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Delicious Blues Stew

*Original, Eclectic Good Time Bluesiana, Americana,
Zydeco, Cajun, Second Line & Mardi Gras Music*

Nick & Bayou

*Recipients of The Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues
Alive Award in Education*

Swamp Stories

*Tall Tales from Louisiana & Lots of Fun
Singing & Playing for Children (of all ages)*



*No matter what the occasion or the setting,
no matter what the audience,
we guarantee we'll have fun!*



Stew Productions
Attn: Shannon Williford
2221 Blair Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37212

(615) 385-9876
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www.DeliciousBluesStew.com



Catahoula Brass Band

*An Authentic Louisiana Brass Band
featuring Second Line & Mardi Gras Music
No 'Lectricity Needed!*

Two Tone & Bayou

Original Acoustic Swamp Blues & Americana

Harp by Bayou

*Individual or Group Harmonica Lessons from Two-Time
Music City Blues Harp Player of the Year*



Delicious Blues Stew

So how do we describe **Delicious Blues Stew**? It ain't easy. Here's what some folks have come up with: "Funky and gumbolious. Roadhouse rowdiness. Downhome mud-funky bottom-land music. Funky blues with a swampy good-time Nawlins feel. An eclectic act with a unique understanding of the absurd."

And here's what country music star **Wynonna** says: "When I know that Delicious Blues Stew is playing in town, I always smile. I have the greatest memory of the first time I ever saw them play. I happened to be at Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar with my mother. We were there to see Jimmy Vaughan, and after his set, they came on stage. The next thing I know my mother and I were dancing in the aisles. They groove my brains out!! You need to experience the joy and celebration in their music like I have. It's truly a healing experience."

The main ingredients in this Stew:

Scott "Patio Daddio" Achord. Bass, vocalist, songwriter. Originally from Baton Rouge. One time member of the "Best of Fest" band at the Baton Rouge Blues Fest. Often performs while wearing a dress at Mardi Gras. Can eat his (considerable) weight in crawfish. Has worked with Jo-el Sonnier, Esra Mohawk, Bill Monroe, Carlene Carter, and many others. The top Stew songwriter, known for stage creativity, writing and singing songs on the spur of the moment. Patio was named Music City Blues Bass Player of the Year. Also known for his children's performances.



Shannon "Shan de Bayou" Williford. Harmonica, frottoir, vocalist, songwriter. Originally from Baton Rouge, where he was the founder and nine-year host of the legendary World's Greatest Blues Jam at Phil Brady's Bar. Played and/or recorded with Kenny and Raful Neal, Tabby and Chris Thomas, Grammy nominee Henry Gray, Handy nominee Larry Garner, former lead vocalist with Blood Sweat, & Tears Luther Kent, Elvin Killerbee, and many others in South Louisiana. Won Baton Rouge Blues Fest song writing award. Recipient of the International Blues Foundation Keeping the Blues Alive Award in 2000 for his role in Music City Blues Society's "Blues in the Schools" program. Bayou was named Music City Blues Harmonica Player of the Year two years in a row. Hosted "Bayou's Blues from Music City" radio show.



Terry "Goose" Downing. One of four original Stew members. Grew up in Rocky Mount, NC. One of the tastiest axmen in the Music City. Has performed and recorded with blues greats

Roscoe Shelton, Clifford Curry and Earl Gaines in Nashville, as well as Chicago/Baton Rouge great Henry Gray. Also worked with country music vocalist/songwriter Ken Mellons, as well as country artists Razy Bailey and Darrell Clanton. Goose has also worked often with two Nashville staples, swing artist Patton James, and famed jazz/R&B/country session man Darryl Dybka. Goose is a former DJ currently working on his own songwriter CD.



Brannan Lane. Drums, percussion, vocals. From Clarksville, Tennessee, he's a 14-year regular on The Grand Ole Opry. His solo recordings routinely appear in the Ambient Charts, receiving world-wide airplay, chart success and critical acclaim in the World Beat and New Age formats. Despite all that success, is still not wealthy. Brannan overcomes both his lack of a nickname and Louisiana heritage excellent playing.

"Lil Brother" Tom Larson. Drums, percussion, vocals. Originally from Colorado, Tom graduated from the University of New Orleans in Jazz Studies. He has numerous studio drum and percussion credits both in New Orleans and Nashville. He has worked with Ellis Marsalis, Scott Holt, Harold Batiste, Cowboy Mouth, David Frazier and many others. For two years Lil' Brother was the house drummer for LTV, the Louisiana Music television show in New Orleans. He has appeared on stage with Delfayo Marsalis, Jeff Healy, the Neville Brothers, Steve Masakowski, Coco Robicheaux, and others. He has toured internationally and has released several CDs, one with Brannan Lane. Met beautiful babe at Mardi Gras in Nashville, where he proposed on stage. Their house now has a Mardi Gras theme. Tom has been named Drummer of the Year and twice Percussionist of the Year by Music City Blues.



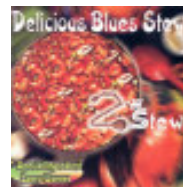
Bruce Michael Miller. Guitar, vocals. Bruce has toured the world performing with Paul McCartney, Kenny Loggins, Jim Messina, Laura Branigan, The Stannels, among others. The award-winning songwriter has co-hosted NPR's songwriter sessions, & has scored movie soundtracks. His first solo CD *Already Somebody* received wide-ranging critical acclaim.

While these are the main ingredients, there's another recipe for the Stew, one we refer to as the "**Thick Stew**" or the "**Big**

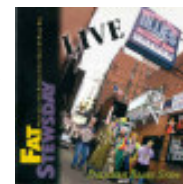
Stew." That adds even more to the pot, by adding South Louisiana natives "**Junkyard**" **Joe Hunter**, "**Two Tone**" **Malone**, "**Big Brother**" **Don Kendrick** and others (including "**T-Bone**" **Reid**, **James "Nick" Nixon**, **Carrie Glenn**, **Ashlei Hand**) on horns, guitars, and keyboards.



Delicious Blues Stew has 3 recordings – *Stewed Alive*, *2Stew* and *Fat Stewsdays* on the Nightfly Music label – plus a cut on one of *Blues Revue Magazine's Blues Samplers*. *2Stew* includes a special guest appearance by multiple Handy-Award-nominated bluesman **Larry Garner**. *Fat Stewsdays* was recorded "live" during Mardi Gras at Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar.



The band hosted a monthly midnight Beale Street party for over two years at Blues City Cafe in Memphis. Manager Ty Agee says, "I've never had my employees, my regulars, and other employees on the street ask for a band like they ask for these guys. Even my wife asks me to bring 'em around, and she never says anything about any band."



Blues Club of the Year owner Malcolm Hare of Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar says simply: "This band is one of a kind. They are the walkin' talkin' spirits of Mardi Gras."



Learn more about Delicious Blues Stew at www.DeliciousBluesStew.com

Two Tone + Bayou

The duo of **Michael "Two Tone" Malone** and **Shannon "Shan de Bayou" Williford** first played together in Baton Rouge, where they grew up in the rich musical tradition of South Louisiana. It came together again when both ended up in Nashville, where they focus on showcasing Malone's songs.



Adept at both guitar and harmonica, Two Tone writes songs that are often touching, often powerful, and always from the heart. He grew up in Baton Rouge "on the tough side of town." He traveled the world in the military before returning to Louisiana to continue his musical career. He has released a solo CD titled *Shades of Blue*.

Two-time Music City Blues Harmonica Player of the Year Williford adds harp to Malone's booming vo-

icals to create a rich Americana sound. He also has songwriting awards and both stage and screen credits. Bayou was the founder and longtime host of the “World’s Greatest Blues Jam” at Phil Brady’s in Baton Rouge, where he and Two Tone rubbed elbows with the cream of the Louisiana blues scene, including Rafal Neal, Henry Gray, Chris Thomas King, Larry Garner, Tabby Thomas, and members of the Slim Harpo band.

Williford teaches harmonica for the Metro Parks Music Department in Nashville. With his partner James “Nick” Nixon, Bayou received recognition with the 2000 Keeping the Blues Alive Award for Blues Education from The Blues Foundation. He also performs as part of the eclectic Delicious Blues Stew.

Two Tone and Bayou are currently in the process of recording a CD of original material.



Nick & Bayou

James “Nick” Nixon and Shannon “Bayou” Williford have been working as an educational duo since 1997, though each brings a lifetime of musical and teaching experience to the mix. “What Did the Blues Do for You?” emphasizes audience participation by bringing children up on stage to be part of the “rhythm section,” keeping time on five-gallon plastic buckets.

Williford spends much of each workshop out in the audience, getting close to the kids, and getting the kids close to the music, as the duo illustrates that the blues is the musical foundation of most of today’s popular music. This program is usually offered to grades K-8, though Nick & Bayou have been well received by audiences of every age.



The duo has developed another program, “R&B in Tennessee,” in its work with American Roots Music Education, a non-profit organization dedicated to advance awareness and appreciation of this country’s music, its history, and culture by providing educational opportunities for people of all ages to learn about these unique kinds of music.

This program targets grades 5-12, though again, the duo has had success with adult audiences, too.

Nick & Bayou adjust their workshops to fit the age and ex-



perience of the audience, keeping it basic for kindergarten and elementary groups, then adding information about rhythm patterns, terminologies, and grooves for older groups.

They even write basic blues songs on the fly with students. The plastic buckets and rhythm instruments work for all ages, and illustrate that the early blues performers likely made their own instruments.

The duo was recognized by The Blues Foundation in 2000 with a **Keeping the Blues Alive Award in Blues Education**. They have also been recognized by the Nashville City Council for their educational achievements. They became the first musical act to ever perform in the Council chambers when they sang their thanks to the councilmen and women for their support of the arts.



James “Nick” Nixon has been part of Nashville’s diverse music scene for over 40 years. In the early sixties, he played with Jimi Hendrix and Billy Cox when they were stationed at nearby Fort Campbell. He has played for many years with the New Imperials, a popular R&B act. Nick has made several successful gospel albums, one of which was named “Best Gospel Album of 1998” by a New York magazine. His latest release, *No End to the Blues* on the Black Magic label, received significant critical acclaim, and features 14 of Nixon’s original songs.

Nick has worked with many of the biggest names in music, including Clarence Carter, Bobby “Blue” Bland, Bo Diddley, Johnny Taylor, Tyrone Davis, the Manhattans, Peabo Bryson, Earl Gaines, Lady Corder Chapman, Reverend Doctor Amos Jones, and the Grammy winning Fairfield Four. Named Music City Blues Vocalist of the Year, he spent over 30 years teaching guitar in the Nashville Metro Parks music department. He writes with several important figures around town, including Richard Fleming and Scotty Moore, famed guitarist for Elvis Presley. Nick also served as a member of The Blues Foundation’s Board of Directors.

Shannon “Bayou” Williford is an accomplished Louisiana musician who founded and for 9 years hosted the “World’s Greatest Blues Jam” at Phil Brady’s in Baton Rouge. He has worked with many of Louisiana’s best, including Larry Garner, Kenny Neal, Tabby Thomas, Chris Thomas King, Luther Kent, Leon



Medica, Rudy Richard, Silas Hogan, Troy Turner, “Guitar” Kelly, Clarence Edwards, and Henry Gray. Williford’s own band, Delicious Blues Stew, earned a spot in the finals in the Blues Challenge in Memphis, and has three albums, two on the Nightfly Music label.

Bayou has a Masters Degree in Reading Education, and spent seven years teaching in Louisiana. He writes for blues publications, and has contributed liner notes to several projects. Williford also teaches harmonica privately and for the Nashville Metro Parks music department.

Nick and Bayou, in addition to offering their blues education workshops, have put together specialized songwriting classes. They also perform as a duo at festivals, clubs, and special events, with a wide repertoire of original and cover material.

Learn more about both of Nick & Bayou’s educational programs at www.AmericanRootsMusicEducation.org



Swamp Stories

Swamp Stories & Songs features “Shan de Bayou” and “Patio Daddio”, two comical good ole Cajun boys, going fishing, singing songs, and telling tales in the South Louisiana tradition. Along the way they involve the children in the audience as actors or actresses and as band members for the songs. The duo performs bayou classics such as “Jambalaya” and “You Are My Sunshine,” cute and original tunes such as “Love My Maw Maw.” They add in generous helpings of Cajun history, slapstick, and child-oriented buffoonery. The program concludes with a spirited Mardi Gras parade and beads for the children. The normal target audience is grades K-4, though Patio and Bayou can adjust the program to a slightly older audience if desired.

Shannon “Shan de Bayou” Williford and Scott “Patio Daddio” Achord have many years of experience entertaining young people, including groups at schools, churches, libraries, parks, birthday parties, and festivals. Williford taught public



school speech, drama, and English for seven years. He has accumulated numerous stage, screen, and directing credits. Achord is an accomplished singer, songwriter, musician, and entertainer.

"Wonderful personalities for entertainment."

Ann McQueen, Girl Scout Troop leader

*"Highly entertaining & educational." Bob Dorris, Principal,
Eakin Elementary, Nashville*

"Entertaining & enlightening...students learned a great deal."

Carol Boehms, Museum Educator,

Country Music Hall of Fame

Endorsed by The Tennessee Arts Commission

Learn more about Swamp Stories at
www.AmericanRootsMusicEducation.org

Catahoula Brass Band

From the deep South, the land where the blues are alive, the land of sticky, funky & relaxed good times, comes the most live of the music genres -- the Louisiana brass band. No 'Lectricity Required! On stage or on the street! Instant musical excitement any time, any where!



The Catahoula Brass Band delivers that excitement in timeless tradition. The core is a strolling band of tuba, trumpet, sax, trombone, bass drum, and snare drum, with each player schooled in the New Orleans tradition. Bandleader Joe Hunter has tuba credits with the Magnolia Brass Band and with Bullfrog, as well as the LSU Golden Band from Tiger Land.

The Catahoula Brass Band performs at dances, Mardi Gras and Louisiana-themed parties, and is an ideal choice for representing a company or an organization in parade events. The group's music includes nearly everything from standards to pop.

Harp by Bayou

Shannon "Bayou" Williford has been playing the harmonica for over twenty years. He honed his skills on stage with many of South Louisiana's best players during the nine years he hosted the "World's Greatest Blues Jam" at Phil Brady's in Baton Rouge, spending time playing with the likes of Tabby Thomas, Henry Gray, Raful Neal, Kenny Neal, Guitar Kelly, Chris Thomas King, Larry Garner, and the Slim Harpo band. Williford also taught public school for seven years, owned a singing telegram service, and earned stage, screen and writing credits. He has twice been named Music City Blues Harp Player of the Year.

"The harmonica is the most American of instruments," says Bayou. "It was the only musical instrument that many folks could afford. And they could carry it with them as they moved around the country."

Williford has been actively teaching the harmonica for over ten years. He has regular classes as part of the music program of the Metro Parks Department in Nashville. He has also taken his harp instruction to elementary students in several school systems, and gives lessons for business, church, and civic groups.

With his partner James "Nick" Nixon, Williford was recognized by The Blues Foundation with a Keeping the Blues Alive Award in Education for the year 2000, the highest award available to a blues educator.

While always willing to tailor his classes to meet the needs of any particular group or individual, his most popular adult group course runs about two hours in a relaxed session guaranteed to create some fun and provide the students with the basics for learn-



*Bayou with a class of 4th grade harp students.
Even the music teachers took the class.*

ing the instrument. Groups may be as small as two, or as big as thirty.

The class begins with each student receiving a new Hohner harmonica. They learn some basic melodies, blues theory, bending notes, and accompanying another instrument. Bayou accompanies the class on guitar, plus illustrates techniques on the harp.

The class ends with the students receiving a copy of Williford's book – *Harmonica Sucks! (and Blows)* – so the students will have a reference as they continue to learn on their own. Many students arrange follow up sessions, either individually or in smaller groups.

Bayou's years as a public school teacher serve him well in teaching harmonica, especially with younger students. He recognizes the need to connect with his students at any level and to offer them encouragement. Diane Wadell, a music teacher at



Head Middle School in Nashville sent this note following a series of weekly classes Bayou conducted there, which concluded with a performance at a school-wide assembly.

"The harmonica students were so excited to get to perform all that they had learned. Some of the students haven't ever shown much confidence in themselves, and now they are confident enough to play in front of a huge audience. Thank you for giving them the chance to experience playing an instrument and giving them something to be proud of. By watching them perform, the other students in the audience could see that they could be musicians."

Endorsed by The Tennessee Arts Commission

**For more information about Harp by Bayou, or
any of the other Stew acts, contact:**

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shw@mindspring.com**

