

SUMMER FESTIVAL SCHEDULE  
**CENTRUM**  
creativity in community

PORT TOWNSEND  
**BLUES**  
FESTIVAL

Jerron Paxton, Artistic Director

JULY 29 -  
AUGUST 5

Jerron Paxton

FORT WORDEN STATE PARK, PORT TOWNSEND  
SUPPLEMENT TO THE JULY 25, 2018 PORT TOWNSEND & JEFFERSON COUNTY LEADER



# SUMMER AT CENTRUM

## WELCOME TO CENTRUM'S 45<sup>TH</sup> SEASON!



I INVITE YOU to join the Centrum community in the creation of art and honoring of diverse traditions.

DISCOVER creative workshops, mainstage performances, nightclub events, literary readings, lectures, dances, artist residencies, youth programs, and more.

CENTRUM PROGRAMS welcome participants from across the globe to historic Fort Worden State Park. Last year alone, Centrum served participants from 16 countries, all 50 states, and 77% of the counties in Washington State. Thirty percent of program participants are age 18 or younger!

As always, we welcome youth age 18 and younger to all performances for free, with an advance reservation. Free offerings at Centrum for everyone include our outdoor *Free Fridays at the Fort* series, all readings at the Writers' Conference and most workshop participant concerts throughout the summer.

NEW THIS YEAR our Blues and Jazz in the Clubs concerts will appear in venues throughout Fort Worden. We encourage clubs goers to enjoy a meal and shopping in downtown Port Townsend before heading to the Fort. This venue change means all concerts will now be open to all ages. In addition, the new "clubs" will feature expanded seating and refreshments.

THE CENTRUM COMMUNITY is grateful for support from the Sage Foundation, Washington State Arts Commission, Washington State Parks Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Fort Worden PDA. On behalf of the Centrum staff and board, I extend our thanks to all of our donors and sponsors who support our mission and Centrum's unique role in the Puget Sound community.

Thank you!

Executive Director

(800) 746-1982 • [centrum.org](http://centrum.org)

## HELLO FRIENDS,



It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to this year's acoustic blues festival! Growing with and learning from this festival has been one of the biggest pleasures of my life. Being made artistic director is a great honor. We have plenty of friends and faculty eager to help this year and it is a safe bet that it's going to be a hoot. We're glad you are here to join us!

Blues and the culture surrounding it has been a part of my life since the beginning. My forebears came from the plantations of Louisiana and Arkansas bringing their culture and music with them and instilling it in me. The both lively and lowdown music that was the soundtrack of their lives should not be preserved as an old relic, but be kept as alive and vibrant as it was when it was in its heyday.

Life seems to have given me the task and responsibility to be a steward of the music and culture of my progenitors as they pass into the new bright world. With cultural liveliness as part of my goals and being a reasonable hand at the strings as my credentials, I look forward to doing and learning as much as possible to add a bit of my flavor to the festival.

Peace, Love & Blessings.

*Jerron Paxton*, Artistic Director

## WELCOME TO THE 2018 CENTRUM PORT TOWNSEND ACOUSTIC BLUES FESTIVAL!



After spending a week of learning in community with passionate bearers of early blues traditions, we are excited to celebrate with you as they take to the stage!

Artistic Director, Jerron Paxton has gathered musicians who were either born into early blues traditions or became bearers of these traditions out of direct exposure and passion.

These musicians and the participants who came to learn from them, gathered at Fort Worden State Park to form a week-long, thriving, multi-generational community that honors the traditions upon which American blues and roots music were founded. Rooted in the music and cultures of African Americans, this music gave rise to spirituals, old-time, country blues, gospel, urban blues, jazz, rhythm & blues, rock & roll and soul.

We are honored to share this music with you, thank you so much for joining us!

, Program Manager  
Centrum Port Townsend Acoustic Blues Festival

# BLUES IN THE CLUBS

**FRIDAY AUGUST 3, 2018**

**8 P.M. - MIDNIGHT**

*\$25 with wristband\**

**1st set: 8 - 9 p.m.**

**2nd set: 9:15 - 10:15 p.m.**

**3rd set: 10:30 p.m. - 12 a.m.**

**JOSEPH F. WHEELER THEATER**

Mary Flower and Chaz Leary  
Jimmy 'Duck' Holmes  
Cary Morin

**BUILDING 204 UP SOUTH**

*(paintings by Tracy Bigelow  
Grisman)*

Carl Sonny Leyland  
Roy Book Binder  
Ernie Vega, Mara Kaye  
and Ben Fox

**BUILDING 204 UP NORTH**

*(photos by Dick Waterman)*

Jontavious Willis and Andrew Alli  
Ethan Leinwand and  
Daddy Long Legs  
Jerron Paxton

**SEMINAR BUILDING**

Acoustic Participant Showcase

**RAINSHADOW RECORDING**

Del Rey  
Craig Ventresco  
Christopher Davis-Shannon  
and Brian Farrow

**SCHOOLHOUSE D**

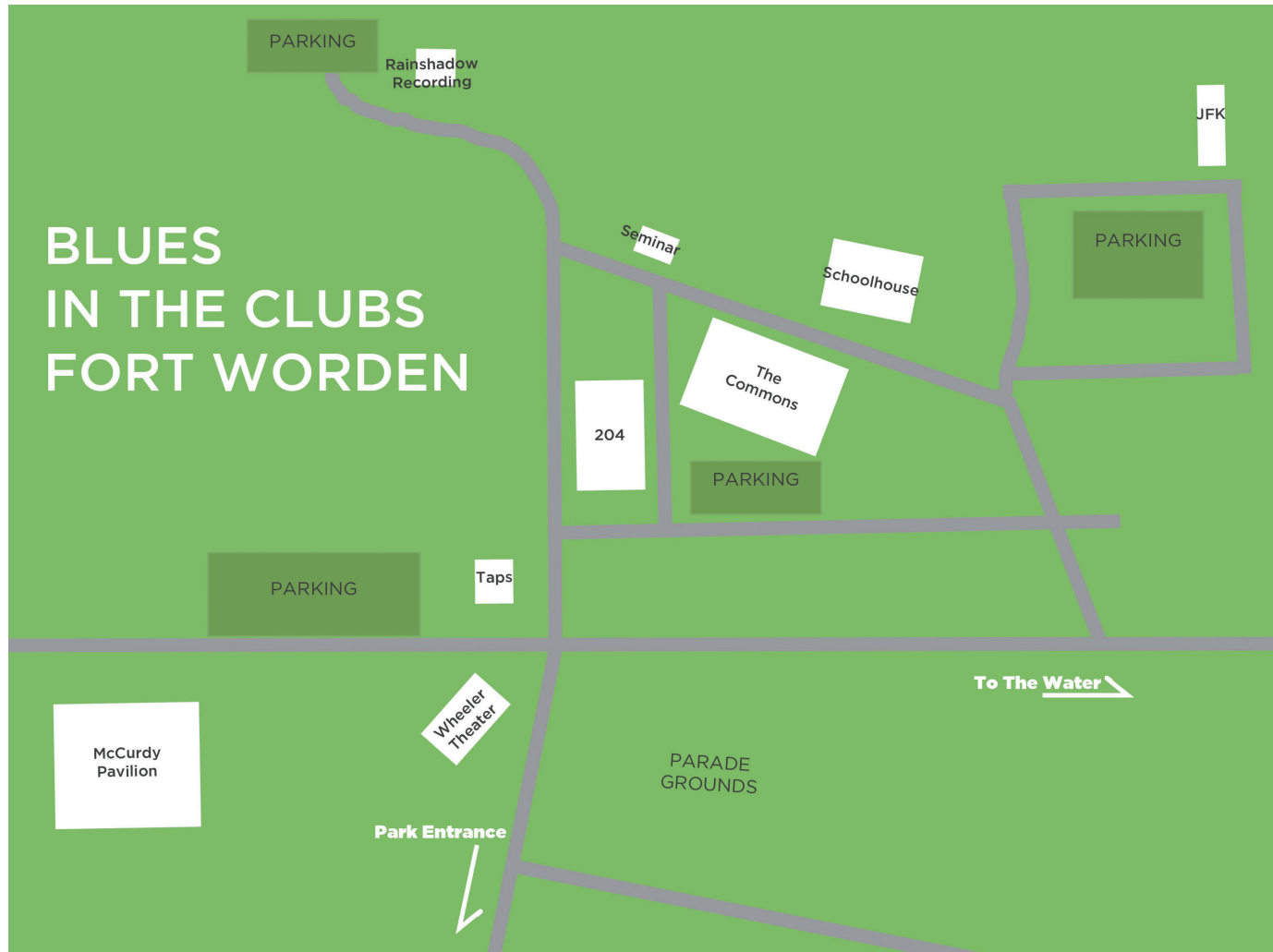
*(artwork by Rebecca Rafuse)*

Lauren Sheehan  
Pat Donohue  
Fred Sokolow

**JFK BUILDING**

Orville Johnson, Corey Ledet,  
and Dean Mueller  
Jelly Rollers (Darren Loucas,  
Sean Divine, Eric Eagle, Wayne  
Horvitz, Bill Molloy)  
Jelly Rollers

**CROSSROADS MUSIC** will open its pop-up blues store from 8pm-10pm Friday night only in Schoolhouse H with artist CDs and books available for sale.



**SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 2018**

**8 P.M. - MIDNIGHT**

*\$25 with wristband\**

**1st set: 8 - 9 p.m.**

**2nd set: 9:15 - 10:15 p.m.**

**3rd set: 10:30 p.m. - 12 a.m.**

**JOSEPH F. WHEELER THEATER**

Carl Sonny Leyland  
Pat Donohue  
Del Rey

**BUILDING 204 UP SOUTH**

*(paintings by Tracy Bigelow  
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Craig Ventresco  
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Ethan Leinwand

**BUILDING 204 UP NORTH**

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Orville Johnson, Corey Ledet,  
and Ben Fox  
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**SEMINAR BUILDING**

Acoustic Participant Showcase

**RAINSHADOW RECORDING**

Mary Flower and Chaz Leary  
Cary Morin  
Fred Sokolow

**SCHOOLHOUSE D**

*(artwork by Rebecca Rafuse)*  
Christopher Davis-Shannon and  
Brian Farrow  
Jenny Peterson and Luke  
Anthony / Rhapsody Students  
Rhapsody Faculty (Ben Hunter,  
Joe Seamons, Tina Dietz,  
Cameron Armstrong)

**JFK BUILDING**

Ernie Vega, Mara Kaye, with  
Daddy Long Legs  
Jerron Paxton  
G Burns Jug Band

All venues are all ages. Both Friday & Saturday night, beer and wine and non-alcoholic beverages as well as Grab and Go foods are available in all venues. Cocktails in 204 and JFK. BBQ and a full bar available at Taps until midnight.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE: Blues in the Clubs is a movable feast of great music in various Fort Worden venues, with each venue operating on a first come first served basis. Your wristband is an all-night access pass and we encourage you to move throughout the evening to gain the full benefit of the Clubs experience. Venue hosts will direct you to the available seating or standing room options. Please read our wristband policy online.**

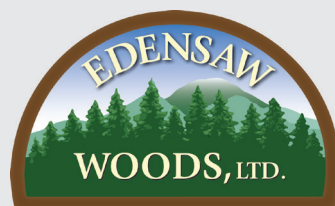
*\*Programs and artists subject to change.*

# THANK YOU

Centrum offers profound thanks to the foundation and government entities that support our distinctive mission. Their grants help fuel our programming, and their imprimatur assists Centrum's efforts to broaden support for its services throughout the state and nation.



**Teren MacLeod/  
REMAX**



**Harborside Inn**

Centrum's corporate sponsors include regional, national, and international corporations that understand the value of supporting the arts. Their contributions foster the creativity and sense of kinship that has thousands of workshop participants and audience members converging for Centrum's 2018 Summer Season.

# CONCERTS

**Wednesday August 1, 7:30 PM**

## BLUES DANCE

Fort Worden State Park, McCurdy Pavilion - \$20

Featuring: Jerron Paxton with the G Burns Jug Band and friends (Clinton Davis, Tim McNalley, Jonathan Piper, and Jake Faulkner)

**Friday August 3, Noon**

## FREE FRIDAYS

Fort Worden State Park Commons Lawn - FREE

Featuring: Jontavious Willis and Cary Morin

**Saturday, August 4, 11 AM**

## GOSPEL CHOIR PERFORMANCE - FREE

Fort Worden Chapel

(on the lawn outside, bring a blanket or lawn chair) - FREE  
Featuring: The Port Townsend Acoustic Blues Gospel Choir with Reverend John Wilkins and his daughters Tawana Cunningham, Tangela Longstreet, and Joyce Jones - joined by Eric Eagle on drums, Jim Nyby on piano and Ben Fox on bass.

**Saturday, August 4, 1:30 PM**

## ACOUSTIC BLUES SHOWCASE

McCurdy Pavilion, Fort Worden State Park - \$27, \$40, \$48

Featuring: Pat Donohue, Jontavious Willis and Andrew Alli, Lazy Lester, Roy Book Binder, Jimmy Duck Holmes, Christopher Davis-Shannon and Brian Farrow, Ethan Leinwand, Mary Flower and Chaz Leary, Cary Morin, Del Rey, Craig Ventresco, Daddy Long Legs and Jerron Paxton

*Mo-Chilli BBQ available for purchase*

**Friday, August 3 & Saturday,  
August 4, 8 pm-Midnight**

## BLUES IN THE CLUBS

Various venues at Fort Worden State Park - \$25 wristband

### BLUES FESTIVAL PACKAGES

Seating is reserved at the McCurdy Pavilion performances. Includes Acoustic Blues Showcase and Blues in the Clubs. Pricing based on McCurdy Pavilion Seating

Section A: \$110

Section B: \$90

Section C: \$80

Purchase tickets online at [centrum.org](http://centrum.org) or call (800) 746-1982

# PT BLUES ARTISTS



## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - JERRON PAXTON

Jerron “Blind Boy” Paxton transports audiences back to the 1920s and makes them wish they could stay there. He sings and plays banjo, guitar, piano, fiddle, harmonica, Cajun accordion and the bones with an eerie ability to transform traditional jazz, blues, folk and country into the present. Paxton’s sound is influenced by the likes of

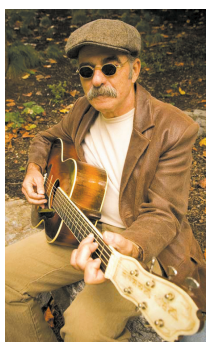
Fats Waller and “Blind” Lemon Jefferson. A musical genius, Paxton is expert in all forms of traditional American music from Blues to Ragtime, to Swing and Appalachian. Audiences are mesmerized not only by his playing, but his storytelling, humor, and prodigious musicianship.



## ANDREW ALLI

Andrew Alli is a 29-year-old Richmond, Virginia native. Always passionate about music, he stumbled upon the blues while taking up his first instrument – the harmonica. He instantly fell in love with the blues and all of the history that comes with the harp. Andrew developed his style of playing by studying from the harmonica greats including: Little Walter, Big Walter Horton, Sonny Boy Williamson II, and Junior Wells. Co-founding “Andrew Alli and Last Night’s Blues Band”, with drummer, Charles Hibbler in 2012. The

band had a particular interest to the Chicago and Delta styles of blues.



## ROY BOOK BINDER

Singer-Songwriter-Storytelling-Bluesman... Roy Book Binder has been rambling around the world for the past 45 years! He gave up his Greenwich Village “pad” in the early 1970’s and lived in his “Tour Bus” for the next 15 years criss-crossing the US and appearing at festivals throughout Canada & Europe. Book Binder travelled with the legendary Rev. Gary Davis in the late 60’s, recorded his first solo acoustic Blues album in the 70’s, which was the first to receive 5 stars in DOWNBEAT magazine! In the late 80’s ‘The Book’ was part of Bonnie Raitt’s East Coast Tour, which included an appearance on The Grand Old Opry which led to almost 30 appearances on NASHVILLE NOW’s, Ralph Emory Show!



## DADDY LONG LEGS

Originally from St Louis, Missouri, Daddy Long Legs is a harp-blowing, blues-bellowing, blues hollerer who blurs any definition by age or color. He growls, barks, yelps, and wails without sounding like an imitation of anyone or anything. Daddy Long Legs plays in a jumping hotbed of genres and styles but it was Howlin’ Wolf who he considers his largest influence. “I’m very influenced by his style of singing, harp playing and stage presence. He was one of the first blues greats I got into in my early 20’s and from there I started listening to Charley Patton, Son

House and Robert Johnson.” He is also influenced by gospel roots, “I’ve been a big fan of Gospel music for many years now. There’s a lot of soul stirring savagery, wild singing and playing and some very fast tempos.”



## G BURNS JUG BAND

The G Burns Jug Band plays old American music with an intensity and authenticity rarely heard today: urban blues, mountain fiddle, and popular music of the nineteen-twenties and thirties. Based in San Diego, G Burns is led by multi-instrumentalist and native Kentuckian Clinton Davis, who grew up hearing jug band music in its birthplace of Louisville. Since forming in 2012, the G Burns Jug Band has

garnered praise from the national roots community, and an enthusiastic following on the West Coast. In 2013, the band launched their residency at San Diego’s Black Cat Bar, held the first Saturday of every month. They have self-released two albums, including their most recent, The Southern Pacific & The Santa Fe, which earned them a San Diego Music Award. The album also received coverage from renowned roots music publication No Depression, who called their work “a joyous and soulful restoration of one of the lost treasures of American musical tradition.” They have shared the stage with roots luminaries including Jim Kweskin, Del McCoury, and Beausoleil avec Michael Ducet. Members include: Clinton Davis, Tim McNalley, Jonathan Piper and Jake Faulkner.



## CHRISTOPHER DAVIS-SHANNON

Christopher Davis-Shannon’s music is the essence of honest simplicity. Bringing together influence ranging from Fats Waller to Chet Baker, he creates an atmosphere that will instantly transport you back to jazz clubs, and speakeasies of the early 20th century. Not Content being labelled a traditionalist, he forges ahead breathing new life into old classics, weaving together a sound that is enjoyed by both young and old. As a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, and educator, based in Philadelphia, Davis-Shannon maintains a

steady tour schedule with his own music as well as a sideman for various acts. He brings to the stage not just the pure joy of music, but a vast knowledge of the history behind the songs that he holds close to his heart. His intricate instrumental work and plaintive vocals are infused with soulfulness which cannot be faked, and a respect for his predecessors which is rarely equaled.



## DEL REY

Del Rey started playing guitar when I was four. At the age of thirteen she was introduced to the world of traditional acoustic music. Lou Curtiss, proprietor of Folk Arts and artistic director of the San Diego Folk Festival suggested she quit wasting time playing “Stairway to Heaven” and listen to some Memphis Minnie. He put her on stage with Sam Chatmon when she was fourteen, and introduced her to Lydia Mendoza and Howard Armstrong. Thirty years later, she became fascinated with the ukulele

and tried to play the same kind of complicated rhythmic blues and ragtime on four strings as on six.



## PAT DONOHUE

Pat Donohue’s musical tastes are eclectic. Though he considers himself foremost a folk guitarist, Pat’s influences are rooted in bluesmen Blind Blake, Robert Johnson, Charlie Parker, Duke Ellington, Muddy Waters and Miles Davis. He manages to blend jazz and blues with folk, and the mix is seamless. Over the years he has captivated audiences with his unique original compositions, dazzling instrumentals and humorous song parodies. Honors include a 2005 Grammy for his

participation on Pink Guitar, a compilation of Henry Mancini tunes on acoustic guitar, several Minnesota Music Awards, and the title of 1983 National Finger Picking Guitar Champion. His original tunes have been recorded by Chet Atkins, Suzy Bogguss and Kenny Rogers.



## BRIAN FARROW

Brian Farrow is a multi-instrumentalist who has always been a lover of music. From enthusiastically bouncing in the backseat of his father’s car to Bone Thugs n’ Harmony or trying to get the pitches right to the Earth Wind and Fire tunes his grandfather burned for his mom. His musical journey has taken him from the Kennedy Center’s Millennium

# PT BLUES ARTISTS

Stage, to the Whitehouse performing for President Barack Obama, and many stunning points in between. Brian is a member of the Clara Barton Sessions, a recording of DC folk tradition musicians that released an album commemorating the revitalization of the Clara Barton Museum, Elena y Los Fulanos forthcoming album, or on Dom Flemon's forthcoming black cowboy album under Smithsonian's Folkways label.



## MARY FLOWER

Award-winning picker, singer/songwriter and teacher, Mary Flower embodies a luscious and lusty mix of rootsy, acoustic-blues guitar and vocal styles that span a number of idioms - from Piedmont to the Mississippi Delta, with stops in ragtime, swing, folk and hot jazz. Flower's 10 recordings, including her last four for Memphis' famed Yellow Dog Records - Bywater Dance, Instrumental Breakdown, Bridges and Misery

Loves Company - show a deep command of and love for folk and blues string music. For Flower, it's never about re-creation. Her dedication to the art form is a vital contribution to America's music.



## BEN FOX

Bass player and multi-instrumentalist Ben Fox lives in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ben became enamored with jug band music when he got to play with some traveling hoboes who had stopped in his college town of New York City. Instead of attending graduate school, he moved to New Orleans to learn the styles of his musical heroes in their natural habitat. He likes to think of himself as attending the Free University of the Streets of New Orleans, which first taught him to play jug band music and

rag, blues, American old time, music from the Balkans, Manouche jazz, Cajun music, and is presently giving him a traditional New Orleans jazz intensive.



## JIMMY 'DUCK' HOLMES

Jimmy 'Duck' Holmes is a deep-roots folk blues musician who plays in the blues tradition described as American-primitivism, a repetitive and monotone style that is ethereal, gritty and rough. There are many sophisticated pickers but the primitive school had always been at the core of blues, conveying the most important element - the feeling. Holmes was influenced by Jack Owens and Skip James who were part of the Bentonia School of blues musicians, influenced by

Henry Stuckey. Holmes is one of the oldest active purveyors of the Bentonia country blues tradition. Dick Waterman, who managed Skip James says of Holmes, "it is haunting to see the similarities between them."



## ORVILLE JOHNSON

Orville Johnson was born and raised in the southern Illinois heartland. He acquired his love of singing as a youth in the fundamentalist Pentecostal church he attended and, when he later began playing guitar and dobro, responded to the roots music that surrounded him by learning to play the blues, bluegrass, rockabilly, and country music that are all part of the mosaic that characterizes his own mongrel music. He is

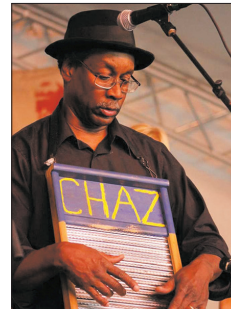
a singer, instrumentalist, record producer, songwriter, session player, teacher, the top dobro player on the West Coast of America and, above all, an instinctive and sensitive musician.



## MARA KAYE

Mara Kaye is a real one. Born and bred in Mill Basin, Brooklyn, she's rocked houses all over NYC and beyond - spitting her truth, singing with audacious rhythm, love and an uncanny rawness that is unique only to her. Some of her most electric and rewarding moments have been her sold-out performances at Joe's Pub, Symphony Space, Shanghai Mermaid and closest to her heart, her very intimate performances at Sunny's

Bar in Red Hook. Backed by treasured veterans of the scene, Mara has brought her own modern charisma and freshness to a historic genre on the verge of being lost, bridging the gap between the new generation and the OG's who've lived to tell their stories firsthand.



## WASHBOARD CHAZ

Though comfortable in all forms of our diverse American musical heritage, Washboard Chaz Leary has achieved dominance and international recognition in acoustic country blues. He has played professionally with an impressive array of world-class musicians, both on the stage and in the recording studio. His reputation as a consummate musician and performer - along with a delightful stage presence has brought him wide popularity. Chaz has shared the stage with Bonnie Raitt, John

Hammond, Taj Mahal, Anders Osborne and Corey Harris among others. He has opened for many blues greats, including Muddy Waters, Robert Cray, Doc Watson and Keb Mo. Chaz is also a featured performer in Playing For Change, appearing in videos with Keith Richards, Keb Mo and others.



## COREY LEDET

Corey Ledet was born and raised in Houston, Texas, but spent summers with family in Louisiana. He learned everything he could so that he could incorporate the culture in all areas of his life - the traditions, the food, and most importantly, the music. His love for the Creole/Zydeco music was instant and hard for him to ignore. He studied the originators of the music such as Clifton Chenier, John LaFosse, and Boozoo Chavis. At the early age of 10, he picked up shows playing drums

for Houston-based band Wilbert Thibodeaux and the Zydeco Rascals and slowly learned the main instrument of the music - the accordion. He came to truly love any type of accordion - the single-note, triple-note and piano key accordions - and any others. He worked at building his skills until he knew each one fluently.



## ETHAN LEINWAND

Ethan Leinwand is a St. Louis-based blues pianist and preservationist. A student of the music's rich history and varied regional styles, Ethan presents personal interpretations of many of the great (and forgotten) old-time barrelhouse masters. He specializes in St. Louis pre-war piano blues, Texas barrelhouse, Deep South barrelhouse, early Chicago boogie-woogie, and good-time hokum stride. His influences include: Jimmy Yancey, Henry Brown,

Little Brother Montgomery, Peetie Wheatstraw, Aaron 'Pinetop' Sparks, Albert Ammons, Black Bob, Cooney Vaughn, Professor Longhair, and Carl Sonny Leyland.



### LAZY LESTER

Back when blues was king and South Louisiana was the breeding ground for a blast of some of the most memorable American music ever recorded, at the heart of it was Lazy Lester. Those days are gone, and so too are most of its luminaries. And yet Lester carries the tradition almost single-handedly around the world several times over each year. As a true living legend, his talents are as much in demand as ever. After all, there aren't many living bluesmen who've had major hits, as Lester did on Excello Records in the 1950s and '60s, and still perform with the gusto and precision of their youth.



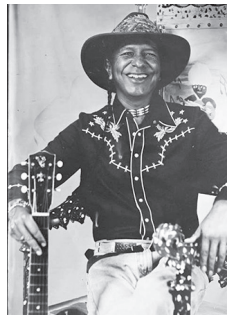
### CARL 'SONNY' LEYLAND

Carl Sonny Leyland was born and raised on the South Coast of England. As a child he was drawn to the American music which he heard on LP records his father would play. He developed an appreciation for Dixieland jazz, the rock & roll of the 1950s & the country music of Jimmie Rodgers & Hank Williams. At age 15 Leyland discovered Boogie Woogie. Captivated by the sound of the repeating 8 to the bar left hand pattern, he was inspired to go to the piano and begin a path that would become his life's purpose. He relocated to New Orleans where he would spend nine years, quickly gaining a reputation for his authentic blues and early rock & roll stylings. Feeling the need for a change, he relocated to California. By this time his repertoire had expanded to include ragtime and early jazz styles which enabled him to become part of the traditional jazz scene.



### DARREN LOUCAS

Darren Loucas is well known in the Northwest as a guitarist, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Loucas, along with harmonica player, Sean Divine are co-founders of "The Jelly Rollers"- a BB Award winning band in the Best Acoustic Blues category. He has routinely shared the stage with artists and bands such as Bill Frisell, Ian Moore, Wayne Horvitz and more. Darren has years of experience as a teacher and performer.



### CARY MORIN

Cary Morin brings together the great musical traditions of America and beyond like no other. With deft fingerstyle guitar and vocals that alternately convey melodic elation and gritty world-weariness, Morin crafts an inimitable style often characterized as acoustic Native Americana with qualities of blues, bluegrass, jazz, jam, reggae, and dance. Crow tribal member and son of an air force officer, Morin was born in Billings, Montana. His musical career hit the ground running with The Atoll, a band he founded in 1989 and that toured nationally, gaining a devoted following. Later, he achieved international acclaim with The Pura Fé Trio, for whom the single "Ole Midlife Crisis," which Morin wrote and performed with Pura Fé, placed at number 17 on France's iTunes blues chart.



### DEAN MUELLER

This Chicago-born and Portland-based bassist says that being a musician is just "what I was meant to do." Dean Mueller is originally from the city of blues, Chicago, and had played electric bass since he was a kid. He picked up the upright bass and put his talent to good use. You'll often find Dean Mueller on stage with his upright bass with his aggressive yet simple approach. The ultimate compliment you can give to a blues rhythm section is that they play together almost as one musician, one voice. Dean can most certainly do just that. Dean plays regularly in the Northwest with The Duffy Bishop Band and Julie Amici trio.



### LUKE ANTHONY PEASE

Luke Anthony is a fresh new face in the American harmonica community who learned how to play his instrument from the very staff which he will now be working alongside. As Luke has been a student of Centrum's very own Phil Wiggins for years, much of these classes will be focusing on things he's learned from Phil: strengthening the students ear and their ability to learn melodies based on the call and response techniques used for centuries and other ways of turning the world's best harmonica pioneers into Masters.



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# PT BLUES ARTISTS



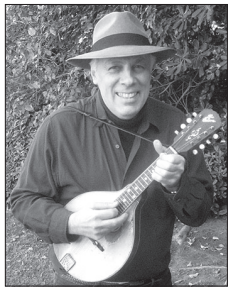
## JENNY PETERSON

A native of Port Townsend, Jenny Peterson grew up learning blues and Boogie Woogie piano from the legends at Centrum's Acoustic Blues Festival. Her early mentors include Daryl Davis, Ann Rabson, Arthur Migliazza and Henry Butler who awakened her undiscovered passion for blues.



## LAUREN SHEEHAN

With sandy-edged vocals and sparkling guitar, mandolin and banjo picking, Lauren Sheehan plays from an old Songster tradition, combining blues, country, folk, ballads and standards, along with popular as well as her own music. Her shows are unusual for their stylistic breadth and emotional range, masterfully delivered with warmth, humor and passion for the music and its history. Inspired by study with elders, oral tradition and scholarship, Lauren creates the intimacy of a back porch, where singing and playing were regular events. She clearly loves the music she performs, shape shifting through the moods of familiar and the obscure, howling with the werewolf and weeping with the willow.



## FRED SOKOLOW

Fred Sokolow is best known as the author of over a hundred and fifty instructional books and DVDs for guitar, banjo, Dobro, mandolin, lap steel and ukulele, that are sold all over the world. Fred has long been a well-known West Coast multi-string performer and recording artist, particularly on the acoustic music scene. He has led bluegrass, jazz and rock bands and has been sideman for musical luminaries like Jerry Garcia, Bobbie Gentry, Jim Stafford, Tom Paxton, Jody Stecher, The Limelickers and Ian Whitcomb. Whether he's playing Delta bottleneck blues, bluegrass or old-time banjo, 30s swing guitar or screaming rock solos, he does it with authenticity and passion.



## ERNIE VEGA

A staple of the New York folk scene, Ernie Vega combines a fabulous soulful voice, matched with fast picking guitar, and imaginative song writing. The string master performs stark versions of Country Blues, Gospel-Blues, Old-Time, & Jazz classics (as well as original compositions) that are stripped down to their barest elements. Sounding like ghosts from a by-gone era, Ernie illustrates the simple elegant power of these great songs. He performs

and teaches his broad repertoire of songs at the fabulous Jalopy Theater in New York, a venue fast becoming Brooklyn's center of Folk, Roots and the Art of the Jug.



## CRAIG VENTRESCO

Craig Ventresco's unconventional musical direction was set during early childhood, when he fell in love with old 78-rpm recordings of early ragtime and jazz. When other kids were listening to Led Zeppelin, Ventresco was searching through dusty bins for rare sides by such obscure artists as Billy Murray, Arthur Collins, and Will Denny. Much of the material he plays was not originally guitar music. The rags of pianist Scott Joplin are obvious examples, but Ventresco also draws inspiration from horn players, accordionists, and even the American Quartet, a best-selling vocal group that scored hits during the 1910s and '20s.



## DICK WATERMAN

Richard "Dick" Waterman began his career as a sports writer, but everything changed in 1964 when he embarked on a journey with Phil Spiro and Nick Perls to locate early blues singer Son House. Waterman became House's manager and other musicians approached him and he realized there was a need for his services. In 1965, he founded Avalon Productions, the first agency devoted to managing black blues artists. He worked with Skip James, Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup, Mississippi John Hurt, Robert Pete Williams, Mance Lipscomb and Mississippi Fred McDowell. Within a couple of years, he was working with Junior Wells and Buddy Guy, and in the late 1960s, he met freshman Bonnie Raitt and managed the aspiring young musician for almost two decades.



## REVEREND JOHN WILKINS, & HIS DAUGHTERS JOYCE, TANGELA & TAWANA

Reverend John Wilkins' father, the venerated blues and gospel singer Robert Wilkins, was the principal influence on his young son's development as a musician. Wilkins' father had made a series of recordings in the 1930s that included the original "Prodigal Son" (initially recorded as a secular song called "That's No Way To Get Along"), which was later recorded by the Rolling Stones. When the young

John Wilkins was learning to play guitar, he picked up his father's gospel and country blues styles. As he approached adulthood in the 1960s, John Wilkins could be found playing in church, at parties, and at clubs. Like his father before him, Wilkins walked a similar musical line between the sacred and secular.



## JONTAVIOUS WILLIS

Every generation or so a young bluesman bursts onto the scene. Someone who sends a jolt through blues lovers. Someone who has mastered the craft for sure, but who also has the blues deep down in his heart and soul. At the age of 21, bluesman Jontavious Willis may be the one. Jontavious grew up singing gospel music at the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church with his grandfather. At the age of 14, he came across a YouTube video of Muddy Waters playing "Hoochie Coochie Man" and was hooked. That's when he set his course on the blues. All types — Delta, Piedmont, Texas, gospel. As a fingerpicker, flat-picker and slide player. On guitar, harmonica, banjo and cigar box. And four years later he was playing on Taj Mahal's stage.

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## FREE FRIDAYS AT THE FORT

Centrum's popular lunchtime concert and reading series takes place on the lawn of the Nora Porter Commons at Fort Worden State Park.

Performances begin at noon, last until 1 p.m., and are free. In the rare event of inclement weather, alternative plans will be posted on the Centrum website.

July 20, 2018 - **Jack Dwyer**

July 27, 2018 -  
**Jazz Port Townsend  
 Participant Big Band  
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August 3, 2018 -  
**Port Townsend Acoustic Blues Festival artists,  
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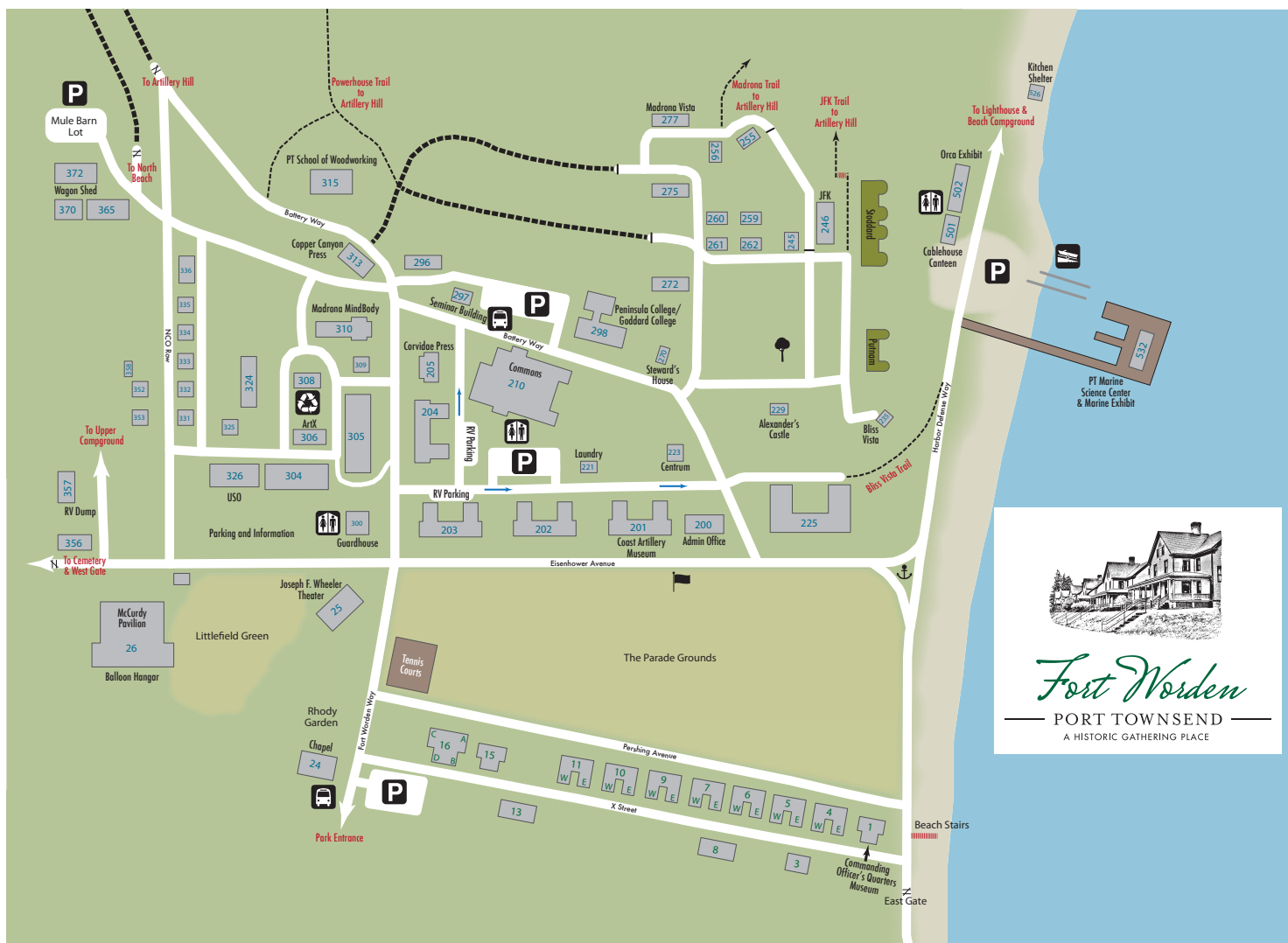
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Thank you for sharing in our belief that all lives are enriched immeasurably through the arts, and that the existence of an arts organization like Centrum is essential for the betterment of our communities and the world.

*Joanie Carlson*  
Centrum Board President

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- 3 Call Centrum at (360) 385-3102, ext. 132 or 122
- 4 Mail your gift to Centrum, P.O. Box 1158, Port Townsend, WA 98368
- 5 Visit the Centrum office at Fort Worden State Park, 223 Battery Way

Many thanks to our generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers for helping to make the 44th Centrum Summer Season the best ever!

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## THE RHAPSODY PROJECT

Centrum is pleased to partner with The Rhapsody Project for a second year, bringing young students to the Port Townsend Acoustic Blues workshop to deepen their experience with American blues traditions. Centrum is providing tuition scholarships for the youth and is collaborating with The Rhapsody Project to raise funds for their room and board.

The Rhapsody Project's goal is to strengthen communities through song and spread the gospel of folk and blues music. Rhapsody integrates performance and teaching through public events and school workshops designed to facilitate cross-generational, cross-cultural interactions through the medium of music so regular folks - especially youth, can understand that America's folk and blues music is not a relic, but a thriving tradition.

Ben Hunter and Joe Seamons, founders of the Rhapsody Project, say, "We had our life changed by the people we met and heard at Centrum. Our mission, ever since we attended the Blues festival six years ago, has been to extend that same, incredible opportunity to our young students of color in South Seattle. One of our four students this year is a brilliant young fiddler who was just awarded Outstanding String Player at the Reno Jazz Festival--after less than two years of formal instruction. This is just one example of the promise shown by our students. Please help us open their eyes and ears to our American musical heritage!"

To donate to the Blues Rhapsody Project Fund, select "Blues Rhapsody Project Fund" from the donation drop-down menu on the Centrum website, [www.centrum.org/donate-to-centrum/](http://www.centrum.org/donate-to-centrum/)

