

Past, present and future activities for Those Who Love Music

MUSIC NOTES

FOX VALLEY MUSIC FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

FALL / 2017

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A tribute to legendary recordings made at the top of Aurora's Leland Tower with Blues greats at the height of their careers.

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We have to say good-bye to the summer, but don't be sad. There's lots more in store and the best is yet to come.

FVMF receives Grant Page 2

Thanks to the 2017 Kane County Grand Victoria Casino Riverboat Grant the FVMF can purchase equipment to continue and implement new projects

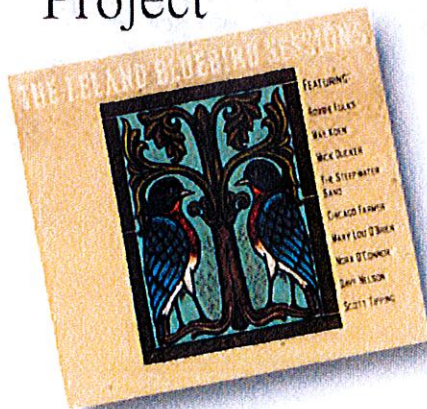
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Learn the latest on this valuable and ongoing project to preserve, protect, promote and educate.

Robbie Fulks @ KTS Page 4

Tickets are on sale now to see two-time Grammy nominee Fulks with special guest Dave Ramont.

The Leland Project



The Leland Bluebird Sessions, a unique, double vinyl album and CD that commemorates the 1930's RCA Victor's Bluebird recordings that were made in the Leland Tower's Sky Club. The original recordings featured legends Tampa Red, Washboard Sam, Sonny Boy Williamson, Big Joe Williams, Walter Davis, Merline Johnson, Yank Rachell, Monkey Joe, The State Street Swingers,

Sweet Peas Spivey, John D. 'Black Spider' Twitty and Robert Lee McCoy, among others, in sessions recorded by renowned producer Lester Melrose.

The Leland Bluebird Sessions album was recorded in the spirit of the original recordings and captures the original feel by the cast of artists and analog recording approach. The 'new' renditions featured Robbie Fulks, Mae Koen, Mick Ducker, The Sleepwater Band, Chicago Farmer, Mary Lou O'Brien, Nora O'Connor, Reverend Cinchy Pickins, Dave Nelson and Scott Tipping. There were many mighty fine musicians that contributed to the Sessions in support of the "lead" artists. The list includes Scott Stevenson, Pete Galanis, Dave Herrero, Matt Thompson, Chuck Lacy, Gary Schepers, Alex Hall, Anna Jacobson, Gerald Dowd, Rick Sherry, John Abbey and Don Stiernberg, whose participation and impact cannot be understated and is appreciated beyond what words can adequately express.

Scott Tipping produced the recordings while Steve Warrenfeltz, Sky Club Records/Fox Valley Music Foundation, handled the Executive Producer duties. The recording sessions took place at Kingsize Sound Labs in Chicago and were engineered and mixed by John Abbey, with assistance from Scott Tipping. The album package was designed by Rex Bohn.



Scott Tipping is pictured here with Mae Koen on the main stage at RiverEdge Park in Aurora where the album was debuted at Blues on the Fox Festival 2016.

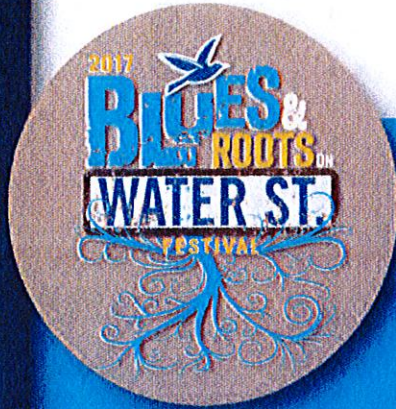
SUMMER FESTIVALS



THE CURE FOR THE SUMMERTIME BLUES

FVMF Receives 2017 Riverboat Grant

The Fox Valley Music Foundation is the proud recipient of a 2017 Kane County Grand Victoria Riverboat Casino Grant. The grant was awarded in connection to the History Project headed by board members Karen Christensen and Steve Warrenfeltz, and will be utilized to purchase recording equipment to document the oral histories of musicians throughout the Fox Valley area. Thank you to John Russell for assisting with the grant application process AND to the Kane County Board, through its Office of Community Reinvestment, with funds from the Grand Victoria Riverboat Casino.



2017 Blues on The Fox Poster designed by Rex Bohn (left) is a "must-have" for festival goers.

If you've got the time, we've got the Blues! Blues on the Fox Festival turned 21 this summer, and the intimate little festival in Batavia that has come to be known as BROWS (Blues and Roots on Water Street) celebrated its second year.

The cozy indoor festival takes place rain or shine the weekend before BOTF. Two stages ... six artists ... food and beverages ... all taking place within the friendly confines of KissThe Sky and Water Street Studios (and the BEI Dock).

The lineup this year was stellar ... a nice mix of Blues and Americana and Roots. This year's festival featured: Wayne Baker Brooks, The Ladies of Leland & Noah Gabriel (and band) on the Blues (Electric) Stage and Jonas Friddle & The Majority, The Leadfoot Band

and Chicago Farmer on the Roots (Acoustic) Stage. We were excited, delighted and licked pink to have all of these mighty fine musicians playing our fest this year! A little mix of Blues Rock, R&B, Soul, Bluegrass, Truegrass, Front Porch Old Timey Knee Slappin' Roots and legendary Chicago-Style Blues that was an appetizer for the following weekend's Blues on the Fox Festival at RiverEdge Park in Aurora, where Mavis Staples finally got to do what she does so well without the skies opening up and getting everybody soaked. A good time was had by all.

A continuing theme of Blues on the Fox is the annual festival poster. The posters have been generated each year since the Festival originated in 1997. In recent years, the posters have taken on a particular character and have all been created by one man, Rex Bohn, who has come to embody Blues on the Fox with his scratch board art posters. The Rex Bohn posters (2003, 2006-2015) have become synonymous with Blues on The Fox.

Vintage posters are available exclusively through the Fox Valley Music Foundation by special permission of the City of Aurora.

For more information on purchasing posters, email steve@fvmf.org

Join us at Kiss the Sky on Saturday mornings afternoons or Sunday evenings for live local music.



Noah Gabriel
Saturday Morning Cafe
Sept. 23 | 10:30am
Suggested donation: \$5

John Papadolas
Saturday Afternoon Cafe
Sept. 23 | 1pm
Suggested donation: \$5

Scott Tipping
Tipping Transmits
Sept. 24 | 7pm
Suggested donation: \$5

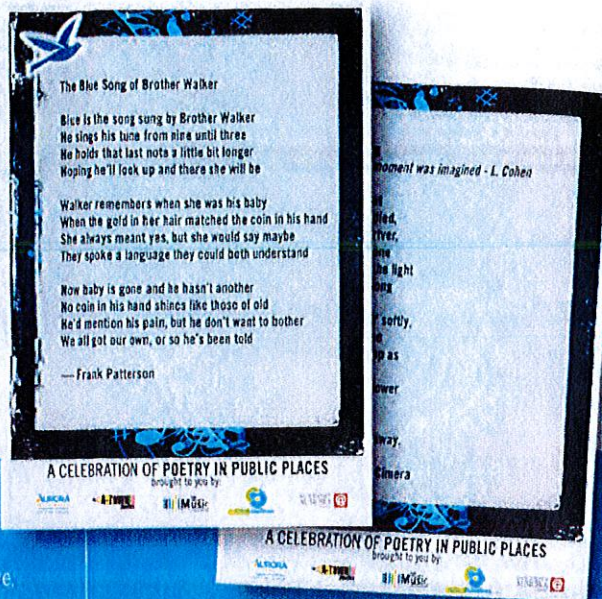
Dennis Caravello
Saturday Morning Cafe
Sept. 30 | 10:30am
Suggested donation: \$5

Warren Douglas
Saturday Afternoon Cafe
Sept. 30 | 1pm
Suggested donation: \$5

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT THE KISS THE SKY FACEBOOK PAGE.

Poetry in Public Places

In honor of Blues Month in Aurora (June), A-Town Poetics, the City of Aurora, Cultural Creatives, Inc., Aurora Downtown, and the Fox Valley Music Foundation hosted a call for poems with blues-related themes. The call was open to any writer currently residing in the Fox Valley region. Selected work was chosen by a "blind" jury. The poems were incorporated into Blues posters designed by Loco Logos Graphic Design and displayed throughout the downtown core.



PRESERVE PROMOTE PROTECT EDUCATE

History Project Updates

Thanks to the recent Riverboat grant that we received we are able to purchase recording equipment to continue this valuable project. Jaime Gutierrez will be our host for the oral interviews that are scheduled.



In line with the Foundation's mission to preserve, protect, and promote the music of the Fox Valley region, while providing music education to people of all ages and from all walks of life, we have set off on a journey of discovery to research and archive our musical history.

Along the way we intend to develop lectures, curricula, symposia in multiple formats (digital and print) for the edification and enlightenment of ourselves and the general public. We will examine a multiplicity of musical genres, including (but not necessarily limited to) roots, pop, country, blues, jazz, folk, gospel, Latin, doo wop, rock (classic, metal, punk, psychedelic), soul, funk, hip hop, salsa, rap, and classical. We will be reaching back at least to the 1830s, when this region was first settled by immigrants from the Old World and the Americas - but with the right researchers, we might be able to go back even further in time.

In our research, we hope to connect with faith communities, cultural and ethnic organizations, historical societies, newspaper publishers and archivists, venues, educators, performers, libraries, and radio and television stations.

A big undertaking, yes - but we plan to take our time and enjoy the journey. Those who join us on our quest will have the opportunity to follow their own passions and interests, to authenticate rumors and intuition, and to explore new territory.

Researchers are currently collecting "Backstage Backstories" on topics as diverse as the Leland/Bluebird Recording Sessions, speakeasies and nightclubs, coffeehouses, choral groups, Blues artists, and impresarios/producers.

Interviews with Fox Valley area music people will be an integral part of our research efforts. Those interviews will be documented on video, preserved, and accessible from our website. Once the Foundation has a physical home, we will archive research materials in an on-site library.

Please contact Karen Christensen, kfc16@sbcglobal.net or 630-421-2528, to join our hardy corps, or for more information about our History Project.

ROBBIE FULKS with special guest **Dave Ramont**
Oct. 1 | 6pm
Tickets: \$20

Tickets are available for purchase at Eventbrite and in person at Kiss The Sky. Ticket sales are being limited to 100 and the event will sell out.

Chad Watson
Saturday Morning Cafe
Oct. 7 | 10:30am
Suggested donation: \$5

Andrea Dawn
Saturday Afternoon Cafe
Oct. 7 | 1pm
Suggested donation: \$5

John Abbey
Saturday Morning Cafe
Oct. 14 | 10:30am
Suggested donation: \$5

Dave Silis
Saturday Afternoon Cafe
Oct. 14 | 1pm
Suggested donation: \$5

Eric Peter Schwartz
Saturday Morning Cafe
Oct. 21 | 10:30am
Suggested donation: \$5

Al & Sue Sing the Blues
Saturday Afternoon Cafe
Oct. 21 | 1pm
Suggested donation: \$5

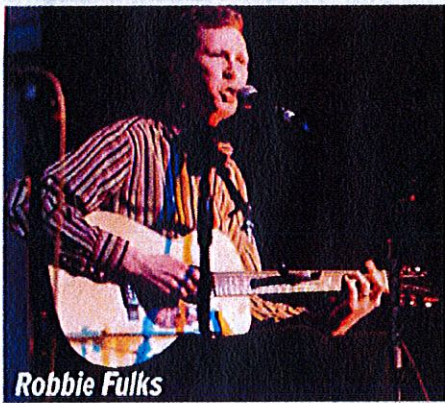
Singer Songwriter Workshops

Back by popular demand

The Fox Valley Music Foundation has teamed up with local libraries to offer insight into the songwriting process. In 2016, the series featured six workshops; more are planned in 2018. Attendance is free and open to creative types of all ages. Performance by local professional musicians is intertwined with conversation about the magic of songwriting. Attendance is free. The series will feature a one-hour songwriting workshop led by the artist and will be directly followed by a sixty-minute live performance.

LIVE FROM KISS THE SKY | October 1, 6p

Robbie Fulks
with special guest **Dave Ramont**



Robbie Fulks

Two-time Grammy nominee Robby Fulks will be performing a special and limited ticketed affair, in the friendly confines of Kiss The Sky on Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 7pm. JOIN US for an evening with these amazing musicians where they will talk about their experience and perform live. Presented by Fox Valley Music Foundation in collaboration with Kiss The Sky

Tickets are available for purchase at Eventbrite and in person at Kiss The Sky. Ticket sales are being limited to 100 and the event will sell out.

For more information regarding the event, go to the Eventbrite Event listing or check out the event posting on Kiss The Sky's Facebook Page.
Members: \$15 | Public \$20

FOX VALLEY MUSIC FOUNDATION
In collaboration with Batavia Public Library Aurora Public Library West Branch proudly present

SINGER SONGWRITER WORKSHOP & PERFORMANCE SERIES

Six Intimate Workshops by top local Songwriters followed by Performances
All workshops begin at 7 PM • Performances begin at 8 PM

FREE
Open to the Public
Workshops @ 7 PM
Performances @ 8 PM

Aurora Public Library West Branch
2155 Commonwealth Ave. Aurora, IL 60006
630.264.8000

Batavia Public Library
111 Aurora Ave. Batavia, IL 60010
630.475.1111

For more information or a complete listing of participating local events in the Fox Valley, visit FVMF.org

630-406-0086
foxvalleymusicfoundation.org

FOX VALLEY MUSIC FOUNDATION
foxvalleymusicfoundation.org

180 First Street
Batavia, IL 60510

PRESERVE
PROMOTE
PROTECT
EDUCATE

Become a Member!

The Fox Valley Music Foundation Membership Program is comprised of an annual dues-based automatically generated subscription program made available to the general public in the form of individual and family memberships. Members will be afforded advanced notice of events, shows and discounts for tickets and retail purchases, more in-depth activity reporting, news and special limited-edition music items.

Membership Levels

Music Lover

- \$25 annual membership
- Advanced notice of foundation sponsored events and shows.
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Free annual local artist compact disc compilation
- 10% discount of all Foundation merchandise, events & show tickets (discount is limited to two tickets per event).

Music Performer and Lover

- \$25 annual membership
- Same as *Music Lover* PLUS A link to your website or Facebook page on the Foundation's website.

Music & T-shirt Lover

- \$50 annual membership
- Same as *Music Lover* PLUS Custom designed Foundation T-shirt (\$25 retail value).

The Family That Loves Music

- \$100 Annual Membership
- Advanced notice of Foundation sponsored events and shows.
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Free annual local artist compact disc compilation
- 10% discount of all Foundation merchandise, events & show tickets (discount is limited to four tickets per event).
- (4) Custom designed Foundation T-shirts (\$25 each value).

SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP AT:
FoxValleyMusicFoundation.org

