

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY MAPLE BLUES

TBS is a charitable organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the Blues



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**Matt Andersen
will be performing
at the Maple Blues
Awards**

Blues Booster Rob Bowman Event Listings
John's Blues Picks Top Blues
Loose Blues News and More

CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #40011871

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Make a donation beyond membership and merchandise, and get your charitable tax receipt in time for this year! (Charitable # 87487 7509 RR0001). You will be helping to support events like the annual Women's Blues Revue at Massey Hall, The Blues in the Schools program, The weekly Jazz Bistro Blues Series, numerous workshops and career development activities for the musician community as well as the Maple Blues Awards and the Blues Summit conference, the most important blues industry gathering in Canada that occurs every other year. Networking events within this conference allow for industry discussion alongside artist discovery through the showcase program.



Toronto Blues Society raised \$1,000 for The Sistering Organization with the help of some volunteer Pussyhat knitters and donors including Lynne Griffin, Yarns Untangled, Linda Turu and Brenna MacCrimmon. The cheque was officially handed off to Patricia O'Connell - Executive Director of the Sistering Organization - by the President of Toronto Blues Society, Derek Andrews, along with Linda Turu, architect of the fundraising and the fearless "team leader" of the volunteer knitters. Sistering is a multi-service agency for at risk, socially isolated women in Toronto who are homeless or precariously housed. The Pussyhat is a symbol of support and solidarity for women's rights and political resistance.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, January 15 - Maple Blues Awards, Koerner Hall
Host: Anishnawbe-Kwe artist/activist and Cobalt Prize recipient ShoShona Kish from Digging Roots. Confirmed performers are Matt Andersen, Colin James, Diana Braithwaite, Cécile Doo Kingué and Donald Ray Johnson with Bad Luck Woman and her Misfortunes playing the Nominee Jam after-party in the Koerner Hall lobby.
*TBS members can contact the TBS Office at 416-538-3885 or info@torontobluesociety.com to retrieve the required promo code for member discount ticket

January 15-16 - Ontario Blues Forum, Holiday Inn Toronto Downtown Centre Hotel. Five panels, led by special guest speakers, will specifically address the career development needs of musicians and organizers ending with a Meet and Greet at the hotel bar Tuesday early evening. The forum will be open to public and free to attend. Stay tuned for more specific schedule information.
* For guests who would like to benefit from the special TBS room rates starting at \$135 for their stay during the Forum, please contact TBS Office at info@torontobluesociety.com until January 10

January 18, 7-8pm - TBS Annual General Meeting, 910 Queen St. W., Amenity Room (Basement). Members can attend the AGM upon showing their invitations included in the January newsletter.

Friday, February 16 - Toronto Blues Society Showcase at Winterfolk with Al Lerman, Julian Fauth, Kim Doolittle, Jerome Tucker and Jack de Keyzer (artists subject to change). Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth Ave

Saturday, March 3, 3pm - TBS Guitar Workshop with host Dan MacKinnon, Dakota Tavern, 249 Ossington Ave (TBC)



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Blues Booster of the Year

Rob Bowman



Rob Bowman is arguably a Canadian popular music icon dedicated to the pursuit of writing music history and ensuring that generations of listeners past, present and future have access to a deep understanding of the roots of contemporary music. A tall order, but one that Bowman has dedicated much of his life to from an early age.

His work has been informed by an enduring appreciation of the blues and the influence of blues legends on popular music. Bowman recalled, "Like a lot of other people of my generation, I came to the blues through the Rolling Stones and later the Yardbirds and the Animals. While I was absolutely enthralled with the Stones' version of Slim Harpo's 'I'm a King Bee,' it was seeing the Stones with Howlin' Wolf on Shindig in May 1965 that absolutely blew my mind." Unlike many others, this occurred just shy of his 9th birthday. Bowman remembers that he

bought his first R&B record, Otis Redding's "Try a Little Tenderness," as a result of hearing the Stones cover of Redding's version of "That's How Strong My Love Is" and reflects, "Things would never be the same."

By the time he was 13, he was a regular at the Colonial Tavern on Yonge Street seeing the likes of Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf and John Lee Hooker. Fortunately, the Colonial



Tavern had an upstairs which had a restaurant license from where one could see and hear the music no matter what age you were. Besides a plethora of blues greats he also saw jazz titans at the Colonial such as Ornette Coleman, Elvin Jones, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Charles Mingus and Dizzy Gillespie

At 15 he was writing for *Beetle* magazine which afforded Bowman the chance to interview T-Bone Walker, John Lee Hooker, John Hammond Jr., Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, Willie Dixon and B.B. King, among others. He also interviewed blues influenced rock artists such as Jeff Beck and tangentially blues-influenced Pink Floyd on the *Dark Side of the Moon* tour, the latter for his first cover story. Looking beyond his Toronto roots, at 17

Bowman began a long history of following the music, going to the Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Festival where he experienced legendary blues and R&B artists such as Victoria Spivey, Jimmy Reed, Louis Jordan and Johnny Otis.

Moving to Memphis many years later to do his Ph. D in ethnomusicology gave him an opportunity for incredible blues experiences at juke joints such as Green's Lounge in Memphis where the Fieldstones regularly held court and Tabby's Blues Box in Baton Rouge, home to Louisiana

blues great Tabby Thomas.

Bowman recalled, "While in Memphis I spent time in Senatobia, Mississippi at Labor Day fife and drum picnics on Napoleon Strickland's farm where I met and saw Strickland and Otha Turner, the

cont'd on page 7

A ROLLICKING SET OF RICH,
INTIMATE BLUES, FULL OF DEEPLY
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Curtis Salgado
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HARPDOG BROWN & THE TRAVELIN' BLUES SHOW

Holger Peterson, CKUA, CBC and SiriusXM broadcaster, exalted that "this band could play anywhere in the world, in any venue, and blues fans of all stripes would love this show." This three-time Maple Blues Award winner delivers hip-swingin' modern day originals and a salute to the Classic Blues masters with every Performance. After more than 30 years in the business, he's never sounded better! Harpdog is available as a duo with his right-hand-man Jordie Edmonds, his popular trio or his all star band.



BLUE MOON MARQUEE

"Gypsy Blues plucks the danger from a Tom Waits melody, dances it a little further over the line with dark magic, teases the rhythms & and raises a toast to back alley Jazz"

-The Alternate Route.

This authentic duo (and sometimes more) sounds like a full band with their passionate performances and smouldering onstage chemistry. Their originals are influenced by early blues, jazz, folk roots, swing, and ragtime.

In 2017 they performed at seven Jazz festivals across Canada.

SUGAR BROWN BAND

"Here you have a Japanese/Korean-American singer-songwriter and guitarist performing deeply African-American traditions of Chicago and droning Hill Country trance blues"
-Living Blues Magazine

In 2017 he was a finalist in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis and his two album releases have stunned the listeners and reviewers worldwide. He is quickly earning a reputation for his classic style and raucous performances. He's available as a solo artist or with his all star band.



ANDRÉ BISSON BAND

Since 2005, André Bisson has been performing his unique blend of R&B and Soul throughout the US, Canada and the UK.

With the influence of Motown, blues, big band, and gospel music, André has composed a repertoire of blues songs that reach orchestrations of 20 pieces. His seventh album "Break" has just been released to critical acclaim and in 2017 he was honoured with a nomination for "New Artist of the Year".

He offers a variety of band configurations to suit your festival or venue.



Photo: Scott Doubt

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ROB BOWMAN *cont'd from p5*

last performers of the black fife and drum tradition which dates back to the Civil War. Jesse Mae Hemphill was also part of the extended Strickland/Turner family that I had the good fortune of getting to know while living in the South."

While in Memphis he attended numerous blues festivals seeing virtually everyone living in the south in the early 1980s from James Son Thomas, Junior Kimbrough and R.L. Burnside to Silas Hogan and John Cephas and Phil Wiggins; and spent time at the home of Reverend Robert Wilkins, one of the last surviving great blues artists from the 1920s'.

By the time he left Memphis, his career as a producer, liner note writer and compiler of historical reissues had begun. At last count he has worked on over 200 CD reissues including three 9 and 10 CD box sets on Stax Records, a blues box set for Sony Canada, a CD box set for Malaco Records, the leading soul blues label of the 1970s, 80s and 90s, (which provided a platform to interview such greats as Little Milton, Bobby Blue Bland, Denise LaSalle, Lattimore, producer Wardell Quezzerque and legendary promoter Dave Clark), and recently the Jackie Shane box set. The results have been five Grammy nominations and one Grammy win for the third Stax box. He also wrote the liner notes for three DVDs of the American Folk Blues

Festivals held between 1962 and 1971 which included everyone from Muddy and the Wolf to Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson, T-Bone Walker, Otis Rush, J. B. Lenoir and Big Mama Thornton.

Bowman pioneered the teaching of courses on popular music at Canadian universities beginning in 1979. Shortly after returning from Memphis, in 1988 he founded the first course on rhythm and blues at a Canadian university.

His book, *Soulsville U.S.A.: The Story of Stax Records*, was inducted in the Blues Hall of Fame in Memphis in 2013. The publication of the book led to the building of the Stax

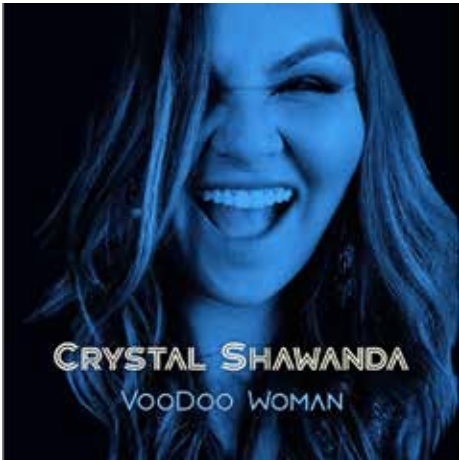
Museum of American Soul Music for which Bowman wrote the vision document that detailed the audio, video, artifacts and narrative for the museum exhibitions. Over the course of his career, he has also been active interviewing, writing about, and producing box sets and making documentary films with an extensive array of legendary non-blues artists such as Bob Marley, Lou Reed, Smokey Robinson, the Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan.

Indeed a blues booster, Bowman credits blues music as foundational to the extensive archive of work he has done and continues to do.

- Maureen Mahan



Illustration by Nathaniel Mesner



Crystal Shawanda *Voodoo Woman* New Sun/Fontana North/Universal

After the hard rocking *Fish Out Of Water* last year, **Crystal Shawanda** returns to the blues with *Voodoo Woman*. She's Ojibwe and this time out she's paying tribute to the blues women she grew up listening to on the Wikwemikong reserve on Manitoulin Island, in sparkling new arrangements. One very important blues woman to her was **Koko Taylor**. We start off a storming "Wang Dang Doodle" blended with "Smokestack Lightning", led by **Dewayne Strobel**'s roaring slide and **Stephen Hanner**'s harp. Crystal clearly has learned her lessons well. **Janis Joplin**'s version of "Ball and Chain" benefits enormously from **Dana Robbins**' marvellous sax work and Crystal's powerful, do-it-her-own-way vocal. Koko's "Voodoo Woman" is straightahead Chicago blues with Hanner's harp leading the way. **Big Mama Thornton** gets another nod with a rocking "Hound Dog". **Etta James** would be no surprise on this list and her "I'd Rather Go Blind" gets a tremendous workout. The bluesiest track on *Fish Out Of Water* is conveniently repeated here: "Trouble" is a fine, hard rocking original that holds up well in this company and has great horn charts. **Dorothy Moore**'s famous ballad "Misty Blue" slows the pace down a bit, Robbins' sax work is a treat and Crystal nails the vocal. "Cry Out For More" is a Shawanda original, a strong slab of R&B. "Blue Train" was a highlight of *The Whole World's Got The Blues*. This tribute to the murdered missing women is a very good song and one that needs to be heard. Crystal Shawanda may have started out in country music and she may well go back there but she is one fine blues singer. The web site is www.crystalshawanda.com.



Billy Joe Green *Born To Lose* Strongfront

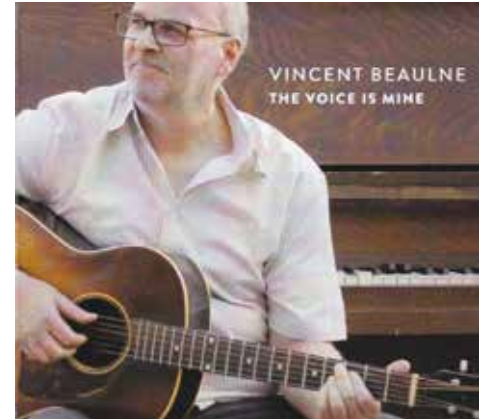
Billy Joe Green, Osawi Kinew (Brown Eagle) of the **Mahkwa Dotem** (Bear Clan) is from the Anishnaabe Aki-ing Territory. His escape from residential school was through his guitar. The Winnipeg nightclub scene was hot and Billy Joe soaked it all up, playing every kind of music imaginable. After close to 50 years, seven CDs and many awards we get *Born To Lose*.

Some of those CDs included impressive Indigenous songs, country music, western swing and more but always blues & rock 'n' roll. And blues is what we mostly get here. He performs most often in a power trio setting, especially on the opening "Bebe's Blues", a strong blues with heavily amplified guitar, he's asking if it's true that his baby is leaving. We all know the answer. The second song in this program of original songs is a fine slow blues "All My Life", with a guest vocal from **Sam Cockrell**. Not having to worry about singing, Billy Joe plays some stunning lead guitar throughout. The wonderfully titled "Ms. Demeaner Blues" in another slow blues concerning a woman he might have been better off without. "Swangin' Bangin' (Shut The Front Door)" leaves the vocals out altogether, a quite marvellous display of guitar work. "Great Big World" veers towards rock pop territory but has a very attractive tune. Along the same lines is "Ain't Always Wrong", again with a fine melody and a great lyric. There's also some fine harp work from **Lil' Eli (Herscovitch)**. Billy Joe discovered Lil' Eli mournfully playing his harp in a laundromat in his wheelchair. He was so impressed he invited him to play on this song. The invitation was more effective than any medicine. **Chang Meadmore** plays drums on these songs with **Pat Tointigh** on bass and **James Walzak** or **Marc Arnold** on keys.

A couple of the other songs sound like they come from other sessions or from earlier CDs but the bulk of the songs here show what a fine bluesman he is. He doesn't seem to stray too far from Winnipeg these days, so if you happen to be there, check out his Facebook page.

Vincent Beaulne *The Voice Is Mine* Blues Del

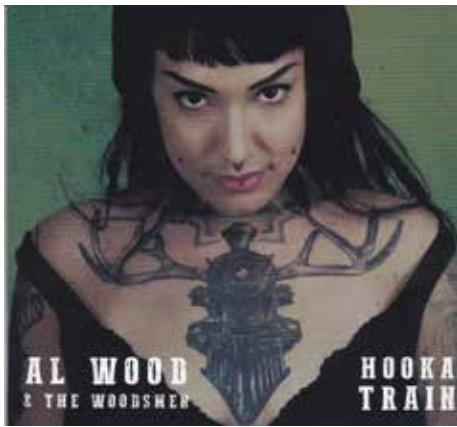
Vincent Beaulne is the lead singer and guitarist for the Montreal group **Blues Delight**. So that's one way to interpret the CD title. We can also look at it as making a statement through his songs. They are highly original, personal compositions performed with just his various guitars but on many he's added some very attractive instrumentation. A song



about non-conformists (like him) opens: "Under The Radar" is a fine blues, with **Pat Loisel** on harp. A tribute to the late **Bob Walsh**, "Rock In My Shoe", is a lovely ballad that features **Ray Legere** on violin. His version of "House Of The Rising Sun" gets a lovely fingerpicked arrangement and a vocal of quiet intensity by **Nanette Workman**. Beaulne overdubs a dobro part, making this a gorgeous highlight. The song, "The Voice Is Mine", tells of a lifetime of searching. **Shawn McPherson** adds amplified harp to a back up chorus with religious overtones. "Make It All Worthwhile" has McPherson again on harmonica as Beaulne focuses on his journey. "Going Back To The Delta" with Beaulne on slide quite effectively conveys his love of blues. "Joe's Guitar" concludes, another effective slide piece, this time an instrumental. Overall then this is an attractive album of acoustic music that gives you something to think about as you listen. The band web site is www.bluesdelight.com, but it doesn't appear to have been updated recently.

Al Wood & The Woodsmen *Hooka Train* Self

Ottawa's **Al Wood** is the vocalist, songwriter, harp player and guitarist and **The Woodsmen** are **Lindsay Pugh** on lead guitar, **Frank Deresti** on bass and **Simon Meilleur** on drums. Together they've released four CDs now and made it to the semi-finals at the 2011 IBCs in Memphis. They wanted to do a live off the floor album of new songs and they've done very well indeed – nothing matters more than talent & experience for this task. The slide-driven "Mole Hill Mountain Blues" is a particular highlight, with its shades of **Elmore**



James and a very good groove. "Hooka Train" is impossibly fast, an invitation to some late night entertainment. They do a fine slow blues as well. "Death Defying Leaps" has persuasive lyrics about going ahead and actually doing something. "Bluebird" shows some jazzier touches. Wood has another excellent slow one in "Juggler's Blues" with Pugh on slide and an unusually long harp solo from Wood. "Stick Around (Another Day)" is another highlight with an attractive melody & lyric. It might even be radio friendly. The concluding "Worryin' Days Are Done" is a lovely country blues and a very nice way to end. Al Wood is a very good singer and songwriter in front of a very good band, showing that there's lots of life left in the traditional blues world. Go to www.alwoodblues.com for more.

Shirley Jackson & Her Good Rockin' Daddys *Things Keep Lookin' Up Self*

This is a Halifax horn band: two saxes & trumpet carry the load. MBA winner **Shirley Jackson** leads on tenor & vocals, **Dawn Hatfield** on baritone and **Dave Harrison** on trumpet. There are two guitarists: **Tom Crilly** & **Marc Doucet**, with **Jeff Wirchenko** on double bass and **Ainslie Jardine** on drums. Ms. Jackson wrote most of the songs and did the horn arrangements, showcased most admirably on the opening rousing instrumental "Back Porch Swing" which indeed swings like crazy. "Stir It Up" isn't quite as uptempo, it's a call to action with great lyrics that match what's happening politically south of the border. "Things Keep Looking Up (If We Don't Look Down)" is a rather attractive song about Ms. Jackson's own life. A very good slow blues is the album's main highlight for me: "He Won't Be Coming Back" is a harrowing tale of domestic abuse. **Lee Allen**'s "Hot Rod Special" provides a much needed and jazzy pickmeup. The standard "One Night With You" is a feature for the two guitarists, although Ms. Jackson does play a nice solo. "Marc's Swing" is another instrumental, Doucet is a former member who came back for these sessions. He brought along a very good song. "Drop Of Water" is an ambitious, well-written climate change song. The closing number is a rather

nice version of **Bessie Smith**'s "Nobody Knows When You're Down And Out". There's great ensemble playing here, with more instrumentals than one would expect but they tend to highlight the vocal selections that much more and Ms. Jackson's lyrics and delivery are up to the task. Ms. Jackson is nominated once again as horn player of the year, an honour in its own right, we'll know if she won the award on January 15th. The web site is www.shirleyjackson.ca.

Wes Mackey *Back To The Shack-Retro Collection* Footsie

Wes Mackey is a Vancouver bluesman, now 75 years old, with roots that go back to South Carolina. He worked as a sideman in blues bands in the US before ending up in Vancouver, where he eventually re-started his solo career. He has often performed as a one-man band but for some of his recordings



he assembled the best Vancouver players. This collection is drawn from four earlier discs, a set of songs he says is the 'bluest of his blues'. He has perfected an appealing, laid back style that works very well on his personalized versions of songs like "Rock Me Baby" and "I'll Play The Blues For You" - he has a wonderfully economical approach to guitar playing, making each note count. This part of his style is something many players should learn. Eight of the twelve songs here are written by him and/or his partner, **Laura Fisher**, led by "Prisoner" and followed closely by "Blues Shack", "Born In Carolina" and "Mr. Blues". With appearances on keyboards by **Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne**, **Robbie King** or **Dave Webb**; drums by **Chris Nordquist**; **Dave "Hurricane" Hoerl**, harp; and **Russell Jackson**, bass, the playing throughout is superb. This is a beautifully sequenced collection of old and new. The fans in Europe have long recognized Wes' talent and in fact he has just returned from a tour of France. Find out more at www.wesmackey.com.

-John Valenteyn



New website for Grand River: The Grand River Blues Society website has a new look! The redesign is part one of a multi-phase restructuring of GRBS communications that will include better utilization of social media platforms. The new website was created by GRBS Board Member Abby Goodrum, who began the redesign process by reaching out to the local community of blues supporters and musicians to get a sense of their information needs. The new website is optimized to display on mobile devices. Check it out at www.grandriverblues.org.

Blues Music Awards Broadcast: The Blues Foundation in partnership with broadcast partner Ditty TV will announce the 39th Blues Music Awards nominees LIVE from Memphis on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. Bobby Rush, Kenny Neal, and John Nemeth will emcee the announcements beginning at 10am CST. You can watch the announcements in real time on any of Ditty TV's multiple platforms as well as via Facebook Live on The Blues Foundation Facebook page. Tickets to the BMAs will go on sale in conjunction with this BMA Nominee broadcast so you can visit blues.org to purchase your tickets online and get the direct link to the broadcast.

Gone but not forgotten: Sax player Ron "Jake" Jacobs passed away on Christmas Day at the age of 74. He played with Downchild in the early days and his growling sax is heard on their debut album, *Bootleg*. He had backed up blues legends like Lowell Fulson and Little Richard and in the late 90s he played with Mike McKenna's Slidewinder.

Diane Leduc Doran, wife and partner of James Doran in Choose The Blues Productions died on Nov 20th after a long and valiant battle with liver & Lyme disease. James and Diane produced the Blues On The Rideau Fundraiser Series at The Cove Inn, Westport for the past 13 years. She had been on the List for a liver transplant but sadly a donor organ didn't come through in time. James asks friends and fans to please consider becoming a Living Donor. "Even though Diane didn't make it, there is still time to save others." www.beadonor.ca

West Coast blues fans are mourning the loss of blues singer and songwriter Frank Alexander, a pillar of that community for 50 years and as we go to print, we hear about the closing of two beloved live music venues, Grafitti's in Kensington Market and The Bay City Music Hall in Hamilton. Yes, we've got the blues.



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Calypso Rose with Kobo Town

FRI., JAN. 26, 2018 8PM KOERNER HALL

Calypso Rose, living legend of calypso and soca, and nu-calypso pioneers Kobo Town, create a lively Caribbean party! Calypso Rose has been giving rousing performances since the 1950s, and Toronto's Kobo Town takes a fresh approach to the calypso of Trinidad and Tobago.

Presented in association with Small World Music



Gerald Clayton, René Marie, and Friends

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Gerald Clayton is "one of the standout jazz pianists of his generation, possessed of silvery technique and an intent but relaxed way with a phrase" (*The New York Times*). "René Marie is sexy. Funny. Theatrical. Outrageous... Also hip and swinging." (*The Wall Street Journal*)



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This month's recommended listening by John Valenteyn, host of John Valenteyn's Blues on ciut.fm, 89.5 and CD reviewer for Maple Blues.

- *Crystal Shawanda *Voodoo Woman* New Sun/Fontana North/Universal
- *Billy Joe Green *Born To Lose* Strongfront
- *Vincent Beaulne *The Voice Is Mine* Blues Del
- *Al Wood & The Woodsmen *Hooka Train* Self
- *Shirley Jackson & Her Good Rockin' Daddys *Things Keep Lookin' Up* Self
- *Wes Mackey *Back To The Shack-Retro Collection* Footsie
- *Steve Sainas *Simple As This* Self
- Tinsley Ellis *Winning Hand* Alligator
- Curtis Salgado & Alan Hager *Rough Cut* Alligator
- Robert Finley *Goin' Platinum* Easy Eye/Warner
- Willie May *Haunted House* Booman
- Corey Dennison *Night After Night* Delmark
- *Black Cherry Perry's Mississippi Medicine Show *Where There's Smoke* Self
- Samantha Fish *Belle Of The West* Ruf
- *Emily Burgess *Are We In Love* Self
- *Cootes Paradise Self
- *Kevin Breit *Johnny Goldtooth & The Chevy Casanovas* Stony Plain
- Bobby Kyle *It's My Life* Juicy Baby
- Little Axe *London Blues* Echo Beach
- *Mike Biggar *Go All In* Busted Flat

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Ken Whiteley's Gospel Matinée January 28
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Diana Braithwaite & Chris Whiteley (CD Release) February 22

Ken Whiteley's Gospel Matinée February 25
w/ Coco Love Alcorn, Pat Patrick, Ali Matthews

Jack de Keyzer March 24

Little Miss Higgins (CD Release) April 19

Harry Manx May 11 & 12

* Shows begin at 8:30pm unless otherwise noted *
* Doors open at 6pm *

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Diana Braithwaite will be performing at the Maple Blues Awards gala at Koerner Hall on January 15. She and partner Chris Whiteley will be launching a new CD at Hugh's Room Live on February 22



Friday, January 5

Fraser Melvin Band at The Local, 9:00 PM, 396 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-535-6225

John McKinley Band at Lancaster Smokehouse, 8:00 PM, 574 Lancaster St W, Kitchener, 519-743-4331

Ken Yoshioka Trio at Hole In The Wall, 10:00 PM, 2867 Dundas W., Toronto, 647-350-3564

The Jive Bombers at Rex Hotel, 6:30 PM, 194 Queen St W, Toronto, 416-598-2475

Saturday, January 6

Bill Heffernan and guests at Gate 403, 5:00 PM, 403 Roncesvalles, Toronto, 416-588-2930

Brant Parker Band w/ Jerome Godboo at Donnelly's Pub, 2:00 PM, 54 Front St., Thorold, 905-227-1947

Celebration of Life for Diane Leduc Doran at Cove Inn, 1:00 PM, 2 Bedford St, Westport, 613-273-3636

Danny Marks at Cadillac Lounge, 12:00 PM, 1296 Queen St W, Toronto, 416-536-7717



To submit listings, browse to www.torontobluesociety.com and click on "Live Blues" scroll down and enter your event into the form provided. From there it will be promoted in this newsletter, on our website and in our weekly e-mail blasts. Please keep the gig listings within reasonable driving distance of Toronto. If you're having trouble send a note to editor@torontobluesociety.com

Sunday, January 7

Big Groove w/ Jenie Thai & Fraser Melvin at Blue Goose Tavern, 4:00 PM, 1 Blue Goose St. (Royal York & Cavall), Toronto (Mimico), 416-255-2442

Chris Murphy Band at Wortley Roadhouse, 4:00 PM, 190 Wortley Rd, London, 519-438-5141

Chuck Jackson & The All Stars at Roc 'N Doc's, 4:30 PM, 105 Lakeshore Rd E, Mississauga, 905-891-1754

James Anthony Band at Abbey Arms Restaurant, 3:30 PM, 481 North Service Rd W, Oakville, 905-825-1109

Jerome Godboo & Godboogie at Stone-walls, 3:00 PM, 339 York Blvd., Hamilton, 905-577-0808

Sunday Night Jam with Bill Hedefine at Grossman's Tavern, 10:00 PM, 379 Spadina Ave., Toronto, 416-977-7000

Monday, January 8

Fraser Melvin Blues Band at Castro's Lounge, 8:30 PM, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, 416-699-8272

Jordan John at Orbit Room, 10:00 PM, 580A College St, Toronto, 416-535-0613

Sebastian Agnello at Black Swan Tavern, 9:30 PM, 154 Danforth, Toronto, 416-469-0537

The Skyliners at Skyline Restaurant, 10:00 PM, 1426 Queen St W, Toronto, 416-536-3682

Tuesday, January 9

Julian Fauth at Sauce on Danforth, 6:00 PM, 1376 Danforth, Toronto, 647-748-1376

Open Jam with Chris Brown and Trevor Cobb at Brando's on Market, 10:00 PM, 135 Market St, Brantford, 519-720-6758

Tyler Yarema and His Rhythm at Reservoir Lounge, 8:45 PM, 52 Wellington St E, Toronto, 416-955-0887

Wednesday, January 10

MonkeyJunk w/ Sean Pinchin at The Rivoli, 8:00 PM, 332 Queen St W., Toronto, 416-596-1908

Thursday, January 11

Beat Heathens w/ Mike Branton at Moonshine Cafe, 8:30 PM, 137 Kerr St., Oakville, 905-844-2655

Chris Staig & Marquee Players at Dakota Tavern, 9:30 PM, 249 Ossington, Toronto, 416-850-4579

MonkeyJunk at London Music Club, 8:30 PM, 470 Colborne St., London, 519-640-6996

Sue Foley Band at The Orbit Room, 10:00 PM, 580A College St., Toronto, 416-535-0613

Friday, January 12

Alfie Smith Trio at Moonshine Cafe, 8:30 PM, 137 Kerr St., Oakville, 905-844-2655

Godboogie w/ Jerome Godboo, Shawn Kellerman, Eric Schenkman, JK and Gary Craig at Grossmans Tavern, 10:00 PM, 379 Spadina Ave., Toronto, 416-977-7000

Guitar Wars: Strongman, de Keyzer, DesLauriers, Parker at Holy Rosary Hall, 7:00 PM, 35 Queen St. S., Thorold, 905-246-3615

HI Players Rocking Blues Band at Duffy's Tavern, 9:30 PM, 1238 Bloor St W, Toronto, 416-628-0330

Southern Supper w/ Tim Gibbons at Mississippi Queen Foods, 6:30 PM, 635 King St E, Hamilton, 905-526-0909

Saturday, January 13

Brian Blain's Campfire Jam w/Raha Javanfar (aka Bad Luck Woman) at Home Smith Bar - Old Mill, 7:30 PM, 21 Old Mill Rd, Toronto, 416-236-2641

Faron Johns at 5 West Brewpub, 2:00 PM, 3600 Dundas St., Burlington, 905-315-8782

Harpoonist & The Axe Murderer w/ Cecile Doo-Kingue at Great Hall, 8:00 PM, 1087 Queen W., Toronto, 416-792-1268

Jack de Keyzer at Stratford Masonic Hall, 9:00 PM, 15 Church St., Stratford, 519-271-2200

Jerome Godboo Band at Moonshine Cafe, 9:00 PM, 137 Kerr St., Oakville, 905-844-2655

Larry McCray w/ Stanley Brown Band at London Music Hall, 7:30 PM, 185 Queens Ave., London, 519-432-1107

Mardi Gras Southern Supper w/ Ragwax at Mississippi Queen Foods, 3:00 PM, 635 King St E, Hamilton, 905-526-0909

MonkeyJunk at Boathouse, 9:00 PM, 57 Jubilee Drive, Kitchener, 519-749-8080

Raoul & The Big Time at Rex Hotel, 3:30 PM, 194 Queen St W, Toronto, 416-598-2475

The Mighty Duck Blues Band w/ Jenie Thai at Bar Upstairs, 2:30 PM, 16 Melbourne St. (Ball Hockey Complex), St. Catharines, 905-684-7688 x 4

Sunday, January 14

Big Groove w/ Jerome Godboo & Eric Schenkman at Blue Goose Tavern, 4:00

PM, 1 Blue Goose St. (Royal York & Cavall), Toronto ON (Mimico), 416-255-2442

Cootes Paradise at Corktown Pub, 8:00 PM, 175 Young St., Hamilton, 905-730-5459

Fraser & Daley at Castro's Lounge, 4:00 PM, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, 416-699-8272

Ken Yoshioka at Village Vinyl Emporium & Cafe, 3:00 PM, 2925 Lakeshore Blvd, Toronto, 416-809-6625

MonkeyJunk w/ Paul Reddick at Regent Theatre, 8:00 PM, 224 Main St, Picton, 613-476-8416

Smoke Wagon Blues Band at Twenty Valley's WineFest, 12:00 PM, Main Street, Jordan, 905-639-9402

Monday, January 15

21st Annual Maple Blues Awards at Koerner Hall, 7:00 PM, 273 Bloor St W, Toronto, 416-408-0208

The Skyliners at Skyline Restaurant, 10:00 PM, 1426 Queen St W, Toronto, 416-536-3682

Tuesday, January 16

Don Stevenson & Tim Bovaconti at Castro's Lounge, 8:30 PM, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, 416-699-8272

Wednesday, January 17

Colin James - Up Close & Personal at Town Hall 1873, 8:00 PM, 302 Queen St., Port Perry, 905-903-8661

Dylan Wickens at Rhapsody Bar, 9:00 PM, 179 King St W., Kitchener, 866-896-0639

Molly Johnson at Hugh's Room Live, 8:00 PM, 2261 Dundas St. W., Toronto, 416-533-5483

Southern Supper w/ Paul Reddick at Mississippi Queen Foods, 6:30 PM, 635 King St E, Hamilton, 905-526-0909



Dylan Wickens has released a digital single in which he wrote, produced, sang and played all the instruments (except the drums which were played by Vic Freitas). Burn It Down was recorded at Sarah's Hall in Russeldale, ON (a former church converted in to a studio and performance hall by owner, Mike Whaling, who engineered and also mixed in the studio). The song picks up where his last studio album, Hi Lo-Fi (2016) left off, marking a distinct turn toward an even heavier blues sound. Almost rock-industrial with a psychedelic twist. He plays the Rhapsody Barrel Bar in Kitchener on, January 17, Warmington's Bistro in Brantford on January 26 and Ethel's Lounge in Waterloo on January 27. www.dylanwickens.ca

Thursday, January 18

Adam Soloman + Moskito Bar at Lula Lounge, 8:00 PM, 1585 Dundas St W, Toronto, 416-588-0307

Friday, January 19

HI Players Rocking Blues Band at Moonshine Cafe, 8:30 PM, 137 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

Jack de Keyzer Band at Cove Inn, 7:00 PM, 2 Bedford St, Westport, 613-273-3636

Jivebombers at Rex Hotel, 6:30 PM, 194 Queen St W, Toronto, 416-598-2475

Saturday, January 20

Chloe Watkinson at Opera House, 8:00 PM, 735 Queen St E, Toronto, 416-466-0313

Damon Fowler at Simcoe Street Theatre, 8:00 PM, 65 Simcoe St., Collingwood, 705-238-9282

Jack de Keyzer Band at Cove Inn, 7:00 PM, 2 Bedford St, Westport, 613-273-3636

Mardi Gras Southern Supper w/ Roberta Hunt at Mississippi Queen Foods, 3:00 PM, 635 King St E, Hamilton, 905-526-0909

Paul James Birthday Bash at Phoenix Concert Hall, 8:00 PM, 410 Sherbourne St., Toronto, 416-323-1251



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Paul Reddick at Hugh's Room Live, 8:00 PM, 2261 Dundas St. W., Toronto, 416-533-5483
Shakura S'Aida at Avalon Lounge Port Whitby Marina, 8:00 PM, 301 Watson St. W, Whitby, 905-903-8661
The Mighty Duck Blues Band w/ Bill Durst at Bar Upstairs, 2:30 PM, 16 Melbourne St. (Ball Hockey Complex), St. Catharines, 905-684-7688 x 4

Sunday, January 21

Big Groove w/ Robin Banks & Teddy Leonard at Blue Goose Tavern, 4:00 PM, 1 Blue Goose St. (Royal York & Cavall), Toronto (Mimico), 416-255-2442
Dr. Nick & The Rollercoasters at Rex Hotel, 3:30 PM, 194 Queen St W, Toronto, 416-598-2475
G. Love and Special Sauce at Horseshoe Tavern, 7:00 PM, 370 Queen W., Toronto, 416-598-4226
Rob Davis and Fabio Parovel Blues Brunch at Southern Accent, 12:00 PM, 839 College St., Toronto, 416-901-3211
Sonny del Rio at Stonewalls Restaurant, 3:00 PM, 339 York Blvd., Hamilton, 905-557-0808

Monday, January 22

The Skyliners at Skyline Restaurant, 10:00 PM, 1426 Queen W., Toronto, 416-536-3682

Wednesday, January 24

Southern Supper w/ Big Rude Jake at Mississippi Queen Foods, 6:30 PM, 635 King St E, Hamilton, 905-526-0909

Thursday, January 25

Bad Luck Woman & Her Misfortunes at Dakota Tavern, 10:00 PM, 249 Ossington, Toronto, 416-850-4579

Rootdown Trio at Gate 403, 9:00 PM, 403 Roncesvalles, Toronto, 416-588-2930

Friday, January 26

Cheryl Lescom & Tucson Choir Boys at Moonshine Cafe, 8:30 PM, 137 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

Dwayne Laforme Boogie Blues Band at Stonewalls Restaurant, 9:00 PM, 339 York Blvd., Hamilton, 905-557-0808

Dylan Wickens at Warmington's Bistro, 8:00 PM, 42 George St., Brantford, 519-755-7030

Sue Foley at Cadillac Lounge, 8:00 PM, 1296 Queen St W, Toronto, 416-536-7717

Sweet Derrick Blues Band at Gate 403, 9:00 PM, 403 Roncesvalles, Toronto, 416-588-2930

Saturday, January 27

Boys Do Girls: Danny Marks, Big Rude Jake, Matty Simpson, Tim Gibbons - Songs by Females, YWCA Fundraiser at This Ain't Hollywood, 9:00 PM, 345 James St N., Hamilton, 289-396-3911

Dylan Wickens at Ethel's Lounge, 9:00 PM, 114 King St N., Waterloo, 519-725-2361

Night of Blues at London Music Club, 8:00 PM, 470 Colborne St., London, 226-980-7247

Rick Fines & Suzie Vinnick at Station 1 Coffee House, 8:00 PM, 28 Main St E, Grimsby, 905-309-4000

The Mighty Duck Blues Band w/ Jack Civiletto at Bar Upstairs, 2:30 PM, 16 Melbourne St. (Ball Hockey Complex), St. Catharines, 905-684-7688 x 4

Sunday, January 28

Big Groove w/ Sugar Brown & Jonnie Wong at Blue Goose Tavern, 4:00 PM, 1 Blue Goose St. (Royal York & Cavall), Toronto (Mimico), 416-255-2442

Ken Whiteley's Koshers Gospel Brunch at Hugh's Room Live, 12:00 PM, 2261 Dundas St. W., Toronto, 416-533-5483

Monday, January 29

The Skyliners at Skyline Restaurant, 10:00 PM, 1426 Queen W., Toronto, 416-536-3682

Tinsley Ellis w/ Al Lerman opening at Cadillac Lounge, 7:00 PM, 1296 Queen St. W., Toronto, 416-536-7717

Friday, February 2

Amanda Rheume at Living Arts Centre, 7:30 PM, 4141 Living Arts Dr, Mississauga, 905-306-6000

Jerome Godboo's Godboogie at Sticky Fingers, 9:00 PM, 150 Dunlop St. W., Barrie, 705-721-8793

Tribute to Willie P Bennet at Revival House, 8:00 PM, 70 Brunswick St., Stratford, 519-273-3424

Saturday, February 3

Aurora Winter Blues Festival Kickoff & Fundraiser at Highland Automotive Professionals, 7:00 PM, 15783 Yonge St., Aurora
Dan McKinnon at Grossman's Tavern, 10:00 PM, 379 Spadina Ave, Toronto, 416-977-7000

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Outrigger Tap & Table 2232 Queen St E 416-748-2232 Toronto Johnny Wright & Michael Fonfara (Every Sat)
5 West Brewpub 3600 Dundas St 905-315-8782 Burlington James Anthony Band (Every Sat aft.)
Reservoir Lounge 52 Wellington St E 416-955-0887 Toronto Tyler Yarema and His Rhythm (Every Sat)
Rex Hotel 416-598-2475 Sinners Choir (Every Sat)

EVERY SUNDAY

Abbey Arms Restaurant 481 North Service Rd W 905-825-1109 Oakville James Anthony Band (Every Sun 3:30-7pm)
Grossman's Tavern 379 Spadina Ave. 416-977-7000 Toronto Sunday Night Jam with Bill Hedefine (Every Sun, drums and amp provided)
Roc 'N Doc's 105 Lakeshore Rd E 905-891-1754 Mississauga Chuck Jackson & The All Stars (Every Sun)
Wortley Roadhouse 190 Wortley Rd 519-438-5141 London Chris Murphy Band (Sunday set is 4-8:00pm)

EVERY MONDAY

Black Swan Tavern 154 Danforth 416-469-0537 Toronto Sebastian Agnello (Acoustic, every Mon)
Orbit Room 580A College St 416-535-0613 Toronto Jordan John (Every Mon)

Skyline Restaurant 1426 Queen W 416-536-3682 Toronto The Skyliners (Every Mon)

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Brando's on Market 135 Market St 519-720-6758 Brantford Open Jam with Chris Brown and Trevor Cobb (Every Tue)
Reservoir Lounge 416-955-0887 Tyler Yarema and His Rhythm (Every Tue)
Rex Hotel 194 Queen St W 416-598-2475 Toronto Classic Rex Jazz Jam Hosted by Chris Gale (Every Sat)
Sauce on Danforth 1376 Danforth 647-748-1376 Toronto Julian Fauth (Every Tue)

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Alleycatz Restaurant Lounge 2409 Yonge St 416-481-6865 Toronto Midtown Blues Jam hosted by Voodoo Walters (PWYC, Every Wed)
Black Swan Tavern 416-469-0537 Nicola Vaughan (Open Jam Every Wed)
Gate 403 416-588-2930 Blues Night with the Gatekeepers (Every Wed)
Inter Steer Tavern 361 Roncesvalles 416-604-3333 Toronto Fraser/Daley (Every Wed)
Lancaster Smokehouse 519-743-4331 Matt Weidinger (Every Wed)

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Col. Mustard's Pub & Deli 16925 Yonge St 905-895-6663 Newmarket Lou Moore plus guest (Every Thu)
Harbour Street Fish Bar 10 Keith Ave 705-293-3474 Collingwood Tamica Herod & the Harbour Street Band (Every Thu, w/ bi-weekly guests, check www.tamicaherod.com)
N'Awlins Bar 299 King St. W 416-595-1958 Toronto Nothin' But The Blues (Dynamic blues trio led by drummer Joe Bowden)
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