

## THE PHIL GATES BAND- SHOULD I?

"...sweetly gritty vocals...blistering guitar with blues expression, distinction, and great stage presence.  
I predict a bright future for this young charismatic bluesman."  
Dorothy Hill, Blues Source

"Phil...may be one of the best kept secrets of the region..."  
Southland Blues Magazine

Mix Chicago Blues with the energy of a power plant, and you'll have the Phil Gates Band. The PGB means great originals, and Blues songs you love. Combining Danny Ritter on Drums, Rena Beavers on Bass, DC on Keys, with the guitar, and voice of Phil Gates, will mean a night of Blues is on tap.

This new CD from Phil Gates is the direction of new Blues for him. Titled "Should I?", this CD is pure Blues. Blues has always been home for Phil. Hailing from Chicago, Illinois, Phil authentically plays the Blues from the first track "Phil's Blues" that pours straight into a slow Blues, to the popular "I'm Lost", message song "Take It Out", all the way to great slide guitar on "Where Do You Live?" The Phil Gates Blues Band has been hitting it hard on the west coast, and is a band to see.

Phil's guitar style is his own, peppered with flavors of Blues greats that inspired him along the way such as Buddy Guy, Muddy Waters, Albert King, B.B. King, Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Winter, and many others. If you haven't heard him, listen. If you're in a town where he's playing, go see him.

Phil was born into a family of musicians that helped form his music style, and ability. His father played trumpet, his mother and sister piano, and brother guitar. Phil began playing musical instruments at the age of eight, starting with violin, clarinet, drums, piano, then guitar. Blues has always been the main source of his musical inspiration. Phil has played venues from small clubs, to the U.S. Air Force's "Tops in Blue" World Tour, which performed the halftime show at the NFL Superbowl.

Phil performs at many of the best Los Angeles Blues Clubs with his band, "The Phil Gates Band". Also, the band is featured every Friday night on Hornblower Crusies "Friday Night Blues Dinner Cruise". This event started in April 2007 for the summer, and because of the success, and usually sold out shows, Phil's contract got extended through 2009. Phil's style is reminiscent of early Buddy Guy mixed with a special blend of flavors from Jazz, Fusion, and the Chicago, Delta, and Mississippi Blues styles.

The Phil Gates Band recently won both the Regional International Blues Challenge, and "Beale Street Blues Kings" Competition in Memphis this year, and competed in the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge.

Phil had the opportunity in his early years to listen and study great talent. As front of house engineer at the Caravan of Dreams Performing Arts Centre in Fort Worth, Texas, Phil worked with some of Blues and Jazz's greatest performers to include: Buddy Guy, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Albert King, Dizzie Gillespie, Wynton & Branford Marsalis, Kevin Eubanks, Eartha Kitt, Dianne Reeves, Bobby "Blue" Bland, and many others.

Phil is an accomplished session guitarist, performing on such projects as the Philip Bailey CD "Life & Love", five new CD's in 2006-2008 with artists Kellie Blaise, Billy Shields, Maurice White, Zac Harmon, Preston Glass, L.A. Stlyz and Seabron, and earlier a track with Maurice White's artist Keni Jackson. His latest session work is playing guitar on many tracks of a newly released (March 2009) CD set for Time Life entitled "Songs 4 Worship: Soul" This included artists such as: Peabo Bryson and Regina Belle, Melba Moore, Freddie Jackson, Evelyn "Champagne" King, Deniece Williams, Jody Watley, Howard Hewett, Teddy Pendergrass, Brian McKnight, Ruben Studdard and Maurice White.

Phil also played on, and Co-Produced the award winning Blues record "The Blues According to Zacariah" with Zac Harmon, and recently has also Produced the "Urban Legacy" CD for Julia Jordan, daughter of renowned guitarist Stanley Jordan (who also performed on the CD). Also Phil scored an AFI film "My Normal Life". Not to mention he has CD's of his own music "This Side OF Me" and "Music From the film "My Normal Life", and the latest is "Should I?" which is an editors recommend, and on the top selling CD list for West Coast Blues on CD Baby.

These are also available on Apple iTunes

Phil has two full endorsements with Ernie Ball/MusicMan Guitars, and Ultimate Support music stands respectively.

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