

Charlie Butts and the Filter Tips

Charlie Butts plays saxophone and harmonica, both with a super-high-energy style. The saxophone sounds like Junior Walker or Maceo Parker, with perhaps a little David Sanborn influence mixed in. It's a soulful, driving, rhythmic style that sounds like a very happy person making music. His harmonica playing has an aggressive, Chicago blues style that sounds like someone holding nothing back, like a mixture of the hard blowing of Paul Butterfield with the funkiness of Junior Wells. His singing is R&B oriented, rhythmic and smooth. With a career dating back to 1970, he has developed unique styles with his voice and both instruments.

Pat Barclay sings and plays guitar. He combines exceptional talent and technique with tremendous experience in almost every musical style. His emotions run from introspective soulfulness to explosive intensity. He has been playing in his unique left-handed upside-down style since the 1960s, including national tours opening for B.B. King. Pat has won multiple awards from the Inland Empire Blues Society for both best guitarist and best vocalist over the last 15 years for his brilliant career with the bands Mumbo Jumbo and Big Mumbo Blues Band. The bottom line is that there is no better guitar player in the Inland Northwest.

Danny McCollim on keyboards has a reputation of being the best keyboard player in the Inland Northwest. He ruled the local jazz scene for years at Ella's Supper Club, dominated the local dance clubs with All Fall Down for almost 20 years, and was a mainstay of the legendary Jazz Conspiracy. A graduate of Berklee College of Music, he brings consummate technique and passion to the band, along with the perfect feel for whatever style the band is playing. In the course of his spectacular career, he has backed many jazz greats, such as Michael Brecker, Freddy Hubbard, Ernie Watts and Larry Coryell.

Luther Hughes sings and plays drums. His experience over 30 years includes R&B, Rock, Funk, Gospel and Blues. During his tour of duty with the Air Force, he played in officers' clubs from the Philippines to Korea to Spokane. He became well known in the Spokane area with the band Black Moon Rising in the early 90's. He has provided the power for several other projects, including Da Blues Funk Party, the Burner Brothers and the Dara Quinn Project. His steady strength and tightness seem effortless, like something that can be taken for granted. His pocket is so secure, it makes it easy for everyone else to sound profound.

Josh Simon plays the bass guitar, filling the shoes of the late, legendary Juel Rowden. Danny brought Josh into the group, having met him in the local jazz and fusion scene. Josh is a young lion, brilliant, expressive and explosive - and downright funky. He has made a name for himself with Groove Patrol, and has toured at home and abroad with James Pants. He has an instinctive feel for R&B, soul, funk, blues and jazz; it's like he grew up in the 60s, without the years to show for it. He lays in the pocket with Luther so well it's mesmerizing. But watch out for the bass solos - he can really light the place up. His energy is contagious, and pushes everyone to the limits of their imagination.