

DION RELEASES NEW STUDIO ALBUM GIRL FRIENDS TODAY

*BLUES POWERHOUSE VOCALIST
SHEMEKIA COPELAND FEATURED ON NEW
SINGLE "MAMA SAID" - AVAILABLE NOW*

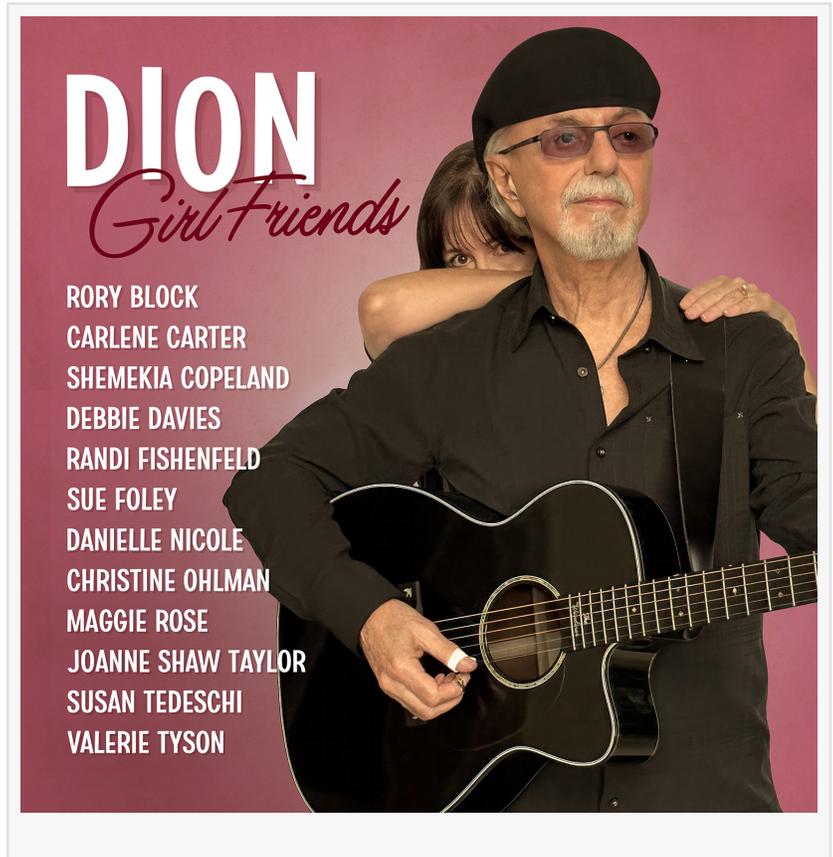
NEW YORK, USA, March 8, 2024
/EINPresswire.com/ -- Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Dion follows up the release of his much-lauded recent albums Blues With Friends (2020) and Stomping Ground (2021) with a new full-length album Girl Friends out today. This new album finds Dion in the company of twelve accomplished female musical collaborators on just as many new songs. Tracks featuring Susan Tedeschi, Danielle Nicole and Carlene Carter had been previously released as singles on digital streaming platforms. New single "Mama Said" with blues queen Shemekia Copeland is available. Dion

noted, "When I wrote this song, I knew she was the one who could turn it into a standard. Girl's got the blues in her blood." The latter part of his comment is a reference to the fact that Shemekia is the daughter of the late Johnny "Clyde" Copeland whose playing and singing have long been admired by Dion.

Order the New Studio Album Girl Friends [HERE](#)
Stream "Mama Said" [NOW](#)
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Shemekia Copeland said, "Dion is so special to me; it's an honor and thrill to have been asked to collaborate with him. I mean, what woman wouldn't want to sing with Dion? Name me one! It's every woman's dream to sing with Dion and my dream just came true."

Girl Friends is Dion's third consecutive album through Joe Bonamassa's label Keeping The Blues



Alive Records. The previous two albums saw Dion collaborate with a range of luminaries including Bonamassa, Brian Setzer, the late Jeff Beck, John Hammond, Van Morrison, Joe Louis Walker, Jimmy Vivino, Billy Gibbons, Sonny Landreth, Paul Simon, Samantha Fish, Rory Block, Patti Scialfa, Bruce Springsteen, Paul Simon, Boz Scaggs, Eric Clapton, G. E. Smith, Keb' Mo', Marcia Ball, Mark Knopfler, Peter Frampton and Rickie Lee Jones.

Dion explains the album's raison d'être in a commentary titled "The Feminine Genius" which is included with *Girl Friends*. "I write about my preoccupations, and I know no better preoccupation than the female of the species. A friend of mine is a philosopher, and he talks often about 'the feminine genius' — the undeniable difference that's in women and the difference that they make in the world. I'm grateful to my friend for giving it a name because the fact has always been plain to me, but I could never put it into words." He goes on to explain his mother was his family's breadwinner, and that he had two sisters. He's been married for 60 years to the former Susan Butterfield, who is name-checked in the album's "Hey Suzy," and they are the parents of three daughters who, in turn, produced four more girls. He writes, "I've always been surrounded by the feminine genius — always living off it. Even my music has kept a tight focus on the ladies: 'Runaround Sue,' 'Donna the Prima Donna,' 'Little Diane,' 'Ruby Baby.' All those women, real and imagined, have made all the difference in my life." He chronicles his female musical collaborators including those who joined him on his previous two albums as well as Darlene Love, Ronnie Spector, Cher, and Patty Smyth.

He observes, "I've noticed that men play a different tune when there are women in the room — and it's a different kind of jam when women are in the mix. I don't know why this is so, but it is. Maybe we men, at some primitive level, are competing for their attention. As I said, I don't know why or how. I do know it makes better music and we're all better for it." He concludes with an encapsulation of vision for *Girl Friends*, "I wanted the best music possible. So, I wrote up a batch of duets for me and my 'girl friends,' the women who inhabit my headphones — the women who make me turn up the volume when they drop into my radio. I invited them to join me, one by one, and here they are, wailing on the guitar and into the microphone. You'll hear the feminine genius in every groove of this record, and you won't forget any of it".

Girl Friends finds Dion keeping musical company with a line-up of stellar female artists who are heard on the album's 12 original tracks, 11 of which were composed by Dion and Mike Aquilina, with one written by Dion and the late Scott Kempner (*The Dictators*, *The Del Lords*). Joining Copeland, Tedeschi, Nicole, and Carter are Rory Block, Debbie Davis, Randi Fishenfeld, Sue Foley, Christine Ohlman, Maggie Rose, Joanne Shaw Taylor and Valerie Tyson. The album was produced by Wayne Hood and Dion, who were also producing partners on *Blues With Friends* and *Stomping Ground*. *Blues With Friends* includes liner notes by Bob Dylan, and Pete Townshend contributed the notes for *Stomping Ground*. The liner notes for *Girl Friends* are by Darlene Love, who wrote, "I've been a huge fan since I was a young girl. In fact, when I sang 'He's a Rebel' I was singing about outsiders like Dion. I'm a bigger fan today. I'm still trying to emulate his unique bluesy overtones. Now I'm thrilled again with these new collaborations — not just friends, but all girl friends — great women vocalist and musicians. This is just what the world needs now. These

duets are riveting.”

There’s more from Dion on the horizon. He will be saluted next month by the Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music at Monmouth University at its second annual American Music Honors event. Dion’s fellow honorees are Mavis Staples, Jackson Browne, and John Mellencamp. Last year *The Wanderer*, a musical based on his life, debuted at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ and is expected to arrive on Broadway next year. Directed by Kenneth Ferrone and based on Charles Messina’s book, the initial run was the subject of critical acclaim with *Broadway World* calling it “a moving, no-holds-barred new musical about the glow of the spotlight, the shadow of addiction, and the triumph of the human spirit against all odds, set to the iconic sound of an incomparable era in American music.” The *New York Times* review noted the show “succeeds on sheer sonic strength,” with reviewer Juan A. Ramírez adding, “I was continuously charmed by this throwback-y musical and its angel-voiced ensemble.”

Girl Friends track listing

1. “Soul Force” with Susan Tedeschi
2. “I Aim To Please” with Danielle Nicole
3. “Stop Drop And Roll” with Valerie Tyson
4. “Do Ladies Get The Blues” with Christine Ohlman and Debbie Davis
5. “An American Hero” with Carlene Carter
6. “Don't You Want A Man Like Me” with Rory Block
7. “Sugar Daddy” with Christine Ohlman
8. “Endless Highway” with Randi Fishenfeld
9. “I Got Wise” with Maggie Rose
10. “Hey Suzy” with Sue Foley
11. “Mama Said” with Shemekia Copeland
12. “Just Like That” with Joanne Shaw Taylor

All songs written by Dion DiMucci and Mike Aquilina except #10 written by Dion DiMucci and Scott Kempner

Dion’s “Girl Friends” are:

Susan Tedeschi, the female focus of the Tedeschi-Trucks Band is a Grammy-winner, Americana Music Award winner and six-time Blues Music Award winner. She has released 14 albums both as a solo artist and with the Tedeschi-Trucks Band. Dion writes, “It’s amazing that someone so unassuming can play with such grit.”

Rory Block appeared with Dion on his *Blues With Friends* album. She is a seven-time Blues Music Award winner and has released albums through Stony Plain, Telarc, Chrysalis, Rounder and RCA. “She has a style that’s all her own,” writes Dion who adds, “She always manages to surprise me,” citing her “Greenwich Village attitude.” She has been recognized for her focus on the country blues idiom and is winner of the Blues Foundation’s prestigious Koko Taylor Award for Traditional Female Blues Artist.

Danielle Nicole gained prominence in her native Kansas City as part of the group Trampled Under Foot. She has gone on to pursue a solo career and is a Grammy-nominee and winner of five Blues Music Awards, three of which are for Best Instrumentalist/Bass. Dion calls her “one of the greatest singers on the planet.”

Valerie Tyson has long been a fixture on the South Florida music scene recognized in her home state as its Queen of Soul. She fronts the Valerie Tyson Band and has been lauded for her “flamethrower vocals” by the Miami Herald. Dion commented, “I call her up when I have a tune that’s 100% fun. This kind of groove requires that kind of company and it’s why I got into this business in the first place.”

Christine Ohlman, nicknamed The Beehive Queen in recognition of her distinctive platinum hairstyle, fronts NY-based Christine Ohlman and Rebel Montez. She is familiar to the national TV audience for her role as vocalist with the Saturday Night Live band for more than 30 years. Dion sees a kindred spirit in her, noting, “Christine Ohlman has Bronx soul. I have it too, so I know it when I see it . . . She’s steeped in blues and American roots music, and I’ve always loved her vibe.”

Debbie Davis is widely recognized as one of the leading guitarists, irrespective of gender, in the blues field. She has released 14 albums to date and Dion is an unabashed admirer; he calls her the “reigning queen of Chicago blues.”

Carlene Carter is the Nashville based singer/songwriter who is responsible for numerous hit songs, both recorded by other artists including Emmylou Harris, Robert Ellis Orrall, and on her own, including the Grammy-nominated “I Fell In Love,” “Come on Back” and “Every Little Thing.” She is a third-generation member of The Carter Family, and daughter of June Carter Cash and County Music Hall of Fame inductee Carl Smith. “Carlene’s voice can turn your head, and it can break your heart,” writes Dion.

Randi Fishenfeld is a classically trained violinist who performs with the Wildfire Band and has worked with numerous name artists including Bruce Springsteen, Air Supply, Foreigner, Journey, B.B. King and Larry Harlow. Dion calls her a “violinist full of fire, passion, expression, and improvisation,” and admits to being “in awe of what she can do.”

Maggie Rose has appeared on the Grand Ole Opry more than 50 times, though she is not wedded to the country format, exploring soul music and beyond. Dion calls her “A grand master of country, soul, and R&B,” and admits, “I had to have her on this album.”

Sue Foley has released 16 albums over the course of her career is a two-time Blues Music Award winner. The Canadian-born, Austin-based guitarist/singer appears annually at Antone’s in Austin as part of The Jungle Show that includes Billy Gibbons, Jimmie Vaughan, Chris Layton, and Mike Flanigin. “It’s a dream come true to work with her,” writes Dion, adding, “I felt like I was one of the Everly Brothers.”

Shemekia Copeland is the most celebrated contemporary female blues artists, having won eight Blues Music Awards, releasing 10 albums, and being named Blues Artist of the Year in the annual DownBeat Critics Poll. The daughter of Texas blues legend Johnny Clyde Copeland has been nominated for five Grammy Awards. Dion has long been smitten and notes, "One conversation with Shemekia Copeland you fall in love with her. And this girl can sing! Girl's got the blues in her blood."

Joanne Shaw Taylor is the English singer and guitarist who was "discovered" at the age of 16 by Eurythmics' Dave Stewart. She is a two-time Female Vocalist of the Year at the British Blues Awards. Two years ago, Taylor recorded The Blues Album, produced by Joe Bonamassa for Keeping The Blues Alive Records. Dion calls her a "one-woman British Invasion" and wrote that he's long been "a crazed fan" of hers.

About Keeping the Blues Alive Records

Joe Bonamassa and his long-time manager, Roy Weisman, have put their decades of expertise to use with their new venture, Keeping the Blues Alive (KTBA) Records. The independent record label is an offshoot of Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation, Joe Bonamassa's non-profit that aims to conserve the art of music in schools and preserve the rich culture and history of the blues.

Since its inception in 2020, KTBA Records has proven to be a driving force in the music industry, taking on talented artists and propelling them into the spotlight. The label has released albums for Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Inductee Dion, Chicago blues queen Joanna Connor, legendary Detroit-based blues guitarist Larry McCray, British blues rock sensation Joanne Shaw Taylor, iconic Wet Willie Vocalist & Harmonica Extraordinaire, Jimmy Hall and dynamic vocalist and king of Bayou Soul, Marc Broussard. Each album has received worldwide critical acclaim as well as topping the Billboard Blues Album Chart. This is only the beginning for KTBA Records. With its roster of talented musicians and success in the industry, the label has many new projects on the horizon, working synergistically with the non-profit's mission of supporting musicians. 10% of all profits from KTBA Records are donated to the foundation.

KTBA Records represents Bonamassa's continuing efforts over the last 25 years in support of the artistic community and reflects the philosophy of paying it forward just as so many did for him in the hope of paving the way for musicians for years to come. To support KTBA Records mission and its talented artists, visit KTBARECORDS.COM now.

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