

20th Anniversary Season

Performing Arts Series

Columbia Artists Management, LLC
presents

Hot Tuna Blues

featuring

Hot Tuna

with special guests

Charlie Musselwhite

and

Jim Lauderdale

**Saturday, March 5, 2011
Yardley Hall
Johnson County Community College**

*Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.
There will be one intermission.*

Biographies

HOT TUNA

From their days playing together as teenagers to their current acoustic and electric blues, probably no one has more consistently led American music for the last 50 years than **Jorma Kaukonen** and **Jack Casady**, the founders and continuing core members of Hot Tuna. The pair began playing together while growing up in the Washington, D.C. area, where Jack's father was a dentist and Jorma's father a State Department official.

In the mid-1960s, Jorma was asked to audition for a new band that was forming in San Francisco. Though an acoustic player at heart, he grew interested in the band's electronic gear and decided to join. Soon thereafter he summoned Jack, who now played the bass, from Washington, D.C. Jack's experience as a lead guitarist led to a style of bass playing that took the instrument far beyond its traditional role. The unique sound of The Jefferson Airplane was created. Jorma contributed the band's name, drawn from a nickname a friend had for the blues-playing Jorma. Along with the other members of The Jefferson Airplane, Jorma and Jack are 1996 inductees in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The Kaukonen-Casady duo created much of The Jefferson Airplane's signature sound, and Jorma's lead and fingerstyle guitar playing characterizes some of the band's most memorable tracks. Jorma and Jack would jam whenever they could and would sometimes perform sets within sets at Airplane concerts. A record deal was made and Hot Tuna was born. Jorma left Jefferson Airplane after the band's most productive five years, and Hot Tuna became a full-time job. Over the next three and a half decades, Hot Tuna would perform thousands of concerts and release more than two dozen records.

Jorma's solo recordings began with 1974's *Quah* and continued through Grammy-nominated *Blue Country Heart* in 2002 and *Stars in My Crown* in 2007, and *River of Time* in 2009. Jack released his first solo CD, *Dream Factor*, on Eagle Records in 2003. In addition to touring and recording, both Jorma and Jack teach. In 1998, Jorma and his wife Vanessa opened Fur Peace Ranch Guitar Camp in the beautiful rolling Appalachia foothills of southeastern Ohio. It has hosted thousands of musicians for weekends of master classes and performances offered by Jorma, Jack and other instructors who are leaders in their musical fields.

Hot Tuna is excited to be joined again by guitarist **G.E. Smith**. A master of the guitar, G.E. has played with David Bowie, George Harrison, Eric Clapton and Lou Reed, Buddy Guy, Mick Jagger, Tina Turner, and just about every luminary in the rock and roll industry; he has toured with Bob Dylan and most recently Roger Waters on his Wall tour. A friend since his work on Jorma's 2002 Grammy-nominated CD *Blue Country Heart*, mandolinist and old pal **Barry Mitterhoff**'s musical contributions to Hot Tuna add an element all their own. Barry has performed at the White House. His work can be heard on the soundtrack for the film *O Brother Where Art Thou*, which received a Grammy in 2001 for Album of the Year. Also teaming up is special guest drummer **Skoota Warner**. Known as "The Funky Drummer," Skoota has performed with the likes of Santana, Matisyahu, Mary J. Blige and Lionel Richie. He is tagged as one of the best soul, rock, gospel and pop drummers around, and is a fresh addition to the electric lineup.

CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE

Harmonica master Charlie Musselwhite's life reads like a classic blues song: born in Mississippi, raised in Memphis and schooled on the South Side of Chicago. Born into a blue-collar family in Kosciusko, Mississippi, on January 31, 1944, and raised by a single mother, Musselwhite grew up surrounded by blues, hillbilly and gospel music on the radio and outside his front door. His family moved to Memphis, where as a teenager he worked as a ditch digger, concrete layer and moonshine runner. Fascinated by the blues, Musselwhite began playing guitar and harmonica. It wasn't easy growing up a poor, white boy in Memphis, even among the rich musical influences the city offered. He felt like an outcast and a stranger (themes that have informed, inspired and haunted his music to this day).

Following the path of so many, Musselwhite moved to Chicago looking for better paying work. While driving an exterminator truck as a day job, Charlie lived on the South Side and hung out in blues clubs at night, developing close friendships with blues icons Little Walter, Big Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson, Big Joe Williams, Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf. Before long, he was sitting in at clubs with Muddy and others, building an impressive word-of-mouth reputation. Soon after, Charlie was being paid to play in the same South Side neighborhood. Noted blues journalist Dick Shurman says, "The black Chicago blues artists all liked Charlie as a person. They felt that he was one of them — a Southern country boy with a deep affinity for the blues."

His first recording, under the name Memphis Charlie, brought the amplified harmonica blues to a new audience of young, white rock-and-rollers, who discovered that Charlie personified the cool and hip counter-culture icons they admired. After the release of his first full-length LP — *Stand Back! Here Comes Charlie Musselwhite's South Side Band* — he was embraced by the growing youth counter-culture and the newly emerging progressive rock FM radio stations, especially on the West Coast. His iconic status established, he relocated to San Francisco, often playing the famed Fillmore Auditorium. Over the years, he has released albums on a variety of labels, ranging from straight blues to music mixing elements of jazz, gospel, Tex-Mex, Cuban and other world music, winning new fans at every turn. He has been touring nationally and internationally for four decades and is among the best-known and best-loved blues musicians in the world.

Over the last 43 years Musselwhite has released over 30 albums including 2006's critically praised *Delta Hardware*. Three of his recordings, 1990's *Ace of Harps*, 1991's *Signature* and 1993's *In My Time*, were recorded for Alligator Records and remain among his best-selling titles. Now, Charlie Musselwhite returns to Alligator with *The Well*, produced by Chris Goldsmith and just nominated for a Grammy for Best Traditional Blues Album. With musical flavors from Mississippi to Memphis to Chicago, *The Well* is steeped in the music of Charlie's youth, country and city blues as well as rockabilly and gospel, the music that inspired his signature sound. The fresh, new songs speak from his decades of experience, hard living and his triumph over adversity.

Charlie has shared stages with countless blues and rock musicians. He was inducted into the Blues Foundation's Blues Hall of Fame in 2010, has been nominated for seven Grammy Awards and has won 24 Blues Music Awards. The *San Francisco Chronicle* says, "Charlie Musselwhite's harmonica playing shows taste, bite, restraint and power. He's one of the best, and as a bluesman, he's as real as they come."

JIM LAUDERDALE

Jim Lauderdale is a multitalented performer and songwriter, with successes in both country and bluegrass music. He was born and raised in North Carolina, and moved to New York after high school to become a performer. Since then, his career has taken him all over the United States and abroad, an international recording artist and performer with an ever-growing fan base. Most recently, Jim is featured in the new Gwyneth Paltrow film *Country Strong* as a member of her band and performed with her as band leader on rhythm guitar at the 2010 Country Music Awards on ABC last November. He appeared on *Austin City Limits* as a member of Elvis Costello's Sugarcanes band, and with Willie Nelson on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *The View* and *PBS' Soundstage*. 2009's *Could We Get Any Closer* is a 2010 Grammy nominee for Best Bluegrass Album.

Lauderdale is among Nashville's top songwriters, with songs recorded by artists such as Patty Loveless, George Jones, The Dixie Chicks, Solomon Burke, Mark Chesnutt, Dave Edmunds, John Mayall, Kathy Mattea, Lee Ann Womack, Gary Allan, Blake Shelton, Vince Gill and George Strait. He also contributed several songs to the successful soundtrack of the George Strait film *Pure Country*. As a performer, he has toured with Lucinda Williams, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Rhonda Vincent and Elvis Costello, among others. In 2002, Jim won Artist of the Year and Song of the Year at the first Honors and Awards Show held by the Americana Music Association and has gone on to host this same show every year since then.

Jim's musical influences include the legendary Dr. Ralph Stanley and George Jones. These influences and his unique sense of melody and lyric help forge a sound that is truly his own. He is a two-time Grammy-winner, winning his first in 2002 with Dr. Ralph Stanley for "Lost in the Lonesome Pines" (Dualtone). The next came for his second solo bluegrass album, *The Bluegrass Diaries* (Yep Roc, 2007) at the 50th Grammy Awards. His first CD with Dr. Stanley, *I Feel Like Singing Today* (Dualtone/Rebel, 1999) received a Grammy nomination, as did his first solo bluegrass CD titled *Bluegrass* (Yep Roc, 2006). Jim's current release, *Patchwork River* (his second collaboration with Grateful Dead lyricist Robert Hunter) is currently on the charts.

Lauderdale's credits include production, composition and collaboration on albums such as *Wait 'Til Spring* (SkyCrunch/Dualtone 2003) with Donna the Buffalo, and *Headed for the Hills* (Dualtone 2004), his first total project with Robert Hunter. Jim's other 18 albums include *Planet of Love* (Reprise 1991), *Pretty Close to the Truth* (Atlantic 1994), *Every Second Counts* (Atlantic 1995), *Persimmons* (Upstart 1998), *Whisper* (BNA 1998), *Onward Through It All* (RCA 1999), *The Other Sessions* (Dualtone 2001), *The Hummingbirds* (Dualtone 2002), *Bluegrass* (Yep Roc 2006), *Country Super Hits, Volume 1* (Yep Roc 2006), *Honey Songs* (Yep Roc 2008), *Could We Get Any Closer?* (SkyCrunch 2009) and *Patchwork River* (Thirty Tigers 2010).

Jim Lauderdale was honored with the Inspiration Award at the SESAC 2010 Nashville Music Awards in November 2010. The award recognizes "his timeless and genre-defying music which has resulted in collaborations with a diverse group of artists including Elvis Costello, Ralph Stanley and Willie Nelson among many others" according to SESAC, the performing rights organization founded in 1930.

Tour Staff

Marya J. Glur, Company Manager
Melissa Brown, Technical Director
Charles Trundy, Sound Engineer
Jim Myers, Driver

Acknowledgments

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Hot Tuna
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Columbia Artists Management LLC

Tim Fox / Alison Ahart Williams
1790 Broadway
New York, NY 10019

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Bob Kay and Susan Lamborghini

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Chris Goldsmith