

Bio Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters

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Ronnie Earl, Guitar

Legendary Blues guitarist Ronnie Earl is a four-time Blues Music Award winner as Guitar Player of the Year (1997, 1999, 2014, 2018), most recently receiving the award on May 10, 2018, in Memphis. He has served as an Associate Professor of Guitar at Berklee College of Music and has taught at the National Guitar summer workshop in Connecticut.

In 1995 Ronnie released *Ronnie Earl: Blues Guitar with Soul*, an instructional VHS tape re-released in DVD format in 2005. Earl's discography includes acclaimed albums on Stony Plain Records, Black Top, Bullseye Blues, Verve, and Telarc. His 1996 Bullseye Blues release, *Grateful Heart: Blues and Ballads*, won Downbeat Magazine's Blues Album of the Year, and in 2004 Earl's *Hey José* won the Best Blues/R&B Song at the 3rd Annual Independent Music Awards. In 2022, Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters celebrate 35 years as a band. The recent releases by Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters, *Spread the Love* (2010), *Just for Today* (2013), and *Good News* (2014), *Father's Day* (2015), *Maxwell Street* (2016), and *The Luckiest Man* (2017), *Beyond The Blue Door* (2019) and *Rise Up* (2020) all debuted on the top ten Billboard Blues charts and received wide critical acclaim. *Mercy Me* (2022) is Earl's 14th album in partnership with Stony Plain and his 28th career album.

Ronnie Earl has played alongside such legends as Hubert Sumlin, Earl King, Muddy Waters, Junior Wells, Kim Wilson and the Fabulous Thunderbirds, Jimmie Vaughan, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Carlos Santana, Eric Clapton, The Allman Brothers Band and many others, including, B.B. King, who said about Ronnie, "I feel the respect and affection for him that a father feels for his son. He is one of the most serious blues guitarists you can find today. He makes me proud."

The Broadcasters

Dave Limina, Hammond B3 and piano

Dave Limina is a Professor in the Piano Department at Berklee College of Music, where he received the Most Valuable Contribution to the Performance Curriculum Award in 2001 for his work in creating and developing the Hammond organ program. As a keyboardist, composer, and arranger, Dave has performed with Gloria Estefan, Duke Robillard, Courage Brothers, Mark Murphy, Lori McKenna, Mighty Sam McClain, Kenny Neal, Catie Curtis, Freedy Johnston, Martha Reeves, Brooke Benton, Toy Caldwell, Felix Cavalieri, Steve Forbert, and The RB Funkestra with Fred Wesley and Eric Krasno. Also Grammy winning songwriters, Robert Lee Castleman, Gary Nicholson, Paula Cole, Mark Walker and Steve Leslie. He has been the keyboardist/conductor for the first national touring company of the Broadway musical *Rent*. He received Boston Music Award nominations for his work with Courage Brothers, Ronnie Earl, and Mighty Sam McClain. He played keyboards on Michelle Willson's *Wake Up Call*, which was a Boston Music Awards winner in 2001 for "Best Blues Album". He is the author of "Hammond Organ Complete" (Hal Leonard), and the instructional video/DVD "Accelerate Your Keyboard Playing" (Rittor Music).

Diane Blue, Vocals

Boston's Diane Blue is a soul-stirring vocalist, skillful harmonica player and a crowd-pleasing entertainer. Ms. Blue is the first female member of Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters, prominently featured on the band's albums since 2013, and has received rave reviews on her vocals and performance. Voted "Outstanding Female Singer" in The Blues Audience 2015 & 2011 Readers' Poll, Ms. Blue is a soulful and sassy performer with a strong and energetic delivery, serving up her own spin on soul, blues and R&B. She won the 2010 Massachusetts Blues Challenge, earning the honor of competing at the 2011 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee. She was nominated "Best Blues/R&B Act" and "Best Female Vocalist" in 2007 by the Providence Phoenix and also nominated "Best Local Blues Act" by Motif Magazine in 2007. Diane has shared the stage with many greats including Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson, Irma Thomas, Toni Lynn Washington and the late Big Jack Johnson of Clarksdale, Mississippi who called Diane a "monster on the harp."

Forrest Padgett, Drums

Forrest Padgett joined the Broadcasters August 2016. Forrest is a highly regarded and respected drummer in the Boston area and we welcome him to the group! Forrest has played drums professionally for over forty years, performing with such artists as The Radio Kings, Brain Templeton, Paul Rishell, Duke Robillard, Little Charlie Baty, Charlie Musselwhite, Luther Guitar Jr. Johnson, Lavern Baker, the Radio Kings, East of Eden, and more. He attended Crane School of Music in Potsdam, NY, and the Berklee College of Music in Boston. He graduated from Framingham State University with a B.A. in English.

Paul Kochanski, Electric and Upright Bass

Paul Kochanski is a Grammy-nominated electric and upright bass player who brings his solid time and feel to the current Broadcasters lineup. He was born and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where he began his performing career at age 14. He attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston before becoming immersed in that city's vibrant original music scene. In 1990, he co-founded the Swinging Steaks – an Americana/alt.country group that landed a recording contract with legendary Capricorn Records, leading to national tours with Los Lobos, The Band and as headliners. Around that time, Paul became involved in the Boston blues scene, where he first had the good fortune to perform with Forrest Padgett, the Broadcaster's current drummer. As the Steaks' activity waned, Paul began working as a sideman for many New England-based singer-songwriters, and has recorded and/or performed with over 100 artists including Alastair Moock (with whom Paul shares his Grammy nomination), the legendary "Big Al" Anderson (formerly of NRBQ) and Lori McKenna (appearing with her on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert February 2017). Paul's instinct to serve the song and remain in the moment makes him a natural fit with Ronnie and the Broadcasters. He had subbed a few shows with the group over the years and was proud to contribute to the band's "Spread the Love" album, playing and co-writing "Blues for Dr. Donna." Honored to be including in the elite club of musicians who have been named Broadcasters, Paul looks forward to writing the next chapter in the history of this illustrious band.

For more information about Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters, see www.RonnieEarl.com or [@RonnieEarlBlues | Linktree](#)