

Finnish Blues Society (FBS) to be awarded the 2010 Blues Foundation Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) Award

The Finnish Blues Society (FBS) will be awarded the 2010 Blues Foundation Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) Award during a recognition brunch at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel on Saturday, January 23rd in Memphis, Tennessee. The KBA ceremony is an integral part of the International Blues Challenge (IBC) weekend of events. The KBA Award in the International category recognizes the significant contributions to blues music outside of the USA. The Finnish Blues Society (FBS) has been pivotal in bringing and spreading the awareness of blues music in Finland during four decades. The FBS is one of the oldest blues societies in the world and is today probably more active than ever. Thanks to the educational efforts of the Society through its Blues News magazine, its Blue North record label, vigorous concert promotion and a comprehensive up-to-date website, the Finnish blues scene has grown continuously over the years.

Finnish Blues Society and Blues News magazine

The non-profit association, Finnish Blues Society, was officially founded in 1970 to promote black music in Finland. The Society is publisher of the Blues News (BN) magazine (written mostly in Finnish). Established two years earlier than the Society, in 1968, makes Blues News one of the oldest blues magazines in the world. It has produced as many as 239 issues during its 40+ years of existence. The magazine covers all forms of African-American music: blues, rhythm and blues, soul, gospel, and even rock and roll. One of the goals of the Society and the magazine is to support local Finnish blues music and musicians and, as a result, the blues scene in Finland is vivid and flourishing - many blues and blues related albums are released every year. Website: <http://www.bluesnews.fi>.

Blue North Record label

Finnish Blues Society operates its own record label, Blue North Records (<http://www.myspace.com/bluenorthrecords>). Several items have been produced since 1969. The older vinyl releases are now sold-out collectors' items. However, all six CD releases are still available via mail order: More Living Finnish Blues (BNCD 001); BLUES POWER! The Radiomafia Roots Evening Sessions Vol.1 (BNCD 002); "Mello' Hello!", Eddie Boyd in Finland (live and studio recordings, 1970-1984) (BNCD 003); Blues News Is Coming... Anthology Of Contemporary Finnish Blues (BNCD 004); Hojas Blues Band, Live At Myllyblues (BNCD005); Gyan Dookie & Telecaster Combo, Twenty Years After (BNCD006). BNCD003 and BNCD005 are also available online at <http://www.rootscd.com> and <http://www.bear-family.de>.

The Blues Foundation

The Blues Foundation with its headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee, is a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve blues history, celebrate blues excellence, support blues education and ensure the existence and future of this uniquely American form of art. With 165 affiliated blues societies and a membership that spans the globe, the Foundation's signature honors and events make it the undisputed international center of blues music: The Blues Music Awards, Blues Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, International Blues Challenge and Keeping the Blues Alive Awards are some of the major annual activities of the Foundation. The Blues Music Awards are awarded in recognition of past year's best blues recordings and performances, voted on by thousands of Foundation's members. The KBA, however, is awarded to non-performers strictly on the basis of merit, reflecting a lifetime of work for blues, by a select expert panel of blues professionals. For more information: <http://www.blues.org>.

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