



JOHNNY DRUMMER
(Thessex Johns)
An Earwig Music
Recording Artist for

"Drummer has managed a distinctive sound in a sound-alike idiom..." –Living Blues

"Drummer's suave vocals, front and center, are rich and full of character..." -Blues Revue

BACKGROUND

Johnny Drummer was born Thessex Johns, in Alligator, MS, just south of Clarksdale in the Mississippi Delta. Johnny Drummer started playing keyboards when he was twelve. Later, Junior Wells started him on harmonica. Johnny learned to play drums when he was in the military. When he got out of the Army he was living in Chicago. Johnny Drummer soon started playing the drums in Lovie Lee's band and sitting in with Big Walter Horton and Carey Bell. In 1966 Muddy Waters asked Johnny to sit in with his band. Muddy wanted Johnny to go on the road with him, but Johnny had a day job and was making more money than Muddy was offering, so he turned Muddy down. Johnny Drummer's band (**Johnny Drummer and the Starlites**) worked just about everywhere they hired a band on the South and West sides of Chicago. Then Johnny and his band started hitting the bigger clubs then, like Walton's Corner, The Bonanza, High Chapparal, Guys and Gals and Beale Street. Johnny Drummer's band also backed everybody – Z.Z. Hill, Denise LaSalle, Willie Mabon, and Junior Wells. They also backed a lot of the Brunswick recording artists on shows. In 1962 he cut a record for Wonderful Records, which featured Eddie King, Willie Black, Roy Johnson, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith and Otis Spann.

Johnny Drummer has stayed active his entire life as a performing musician. The electronic keyboard is his primary instrument. During a show he may pick up his guitar or harmonica if the mood strikes him.

JOHNNY DRUMMER IS AN EARWIG MUSIC RECORDING ARTIST:

<https://www.earwigmusic.com/>

[Unleaded Blues](#) Release Date, May 20, 2000

[Rockin' In The Juke Joint](#) Release Date, January 9, 2007

[Bad Attitude](#) Release Date, January 28, 2014

[Angels Sing The Blues](#) Release Date March 23, 2015

[It's So Nice](#) Release Date, September 20, 2016

Note: Angels Sing The Blues is a live performance recorded in 2007 at Chicago's Taste Entertainment Center--Liz Mandeville, Mary Lane and Shirley Johnsons. Backed by keyboard player Johnny Drummer, and his soulful, funky band The Starlites.

BOOKING CONTACT: deltablues@bellsouth.net

Carol Marble 662-347-2869 Mississippi Delta Blues, Inc.

www.msdeltablues.com/johnnydrummer

JOHNNY DRUMMER'S PRESENT CAREER

Johnny Drummer is an International performer who performs consistently in major festivals and shows throughout the world. He is now living in Horn Lake MS after spending many years in Chicago. Johnny toured in Poland and Finland in 2018 and is a regular at the world renowned Juke Joint "Reds" in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Johnny Drummer says that **"he travels by Globe rather than map."** Travels include acclaimed performances at the Chicago Blues Festival, Pocono Blues Festival, University of Illinois Blues Festival, Mississippi Valley Blues Festival, Unity Festival in Greenwood, Mississippi, and several others in the US, Canada including places such as The Netherlands, Germany, Finland, Poland, Quebec, France, and Beirut, Lebanon.

HONORS

***Noted on a Mississippi Highway Blues Marker in Alligator Mississippi

***Recognized by the City of Chicago for his contribution to Chicago music.

***First Place In The International Songs Writers Competition (2016) Johnny Drummer **won First Place In The International Songs Writers Competition (2016), for his song AIN'T NO SECRET IN A SMALL TOWN**, released by Earwig Music on the cd BAD ATTITUDE.

***The Chicago Blues Hall of Fame - Johnny Drummer has been Inducted Twice into The Chicago Blues Hall Of Fame

***Awarded the honor and title "Master Keyboardist, Drummer and Vocalist" in the Fraternal Order of Celestial Musicians sponsored by The Black American Blues Historical Society of Canada

SELECTED MAGAZINES & PUBLICITY

*Pictured on the Cover of three separate issues of Big City Rhythm and Blues magazine along with several Chicago legendary musicians.

*Pictured on the Cover of Block Magazine in Belgium

*In a Featured story in Soul Bag when performing in France.

*A Featured story on Johnny Drummer's life published in Big City Rhythm and Blues.