

THE ORIGINAL **BLUES** **FESTIVAL** GUIDE 2006

Alabama Blues Project



Meet the Alabama Blues Project Kids

The Alabama Blues Project Blues Camp Band is composed of thirteen students who have participated in the ABP after-school program in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The after-school program and Summertime Blues Camp formed in 1998, drawing students from the Tuscaloosa Boys and Girls Club, the Tuscaloosa Methodist Children's Home, the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority and the wider community. The program is completely voluntary and free to students, and brings in sixty new beginning students each year. The advanced blues band is composed of many students who joined the original program in 1998, as well as more recent members.

The band meets once a week for rehearsals with professional blues musician instructors. They regularly perform at community events including Cityfest, Kentuck Art Festival, Tuscaloosa Crawfish Festival, and the University of Alabama's Earthfest. Most recently the Blues Camp Band performed in Memphis at the Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive award ceremony. This year, the group is planning to record a CD during the summertime blues camp.

The Alabama Blues Project has a mission to promote and preserve the blues as a traditional and contemporary art form through educational programs, exhibitions and live performances that educate while they entertain. ABP sponsors include the Children's Trust Fund, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, Alligator Records, Kenny Neal, Bonnie Raitt, and many more!