

"When it dawned on me that the 'rock' music that I liked the best was really blues music." – Randy Johnson

"The first time I heard 'Red House.'" – Josh Whitener



"Way back in the '60s, I bought an album, The Paul Butterfield Blues Band, solely because of one guy: Sam Lay wearing gold shoes on the cover. That's when it started for me." – Stew Kupperman

"When I first heard 'Mannish Boy' by Muddy Waters on the radio. I was 16 and not very sweet." – Michel Rouxel

"Stevie. Ray. Vaughan." – Dave Pelfrey

"We are snowbirds and were on our way home from Arizona to lowa when we made a detour to Clarksdale, MS. We have been back countless times and now consider Clarksdale our home away from home. Live music seven days a week can't be beat, unless you are on the Blues Cruise." – Cindy Power

"I always liked rock bands like Zeppelin and Bad Company, just never knew why. My big switch from rock to blues started with Robert Cray in the mid '90s." – Steve Hinson

"I was 16 years old in 1968, and was with an old friend, watching and hearing Charlie Musselwhite and Jimmy Witherspoon in Monterey, CA." – Lou Jones

"I took a trip to Memphis. I went into a small music store and told the lady I wanted to buy a blues CD to commemorate my trip. She insisted that I buy Susan Tedeschi's *Just Won't Burn* album. I was so hooked that I started surrounding myself with blues music." – Sandy Ramsur Santora

"I was always at jazz shows and then I saw Roomful of Blues. Next thing you know, I'm volunteering for the Boston Blues Society." – Nancy J. Weston "Free Johnny Copeland concert in Key West in '87." – Ridge Yates

"I saw this dude on *The Gong Show* play a shuffle on a Gibson 335 when I was like 10 years old. I knew right away that's what I wanted to do to." – Joe Sheeran

"Highway 61 radio show, hosted by Bill Ferris, Saturday nights on Mississippi Public Broadcasting." – Don Allan Mitchell



"When I heard Albert King and 'Born Under a Bad Sign,'"

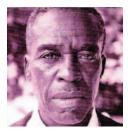
– James Francis Jr.

"B.B. King sealed the deal in Lake Tahoe in 1977 when I fell in love with the blues."

– Claire Blackmon Adams

"In college, a buddy of mine gave me a tape of Skip James. Still the most hauntingly beautiful voice ever recorded." – Dennis Hagerich

"The B.B. King album *Live at the Regal* was the big moment for me back in the '60s." – Nancy Moreman



Publisher's Note

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