

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FBJoy Records

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SPREADING THE BLUES FROM SHANGHAI TO CLEVELAND
WITH NEW EP

International musicians Sam Hooper and Mike Null release new EP, Hoodoo Blues. The two met while playing in Shanghai and are now rooted in the Cleveland area.

Cleveland, Ohio, USA, July 3, 2015

- **Guitarists/Vocalists Sam Hooper & Mike Null release their new EP, Hoodoo Blues worldwide on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify and CD Baby July 23, 2015.** Hoodoo Blues was produced by Hooper and Null and recorded by James Kananen in Cleveland at Bad Racket Studios. Mixing and mastering was handled by India.Arie producer/engineer, Jim Lightman at JL Productions in Nashville, TN. To celebrate, Hooper and Null gave a CD release party last week in Cleveland at **Nighttown**, voted one of the best jazz clubs in the country by **Downbeat** magazine. They performed with their quintet to a packed house!
- On the recording, Hooper and Null give fresh life to treasures by Junior Wells, Albert Collins, ZZ Top and John Lee Hooker and introduce a new Sam Hooper original. **Ted Drozdowski of Nashville Scene said of the EP**, "Without eschewing the gritty soul of traditional blues, guitarists Hooper and Null break stereotypes by sidestepping standard shuffles and stomps for fresh takes on classic tunes that buoy their sweet molasses vocal performances with jazz informed chord changes, rhythms and melodies. And **Hooper's original "Itchin' To Be Your Man" has the hip, sophisticated vibe of a lost Mose Allison gem.**"
- **Sam Hooper and Mike Null met in 2010 while playing in Shanghai to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of House of Blues & Jazz.** Both had performed hundreds of shows at the well known night spot and developed a loyal following from its international clientele. Hooper and Null are now based in the Cleveland/Akron area when they're in the USA.

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS ON THE RECORDING:

Sam Hooper – Band Leader, Guitar & Vocals:

From Cleveland, Ohio, Sam Hooper 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.

With four 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."

Mike Null – Guitar & Vocals:

Raised in California, trained in Boston, Mike Null is a multi-instrumentalist musician and singer. A remarkable talent and stage presence, he leads his own band and has toured and recorded

extensively throughout the USA, Canada, Europe and Asia with an array of international Blues, Soul, Gospel, Rock, and choral acts. These include seven-time Blues Music Award Nominee, Tony Lynn Washington. When not on the road, Mike currently lives in Akron, OH.

Sakait N. Baksar – keyboards:

Sakait N. Baksar has been a part of Cleveland's music scene for over 25 years. He is presently the keyboardist for Cleveland based jazz-fusion band Horns and Things. He has performed and shared the stage with a wide range of artists such as Jean Carne, Sonny Stitt, Sam and Dave, Evelyn "Champagne" King, Average White Band, Marion Meadows, and Najee just to name a few.

Derrick James – bass:

Derrick James can throw down pure funk on his bass guitar. His deep tones can run the gamut from bouncy and playful to brooding and esoteric. He is the music director for Cleveland's Horns N Things, a regional jazz fusion group with a large following in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana and elsewhere.

Reggie Holmes – drums:

Reggie Holmes is a veteran of the jazz scene, having done stints with the legendary Dizzy Gillespie, Pharoah Sanders, Ahmad Jamal, Sonny Stitt and others. He is always expanding the boundaries of traditional rhythms and loves to entertain.

● **Hoodoo Blues is available for Pre-Order exclusively on samhooper.com until the worldwide release date on iTunes, Spotify and Tidal, July 23, 2015.**

● **See [Sam Hooper Group](http://samhooper.com) perform Friday, July 31, 2015 at The Bevy in Birdtown, 12112 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107, (216)227-2389 <http://thebevyinbirdtown.com>**

Mike Null will be performing in Hong Kong, China at that time.

● **For further information contact Sam Hooper at (213)407-5915, sam@samhooper.com**

<http://www.samhooper.com>

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