

November 11, 2015

Sam Hooper is a captivating American musician from Cleveland, Ohio. His alluring blend of blues, rock and funk has thrilled audiences in China, Switzerland, Finland, Japan and the USA. His **soulful vocals** have been compared to Otis Redding and Robert Cray, while critics have likened his **blistering guitar playing** to Jimi Hendrix and Carlos Santana.

Hooper's love for the blues came through hearing the blues/rock that was popular in his high school years. His first listen to "Red House" on Jimi Hendrix's *Smash Hits* album was a turning point. It peaked his interest to dig deeper. He discovered the music's rich history through records by Lightnin' Hopkins, Lead Belly, Son House, John Lee Hooker and others that he borrowed from the library. He would slow them down to try to catch the phrasing. He'd also take empty liquor bottles to the hardware store and have the necks cut off so he could use them to play slide guitar.

A graduate of Florida's **University of Miami School of Music** and an alumni of **Berklee College of Music's Songwriting Program** in Boston, Hooper is also an experienced educator who has taught privately and traveled to lead music workshops. In addition, he has performed internationally for Princess and P&O Cruise Lines.

With five CDs released on the FBJoy Records label, **Hooper's songs have been heard by millions** on the hot daytime TV dramas "All My Children" and "The Young & The Restless."

Hooper's new CD, "**Sam Hooper & Mike Null - HOODOO BLUES,**" was the **WINNER for 2015 BEST SELF-PRODUCED CD** in the Cleveland Blues Society's annual International Blues Challenge competition. The CD will compete in the January finals held by The Blues Foundation in Memphis, TN. The CD features a new song by Hooper and fresh treatments of four blues classics, including Junior Wells' "Hoodoo Man Blues."

Hooper & Null met in China in 2010 when Hooper was a special guest and Null led the house band celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Shanghai's legendary House of Blues & Jazz**. A perennial crowd favorite, **Sam Hooper Group has performed over 300 shows at the venue.**

Sam Hooper Group has opened for American blues guitar greats Ronnie Earl and Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson and for England's #1 blues guitarist, Matt Schofield.

**SAM HOOPER - Bio**    USA Cell: 213-407-5915    [\*\*sam@samhooper.com\*\*](mailto:sam@samhooper.com)

The group has showcased at New York's Soul of the Blues Festival and Alabama's W. C. Handy Music Festival. Sam Hooper Group was a finalist in Boston's "Battle of the Blues Bands." Hooper toured as a featured performer in Chinese recording artist Zhu Ming Ying's "Dream of an Artist" tour, **playing in front of over 84,000 people in 14 cities in China**. In 2009, Hooper **won the "King of the Blues"** competition hosted by Guitar Center's Cerritos, CA, store. **A documentary of Hooper's musical journey** was produced by a Boston area Cable TV provider and can now be enjoyed on youtube.com.

Watch for Sam Hooper Group performing live and for the new CD, "Sam Hooper & Mike Null - [HOODOO BLUES!](#)"

*"a soulful singer...fiery, virtuoso guitar"* - Joel Simches, The Noise

**samhooper.com**