



# 1st Swiss Blues Challenge

## The Finalists

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### Mr Blue and the Tight Groove

Mr. Blue Rivers is always able to cast a spell over his audience using his powerful and soulful voice, his unbelievable charisma and huge stage presence. For 19 years Mr Blue and his 5-piece band „The Tight Groove“ have become well-know in both the Swiss blues scene, as well as in neighboring countries.

In the 60's, Blue Rivers toured the most famous music clubs in Europe with Blues- and Soul- legends such as Ike and Tina Turner, Sam and Dave and Otis Redding . In 1992, the now Basel resident singer formed the band „Mr Blue and the Tight Groove“ together with a number of Swiss musicians. The band's soloists, guitar virtuoso **Rene Hemmig**, saxophonist **Beat Riggenschach**, as well as keyboarder **Francois Kaech** are all masters of their instruments, who have already enjoyed success with a variety of international artists in number of bands. Bassist **Jürg Frei** and drummer **Paul Buser** lay down the so-called „Tight Groove“ the band integrated into their name.

<http://www.mrblue.ch>





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### Swamp Train

Swamp Train is an energetic cigar box guitar & washboard blues band with its roots in the delta area of the Swiss Jura mountains.

If a sulphurous atmosphere, humidity and mud do not scare you, hop on the Swamp Train !

#### Musicians

Big Blowin' Blaze	Vocals, Cigar Box, Harmonica
Alain "Cut Finger" Pache	Cigar Box
Nickworks	Bass
Rattlebrained	Washboards, percussion, bones & backup

#### Links

<http://www.swamptrain.com/>

<http://www.mx3.ch/artist/swamptrain>

<http://www.myspace.com/swamptrain>

<http://www.facebook.com/SwampTrain>



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[www.swissblues.ch](http://www.swissblues.ch) – [info@sierreblues.ch](mailto:info@sierreblues.ch)

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### Marco Marchi and the Mojo Workers

Roots Blues Quartet

Marco Marchi & The Mojo Workers is an acoustic blues quartet formed by musicians with decades of experience in vast musical genres (blues, jazz, folk, traditional, pop).

They have been able to carve out a niche in the European blues scene, performing a repertoire of blues from the 1920's to the 1950's. From ragtime to piedmont style, from Delta blues to country blues and the early hours of the Chicago blues.

Marco Marchi & The Mojo Worker's sound is designed with a completely personal style. Their songs are interpreted by assimilating the original energy and playing with passion and authenticity. The result: an absorbing blend of sounds filled with pathos of the past.

After a year of intense activity in the major local clubs of Ticino and Italy, the quartet acquired a growing audience and success in Switzerland and have performed in major music festivals including Piazza Blues Bellinzona, Magic Blues, Sierre Blues Festival, Geneva Blues Summit and Samedan Out of Blues, Summerblues Festival and many others.

They released their first self-produced CD "Listenin 'to my Soul" and has received critical acclaim.

The director of the legendary Cross Cut Records in Bremen (D), Detlev Hoegen, winner of the KBA (Keeping The Blues Alive) Award from the Blues Foundation of Memphis (USA), personally congratulated the band after hearing their CD and proposed to include it into their prestigious catalog at his headquarters Bear Family Records.

It is considered one of the most promising realities of acoustic blues. Positive testimonies of key industry experts have been written on their live performances and studio work:

"At a time when the contemporary Blues music is becoming increasingly cumbersome and loud, Marco Marchi & The Mojo Workers takes the path of class, elegance and introspection. They do it with respect and humility of those that play while listening. A fundamental merit that hides in the folds of their interpretations and blends the classic and original resulting in a high quality product". Ernesto de Pascale, journalist and president of the Italian association "Il Popolo del Blues".

In addition, Marco Marchi and the Mojo workers have been reviewed by [www.bluesnews.ch](http://www.bluesnews.ch) - a major Swiss portal dedicated to blues, many daily newspapers and Swiss and Italian periodicals.

[www.marcomarchi.ch](http://www.marcomarchi.ch)

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### Musicians

Marco Marchi: acoustic guitar, dobro, vocal  
Claudio Egli: harp, kazoo  
Peo Mazza: drums, percussions, washboard  
Fabio Bianchi: tuba

### Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3e-M7DRqDwk&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcbqV4BzMOY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQFeXsop2tY&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YysgcWoAaOq&feature=related>

[http://www.youtube.com/user/mojoworkersblues?blend=21&ob=5#p/u/0/AqY0AI\\_EMcw](http://www.youtube.com/user/mojoworkersblues?blend=21&ob=5#p/u/0/AqY0AI_EMcw)



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