



Port City Blues Players

Bio Brief

The “Port City Blues Players” are all avid supporters of Port City Blues Society, an organization affiliated with The Blues Foundation and dedicated to preserving the blues art form. This collection of seasoned multicultural musicians plays frequently for concerts, festivals, clubs, casinos, blues jams, fund raisers and other events. The band plays regularly at the Port City Blues Society weekly blues jam in historic downtown Pine Bluff, Arkansas at RJ's Grill & Bar.

Members of the band include Jerry McCoy (guitar, vocals), Dave Sadler (guitar, vocals), Mark Morgan (guitar, vocals), Butch Scaife (guitar, vocals), Roscoe Willis (bass), Gene Cooper (keyboards) and Lex Capraitalia (drums). The group is frequently joined by other area musicians. The band’s music consists of both traditional and modern blues reflecting each member’s years of stage and studio experience.

The Port City Blues Players have been recently booked for festivals including Big Steam Music Festival, Smoke on the Water Barbeque Championship, Blues/Balloons and BBQ – Russellville, Hot Springs Blues Fest, KASU Monster Grooves - Newport, Fordyce on the Cotton Belt Festival and the Bradley County Reunion Festival. The band was featured for 21 straight weeks for Blues Night at Saracen Casino Resort on the Legends Bar stage. The Port City Blues Players have recently shared the stage with blues legends Bobby Rush and Eric Gales, among others.

About the Musicians

Jerry McCoy (guitar, vocals)

After seeing The Beatles on The Ed Sullivan Show, Jerry McCoy got his first guitar at 15, and immediately fell in love with it and music in general. The first two records he bought were by the Beatles and B.B. King. He never stopped pursuing his passion for learning all he could about his chosen craft. McCoy has toured and recorded with The Allman Brothers Band, Dickey Betts, Ronnie Milsap and others. Jerry now lives back in his hometown of Star City, and enjoys playing with The Groove Diggers and Port City Blues Players, as well as recording original music in his studio. Jerry is a member of the Port City Blues Society and was inducted into the Mississippi Blues Hall of Fame in 2011. McCoy has numerous recording credits and is affiliated with BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.) as a song writer and composer.

Dave Sadler (guitar, vocals)

Growing up on the edge of the Delta in Arkansas, Dave Sadler grew up surrounded by blues-inspired music. A self-taught musician, Dave picked up his first guitar at age eleven and has been playing ever since. His playing style is a blend of blues, jazz, and funk. Sadler can frequently be found playing live at festivals, clubs, private parties and

other venues. Sadler has numerous recording credits and has been featured on several blues compilation releases. His music has been reviewed in Blues Blast Magazine, Wasser-Prawda Magazine, Blues Magazine, Rootstime Magazine and other publications. He is affiliated with BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.) as a songwriter and composer. Dave is a board member of the Port City Blues Society and a member of The Blues Foundation.

Mark Morgan (guitar, vocals)

Mark's love for music began at an early age listening to the radio. After receiving a guitar and amp for Christmas one year, he began to spend countless hours trying to mimic his guitar heroes. From singing in church to playing community BBQ cook-offs, Mark has always found a way to share his music. After attending one of the jams hosted by Port City Blues Society, Mark went "full throttle" on the blues. Mark Morgan has established himself as an up and coming blues guitarist/vocalist who excels at lead and slide guitar. He is always working hard to help develop new music for the band.

George "Butch" Scaife (guitar, vocals)

George "Butch" Scaife was born and raised in Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas. His entire family are musicians, songwriters, producers and recording engineers. George began his musical career at the age of 9 and fell in love with blues about the same time, a natural development of living in The Delta. Scaife was inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame in 2013. Scaife is currently a board member of the Port City Blues Society, The Blues Foundation and a producer/engineer at his recording studio in Bryant, Arkansas. He is affiliated with BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.) as a song writer and composer.

C. Roscoe Willis (bass)

C. Roscoe Willis is a Pine Bluff native and graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the Music Business Institute of Atlanta. He holds a BS in Music Education. A former United States Marine Corps Band Audio Technician, he is the founder of DTO Records. Willis plays brass, keyboard and bass instruments. In addition to the Port City Blues Players, Roscoe plays with the Chad Marshall Band, a 2024 International Blues Challenge quarter-finalist. He is currently working with Marshall on an album release. He also plays with his Uncle, Detroit Johnny, recipient of the 2023 Sonny Payne Award for Blues Excellence. He currently is serving as President of the Port City Blues Society. He is affiliated with BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.) as a song writer and composer.

Gene Cooper (keyboards)

Gene "Pops" Cooper was born in 1947 in Prattville, Arkansas to a musical family of 17 children. At age 14, he began playing keyboards and bass in nightclubs with his older brothers. He has played keyboards with notable artists such as Jackie Wilson, Patti LaBelle, OV Wright, McKinley Mitchell, Tyrone Davis and others. He has recorded with his brothers and "Little Cooper and The Drifters". While in the military, Cooper played on numerous military bases. After military service he began playing in Pine Bluff, Arkansas with "The Zodiacs" and other groups. Gene Cooper and his wife, Nancy, are members of the Port City Blues Society.

Lex Capraitalia (drums)

Lex "Capraitalia" Arenella is a sought after percussionist in the central Arkansas area. Lex was born in Boston. His first introduction to the blues came from listening to his older cousin's vinyl records of traditional Blues, as well as Blues influenced Rock and Soul music. In his late teens, he moved to Portland Oregon to play the clubs and theaters later moving to Hollywood to pursue bigger dreams. It wasn't until moving to Little Rock in 2019 that he truly found his home with the blues coming full circle. Playing as house drummer for several local blues jams, notably with the Port City Blues Society, blues feeds his soul. Lex is also co-founder of the Tina Cossey Band, a 2024 International Blues Challenge semi-finalist.

More information about the Port City Blues Players and their mission can be found on their music webpage at:

<https://www.pcbluesplayers.com>

and on facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/portcitybluesplayers/>