



TODAY'S CHICAGO BLUES

BY KAREN HANSON

Whether you're celebrating a special occasion, partying with friends, or capping a perfect day in the city, *Today's Chicago Blues* is your key to the swinging, soulful sound of this vibrant scene.

CLUES TO CHICAGO BLUES

The year is 1960. Two British kids at a train station strike up a conversation when one notices the other is carrying a couple of Chess record albums: *The Best of Muddy Waters* and *Rockin' at the Hops* by Chuck Berry. The kids—Keith Richards and Mick Jagger—form a band that takes its name from a Muddy Waters song, “Rollin’ Stone.” On their first trip to the United States, the Rolling Stones come to Chicago so they can record in the famous Chess Studios.

Today Chicago remains the center of the blues world, the place where aspiring blues musicians come to hone their chops and get their big breaks. Many, like Buddy Guy and Koko Taylor, are internationally famous. Visitors and hometown fans share a passion for packing clubs, lounges—and Grant Park every June—to see the living legends of the blues.

Today's Chicago Blues by Karen Hanson takes the mystery out of exploring one of Chicago's richest cultural treasures. You can tour Chicago's famous blues-related sites, hit the hot blues venues (including local favorites not covered in general city guidebooks), and deepen your appreciation for blues history without giving yourself a case of the blues searching for the inside track.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Descriptions of nightspots where live blues bands play
- A listing of blues jams
- A directory of blues radio shows
- Information about historical blues sites
- A guide to the Chicago Blues Festival
- Profiles of 84 Chicago-based blues musicians

TODAY'S CHICAGO BLUES

~ The only guidebook dedicated solely to the blues in Chicago ~

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