



**J. P. REALI**

TRADITIONAL BLUES MUSIC

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## ABOUT J.P.

A veteran of the DC music scene for almost thirty years, J.P. Reali has played in numerous venues throughout the city. From his days as the lead guitar player in the psychedelic blues band **The Next Step** in the 1980's, to his days as half of the acoustic blues/roots duo **The Reali Brothers** in the 1990's, through his current solo career, J.P.'s playing has electrified listeners. He has performed extensively throughout the east coast, and spent 16 weeks in residence in Japan thrilling listeners with his musical prowess.

In April 2007, J.P. released his long-awaited solo acoustic blues debut recording "**Cold Steel Blues.**" The album, which features nine originals and six cover songs by such blues greats as Robert Johnson and Reverend Gary Davis, showcases J.P.'s proficiency in both the delta and piedmont styles. The independent recording was well received by local "guide to fun" magazine *On Tap*.

While J.P.'s repertoire is steeped in the traditions of Piedmont and Delta blues and includes such classics songs as **Statesboro Blues**, and **Walkin' Blues**, it also showcases his original blues compositions in a conscious effort to keep these traditional styles alive in the 21st century.

In July of 2010 J.P. released his second self-produced album, "**Bottle of Blooze.**" This album features nine original songs by J.P. and two by his brother **Chris Reali**. *On Tap* said of "Bottle of Blooze"—"Reali's acoustic guitar picking is crystal clear and at times mesmerizing. In a city where real blues can be hard to find Reali is a solid purveyor of the form."

J.P. won the **D.C. Blues Society's Battle of the Bands** in the solo category in 2010 and 2011, and went on to compete in **The International Blues Challenge in Memphis Tennessee** both years. He also received **Washington Area Music Association** nominations for *Best Blues Instrumentalist*, and *Best Traditional Blues Recording* for 2010 and 2011.

He is currently performing at a variety of venues and events in and around the D.C Metro region, and has an exciting new 2012 release of original music "**The Road To Mississippi**" available now.

He is a member of *The D.C. Blues Society*, *The Piedmont Blues Preservation Society*, *The Washington Area Music Association*, and *The Baltimore Blues Society*.

# PRESS & TESTIMONIALS



January 24, 2012

## Blues guitarist J.P. Reali hits D.C.

by Marie Gullard

*Special to The Washington Examiner*

While he has mixed feelings about musical competition, D.C.'s own acoustic blues performer, J. P. Reali really and truly loves the blues. For the second consecutive year, he has captured the top prize in the D.C. Blues Society Battle of the Band in the solo/duo category.

February will find him heading down to Memphis to compete once more in the International Blues Challenge, even though he didn't make it out of the first round last year.

"I wasn't sure I wanted to go back again," said Reali, a professional performer and popular voice of pre-World War II-style acoustic blues. "Music is about having a good time entertaining people and sharing something that you love."

This love of the guitar-driven blues has been growing and going strong since his first gig in 1985 at the age of 19. His two solo albums, "Cold Steel Blues" (2007) and "Bottle of Blooze" (2010) contain a total of 20 original songs. An additional six tunes from the first album are covers from the pens of his idols and blues greats, Robert Johnson, Willie McTell, the Reverend Gary Davis and Mississippi John Hurt.

"I decided to go back to Memphis because [my wife and I] had such a great time there," Reali explained. "I really enjoyed the company of the other musicians [and] talking to other people who play like me. It was very affirming."

For his performance on the Millennium Stage Tuesday, he will be treating audiences to some old originals and some new work written while on a side trip last year to the Delta Blues Museum in Mississippi.

"I wrote a song, 'Road To Mississippi' about my experience there [and] that will probably be the title of my new album," Reali said. "The blues tell a story and it's important to me to keep the style fresh."

Pre-World War II-style refers to a genre coming out of Alabama and Louisiana before the advent of electric instruments. The style began its decline with the arrival of the plugged-in Chicago style of Delta-influenced blues.

Reali and his fellow acoustic players of the genre plan on keeping it going well into the 21st century, however. And while a big-time Memphis win would be nice, "It's the small clubs where you really get to know your audiences," he said.

## MUSIC & NOTABLE APPEARANCES



### **J.P. Reali**

#### **The Road To Mississippi**

2012 Reali Records - RR0003

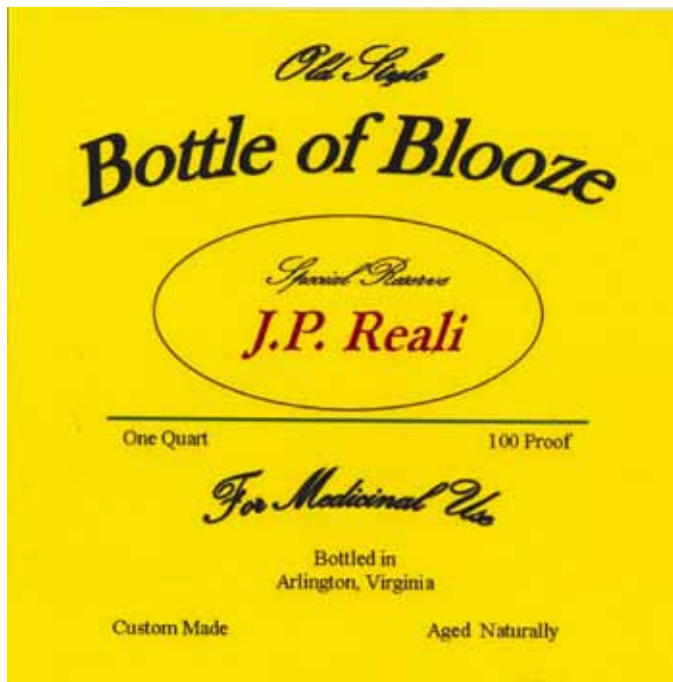
**J.P. Reali:** Acoustic guitars, vocals

**Pete Ragusa:** Drums on tracks 10, 11

**John Previtti:** Upright bass on track 11

**Mark Wenner:** Harp on tracks 4,5,9,10

1. Prelude
2. Jefferson Lament
3. The Road To Mississippi
4. My Soul Or Skin
5. I Do My Share Of Drinking
6. Busted Boy Blues
7. Dark, Strong And Steaming
8. Cold Steel Blues
9. Biscuit Baking Mama
10. The Book Or The Bottle
11. Bloozin' In NYC
12. Coda



### **J.P. Reali**

#### **Bottle of Blooze**

2010 Reali Records - RMR0001

**J.P. Reali:** Guitar, vocals, harmonica

1. Crazy 'bout a Barbeque
2. I Can't Love You Like Your Mama
3. The Wiggle Tight Rag
4. Olde to a Caboose
5. The Powder Blues
6. Workin' in a Minefield
7. Struck by Lightnin'
8. Blind Whiskey's Blues
9. She Like To Ride
10. The Presidential Blues
11. Sinner Man

**Winner of DCBS Battle of the Bands Solo Category 2010, 2011**  
**The Kennedy Center Milenimum Stage and Open House,**  
**The DC Blues Festival**





photo courtesy of Michael G. Stewart

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