

ERIN HARPE

Δ delta blues Δ

“Erin Harpe is blues magic”

- John Conquest, *Third Coast Music (Austin, TX)*

“...reaches the emotive quality of Billie Holiday”

- Bill Copeland, *Boston Blues Society*

“An authentic blues chanteuse” in the vein of Memphis Minnie and Bessie Smith, Erin Harpe is earning a reputation for her raw style and “total, selfless and compelling immersion in the music.” One of contemporary acoustic blues’s most accomplished female guitarists, she is often compared to JoAnn Kelley, Rory Block, or early Bonnie Raitt.

Erin began playing guitar in her teens taught by her father, bluesman Neil Harpe. She soon began performing at folk festivals, coffee houses, bars, and parties in the DC area, developing a strong vocal and guitar style of her own.

Since moving to Boston, Erin has performed at famed venues such as The Original House of Blues, the Middle East, and Harpers Ferry, and also toured around the country, this year making her debut at SXSW in Austin Texas, and playing the NY State Blues Festival. She has earned accolades, for instance she was the first solo act to participate in the Boston Blues Challenge, where she made it to the finals, winning her night and beating out six blues bands. She is played regularly on US radio from Austin TX to Boston MA, and counts among her fans veteran WBOS radio DJ Holly Harris. She can also be heard on radio shows in France, Poland, Germany, Spain, England, Japan and Italy.



Juicy Juju Records is proud to announce the release of Erin’s second CD *Delta Blues Duets*, vocal and guitar duets with her father Neil Harpe. The CD features harmonized vocals and dueling finger picking acoustic guitar parts, reminiscent of Memphis Minnie and Kansas Joe. The ten-song CD was recorded at Mix One Studios in Boston.

For more information about Erin including tour schedule, downloadable hi-res pics and more go to her website at www.erinharpe.com.

Booking: Jim Countryman at 617-943-5275, jimcountryman@gmail.com.
Publicity: Kim Cameron, Juicy Publicity at 774-487-1576, juicypublicity@gmail.com

www.erinharpe.com

Erin and Neil Harpe, *Delta Blues Duets* track listing:

1. **Bye Bye Blues** (3:38) by Tommy Johnson
2. **Called You This Mornin'** (3:32) by Memphis Minnie and Kansas Joe
3. **Chauffer Blues** (3:13) by Memphis Minnie
4. **Kokomo Blues** (5:01) by Mississippi Fred McDowell
5. **Fishin' Blues** (3:33) by Henry Ragtime Texas Thomas
6. **In My Girlish Days** (2:42) by Memphis Minnie
7. **Mississippi Delta Blues** (4:34) traditional
8. **Down and Out** (3:49) by Martin, Bogan and Armstrong
9. **Stop and Listen Blues** (3:44) by Eleanor Ellis
10. **Winnie the Wailer** (4:00) by Lonnie Johnson

Delta Blues Duets is already receiving praise:

"On guitars, these two weave a wall of bluesy old-time sweetness. Their finger picking styles conjure images of Southern blues musicians playing on each other's front porches on hot summer evenings. She grew up with this music, and she has a good sense of its fundamentals."

-Bill Copeland, *Boston Blues Society*

Erin's first CD, *Blues Roots* Reviews:

"Maybe it's in the genes, but Erin Harpe, daughter of longtime area bluesman, Neil Harpe, has produced a wonderful album of acoustic blues, *Blues Roots*. Erin displays considerable command of a wide range of blues including songs associated with Memphis Minnie ("Chauffer Blues" and "In My Girlish Days"), Tommy Johnson ("Bye Bye Blues" and "Big Road Blues"), Bessie Smith ("Alligator Blues"), Willie Brown ("Future Blues") and others. She plays a strong, percussive-tinged guitar that suits these songs perfectly but is also able to nimbly fingerpick on a Blind Blake number, "You Gonna Quit Me". She delivers her vocals with a strong, straightforward and natural delivery that is quite appealing and is reminiscent of longtime DC area blueswoman, Eleanor Ellis, who is credited with the closing "Stop and Listen Blues". This is a fine debut album of traditional country blues."

-DC Blues Society Newsletter

"A minute into Memphis Minnie's Chauffeur Blues, I'm going 'Holy shit!' I hope I'm not the total Blues Nazi, but I went to all the early to mid 60s American Folk Blues Festivals (Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson, Howlin' Wolf, Lonnie Johnson, Son House, Big Joe Williams, Victoria Spivey, Sippie Wallace, T-Bone Walker, Buddy Guy, Magic Sam, well, you get the picture) and I gotta tell you, they've been kind of a tough act to follow ever since. In fact, the only other white female blues musicians I ever cared much for up to now were the wonderful Jo Ann Kelly, who had chunks of people like Bonnie Raitt and Rory Block in her stool, and Jo Serrapere, but Harpe, based in Jamaica Plain, MA, has made a believer of me.

Accompanying herself on acoustic guitar, Harpe cut this in four hours and four hours were never better spent. She has much in common with Steve James, the same total, selfless and compelling immersion in the music without either Block/Bookbinder's irritating 'I'm preserving this for posterity' patronage or Raitt/Clapton's even more annoying 'Is it my fault I can play Robert Johnson better than Robert Johnson?' arrogance. Take it from someone who asks, along with Viv Stanshall of The Bonzo Bog Doo Dah Band, "can blue men sing the whites or are they hypocrites?," Erin Harpe is blues magic."

-John Conquest, *Third Coast Music*, Austin TX

Booking: Jim Countryman at 617-943-5275, jimcountryman@gmail.com.
Publicity: Kim Cameron, Juicy Publicity at 774-487-1576, juicypublicity@gmail.com

www.erinharpe.com