



**FEATURE**  
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## BAND OF THE WEEK

# Friar's Point

With a classic name like Friar's Point (named for the Mississippi home of Hirschberg's Drugstore, where, according to legend, many blues artists got their start by playing from the store's porch), it is only fitting that the six-piece blues band both pays homage to their idols and forges a sound of their own. Armed with bold female lead vocals, tight instrumentals, and a keen sense of arrangement and style, Friar's Point maintains intrigue through simplicity. It's a formula that works for Friar's Point, as the band has shared the stage with Robin Trower and Trent Tomlinson and has also been invited to participate in the Lehigh River Blues Jam as well as the American Freedom Festival in East Stroudsburg and Elmhurst's Endless Mountains Blues Festival.

**Genre:** blues/southern rock

**Band members:** Mary Dunbar (vocals, percussion), Chris London (guitar, vocals), Pat Powers (harmonica, guitar, vocals), Matt Koch (organ, piano, vocals), Jim Baldwin (bass, vocals), Brian Berlanda (drums, percussion, vocals)

**Influences:** Susan Tedeschi, Allman Brothers, Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, John Mayall, Albert Collins

**Web site:** www.friar-pointband.com, www.myspace.com/friarpointband

### Upcoming Shows:

June 13: Lehigh River Blues Jam, Catasauqua, 7:15 p.m.

June 21: Evans Roadhouse, Drums, 9:30 p.m.

**If you could play any venue, where would it be?**

Mary: I would want to play outdoors; ideally I'd like a thousand screaming fans.

Brian: Woodstock.

Mary: Yeah!

Pat: A theater is cool. The Sherman, Penn's Peak. Those

types of venues are what we're trying to get to. That's our ultimate goal.

Matt: New Orleans Blues Festival.

Chris: Austin City Limits would be cool, too.

**If your music were to be used in any movie, what would it fit with best?**

Brian: "Black Snake Moan". Some dark, mysterious movie.

Chris: "Reservoir Dogs".

Pat: A Quentin Tarantino movie or something. What was the one with John Travolta and Uma Thurman? "Pulp Fiction"!

**If you could play back up for any band, or if you had to be a cover band for any band, which would you choose?**

Mary: Susan Tedeschi. She's my idol. Ever since we started the blues band, and Brian showed me her music, I fell in love with her. We do a lot of her songs ... She's great.

Pat: We could easily do a tribute band for her.

Chris: I would say Gregg Allman up at Penn's Peak or B.B. King.

Brian: Anybody in the same vein of music that we are.



Photo by Katie Strzeczewski Special to Metromix  
Friar's Point is (from left top) Matt, Chris, Mary, Brian (bottom) Jim and Pat.

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