

BIG HARP GEORGE



Big Harp George (George Bisharat) is a San Francisco Bay Area-based singer, songwriter, and harmonica player known for playing jumping West Coast blues. The first blues artist featuring the chromatic harmonica—the “big harp”—George earned nominations for Best New Artist Album from The Blues Foundation and Blues Blast Magazine for his 2014 debut album, Chromaticism. His fourth album, Living in the City, garnered fifty reviews in 10 different languages, and was nominated for an Independent Blues Music Award as Best Traditional Album.

Now his fifth album Cut My Spirit Loose is receiving acclaim for its sometimes searing, sometimes hilarious commentary on modern life. With 13 original songs and topics ranging from trash day as the social highlight of the COVID shutdown to relatives ranting at Thanksgiving, Cut My Spirit Loose is a blues album of and for the 21st century.

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DISCOGRAPHY



Cut My Spirit Loose - 2023

My Spirit Loose, offers up the same joys I have come to expect when listening to George's music. He consistently brings traditional blues, for which I have great affection, and infuses it with something entirely new that is a welcome treat for longtime listeners of the form.

— David Mac, *BLUES JUNCTION Productions*

With the release of "Cut My Spirit Loose," Big Harp George serves notice that he is one of our best chromatic harmonica players, a compelling vocalist, and a highly original songwriter making his own unique and relevant contributions to the blues. Not many bluesmen are so convincing across so many different styles—Dixieland, blues, swing, New Orleans funk, even an inspired Beatles cover. "Cut My Spirit Loose" is also a sonic gem, thanks to the brilliant engineering of Kid Andersen, the soulful prowess of an all-star cast of supporting musicians, and the band's masterful arrangements

— Kim Field, author, *The Blues Dream of Billy Boy Arnold*

Big Harp George returns with a jaunty batch of songs that pit the swing of the Dorsey Brothers with the playful pizzazz of Louis Jordan. Along the way he stops off for some serious cultural digs. It's all done with style and flair that makes for a fulfilling listening experience. — Michael Kinsman, *Blues Music Magazine*

I have enjoyed the music of Big Harp George for several years now. His latest album, Cut



Living In The City - 2020

"Living in the City delivers a sonic treasure for anyone who appreciates deep thoughts and blues without borders."

— Marty Gunther, *Blues Blast Magazine!*



Uptown Cool - 2018

"For its combination of songwriting, musicianship, and its relaxed, unforced approach [Uptown Cool] is clearly one of the strongest blues releases this year." — Jim Hynes, *Making a Scene!*



Wash My Horse In Champagne - 2016

"[Big Harp George] remains an absolute master of the chromatic harmonica, blowing brilliantly sculpted, richly melodic solos and obbligatos throughout the 13 tunes that comprise the present disc."

— Lee Hildebrand, *Living Blues*



Chromaticism - 2014

...Bisharat impresses with tone, creativity and control of his large, customized chromatic Hohners in entertaining originals and choice selections from the 1950s..."

— Frank-John Hadley, *Downbeat Magazine*

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NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Nominee, Independent Blues Music Awards (*Traditional Album, Traditional Band, Male Artist*)

Nominee, Sean Costello Rising Star Award for 2016, Blues Blast Magazine

Nominee, Best New Artist Album for 2015, Blues Blast Magazine (*Chromaticism*)

Nominee, Best New Artist Album for 2015, Blues Music Awards (*Chromaticism*)

Selected as one of fifteen rising harmonica stars, Living Blues Magazine, August 2014 issue

SELECT PERFORMANCES

Hayward-Russell City Blues Festival "Harmonica Explosion"

Zack's Botafogo, Rio de Janeiro

Wilebski's Blues Saloon, Saint Paul (featured artist in Paul Barry/Harold Tremblay's Harmonica Blast)

The Smoking Pig, Fremont CA

Club Fox, Redwood City CA

Biscuits & Blues, San Francisco CA

Poor House Bistro, San Jose CA

Eli's Mile High Club, Oakland CA

Corte Madera Community Foundation Summer Concert, Corte Madera CA

Waterfront Blues Festival, Portland OR



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