

Donna Herula

DONNA HERULA BAND (SHORT BIO)

Hailed for her “superlative guitar prowess” (Living Blues Magazine), Donna Herula is an award-winning blues singer, songwriter, electric and resonator slide guitarist, and Chicago Blues Hall of Fame inductee. “Cold Feet,” released in September 2026, blends acoustic and electric styles and weaves elements of blues, soul and roots rock into a “captivating experience” (Making a Scene).

Based out of Chicago, the Donna Herula Band performs dynamic versions of traditional Delta and Chicago Blues songs as well as contemporary original songs that tip the hat to the blues tradition. With a steady, pulse-pounding bass and drum groove, the Donna Herula Band is powered by a rich interplay of guitar, slide guitar, keys, and classic blues harp.

DONNA HERULA BAND (LONG BIO)

Hailed for her “superlative guitar prowess” (Living Blues Magazine), Donna Herula is an award-winning blues singer, songwriter, electric and resonator slide guitarist, and Chicago Blues Hall of Fame inductee. “Cold Feet,” released in September 2026, blends acoustic and electric styles and weaves elements of blues, soul and roots rock into a “captivating experience” (Making a Scene). Donna won Independent Blues Awards for “Best Traditional Blues Artist” and “Best Acoustic Blues Album.” Her award-winning songs, written from a “female perspective” (Living Blues Magazine) have been played on the BBC and SiriusXM – BB King’s Bluesville’s Top 15 Rack of Blues (most played songs).

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Quotes:

“A truly gifted virtuoso of the resonator guitar who also possesses the most stunning of voices. Herula is a Chicago born Blues artist of the highest order who not only sings, plays slide but also is a more than accomplished composer.” — Peter Merrett, PBS 106.7 FM, Melbourne, Australia

“Herula delivers a set that is powerful, passionate, and a great listen. The originals here draw from personal experience, giving them a level of power not found in much of the current blues scene.” — Bill Wilson, Reflections in Blue

“Through subtle tones and richly detailed phrasing, she conveys matters of the heart with a striking sense of vulnerability, a rare occurrence in these times of overwrought vocal approaches.” — Mark Thompson, Blues Blast Magazine, Blues Music magazine, and the Chicago Blues Guide website.

Where Have They Played?

The Donna Herula Band has performed at blues festivals throughout the world, including: Lucerne Blues Festival in Switzerland, Southern Indiana Blues Festival, Old Webster Jazz and Blues Festival (St. Louis), the Crossroads Blues Festival (Rockford, IL), Broad Street Blues and BBQ Festival (Griffith, IN), Ship and Shore Blues and Soul Festival (New Buffalo, MI), Bayfront Blues Festival (Duluth, MN), Blues on the Chippewa (Durand, WI), Joliet IL Blues Festival, and the Juke Joint Festival (Mississippi).

They have also performed at venues including: Buddy Guy's Legends, Evanston SPACE, The Prairie Arts Center, Navy Pier Beer Garden, Chicago Botanic Garden, Fitzgerald's, Madison Blues Society End of Summer Fest, Atwood Fest, The North Street Cabaret, Old Town Art Fair, Old Town School of Folk Music, and the North Center Rib Fest.

Donna has also performed at the Chicago Blues Festival four times, the last time on the main stage in 2022, and the King Biscuit Blues Festival multiple times.

Band Members:

The band includes:

- Donna Herula (singer, songwriter, resonator slide guitarist, and Chicago Blues Hall of Fame Inductee),
- Tony Wittrock (guitar, mandolin)
- Melvin Smith, Mike "Q" Quiroz, Harlan Terson (bass)
- John Jochem (harmonica)
- Alton Smith, Paul Mally (keyboards)
- Kenny "Beedy-Eyes" Smith (Grammy winning drummer), Theresa Durda, Marty Binder

Website:

<https://donnaherula.com/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DonnaHerulaMusic>