

Frequently Asked Questions

You probably have a few questions about Blues Bettie! No worries, most everyone has the same questions. This will help you get to know us!

Who is Blues Bettie?: We're a 9 piece band based in Anaheim, California. Our

members are Shari Puorto - Vocals, Claude von Trotha - Guitar/Vocals, Billy Pulliam -Bass/Vocals, Tommy Bellone - Hammond/Piano/Vocals, Felix 'D-Kat' Pollard - Drums, Bijon Watson - Trumpet, Louis Van Taylor -Saxes, Rial Gallagher - Bari Sax, and Ryan Porter - Trombone. We're individually involved in a multitude of musical projects of many styles from jazz to classical, and we join forces for this great band, because it's fun and the music is awesome.

What style of blues do you play?: We're not just a blues band, that's for sure. We bring a fresh 'SoCal' feel to the blues, a high energy mixture of funk, blues, rock and soul music. Somewhere between the funky R&B of Tower of Power and the electric guitar oriented blues of Double Trouble – with the classic blues instrumentation used by Luther Allison and Albert King thrown in the mix. With a four piece horn section and four lead singers, you can bet we mix it up. Of course, we'll throw in a real tear-jerker now and then, and there won't be a dry eye in the place when we do, but no one is sitting when Blues Bettie is rocking the house!

How long have you been together?: First gig with the band was in 2002, Shari joined us in 2004. Bijon, Louis, Ryan add D-Kat came on board in 2010.

Where have you played?: The CoachHouse San Juan Capistrano, the Brea Jazz Festival, the Anaheim MusicFest, BB King's Universal City, The Colorado Belle Laughlin Nevada, Blues & Brews Blues Festival, Hard Rock Café Las Vegas, Cozy's Woodland Hills, The Anaheim GardenWalk, Yesteryear's Pomona, The Radisson Hotel Blues Series, Martini Blues Huntington Beach, The White House Anaheim, The Galaxy Theatre Santa Ana, The Boardwalk Santa Ana, Club Unique Anaheim, Jimmi's Fullerton, Kosmo's Huntington Beach, The Pitcher House Hermosa Beach, TC's Huntington Beach, the Blue Café Long Beach, The Blue Café Huntington Beach, Anthology San Diego, The Brixton Redondo Beach, etc...!

What type of shows do you do?: We do everything - festivals, 45 minute showcases, all night bar gigs, private parties. Small venues, large venues, outdoors, indoors, it doesn't matter, we like them all.

We hear you're a popular opening act at many venues and festivals, why is that?: We take the job of being the warm-up band seriously – no one sits! We've paired with The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Tower of Power, WAR, Dave Mason, Ten Years After, Leon Russell, Savoy Brown, Dickey Betts, Michael Burks, Billy Vera and the Beaters, Anthony Gomes, Larry Carlton, Walter Trout, Rod Piazza, Coco Montoya, Liquid Soul, The Flying Burrito Bros., G.E. Smith, and many more. It's not uncommon for the headliner to join us for a tune or two, Blues Bettie has earned a lot of respect from fellow musicians.

What's the story on the people in the band?: Based in Anaheim, CA, Blues Bettie members have performed from the CoachHouse to Carnegie Hall. Members have performed with diverse musical endeavors and musicians, including the Elvin Bishop Band, Dick Dale, Rufus Thomas, Edwin Starr, Dickey Betts, The Temptations, Ray Charles, the Gap Band, Kool and the Gang, ZZ Hill, The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, the Gerald Wilson Jazz Orchestra, the Luckman Jazz Orchestra, the Jazz on the Latin Side All-Stars, Harry Connick, Jr., Queen Latifah, Alicia Keys, Michael Buble, Earth, Wind and Fire, Lionel Ritchie, Sheila E., George Duke, Chaka Kahn, The Staple Singers, Jessica Simpson, Gerald Wilson, Eric Benet, Mark St.John of Kiss, The Pacific Symphony, the Michael Burks band, Savoy Brown, etc, etc.... you get the picture, the band is the real deal....

There's so many of you, how much room do we need?: You'll be surprised, We can adapt from 'narrow and deep' to 'wide and shallow' setups, whatever – we're flexible, we're used to it, we make it work!

Do you bring your own sound reinforcement (P.A.) equipment and lighting?: We have whatever entertainment assistance you need for your event, and in the rare case that we don't, we'll help you find someone who does. We can provide sound reinforcement, staging, lighting, live video and recording services, and more.

For more info, please visit: www.bluesbettie.com