmonica to guitar focus depending on who shows up and where they want to go. But everyone will leave with harmonica tab for the melody and basic arpeggios, as well as guitar chord diagrams for the comping chords. This is a great tune for blues harmonica players who want to explore jazz improvisation without using over-blows or over-draws. You will need:

- A diatonic harmonica in the key of A and the ability to play bent notes as melody notes in holes 1-6.

- A guitar and the ability to play cowboy chords and basic bar chords to follow along with part 2.

## **Making Different Positions More Accessible**

*John Frazer*

Knowing how to decide what position works for a song and knowing how to utilize it are skills that can be learned easily if it is explained in a clear way. Let

"Harmonica John" Frazer help you become an exciting, dynamic player. Whether you are playing blues, classic rock, country, reggae- the harmonica is ready to play- IF you know how to approach the songs.

## **Stage Presence & Performance**

*Don Ceasar*

Keys of preparing for performance with an explanation of the mechanics of stage presence. Learn from a true master in stage craft, dynamic harmonica performance, vocal acrobatics as well as the ability to dance and almost float in midair.

## **Train Chugging**

*David Kachalon*

Breathing effectively through the harmonica is key to playing well. The Train Imitation is one of the best exercises to help achieve this, and in the fastest way possible. We will explore the advantages and benefits it will have on our timing, tonal improvisation, and breath control. Throbbing, ringing, pulsing throat tremolo is directly related to how well we can relax and “pulse” our breath. The Train is deeply connected to the muscles used to help generate excellent throat tremolo.



# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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## THURSDAY

### **Blues Improvisation: Getting Out of a Rut**

*Ronnie Shellist*

Join Ronnie Shellist (owner of Harmonica123.com) as he discusses several approaches and ideas to help you get out of the improvisation rut. Are you playing the same old ideas when you solo? Looking for fresh licks and angles when it comes to improvising? If so, don't miss this seminar. You'll walk away with several ideas to practice so you can get your blues harp improvisation to the next level!

### **Blues Without Bending**

*Charlie Barath*

Want to play Blues, but you don't have great bending control? With the help of tongue blocking techniques, you can make some extremely bluesy sounds. I'll be happy to show you how!

### **Exploring The Secrets Of Country Tuning**

*Todd Parrott*

Country tuning... what is it? Is this tuning only used for playing country style music, or for playing 2nd position melodies? Are there other positions, styles and songs or perhaps even hidden positions that work well with country tuned harmonicas? We'll answer these questions and much more in this seminar as we dive deep into this tuning and its many uses, which may surprise you. All secrets will be

revealed! Bring a C country tuned harmonica and come prepared to play many songs (tabs will be provided). Hopefully, you'll gain a whole new appreciation for country tuning!

### **Fiddle Tunes Worldwide**

*Paul Davies*

Techniques and styles of fiddle tunes played on the harmonica. This will be a round robin of all the great fiddle tune players in attendance. The methods and styles of how they are played will be a ton of fun.

### **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.

### **Improvisation**

*Grant Dermody*

We will learn how to break out of old routine and patterns and learn to improvise with true expression and non-predictable ideas. Bending will be required.

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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## **Irish Harmonica**

*James Conway*

Learn how to play the traditional dance melodies of Ireland on diatonic and chromatic harmonicas. We'll cover jigs, reels, hornpipes and polkas! Bring a diatonic or chromatic in D.

## **Racking up and 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.

## **Roots and Blues Grooves for Diatonic Harmonica**

*Joe Filisko*

In this workshop Joe Filisko & Eric Noden will demonstrate how they use interlocking patterns on harmonica and guitar to build a solid rhythmic foundation as a duo. They'll discuss influences, groove dynamics, breathing techniques and more in this workshop that is suitable for all skill levels.

## **Singing for Harp Players: Fundamentals of Voice & Picking the Right Key**

*Richard P. 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 class. We'll cover 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. This year, we'll also talk about vocal range and how to pick a good key for your song, and why where you are going to sing it might be a reason to change that key. The class is geared for blues, country, rock, and related styles, but these techniques work for all styles of music and all are welcome. Bring your voice, a recording device, and harmonicas in C and A, if you have them. Some of the demonstrations will be done using diatonics, but chromatic players are welcome.

## **Song Writing and Craftsmanship**

*Dave Moore*

Dave Moore began as a blues harmonica player, and over time he became a singer-songwriter. Using his own songs as examples, he will take you on the path he walked, going down that road. Dave will play, talk, and take questions.

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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## **The Huge Advantages of Using Tongue Switching**

*Will Galison*

We will explore the major advantages and speed bonuses that the tongue switching provides when playing the diatonic harmonica. Switching up and down the harp provides speed and perdition most can't begin to realize. Come find out some of the huge benefits it can have in your playing!

## **Tips for Harmonica Bands Applied to Tango & Jazz**

*Crispy Aguirre*

During this didactic workshop we will amuse the audience with tango and jazz arrangements. In between songs, we will provide the attendees with scores and explanations of the different technical resources used, such as:

\*The technique of each instrument and the rhythmic-melodic and harmonic interactions;

\*Applicability and limitations of each harmonica to each particular style and arrangement;

\*Technical analysis of the arrangement; and other topics.

## **Transposition using the chromatic**

*Michael Rubin*

Michael Rubin will explain how to transpose a melody from one key to another. Although we will be using the chromatic harmonica as our tool, the information transfers to any instrument.

## FRIDAY

### **All Things Tongue!**

*James Conway*

Tongue blocking, switching, chording, fluttering and more! TB is an awesome embouchure for harmonica and opens up a works of sounds and tricks. Bring a C diatonic or C chromatic.

### **Baroque Harmonica**

*Boaz Kim*

In this seminar Boaz Kim joins recorder player Tony Eyers to show how overblows and other techniques can be used with diatonic harmonicas in baroque duets. Overblows are mostly used in jazz and blues. Boaz will also show how bass harmonica can take the cello part in baroque sonatas. Baroque music has a distinct style, which goes beyond just playing the notes. We will discuss approaches for matching this style with harmonica.

### **Blowin' Like Hell- The Life and Times of William Clarke**

*Paul Barry*

A presentation of the life of the great blues harmonica player William Clarke. How he ascended to become one of the all-time great blues harmonica players. We will trace his journey from his humble beginnings raised in a trailer park, to the height of success as an Alligator Records recording artist, to just before his life was cut short at age 45. He left behind a legacy

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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that will stand the test of time as one of the greatest bluesmen and harmonica players ever. As a performer, musician, vocalist and songwriter, he had it all the ingredients. We will talk a little about his technique and equipment as well. His amazing life story is fascinating and an inspiration to all harmonica players.

## **Country Harmonica Then & Now** *Buddy Greene*

Whether you're talking Wayne Raney, Lonnie Glosson, Charlie McCoy, Doc Watson, or Terry McMillan, it's all country and it's all pretty cool. Bring a C harmonica (and a few others) and play along as we discuss and demonstrate the styles, patterns, and techniques used by the early pioneers, as well as today's modern players. If you're looking to achieve that "Nashville" sound, this is the seminar for you! Free tablature will be provided.

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

Would you like to front your own band as a singer and a harmonica player? Would you like to feel more confident about singing? 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 professional 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. Have a song in mind on which you'd like some coaching from Brenda. If possible, and to get the most from this opportunity, bring a copy of the lyrics and chords for that song. Handouts provided.  
[EffortlessMusicInstruction.com](http://EffortlessMusicInstruction.com)

## **Filisko Teach-in**

*Joe Filisko*  
(see prior day's description)

## **Harmonicaster, the First True Electric Harmonica**

*Ronnie Schreiber*  
The Harmonicaster is the first true electric harmonica, based on steel reeds and electromagnetic pickups, similar to how an electric guitar works. It has a vibrant native tone, it's virtually feedback free no matter how loudly you play, and it's compatible with a wide range of effects devices and pedals. Our pickups, designed in conjunction with Lace Music Products, are thin enough to slide into the harmonica, allowing them to sense the reeds' vibrations without interfering with them as well. The pickups are mounted in compact, lightweight control housings that

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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put controls right at your fingertips. The Harmonicaster is available in two models, the Harmonicaster Standard, which has passive volume and tone.

## **Improvisation & Creating Your Own Sound Naturally**

*Jason Ricci*

Jason will explore some of the usable scales found on the diatonic harmonica and how to properly use them in context of interesting improvisation. This will set up to some usable scale exercises. He will then designate and define the term “arpeggios” and we will figure out how to use them to make things more interesting and dynamic in our playing. Then we will discuss what exactly are “chords,” and explore triads, and 6th and 7th chord arpeggios. Jason will also explain and discuss a short intro into the “using tone and enclosures,” then cover “beginning to using chromaticism,” that will eventually lead to “enclosures for scales and arpeggios.”

## **Minor Key Scales in 3rd, 4th and 5th Positions**

*Zip Robertson*

This seminar presents three different minor scales achievable on the diatonic harmonica without overblows/overdraws, for blues, pop and folk songs. In addition to the scales themselves, a list of well-known songs will be provided for practice, and “House of the Rising Sun” is tabbed for all three

positions in both the low and middle registers. Anyone wishing to play along should bring a diatonic harmonica in the key of C.

## **Phonetics, Physiology, Physics, and Phine Tuning Your Tone**

*James Antaki*

Based on years of research done on phonetics and the harmonica we discuss the elements of tone and timbre, Including formants and physiology. We will visually illustrate the spectral properties that differentiate one player’s tone from another. Then we will allow participants to take turns playing single notes, chords, and simple phrases will be projected on a screen that we can analyze. We will even try to reproduce the tone of famous players such as Sonny Terry, Howard L, Big Walter...

## **The Healing Harp**

*Mitch Grainger*

Playing the harmonica not only fills the air with captivating melodies but also has a profound impact on your lung health. This charming instrument serves as a delightful exercise that strengthens your respiratory system, expands your lung capacity, and improves overall lung function. Let’s dive deeper into the scientific facts and research that support the transformative power of harmonica playing on your precious lungs and learn some simple harmonica exercises that improve your health and uplift your spirits.

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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## **Wilde Tuning and Blues Rock Improvisation**

*Will Wilde*

An interactive workshop to get you soloing over blues rock/ hard rock style backing tracks. I will discuss all the techniques and gear that I use to achieve my unique sound, and give a full explanation and demonstration of the Wilde tuning.

## **SATURDAY**

### **Checkerboard Blues**

*Todd Parrott*

Are you a beginning harmonica player and having trouble playing or improvising over a 12-bar blues progression? Maybe you're an advanced player who could use help organizing your licks or creating solos. The Checkerboard Blues method may be just what you need. This seminar introduces a modular system for creating blues solos over a standard 12-bar blues progression. The first checkerboard will provide four rows of 12-bar blues solos with NO BENDS, making this a fun, yet still challenging task for beginners. The second checkerboard will be geared towards intermediate to advanced players, with five rows of solos designed to help strengthen bends, and make your playing more bluesy and fun. Bring your C harmonica and let's jam!

### **Effortless Harmony Singing**

*Brenda Freed*

Would you like to accompany a singer with your harmonica? Would you like to play and sing harmony and descants, so that you can provide interesting accompaniments to a singer? Brenda and Michael will show you how they do it in their Him & Her act. In this workshop, participants will learn the basic music theory of harmony. We will experience singing and playing harmonies with each other. This workshop is designed to be educational, experiential and fun. Bring a C harp. Handouts provided. [EffortlessMusicInstruction.com](http://EffortlessMusicInstruction.com)

### **Filisko Teach-in**

*Joe Filisko*

(see prior day's description)

### **Hands Free (Mouth Alone)**

#### **Harmonica Play**

*Paul Kerian*

Paul will demonstrate how to play harmonica hands & harness free and how the digitization of harmonica could transform harmonica and music as it once did with the electrification of the guitar.

### **Harmonica Effect Pedals: When is a harmonica not a harmonica?**

*Tom Cate*

(see prior day's description)

# SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

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## **Lead, Bass & Chord, with using Split Chords**

*Chris Bauer*

In this seminar we will show you the different ways of playing the 48 chord harmonica within the realm of the trio arrangement, using just the basic chords provided.

Then we will demo using split and overlapping chords and how they can compliment the lead and bass.

## **Rack Harping**

*James Conway*

The harmonica in the rack along with a guitar, mandolin, banjo or a drum can be a powerful rhythmic force! We'll cover melody, chords, drones and more you can do on the rack. Vital stuff for a more dynamic and interesting solo performance!

## **Sonny and Me: Reflections on Sonny Terry**

*Jerry Fierro*

"Sonny (Terry) and Me" a presentation of the experience I had taking lessons from him personally w/ my private recordings. Stories and techniques will be featured.

## **Taking the Harmonica Into New Territory**

*Peter Ruth*

Exploring odd time signatures, unusual chord changes, and world music influences with Mad Cat himself! Breathing patterns, riffs, licks, and old timey songs will be featured.

## **Tongue blocking Advantages for Blues Playing**

*David Kachalon*

Demystify Tongue Blocking -We will explore the sounds you can get exclusively from the tongue block embouchure, and its many advantages when playing blues on the diatonic as well as the chromatic harmonica. Splits/octaves, dirty notes, tongue shakes, vamps/rapid vamps, and tongue switching will all be discussed in detail and demonstrated.

"Get your Tongue in the Game!"

## **Youth Outreach**

*Joe Filisko*

Joe Filisko will host local youth from the St Louis community and teach them how to play the harmonica. Each attendee will be provided with a (Hohner) harmonica to keep.

# JAMS & MORE

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## **Electric Blues Open Mic**

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 Matterhorn Ballroom!

## **Evening Jams**

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

## **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!

## **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 Versailles Foyer on Friday between 1 and 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.

## **Troubadours**

SPAH Troubadours are selected each year to represent the spectrum of harmonica instruments and styles, including diatonic, chromatic, and trio, from across many musical genres. We hope you will join us in celebrating their knowledge, personality and skill at every opportunity.

For 2023, please welcome SPAH Troubadours: Jerry Devillier, Buzz Krantz, and Bill Morris. SPAH Troubadours will share their skills anywhere at the Convention, in the hallways, at a jam, on the open mic stage or on the patio! On Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings we've also set aside 2 hours, 9:30am to 11:30am, where we invite you to find one or more of the Troubadours in the Zermatt room – where you can meet with them and gain insight and knowledge from some of the greats!



# AUTOGRAPHS

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# AUTOGRAPHS

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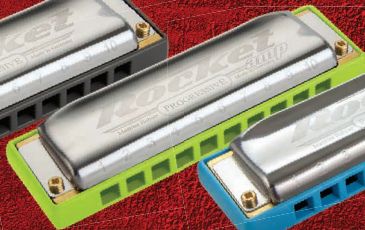
CROSSOVER



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