

Blues legends have mojo

By DAN AQUILANTE

THE magic brides make when they mix something old, new, borrowed and blue was also the combination for mojo to transform Avery Fisher Hall into a blues juke joint for a night.

Friday's three-hour "Legends of the Blues" concert was a veritable who's who from the big book of the blues.

Freeze-dried Honeyboy Edwards, who turns 90 this summer, opened the gig with old-time, Delta acoustic riffs, and Buddy Guy buttoned up the evening with his 20-something pop pal John Mayer in an electric display of Chicago blues.

In between, the fans rode the blues express with the music's elite such as guitarist, Little Milton, pianist Pinetop Perkins, singer Mojo Buford, drummer Big Eyes Smith, as well as great players with less expressive monikers like



Buddy Guy (right) performs with John Mayer at Avery Fisher Hall. AP

are the last living links to the infamous blues guitar god, Robert Johnson.

The night came to a rolling boil late when Little Milton, Guy, Mayer and Allman Brother's Band guitar ace Warren Hayes cut heads in a six-string shakedown.

Mayer, a white kid from Fairfield, Conn., most famous for his pop hit "Your Body is a Wonderland," surprised the house by holding his own. There is no question that Guy, who gets inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in March, was the night's star, even though he isn't the best singer. But Eric Clapton wasn't lying when he called Guy the greatest living blues guitarist.

The blues is the mother of American music, and they say you've got to suffer to sing them, but for those lucky enough to hear these legends there was no burden.

James Cotton on the chromatic harmonica and guitarist Jody Williams.

From a music history perspective, Edwards and Robert Lockwood Jr. were the most important artists of the evening, since they