



## BLUES CHOICE AWARDS: CRAIG VAUGHAN AND THE HAMMBONE BLUES BAND VOTED BEST BLUES GROUP FOR 2022

**By Bill Martin**

Craig Vaughan and the Hammbone Blues Band have been named Best Group for 2022 in the annual Blues Choice Awards presented by the Blues Society of Tulsa. The award was celebrated March 18 at the Centennial Lounge at VFW Post 577, Tulsa, where the band received their plaques before performing a 90-minute set to a packed house.

While the band was formed less than three years ago, its members are veteran musicians.

A member of The Muscogee Nation, Craig Vaughan is originally from Moore, OK, but now resides in Glenpool. He began performing with the Butch Powell Band in 1996, an all Native American blues band in Tulsa.

**Homer Johnson** (rhythm guitar). A Tulsa native, Homer picked up the guitar at the age of 24 and did his first band four years later, playing in a number of North Tulsa bands; notably The Reality Band, where he picked up an understanding of R&B. In 1986 he left music for 11 years before going back, working with Kenneth T Campbell, Stretch "N" The Truth and The Overtones.

In 2003 he traveled to New Orleans working with numerous New Orleans acts such as Big Al Carlson, CP Love and members of the Meters and Galactica.

Other band members are:

**Boo Williams** (bass guitar). Boo has been playing 59 years with groups ranging from Flash Terry to Pure Silk, Steve Pryor, Brad Absher, Strut, Upfront, the Real Band, and Smilin' Vic, among others.

**Joe Modica** (organ). Joe started playing professionally in 1967 in Parsons, Ks, before moving to Tulsa in 1979. He then began playing with Flash Terry, Glenn Townsend, Smilin' Vic, Bill Snow & others. He formed The Real Band in 1989.

**Bronko Carr** (drums). Bronko formed the Hammbone Blues Band in memory of Harley Hamm Jr. with a goal of putting together a Blues act with highly skilled musicians which by the way 5 of the 6 members are Oklahoma Blues Hall of Famers! Bronko has been playing bass for 42 years and drums 11 years. He has headlined with acts such as Roger Troutman of the band Zapp, Keith Sweat, and Tyrone Bronson. Bronko is from Spencer OK and was raised by a Blues musician/father Earnest Carr Sr., AKA Harmonica Slim and the Great Babylon Blues Band. Bronko also played behind Big Dave and the Rocking 88 Blues Band, Doc Blues and the Traveling Allstars.

**David Carr Jr.** David has been a member of Jazz & Funk Orchestra as well as a host of other Blues & R&B acts from Oklahoma City to Seattle to New York, Dallas, New Orleans, New Mexico and Chicago.

The Blues Society of Tulsa is a 501 c3 nonprofit dedicated to promoting the blues genre as well the artists who perform it. As part of the Blues Choice Awards, the Blues Society also celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

Winner of the Blues Choice Awards are the result of voting by members of the Blues Society.

Other winners at the event were: Jennifer Marriott, Best Vocal; Pete Marriott, Best Lead (guitar); and Matt Teegarden, Best Rhythm (drums). The Jennifer Marriott Band was the opening group. Receiving the Morrow-Webster Lifetime Achievement Award for the years of supporting live music and the local and region artist that create it were Kevin Smith and Amy Addington Smith of Maggie's Music Box, Jenks.