

## PRESS RELEASE

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## CHICK SINGER NIGHT

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### **CHICK SINGER NIGHT (CSN) BOSTON CHAPTER!**

Well, the **CSN's Boston launch on Thursday, June 10th** was a great success - thanks to all of you and all of the amazingly talented artists involved. This next show in the series will be one not to miss as well - coming up on **Thursday, SEPTEMBER 23rd** at the **LIZARD LOUNGE**, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617) 547-1228, with an acoustic+ show from **7-9pm** featuring **Toni Lynn Washington and Bruce Bears** ~ and high energy funk, R&B, blues and soul acts from **9pm-1:30am**, featuring **Nicole Nelson, Cheryl Arena and Michelle Willson**.

The **Vykki Vox Band**: Vykki (director - vocals/percussion) - **Dave Osoff** (keys/vocals) - **Justin Kolack** (bass/vocals and Rock City Guitars co-owner) - **Greg Allison** (drums/vocals) - **Erik Ringstad** (guitar/vocals) - along with **Jennifer Truesdale** (co-director - vocals) - will be hosting these events.

The production of this nationally recognized female showcase is by the support of the **Non-Profit organization Breathe** - A Foundation for The Artist - <http://chicksingernight.com/breathe/> ~ and was founded by **Lori Maier** of Los Angeles, to benefit community arts and various charitable causes around the country. **CSN** recently celebrated their **15th Anniversary** in NYC at Crash Mansion, where **Norah Jones** was among the performers. Sheryl Crow, Stevie Nicks, Megan Mullally, Mindy Stein, Paul Shaffer and MTV have also been supportive of CSN and many are continuing to take notice of this growing organization. Please check out <http://ChickSingerNight.com> for more info, including video clips of Norah Jones' performance and a television interview with the NYC Chapter Director, Deena Miller on cn8 TV. **CSN's sponsors** include Guitar Center, Fender, Tascam, Shure, Alesis, JBL, Hit Factory, iGuitars, Rock City Guitars, etc. **All Boston show proceeds after minimal show expenses will go toward food, clothing and/or shelter for Boston's homeless.**

**CSN** has already established regular events in **LA at the Knitting Factory, NYC at Bitter End** and **Nashville at the Bluebird**, as well as **Chicago, Miami, Las Vegas and Hawaii**. In 2004, four new cities are planned to be launched - **Boston, Austin, Minneapolis and Seattle** . This series is an amazing opportunity for the abundance of Boston talent, whether well-known, moderately known or newcomers, that deserve national attention.

The **first Boston CSN show** on June 10th featured **Joanie Pimentel of SuperHoney, Jennifer Matthews, Anita Suhanin of Shwang/Groovasaurus, Parul Vakani of Red Velvet Slide, Jennifer Truesdale and Vykki Vox.** Jennifer Matthews and Vykki Vox opened the show with acoustic harmonies they call the **Philosophy of Eve.** Please see below for more details on each of the performing artists for this next show on **September 23rd.** This series will undoubtedly feature some surprise special guests along the way, and definitely some raffles and give-a-ways from our many generous sponsors.

Any female singer/songwriters (all genres welcome - original music is preferred) that are interested in being part of these showcases, either as a solo backed by the Vykki Vox Band or with your own group, either acoustically or as a full band, please send press kits to: **CSN Boston, P.O. Box 560193, W. Medford, MA 02156.**

### **Featured Artist Bios:**

**Toni Lynn Washington:** Moments before Toni Lynn Washington takes the stage, you might see what appears to be a quiet, unassuming woman standing patiently out of the spotlight. But look quickly, because once the music starts, four decades of performing will kick into gear, and she'll soon take control of the room like a pool shark running the table. Special performers are gifted with the innate ability to throw that "switch". You know, that ignition of performance and presence that lets you leave your troubles behind, and immerse yourself in the sheer joy of sharing that comes from giving one's self over to the music. Toni Lynn Washington is just such an artist. Toni Lynn's career has blossomed in the last decade. Signed to Richard Rosenblatt's **Tone-Cool Records**, she has begun to see some reward for her efforts. She's been **nominated for two W.C. Handy Awards**, had her music used in feature film soundtracks, and appeared on **National Public Radio** in the company of **Etta James and John Lee Hooker.** She has recently recorded a performance for broadcast on **Voice Of America**, and will soon appear as the featured performer on the **House Of Blues Radio Hour**. Toni has enjoyed increasing acclaim and notoriety, and has been a featured artist at a number of prestigious festivals. Literally hours after being awarded the **1999 Boston Blues Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award** this past September, Toni and her band embarked on a two-week engagement at the prestigious **Lionel Hampton Jazz Club** at Le Meridien Etoile in Paris.

Visit <http://ToniLynnWashington.com> for more info.

**Michelle Willson:** Michelle "Evil Gal" Willson was born and raised in the Boston area. She has been performing since age 10, began vocal training in jr. high and studied at **Boston Conservatory** while still in high school. Michelle **won the Boston Blues Battle in 1993**, as well as the Blues Foundation's blues

competition in Memphis. Signed to **Rounder Records** , her first album "**Evil Gal Blues**" was released in 1994 and was **nominated for a Handy Award**, as well as numerous "**Best of Boston**" and Boston Music Awards. Michelle has 4 albums on Rounder Records - her latest "**Wake Up Call**" **won the Boston Music Award for Best Blues Album** . She has toured North America and Europe extensively and performed in over 20 countries, including visiting the Middle East earlier this year and touring Israel w/ **Ronnie Peterson Blues Band**. Michelle currently has two groups, "**Evil Gal Festival Orchestra**" and "**Mary Jane and the Vipers**," who will be appearing at the **Boston Blues Festival in September**. As a result of all this training, all this experience and many awards and accolades, Michelle has recently taken on a third job to enable her to continue being such a successful artist.

Visit <http://EvilGal.com> for more info.

**Cheryl Arena:** Cheryl has recently returned to her Boston home from a tour of **Texas** and many other cities in the South and Mid-west supporting her recent release. She has loved all styles of music from an early age and played several instruments before settling on the harmonica and the blues as her main focus. In 1989, she started and hosted a blues jam of her own at the notable **Wally's Café in Boston** which thrived every Monday night for 3 years. Cheryl's outgoing nature and love for variety brought her the opportunity to start and host the "**Downtown Blues Review**" in **Boston's Fanueil Hall Marketplace** for many years. Some of her guests have included members of the **Love Dogs**, **Toni Lynn Washington**, **Susan Tedeschi**, **Mike Welch**, **James Montgomery**, **Michelle Willson**, **Gordon Beadle (Duke Robillard)** and many more. To mention a few, Cheryl has shared the stage with blues greats such as **Jr. Wells**, **Johnny Clyde Copeland**, **R.L. Burnside**, **Honeyboy Edwards**, **Sonny Rhodes**, **Pinetop Perkins**, **Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson**, **Johnny Rawls** - who said of Cheryl *"You may be from Boston but your heart's from Mississippi!"* , **Kenny Neal**, **Bob Margolin**, **Ronnie Earl**, **Billy Branch**, **Smokin' Joe Kubek**, **Debbie Davis**, **Ann Rabson** and **Duke Robillard**, who not only produced her latest record, but also praised Cheryl by saying *"Blues Got Me showcases her impressive blues harp virtuosity accented by her relaxed vocal style and considerable song writing skills."*

Visit <http://WoodburnArena.com> for more info.

**Nicole Nelson:** Positioned right at the forefront of Boston's latest tidal wave of talent, 26 year old Nicole Nelson proves herself to be every bit as ground breaking as her many influences. She is deeply rooted in the blues, R&B, rock, and classic soul. Possessing a natural voice that caresses like honey and burns like a blaze, swooping from the most delicate whisper to an explosion of soulful passion. Nicole stands upon the shoulders of the all-time greats while forging

her own way toward music history. In the past year alone, the **Nicole Nelson Band** has appeared on the covers of the **Boston Herald**, the **Boston Phoenix**, the **Boston Metro**, and **Boston Blues Magazine**, and has been featured in the **Boston Globe**, **Boston Magazine**, **Improper Bostonian**, the **Berkshire Eagle**, and many more. Critically acclaimed from the start, they have received nominations for **The 2002 Boston Music Award's "Outstanding New Blues Act"**, and the **2002 & 2004 Boston Phoenix/FNX Music Poll for "Best Blues/R&B Act"**, and were the **2001 winners of Boston's annual Battle of the Blues Bands at Harpers Ferry**, by the largest margin in its 17-year history. The band has recently performed at the prestigious **Tanglewood Jazz Festival**, and opened for **Maya Angelou at Boston's Symphony Hall**. Word of their upcoming CD has created an industry buzz that is getting louder by the minute. Such a bright blend of talent and dedication is rare indeed, and Nicole Nelson's star is just beginning to rise.

Visit <http://NicoleNelsonBand.com> for more info.

**CSN BOSTON Co-DIRECTOR Jennifer Truesdale:** Vocalist and songwriter Jennifer Truesdale has been a part of the Boston music scene for many years as both a live performer and session vocalist. A member of the Funk/Rock band **The Ultrasonics**, Jennifer has also performed throughout New England with the **Brian Wakley Band** and **The D-Street Band**. She's performed with the **Boston Rock Opera** in their 2000 production of **Jesus Christ Superstar**, starring Gary Cherone and as part of **Jazz on the Charles**, **Women in Song**. As a solo artist, Jennifer beautifully melds Blues, Funk, Soul and a dash of Pop to create a sound that is fun, soulful and energetic. *"a vocal powerhouse!" "You are the Soul Mother!"* In 1998, Jennifer opened a music production house with her Ultrasonics band-mates and has been working actively as a songwriter for film & television ever since. Her songs have been heard on various major network television shows including ABC's **All My Children & One Life To Live**, NBC's **The Young and the Restless**, the Fox Network's **Melrose Place** and the Showtime series **Soul Food**. Additionally, Jennifer is the Owner and Director at the Jeannie Deva® Voice Studios in Boston where she has worked with hundreds of Boston area singers, helping them to achieve their own personal musical goals.

Visit <http://DevaStudiosBoston.com> for more info.

**CSN BOSTON DIRECTOR Vykki Vox:** This powerful, dynamic singer/songwriter has a *"refreshing"* style all her own, and brings her *"radiant personality and fun into her music."* At Vykki's high energy live performances, people are always amazed at the *"huge voice"* that comes out of this *"petite package."* *"Combining sultry soul with powerhouse rock,"* she is truly commanding in formal arenas and has earned kudos for her performances at

**Boston's Hatch Shell** , as well as other festivals and music conferences around the country, including **NEMO**, **Rockgrl Music Conference in Seattle**, **Crossroads in Memphis** and **MobFest in Chicago** . Vykki has shared the stage with **Lynyrd Skynyrd**, **Indigo Girls**, **Les Paul**, **Max Creek**, **Jonny Lang**, **Tom Hambridge** and **Susan Tedeschi** among others and her 3 CDs have generated considerable AAA/AC airplay and rave reviews internationally. Vykki was the founder, co-producer and host of the **Ladies Sing the Blues** series, later evolving into the **Ladies Sing and Beyond Showcases** in and around Boston. The long-running series, which featured a wide variety of New England's best female artists, as well as our most appreciated male artists, was (and still is sometimes so we hear) broadcast on **BNN TV3** , as well as many other cable stations throughout New England. Visit [http:// VykkiVox.com](http://VykkiVox.com) for more info.

**CSN Boston House Band:** The Vykki Vox Band just celebrated their **10th Anniversary** and it's the best it's ever been! This high energy, funky and soulful band includes Vykki (vocals/percussion) - **Dave Osoff** (keys/vocals) - **Justin Kolack** (bass/vocals and Rock City Guitars co-owner) - **Greg Allison** (drums/vocals) - **Erik Ringstad** (guitar/vocals) and has the pleasure of working with the amazing **Gary Backstrom** (Jiggle) on occasion as well. The band's **"infectious grooves"** have been compared to the **Dave Matthews Band**, Lenny Kravitz and the Black Crowes, while others speak of the legendary **Little Feat**. The band is in the process of recording their 4th CD.

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