#### **About**

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society was formed in 2010 as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. The PCBS now has more than 250 members, including 16 member bands. It is governed by a board of directors, and is an affiliate of the national Blues Foundation headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee.

### Mission

To educate the public to foster an appreciation of the American heritage known as the Blues; preserve the Blues tradition so that future generations may come to a knowledge and appreciation of the Blues; and to promote Blues music in East Central Illinois.









#### PRAIRIE CROSSROADS BLUES SOCIETY

Revised 10/12/25

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society P.O. Box 8652 Champaign, IL 61826-8652

### PRAIRIE CROSSROADS BLUES SOCIETY

Preserve Promote and Educate the local community about the blues.

# BITS Blues In The Schools

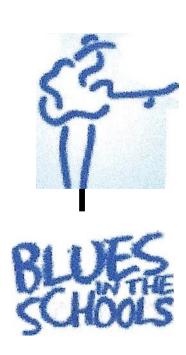


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### Blues In The Schools



The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society creates opportunities for children to learn about the roots and history of the Blues, and to play some Blues music for themselves!

Since 2012, we have been sponsoring Blues in the Schools programs across Champaign-Urbana with this goal in mind. These programs have included some of these features:

An all-school assembly to showcase Blues music played by a local Blues band

A short concert for parents and classmates at the end of the program

After-school classes in basic Blues harmonica taught by a professional musician

After-school classes in the roots and history of Blues in the US taught by a PhD student in African-American History

Learning to write a Blues song, individually or collectively

A Hohner harmonica for each child in the class to keep

### Benefits of the Program

Learning about the roots and history of Blues music is an enlightening experience for these students. It is important to know about this purely American art form. Tying together the history and the music in this way is a deeply enriching experience for children which they are likely to remember for many years to come.

### Past Programs

The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society has conducted programs at the following schools in Champaign and Urbana.

Stratton Elementary – Spring 2025 Robeson Elementary – Fall 2024 Yankee Ridge & Thomas Paine – Spring 2024 Dr. Preston Williams School – Fall 2023 Martin Luther King School – Fall 2022 Kenwood Elementary School - Blues Fest 2019 South Side & Bottenfield Schools - Spring 2019 Wiley School - Spring 2019 Urbana Free Library - March 2018 Urbana Adult Education (Harmonicas) - Fall 2017 South Side Elementary School - Spring 2015 Blues In The Library - Spring 2014 Don Moyer's Boys & Giris Club - Spring 2014 Thomas Paine School - Fall 2013 Champaign Blues Brews & BBQ Fest 2013 Library Events - Spring 2013 Garden Hills School - Spring 2013 Champaign Blues Brews & BBQ Fest 2012 Wiley School - Spring 2012

## Support for Blues in the Schools

We have received support for our programs from Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, the Urbana Arts Council, the Orange Krush Foundation, Samuel Music, Louie's Dixie Kitchen, Hohner USA and donations from the community. The high level of cooperation we have enjoyed among the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society, our supporters, and the Public School Systems is a great example of community partnership.

We look forward to creating more community relationships of this type in the future. PCBS appreciates your support for these efforts!

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