



Photo by Krista Carlson



# **RYAN HARTT & THE BLUE HEARTS**

**CONTACT:** Eric Ducoff at 860-575-9675 or [eric@strategies.com](mailto:eric@strategies.com)

[WWW.RYANHARTT.COM](http://WWW.RYANHARTT.COM)

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Contact Eric Ducoff  
860-575-9673  
eric@strategies.com

*"With this latest release, Ryan Hartt & the Blue Hearts will become established amongst the best American blues bands. The Connecticut-based combo has to be regarded as a serious competitor to established bands like the Mighty Flyers. Hartt and Ducoff (who also produced) are excellent, tasteful musicians. A superb album."*

**- Detlev Hoegen - Crosscut Records - Germany**

Dubbed "young East Coast masters of the jumpin' West Coast sound" by Blues Revue magazine, Ryan Hartt & the Blue Hearts are a mainstay of the New England blues scene. The band was formed in 2000 when life-long friends **Ryan Hartt** (vocals/harmonica) and **Eric Ducoff** (guitar) melded their passions for the classic sounds of 40s, 50s and early 60s blues stylings. The rhythm section of **Nick Toscano** (drums) and **Jeff Berg** (bass) rounds out the quartet.

The band received international acclaim with their 2003 Far-Tone Records debut, "Empty Wallet." A raw and stripped-down collection of 15 original tracks, "Empty Wallet" was produced by blues guitar great **Rick Holmstrom**, and featured guest appearances by **Troy Gonyea** (ex-Fabulous Thunderbirds/The Howl), **Mark Stevens** (ex-Roomful of Blues), **Steve Mugalian** (ex-Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers), **Nick Adams** (Racky Thomas Band) and Holmstrom himself. The CD received extensive radio airplay and favorable reviews across the United States and Europe, and was distributed internationally by Hep Cat Records.

In 2005, they released their second Far-Tone Records CD, "Yeah Man!" In addition to the 50s-styled Chicago and jump blues they have become known for, the Blue Hearts also dip into swamp blues, organ trio jazz, West Side blues, 40s R&B and just a dash of roots rock on this disc. Featuring 13 original songs and 3 obscure covers, "Yeah Man!" reflects the band's deep respect for tradition with a fresh approach. West Coast guitar legend **Junior Watson** appears on four tracks. This release was a top eight finalist in the International Blues Foundation's 2006 "Best Self-produced CD" contest.

In both 2004 and 2006, the Blue Hearts qualified as semi-finalists in the **International Blues Challenge** in Memphis, Tennessee.

*Press photos and bios available for download at [www.ryanhartt.com](http://www.ryanhartt.com).*



**Ryan Hartt:** vocals & harmonica  
**Eric Ducoff:** guitar  
**Nick Toscano:** drums  
**Jeff Berg:** bass

**As seen in  
Blues Revue  
Magazine  
Dec/Jan '06**



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## RECENT VENUES AND HIGHLIGHTS...

- Top 8 Finalists: Blues Foundation's 2006 "Best Self-Produced CD" Contest
- **WINNERS** of CT Blues Society Challenge 2003 & 2006
- Boston Blues Society Challenge 2003 & 2004 Finalists - 2nd place both years
- **Blues, Brews & BBQs Festival** 2003 - Six Flags - Springfield, MA
- **Red Bank Jazz & Blues Festival** 2003 & 2005 - Red Bank, NJ
- **Black-Eyed & Blues Festival** 2004 & 2007- Hartford, CT
- **Brews N' Blues Festival** 2005 - Westford, MA
- **Harpin' Help Festival** - Belmar, NJ
- **Blues 2000 & Beyond Festival** 2001 & 2005 - Ellenville, NY
- **Block Island Music Festival** - Block Island, RI
- **Berlin Blues Festival** - 2004 & 2007 - Berlin, CT
- **Long Branch Jazz & Blues Festival** - 2007 - Long Branch, NJ
- Album review in Blues Revue Magazine - August/September 2003
- Album review in Blues Revue Magazine - December/January 2006
- Voted "Best Blues Band 2005 & 2007" by readers of Hartford Advocate
- 1/03 Release of debut CD "Empty Wallet" on Far-Tone Records
- 3/05 Release of second CD "Yeah Man!" on Far-Tone Records
- B.B. King's Blues Club - New York, NY
- B.B. King's Blues Club - Mashantucket, CT
- Toad's Place - New Haven, CT
- Black-Eyed Sally's- Hartford, CT
- Harry's - Hyannis, MA
- Foxwoods Resort & Casino - Mashantucket, CT
- Bally's - Las Vegas, NV

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**Ryan Hartt:** *vocals & harmonica*  
**Eric Ducoff:** *guitar*  
**Nick Toscano:** *drums*  
**Jeff Berg:** *bass*



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## FROM THE CRITICS...

### NATIONAL REVIEWS...



“Connecticut’s Ryan Hartt & the Blue Hearts are young East Coast masters of the jumping West Coast sound. Hartt’s a stunning harp player with crazy chops and some of Bill Clarke’s dramatic flair. His band (Nick Toscano on drums and Steve Combs on bass) swings hard, and guitarist Eric Ducoff has just the right tone and dictionary of preposterous phrases and quotations to make this kind of music cook. Each cut shifts shape with every listen—it sounds as if the Blue Hearts logged a ton of bandstand time with these songs before recording “Empty Wallet” in two days’ time. Having Rick Holmstrom produce couldn’t hurt; he contributes guitar to a few tracks, as do Troy Gonyea and Nick Adams. Highlights abound: There’s the Little Walterish “On My Mind,” the Jimmy Reed-style shuffle “New Love, Old Love,” the nasty “I’d Be a Fool,” and the devastating closer, “North of Franklin.”

**Tom Hyslop, Blues Revue Magazine - August/September 2003**

”It ain’t only the guys on the West coast who can jump the blues. This is one CD guaranteed to turn any room in the house into a swinging, Friday night juke.”

**Art Tipaldi, Senior writer for Blues Revue Magazine**

“Yeah Man!” is probably the best recording *ever* by a CT band, and stands with the best recordings from the rest of the country, too.”

**Peter Rost, “The Pine Grove Blues” - WWUH 91.3 - W. Hartford, CT**

“Check the small print on their rear view mirror; The print that reads, “Rising young blues stars may be approaching faster than they appear...”

**Chuck Nevitt, Dallas Blues Society Records**

”With approximately 30 newly received CDs on my desk, most won’t ever make it to one of my play lists. Often an entire cd won’t last 30 seconds after the needle drops. I need to hear a couple of hits on a record before I’ll even consider it for air play. The latest CD by Ryan Hartt & The Blue Hearts, “Yeah Man!” is chock full of hits. Go get it, play it and jump around the room!”

**Beef Stew, “Sunday Night Blues” - WCCC 106.9 - Hartford, CT**