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STROBELIGHT

A roomful of blues

(image right - Ottomatic Slim at the 4th Avenue Theater. Scott Christiansen photo.)



It's tough to say when Son Henry's Fifth Annual Blues for My Brother concert peaked. It may have been when headliner Ottomatic Slim (Otto Lenz of Massachusetts) jumped off the Fourth Avenue Theater stage during his first solo and kept blowing on his harp amidst the crowded dance floor. Or maybe it was in the middle of Melissa Bledsoe Fisher's intricate electric piano solo during Big Robert Tyler's vocal set. Or when Blue Lisa Monroe brought her Texas accent to the words "you can have my husband, but please don't mess with my man."

The Friday, November 11, concert was a veritable blues summit in front of an appreciative audience and for a good cause. Son Henry (aka Karl Henry) has promoted Blues For My Brother for the benefit of Catholic Social Services' Brother Francis Shelter for five years now. In the words of emcee



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Mike McCormick, “you gotta be wicked, wicked good to this man” both for Henry’s patronage and his musicianship. Henry returned for this year’s show after spending the better part of 2005 traveling in South America and Europe. Recently he’s been hosting a jam session at The Blue Lamp in his new home base of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Friday night’s show might have peaked when Henry took a stool on the stage to play his lap guitar and sing “I’m a bad, bad boy.” Or maybe it was when Henry traded licks with guitarist Stu Schulman during Tyler’s performance of “Have You Ever Seen a One-Eyed Woman Cry?”...

- *Scott Christiansen*



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