HERE IS SOMETHING IN THE AIR. AHHHH, IT’S IN THE WIND. Chicago Wind! Two of Chicago’s most powerful Blues artists have joined forces along with their all-star band to create one of the most exciting and original blues events in recent history. Matthew Skoller is an award winning songwriter, harmonica player, singer and producer. As of 2017 he has been collaborating with one of Chicago’s most respected divas, Deitra Farr, on and off for exactly 30 years. Deitra, an award winning vocalist and songwriter, hired Skoller to be her harp player in 1987 when the 25-year-old first moved to Chicago. After decades of leading their own respective bands, the two Chicagoans felt it was the perfect moment to join forces. The synergy, sympatico and chemistry between these old friends is riveting!

**DEITRA FARR**
2017 Koko Taylor Queen of the Blues Award – JUS BLUES FOUNDATION MUSIC AWARDS

**MATTHEW SKOLLER**
Nominated for Blues Song of the Year 2016

**BLUES IMMIGRANT**
Top 10 Blues albums of 2016 – MOJO MAGAZINE

**CHICAGO WIND** is on tour and ready to blow through your town NOW!! Six of the most experienced, dynamic and original Blues artists have joined forces to create one of the most powerful and unique Blues shows anywhere.

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Deitra Farr  vocals

Deitra Farr is considered one of Chicago’s top vocalists, according to Living Blues Magazine (May 1997). Fiery, energetic, and soul-stirring describes this woman, who has over the years been nominated for Traditional Female Blues artist of the year by the W.C. Handy Awards, Female Blues Artist of the year by the Living Blues Critics Awards, the British Blues Connection Awards, and the Les Trophees France Blues awards. On October 4, 2015 Deitra was inducted into the Chicago Blues Hall of Fame as a “Legendary Blues Artist.” On December 9, 2016 the National Southern Soul Foundation gave Deitra “The Most Popular Blues Artist Award.” On August 3rd 2017 Deitra was awarded the “Koko Taylor Queen of the Blues Award” by The Jus Blues 17th Annual Music Awards.

This Chicago native began her career in 1975, singing with local soul bands, before starting her blues career in the early 1980s. When Deitra was 18-years-old, she recorded the lead vocals on Mill Street Depo’s record You Won’t Support Me. That record was a Cashbox Top 100 R&B hit in 1976. Over thirty years later, that recording has been re-released and is popular again worldwide.

In 1983, Deitra began her blues career working at the major Chicago blues clubs, such as The Kingston Mines, The Wise Fool’s Pub and Blue Chicago. She also toured the US and Canada with the Sam Lay Blues Band. From 1993 to 1996, Deitra was the lead singer with Mississippi Heat, recording two CDs with this all-star group.

In 1997, Deitra resumed her own solo career, continuing to sing blues, while reaching back to her soul music roots. After recording on eight previous CD projects with others, she recorded her first solo CD, The Search is Over, for the London-based JSP records. In 2005, Deitra released her second JSP CD Let it Go.

The multi-talented Deitra Farr is also a published writer, poet, songwriter, and painter. A graduate of Columbia College (Bachelor of Arts in Journalism), Deitra has recorded many of her own compositions and has written articles for the Chicago Daily Defender, The Chicago Blues Annual, and the Italian blues magazine Il Blues. Currently she has a column “Artist to Artist” in Living Blues Magazine.

Matthew Skoller  harmonica/vocals

Matthew Skoller is one of Chicago’s most respected harp blowers and blues bandleaders. For the past 32 years he has played all of Chicago’s heaviest showcase venues and toured much of the world with his super tight ensembles. Deeply rooted in the tradition of the Chicago blues elders with whom he worked and studied, Skoller has developed a unique style that conjures the past while being firmly planted in the present.

In the past 7 years he has performed on 4 Grammy nominated CDs and 2 of his original compositions have been nominated for song of the year by the Blues Music Awards. Including the title cut of his 2016 release Blues Immigrant which has been hailed by critics as one of the best Blues releases of that year. He has produced 2 of Lurrie Bell’s most critically acclaimed CDs and coproduced Chicago Blues A Living History: The (R)evolution Continues as well as 5 of his own albums.

But it is his live performances that has kept Skoller working in the Blues busi-
ness for his entire adult life. A consummate storyteller, his soulful vocals and muscular harp work are the foundation of his insightful, poetic and award-winning lyrics rest upon. Uniquely, Skoller brings a singer-songwriter sensibility to a lifetime of deep Chicago Blues experience.

Since moving to Chicago in 1987 Matthew has worked with and/or recorded with Jimmy Rogers, Koko Taylor, Big Daddy Kinsey and the Kinsey Report, John Primer, Lurrie Bell, J.W. Williams and the Chitown Hustlers, Willie Kent, Lovie Lee Watson, Big Time Sarah, Deitra Farr, Gloria Hardiman, Michael Coleman among many others.

A charismatic and fiery performer, the flame from the torch that was passed to him by the Blues elders he jammed with over the years (including Sunnysland Slim, Buddy Guy, Pinetop Perkins, Dave and Louis Myers, James Cotton, Carey Bell, Junior Wells, Billy Branch among many others) burns brighter than ever.

Tom Holland  Guitar/Vocals

Tom Holland grew up on Chicago’s south side and was influenced by the city’s rich jazz and blues heritage from a very young age. His father’s love of music and vast record collection was the catalyst for Tom's love of music, especially blues. He began playing guitar at age 13, learning by listening to Muddy Waters tapes, LPs, and CDs. Tom cites Muddy Waters, Earl Hooker, John Primer and Magic Slim as his greatest influences. By the time he turned 18 Tom was ready to start learning from the musicians on the Chicago blues scene.

He started playing professionally in Chicago at age 19, landing his first gig with L.V. Banks, in a beauty salon on Chicago’s south side. He worked with L.V. Banks on and off for four years. It was also during this time that Tom was introduced to Muddy Waters last guitarist, John Primer. John took him under his wing, and proceeded to give him an education in blues guitar. Tom toured the United States and Canada for two years with John as a member of his band, the Real Deal Blues Band. While in the band he recorded the 1998 Wolf Records release It’s a Blues Life. This was his first time in a recording studio and certainly not his last. It was also during this time that he formed the first incarnation of his own group The Shuffle Kings. As the year 2000 approached Tom took his place as one of the top sidemen in Chicago.

In late 1999 Tom was asked to join Chicago blues guitarist Eddy “The Chief” Clearwater’s band. He toured with Eddy Clearwater for three years as the band leader, and toured across the U.S., Canada, and made his first trip to Europe. He freelanced with Carey Bell, Phil Guy, A.C. Reed, Atlanta vocalist Sandra Hall, and countless other Chicago bluesmen and women. In November of 2003 he was approached by harp legend James Cotton, who was in need of a guitarist. He accepted and toured with James for 11 years.

Tom played on both of James Cotton’s Grammy Nominated releases, Giant, and Cotton Mouth Man, both on alligator Records. In 2013 Tom took the band back into the studio, recording No Fluff, Just the Stuff, on his own E Natchel Records imprint, which garnered rave reviews.

With over 20 years of stage experience under his belt, Tom Holland is, without a doubt one of the finest purveyors of classic Chicago Blues guitar styles.

Johnny Iguana  Keys

In addition to touring and recording with his bands the Claudettes (“A revelatory blend of jazz and blues, stirred with punk brio”—Greg Kot, Chicago Tribune), oh my god, Them vs. Them and Software Giant, pianist Johnny Iguana has played/recoded with Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, Otis Rush, Koko Taylor, James Cotton, Lil Ed, Carey Bell, Billy Boy Arnold, Lurrie Bell and more. He has played on Grammy-nominated albums with Junior Wells, the Muddy Waters 100 Band and Chicago Blues: A Living History and has performed everywhere from Beirut to Jakarta to extended tours of Japan, South America, Europe and North America.

Felton Crews  Bass

Chicago has nurtured many great musicians, and at the top of that list is bassist Felton L. Crews. Few bass players have the touring and recording experience of this Chicago native. Whether it be in jazz, blues or R&B, Felton has recorded and toured with the world’s most respected artists. Most notably, Felton was asked by Miles Davis to join his group. Felton performed on the Man With a Horn album and toured with Miles for over two years. While working with Miles, he also recorded with Ramsey Lewis, Robert Irving, the Dells and others. He also found the time to tour with top blues and soul artists such as Otis Rush, Otis Clay, Junior Wells, Son Seals, Billy Branch, Charlie Musselwhite and many others.

Marc Wilson  Drums

Born in Chicago, raised in Milwaukee, Marc picked up his first drum stick at age 12. Marc has been in the blues business for forty years.

Marc got a solid foundation early on, traveling with an inner-city gospel group, playing churches throughout the Chicago/Milwaukee area. Soon after this time, Marc joined the popular regional band Brian Lee Band.

In 1978 Marc moved to Lincoln, Nebraska and started playing with the Heart Murmurs, the house band for the infamous Zoo Bar. It was there that Marc had the unique opportunity to play with all the great touring blues bands of our time. This is where he met Anson Funderburgh and Sam Meyers which led his path to Texas, where he toured extensively throughout the US and Europe with Anson and the Rockets, winning 4 WC Handy awards in 1988. During this period Marc also recorded on Black Top records with many other blues artists.

In 1989 Marc hooked up with another guitar slinging band, Mike Morgan and the Crawl which was also very successful in the US and overseas, and had their tunes recorded on some national TV shows. Marc also played with Marcia Ball while in Texas.

Coming full circle, Marc moved back to his roots in the Chicago/Milwaukee area to play with his old friend, harmonica great, Matthew Skoller and the Matthew Skoller Band.

Marc has traveled to 4 continents and recorded tracks on over 50 CDs which include critically acclaimed records by Anson and the Rockets, Snooks Eaglin, Joe Guitar Hughes, Nappy Brown, Henry Qualls, and Robert Ealey to name a few. Marc also has recorded some tracks on a major motion picture China Moon.

Marc has had the privilege to play on stage with blues masters, contemporaries and rockers such as BB King, Buddy Guy, Big Walter Horton, Jimmy Rodgers, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Jimmy Vaughn, Susan Tedeschi, Boz Skaggs, Donovan, Charlie Musselwhite, and Johnny Johnson, and the beat goes on and on.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DEITRA AND MATTHEW: www.deitrafarr.com • www.matthewskoller.com

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