Lucky Peterson is a busy man. Between watching his 15-year-old daughter, Lucki Azariah Stovall Peterson, sing and play piano at a Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and his packing for a two-week tour of Europe, the 49-year-old musician carved out a bit of time recently to answer questions about his new CD and his career that includes close to 200 shows a year.

He’s been called ‘the most dangerous triple threat working in the blues’ — a searing lead guitarist, fantastic organist, and first-rate vocalist.

The new CD — Peterson’s 23rd since 1969 — is The Son of A Bluesman, 11 songs that include new songs as well as interpretations of some of Peterson’s influences such as Bobby Blue Bland, Johnny Nash, and Wilson Pickett, plus one by band member Tim Waites.

The album is only a slight departure from his usual mix of funky, uplifting, energetic contemporary blues, soul, and old-time R&B.

Producer

‘It’s more talking about my roots and my life,’ he said. ‘It’s upbeat. It’s a little different because I had the pleasure of being the producer. I picked and arranged the songs — what I wanted and didn’t want. It’s still funky, more bluesy, more soulful and heartfelt.’

Peterson’s roots are deep. His father owned The Governor’s Inn in Buffalo, New York, a regular stop for Dixon and others. When Dixon saw Peterson performing at the club, the blues legend took him under his wing. So, the five-year-old — yes, five — performed on ‘The Tonight Show.” ‘The Ed Sullivan Show,” the public television show “Scrull” and “What’s My Line?” doing “1-2-3-4,” a cover of James Brown’s ‘Please, Please, Please.”

Dixon also produced Peterson’s first record, Our Future: 5 Year Old Lucky Peterson, when Peterson was five years old.

He may be the only blues musician to have had national television exposure in short pants,” wrote music journalist Tony Russell in his book The Blues: From Robert Johnson to Robert Cray.

As a teenager, Peterson studied at the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, where he played French horn with the school’s symphony orchestra. Soon, he was playing in bands for Bland, Eta James, Little Milton, Otis Rush, B.B. King, and Albert Collins. In 1996, he recorded a gospel album with Mavis Staples; it’s one of more than 300 he’s played on.

‘That’s my life,” Peterson said. ‘I’m paying tribute to my father. If it wasn’t for him I wouldn’t be doing what I’m doing.”

The tribute

‘I’m paying tribute to my father. If it wasn’t for him I wouldn’t be doing what I’m doing.”

The title track, by Diane Tucker, is about his father’s last days when he was hospitalized.

‘It’s the truth about my life, things I’ve been through, and people leaving this world so quick. I was born into music. I didn’t choose the blues; the blues chose me.”

Peterson’s European tour followed early October shows at the Granada Theater in Dallas and Rhythm & Ribs in Kansas City. It included stops at the Avignon Blues Festival in France and the Festival Jazznojazz in Zurich, Switzerland, plus club dates in Paris, Strasbourg, Saarbrueck, and Meisenheim.

Since he began performing when he was three years old, Peterson has been at it for 46 years.

Growth and maturity

‘I’m paying tribute to my father. If it wasn’t for him I wouldn’t be doing what I’m doing.”

The first consideration for Peterson in choosing songs is the direction he wants to take the recording.

‘It’s more talking about my life, things I’ve been through, and people leaving this world so quick. I was born into music. I didn’t choose the blues; the blues chose me.”

He was named a BUDDY Texas Tornado Guitarist and Keyboardist in 1997.

“Another record. I don’t choose the blues; the blues chose me.”

Lucky Peterson