

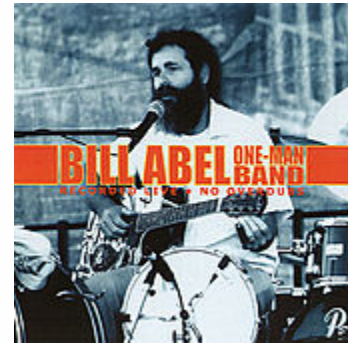
2nd Annual Mississippi Blues Marathon & Half-Marathon www.msbluesmarathon.com January 3, 2009

Bill Abel brings the blues to the Blues Marathon

Famed bluesman Bill Abel is returning to the Mississippi Blues Marathon Expo and finish line to play the real Delta blues. This will be his last U.S. appearance before heading off to performances in Belgium.

Abel, the awesome artist of Delta blues, most recently released *One-Man Band* on the Blue Skunk Music record label. The CD was recorded live with no overdubs, and it features Abel at vocals, guitar, kick drum, foot snare and foot hi-hat. It's available on digital download sites.

Born and raised in the Mississippi Delta town of Belzoni, Abel has played with blues legends such as Honey Boy Edwards, Henry Townsend, Hubert Sumlin, Big George Brock and many local blues greats. In 2006, Abel was named **Blues Musician of the Year** by the **Mississippi Delta Blues Society** of Indianola. He spent decades as a backup guitarist for Fat Possum recording artist Paul "Wine" Jones.



Abel says it has been his privilege to play authentic Delta blues with many bluesmen in many different settings from juke joints to Blues Festivals across the Delta, Chicago Blues Festival, all around the United States and Belgium, Italy, England, Wales and Switzerland.

These experiences have been used in Abel's recorded music along with the influences of traditional Delta music of the 20's and 30's. Articles on Abel have been published in France, Belgium, Britain and Italy. In 2004, he taught the blues guitar workshop at the 2nd Annual International Blues Symposium with national recording artist Cory Harris. In 2006, Abel played guitar on the WC Handy nominated CD *Round Two* with Big George Brock.

The Blues Expo will take place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 2009, at the Mississippi TelCom Center on Pascagoula Street in downtown Jackson. Runners for all races (marathon, half-marathon, relay and kids' marathon) will pick up their race packets at the Expo. It also features blues music, speakers, vendors with race-related merchandise and Mississippi-specific vendors.

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