



## Blues Association of Geneva Press folder 2017

### The Association

The *Blues Association of Geneva* (BAG) was born in April 2008 in the spirit of promoting Blues music in the Geneva area and of encouraging contact between musicians who play the Blues and the fans who love to listen to it. The Blues, of course, which is the basis for most modern forms of music, is for young and old alike.

The *Blues Association of Geneva* organises concerts and jam sessions in Geneva and sometimes in other parts of the Canton. It collaborates with other Blues associations in Switzerland and facilitates contacts between local musicians, thus allowing many bands to be created and to perform on various occasions such as *La Fête de la Musique*, Geneva, where the BAG regularly has a stage.

The association, to date, has approximately 80 members.

The statutes of the association are available at the following address:  
[http://www.bagblues.ch/Resources/Documents/BAG\\_Statuts\\_20100416.pdf](http://www.bagblues.ch/Resources/Documents/BAG_Statuts_20100416.pdf)

### The Blues

« The Blues is an example of non-violent revolution, of a powerful force of vitality. It is the expression of a culture in difficult social and political conditions trying to be heard. It holds first place in music; it is THE "root music" of today. » says Jean-François Mathieu, founder of the BAG. (<http://www.jfmathieu.com>)

People who love this music or play it, enjoy the sincerity, the openness, the tolerance and all of the deep human emotions and values expressed when playing it. It's a kind of music which appeals directly to the audience without artificiality but which possesses a certain technically refined aesthetic as well as a great sense of humor. Blues themes are universal and the language used is often metaphorical. This is largely because originally the listeners were meant to understand a certain message and meaning that slave masters or other "big bosses" would miss.

Today, the Blues is alive and well and musicians of all ages are coming back to the roots of this music. Young people even play rap over the basic Blues melodies of the beginning of the 20th century keeping the roots of this music present in the *collective unconscious*.

### BAG Thursdays

The BAG organises musical evenings on Thursdays in collaboration with the BDG Club, at Brasseur des Grottes (6, rue de la Servette, Geneva). In 2017, these evenings will be organised in the following way:





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- Concerts by groups from the area (Geneva, Switzerland or nearby France) which represent approximately 20% of the events;
- Concerts by international artists/bands (American or European) which represent about 40% of the events;
- Jam sessions, which are an opportunity for musicians of the region or passing through Geneva to meet and create "a band for a day" (about 40% of the events).

The events attract a certain number of spectators with various expectations: some appreciate the fact that in jam sessions the players vary, as does the style of what is played; others appreciate attending good concerts of all styles (guitar heroes, male and female singers).

We also have a special "Blues Schools Night" open to the music schools of the region, from Geneva to Nyon, who attend in order to give their students the opportunity of singing and playing on a real stage and of expressing their talent at a very young age. We've had some beautiful surprises on such occasions.

The jam sessions provide the opportunity for musicians to meet up with other musicians, to play the blues and form friendships with people from all horizons: beginners as well as confirmed players. Many "jammers" have created bands thanks to the jam sessions organised by the BAG. These new bands have been given the opportunity to play for the BAG at the BDG Club (Brasseur des Grottes). Some have also started a career, playing in restaurants, bars and clubs in the Geneva area.

Le BAG has organised over 250 events with, among others:

- Steve Strongman (CAN), who has received many prestigious prizes.
- Manu Lanvin (F), one of the best French bluesmen today.
- Awek (F), a 20-year-old group, finalist of the famous International Blues Challenge (IBC) representing France.
- Mountain Men (F), a thrilling blues duo, which filled the club when they came.
- Marco Marchi and the Mojo Workers (CH)
- Shanna Waterstown (USA), such a beautiful voice and presence on the stage.
- Wes Mackey (USA), who is a living legend.
- Terry « Harmonica » Bean (USA), also a Blues legend.
- The Two (CH): a rising Swiss acoustic duo.
- A great number of Geneva and Swiss bands like Richard Koechli (Swiss German specialising in all styles), DeltaR (GE), Floyd Beaumont & The Arkadelphians (VD), The Broken Harps (GE), Swamp Train (NE), Victor Transistor, Jack Carver Blues Band, and many more.

The current programme is available at all times on our site:  
<http://www.bagblues.ch>





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### Programme January-June 2017

#### **January**

12.01 Jam Session

19.01 Joe Colombo Trio (CH)

#### **February**

02.02 Matthew Skoller (USA)

09.02 Jam Session

23.02 Jam Session

#### **March**

09.03 Jam Session

16.03 Ms Nickki & The Memphis Soul (USA)

#### **April**

06.04 Jam Session

27.04 Nina Van Horn (tribute to Nina Simone) (USA/F)

#### **May**

04.05 Jam Session

18.05 Dr B's Groove Cabinet

#### **June**

08.06 Jam Session

15.06 Blues Schools Night

[Friday 23.06 : Fête de la Musique (Park Bastions, Geneva)]

27.06 Jam Session



### Collaborations

The BAG collaborates with local authorities, associations and private organisms, among which are:

- La Ville de Genève, who has offered the BAG a stage at Parc des Bastions and Parc des Crottes at the Fête de la Musique since 2010 for a great night of Blues with the best bands around town.
- L'Association La Barje, for a series of outdoor concerts in summer 2014.
- Le Blues Rules Festival de Crissier (VD), who organised its concerts with the BAG in 2014 and has had the support of the BAG since its creation in 2010.
- As mentioned above, 3-5 schools present their students for a concert at the BAG every June, these evenings have been organised since 2010:
- (EPI, Blues School, Atelier at Eight, ETM, Marc Polliand).
- The SAE Genève [a school for sound engineers], with whom we have collaborated, using their sound engineers for our events.
- The CFPAA (Centre de Formation Professionnel Arts Appliqués), for a presentation of the Blues by a group of students (in 2011).
- The « Swiss Blues Challenge », created in 2011, organised with the Sierr Blues Festival, the Festival de Blues de Bâle and the BAG. Their objective is to reunite all the artists of the Swiss Blues scenes (associations, organisers of festivals, the media, the bands), and organise a contest whose winner will represent Switzerland at the European Blues





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Challenge, and from there on participate in the Memphis Blues Competition in the USA.

- The Geneva Art Festival, broadcasted a documentary film with the help and support of the BAG ([We Juke up in Here!](#)) in the summer of 2012.
- The Gena Festival d'Avully in 2013, received some local blues bands in this free festival out in the countryside.
- The Commune d'Aire-la-Ville organised a Night of the Blues in 2011.
- Future project: a Night of the Blues in Chancy, GE, in September 2017.



### Links

[www.bagblues.ch](http://www.bagblues.ch) the BAG's website

[www.flickr.com/bagblues](http://www.flickr.com/bagblues) Photos taken at the BAG

[www.facebook.com/bagblues](http://www.facebook.com/bagblues) the BAG's Facebook page

### Press

Some articles and interviews are available on

<http://bagblues.ch/news.htm>



### Support

The committee and the association wish to thank:

- *Le Département de la Culture de la Ville de Genève* for its regular support since 2009.
- *Le BDG Club, Brasseur des Grottes*, which lends us the BDG Club.

### Committee

The Committee of the BAG is formed of the following members:

- **Philippe Ducommun** ([jack@bagblues.ch](mailto:jack@bagblues.ch))  
*President par intérim*
- **Serge Séverin** ([serge@bagblues.ch](mailto:serge@bagblues.ch))  
*Vice-President*
- **Sarah Jones**  
*Treasurer*
- **Fanny Guarisco**  
*Organisation and reception*
- **Jean-Paul Bergmans**  
*Technical support, back line, audio, video*
- **Rémi Daneyrole** ([remi@bagblues.ch](mailto:remi@bagblues.ch))  
*Communication, public relations*
- **Katie Zurcher**  
*Secretary*
- **Philippe Ducommun**  
*Director/manager of Jams*

Programming: **Martine HENRIOD**