

The WildRoots

With The WildRoots latest release Victor Wainwright, Stephen Dees and Patricia Ann Dees continue a musical legacy that began in 2005. After 2021's **WILDROOTS SESSIONS VOLUME 1**, the sessions editions continue with **WILDROOTS SESSIONS VOLUME 2** due out in March 2022.

Wainwright and Dees first met in 2004 in Ormond Beach, FL where they were both on the bill of a benefit concert. Stephen was performing with his wife Patricia Ann as a duo called "The Bandees" and Victor with his band "The Deal". Both were very impressed with the other's performance. The two discovered they shared a mutual cultural identity, having been raised in musical families in the American South, and a deep affection for Blues, Soul and roots Rock 'n' Roll out of the '50s, 60's and 70's. They discussed the possibility of collaborating on an all-original recording project for Victor, paying homage to the music that influenced them both. Dees agreed to produce and co-write what would become Wainwright's 2005 debut solo release **PIANA' FROM SAVANNAH**.

"It's hard to follow the speed limit while this one's playing... Pinetop Perkins would be proud."
[Backstage Pass Magazine]

After the release of **PIANA' FROM SAVANNAH**, and several outstanding live performances, they knew they had something special and decided to forge a more focused working relationship. Even though their new musical partnership would be an equal one, Dees felt that Victor should be out front and featured and that they should give the band members their own identity. Stephen came up with the name WildRoots which he thought was an apt description of their music. Victor agreed. The WildRoots were born.

The WildRoots debut **BEALE STREET TO THE BAYOU** was released in September of 2009 launching a successful radio promotion that landed them stellar reviews.

"Extremely diverse with great songwriting, exceptional arrangements, flawless playing and vocals soulful enough to make Otis Redding sit up and take notice" [Bill Wilson - *Billtown Blue Notes*]

Their follow up record, **LIT UP!** Was released on June 7th, 2011.

"...a riotous, intoxicating run through all kinds of exciting blues territory. The gifted Memphis-based boogie-woogie piano player is backed by the expert WildRoots Band-ablaze with jumping beats, lively saxophones, and some spine-tingling guitar work. Every track is brilliant. Producer Stephen Dees gets it right." [Living Blues Magazine].

On their 2015 release **BOOM TOWN**, they teamed up with Blind Pig Records resulting in what would be their most successful record to date.

"Victor Wainwright & the WildRoots have served up one of the best of 2015 with Boom Town. If your brain can't have fun on Boom Town, the drugs will never help. The band engages in, a no holds barred shootout at the Boom Town Corral, delivering a non-stop high energy jam that slaps your damned mouth as it hangs slack-jawed at glory of the album you just experienced. It is bodacious. Saddle up and ride off into the sunset, this thing is over." [Day Old Biscuits! *The Long-Lost CD Reviews*]

- Blues Blast Magazine Winner - Contemporary Blues Album of the Year 2016
- 37th Blues Music Award WINNER (BMA Awards) B.B. King Entertainer of the Year & Band of the Year
- Billboard Top 10 Blues debuted at #5
- Living Blues Radio Chart - Top 50 Albums of 2015 & Debuted May 2015 at #5

- Roots Music Report [RMR] - #1 Top 50 Contemporary Blues, #26 Top 200 Blues Albums of 2015, #2 Top 50 Blues Album Chart, #1 Top 50 Tennessee Album Chart
- Sirius XM "BB King's Bluesville" - Top 15 albums of the year for Sirius XM Bluesville - Picks to Click.

In 2021, they released **WILDROOTS SESSIONS VOLUME 1**

“One hell of a record! It’s one of those discs that can really lift the darkness. Stunning!”
[ROCK DOCTOR]

“With a guest list that’s mind boggling, you couldn’t get a better set if Paul Shaffer rounded up his SNL/Letterman pals and enlisted them to have a party. This set makes every hour after hours and the party never ends. Simply smoking.” [Midwest Record - Chris Spector]

“One of those rare moments that I get to experience sheer greatness unfold before my ears.” [Sound Waves Magazine]

“With excellent songwriting, stellar performances, and wide-ranging styles, it is an album easily recommended for everyone.” [Blues Blast Magazine]

“I was stunned with over 67 minutes of absolute musical enjoyment. The album is really easy to recommend to everyone because there is simply no mistake.” [Soundguardian]

- Debut #7 on the Billboard Blues Charts
- #7 on the Living Blues charts
- NACC Top Blues Records of 2021 at #48
- Bluesblast Magazine Nominee – Best Blues Band

In addition to Victor’s work with the WildRoots, he’s recorded two records with his own group “The Train”, the self-titled debut was a Grammy nominee followed by a second release “Memphis Loud”, both on Ruf Records. Past and present WildRoots appear on both “Train” records, with Stephen and Patricia Ann Dees contributing co-writing and backing vocals.

Stephen is a prolific songwriter, musician and producer who often collaborates with other artists. He has written or co-written songs recorded by Daryl Hall & John Oates, Pat Travers, Kenny Neal, Foghat, and Novo Combo. As a touring and/or recording musician he has worked in America and Europe as bassist and vocalist for "Hall and Oates", "Todd Rundgren", "Ian Hunter", "Tony Carey (Planet P)", "Pat Travers", "Foghat", "Mark Aubin", "Joe Lynn Turner (Deep Purple)", "Noble Thin Man Watts", "Romeo's Bleeding" and his ongoing original rock project “The Bandees” with Patricia Ann Dees.

Following the 2021 release of WildRoots Sessions Volume 1, the WildRoots roll out WildRoots Sessions Volume 2, once again spotlighting the great players and singers who have been a big part of their past and current collaborations.

Grammy nominated Victor Wainwright, and WildRoots co-founders and award-winning production team, Stephen Dees, and Patricia Ann Dees, take the helm. In addition to Victor’s lead vocals, WildRoots Sessions Volume 2 also features lead vocal performances by Reba Russell, Beth McKee (Evangeline), Patricia Ann Dees (Bandees), Stephen Dees (Hall & Oates, Todd Rundgren), Anthony “Packrat” Thompson, Robert “Top” Thomas

(Packrat's Smoke House), Billy Livesay (Clarence Clemmons/The Livesays), Mark Hodgson (Midnight Creepers), and introduces two new up and coming young talents to the WildRoots family; 22 yr old vocalist/guitarist Dyer Davis, and 21 yr old gospel singer Brianna Harris.

Core WildRoots members, Victor Wainwright (Piano, Organ, Vocals), Stephen Dees (Guitars, Bass, Percussion, Vocals) and Patricia Ann Dees (Vocals, Saxophone, Piano, Bass) are joined by WildRoots alumni Billy Dean (Drums), Charlie DeChant (Saxophone), Greg Gumpel (Guitar), Stephen Kampa (Harmonica), Nick Black (Guitar, Vocals), and Alberto Cruz (Drums, Congas).

Guest musicians of note include, Hammond organist/pianist the late great Lucky Peterson, guitarist Bryan Bassett (Foghat/Wild Cherry), guitarist Pat Harrington (The Train), Hammond organist Chris Stephenson, bassist Wayne Russell, drummer Scott Corwin (Noble "Thin Man" Watts), dobro guitarist Walter Andrews (Root Boy Slim), guitarist Todd Sharp (Rod Stewart/Delbert McClinton), pianist David Kent (Hall & Oates), drummer Eddie Zyne (Hall & Oates/Foghat), and drummer/percussionist Juan Perez (Bellamy Brothers).

WildRoots Sessions Volume 2 is a mixed bag of Contemporary and Traditional Blues, Roots Rock, Gospel, and American Roots music.

The WildRoots team understands the music and its traditions. They instinctively know how to interpret and perform the music with a freshness and a flair that breaks through all the clutter on the sonic landscape. Steeped in a variety of American Roots music, with exceptional songs and musicianship.