

# James Cotton

*"Among the greats of all time. He blazes on the harp with brilliant virtuosity."*

**ROLLING STONE**



“Conjure up a list of all-time great blues harmonica players, and high up on it you’ll see the name James Cotton.”

**NPR**

“The greatest blues harmonica player alive today.... Riveting, aggressive, rock-ready blues-harp.”

**WALL STREET JOURNAL**

“This is one of Cotton’s most rollicking albums, full of spirit and power. Cotton Mouth Man is as good as anything he’s ever done...James Cotton is still one of the greatest blues communicators of all time.”

**NO DEPRESSION**

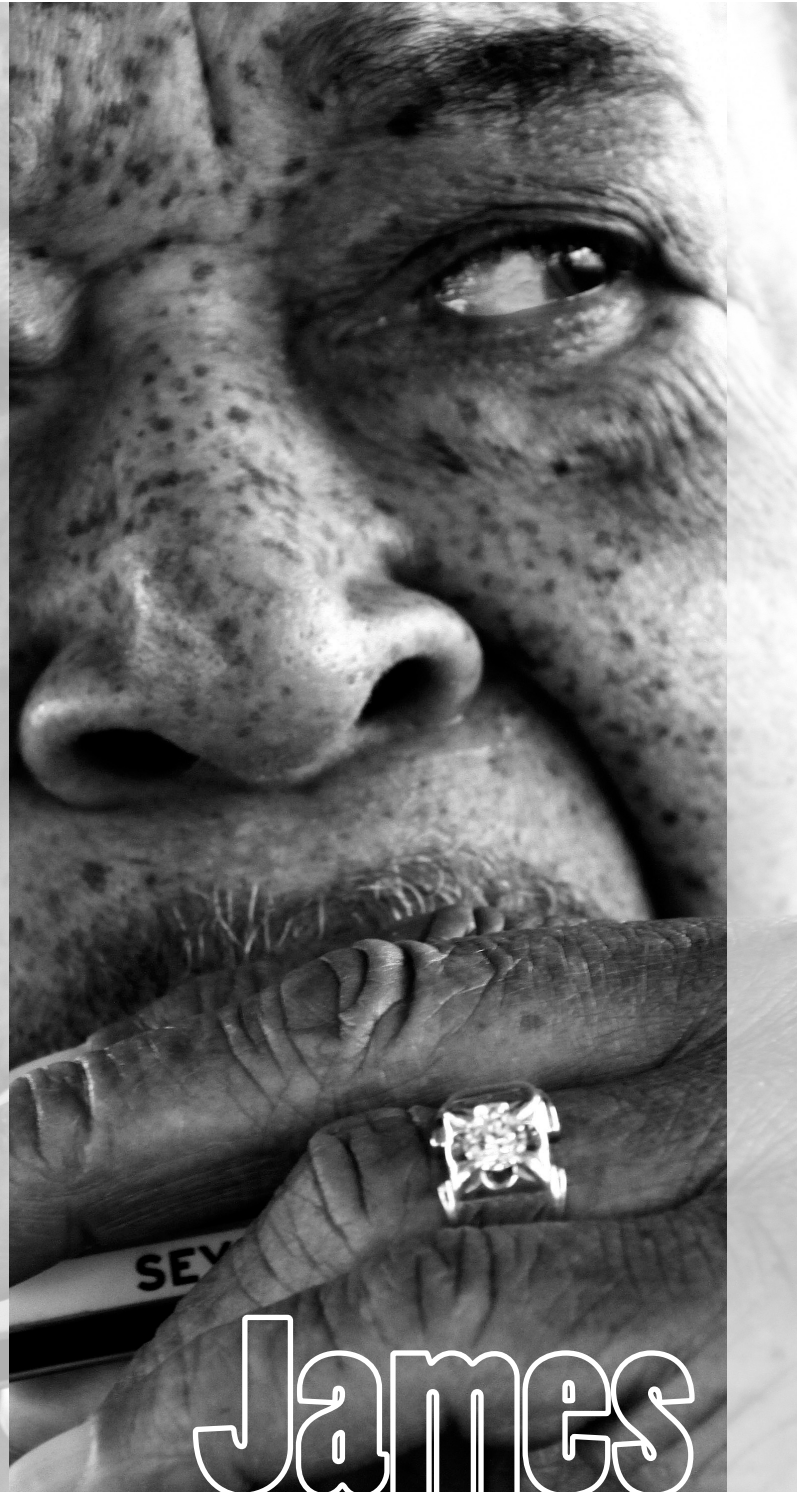
“The blues is all about feeling,” says Grammy Award-winning harmonica legend **JAMES “MR. SUPERHARP” COTTON**. “If I don’t feel it, I can’t play it.” Now in his 69th year as a professional musician (starting at age nine), James Cotton not only feels it, he lives it. His overwhelmingly powerful harmonica is one of the iconic sounds of the blues. His skills are unrivaled, his story the stuff of legend. Born on a cotton plantation in Tunica, Mississippi on July 1, 1935, Cotton learned harmonica directly from Sonny Boy Williamson II (Rice Miller) as a small child. He toured with Williamson and Howlin’ Wolf, recorded for Sun Records, and spent 12 years with Muddy Waters before stepping out on his own. Leading his own band, he earned his reputation as one of the most commanding live blues performers in the world—a man who could literally suck the reeds out of his harmonica from the pure force of his playing—one high-energy performance at a time.

In June 2010, Cotton was honored at New York’s Lincoln Center, where his friends Hubert Sumlin, Pinetop Perkins, Taj Mahal, Shemekia Copeland and others paid tribute to him in an all-star concert. In 2013 he toured as part of the all-star “Blues At The Crossroads II,” a tribute to Muddy Waters and Howlin’ Wolf, and he continues to perform nationally and internationally with his own high-octane James Cotton Blues Band. Nobody has more fun playing the blues, and the telepathic communication between Cotton and his band (whom he refers to as “my family”) creates inspiring, soulful music that leaves his audience on their feet, grinning and cheering for more.

**COTTON MOUTH MAN** proves James Cotton’s high-compression blues harmonica playing is still a true force of nature, while his songs and stories are a living history of the blues. As The San Francisco Examiner says, “James Cotton is an inimitable blues legend. His wailing harmonica blows them away. His improvisations on the blues are full of fun and good humor. The blues don’t get much better.”

“The greatest living blues harmonica player.”

**THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS**



**James  
Cotton**