

Rob Higginbotham

A founding member of the Smoky Mountain Blues Society, Rob was raised in Brooklyn, New York. Earliest musical influences were associated with the Church where he sang in the Choir from ages 6 to 14. Life changed when he saw B.B. King live at the age of 14 in 1967. Early influences included many of the classic Blues Greats such as the Kings, James Cotton, T-Bone Walker and others. He played drums in the Jazz Me Blues Band, The Four Gone Conclusions, and smaller projects before switching to guitar in the "Performing Band" in the early seventies. He played in a band called the Mirrors in Brooklyn for most of the eighties. After moving to Knoxville in 1989, Robert started going to jams and meeting other local folks. He became a fixture at Brackins, running the Blues Jam there for ten years. He also ran jams at Paul's Oasis and helped run one at Coyote Joes. Knoxville bands included Bootleg Blues, The Jobe Blues Band, The Smokin' Section, Avenue C, GRITS, Mystic Rhythm Tribe and Ray Beltran and BlueMax. Besides playing guitar, Robert has been teaching guitar full time since 2004. He currently teaches at Open Chord in Knoxville, LeGrand Music in Fountain City and online. The website is www.robhigg.net . The email is robhigg@gmail.com