



Photo: [Elizabeth E. George Photography](#)

John Christopher “JC” (Chris) Balding JC and The Backscratchers

JC and The Backscratchers – John Christopher “JC” Balding (a.k.a. Chris) was born in Tallahassee, FL. At the age of 14, he began his interest in harmonica and was playing along with albums by Charlie McCoy and Huey Lewis after coming home from school every afternoon. In 1991, at the age of 22, Chris went to a local watering hole to catch a gig featuring harmonica master Jerry Portnoy; a veteran of Muddy Waters’ band. “That show changed my life” he later recounted. If he had an interest in the harmonica before, it was now a full-blown obsession. Chris cut his “teeth” on the now classic album “*Harp Attack!*,” featuring Carey Bell, Bill Branch, Junior Wells and James Cotton.

His vocals conjure up images of another one of his heroes, James Harman. Chris is one of your hosts for the monthly Juke Joint Jam at the Bradfordville Blues Club since its inception June 2021. Some of you may remember him from the Blue Monday Jam at The Pearl Oyster Bar, where he caught the ear of, and became friends with, the late, great Pat Ramsey.

Chris has been on a 30+ year journey, honing his craft, playing with many of the most notable blues bands in the Tallahassee, FL area. In 2021, he launched his solo project “JC and The Backscratchers”, a roots Blues combo featuring songs from the 40s to the present, with influences such as Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Junior Wells, Gary Primich, James Harman, Rick Estrin and Kim Wilson; among many others.
Backscratchers: Jack Straub - Bass, Deb Berlinger - Drums
Zavian Orton - Guitar

CONTACT

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Anne Bello, Agent (TA 1451)
Anne Bello Productions, LLC
352.514.4996

3 CDS as the harp player
and vocalist

2020 IBC Regional Winner
(Solo/Duo)

Playing the Harp since he
was 14 years of age

Co-host Juke Joint Jam @
Bradfordville Blues Club,
Tallahassee, FL since June
2021

Member North Central
Florida Blues Society, First
Coast Blues Society, Sun-
coast Blues Society and
Wiregrass Blues Society

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

- B.B. King's Blues Club Orlando - Orlando, FL - 2016
- Bradfordville Blues Club - Tallahassee, FL - 2012 through 2023
- Florida Folk Festival - White Springs, FL - 2013, 2014, 2015
- Florida Jazz & Blues Festival - Tallahassee, FL - 2016
- International Blues Challenge - National Event - Memphis, TN - 2020
- Southern Pines Blues & BBQ Festival - Perry, FL - 2015, 2016
- Tallahassee Jazz & Blues Festival - Tallahassee, FL - 2013, 2016, 2018
- The Alley Blues -Sanford, FL - 2016, 2017
- The Moon - Opening band for Tab Benoit - Tallahassee, FL - 2016, 2018, 2019
- The Moon - Opening band for Tinsley Ellis - Tallahassee, FL - 2016
- The Moon - Opening for Ally Venable - Tallahassee, FL - 2022
- The Moon - Opening for Elle King - Tallahassee, FL - 2
- Blues in the Lot Festival - Port St. Joe, FL - 2018, 2019
- Blues On Reid Festival - Port St. Joe, FL - 2020
- Ground Zero - Clarksdale, MS - 2020
- Backyard Blues Festival - Tallahassee, FL - 2018, 2022
- Opening for Mr. Sipp & The True Believers - Tallahassee, FL - 2022

LINKS

Website: <https://www.jebackscratchers.com/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/jcandthebackscratchers>

Video/You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/@jcandthebackscratchers>

Calendar of Performances:

<https://www.jebackscratchers.com/shows>