

WASHBOARD CHAZ BLUES TRIO

~ NEW ORLEANS, LA ~



The Washboard Chaz Blues Trio is a New Orleans favorite founded in 2002. The Trio performs acoustic blues, including the Delta, Chicago and Piedmont finger picking styles. They mix originals and Western Swing into their set lists as well. Consisting of Washboard Chaz on washboard and vocals, Andy J. Forest on harmonica and vocals and St. Louis Slim on guitar, the trio continues to amaze audiences with full sound and the ability to get the crowd dancing.

The Blues Trio's four recordings include 2002's "Courtyard Blues", 2004's "Dog Days", 2006's "Hard Year Blues" and 2008's "Mix it Up" and each capture the authenticity of their live sound. The Trio has played at the New Orleans French Quarter Festival from 2003 through 2009, and New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival from 2006 through 2009. The trio was awarded OffBeat Magazine's Best Emerging Blues Band award for 2004. The Trio has built a loyal following in Europe, playing summer tours in Italy, Switzerland and France since 2006. A permanent fixture in New Orleans' Frenchmen Street music district, numerous reviews and articles written about the trio confirm what their fans already know: the Washboard Chaz Blues Trio is hot!

➤ **WASHBOARD CHAZ LEARY – WASHBOARD & VOCALS**

Internationally acclaimed washboardist, Chaz brings a wealth of experience and extensive credits to his band. Originally from New York, Chaz lived in Boulder, CO from 1975 through 1997 and played with a variety of bands including the legendary Ophelia Swing Band, Prosperity Jazz Band, BBQ Bob & Washboard Chaz, Judy Roderick and the Forebears, and Bleecker St. Chaz has shared the stage with Bonnie Raitt, John Hammond, Taj Mahal, Anders Osborne and Corey Harris among others. He has opened for many bands, including Muddy Waters, Robert Cray, Doc Watson and Keb Mo. Chaz has been on over 100 recordings, including John Hammond's 1998 Grammy nominated "Long as I have You". In the early 80's, Chaz was a two-time finalist in KBCO's Boulder songwriting contest and has been the focus of dozens of national newspaper features. He has played festivals and clubs from coast to coast, including the Bottom Line in New York City, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Telluride Blue Grass Festival, the American Music Hall in San Francisco and Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Denver. Chaz is a veteran of successful International tours, touring Germany with Bleecker St., Holland and Germany with David Booker, and Tokyo in 2006 and 2008. Since his move to New Orleans in Dec. of 2000, Chaz has played with the top New Orleans musicians, including the Nightcrawlers, the Iguanas, Tuba Fats, Royal Fingerbowl, the Jazz Vipers and Tin Men, the Palmetto Bug Stompers and Washboard Rodeo.

➤ **ANDY J. FOREST – HARMONICA & VOCALS**

Born in 1955 in Pullman, Washington, Andy has been playing harmonica and singing professionally since 1977. He has recorded 7 LPs, 10 CDs and two 45s. The reviews in international and local publications have consistently ranged from positive to rave. Early influences were Sonny Terry, Little Walter Jacobs, Sonny Boy Williamson, James Cotton, Paul Butterfield, Taj Mahal, and Charlie Musselwhite – to name a few. He has played on stage with B.B.King, Bobby Blue Bland, Johnny Shines, Champion Jack DuPree and many other Blues greats. Andy has written scores of songs, one novel (Letters From Hell) and enjoys modest success as a folk artist. After living in Europe for ten years, Andy returned home to New Orleans in 1991. Andy played off and on with the Washboard Chaz Blues for a few years, performing on Chaz's hit CD "Dog Days" and became a full time member of the Trio in 2008.

➤ **ST. LOUIS SLIM – GUITAR & VOCALS**

Born and raised in, you guessed it, St. Louis, Slim was playing with some of that town's blues masters by his late teens. Since moving to New Orleans in 2001, Slim has played with many bands including Hot Club of New Orleans, New Orleans Jazz Vipers, Feral Cats and his own Swing Soiree. Slim is in high demand as a sideman and session guitarist for many New Orleans bands. His finger picking guitar playing and soulful vocals are a welcome addition to the Trio.

FOR BOOKINGS AND INFORMATION:

CHAZ LEARY (504) 427-3665

1011 MAZANT ST.

NEW ORLEANS, LA 70117

chaz@washboardchaz.com