

# BOROUGH BLUES

FEBRUARY 2014 Page 1

**This Month at the BBC – 8<sup>th</sup> February  
“Zoe Schwarz”**



ZOE SCHWARZ BLUE COMMOTION is a six piece blues based band playing rootsy originals with very strong catchy riffs and interesting arrangements, and individual interpretations of earthy blues standards; a highly distinctive, tight and creative band.'

Through the band's CD's 'The Blues Don't Scare Me' & 'Good Times', and subsequent reviews here in the UK and in America, Zoe has proved herself to be an incredible vocalist whose passionate, yearning style is the cherry on the cake of a superb six piece line-up, in which each of the band members is as important as the other.

Their set is based around the fresh, cliché free writing of Zoe and guitarist Rob Koral, helping to create a unique band sound which is the vehicle for not only Zoe but also great solos from the sympathetic and tasteful Hammond-organ of Pete Whittaker, and the hyper and indescribable Si Genaro-harmonica. The distinct and beautiful touch of left handed guitarist Rob Koral adds yet another unique voice into the mix. The drums of Paul Robinson and bass of Rodney Teague supply massive authority with the ability to push the music in unpredictable and exciting directions.

'Zoe and her band have reached the point where they cannot be ignored and are poised

to make the international breakthrough they deserve.' The Bishop, Blues Matters, 2013

Zoe has made a considerable impact in a very short space of time and is another one of those new artists that have added a fresh approach and vibrancy to the thriving UK blues scene.

"Schwarz takes all that is good from Janis Joplin and Billie Holiday and makes it uniquely her own" All About Jazz USA

**You won't want to miss Si Genaro, on harp, as he recently became an overnight cult sensation having gained fame as "The Chicken-Train man" on BBCtv's The Voice! Si is the most talked about musician who has appeared on The Voice, and Radio 1 said it was the best episode of The Voice ever! Si Genaro – catch him with Zoe Schwarz's Blue Commotion at the Borough Blues Club Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February!**

<http://metro.co.uk/2014/01/25/the-voice-2014-chicken-train-creator-si-genaro-takes-to-the-stage-entire-internet-falls-in-love-4277296/>



## FORTHCOMING GIG's

8 <sup>th</sup> February	Zoe Schwartz
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Brothers Groove
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Lawrence Jones
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Buddy Whittington
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Chantel McGregor
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Billy Walton
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Idle Hands
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Black Top Deluxe
6 <sup>th</sup> September	Dawson Smith
October	Grainne Duffy
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Built for Comfort
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Wille & the Bandits

**Next Month at the BBC – 1<sup>st</sup> March**  
**“Brothers Groove”**



This Birmingham-based band are winning the hearts and minds of the UK blues scene with their characterful groove, superior tones, seriously catchy songs and genuine Brummie friendliness, and the word is spreading fast.

With the love of funk and blues dominating the band's sound, and years spent soaking up the likes of The Average White Band, The Crusaders, James Taylor Quartet, Little Feat, Clapton, Robben Ford, SRV, Robert Cray and Albert Collins, in the respective funk and blues departments, Brothers Groove set out to make real music, music that they love and cherish. Their goal firmly intact, they have uniquely fused all these influences into a sound all of their own. Classic songs, riffs a-plenty, big grooves, heavy, delicate and always funky. Taking this sound to the stage is where you see the Brothers excel, with performance after performance of awe-inspiring delivery, class, touch and emotion all playing their part in equal measure.

Their Debut Album "Play The Game" is an expert exploration of all things blues and groove, each song crafted to make your head nod, your body shake and your lips whistle the tune. The twin guitars of Shaun Hill and Nigel Mellor beautifully working together, never in competition, to forge crafty, hook-laden rhythms with deep sonic landscapes. The Brothers are keen to point out that it isn't an album of self-indulgent egos battling for space, it's not about playing a million notes a second, this band sit in the pocket of the groove, play with taste and feeling, and love every single minute of it. Their enthusiasm is as infectious on record as it is in a packed club, a fact every audience who has seen them perform will testify to.

**Gig Review: January 2014**  
**“Rob Berry”**

Judges on the X Factor television show often say to a performer "You made that song your own!" -And that was the outstanding impression from Rob Berry's January performance at the Borough Blues Club – he made songs his own. Now he has written and recorded four albums so he has plenty of his own very good material – but it wasn't that, impressive as it is – it was more the way he arranged and performed cover versions of other people songs which was intriguing.

For instance, armed with his Fender Stratocaster and a Wah Pedal and amplifier, he took on BB King's "The Thrill is Gone" but introduced his own riffs and words in such a way that he was into the second verse before it was really apparent what he was actually playing – and the arrangement was sweet and original in a way that really refreshed the song. Rob's version of SRV's "Pride and Joy" avoided almost entirely sounding like Stevie Ray's version and yet had superb Texas Blues licks to spice it up in really entertaining fashion. This was a great way to start the New Year!

Not that Rob is only a guitarist and vocalist. He also does very good blues harp – notably playing the same riffs on harp and guitar at the same time in a couple of numbers. He didn't manage to sing as well while doing this but it would not have been surprising if he had come up with some vocal sounds!

At 50, Rob has a longish history in music production having been a sound engineer for many years and significant experience in musical performance having started with piano at a very early age. He makes a living as a full time gigging musician and, these days, he creates and produces a new album every year through his "Daylight" label (Daylight Rob-Berry! Get it?). These he sells at gigs and while out busking around the south of England. His dedication is clear in his performance and his invention is clear in his song-writing and musical arrangements. On top of that he is a cool guy to speak to – very down to earth despite being so musically articulate. It is about 5 years since he was last at Borough Blues – we should not wait another 5 years to get him back!

*That's all Folks...*

Borough Blues Club: Tickets - 01633 483238  
 More info at: [www.boroughblues.com](http://www.boroughblues.com)