

Kelley Hunt

It is rare these days to find a blues performer that shows true originality yet remains true to the traditions that spawned this rich music. **KELLEY HUNT** is such an artist - a rootsy R&B performer who displays a combination of passion, soul and superior skills as a vocalist, piano player and songwriter. Kelley's music is fresh, honest and unpretentious, she sings right from the heart. She has one of the freshest approaches to classic R&B you are likely to hear today. From Emporia, Kansas, Hunt took her first piano lessons at age ten and learned the burning boogie woogie piano style that has become one of her trademarks. Hunt remembers her parent's extensive record collection of blues, R&B, jazz



and gospel that always seemed to be playing in the house. She cites her influences as Billie Holiday, Ruth Brown, Dinah Washington, Aretha Franklin, Professor Longhair, Ray Charles and Johnnie Johnson as well as her jazz-singing mother. Hunt's first self-titled CD was released in 1995 and she has been on successful tour ever since, winning over new audiences wherever she performs. At the St. Louis Blues Heritage Festival last year, not only did she bring a prime-time Saturday evening main stage crowd of over 15,000 to their feet, she was the artist most requested to return on the festival's fan survey. Blues guitar slinger Jimmy Thackery comments, "**KELLEY HUNT** is smooth as silk and hotter than a two-dollar pistol." A show not to be missed by fest goers.

Friday • 2:30 pm
MICHELOB GOLDEN
DRAFT STAGE