

Donna Herula

DONNA HERULA TRIO (SHORT BIO)

The Donna Herula Trio is an award-winning Chicago acoustic folk blues group featuring Chicago Blues Hall of Fame Inductee Donna Herula on vocals and resonator slide guitar, Tony Wittrock on guitar and mandolin, and Melvin Smith or Michael “Q” Quiroz on bass. Blending traditional Delta and early Chicago Blues with award-winning original songwriting, the group delivers powerful, soulful performances spanning gospel, ragtime, and country blues influences. Herula’s album *Bang at the Door* achieved worldwide praise, charting #1 on the *Roots Music Report* and winning "Best Acoustic Blues Album" at the 2022 Independent Blues Awards. From European festivals to concert halls across the U.S., the Donna Herula Trio delivers a set that is passionate, engaging, and unforgettable. Donna’s new album, *Cold Feet*, was released on September 18, 2026, and blends “intimate folk ballads, upbeat Chicago blues, and gospel-reflected tracks” (John Muller, *Blue Notes and Conversations*). For more information, visit donnaherula.com.

DONNA HERULA TRIO (LONG BIO)

The **Donna Herula Trio** is a Chicago-based folk blues group that plays fun, lively, and heartfelt interpretations of traditional Delta Blues and early Chicago Blues in addition to award-winning original songs that honor the folk blues tradition with a fresh, contemporary approach.

Fronted by **Donna Herula**—a singer, songwriter, resonator slide guitarist, Chicago Blues Hall of Fame Inductee, and teacher at the Old Town School of Folk Music—the group showcases exceptional musicianship and acoustic slide guitar mastery. Joining Herula are multi-instrumentalist **Tony Wittrock** on guitar and mandolin, and **Melvin Smith or Michael “Q” Quiroz** on bass. As *Blues Blast Magazine’s* Mark Thompson observed, *"The music flows from acoustic blues through gospel, jazz, and ragtime, to the electric Chicago blues style, with nods to New Orleans, folk, and country influences."*

Herula’s critically acclaimed album, *Bang at the Door*, earned worldwide recognition. It charted **#1 on the Acoustic Blues Album “Best of 2021 List”** according to the *Roots Music Report*, was named to the *Living Blues Magazine* Top 50 Albums of 2021, and reached the "IBBA Most Played Albums – Top 40 Annual Chart for 2021" via UK Blues DJs. At the 2022 Independent Blues Awards, Herula won **"Best Traditional Blues Artist"** and *Bang at the Door* took home **"Best Acoustic Blues Album."** The title track won **"Best AAA/Alternative Song"** at the 2022 International Acoustic Music Awards, where "Who’s Been Cookin’ in My Kitchen" was also a finalist. Tracks from the album have received international airplay on the BBC and spent eight weeks on SiriusXM – BB King’s Bluesville’s Top 15 Rack of Blues. Celebrating her artistry, *Living*

Blues Magazine praised Herula for her “superlative guitar prowess” and for crafting an album from a unique “female perspective.”

The Donna Herula Trio has captivated audiences nationally and internationally. Notable performances include an "Official Showcase" at the Folk Alliance Region Midwest conference, WFMT's *Folk Stage*, and the Lucerne Blues Festival in Switzerland. They are regular performers at premier folk and blues venues and festivals, including the Old Town School of Folk Music, White Oak Folk Festival, CU Folk and Roots Festival, Lake County Folk Club, Two-Way Street Coffee House, Trinity House, The Focal Point, and the Indy Folk Series. As Bill Wilson of *Reflections in Blue* puts it, "*Herula delivers a set that is powerful, passionate, and a great listen.*"

Donna's new album, *Cold Feet*, was released on September 18, 2026, and includes 8 originals and 2 cover songs “blending intimate folk ballads, upbeat Chicago blues, and gospel-reflected tracks” (John Muller, *Blue Notes and Conversations*).