

## Sheryl Warner and the Southside Homewreckers

“Dynamic” – “expressive” – “soulfully powerful” – that’s how national blues and roots publications describe vocalist Sheryl Warner. Add the gritty yet lyrical harmonica lines of Rick Manson and the propulsive guitar picking of Gregg Kimball, and you have a trio that delivers straight-up blues, ragtime, and roots tunes with a modern edge.

Paying homage to the men and women who created the blues idiom has always been important to the band and these pioneers have provided a great source of inspiration for their music. Along the way, Sheryl, Gregg, and Rick have had the good luck to learn directly from traditional artists such as John Jackson, John Cephas, and Nat Riddles, and to meet and perform with contemporary performers such as Ann Rabson and Roy Bookbinder.

The Southside Homewreckers respect the tradition – that’s why the band’s members helped organize and fund the James River Blues Society’s historic marker program honoring Virginia’s blues greats, pioneered the River City Blues Society’s “Blues in the Schools” program, and performed at numerous benefits for various blues causes and artists in need. In classrooms, at blues festivals, and in museums, they’ve explained the Piedmont blues, told the story of the great women blues singers, and helped kids build folk instruments. Making great new/old music and keeping the tradition alive – that’s the mission of this Virginia blues trio.

For further information visit the band’s website at: [www.sherylwarner.com](http://www.sherylwarner.com).

### Sample Reviews

“Warner’s strong voice is crystal clear in the high registers and earthy when she dips down to deliver the punch lines of Kid Bailey’s lovely ‘Rowdy Blues,’ trailing off like an outbound train rounding a bend.” – *Blues Access*

“One of the most expressive and powerful voices in blues today. . . . When Warner sings Sippie Wallace’s ‘Woman Be Wise’ or Ida Cox’s ‘Wild Women Don’t Have the Blues,’ you are sure she knows what she’s singing about.” – *Dirty Linen: The Magazine of Folk and World Music*

"Warner has a clear, authoritative voice and a dynamic but nicely unaffected style that works as well on 'Trouble in Mind' as on Blind Blake's 'Chump Man Blues.' Excellent accompaniment helps; Rick Manson's supportive harp steps out front on 'Sonny's Blues' and winds through other songs, and guitarist Gregg Kimball picks out songs from Delta, Piedmont, and Chicago traditions." – *Blues Revue*

## Recordings

*Ride the Blinds* (2008) was recorded at Richmond's historic Barkdale Theatre, capturing the energy, immediacy, and spontaneity of a live performance.

*Lucky Oil on My Hand* (2000) reflects the band's diverse influences, ranging from the hokum blues of Tampa Red to the Delta music of Willie Brown.

*Sheryl Warner and the Southside Homewreckers: Thirteen Classic Blues* (1998) was recorded with former band-mate John Bradshaw. Art Menius called it "... dynamite, an enchanting blend of pre-war approaches to the blues. . . . it reflects the warmth, charm, and spontaneity of the best music."

## Programs

*Old Dominion Songsters: Traditional Blues of Virginia* is a multimedia program using period recordings, live music, and historical images. Based on the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities-funded brochure and exhibition authored by guitarist Gregg Kimball, the program has been presented across the state in libraries, historical and blues societies, and schools.

## Performance Highlights

### Festivals and Concerts

Richmond Folk Festival (2010, 2011)

Tinner Hill Blues Festival (2009)

Colonial Williamsburg's Hennage Auditorium (2007)

Honesdale Roots and Rhythm Festival (2006)

Performed with Page Wilson and the Richmond Symphony at the Landmark Theater (simulcast on WCVE, 2006)

Blues in the 'Burg Festival, Fredericksburg (2001, 2004)

The D.C. Blues Festival (2003)

Hampton Acoustic Blues Revival (2003)

The Theater at Lime Kiln, Lexington (2002)

The Taste of the Blue Ridge Blues and Jazz Festival (2001)

Won the James River Blues Society's blues challenge (2000) and performed at the International Blues Challenge, Memphis (2001)  
Herndon Blues Fest (2000)

Programs and workshops

Duke Homestead State Historic Site, Durham, N.C.

Annual Meeting, The Southern Association for Women Historians

Bi-annual meeting, The Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

Washington and Lee University, Lexington

Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg

The Library of Virginia, Richmond

Richmond City Public Schools

Hanover County Public Schools

Spotsylvania County Public Schools

Virginia's Governor's Schools