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The *Oxford American's* 18th Southern Music issue celebrates “Visions of the Blues”

*The 160-page magazine and 23-song CD will be available
on newsstands nationwide on December 6, 2016*

LITTLE ROCK, AR — The *Oxford American* is proud to present its 18th annual Southern Music issue: **Visions of the Blues**. The issue features the greatest artists associated with the blues alongside contemporary musicians who are building on the genre’s legacy and reinterpreting the genre’s traditions. This is the first time that the *Oxford American* has devoted an entire music issue to a genre theme. To commemorate this occasion, the OA is unveiling three different cover designs that celebrate three generations of musicians: **John Lee Hooker, Bonnie Raitt, and Adia Victoria**.

The issue comes with a 23-song CD. “The blues cannot be contained,” writes managing editor Maxwell George in the introduction to the compilation. “Not in one song, one in one person; nor in one hundred. . . . The blues is among the South’s greatest exports, and its continued evolution at the hands of artists like **Otis Taylor, Rhiannon Giddens, Alabama Shakes, and Adia Victoria** is as rich and unpredictable as ever.” In addition to those musicians, the compilation includes tracks by **Gil Scott-Heron, Bassekou Kouyaté, Charley Patton, Regina Carter, Barbara Dane, Koko Taylor**, and others, along with “One of These Days,” from the unreleased *New York Sessions* by **CeDell Davis**. The CD was mastered by Grammy-winning producer Michael Graves of Osiris Studio in Atlanta.

A few highlights from the magazine: **John Jeremiah Sullivan** on his hometown’s blues history; **Elijah Wald** on **Bob Dylan’s** lost blues album; **Ann Powers** on “Miss You” by Alabama Shakes; **Amanda Petrusich** on the blues scene in Tokyo, Japan; **Daphne Brooks** on the power of blueswomen’s duets, from **Geeshie Wiley** and **Elvie Thomas** to **Lauryn Hill** and **Mary J. Blige**; **Greil Marcus** on “John Henry” by John Lee Hooker; **Jewly Hight** on Bonnie Raitt’s journey of artistic formation; **Crystal Wilkinson** on how **Prince** saved her life; **Rashod Ollison** on Malaco Records; **Jeffery Renard Allen’s** short story about a fictional meeting between Jimi Hendrix and Francis Bacon; and “The Blues,” a new poem by **Nikki Giovanni**.

The Visions of the Blues issue & CD was made possible by generous support of the following sponsors: **Alabama Tourism Department, Delta Regional Authority, Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau, Tunica Convention & Visitors Bureau, Visit Jackson, Visit Mississippi, The Blues Foundation, and Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise**.

October 2016 marked the one-year anniversary of Eliza Borné’s appointment as editor of the OA—she is the third editor in the magazine’s history, and its first female editor. During her tenure, the magazine received its first National Magazine Award in General Excellence. In 2017, the OA will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Please contact editors@oxfordamerican.org for more information or to schedule an interview with a music issue contributor or a member of the magazine’s editorial staff.

ABOUT THE OXFORD AMERICAN

Oxford American is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization and national magazine dedicated to featuring the very best in Southern writing, while documenting the complexity and vitality of the American South. The *Oxford American* is committed to the development of young individuals aspiring to work in the publishing industry and to the production and presentation of multidisciplinary arts events in and around Little Rock, Arkansas. Billed as “A Magazine of the South,” it has won four National Magazine Awards—including the 2016 Award for General Excellence in the category of Literature, Science and Politics—and other high honors since it began publication in 1992. The *Oxford American* is published from the University of Central Arkansas. For more information, visit OxfordAmerican.org.