

# BLUES BREAKERS

## BIOGRAPHY

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### The band:

The BluesBreakers was founded in 1995 by Dik Korving (guitar and vocals), one of the first people to adopt the blues in the Netherlands. The band is a spinoff of the White Bluesband, which had been playing all over Europe from the 70s.

The band released 5 albums over the course of its existence. Since the introduction of the All-time Dutch Blues Top 100, an annually released chart by all blues radio stations in the Netherlands, the BluesBreakers have consistently 5 to 6 productions in the charts with Mercury Blues being in the top 10, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2015.






Where most blues bands in northern Europe have made a shift towards the blues-rock, the BluesBreakers stick to traditional blues, but explore all styles and aspects within that framework. At the same time the band attempts to give a European twist to the music. This is illustrated perfectly by the album cover of their 2012 CD Riverside that does not portrait American juke joint or inner-city neon signs, but typical Dutch windmills in an idyllic meadow.

Regardless of their Dutch blues ambitions, the band has an international cast and character. The harmonica is played by the extraordinary German harp player Reinhard Sämisch, and in 2011 the American/Dutch Francesco (Frank) Frentrop joined the band on keyboards and vocals. Frank and Dik also form the composer duo of the band and are responsible for the majority of the original songs. Their songs already received notable airplay outside the Netherlands with blues radio shows in the US, Russia, UK, France, Germany, Belgium and Croatia.

With strong lyrics and compositions that go far beyond the average 12-bar shuffle, they manage to slowly get the critics on their side.

The live performances of the band are notorious. They happily mix styles and tempos, contemporary classics and new material. As a result they manage to entertain not only the blues buffs and afinados, but also the people who are not so much blues minded (they do exist). That is what blues is all about according to the philosophy of the BluesBreakers: Send the crowd home with tired legs, sore hands and smiling faces after a night of dancing, clapping and good times.

The Bluesbreakers accompanied several international acts, including: Dr. Feelgood (UK), Willie Foster (US), John Campbelljohn (CA), Eelco Gelling (NL, Cuby and the Blizzards), Keith Dunn (US), Dave Hole (AU), Magic Frankie (NL), Marty Hall (CA), Chris Jones & Steve Baker (UK), Mike Anderson Band (DK), Nico Christiansen (NL, Living Blues), The Stewart Barnes Band (UK) and DieDra (US).

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### Cast:

**Dik "Mr. Brown" Korving** (NL), vocals and guitar.

Mr. Brown was an early adapter of the blues music in Holland. As a close friend to Eelco Gelling (Cuby & the Blizzards), he was introduced to and captured by the blues at a young age, inspiring him to learn the guitar. He developed into a renowned master of the slow blues.

With the White Blues Band he successfully toured the European stages in the 70s and 80s. This year (2013) he celebrates his 50th stage anniversary.

**Francesco Frentrop** (NL/US), vocals and keyboards.

Francesco has a variety of musical luggage. He accompanied diva's Marjolein Keunig and Maya Hakvoort (AT), and played with members of Het Goede Doel, Earth & Fire, Urban Heroes, Billy the Kid and The New Cool Collective. The famous Dutch music critic Jip Golsteijn (Telegraaf/Oor) praised his early rock compositions ("...now this is rock & roll. This is what I grew up with!"). In the US he played with (amongst others) Larry Garnett, Jon McCormick, and the late Australian guitar hero Dave Pollard.

**Reinhard Sämisch** (DE), harmonica.

Reinhard has been with the band from the first day. His virtuosity on the blues harp also makes him a much sought after session musician. He played (and plays) with people like Will Foster (US), Steve Baker (UK), Bob Davis (US) and Tony Vega (US).

**Ernst Wernicke** (NL), bass and backing vocals

Ernst is a famous bass player in the eastern Netherlands since the 60s when he played with his brother in the legendary beat group The Jibs. He also plays with Dutch rock legend Bennie Jolink (Normaal) in De Pensionado's. Experienced, calm and with a heart full of music, he makes the perfect backbone of the band.

**Eerde Kalsbeek** (NL), drums.

Eerde is a much sought after drummer in the greater Arnhem region. He earned his stripes by playing in bands like Original Sin, Buddy Friends, the Tim Marshall Band and Railway. As a session drummer he played with Kirsten Thien (US) and opened for Otis Redding III and Big Brother and the Holding Company.

### Clippings (translated):

*"Nice, entertaining bluesband with a beautiful repertoire."* - Dik Zorgman, TheBluesman.net (NL)

*"A pleasure to listen to and a pleasure to watch."* – Sebastian Kirschner, General Anzeiger (DE)

*"A solid performance and a great act."* – Frans Schepers, Bluesrockpagina.nl (NL)

*"The BluesBreakers deliver a hot and swinging blues experience every time."* – Heimat Report (DE)

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