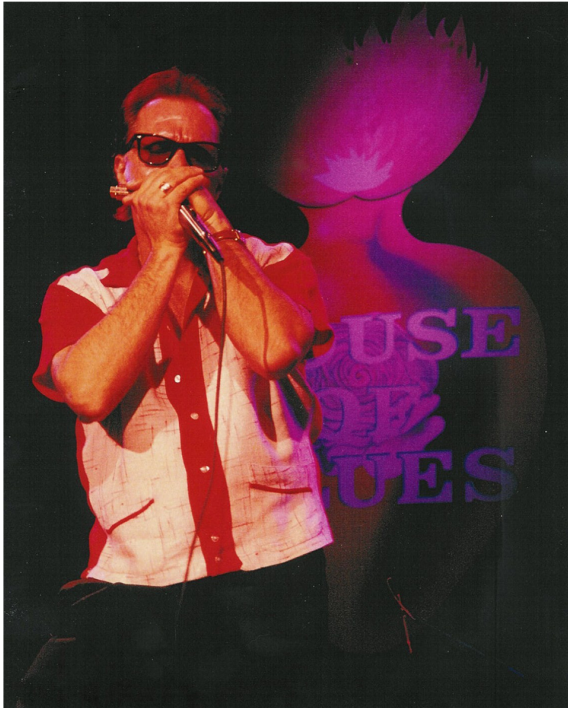


THE LAMONT CRANSTON BLUES BAND



This legendary Minneapolis based blues band has been at it since 1969. After 14 releases and many show stopping performances, the band is still going strong and turning out new material all the time. Besides leading the Cranstons through all the years of popularity they've enjoyed, Pat "Lamont" Hayes has solo ventures to his credit, touring with Bonnie Raitt as a member of her band on her 1999 "Nick of Time" tour and blowing harmonica duets with Charlie Musselwhite in Minneapolis and Hollywood at good buddy Dan Aykroyd's House of Blues Grand Opening. Pat was Dan's special guest at the opening where he jammed with Musselwhite and the Blues Brothers. Pat has been hailed by Bonnie, Dan and many others as being one of the best harmonica players around.

The Cranston hit "Excusez Moi, Mon Cheri" (written by Pat's brother Larry) was recorded by the Blues Brothers on the flipside of their 1979 hit "Soul Man." It was also used on the soundtrack of the Al Franken-Tom Davis movie "One More Saturday Night," along with their biggest hit, "Upper Mississippi Shakedown."

The Cranstons have shared the stage with just about everyone in the business, including Muddy Waters, Albert King and many more. Wherever the band goes, their infectious style has earned them a reputation for attracting some of the best jammers in the business. Keb Mo, Jonny Lang, Jeff Healey, Sugar Blue, Dan Aykroyd and Bonnie Raitt are just a few of the many who have jumped up on stage and joined in over the years. Wilson Pickett even sat in with the band in Duluth, Minnesota a couple of years ago and kicked into his big hit "Mustang Sally." One of the band's biggest thrills was opening for the Rolling Stones on a leg of their North American tour in 1981. The band also made history as the first band to play the grand opening of the Chicago House of Blues.

The Lamont Cranston Band has won just about every award possible throughout the years at the Minnesota Music Awards for both band and individual achievements. The still, to this day, get nominated every year in one category or another. In 1999 the band was honored during their 30th anniversary with a City of St. Paul and State of Minnesota "Lamont Cranston Day." They also received a lifetime achievement award, a City of Duluth "Ambassadors of the Blues" award, and were inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame.

The current line-up consists of Pat Hayes - Harp, Guitar, Vocals; Rod Smith - Guitar; Johnny O - Guitar; Bill Pelletier - Bass; Tom Donnohue - Drums; Tim Wick - Keyboards; and Jim Greenwell (alumni) returns on saxophone. Also, on some shows, Bruce McCabe (original member) returns on piano.

"A premiere band of the American Midwest, no one infects venues with the party virus quite like Pat Hayes and the Lamont Cranston Band. They've always been my favorite." *Elwood Blues, aka Dan Aykroyd.*

Recently featured on Aykroyd's BluesMobile.com radio hour (formerly the House of Blues Radio Hour), the band's new 15 song CD, *Lamont Cranston Band with Bruce McCabe* was released in August 2012. The CD has been showing up on all the Blues charts around the country and is a regular on Sirius Radio's "B.B. King's Bluesville" show. Packed with all new songs written by Pat Hayes, this is the first studio release of all new material in 15 years. It includes hot new cuts like "Look Down," "500 Dollars," "Shoulda Woulda Coulda," "My Hair is Gone," "Big Money Man" and "Talkin' Catfish." Pat Hayes, Bruce McCabe, Jeff Rogers, Brad Pelkey, Rod Smith, Jason Medeiros, Tim Wick, Tom Burnevik, Bob Bingham and Gordon Thorne all contribute.

