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## Mick Jagger backs Buddy Guy on new Chicago blues record

By [Lisa Bertagnoli](#)



Photo by Bloomberg Mick Jagger and Buddy Guy

It's not a museum yet, but [Chicago Blues Experience](#) has released a CD. "Chicago Plays the Stones" features Chicago blues musicians covering a dozen Rolling Stones songs.

The CD is a collaboration between Grammy Award-nominated producer Larry Skoller's Raisin' Music Records and Chicago Blues Experience. It is, in effect, an "answer album" to the Rolling Stones' 2016 effort, "Blue and Lonesome," which features 12 covers of blues songs by the Rolling Stones.

One highlight is a rendition of "Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo (Heartbreaker)" sung by Buddy Guy and Mick Jagger. The two have performed live together; this is thought to be their first recording together. Jagger hangs back on the track: "He didn't want to override Buddy's presence," says Sona Wang, Chicago Blues Experience CEO. "He complemented (Guy) in a respectful way." The Stones, Wang adds, "have so much love and respect for these Chicago musicians." Four of the Rolling Stones are on Chicago Blues Experience's artists board.



Photo by Chicago Blues Experience Cover art for "Chicago Plays the Stones"

Other tracks include John Primer singing "Let it Bleed" and "Angie;" Billy Branch covering "Sympathy for the Devil;" and Ronnie Baker Brooks' rendition of "Satisfaction." Most of the album was recorded at JoyRide Studio in Chicago. Guy's track was recorded at Porcupine Studios in Mesa, Ariz., to accommodate his tour schedule, and Jagger recorded at a studio in London.

The \$20 CD is on sale online at [Chicagoplaysthestones.com](http://Chicagoplaysthestones.com); at "[Exhibitionism](#)," the Rolling Stones exhibit now on Navy Pier, and at local Whole Foods stores. It's a "deluxe" package that includes extensive liner notes and an original-art poster. Half of profits from the CD sale will benefit Chicago Blues Experience Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the museum. The foundation, which already has 501 (c) 3 status, will support music and arts education in Chicago.

***Earlier: [Chicago blues museum to open in Loop in 2019](#)***

Bill Selonick, CBE co-founder and the record's executive producer, got the idea for the album when he saw "[Exhibitionism](#)" in London. In one video, Muddy Waters and Buddy Guy each thank the Stones for elevating the blues in a way they could not have. "I thought, 'Wouldn't it be cool if the Chicago blues community could organize itself and return a tip of the hat to the Stones?'" Selonick says.



Photo by Chicago Blues Experience An architect's rendering of the museum

Through various musical connections, including "Blue and Lonesome" producer Don Was, Jagger heard about the record and offered to contribute to the Buddy Guy track. "That was quite a moment," Selonick says.

Selonick adds that future records will be issued via the CBE/Raisin' Music Records collaboration, and that sales will most likely benefit Chicago Blues Experience Foundation. Meanwhile, the CD "communicates our intent in a very physical manner," he says.

Chicago Blues Experience, a for-profit venture, is scheduled to open at 25 E. Washington Blvd. in the spring of 2019. The partners are trying to raise \$25 million to open the museum.

***Earlier: [The blues is Chicago's biggest cultural export. Why don't we do more to promote it?](#)***

*Editor's note: This story has been corrected to say that Larry Skoller has been nominated for Grammy Awards*