

# Kevin Purcell and the Nightburners



- **Formed in 1989, went on to win 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Budweiser Blues Challenge (Chicago) in both 1989 and 1990**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners in Benson and Hedges Blues Talent Search in 1991 (National)**
- **In 1994, the syndicated radio show 'Blues Stage' on National Public Radio recorded a live show of the Nightburners at the Eureka Springs Arkansas Bluesfest, and the result was they became the 1<sup>st</sup> independent act ever to be aired several times on the show in that year, solely from call in requests.**
- **1999 Semi-finalists in Fox Valley Blues Society Blues Talent Competition (IL)**
- **Extensive touring, CD Releases in '90, '94, and 2000. Shows with BB King, Buddy Guy, Etta James, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Taj Mahal, and countless more.**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place winners in the 2012 Chicago Blues Challenge**
- **Finalist in 2013 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, and one of the 2 top selling CD's (for the entire event) as well.**
- **In 2013, Kevin Purcell and the Nightburners beat all of the competing bands by nearly 1000 votes in a virtual voting contest that was held for the opening slot at the SinCity Blues and Soul Revival, and went on to great reviews of their Vegas performance.**
- **CD Release in 2007 and our newest, 'Beyond the Storm' in 2013**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners again in the 2013 Chicago Blues Challenge**
- **Semi-finalist in 2014 International Blues Challenge in Memphis.**

***Kevin Purcell and the Nightburners Performances:***

**Eureka Springs Arkansas Bluesfest**

**Sin City Blues and Soul Revival, Las Vegas**

**Chicago Blues Fest**

**Summerfest, Milwaukee WI**

**RiverFest, LaCrosse WI**

**Bluesfest Brownsville KY**

**Paramount Blues Fest, Grafton WI**

**King Biscuit Blues Fest, Helena Arkansas**

**On the Waterfront Fest, MI**

**And many more...**

***Discography:***

**Thunderballin' 1990**

**Movin' In for the Kill 1994**

**Live at the Crowdaddy Bayou 2000**

**House of Fire 2007**

**Beyond the Storm 2013**



Pete Kruse – Drums

Andy Ohlrich – Fiddle

Tony Root – Bass

Kevin Purcell – Harp, Vocals

Don Laferty – Guitar

Bill LeClair - Keyboards

***Shows with:***

**Delbert McClinton**

**Marshall Tucker**

**REO Speedwagon**

**The Outlaws**

**BB King**

**Koko Taylor**

**And many more...**

**Etta James**

**Lonnie Brooks**

**The Kinsey Report**

**The Nighthawks**

**The Fabulous Thunderbirds**

**Lonnie Mack**

**Bo Diddley**

**Bobby 'Blue' Bland**

**Willie Dixon**

**James Cotton**

**Magic Slim**

**Buddy Guy**

**[www.nightburners.com](http://www.nightburners.com)**



## Kevin Purcell Bio

The sound of blistering harmonica dueling with blazing fiddle has been called by some critics the most unique they have heard recently...Kevin Purcell and the Nightburners are a rockin' blues band with a refreshing range of influences, one of the very few bands to bring the fiddle back to the blues!

Kevin Purcell grew up steeped in Chicago blues and inspired by the musicians who played it. But as his career in music broadened, he developed a deep respect for the southern sounds heard in early country and electric blues. The similarities in the sound were compelling, mainly because the early blues in Chicago had all come from the south. As a harmonica player and a lead singer, he became very interested in pursuing the legacy of southern music. Soon he was hooked on all the different styles; bluegrass, Cajun funk, zydeco, boogie, and the instruments; dobro, fiddle, mandolin, harmonica, and then there's the songs...Kevin blends all these components together to create a rich tapestry of sound, from southern country blues, delta blues, Cajun rhythms and Chicago boogie for an unforgettable show with a deep love for the music.

Years of playing has earned Purcell a reputation as a smokin' harmonica player, a powerful vocalist, and a respected songwriter. As a captivating front man, Kevin Purcell welds the gritty, back alley sounds of Chicago blues with the back roads soul of southern music. When the fiddle was added to the band, the magical sound was unmistakable. The harp/fiddle duels/duets have had people jumping to their feet for over a decade now.

Kevin's award winning band has shared the stage with icons like BB King, Buddy Guy, Etta James, Koko Taylor, Taj Mahal, and countless other blues greats, while switching easily to share the spotlight with luminaries like Delbert McClinton, Marshall Tucker, The Outlaws, Molly Hatchet, and even classic rockers such as REO Speedwagon, Creedence Clearwater, Robin Trower and more.

**"Kevin blows up a storm but leaves plenty of room for the rest of the band to show their stuff too. Nobody holds back...these guys kick butt!!" - *Twelve Bar Rag, Suncoast Blues Society (FL)***

Purcell delivers an intense, crowd pleasing performance because he thrives on the magical connection between performer and audience. His shows are packed with great showmanship, high energy, intimacy, soul, and plain old fun. Purcell has distilled the essence of his roots, the blues, and the great southern traditions that consistently enlighten in a true and original musical experience.



## What people are saying...

***'Sunshine' Sonny Payne – KFFA Radio (King Biscuit Time) – longest running blues show in history***

...take my word for it, I've heard harp players comin' out of my ears...it was legit, this guy did his own thing.. I've sat here year in and year out, and I've heard 'em all...and it's just amazing..

***Windy City Harmonicazette:***

Fun, fun, fun. What a band, what a harmonica player. Kevin is like Pan with his flute – he prances and dances around the stage and magic comes out of his instrument. He is another harmonica player that just blows me away...one of the best new bands I've heard...

***Daily Herald:***

...very intense showman...been known to come down in the audience and sit on laps, dance from table to table, and dance across the bar...some of the best music this side of the Mississippi...

***New City Magazine:***

...with a mob-like audience stacked to the ceiling...Purcell dished out a fiery set that barely rose above the decibels of the screaming crowd....

***Pioneer Press:***

...the audience has come to know Kevin Purcell and The Nightburners for a brand of roof-thumping boogie-woogie that tears through dancing shoes like tires on a NASCAR track...the fiddle player is out of this world, the guitarist is mind blowing no matter what he does...

***Reggi Hopkins, Music Critic:***

He bound from one end of the stage to the other with an energy that the crowd wildly fed from. It was a fast paced show through and through...I couldn't help but praise his intense showmanship.

***Inland Empire Arts and Entertainment Weekly:***

...Purcell and company have proven that their style (of music) is a major force to watch for from a new generation of performers. The intense showmanship of this rockin' blues band will give the right combination for a great evening of live music and fun...

*Booking: James Schneider, Deven Ventures Entertainment, Inc. 708-826-8180*

**Examiner.com:**

Kevin Purcell and the Nightburners have consistently reinvented the genre, creating a unique blend of traditional blues mixed with a generous measure of southern rock. You cannot stand still at a show; it's not possible. Lead vocalist and harmonica player, Kevin Purcell is a consummate performer who thrives on engaging the audience in the music and the show.

**Illinois Entertainer:** Purcell raises the roof with his blazing harp playing...adrenaline powered harp style...

**Dave Baum, WSCR Infinity Host of 'The Score'** (Fifty years in Broadcasting):

...Kevin is one of the most talented harmonica artists I have ever heard...audiences always seem to want more.

**95WILL Rock:**

Down to earth musicians with great attitudes and a rockin' blues show describes Kevin Purcell and the Nightburners.

**US 99.5** (Americas Country Station) Midday DJ Bill Lloyd: ...they're just a damn good band. I've seen people just stand and watch the band slack-jawed in some sort of attempt to glean some of the energy coming from the stage...

**Pioneer Press Review (commenting on fiddle player, Andy Ohrich):**

Andy is capable of doing unbelievable things with the fiddle...when he plays, people commonly react by dropping their jaws and staring in wonder...

**CD REVIEWS –**

**Chicago Blues Guide – Review of 'Beyond the Storm' 2013**

Excellent arrangements, performance, writing and production... this collection of ten original tunes is a joy to listen to.. the combination of slide guitar, harmonica, and violin adds a unique texture and soul to this already emotional music... the use of the violin to move you through the changes is spectacular... they are now garnering well-deserved national attention...

**Blues Writer/Reviewer George Fish, Indiana - Reviewing their CD, 'Movin in for the Kill' 1994**

..an album that displays the groups solid and original approach to the blues...solid, tight, musicianship throughout make this second effort stand out and be worthy of notice...

**Blues on Stage** (KBA Award winning Blues CD Review Site) **On their CD, 'Live at the Crawdaddy Bayou'**

...and the final song is a showcase for Kevin's' excellent harp playing which explodes on this final blow-out number which sees the band tearing up the place and is a fitting end to this powerful live recording by a classy band....

**Chicago Blues Guide – Review of 'House of Fire' 2007**

This CD burns right through the player... fresh and energetic approach to these songs.. Not to mention some very good production to bring the band up front and personal. The band's versatility is proven well by the arrangement and instrumentation... he pulls together a very good lineup of musicians for "House of Fire" and generates his showmanship right through the speakers. This CD is an excellent showcase of Kevin Purcell & the Nightburners and will motivate listeners to go out and see this band.