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# Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater

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## EDDY CLEARWATER BIO

With the release on his own Cleartone label of *Soul Funky*, cut live at SPACE in Evanston, Ill. in January of 2014 with his cooking band and special guests Ronnie Baker Brooks and Billy Branch, Eddy “The Chief” Clearwater once again underscores why he’s long been hailed as one of Chicago’s top blues guitarists.

Born in Macon, Miss., Eddy Harrington started playing guitar after he moved to Birmingham, Alabama at age 13. His uncle’s acoustic model was designed for a righty, but that didn’t stop him from playing it upside down. “That’s the way I picked it up,” he says. “I said, ‘Well, if I’m going to do it, I have to do it this way.’ ‘Cause at that time, they wasn’t making left-handed guitars.” He initially confined his musical pursuits to the sanctified arena. “I played gospel in church,” he says. “I wouldn’t sing, but I’d just play guitar. I was too shy to sing.”

That same good-hearted uncle, Rev. Houston H. Harrington, relocated to Chicago and bought his Eddy an electric axe from Sears, Roebuck after he followed suit in 1950. “He sent me a ticket on the Greyhound bus for \$15,” says Clearwater. “I wish I would have kept the ticket!” The reverend also introduced his nephew to the teeming local blues scene. “He took me around to some clubs,” says Eddy. “He took me to Sylvio’s to see Muddy Waters, also to see Howlin’ Wolf. At that time, Little Walter was still with Muddy. But I didn’t start playing until I was about 17.” Eddy gigged with Little Mack Simmons before heading his own trio, Guitar Eddy & the Cutaways. “I had a cutaway Gibson ES-295, a gold-colored one,” he explains.

A few years later, Eddy was driving down Michigan Avenue in his Ford when out of its radio leaped Chuck Berry’s “Oh Baby Doll,” changing his life forever. “That’s the first record I had ever heard by Chuck,” he says. “I thought his sound was so unique, I started listening for his music. And the next thing I heard was ‘Johnny B. Goode’ and ‘Maybellene,’ and I said, ‘Oh, now this guy is really different!’”

The reverend had by that time launched his own Atomic-H label, and Eddy joined its roster in 1958. “I jumped at the opportunity. Just the idea of making a record, I said, ‘Man! Oh, boy!’” he says. “I recorded ‘Boogie Woogie Baby’ and ‘Hill Billy Blues.’” It was pressed up under the name of Clear Waters, an alias drummer Jump Jackson dreamed up as a takeoff on Muddy’s moniker. “A Minor Cha-Cha,” his 1959 Atomic-H encore, stands as a definitive West Side instrumental, loaded with Clearwater’s slashing lead axe.

As one of the early disciples of the West Side guitar sound along with Magic Sam and Freddy King, Eddy was there when Chicago blues was modernized. “We were very close, Sam and I. He was my idol, man,” says Clearwater. “I got a kick out of being around Freddy. He was so dynamic onstage, man. He had this abundance of energy.” Eddy broke new ground locally by hooking up with a Mexican-American band, Mando & the Chili Peppers, and teamed for a time with Eddy Bell & the Bel-Aires, who played straight rock and roll on the suburban circuit (under his birth surname of Blazonczyk, Bell would later become Chicago’s polka king).

“He got to see me doing some Chuck Berry stuff,” says Clearwater. “He invited me to come and do some recording with him.” Eddy played lead guitar on Bell’s 1960 rockers “Hi Yo Silver (The Masked Man)” and “Johnny B. Goode In Hollywood.” Bell designed a unique Telecaster for his buddy. “He covered the guitar with the leopard skin,” says Clearwater. In one memorable promo photo, Eddy combined that flashy axe with a tiger-patterned suit coat.

Eddy wouldn’t be limited to a sideman role for long. He made three 45s of his own in 1961: the blazing Berry takeoff “Cool Water” for Jackson’s LaSalle imprint (again as Clear Waters) and two rocking singles for Federal Records A&R man/pianist Sonny Thompson, “I

Was Gone” b/w “Twist Like This” and “A Real Good Time” b/w “Hey Bernadine.” “I had known Sonny for awhile, so I went in and talked to him and told him I’d like to make a record,” says Eddy. “He said, ‘Let me hear some of your material.’ I went down and I played some of my stuff for him. Then because of the Chuck Berry influence, that’s why he said, ‘I’d like to sign you up and do some recording over there.’” The Federal 45s listed him as Eddie (sic) Clearwater.

Versatile Eddy never had a problem finding places to play during the ‘60s. “I worked in the suburbs a lot, because people would always associate me with Chuck Berry,” he says. “Before blues got popular on the North Side, I was playing a lot of hillbilly bars, playing country and rockabilly.” Clearwater took the Berry angle to its ultimate end with his jumping ‘65 U.S.A. single “The Duck Walk,” which made a dance out of Berry’s favorite onstage move. Its flip, “Momee, Momee,” cast Eddy as a lad begging his mother to allow him to attend a rock and roll show starring Berry. This may have been the first concept single!

Blazonczyk had launched his own Versa label by 1969, pressing up Eddy’s surprisingly funky dance workout “Doin’ the Model” (“I Don’t Know Why,” the impassioned soul ballad on the opposite side, was a distinct departure as well). Following in his uncle’s footsteps, Eddy eventually established Cleartone to release a 1975 single pairing his “True Love” and “Lonely Nights.”

The southpaw axeman cut an entire LP for Cleartone that ended up on the British Charly label under the title *Two Times Nine* (it contained the original version of his impassioned blues “Came Up The Hard Way,” revived on *Soul Funky*). Another album Eddy made in 1977 for veteran producer Ralph Bass ended up in the vaults until Delmark unearthed it 18 years later as *Boogie My Blues Away*. Eddy’s practice of wearing a Native American headdress onstage inspired the title of *The Chief*, his 1980 breakthrough set for the Rooster Blues logo.

“That’s the one that kind of put things on the map for me, you might say. We recorded it in one day. We started that afternoon, and we finished like 12 o’clock at night,” says Eddy. He encored in 1986 on the same label with *Flimdoozie* (Otis Rush guested) and 1990’s *A Real Good Time—Live!* before moving over to Blind Pig for *Help Yourself* in 1992. *Mean Case of the Blues* started out as a self-released 1996 project on Cleartone before it ended up licensed to Rounder’s Bullseye Blues imprint.

A longterm relationship blossomed with Bullseye Blues that also encompassed 1998’s Duke Robillard-produced *Cool Blues Walk, Reservation Blues* a couple of years later (that was also the name of his local blues club at the time), and 2003’s *Rock ‘n’ Roll City*, a stomping collaboration with the guitar-wielding masked marauders known as Los Straitjackets. “I was feeling in a kind of a rockin’ blues/rockabilly mood,” explains Clearwater. “I said, ‘I want to do something with just a little bit different twist from just normal straight blues.’”

*West Side Strut*, Clearwater’s most recent studio effort for Alligator in 2008, installed Ronnie Baker Brooks, the son of Eddy’s old pal Lonnie Brooks and a dazzling guitarist in his own right, as his producer and writing collaborator. “I always knew that he was a very brilliant musician,” says Eddy. “I approached him, and I said, ‘Well, how would you like to produce my new CD?’” The combination clicked splendidly, resulting in a highly contemporary release that earned plenty of acclaim.

Now, with the release of *Soul Funky* (his first live album since 1990), the Chief’s onstage magic has been vividly captured anew on CD. He’s still rocking houses all over the globe with his West Side-soaked blues, riddled with stinging guitar and impassioned vocals. He’s soulful and funky, all right, but most of all, Eddy Clearwater rocks the blues Chicago-style.

##

## Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater Links

EddyClearwater.com

<http://www.eddyclearwater.com/>

Eddy Clearwater November 2015 BluesLetter

<http://www.eddyclearwater.com/rm/November-2015-Bluesletter.html>

### Upcoming Shows

The Blues Foundation

Blues Hall of Fame - Induction Ceremony

Blues Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

May 4th at The Shrine Auditorium Memphis, 250

North Main Street, Memphis,

<http://blues.org/hall-of-fame/>

2016 Chicago Blues Festival

Petrillo Music Shell - Main Stage

6-7:45PM Featured Headline Performer

8-9:45PM Otis Rush Tribute

Eddy will be joined by an All-Star Band

[http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/chicago\\_blues\\_festival.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/chicago_blues_festival.html)

### Blues Publications

American Blues Scene - Eddy Clearwater

<http://www.americanbluesscene.com/2014/12/eddy-chief-clearwater-standing-tall/>

Living Blues Magazine - LB #238, AUG/SEPT 2015

<http://livingblues.com/product/lb-238-augsept-2015/>

Eddy Clearwater Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddy\\_Clearwater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddy_Clearwater)

### Eddy Clearwater - Social Media

Eddy Clearwater - Facebook Band

<https://www.facebook.com/EddyClearwater/>

Eddy Clearwater - Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/eddy.clearwater.5>

Eddy The Chief Clearwater Twitter

<https://twitter.com/EddyClearwater>

Eddy Clearwater ReverbNation

<https://www.reverbNation.com/eddyclearwater#>

Eddy Clearwater Last FM

<http://www.last.fm/music/Eddie+Clearwater>

Eddy The Chief Clearwater SoundCloud

<https://soundcloud.com/eddythechiefclearwater/>

Eddy The Chief Clearwater - YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheEddyClearwater>

Jus Blues Music Awards Presentation - YouTube

<https://youtu.be/e5zBw1FnFtA>

### Eddy Clearwater - 2015 Awards

Blues Blast Magazine Lifetime Achievement

Jus Blues Music - "Little Milton Campbell Lifetime Achievement"

Skokie Fine Art Commission - "Art Legacy Award"

Leehigh River Blues Jam - Lifetime Achievement Award

WLTH - SMOKIN99 - Lifetime Achievement & Legacy Award

Eddy Clearwater - Tina Terry Booking Agency

<http://www.tinaterryagency.com/2015/06/eddy-clearwater-2/>

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[eddythechiefclearwater@gmail.com](mailto:eddythechiefclearwater@gmail.com)

NOTE: [ALL hyper-links above also are included in the balance of this EPK with hyper-linked screen shots.](#)



Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater is getting ready, with less than a month to go until the Blues Foundation - Blues Hall of Fame induction ceremony on May 4th at the Sheraton Memphis, 250 North Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. The ceremony takes place the night before the 37th Blues Music Awards.

Eddy is in an All-Star 2016 class of performers including his good friend Jimmy Johnson, Elvin Bishop, John Mayall and the Memphis Jug Band, "who have been deemed by a group of blues scholars and industry veterans to be the Best in the Blues. Each of these musicians has carved his place in blues history."

There will be a large display case with Eddy Clearwater memorabilia located in the Blues Hall of Fame Museum, 421 South Main Street in Memphis. Although the Blues Hall of Fame was founded in 1980, there was no building with exhibits until last May 8, 2015 when the museum officially opened. The Blues Foundation has inducted 350+ performers, industry professionals, recordings and literature into the Blues Hall of Fame; 130 have been performer inductees. <http://blues.org/hall-of-fame/>



[http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/chicago\\_blues\\_festival.html/](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/chicago_blues_festival.html/)

Monday, April 4, 2016 WXRT Tom Marker Bluesbreakers announced the line-up for the Blues Festival that Eddy Clearwater will be the headliner on Sunday, June 12th 6:30PM-7:45PM on the Petriolo Music Shell main stage with his band Tom Crevillone, Shoji Naito, Stephen Bass and Dave Knopf. At 8-9:30PM is the Otis Rush Tribute where Eddy will be joined on stage by an All-Star Band. [www.eddyclearwater.com](http://www.eddyclearwater.com)

For interviews and air drops; digital download or hard copy of "Soul Funky" contact: Lynn Orman, Orman Music & Media Group 847-452-6469, [ormanmusic@gmail.com](mailto:ormanmusic@gmail.com)

###

A TRIBUTE TO B.B. KING

# Living Blues

Issue #238 / Vol. 46, #4

## EDDY CLEARWATER Rides On

Plus...

Jerry Lawson

Tony Coleman

Dave & Phil Alvin

\$6.95 LIS \$6.95 CAN

[www.livingblues.com](http://www.livingblues.com)



Living Blues Awards Winners Inside!





## **Eddy receives Blues Blast Lifetime Achievement Award**

**September 25th, 2015** Fluid Events Center, Champaign, IL Featuring 25 of the best in today's Blues music. Doors open at 5:00pm the show starts at 6:00 pm.

# Jus' Blues Music Foundation

*Nurturing The Soul Of The Blues*



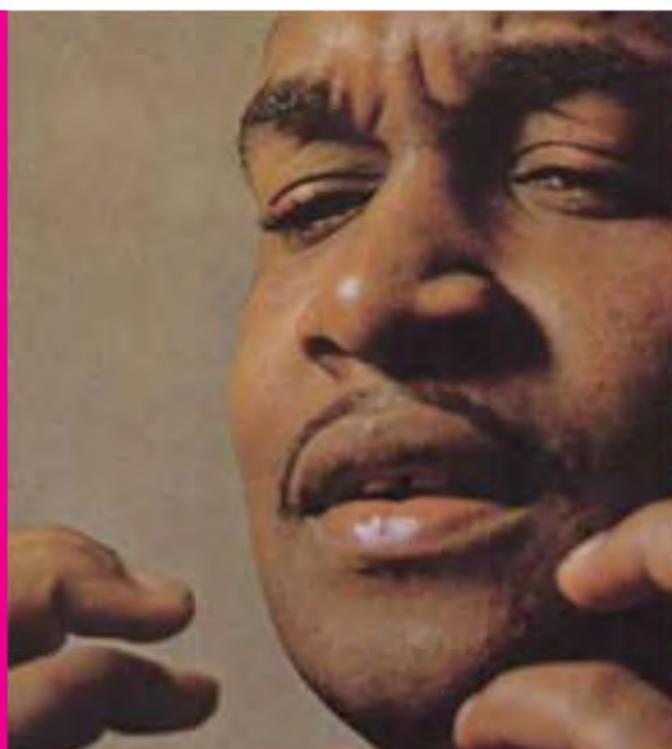
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*Jus' Blues Music Awards*

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## Little Milton

September 7, 1934 - August 4, 2005

Eddy  
"The Chief"  
Clearwater  
2015 Honoree  
of the Little Milton  
Blues Award



## A sculpture of Little Milton outside The Blues Hall of Fame in Memphis

*Inspired by his final studio album **Think of Me.***



© Photo by Mike Brown The Commercial Appeal

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

### **EDDY "The Chief" Clearwater FROM THE VILLAGE OF SKOKIE**

**Eddy Clearwater recipient of the  
Artistic Excellence Award, 2015**

**Not every town has a Chicago Blues Legend living in the neighborhood. Skokie, IL is lucky enough to call 'The Chief' their hometown legend. On November 5, 2007 Eddy was presented with a plaque by the Village of Skokie's Mayor, George Van Dusen. The first, "Arts Legacy Award" was created by Skokie resident, Lynn Orman Weiss to honor the Grammy-nominated & Handy Award winner, Blues artist for his musical achievements and mentoring of young artists. Mayor George Van Dusen proclaimed it Eddy 'The Chief' Clearwater Day.**



**Eddy Clearwater Proclamation,  
Eddy Clearwater Day, 2007**

**On June 1, 2015 at 8:00pm...  
Skokie Fine Arts Commission  
cordially invites you to attend the  
Skokie Award for Artistic  
Excellence reception, in honor of  
Eddy 'The Chief' Clearwater.  
Skokie Village Hall  
5127 Oakton St.**



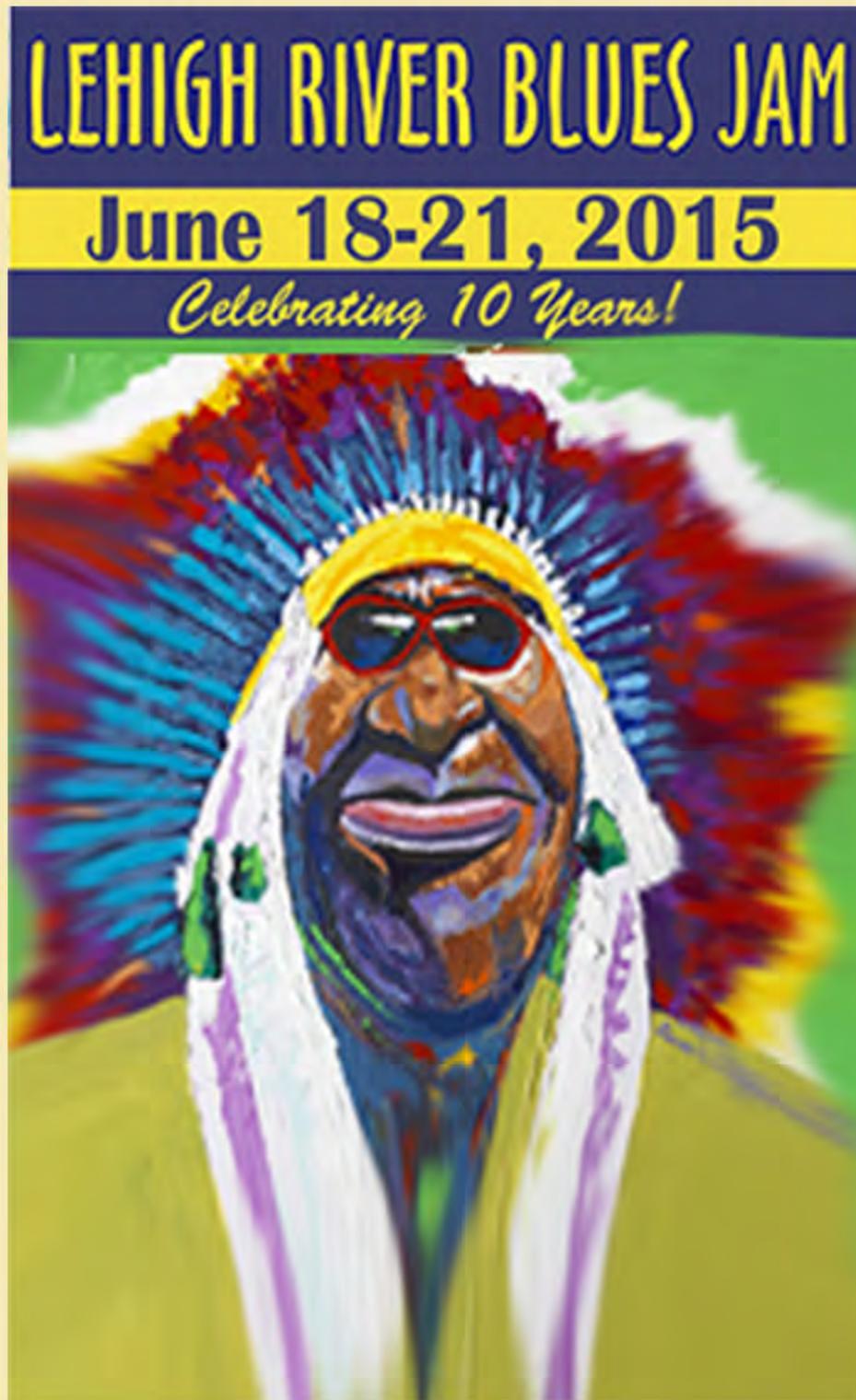
Thank you, Dinahlynn Biggs, Latrice Long & Tommy Williams from WLTH and SMOKIN99 Radio in Gary, Indiana.

**Eddy receives the SMOKIN99 Lifetime Achievement Award & Legacy Award for over 60 years of recording and getting airplay for his songs.**



Lehigh River Jam Blues Festival — Lifetime Achievement Award

**Saturday, June 20th**



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Blues America Radio from PRX

Host/Producer

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## Blues America 26

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TheBluesMobile.com

Elwood's Radio Teaser - Eddy "The Chief" Clearw...

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# Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater rides shotgun in the BluesMobile!

THEBLUESMOBILE on 4 March, 2015 at 09:51



# EddyTheChiefClearwater

Eddy Clearwater

Chicago, United States



All **Tracks** Playlists Reposts

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EDDY "THE CHIEF" CLEARWATER WEST SIDE STRUT



EddyTheChiefClearwater  
A Time For Peace

3 months  
#Blues



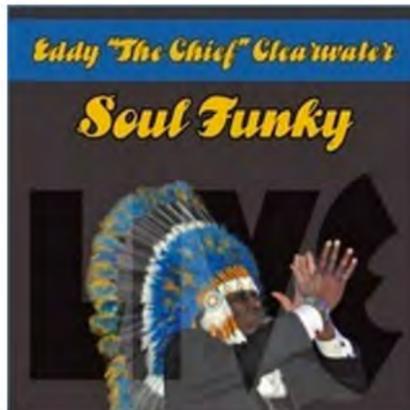
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EddyTheChiefClearwater  
Came Up The Hard Way

1 year  
#Eddy Clearwater



♥ 3

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Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater, a Chicago legend. It  
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Eddy Clearwater uploaded and posted 10 months ago

Thanks to everyone who came out to Buddy Guy's Legends on March 21, 2014. Here I am joined by a surprise guest, Buddy Guy's son Eric Guy. Enjoy



Eddy Clearwater at Buddy Guy's Legends - March 21, 2014

by Eddy Clearwater 10 months ago • 542 views

Thanks to everyone who came out to Buddy Guy's Legends on March 21, 2014. Here I am joined by a surprise guest, Buddy Guy's son Greg Guy performi...



Eddy Clearwater uploaded, posted and liked 1 year ago

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Eddy Clearwater 79th Birthday

by Eddy Clearwater 1 year ago • 832 views

January 10, 2014 was a special celebration for Blues Legend Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater honoring his 79th birthday with a concert and live recording at Evanston SPACE with the...

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## Eddy Clearwater - Topic

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### Top Tracks for Eddy Clearwater

A collection of top songs featuring Eddy Clearwater



**EDDIE ANGEL with JD McPHERSON BAND** -...  
by JD McPherson  
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**Eddie "the Chief" Clearwater - Cool Blues...**  
by sanny blues  
1,679 views • 3 years ago

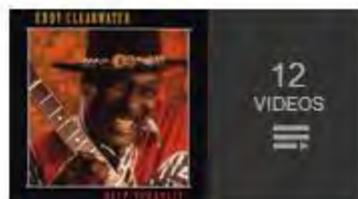


**Eddy Clearwater - Bad Dream**  
by Moe Aly  
2,336 views • 1 year ago



**Too Old To Get Married by Eddy Clearwater**  
by MrMusicismagic  
1,977 views • 3 years ago

### Albums



**Help Yourself**  
by Eddy Clearwater - Topic



**Live at the Kingston Mines, 1978**  
by Eddy Clearwater - Topic



**Black Night**  
by Eddy Clearwater - Topic



**Two times nine**  
by Eddy Clearwater - Topic

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# BLUESLETTER

NOVEMBER 2015



**My prayers go out to all of the beautiful people of France. The country I so love to perform in. My last full length DVD was produced there. The most wonderful friends and fans live in France and Belgium. I am heartbroken by this tragedy.**

**[Click for my song: A Time For Peace](#)**

# Eddy "THE CHIEF" Clearwater

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CHICAGO • USA**



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LIVE CONCERT**

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**EDDY  
Clearwater  
2015-  
2016  
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**22nd Annual Anti-Freeze Blues Festival :: Friday, Jan. 8th**



[Click for Eddy Clearwater Blues Merchandise!](#)

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Issue #238 / Vol. 46, #4



# Eddy Clearwater

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# Eddy Clearwater

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Artist/Main, VocaList, Guitarist at Alligator Records

Lives in Chicago, Illinois

From Macon, Mississippi

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@EddyClearwater **FOLLOWS YOU**

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105

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FOLLOWERS

233

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38

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**Eddy Clearwater**

@EddyClearwater **FOLLOWS YOU**

Blues Guitarist, Singer, Song Writer,  
Band Leader

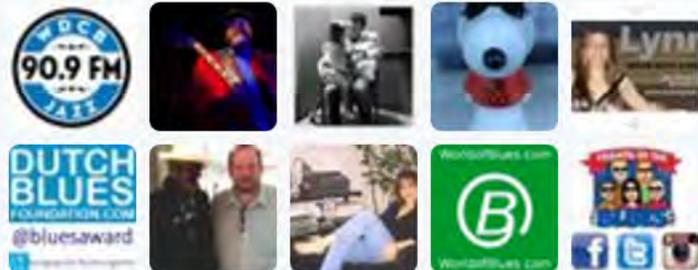
Chicago, IL

[eddyclearwater.com](http://eddyclearwater.com)

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**Eddy Clearwater** @EddyClearwater · Nov 2

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4 Retweets 4 Likes



**Eddy Clearwater** @EddyClearwater · Nov 5

See you [@JayBRossEsq](#) [#SueTheBastards](#)  
[#RecordRelease](#) party Monday, Nov. 9th  
7PM at [#CircuitNightclub](#) 3641 N. Halsted.

1 Retweet 2 Likes



**Jay B. Ross** @JayBRossEsq



# Eddy Clearwater

Blues / Rock Skokie, IL

Rank #25

## Photos



All Photos

## About

**Sounds Like:** BB King, Chuck Berry, Otis Rush

**Label:** Cleartone

**Manager:** Renee Greenman

**Bio:** January 10th Eddy Clearwater celebrated his 79th birthday with a LIVE concert recording. "Soul Funky" is currently (September 14th - October 1) available for exclusive pre-sale on

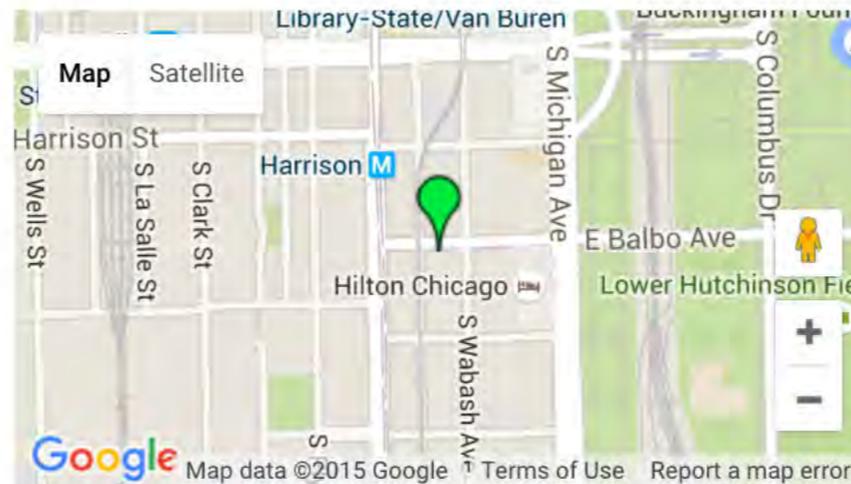
## Songs

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They Call Me The Chief

All Songs

## Shows



Sat  
Dec 19

[Buddy Guy's Legends](#)

Chicago, IL, US | 9:30pm

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## Stats

	Song Plays	+1 47
	Total Fans	395
	ReverbNation Fans	125
	Twitter Followers	232



# Eddie Clearwater

TOP TRACK  
**Came up the hard way**

326 listeners



- Overview**
- Tracks
- Albums
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- Similar Artists
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SCROBBLES

**4,525**

LISTENERS

**1,311**

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Eddy Clearwater: Biography of the Blues During the 1950s, Chicago's West Side was a breeding ground for some of the world's greatest bluesmen. Magic Sam, Otis Rush, Freddie King and others ruled the clubs. With his fierce guitar playing, soulful and emotive vocals and wild stage shows, Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater easily belongs on this list. A Chicago legend, Clearwater is an intense, flamboyant blues-rocking showman. He's... [read more](#)

## Top Tracks

1		Came up the hard way	326
2		Chicago daily blues	146
3		Major Daley's Blues	138
4		Black Night	133
5		A Real Good Time	101
6		Doin' The Model	71
7		I Don't Know Why	59

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## Listening Trends

Days

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Months



## Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater Is Standing Tall

December 19 14:14  
2014

by Barry Kerzner

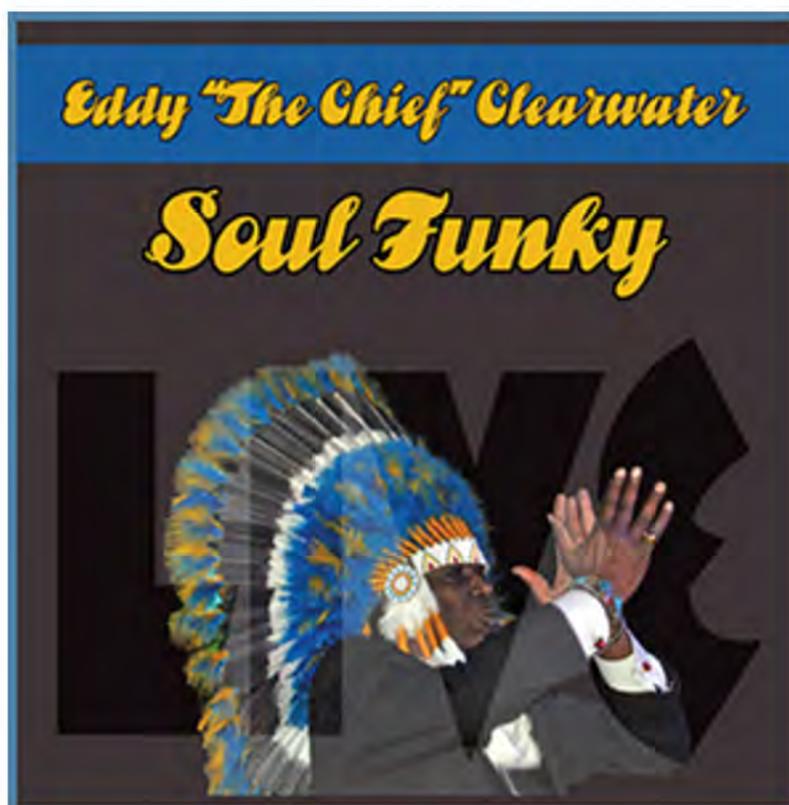
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Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater is doing well these days. His guitar playing is better than ever, and, he gets to "work" doing what he loves the most: playing the blues he has loved since he was a youngster, in the city he loves. The city of Chicago loves Clearwater back too! He plays live shows frequently around town, and sometimes, around the world. His new album, *Soul Funky*, self-released on Cleartone Records, is charting and selling well. Recorded live at a show at SPACE in Evanston, IL, it's really great funky Chicago soul and blues. Clearwater was blessed with the good fortune of having longtime friends Ronnie Baker Brooks and Billy Branch join him for the show. Not bad at all for a 79 year old guitar player.

Born in Macon, Mississippi in 1935, Clearwater's family moved to Birmingham, Alabama in 1948. As a youngster, he taught himself how to play guitar, upside down, and left handed. After a time he began performing with local groups, including the Five Blind Boys Of Alabama. His uncle, Houston Harrington, offered the young man lots of encouragement, and later invited Clearwater to join him in Chicago where he could meet famous blues players such as Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf.



# Eddy Clearwater

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater** is the **stage name** of **Edward Harrington** (born January 10, 1935),<sup>[1]</sup> an **American Chicago blues** musician.

*Blues Revue* said Eddy plays “joyous rave-ups...he testifies with stunning soul fervor and powerful guitar. One of the blues’ finest songwriters.”

[2]

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## Early life [edit]

He was born in **Macon, Mississippi**,<sup>[1]</sup> on January 10, 1935. Raised by his Cherokee grandmother in Mississippi, Harrington began playing guitar at the age of 13. His family moved to **Birmingham, Alabama** in 1948. He taught himself to play guitar (left-handed and upside down) and began performing with various gospel groups, including the **Five Blind Boys Of Alabama**. He Moved to Chicago in 1950, playing predominantly gospel and later developing his blues artistry after working with Magic Sam, Otis Rush, and others.

## Eddy Clearwater



Eddy Clearwater at the **Iron Horse Music Hall** in **Northampton, Massachusetts** on April 20, 2008

## Background information

<b>Birth name</b>	Edward Harrington
<b>Also known as</b>	Guitar Eddy, Clear Waters, The Chief
<b>Born</b>	January 10, 1935 (age 80) <span><b>Macon, Mississippi, United States</b></span>
<b>Genres</b>	<span><b>Chicago blues</b></span> <span><b>Electric blues</b></span>

## Career [ [edit](#) ]

Clearwater is best known for being part of the [Chicago blues](#) scene since the 1950s. He performs both within the [U.S.](#) (especially around the [Chicago, Illinois](#) area, where he resides) and internationally, such as at blues [festivals](#) in [France](#), [Germany](#), [Denmark](#), [Poland](#) and the [Netherlands](#). His sound has been described as “hard-driving Windy City blues, soul-tinged balladry, acoustic country blues and gospel uplift....good natured fretboard fireworks.”<sup>[3]</sup>

When he left the South for Chicago in 1950, he worked as a dishwasher while living with an uncle. Through his uncle he met many of Chicago’s blues masters, including fellow left-handed guitarist [Otis Rush](#) and [Magic Sam](#). Once he heard the music of [Chuck Berry](#), he began performing some of Berry’s material as well as writing in a Berry-influenced style. He still regularly performs songs by Rush, Magic Sam and Berry as well as his own original material.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1953, now known as **Guitar Eddy**, he began working regularly in Chicago’s south and west side bars. His first single, the Chuck Berry-styled “Hill Billy Blues”, was recorded in 1958 for his uncle’s Atomic H label, under the moniker **Clear Waters**, a name given to him by his manager, drummer [Jump Jackson](#), as wordplay on the more famous [Muddy Waters](#).

He recorded a few more singles and began receiving local radio airplay. Eventually the name Clear Waters morphed into **Eddy Clearwater**.<sup>[5]</sup> He worked steadily throughout the 1960s and 1970s, and he was among the first blues musicians to find success with Chicago’s north side college crowd. He was a regular Saturday act on the Kingston Mine's north stage while bluesman [Linsey Alexander](#) played on the south stage.<sup>[6]</sup> He toured Europe twice during the 1970s and appeared on [BBC](#) Television. Clearwater has been [nicknamed](#) **The Chief** and sometimes wears [Native American](#) headdress.<sup>[4]</sup>

The release of his 1980 album *The Chief* under the Rooster Blues label made him known on the Chicago blues scene. Two encores for Rooster Blues, *Help Yourself* (1992) and *Mean Case of the Blues* (1996), cemented Clearwater's reputation.*Cool Blues Walk* followed in 1998, followed by *Chicago Daily Blues* the next year, with *Reservation Blues* released in mid 2000.<sup>[7]</sup> In 2004, he was nominated for a [Grammy Award](#) with [Los Straitjackets](#) for their collaboration, *Rock 'N' Roll City*.

*Vintage Guitar* described his 2008 [Alligator Records](#) album, *West Side Strut* as “great blues. Eddy’s fat, voluptuous tone shows a masterful command of the guitar. It’s hard to believe he can reach such heights in a recording studio. One listen and you’ll wonder why Clearwater’s name isn’t respectfully spoken in the same breath as Freddie King and Otis Rush.”<sup>[8]</sup>

<b>Occupation(s)</b>	Musician, singer
<b>Instruments</b>	<a href="#">Vocals</a> , <a href="#">electric guitar</a>
<b>Years active</b>	1953—
<b>Associated acts</b>	<a href="#">Ronnie Baker Brooks</a> , <a href="#">Lonnie Brooks</a> , <a href="#">Muddy Waters</a> , <a href="#">Carey Bell</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">eddyclearwater.com</a> <span><span>↗</span></span>

### External video

 [Oral History, Eddy Clearwater talks about the influence of Alan Freed in promoting blues music.](#)  
Interview date December 10, 2013, NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Oral History Library ↗

Clearwater is married to his [manager](#), Renee Greenman. Together they once owned 'Reservation Blues', a [Wicker Park](#) (Chicago) blues bar and restaurant. It is no longer in operation.

He is the father of two children, Jason and Edgar Harrington. He has three stepchildren,as well as two grandchildren

He was also married to Earlean Harrington of Chicago, IL and was stepfather to her late son Daryl Thompson.

He is a cousin of blues harmonica player [Carey Bell](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

On 8 January 1997, Clearwater underwent successful triple [heart bypass](#) surgery.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Discography  [ [edit](#) ]

- 2014 "Soul Funky" (Cleartone) (featuring guests [Ronnie Baker Brooks](#) and [Billy Branch](#))
- 2008 *West Side Strut* (on [Alligator Records](#))
- 2003 *Rock 'N' Roll City* (featuring [Los Straitjackets](#))
- 2000 *Reservation Blues*
- 1999 *Chicago Daily Blues*
- 1998 *Cool Blues Walk*
- 1998 *Chicago Blues Session, Vol. 23* (live)
- 1996 *Mean Case Of The Blues*
- 1995 *Boogie My Blues Away*
- 1992 *Live At [The Kingston Mines](#), 1978* (live)
- 1992 *Help Yourself*
- 1990 *Real Good Time: Live!* (live)
- 1989 *Blues Hang Out*
- 1986 *Flimdoozie*
- 1981 *Two Times Nine*
- 1980 *The Chief*
- 1979 *Black Night*

## See also  [ [edit](#) ]

- [List of Chicago blues musicians](#)



Eddy Clearwater in 1978



## All Posts



## Eddy Clearwater

June 8, 2015 / in Artists, Featured / by Tina Terry Agency

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: [www.eddyclearwater.com](http://www.eddyclearwater.com)

### TOUR DATES

Eddy 'The Chief' Clearwater is a Grammy nominee for his album, Rock N' Roll City with Los Straight Jackets. He is also a Handy Blues Award recipient and nominee for Best Blues Male from the Blues Foundation/Blues Awards and an inductee as a Master Guitarist into the Chicago Blues Hall of Fame.

As one of the early disciples of the West Side guitar sound along with Magic Sam and Freddy King, Eddy was there when Chicago blues was modernized. “We were very close, Sam and I. He was my idol, man,” says Clearwater. “I got a kick out of being around Freddy. He was so dynamic onstage, man. He had this abundance of energy.” Eddy broke new ground locally by hooking up with a Mexican-American band, Mando & the Chili Peppers, and teamed for a time with Eddy Bell & the Bel-Aires, who played straight rock and roll on the suburban circuit (under his birth surname of Blazonczyk, Bell would later become Chicago’s polka king).

Eddy wouldn’t be limited to a sideman role for long. He made three 45s of his own in 1961: the blazing Berry takeoff “Cool Water” for Jackson’s LaSalle imprint (again as Clear Waters) and two rocking singles for Federal Records A&R man/pianist Sonny Thompson, “I Was Gone” b/w “Twist Like This” and “A Real Good Time” b/w “Hey Bernadine.” “I had known Sonny for awhile, so I went in and talked to him and told him I’d like to make a record,” says Eddy. “He said, ‘Let me hear some of your material.’ I went down and I played some of my stuff for him. Then because of the Chuck Berry influence, that’s why he said, ‘I’d like to sign you up and do some recording over there.’” The Federal 45s listed him as Eddie (sic) Clearwater.

Versatile Eddy never had a problem finding places to play during the ‘60s. “I worked in the suburbs a lot, because people would always associate me with Chuck Berry,” he says. “Before blues got popular on the North Side, I was playing a lot of hillbilly bars, playing country and rockabilly.” Clearwater took the Berry angle to its ultimate end with his jumping ‘65 U.S.A. single “The Duck Walk,” which made a dance out of Berry’s favorite onstage move. Its flip, “Momee, Momee,” cast Eddy as a lad begging his mother to allow him to attend a rock and roll show starring Berry. This may have been the first concept single!

West Side Strut, Clearwater’s most recent studio effort for Alligator in 2008, installed **Ronnie Baker Brooks**, the son of Eddy’s old pal Lonnie Brooks and a dazzling guitarist in his own right, as his producer and writing collaborator. “I always knew that he was a very brilliant musician,” says Eddy. “I approached him, and I said, ‘Well, how would you like to produce my new CD?’” The combination clicked splendidly, resulting in a highly contemporary release that earned plenty of acclaim.

Now, with the release of Soul Funky (his first live album since 1990), the Chief’s onstage magic has been vividly captured anew on CD. He’s still rocking houses all over the globe with his West Side-soaked blues, riddled with stinging guitar and impassioned vocals. He’s soulful and funky, all right, but most of all, Eddy Clearwater rocks the blues Chicago-style.



Eddy Headdress - Ecuador © Fernando Solano





The Chief - © Lynn Orman

Eddy, Clearwater, Billy, Branch and Ronnie Baker Brooks © Lynn Orman



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Between his slashing left-handed guitar work, his room-filling vocals, his self-defined "rock-a-blues" style (a forceful mix of blues, rock, rockabilly, country and gospel), his boundless energy and even his signature Indian headdress, Clearwater is among the very finest practitioners of the West Side blues working today.

**Find Eddy Clearwater on Alligator Records**



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**Artist's Web site: [www.EddyClearwater.com](http://www.EddyClearwater.com)**

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