

Blue Mangata — Debut EP — Press Kit

March 2026 · Jazz / Fusion / Blues · Indigo Jazz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rick Kelly's *Blue Mangata* Added to 56-Station Smooth Jazz Network — Debut EP Coming June 2026 on Indigo Jazz

Title track now airing on Smooth Jazz Florida Network — 56 stations including terrestrial broadcast on WDJZ FM 100.7 and Smooth Jazz Chicago; full five-track EP arrives as Chicago hosts UNESCO International Jazz Day 2026

CHICAGO, IL — March 2026 — The title track *Blue Mangata* by Chicago-area guitarist and composer Rick Kelly has been selected for rotation on **56 smooth jazz stations nationwide** through the Smooth Jazz Florida Network — including terrestrial broadcast on **WDJZ FM 100.7** and **Smooth Jazz Chicago**. The single is the lead release from *Blue Mangata*, the debut EP on Indigo Jazz — a boutique jazz, fusion, and blues label co-founded by Kelly and creative partner Bill Janness.

The five-track record spans cinematic jazz fusion, blues-inflected improvisation, and atmospheric instrumental composition. The title track *Blue Mangata* — named for the Norwegian word describing the road-like reflection of moonlight on still water — sets the tone: unhurried, evocative, and deeply melodic. The full EP follows with *Luna de Mira Flores*, *Chromatic Moonlight*, *Meteor Shower*, and *Ashes to Stardust*, each exploring mood and motion through Kelly's distinctive guitar voice.

The release arrives at a culturally significant moment for Chicago's jazz scene. The city has been designated the official host of **UNESCO International Jazz Day 2026** on April 30 — an international celebration that will bring jazz journalists, critics, and fans worldwide to the city. *Blue Mangata* is a Chicago-made contribution to that moment.

Kelly is no newcomer to broadcast attention. His previous record *Cutting Edge* was featured on WNUA's popular *Sunday Brunch* by **Rick O'Dell**, who contacted Kelly shortly after release to put the music on his show. While listening to WNUA, veteran Chicago broadcaster **Ed Curran** — then hosting on the widely popular **WGN** — heard Kelly's music and invited him for a live in-studio interview and performance. The album also received airplay on **WLCB LPFM 101.5** with on-air personality **Ted Runnels** of Lakes Radio, which streams worldwide at lakesradio.org.

"When we recorded Cutting Edge, making a record was incredibly expensive — the only way to get music out there was pressing CDs and hustling them to local record stores. Back then I dreamed about having my own studio and independent label. Today that dream is a reality, and being able to release music directly to listeners around the world is something I could never have imagined back then."

— Rick Kelly

The title track *Blue Mangata* is available now on YouTube, SoundCloud, and Bandcamp. The full 5-track EP arrives at the end of June 2026 and will be available on all major platforms including Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music.

OUTLET / PLATFORM

DETAIL

Smooth Jazz Florida Network*56-station network — Blue Mangata*Title track added to rotation on **56 smooth jazz stations nationwide** — including terrestrial broadcast on **WDJZ FM 100.7** and **Smooth Jazz Chicago** — March 2026**UNESCO Jazz Day 2026***Host city: Chicago — April 30, 2026*Chicago designated official host city of UNESCO International Jazz Day 2026 — a culturally significant moment for *Blue Mangata*'s release and Chicago's jazz profile

PRIOR RELEASE — CUTTING EDGE

WNUA — Rick O'Dell*Sunday Brunch*O'Dell contacted Kelly to feature *Cutting Edge* on WNUA's popular *Sunday Brunch* program shortly after release**WGN Chicago — Ed Curran***Live interview & performance*Veteran Chicago broadcaster Curran heard *Cutting Edge* on WNUA and invited Kelly for a live in-studio interview and performance on WGN**American Airlines***Inflight entertainment**Cutting Edge* selected for American Airlines inflight music programming — national audience reach**WLCB LPFM 101.5***Lakes Radio — worldwide stream*Airplay with on-air personality Ted Runnels; Lakes Radio streams worldwide at lakesradio.org

EP DETAILS

TITLE

Blue Mangata

ARTIST

Rick Kelly

LABEL

Indigo Jazz

GENRE

Jazz / Fusion / Blues

FORMAT

5-track EP

DISTRIBUTION

DistroKid

TRACK LISTING

1 Blue Mangata**2** Luna de Mira Flores**3** Chromatic Moonlight**4** Meteor Shower**5** Ashes to Stardust

WHERE TO STREAM

TITLE TRACK — OUT NOW

YouTubeyoutube.com/watch?v=R5N7WjN_nbU**SoundCloud**soundcloud.com/rick-kelly-guitarist**Bandcamp**rickkelly.bandcamp.com/album/blue-mangata

FULL EP — COMING JUNE 2026

Spotifyopen.spotify.com/artist/4pXGFZMn3FHXXR3JD4HwKU**Apple Music**music.apple.com (search: Rick Kelly)**Amazon Music**music.amazon.com/artists/B000WOQYG8/rick-kelly

Indigo Jazz

RICK KELLY — CHICAGO AREA

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Artist Biography — Rick Kelly

For use with press coverage of *Blue Mangata*

SHORT BIO — APPROX. 100 WORDS

Rick Kelly is a Chicago-area guitarist, composer, and recording artist whose music sits at the intersection of jazz, fusion, and blues. His debut EP *Blue Mangata* — released on the boutique label Indigo Jazz — marks the next chapter of a career already earning real broadcast attention. His previous record *Cutting Edge* was featured on WNUA's *Sunday Brunch* by Rick O'Dell, led to a live in-studio interview and performance with veteran WGN broadcaster Ed Curran, and received airplay on WLCB LPFM 101.5 (Lakes Radio). His debut Indigo Jazz single *Blue Mangata* is now airing on **56 smooth jazz stations nationwide**, including terrestrial broadcast on **WDJZ FM 100.7** and **Smooth Jazz Chicago**. Kelly co-founded Indigo Jazz with creative partner Bill Janness.

FULL BIO — APPROX. 250 WORDS

Rick Kelly is a Chicago-area guitarist and composer with a sound that doesn't sit still. Drawing from jazz, blues, and fusion, Kelly builds instrumental music with the patience of a storyteller and the instincts of an improviser — atmospheric, melodic, and alive.

His debut EP *Blue Mangata*, released on Indigo Jazz, channels years of craft into five focused tracks: the moonlit title piece, the simmering *Luna de Mira Flores*, the wide-open *Chromatic Moonlight*, the kinetic *Meteor Shower*, and the elegiac closer *Ashes to Stardust*. Together they form a cohesive document of where Kelly stands as a player and composer in 2026.

The road to *Blue Mangata* includes genuine industry recognition. Shortly after the release of *Cutting Edge*, **Rick O'Dell** — host of WNUA's popular *Sunday Brunch* — contacted Kelly to feature the album on his show. While listening to WNUA, veteran Chicago broadcaster **Ed Curran**, then hosting on the widely popular **WGN**, heard Kelly's music and reached out to invite him for a live in-studio interview and performance. The album also earned airplay on **WLCB LPFM 101.5** with on-air personality Ted Runnels of Lakes Radio, which streams worldwide at lakesradio.org. Now, his debut Indigo Jazz single *Blue Mangata* is in rotation on **56 smooth jazz stations nationwide** through the Smooth Jazz Florida Network — including terrestrial broadcast on **WDJZ FM 100.7** and **Smooth Jazz Chicago**.

Alongside his recording work, Kelly runs **Rick Kelly Studio** — a YouTube channel and digital education platform focused on guitar theory and DAW production. He co-founded **Indigo Jazz** with creative partner **Bill Janness** as a home for original music released without compromise.

Kelly is based in the northern suburbs of Chicago, Illinois.

ABOUT INDIGO JAZZ

Indigo Jazz is a boutique recording label co-founded by Rick Kelly and Bill Janness, based in the Chicago area. The label exists to release original jazz, fusion, and blues music on its own terms — no compromise, no formula.