

# TODAY'S CHICAGO BLUES

BY KAREN HANSON



## REVIEWS

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“Karen Hanson’s new book is a **travel guide, a history, an encyclopedia and a CD-buying guide, all in one — and all about Chicago blues.**”

—Robert Loerzel, *Daily Southtown*, “Author shows her love of blues,” February 19, 2007

“**Today’s Chicago Blues tells you where to park in the South Loop for Buddy Guy’s Legends, where to find a jam session on Sunday afternoon in Hyde Park and where to go for blues and fried chicken in the southwest suburbs.** . . . [Hanson’s] writing reflects both an academic’s painstaking approach to research and a journalist’s knack for clean, spartan prose. . . . **Spoken like a true fan.**”

—Jeff Johnson, *Chicago Sun-Times*, “Lighting a Blues Flame: DeVry professor delves into stories, performances of legendary musicians,” April 29, 2007

“*Today’s Chicago Blues* is a guide book that is well worth checking out. In eight chapters Ms. Hanson covers not only the Blues venues in our Windy City but **dedicates her book to informing the reader of the whole Blues experience Chicago has to offer.** The book is **steeped in history and well researched facts.** It also includes both vintage and current photos that spice up the pages nicely. It is a complete guide on many different levels. Both a visitor new to the Blues and a seasoned Blues Fanatic can enjoy this great book.

. . . **Never have I read such a great guide for musicians to go out and get a chance to play and learn and JAM.** Get your axe and get in gear. . . . Chapter eight is a **comprehensive alphabetical guide to Chicago’s biggest treasure, our Blues artists. This chapter is worth the price of the book alone.**

. . . *Today’s Chicago Blues* is a great book for any Blues fan and the author has done a high quality job in putting a wealth of solid information into one book. **Go out and grab this gem.**”

—Dave Katzman, Buddy Guy’s *blues letter*, May/June 2007

“**A valuable replacement for the sections on blues in many travel guides** devoted to the city. . . . **A must read** for those heading out to the world’s largest blues festival . . . **[I]ndispensible.**”

—Ron Weinstock, *DC Blues Calendar*, April 2007

**“Today’s Chicago Blues is a well-researched guide to the who, what, when and where of the Windy City’s brand of blues, past and present. . . . Whether you are a true blues aficionado, or someone just learning to appreciate the genre, Today’s Chicago Blues is a very informative book that will be a smart addition to your summer reading plans.”**

—Joe O’Gara, *Nuvo* (Indianapolis, IN), June 27–July 4, 2007

**“[A]n absolute must . . . This well researched and affectionately produced guide is an engrossing read and the author clearly loves her city and blues music.”**

—Dave Drury, *Blues Matters!*, November 2007

**“Today’s Chicago Blues has so much information it’s unlikely that anything has been overlooked . . . It’s all right here, so who could ask for anything more?”**

—Dorothy Flynn, *Inside*, “Sweet Home Chicago: Local Blues History Comes Alive in New Book,” May 9–15, 2007

**“Now that Blues Fest has come to a close again this year, countless fans are undoubtedly thinking, ‘You know, I really ought to see more live blues in the city.’ But where? And who? And if I accidentally end up on stage, will I be forced to sing? Luckily, Karen Hanson has some answers.”**

—Scott Smith, *Chicagoist*, June 12, 2006

**“From the merely curious to emerging fans to aficionados of the Chicago blues scene, the book is very useful and so much more than a recounting of history.”**

—James Walker, *The Daily Journal* (Kankakee, IL), “She knows blues and that’s good,” March 25, 2007

**“If you are going to Chicago and want to check out some music, then *TCB* will be useful. Hanson compiles handy profiles of clubs, musicians, radio shows, and tourist attractions all related to the blues. It looks like it should help musical tourists get a more genuine taste of the real thing.”**

—Joe Bendel, J.B. Spins (<http://jbspins.blogspot.com/>), March 30, 2007

**“Today’s Chicago Blues is an in-depth guide to Chicago’s blues clubs large and small. Unlike typical guide books, Today’s Chicago Blues visits lesser-known clubs all over Chicagoland.”**

—*Legends Blues Bulletin*, April 2007

## ALSO IN PRINT

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“Blues guide keeps music lovers informed,” by John K. Ryan, *The Star* (Tinley Park, IL), May 10, 2007

“Lady writes the blues,” by Patrick Ferrell, *Lincoln-Way Sun* (Plainfield, IL), June 6, 2007

## INTERVIEWS

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WBEZ-91.5, *Eight Forty-Eight*, June 26, 2007