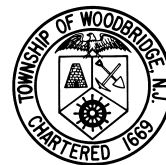


NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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- ▶ **“Music on Main Street” Concerts Kick Off with Blues Extravaganza**
- ▶ **Guy Davis and Samuel James celebrate music of America’s Blues pioneers**

WOODBRIDGE, NJ – The popular **“Music on Main Street”** concert series resumes Sept. 16 in Woodbridge with **Guy Davis and Samuel James**, two acclaimed masters of the deep-country Blues.

The Fall edition of Central Jersey’s newest live music series takes place at United Methodist Church, 69 Main Street, downtown Woodbridge, at 7:30 p.m. with traditional blues artists **Guy Davis** and **Samuel James** (Sept. 16), Mississippi songwriter **Steve Forbert** (Oct. 7), country-rock legends **Poco** (Oct. 21), eclectic folk and bluegrass virtuoso **David Bromberg** (Oct. 28) and singer-songwriters **Susan Werner** and **Cheryl Wheeler** (Nov. 18).

Guy Davis and **Samuel James** are compelling contemporary Bluesmen who excel at channelling the powerful musical mojo of their historic forebears.

What’s that mean in Plain English? That these guys play the blue-est Blues you’re going to hear in the 21st century.



Over the last 150 years, the Blues has been transformed from an obscure rural style of the American South to an eclectic idiom that forms the foundation of rock, jazz and pop and is enjoyed worldwide by audiences of every conceivable nationality.

Guy Davis and Samuel James show the Blues in all its diverse musical splendor, with classic and original songs that paint a dramatic portrait of how the Blues evolved in the past and continues to influence music today.

It’s the most exciting Musical History Lesson you’ll ever hear.

► Like the best early bluesmen, **Guy Davis** is, at heart, a gifted storyteller. A master at setting intimate, richly nuanced tales to stomping acoustic blues backing and accompaniment from mandolin, banjo, and accordion, he helped revitalize the state of Country Blues in the 1990s with a string of critically acclaimed albums for Red House Records.



Guy has been nominated for nine Handy Awards over the years including “Best Traditional Blues Album”, “Best Blues Song” (“*Waiting On the Cards to Fall*”) and two times as “Best Acoustic Blues Artist”.

He’s the son of **Ossie Davis** and **Ruby Dee**, two of the most famous African-American actors of their generation. As one critic noted, “With Guy Davis, the talent apple didn’t fall far from the tree; it just landed in a different orchard.”

In fact, Guy is also a renowned stage and film actor. He’ll be starring in the Broadway revival of *Finian’s Rainbow*, opening for previews October 8, 2009 at the St. James Theatre in Manhattan. [The Sept. 16 Music on Main Street concert is his only concert this fall.](#)

► **Samuel James** has been likened to a musical time machine – a riveting performer who as soon as he plucks the first string and sings his first note sends the listener back in time to the birth of the Blues.

Like Guy Davis, Samuel James also has a distinctive artistic heritage. His grandfather played blues guitar in the early 1900s. Samuel’s father was a professional pianist and trombone player. Samuel learned to tap dance at five, learned piano at eight and was touring the Northeast professionally by age 12.

With musical influences ranging from Blues legends Son House and Sonny Terry to Gus Cannon and Charley Patton, Samuel James is equally at home on guitar, banjo, harmonica, hambone or piano and delivers a stunning, power-packed show.



Individual concert tickets for all Music on Main Street concerts are \$22 advance, \$25 at the door, with discounts for 3 or more concerts. Advance tickets are available by calling (732) 634-4500 x6015 or by ordering online at www.WoodbridgeArtsNJ.com.

► To interview Guy Davis, call Thom Wolke Management at (603) 675-5454.

► To interview Samuel James, call Steve Hecht, Piedmont Talent, at (704) 399-2210.

The 2009 Music on Main Street Concert Series – Woodbridge, NJ

Oct. 7: Steve Forbert. Steve Forbert is a master songwriter hailing from Meridian, Mississippi, whose emergence from the New York folk scene in the early 1980s began with *Romeo’s Tune* and was quickly followed by a string of hit songs and albums – *Jackrabbit Slim*, *Streets of This Town*, *Evergreen Boy*, *Young Guitar Days* and more. Still a prolific writer and performer, the honesty and dignity of his approach to music continues to have an almost magical spell on his growing and loyal coterie of fans. www.steveforbert.com

Oct. 21: An Acoustic Evening with Poco. Since 1968 **Poco** has pioneered a smooth country-rock sound that has influenced scores of artists from Loggins & Messina to The Eagles. Their hits include *Pickin' Up the Pieces*, *You Better Think Twice*, *Kind Woman*, *A Good Feelin' to Know*, *Rose of Cimarron*, *Crazy Love*, *Heart of the Night* and more on two dozen original albums. **An Acoustic Evening with Poco** presents singer/songwriters and master instrumentalists Rusty Young, Paul Cotton and Jack Sundrud. www.poconut.com

Oct. 28: David Bromberg. Having gained prominence as a session guitarist in the 1960s for folk and country legends such as Bob Dylan, Ringo Starr, Willie Nelson and The Eagles, **David Bromberg** embarked on a solo career in 1971 that resulted in a dozen acclaimed albums. Weaving through bluegrass, folk, blues and rockabilly, Bromberg is a talented songwriter and master instrumentalist on fiddle, guitar, mandolin and dobro. www.davidbromberg.net

Nov. 18: Susan Werner and Cheryl Wheeler. Over the course of her colorful career, **Susan Werner** has cultivated a reputation as a daring and innovative songwriter with a killer live show. Her work infuses traditional music styles and methods with her intriguing contemporary worldview, constantly challenging listeners to experience music from a fresh and unexpected perspective. **Cheryl Wheeler's** songs have been covered by artists as diverse as Dan Seals, Peter Paul & Mary, Kenny Loggins, Garth Brooks, Suzy Boggus, Melanie, Bette Midler, Kathy Mattea and Holly Near. A natural story teller and gifted comedienne, Cheryl is a gifted songwriter with a beautiful voice. www.susanwerner.com and www.cherylwheeler.com.

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The 2009 Music on Main Street Concert Series – Woodbridge, NJ

Sept. 16 – **Blues Extravaganza with Guy Davis & Samuel James**

Oct. 7 – **Steve Forbert**

Oct. 21 – **An Acoustic Evening with Poco**

Oct. 28 – **David Bromberg**

Nov. 18 – **Susan Werner & Cheryl Wheeler**

Place: United Methodist Church, 69 Main Street,
Woodbridge, NJ

Showtime: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$22 advance, \$25 door

Advance online: www.WoodbridgeArtsNJ.com

Advance phone: (732) 634-4500 x6015

** The Music on Main Street Concert Series is sponsored by **
United Skates of America and Woodbridge Township