



**June 21, 2013. For immediate release.**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Island Gallery  
400 Winslow Way E., #120  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
206-780-9500/www.theislandgallery.net

For more information, contact  
Susan Swannack-Nunn, Owner  
[ssn@theislandgallery.net](mailto:ssn@theislandgallery.net)

**Event:**



**Sizzling Summer Ceramics Sale!**

**July 5-31, 2013**

Opening Reception:  
**First Friday, July 5th, 6-8 pm**

Introducing Gig Harbor  
Abstract Impressionist Artist

**Martha Reisdorf**

Featuring a musical performance by Bainbridge Island's

**Julie Duke Band**

with

**Peter Spencer**

In concert on the Plaza

**EARLY WARNING:** Saturday, July 27, 2013: Peter Spencer performs with Jonathan Green on the Plaza. 3 pm.

**Location:** The Island Gallery, 400 Winslow Way E., #120, Bainbridge Island, Washington, 98110.

**The Julie Duke Band** delivers an edgy, unrestrained blend of Blues from the Delta to Chicago, 1920s through current. The band features the vocals of front-woman Julie Duke, the funky bass powerhouse Steve Pearce, guitarist Brian Barta, keyboard player Van Bergen and the rhythmic styling of drummer John Lester. The boys hold down a smoldering groove behind Julie's sultry, bluesy voice and passionately energetic stage presence. Their cover versions are choice and eclectic, including songs by Elmore James, Bobby "Blue" Bland, Koko Taylor, Freddie King and Big Mama Thornton. They take a song, honor its origins, and then make it their own with drop-dead vocals and foot-stomping, hip-swaying rhythms. With their entertaining stage show, expert



musicianship and unique sound, The Julie Duke Band has built a wide and devoted following, drawing crowds to shows at venues as diverse as the Coyle Community Center, the Bite of Seattle, Bainbridge's Bloedel Reserve and the Seven Cedars Casino.

### About the Artists:

**Julie Marie Duke – Singer:** It had to be the blues. Julie has been singing since before she could talk, in fact she used to sing herself to sleep as a child. Then there was choir in high school, touring in her first professional band when she was nineteen, years as a singer/songwriter/guitarist playing in coffee shops and folk festivals, but it wasn't until she started singing the blues that it all came together. Her influences had long been Etta James, Koko Taylor, Nina Simone, Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald ; however, she had never had a chance to perform her favorite songs onstage. Once she did she knew she could never go back (though she does still enjoy dabbling in acoustic guitar and singer/songwriter originals. "I put on that sequined dress, hop on stage and grab that microphone and for a couple of hours I am transported to a different time and place." says Julie. "Friends who come to see me don't recognize me from the person they know off stage and they love meeting my other persona."

**John "Drum Chops" Lester – Drums:** The Julie Duke Band is thrilled to include the drummer considered by many to be the finest in the Pacific Northwest among its ranks. John has been playing classical, pop, rock, blues, soul, funk and almost every other type of music since the early 60s. A discerning listener can hear echoes of Joe Morello, Neal Peart, Paul Notion and Carter Beauford every time he plays. Drummers of all types would do well for themselves by contacting John for lessons. A true professional, who plays great!

**Brian Barta – Guitar:** From beautiful melodies to smoldering solos, Brian delivers it all with style and grace The great sounds from his Gibson Les Paul come from his heart, his soul and the very fibers of his being. Whether playing lead or rhythm, Brian "plays for the song", making every Julie Duke Band show an event. His vast gigging experience has given him poise and a sense of authority on the stage remarkable for his age. A player with a great future in music.

**Van Bergen** has played keyboards in rock and blues bands in Pennsylvania, the summertime Jersey shore, Colorado, Ohio, and Washington - nightclubs, ski resorts, posh hotels, corporate parties, large outdoor festivals, and road trips throughout the Rocky Mountain West. He has played everything from 1940's blues to modern originals, classic rock to punk and new wave, country to disco and R&B and Motown. He was a session player in Colorado recording studios; while there, he recorded a complete album of original songs in "big '80s" style. The blues band Van was with in Ohio also recorded a complete CD of classic and original blues. But looking out at a dance floor full of happy people is still his favorite thing.

**Steve Pearce – Bass:** Steve first picked up a guitar at age 10. In 1965, he and his younger brother enrolled in the Weldonians Guitar Academy in Oakland, CA. In just a few months they



rose to the top of the class, getting to play the electric guitars reserved for the 'better' players. An accomplished pro musician, Steve also plays drums, still plays guitar, a little harmonica, and can't wait to get a ukulele. One of his favorite instruments has always been the lap steel guitar. Over the last thirty five years Steve has played many different styles of music ranging from Country, R & B, Rock, Reggae, and the Blues. Whatever the style he always makes it his own. Some of the artists Steve has worked with include Chicago Blues artist J.B. Hutto, Duffy Bishop, Bill Brown and The Kingbees, The New Flamingos, The Different Ones and The Fentons all with Seattle brothers David and Jim Keller, Bill Brown and The Kingbees as well as The Brian Barta Band. "The Julie Duke Band is a pleasure to be working with, it's 'The Best of the Blues!'"

**Peter Spencer** is a fingerpicking guitarist, singer, and songwriter. Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, he grew up listening to the R&B and hillbilly music played on radio stations like WLAC in Nashville and CKLW in Windsor, Ontario. He began his musical career in 1968 playing harmonica in a blues band in Pittsburgh, but soon switched to solo guitar. Peter spent the 1970s touring North America and Europe playing early blues, jazz and ragtime. Then, in the early 1980s, he began writing songs, co-founding the Fast Folk Musician's Cooperative in Greenwich Village, New York, where he worked with artists like Suzanne Vega, John Gorka, Lucy Kaplanski, Cliff Eberhardt, and Jack Hardy. These recordings are part of the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

After graduating from The Writing Program at Columbia University in 1989, Peter retired from performing and became a full-time music writer for magazines like Rolling Stone and Sing Out. His book "World Beat: A Listener's Guide to Contemporary World Music on CD" was published by the Chicago Review Press in 1992.

Peter returned to performing with the 2000 release "New Hope and Wise Virgins," followed by a series of releases beginning with an album of original and classic blues called "Nobody's Daddy" in 2005. "Handsignal," another album of original songs, followed in 2006. Later that year came "Gathering Light," an album of Christmas music for solo guitar. In 2007 he released "The Blues Concert," recorded live on Bainbridge Island, WA, and in 2009 "From the Island," another set of original songs. His newest album, released in the Spring of 2011, is called "1896," recorded simply with his voice and an 1896 Washburn parlor guitar in a Bainbridge Island schoolhouse that was also built in 1896.

Peter has been called a "guitar wizard" by Seattle's Victory Music News and "a gifted lyricist with a sharp eye" by the New Jersey Star-Ledger. He tours regularly in the Northeast and throughout the Pacific Northwest and teaches guitar and voice at the Dusty Strings Music School in Seattle and the Island Music Center of Bainbridge Island, Washington. He is also a regular performer at The Island Gallery First Friday Artwalks and our other special musical events.



*the Island Gallery*

**Updates always available on our blog: [www.theislandgallery-artblog.blogspot.com](http://www.theislandgallery-artblog.blogspot.com)**

**For more information, images, or to interview the artists, please contact:**

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Underground parking available at The Winslow off Ericksen Avenue.

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