



# JOE & VICKI PRICE

In a world where words like “legend” get thrown around entirely too lightly, it's good to know that there are a few people still worthy of the word's original intent. And when it comes to music in Iowa, Joe Price stands as one of the art's legendary practitioners.

Armed with a joyous, disarming demeanor and the ability to play the doors off most anyone else in the room, Price has opened for the likes of Iris Dement and John Lee Hooker, while Iowa's own Greg Brown calls Price “the Buddha.” Brown isn't alone in his praise, as a litany of Iowa musicians list Price as one of their influences.

Price's reputation was cemented in the 1970's, when he spent the latter half of the decade as part of Mother Blues, one of the greatest and most heavily influential Iowa blues bands of all time. It was a time when Price was playing nearly non-stop, and developed the style that has made him such a memorable performer.

And make no mistake, Price certainly is memorable. Head down while he plays, big ball cap covering his eyes from the crowd while he plies his trade, feet tapping out the time as his hands work those six strings like their on autopilot. Price isn't the kind of artist you “think” you've seen play; once you've been taken to church by that slide, it stays with you.

But no man lives by bread alone, and Price has two great loves in his life. It's the rare man that gets to mix two passions together and make a life out of it, but Vicki Price makes that easy. The pair married in 1987, but Vicki had been holding her own in the wilds of small-town Iowa before then. Her guitar playing has more structure to it than Joe's, while her voice provides a good deal of their songs fire.

Bold and brassy when she wants to be, Vicki's voice has elicited visions of Loretta Lynn or June Carter, but she's able to get far bluesier than any of her most obvious comparisons. This duo is far more than the sum of their impressive parts: it is when these two take the stage together that the genuine magic happens.

Joe's deep love and admiration for his wife is obvious from the moment she joins him on stage—something that can happen at any point during a set; he beckons her with “You Are My Sunshine”—and the amount of fun they clearly have performing with one another elevates their performances, transforming them from something that blues purists and guitar fans can appreciate, into something that everyone with ears and a love of life can understand and tap along to.

The couple released a slew of solo CD's on seminal Iowa label Trailer Records, including “25 Below” (Joe, 1996), “Mississippi Summer” (Vicki, 1998), “Request” (Joe, 1999), “Designated Drive” (Joe, 2000) and “Looking for Love” (Vicki, 2005). After Trailer closed up shop, the pair released 2008's “A Brand New Place” and 2009's “Rain or Shine” independently. The latter two albums were both lavished with critical praise, but the pair may have just saved their best work for their most recent album, “Night Owls.” Featuring both Joe and Vicki throughout, “Night Owls” is the Price's music at its fullest, most memorable and most fun.

Over the years they have opened for such notables as Buddy Guy, John Lee Hooker, Willie Dixon, Pine Top Perkins, Homesick James, Honeyboy Edwards, Louisiana Red, Al Green, Greg Brown and Iris DeMent. Joe and Vicki are members of the Iowa Blues Hall of Fame. Joe is also a member of The Iowa Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and was a finalist in the International Blues Challenge in 2008. They won the Independent Music Award for Best Blues CD 2009 for the release “Rain or Shine”.

Whether you are seeing them for the first time or the 100<sup>th</sup>, whether it's live or via one of their albums, experiencing Joe and Vicki Price is an experience worth having, worth sharing, and easy to love. **Chad Taylor**

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# THE BUZZ

Joe and Vicki Price are genuine, bona fide Iowa legends. Anyone looking to verse themselves on the essentials of Iowa blues should start with the Prices — and with good reason. “Night Owls,” the couple’s latest release, features some songs that fans of the pair have been listening to live for a while now, but they feel every bit as vibrant now as the first time around. Opening track “Honey” is a rollicking track that puts Vicki Price’s beautiful, saucy voice front and center, before giving way in the last minute to Joe’s impeccable slide work. Joe — sounding every bit like a classic Mississippi blues man — sings on tracks like “High Blood Pressure,” but it is the tracks where Joe’s guitar and Vicki’s June Carter-esque voice combine that make the pair’s work so vital and exciting to listen to.

**Chad Taylor 6/3/15 City View Des Moines**

Energetic, rich, yet no-frills guitar and vocals blues from Joe and Vicki Price is what makes up this new recording of 10 originals. There’s plenty of slide guitar in the mix, and both their instruments take turns thumping, plucking, droning, screaming, swishing and scratching for some of the best toe-tappin’ front-porch friendly blues music you’ll ever hear. Joe’s voice is sandpapery, while Vicki’s soprano is sometimes languid and in lounge mode – perfect for the type of music the duo performs. Sometimes the music is crackly, dusty, greasy and even sleepy – but always excellent.

**Les Reynolds August 2015 Kentucky Blues Society.**

Meanwhile NE Iowa’s own **Joe & Vicki Price** have a great album out – recorded by Joe McMahan at Wow & Flutter Studios in Nashville – entitled “Night Owls”. If you don’t already know, Joe & Vicki are royalty at Inspire(d) HQ, and we can’t sing the praises loud enough for this incredible blues duo. Even the cover of this record is an epic piece by Vicki Price depicting the now vaporized Main Entrance in Prairie du Chien, WI. The old school vibe of this record leaves you wishing you were sitting in a tavern listening to the masters work... **Why aren’t you???**

**Benji Nicholas August 11, 2015 Inspired Magazine**

A husband and wife that sound like they like each other is a pretty big event right there. About the music this duo makes? It doesn’t get any more duo than this, they both pick guitar formidably with the heavy lifting done by Joe while Vicki does the heavy lifting on vocals sounding like a thrush from a speakeasy on the wrong side of town in the 1920’s. Serving up blues based roots music throughout, this is one of those little treasures we’ve been hiding out here in the headland waiting for the rest of you to catch up with to hear what white people with the blues in Iowa can deliver. a really great, heartfelt diversion from the mainstream. **Chris Spector Midwest Record April 18, 2015**

**“RAIN OR SHINE” WINNER INDEPENDENT MUSIC AWARD, BEST BLUES CD 2010 & THE IMA VOX POP PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD 2010. January 2010 – Iowa Blues Duo**

**Joe and Vicki Price** joins All That Remains, Holly Go Lightly & The Brokeoffs, Gemma Ray, Spinnerette and other self-released and independent label talent as Winners in **The 9th annual Independent Music Awards** (The IMAs).

Somewhere between traditional & unconventional, this seasoned Iowan singer-guitarist sounds fully involved with controlling the tension in his plain-spoken “ruff and tumble” blues. Neither showy nor too self-effacing, he applies his metal tube to strings in mostly solo performances, adding his talented guitar-playing wife, Vicki, on 3 songs.....

**Frank-John Hadley DownBeat Magazine JULY 2010**

Iowa may not be known as a blues mecca, but from the opening “hornet’s Nest”, it’s clear that Waterloo native Joe Price is the real seal. He beats his National Steel with the kind of power associated with Bukka White, Big Joe Williams, or Mississippi Fred McDowell and sings in a style that is as lowdown as it needs to be without sounding at all affected....Somewhere, Hound Dog Taylor is smiling. **DF Vintage Guitar Magazine Sept. 9, 2010**

# DISCOGRAPHY

## Night Owls 2015

“Despite the cheeky cover illustration and lightly electrified tunes that might as well be 60 years old, there’s a real vitality in the duo’s songs (written, with the exception of “Bones,” separately) – and the recordings. The bare-bones (sorry!) instrumentation and the choices in style and singing are employed with rigor, and the more you listen to the album, the more it’s apparent how carefully constructed it is.” **Jeff Ignatius - River City Reader - Davenport Iowa.**

## RAIN OR SHINE 2009

“Iowa may not be known as a blues mecca, but from the opening of “Hornet’s Nest”, it’s clear that Waterloo native Joe Price is the real deal. He beats his National Steel with the kind of power associated with Bukka White, Big Joe Williams, or Mississippi Fred McDowell and sings in a style that is as lowdown as it need to be without sounding at all affected.... somewhere, Hound Dog Taylor is smiling.” **--DF Vintage Guitar Sept. '09**

“...Split 50/50 between instrumentals and songs sung by Price, “Rain or Shine” is a much-needed return to genuine blues - played straight from the heart. This is the real deal, folks.” **--Greg Prato '09 American Music Guide**

## A BRAND NEW PLACE 2008

“Nominated for “Best Independent Release 2008 at the International Blues Challenge. Husband and wife duo Joe and Vicki Price don’t just play the blues, they live the blues, and you can tell it in Vicki’s aching vocals and Joe’s soulful slide guitar throughout their new album, “A Brand New Place”. The Iowa’s couple delivers 10 original country blues songs written by Vicki that sound like they would have been a hit for the Vocalion record label during the 1930’s, but as a testament to their timeless lyrical and musical qualities, are just as meaningful in the 21st century. “My Man,” the album’s stellar lead track, is a good example of the interplay between Joe and Vicki, as Joe’s stinging guitar buzzes like a bee around Vicki’s honey-like vocals and rhythm guitar. They go together like sugar and spice.” **--Michael Swanger, City View Newspaper Des Moines, IA Oct. '08**

## Designated Driver 2000

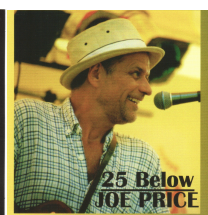
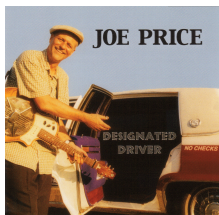
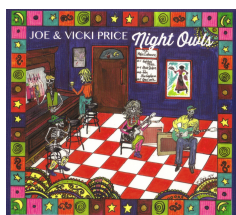
“The 33-minute trip tears through nine original Price tunes plus the public domain gem “Red River Valley.” The album’s brevity and jaunty pace works in its favor, studio blues sets these days rarely come charged with this much raw energy, which propels the listener clean through and immediately demands a repeat listen...” **--Kyle Munson, Des Moines Register Music Critic 2000**

## Request 1999

“...he plays the guitar as if guided by hands the Next World, the term “guitarist” seems woefully inadequate, too. An inspired Primitive who oozes the essence of the blues in a manner so untouched by modern developments as to suggest he tumbled through a crack in time... if you thought I’d say it was anything less than astounding, then you just haven’t been paying attention. **--Jim Musser, No Depression -Iowa City Press Citizen '99**

## 25 Below 1996

“Price’s first digital effort is also his most adventurous musically. The use of several different guitars produce a variety of interesting tone and a variety of backup musicians, including a brass band call the Unified Jazz Ensemble, make for a diverse listening experience. Wife Vicki sits in on a nice guitar duet called “Supro Serenade.” **--Mike Starling, The LaCrosse Tribune '96**



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Blues Under the Trees - Fort Dodge, IA

Telluride Blues & Brew Festival - Telluride, CO

Orangeville Jazz and Blues Fest - Orangeville, ON Canada

Iowa Governor, Chet Culver's inaugural Hancher Auditorium - Iowa City, IA

Michael Feldman's What do you Know? - National Public Radio

Arkansas Blues & Heritage Fest (aka Biscuit & Blues) - Helena AR

Swallow Hill's Old Pearl Street Blues & Brews Festival - Denver, CO

Deep Blues Innovators Festival - Monmouth, IL

Living History Blues Festival - Des Moines, IA

Bayfront Blues Festival - Duluth, MN

At the Plaza Blues Fest - Albany, New York

Silver City Blues Festival - Silver City, NM

Famous Dave's BBQ & Blues Fest - Minneapolis, MN

Mill Valley Arts Festival - Mill Valley, CA

The Simply Blues Fest - Fort Madison, IA

International Blues Challenge 2006 - Memphis, Tennessee

Resophonic Guitar Festival - Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mississippi Valley Blues Festival - Davenport, Iowa

Winter Blues Festival - Des Moines, Iowa

Court Avenue Blues Festival - Des Moines, Iowa

Hambone Blues Festival - Austin, MN

Bowlful 'O Blues Festival - Newton, Iowa

Iowa Arts Festival - Iowa City, Iowa

Women's Festival - Iowa City, Iowa

Big River Folk Festival - LaCrosse, Wisconsin