



Keeping Classic R&B Alive

Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society

Affiliate Member of the National Blues Foundation

www.bluespreservationsociety.org | 12 Kipling Street, Providence, RI 02907 | 401.461.0012

RHYTHM AND BLUES NEWS of NOTE

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Whiting

April to June 2017

Volume 13 No. 2

From the President's Desk



President Cleveland Kurtz

Annually our 'sister organization' the RI Music Hall of Fame holds the RI Induction Ceremony and musical events. 2017 will honor 10 individuals who have made a lasting contribution to the musical scene in RI. The reason that the Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society has allied itself with the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame is because we think the Hall of Fame contribution to Rhode Island is significant and will have a lasting impact on RI history. Honorees from the Rhode Island R&B community have included the Castaleers, Freddie Scott, Carl Henry and Tavares. By the way, Tavares, well – seasoned, veteran performers, put on the show of their lives for their induction event. I so wished that more of you had been there to see, hear, and appreciate what this Rhode Island based group could do with their songs and moves. They showed everybody in that building that they truly deserved the honor that they were receiving that day.

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Tom Colantonio
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Tom Colantonio

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The Honorees of our community made important contributions to the Rhode Island music scene; and in many cases, made notable contributions to the music world as a whole. All of them earn their places as Rhode Island Hall of Famer's, and I urge you to honor them, too, by participating in the ceremonies and visiting the Hall of Fame site.

This year Billy Osborne will officially be inducted into The RI Music Hall of Fame; a much-deserved honor. This Rhode Islander has made his mark on America's music scene since first performing while in junior high school. We honor him because of the role that he played in our music and because he has made us proud. Many of you know Billy and are aware of his importance, but you haven't heard him play in a while. You

will get your chance to hear him again as he plays his own style of Jazz at the Induction Concert. He has some nice things in store for us. You will also see some old friends there that you haven't seen in a while.

The Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame is literally a hall of fame. The displays honoring the musicians line both walls of a real hallway located in a distinguished old building at 999 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI. The Exhibit is free to the public and is open for expanded hours on most days. I heartily encourage you to check it out. I know you will be surprised and proud of our shared RI Music Heritage displayed at the Museum.

***Jazz & R&B Inductions & Concert
Featuring
Billy Osborne 2017 Inductee
Sunday, April 23 @ Greenwich Odeum
Details Page 2***

Vice President / Music Director – Max Whiting

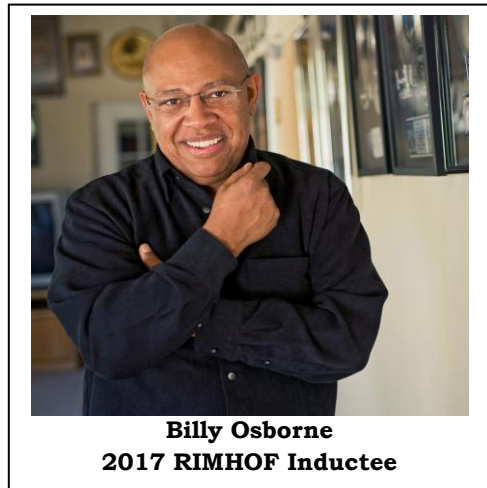


We are dedicating this issue to **Billy Osborne**, Member/Performer of the RI Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society to be officially inducted into the RI Music Hall of Fame (RIMHOF). The Induction Ceremony and activities will span the week of April 23rd. Billy will be honored and perform at the **Jazz & R&B Inductions and Concert** on Sunday April 23rd starting at 2'o'clock at The Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI. Details:

<http://www.greenwichodeum.com>.

The RIMHOF Induction events for the weekend of April 29th will feature ten locally grown musicians and entertainers from a variety of genres from jazz to R&B, Rock, Funk and more. Being honored on April 23 will be Artie Cabral, Dan Moretti, **Billy Osborne** and Frank Potenza. Tickets for the April 23 event at the Odeum are \$20.00 and will include a performance by all of the inductees backed by an all-star trio consisting of pianist Tim Ray and 2015 Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame inductees Marty Richards on drums and Marty Ballou on bass.

There will also be two rock induction concerts held at The Met on the following weekend. On Saturday, April 29, at 8:00 p.m., the 2017 RIMHOF Rock Induction Concert – Part I will feature Kristin Hersh and David Narcizo of Throwing Muses, Neutral Nation, and Plan 9. Sunday's April 30 event will include the unveiling of the ten new inductee exhibits followed by the 2017 RIMHOF Rock Induction Concert – Part 2 featuring Rizzz, Phil Greene, and The Wild Turkey Band / Hometown Rockers beginning at 3:00 p.m. The Unveiling Ceremony for all 2017 RIMHOF Inductee exhibits takes place at 2:00 p.m. in the Hall of Fame itself, located within the Hope Artiste Village complex, 999 Main St., Pawtucket, RI.

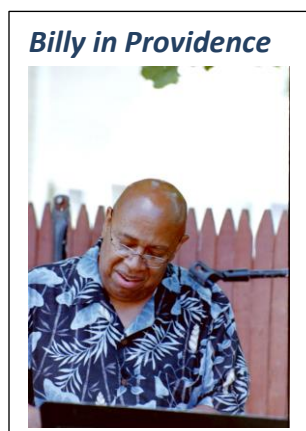


Billy Osborne
2017 RIMHOF Inductee

🎵 OF INTEREST

Billy Osborne, 2017 Inductee RI Music Hall of Fame

by Max Whiting



Billy in Providence

My personal recollection of Billy Osborne covers the years he spent with the **Randy Ashe Band**. In those days they were known as **Little Randy and the Stompers** with Herman Pittman on bass, Art Hazard, Baritone Sax, Randy Ashe and Burt Ekoff on Guitar, Harry Bailey, Jr., piano and saxophone and Billy Osborne on Drums. The band members were students at Nathan Bishop Junior High School at this time and were not old enough to drive. When they secured gigs in Canada family members drove them to Canada. From the mid - 50s to the mid-60s they performed throughout Canada and the US east coast with a large following in Rhode Island; playing at the best venues including the Celebrity Club, Arcadia Ballroom and other musical settings. **The Stompers** shared the stage with such notables as Red Prysock, Sil Austin, Big Jay McNeely; top notch performers on the R&B circuit.

Little Randy & the Stompers worked out of the Fred Petty Booking Agency in Boston, the same agency as the Band I worked for during this time. Often our bands would follow one another in the Boston and Canadian clubs. In this circuit there was no doubt that Billy Osborne was the man that made the music work. Even then his arrangements and creativity was a foundation for the Band's success.

When 16 year old Providence drummer Billy Osborne arrived in Manhattan in 1959 to join the Jimmy Giuffre Quartet, his impact on the heart of the Modern Jazz scene was immediate. He was named Metronome magazine's Best New Drummer before his first recording session and spent a decade performing with the legends of the era including Wes

Montgomery and Archie Shepp. He was one of John Coltrane's favorite drummers. In 1969, he moved to Los Angeles establishing himself in the R&B field as musical director for *The Friends of Distinction* and as the composer of "Check It Out," the first hit for his Rhode Island pals Tavares. In 1974, his brother Jeffrey's band, *Love Men Ltd.*, joined Billy in L.A. where they combined forces to become *L.T.D.* with Billy on keyboards, Jeffrey on drums and the two sharing lead vocals. By 1976, they were at the top of the Billboard charts with "Love Ballad" (#1 R&B, #20 Hot 100). After moving Jeffrey out front, *L.T.D.* mined Gold and Platinum for the next four years with a string of hits including two more #1 singles, "Back In Love Again" and "Holding On." In 1980, Billy moved into production and helped launch Jeffrey's solo career. In 1990, he signed with Ray Charles and became his right-hand man, writing, arranging and producing for "The Genius" until Ray's passing in 2004. Billy continues to perform, create and arrange as the music genius he is.

Secretary/Treasurer - Sylvia Whiting

It is almost Membership Renewal time and we ask that you consider renewing your membership. Your membership helps us continue our programming, support our events and bring music to the community. We ask that you consider a Membership, if you are not already a member and/or a donation. The **Membership**

Application may be found on Page 6. Donations may be sent to RIRBPS or made on our website. All donations are tax deductible. We also need volunteers to assist with website interface (Facebook/Twitter/Website) and support with financial oversight. Accounting expertise would be helpful. Our website is updated periodically. For information, volunteer opportunities, musician listings, programming and donations please visit us at

www.bluespreservationsociety.org.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Skills Needed

**Almost Any Area - Especially
Technical /Accounting/Finance**

OUR PROGRAMS

Instruments for Children

Even though the school year is coming to an end, we are still picking up instruments and filling requests as needed. An article in the Valley Breeze seeking donations and the RIRBPS website consistently generate donations as well. Woonsocket, West Broadway and TAPA are the main recipients of instruments and we've been able to keep up well with their needs. There will be a Concert by the Woonsocket system early June which we will be invited to attend. Will be stocking donations until September now and thinking about other school departments that might be in need.

Anyone with a musical instrument to donate or information on a school or program in need of our assistance, please contact Tom at 401.793.1281 or Cleveland at 401.461.0012. We will arrange to pick up the instruments, if necessary.

Find us on the Web

www.bluespreservationsociety.org

MUSICIANS CORNER

Tish Adams Jazz Trio

EVERY THURSDAY Nite, 6:30 - 9PM, Live Jazz @ Simone's, 275 Child Street, Warren, RI. 401.247.1200. No Cover, Amazing Food, off-street free parking.

Meanwhile, on the radio... Join Tish for her "VOCALISTS & LOCALISTS" show, Thursday mornings, 8-10 AM, 90.3 FM, WRIU Kingston...a COMMERCIAL-FREE broadcast service from the University of Rhode Island, staffed by VOLUNTEERS!!!

Becky Bass

EVERY SUNDAY, 8-11PM, Newport Blues Café, 286 Thames Street, Newport, RI, No Cover, Caribbean Soul Trio featuring Becky Bass, Vocals & Steel Pan, Jhony Keys, Keys & Bass, Matt Williams, Drums, (401) 841- 5510

Tom Colantonio

WEDNESDAYS, 7:00-10:30 – BAILEY’S OPEN JAM! Bailey’s Pub, 1910 Smith Street, N Providence. **April 19, May 3,17,31, June 14 and 28.** Blues and More! Host, Andy Rizzotti and the South Street Blues Band. Best ‘musician friendly’ jam! Guitar players bring an amp. Bass Amp and Drums available!

Max Whiting

Jazz @ Haley House Café, 1st Thursday, 12 Dade Street, Roxbury, MA featuring Fulani Haynes Jazz Collaborative, 7PM, great food, music, ambience.

Richard “Dick” Willner

EVERY THURSDAY – New Blues Jam! Mc T's, 940 Mendon Road, Cumberland RI. Open Blues Jam Sign-up begins @ 7:30PM. No cover or drink minimum. All musicians, singers, entertainers, audience and blues fans are welcome, 401-270-5434.

WHERE IT'S AT - - - Where music lovers may go to satisfy a healthy R&B craving !!!

133 Club, Sunday, April 23rd, 29 Warren Ave., East Providence 401.438.1330 - Mac Odom Band.
Motown R&B - NO COVER

Cady's Tavern, 2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI, 401.568.4102. Blues Jam, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.
<http://www.cadystavern.com/#!ricks-roadhouse-blues>, no cover.

Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard 162 W. Main Rd, Little Compton, RI, 6:00PM, \$10 cash per car load and \$10 voucher for estate wine selections, 401.635.8486, www.sakonnetwine.com.

Fifth Element, 111 Broadway, Newport 401.619.2552 - Jazz in bar - Sat., Sun., Mon.

Knickerbocker Café 35 Railroad Avenue, Westerly, RI. 401.315.5070. **Events featured every night.** Open Mike every Thursday, 8-11PM, classic blues, R&B, Rock, Oldies, Pop. <http://www.theknickerbockercafe.com>. No cover.

Landing Restaurant and Bar, Dockside, Bowen's Wharf, Newport 401.847.4514 Live music outdoors every afternoon and evening, dancing inside Season opens end of April.

Mc T's, 940 Mendon Road, Cumberland RI. Dick Willner's Blues Jam, Thursdays @ 7:30PM.

Murphy's Law 2 George Street, Pawtucket, RI. 401.724.5522. Blues jam Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock. No Cover.
<http://murphyslawri.com/events>.

Norey's, 156 Broadway, Newport, RI 401.847.4971 - Big Band jazz - Thursdays NO COVER

OceanCliff Resort Ocean Drive, Newport 401.841.8868, Summertime live jazz Monday afternoons outside.

Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Rd, Wakefield, RI 401.782.3740) Soul, R&B NO COVER

Purple Cat, 11 Money Hill Rd, Chepachet RI – April 22nd Jesse Dee - R&B, Soul.

Sardella's Italian Restaurant, 30 Memorial Blvd., Newport 401.849.6312 Wed. nights live Jazz
4/26 Dick Lupino, Mary Andrews, Pat Cordeiro, and Jeff Fountain

Simone's 275 Child Street, Warren, RI. 401.247.1200. Great food, Thursday nite Jazz featuring Tish Adams.

Tarragon Bar 311 Westminster St., Providence RI, Blues and jazz Sunday nights at 7:30 PM. No cover.

The Parlour, 1119 N. Main Street, Providence, RI. Wednesday nights at 10PM. Eric Bloom & the Funky Autocrats. <http://theparlourri.com/events/eric-bloom-the-funky-autocrats> or www.facebook.com/FunkyAutocrats.

The Pub on Park 661 Park Ave., Cranston RI - Vintage R&B Ensemble, Wednesday nights, 8:00-10:00 PM

The Revolution 2190 Broad Street, Cranston, RI, 401.780.8700. "Excellent Food + Good Music = Fun", Check their schedule for Blues Greats.

Villa Restaurant 272 Cowesett Ave, W Warwick RI - Vintage R&B Ensemble. Every Sunday 5-8 PM.

Volunteer Opportunities

Your support is valuable to us in many areas. Here are some ways you may help:

- Promotion and advertising
- Bookkeeping and banking
- Social media coordination (website, twitter, etc.)
- Producing and staging shows
- Coordinating and compiling our history projects
- Bucket carrier (handling incidental tasks)

***INTERESTED IN DONATING
Musical Instruments Needed
Violins, Violas, Trumpets, Flutes,
Trumbones, Clarinets, Saxophones,
Call Tom @ 401.793.1281***

Our needs have grown along with our organization and we could really use your help. We are easy to work with; we have a lot of fun; and we serve our community. Now, you can't beat that. Please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Membership Application

Join/Renew RIRBPS Membership Today!

Become an active member or simply enjoy the variety of events and concerts we have to offer. RIRBPS is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization committed to preserving and promoting the blues in the African American tradition. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

To Join or Renew:

Complete the Application and mail with a check or money order made out to

RI Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society to:

Sylvia Whiting, Treasurer, 125 Cliff Avenue, Winthrop, MA 02152 / 617.539.3951 / sylmax99@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Membership Categories:

New Application _____ Renewal _____

		Quantity	Fee
Student	\$ 5/year	_____	_____
Individual:	\$15/year	_____	_____
Couple:	\$25/year	_____	_____
Non Profit:	\$50/year	_____	_____
Venue/Club	\$75/year	_____	_____
Corporation	\$100/year	_____	_____

Voluntary Donation \$ _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____ \$ _____

Volunteer Information (optional):

In addition to supporting RIRBPS with my Membership, I would like to volunteer in the following way:

Membership renewal year runs from June 1 to May 31.

Applications are pro-rated quarterly for the first year.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

We have an on-going need for **volunteers** to assist with public relations, expanding our membership and programming and to help with serving on the Board, contacting organizations for support, outreach and phone calls or helping with events. Contact Cleveland at 401. 461.0012 or Max Whiting at 617.539.3951 for more information.