

## Carl Henry Bio

Carl Henry has been a Detroit music scene "favorite secret" for the past twenty plus years. He's played venues, stages and clubs throughout the metro Detroit area and many parts of the US. He's had the pleasure to meet and perform with many of the greats in Blues music. He has perfected his craft the only way he felt he should, from them, and by exceeding his audience's expectations with each performance.

Carl plays both the guitar and dobro with an energy & passion that you must see, hear & feel to believe. His earthy, sometimes gritty vocals come from the heart and a soul that has experienced lifetimes of angst and pleasure. Carl's commanding stage presence & hypnotic energy gives him the uncanny ability to draw you into the performance where you won't want to leave anytime soon. There are no spectators here, only participants in the Carl Henry music experience!

Carl started performing in the early 1980's, playing blues in local Detroit clubs, like The Soup Kitchen Saloon & The Attic to name a few. He sat in and jammed with artists like Willie D Warren, "Uncle" Jesse White, The Butler Twins, Grammy winner Johnny "Yard Dog" Jones, and many of the other blues acts of the day, most of whom are now considered Detroit legends. Besides his solo efforts, he has worked both with his own band, The Carl Henry Band, and for some years was a member of the group Maggie's Farm, which garnered him a 2004 nomination as 'Best Blues Instrumentalist' in the Detroit Music Awards.

As one of the revered Blues performers of the Detroit area, Carl has always been an active supporter of the Detroit music scene. You may still see him like the legends of old doing benefits throughout the Detroit area and encouraging aspiring musicians in much the same way as he was mentored, keeping the music alive!

Through Eddie Burns, another Detroit blues legend, Carl met John Lee Hooker. The kind bluesman taught Carl some of the "tricks of the trade" on guitar tunings and performance tips. In 1993, Carl was performing in Pennsylvania, John Lee was there, and happened to hear Carl's show. Afterwards, John Lee reached out his hand to Carl for a friendly handshake, and as John Lee saw Carl ready to take the hand, he pulled his away, exclaiming with a smile "You're too hot, you're too hot!"

While Carl's past is steeped in the gritty, working man, hard time blues of Detroit, it isn't the only type of music that Carl does. He has had other musical influences throughout his life and has a very extensive country and folk/rock background as well. To quote Tony Berci, Carl's harmonica player, "You never know what you're going to play with Carl.... you better be ready for anything on the fly."

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Carl sites one of his biggest heroes in music to be Johnny Cash, saying: "You in my opinion have only a few great American artists... there aren't many that hold a candle to Johnny Cash". If your to ask him the genre of music he plays, he will simply tell you "American".

While Carl has a great love of other people's music and performing their songs at the shows he does, Carl took up the craft of song writing himself. Carl never felt his own original material was very good, until one evening, among his closest friends, he started playing a few of his own original songs. They were amazed and strongly encouraged Carl to start performing his own original tunes for his audiences. To the delight of those audiences he has, and to the resounding approval from the people that mean the most to him, his family, friends and fans.

As an intuitive songwriter for today, many of Carl's songs depict the struggle of the common man. Carl has even had some of his lyrics published in Detroit media publications, such as "The Record", through the years, as representative of the times we live in.

In 2004, Carl was nominated for "Best Blues Instrumentalist" in the Detroit Music Awards. He was the solo/duo winner in 2004, selected by the Detroit Blues Society to compete in Memphis, TN in the "International Blues Challenge." He was also a finalist in the 2009, and 2010 Detroit Blues Challenges. He has toured the south as well, with his "Tearin' Up Texas" tour in 2006, and a entire year spent touring the southern US in 1989, as well as a small Memphis tour in 2004.

He was asked by the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale Mississippi to send down his picture to hang on the wall in the gallery, after witnessing his musical performances in Memphis, and other venues in Mississippi. Not bad for a working class boy from Troy, Michigan.

Carl's recordings:

In 1993/1994 Carl recorded his first album, "Southbound Home" which was strictly a private release to sell at his shows. It received rave kudos from his fans who asked for more. Carl then prepared another cd in 1999, again a private release "Songs From The Five & Dime". Grammy nominated instrumentalist, Sergio Lara was so taken by Carl's music, that when a mutual friend asked him to listen to a few cuts that he has asked to participate and perform on the this CD. To quote Carl, "Sergio Lara did the closest thing I have ever seen to a Vulcan mind meld. It was like he crawled into the music, and had a new home".

This cd is scheduled for a worldwide re-release in summer of 2012, truly marking another milestone in the career of this gifted songwriter/performer.

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Carl has also appeared on the Russell Clepper CD "Someplace Like Heaven", to great reviews in the Texas music scene.

In 2011, Carl and his band, The Carl Henry Band, was proud to support the Detroit Blues Society's Headstone Project, which places headstones on the unmarked graves of blues greats resting in the Detroit area. They released a cd, with all funds going directly to the project, on No Cover Records, titled "The Headstone Project". Also appearing on this live recording are The Alligators, and Detroit harmonica legend "Little" Sonny Willis. The cd is available at [www.nocover.net](http://www.nocover.net).

Also in 2011, Carl started working from his home studio, wanting to reproduce the solo performances just like he does them in solo shows onstage. Alone, and acoustic. So he grabbed his pen, wrote some more songs, and released his first nationwide cd, "It's Just The Blues" The title cut alone harkens back to Carl's roots, from a Uncle Jesse White comment made to Carl years before, "It isn't black or white, it's just the blues".

Carl is at work yet again, on creating another new cd, with a scheduled completion date of summer of 2012.

CARL HENRY has played many venues all over the US through the years. Here are only a few:

The 2011 Arts Beats & Eats festival

The 2011 Motown Winterblast in Detroit

The 2011 Riverdays Festival in Detroit

The 2009 Bluesfest International Festival in both Windsor, and London Ontario, Canada

2010 Ceasar's Palace in Windsor, Canada

The 2010 Ferndale Blues Festival

2010 at Callahan's in Auburn Hills, MI, opening for Kim Simmonds of Savoy Brown fame

2009 at Callahan's opening for Johnny A

In 2006, Carl toured Austin, and San Antonio Texas, playing venues including:

The Austlander, Ruta Maya, and many many more

The 1991 Detroit Blues Festival in Hart Plaza

The 1992 Detroit Indoor Blues Festival at St. Andrews Hall (Carl opened all three days)

The W.C. Handy Hall in Memphis, TN

The New Daisy Theater in Memphis, TN

1993 MGM Grand (as a member of Maggie's Farm)

The 1992 Kalamazoo Blues Festival (as a member of Maggie's Farm)

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Thumbfest 1992, 1993, 1994, & 1995...

Tenny Street, Dearborn, MI

The Soup Kitchen Saloon

The Attic

Northfield Roadhouse

Oxford Tap Room

The Lower Town Grill

North Peak & Apache Trout Grille, Traverse City, MI

Bars and Honky Tonks throughout the deep South and Eastern part of the U.S.

...And a thousand more festivals and clubs throughout the USA.

Catch "The Guitar Matador" when he's in your area, you're bound to go on a musical journey that you won't soon forget!

Carl's website is at: [www.carlhenrymusic.net](http://www.carlhenrymusic.net)