Press Release – 8th Annual River Basin Blues Blast

**The 8th Annual River Basin Blues Blast** will be held on Saturday, November 24, 2018, at Lamasco Bar & Grille. The event will run from 2 pm – 9 pm. Lamasco is located at 1331 W. Franklin Street in Evansville, IN.

The title sponsor of this year’s blast is **the Mesker Music Trust Fund**. Because of the Trust’s generosity, this will be a “no cover” event. Participants are encouraged to use this free event environment to enjoy the legendary atmosphere of Lamasco’s, the great blues music, and to purchase the merchandise provided by the various music acts and the River Basin Blues Society (RBBS).

Established in 2011, The River Basin Blues Society is a comprehensive resource for all river basin area blues fans, musicians and venue owners in Southern Indiana, Western Kentucky and Southern Illinois. The Society provides a forum in the tristate to share information, knowledge and appreciation of the blues.

The bands providing the music for this year’s event are as follows:

**Troy Miller and Mychell Woolley-Fly** - Troy Miller is a seasoned acoustic musician from this area where he is a celebrated singer/songwriter. Troy's unique booming voice, reminiscent of Waylon Jennings and Tom Waits, coupled with his passionate guitar playing, give birth to his soul-stirring, high-energy stage shows that leaves people yearning for more. For more information on Troy and his music visit troymillermusic.com

Mychelle Woolley-Fly – Mychelle is a multi-talented multi-instrumentalist that is a special accompaniment to Troy Miller. This duo will kick off this year’s festivities with an extra-special flair.

**Lew Jetton & Hwy 61 South** - Lew Jetton learned the blues the old-fashioned way, in the cotton fields, while growing up in between Trenton and Dyersburg, Tennessee. Along the way, he had two of the best mentors one could have: In the 1980s, the legendary Carl Perkins, and in the 1990s, Chicago Blues Legend, Snooky Pryor.

In 1994, Jetton joined up with Paducah, Kentucky based blues band 61 South, which featured legendary harp slinger Colonel JD Wilkes, drummer Erik Eicholtz, and "Fast Layne" Hendrickson. Upon Hendrickson's departure for New Orleans in 1995, Jetton took over front man duties and the band hasn't looked back or slowed down since.

Lew Jetton & 61 South are indeed, the real deal, with multiple albums on the blues and blues/ rock charts. They have cemented their reputation in clubs and festivals with their signature Mississippi River Electric Blues sound.

Erik Eicholtz continues on drums as the only original member of 61 South, joined by Sam Moore on guitar, Dan Bell on guitar and organ, and Otis Walker on bass.

**The Cash Box Kings** – With deep feeling and top-shelf talent, house rocking blues masters The Cash Box Kings play tough, real deal classic Chicago blues with boundless energy. They also deliver raw, passionate Delta blues, and steamrolling “bluesabilly,” which is their original mix of Chicago blues and Memphis rockabilly.

They’re fueled by the powerhouse harmonica work of Joe Nosek and the gritty vocals of Chicago bluesman Oscar Wilson.

Joe Nosek founded The Cash Box Kings in Madison, Wisconsin in 2001 and, since 2007, has co-led the band with vocalist Oscar Wilson. These two vastly different individuals form an unlikely pair, combining Wilson’s authentic Chicago blues vocals with Nosek’s harmonica, songwriting and singing talents. According to Wilson, “The Cash Box Kings is a throwback to the golden age of blues with some fresh young blood.”

The band, made up of top-notch traditional players, is “a blues collective.” Live and on record, members of the “collective” appear in different combinations for different performances, creating an anything-can-happen experience. In addition to co-leaders Nosek and Wilson, the full ensemble includes guitarists Joel Paterson and Billy Flynn, drummers Kenny Smith and Mark Haines, bassist Brad Ber, with newest member, keyboardist Lee Kanehira, rounding out the band.

The whole band can deliver jumping party shuffles or down-in-the-alley gritty blues. Their fresh songs bring humor to subjects like current politics, the pitfalls of social networking and life on the tough streets of Chicago.”

For more information on the Cash Box Kings and their music, visit cashboxkings.com

Congratulation are for **the 2018 River Basin Blues Society Blues Heritage Award Winner, Amy Word-Smith**. Amy has been are great supporter of the blues. She has sat on the RBBS Board and has allowed the Blues Society to use Lamasco as its headquarters and venue for the annual Blues Blast.

For more information about the 8th Annual River Basin Blues Blast, as well as memberships and other items pertaining to the River Basin Blues Society, visit evansvilleblues.com