

# SPAGHETTI & Blues

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**Kirk Fletcher** by Gianni Franchi, photo Rocco Cedrone

SB: Which musicians and especially which guitarists have influenced you more?

KF: My brother Walter Fletcher being my biggest inspiration. BB King, Robben Ford, Larry Carlton, and so many more!

SB: You've played with some of the world's greatest blues artists such as Kim Wilson, Charlie Musselwhite, The Mannish Boys, Joe Bonamassa. What do you remember about each of them? There are so many.

KF: Wonderful memories. Kim Wilson taught me about fronting a band, Charlie taught me to be true to yourself and find your own voice. As a performer, Joe Bonamassa how to be a business man and what a real show is and how to bring it at all times!

SB: Reading your biography it seems to understand that Al Blake has been an important figure in your music life. What do you remember about the moments passed with him and what have you learnt from him?

KF: I learned so many things from him, he taught me about a lot of more obscure blues musicians, like The Mississippi Shieks, Peetie Wheatstraw, Jesse Thomas and countless others. He took me in like family every Sunday after church I go by his house.

SB: On your first album "I'm Here & I'm Gone" there is a song entitled Watsonized. Is this a tribute from you to Junior Watson? What do you like the most about his playing style?

KF: I love Junior Watson! I would say his timing and phrasing and his ability to always learn more.

SB: What would you recommend to a young boy wishing to play guitar?

KF: Play all the time, play all kinds of music, learn some basic music theory, copy your favorite players and find your own voice out of it. Jam with bands! Play live as much as possible.

SB: You have played for a while with Hollywood Blue Flames. How did you feel in playing the role that was previously of Hollywood Fats?

KF: I could never fill his shoes, Al Blake taught me along with the other members of the blue flames, so it was just natural for me to play and record with them.

SB: Touring around the world, you have come to know many different musical realities. What do you think about the knowledge of blues music outside the US?

KF: It's for the most part more knowledge outside the US. It's a lot of passionate people around the world about the blues.

SB: In Italy, you had experiences both with Eros Ramazzotti, as regards pop music, and, as regards blues, your last cooperation was with Dany Franchi. What have you got from these experiences so different among them?

KF: With Eros it was a wonderful lifestyle and very professional and great to play such wonderful places. Playing with Dany was like a homecoming getting back to my blues roots, was so much fun.

SB: Listening to your live show, in addition to your solo improvisations I have greatly appreciated the work done with the rhythmic guitar. This important technical aspect is often omitted by some guitarists. What do you think about this attitude?

KF: Rhythm is the most important thing to me. I love it. It can totally change the mood of a tune if you play great rhythm. I feel every guitar player should study rhythm guitar.

SB: Who is the guitarist you prefer today?

KF: Josh Smith, Mike Welch, Nick Moss, Dany Franchi, Blake Mills, Joe Bonamassa, Mat Scfield, Samir Moulay, Sam Meek, Doyle Bramhall II, Eric Gales, many many more.

SB: How do you see the future of the blues?

KF: Blues will always be here!

