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Maple Blues Award Winners Colin James John's Blues Picks

Loose Blues News Event Listings Top Blues

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Many thanks as well to Valerie Chamberlin, Rose Ker, Marie Pearce and Susan Simpson for their help with the Newsletter mailing.



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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.



TBS Talent Search winner Dan McKinnon will host the Toronto Blues Society Guitar Workshop on Saturday, March 3, 3pm at the Dakota Tavern, 249 Ossington Ave. Guests to be announced. He's also opening for the Mad Dogs and Englishmen show at Aurora Winter Blues on Saturday Feb 24

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, February 16 - Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth Ave - The Toronto Blues Society Showcase at Winterfolk with Al Lerman, Julian Fauth, Kim Doolittle, David Essig followed by a set by the Jack de Keyzer Band.

Saturday, March 3, 3pm - Dakota Tavern, 249 Ossington Ave - Toronto Blues Society Guitar Workshop with host Dan McKinnon. Guests to be announced.



Notes Quotes

Colin James

There are a handful of artists whose careers are rooted in – but span beyond – Blues music and are identifiable by name to music lovers who don't consider themselves Blues fans in particular. The ones who bear the title of "Canadian Music Icon" are even more scarce. In this edition of Notes & Quotes, aptly named Canadian music icon Colin James and I have a candid conversation about his journey through the music business, his thoughts on his recent Maple Blues Awards wins, and he even offers up some of his well-earned words of wisdom for aspiring artists.

With a career that spans decades, most people can recall more than one song of Colin James' that they learned by pure osmosis via the radio waves. His first album debuted in 1988, and he was in good company even then, touring with another legend who broke the barrier, bringing Blues to the mainstream -Stevie Ray Vaughn. James' bio is extensive, and he is well decorated with awards and accolades to prove it. To name a few; he has been nominated for 15 IUNO awards - and won 6 of them. Many of those categories are evidence of the extent to which James' talents spread across specific genres, including "Most Promising Male Vocalist" (1989), "Best Video" (Freedom), and the coveted "Canadian Entertainer of the Year". He also achieved Gold Record status for record sales in Canada in 2007, and was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. Also, his first album in 1988 was the fastest selling album in Canadian music history. James also picked up his 20th Maple Blues Award in January. When congratulating James on the latest awards, I was compelled to ask him if it was the same good feeling the 20th time around the winner's circle. He offered this;

"There are some years when I haven't been up for anything, and other years when I'm up for two or three. I was there the very first year, I think, because we had *National*



Steve Marriner joined Colin James on stage at The Maple Blues Awards for a high-energy finale.

Steel out with Colin Linden, and that was followed by the very next year where I had Little Big Band II out. Throughout my life, there have been some records that have been more on the rock-Blues, or even straight rock, where I wouldn't have been up for a nomination, and records where I have been nominated have really kind of been decisively Blues. Yeah, as you know Blues doesn't garner as much attention, and it's not so much in the mainstream as other genres – albeit kind of a Worldwide phenomena – so it's nice that the Maple Blues shines a light."

Often identified as a guitarist, I asked James to talk about something that he is equally talented in, and has been recognized for – being a vocalist. He says;

"I love singing. Part of the thing that attracted me in the first place was the singers, and I kinda grew up singing. My mom and dad would take me to folk festivals, and there was always that one performer who would get the audience singing a song like *Amazing Grace*. Early on, when I was getting into Blues

music, when you start realizing the difference between a Magic Sam and an Otis Rush or Muddy Waters – they're radically different singers. I was always attracted to those tenor voices like Junior Parker, Otis Rush – I love the deeper voices like Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf – they all have their own thing, and that's kinda what separates them."

Most recently, Colin James has bracketed a lifetime of albums with his latest release Blue Highways (released Oct. 2016). This album marks his 18th release to date, and the liner notes state that the songs on this album are ones from artists that helped shape his musical tastes. It is, unsurprisingly, a Blues album. (Of note, Steve Marriner of Monkeyjunk appears on the release, and continues to perform with James live in support of the album.) Understanding that this album was an homage to his influences, I asked if his use of "clean" tones was intentional, and he responded with;

cont'd on p6

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE 21ST ANNUAL MAPLES BLUES AWARDS WINNERS



DAVID VEST

PIANO/KEYBOARD PLAYER OF THE YEAR





Victoria blues-rocker Jason Buie won New Artist of the Year and couldn't resist a selfie with the capacity crowd at Koerner Hall. Photo courtesy Shawn Hall (aka The Harpoonist)

Cold January temperatures couldn't beat the heat at Koerner Hall as a host of Canadian blues artists and fans gathered to celebrate at the 21st annual Maple Blues Awards.

The big winner of the evening was Colin James, who took home awards for Electric Act of the Year, Recording/Producer of the Year and Guitarist of the Year. Hamilton's Harrison Kennedy won Songwriter of the Year, Ottawa's Laura Greenberg for Bassist of the Year and

Matt Andersen won the Male Vocalist Maple Blues Award and invited multi-MBA winner Steve Hill to join him onstage at the Awards gala. Photo by James Dean.

Victoria's Jason Buie for New Artist of the Year. In a rare occurrence, there were no other multiple winners throughout the evening.

The Blues With A Feeling Award for lifetime achievement was awarded to Torontobased Diana Braithwaite for her longtime career and commitment to blues music in Canada, while musicologist, professor, and writer Rob Bowman was presented with the Blues Booster of the Year award, a very special Maple Blues Award honouring outstanding contribution to the Canadian blues music

In addition to the Maple Blues Awards, the fourth annual Cobalt Prize Contemporary Blues Composition Award was announced last night naming Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta's Joe Nolan the winner for his song "All You've Got To Do", with runners-up Conor Gains for his song "Walking Alone" and Miss Emily for her composition "Hold Back The River". A cash prize of \$1000 was the grand prize, with the second and third place winners each receiving \$250.

Hosted by ShoShona Kish of Digging Roots, the Maple Blues Awards featured an electrifying performance from Kish, joined by her husband quitar player Raven Kanatakta and on kit drum their son Skye Polson. An array of live performances continued with Calgary's Donald Ray Johnson, Montreal-based quitarist Cécile Doo-Kinqué, Toronto's Diana Braithwaite, New Brunswick powerhouse Matt Andersen with surprise guest Steve Hill and the evening's big winner Colin James, who closed the show with another surprise guest Steve Marriner of MonkeyJunk, all backed by The Maple Blues Band.

Congratulations to the Winners of the 21st Annual **Maple Blues Awards**

Entertainer of the Year -Paul DesLauriers Band

Electric Act of the Year -Colin James

Acoustic Act of the Year -Big Dave McLean

Male Vocalist of the Year -Matt Andersen

Female Vocalist of the Year -**Angel Forrest**

New Artist of the Year - Jason Buie

Recording/Producer of the Year - Colin James - Blue Highways (True North); Producers: Colin James & Dave Meszaros

B.B. King International Artist of the

Joe Bonamassa

Songwriter of the Year -**Harrison Kennedy**

Blues with a Feeling Award (Lifetime Achievement Award) -**Diana Braithwaite**

Guitarist of the Year - Colin James

Harmonica Player of the Year -Guy Bélanger

Piano/Keyboard of the Year -**David Vest**

Horn Player of the Year - Jon Wong

Drummer of the Year - Matt Sobb (MonkeyJunk)

Bassist of the Year -Laura Greenberg ([W-Jones)

Blues Booster of the Year -**Rob Bowman**

COLIN JAMES cont'd from p4

"It's funny because at one point we had taken "Going Down" off the record, because it was just a little too gnarly, and we were really trying to go for the Peter Green sound and stay a little more (sic) truer with hardly any effects, really. We tried to keep it clean, and I think Dave Maszaros, my co-producer, had a lot to do with that - we tweaked and tweaked, and I think we got it. We cleaned it up and re-amped it, sent the signal back to an amp that was cleaner, and it fit the bill."

Continuing a conversation with an artist who has seen the "business" ebb and flow for decades, and managed to thrive, I asked James about how the landscape of the Blues has changed over those years. He offered;

"The cycle kind of reshapes and reforms about every ten years. It turns itself upside down and then comes back again. It seems like every few years you get the warning that guitar is dead, and then out it comes again (laughs). It just reimagines itself all the time, but it's always there, and it's always an accessible genre of music".

Again, drawing from his years of experience, I asked James if he had any advice to aspiring artists. He offered;

"Chasing trends is never a great idea. It's better to stay to your guns. If you're chasing a trend, it usually means it's almost over, so watch that, unless you're sure about it. I have to say, I was a little sure on Little Big Band - I could see that coming, and I was lucky because even seeing it coming and having my records on two years in front of the Brian Setzer band, it still took me two years longer to get it out and find an American record label to put it out, so it's really hard to track that kind of thing. Have faith in what you're doing, and try to keep reinventing yourself, but you have to do it for yourself sometimes too. Even if it's not



On an off-Summit year, the blues community gathered for a "mini-summit" conference called the **Ontario Blues** Forum with speakers on booking tours, funding, publicity, social media and gender equality. Photo by James Dean.

the best commercial idea, sometimes you've got to do it for yourself, in order focus your attention elsewhere. It keeps you hungry, and keeps you interested-if you're getting bored, how are you going to make a good record?"

As we wrapped up our discussion, I asked Colin to offer me one thing about himself that people might not necessarily know about him, but might find interesting. He left me with this:

"I listen to a lot of music. I did a lot of listening to blues music between the ages of 19 and 25 or 30. I still listen to a lot of Blues because I love it, and I love it deeply, but I try to keep my ear to the ground for other music too. I have a nineteen-year-old son, and he keeps me listening to Radiohead, or Kendrick Lamar or Beck. Being a fan is hugely important, and it may not be what people expect you to listen to, but you have to be a fan to keep that excitement going."

Currently, James remains true to the form that has helped him garner - and maintain his long-lasting success; he's performing the Blues, on tour in support of Blue Highways. He also mentioned that he is working on album number nineteen, which leaves evidence that Colin James will continue to actively represent that legendary status of Canadian Blues Icon.

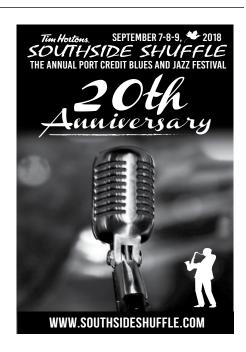
For more information on Colin James, visit www.colinjames.com

- Erin McCallum

-Singer, songwriter, quitarist, bandleader









Winter Blues Festivals: The Toronto Blues Society is co-presenting an all-star Blues Showcase as part of Winterfolk on Friday, February 16 at the Black Swan (upstairs) with Al Lerman, Kim Doolittle, Julian Fauth and David Essig. The showcase is followed by a performance by Jack de Keyzer and there is a lot more blues throughout the week-end. See www.winterfolk.com. Tickets can be purchased through Winterfolk website. Winterfolk is an all-ages, mid-winter, weatherproof event, where you'll find the best of urban, blues, rock, jazz, country, folk and roots music, emulating a multi-stage rural summer festival. More than 150 artists will be performing at four venues and five stages over the three-day weekend. The festival will also include special tribute events, an awards ceremony, community stages and various themed musical workshops with a combination of paid and free concert stages on the Danforth.

The **Cold Weather Blues Fest** will take over a strip of Queen Street East in the Beaches on February 23 and 24. Fraser Melvin plays the Grover, Conor Gains at Castro's, Paul Reddick at Hogtown Smoke, Paul James at the Balmy Beach, Jenie Thai at the Gastro Pub and a special treat, Montreal harmonica meister Bharath Rajakumar will be joining Sugar Brown at the Stone Lion. More at www.facebook.com/coldweatherbluesfest.

Down the road apiece, the 7th Annual **Aurora Winter Blues Festival** kicks off February 3rd, from 7-11 PM, with the annual Blues Bash featuring live music from Sons of Rhythm and local youth musicians. In addition, the night will include dancing, great food and drink, live and silent auctions, and special entertainment appearances.

Friday, February 23, AWBF presents "Journeymen Blues" Night, 7-10:30 pm at St. Andrew's College Ketchum Auditorium. Featuring the "Killer" lineup of celebrated musicians Steve Strongman, Jack de Keyzer and Michael Schatte. On Saturday, February 24, 7-10:30 pm the Festival continues with a "Throw-back Tribute" Night. Mad Dogs and Englishmen will be paying tribute to the Music of Joe Cocker and Leon Russell, along with featured special quests, the Dan McKinnon Band. Juno Award winning producer Lance Anderson has brought together a wonderful roster of Blues all-stars to recreate the magic of the award winning 1970's tour, album and movie Mad Dogs and Englishmen.



A triple-threat of Canadian blueswomen, **Cécile Doo Kingué**, **Shakura S'Aida** and **Dawn Tyler Watson** joined **Bad Luck Woman and her Misfortunes** to rock the Koerner Hall lobby at the nominee jam and after-party following the Maple Blues Awards gala. Photo by Nick Harding.

It's a nine-piece band which includes two drummers, horns and Hammond organ. The rhythm this group creates is a freight train which will pick you up and drop you down at the Fillmore East in NYC in 1970 - they come together to celebrate the music of Joe Cocker and Leon Russell. It is part revival meeting, hippie love-in and part R&B and Soul history that will raise the roof!

In addition, the AWBF is proud to present special guests, the Dan McKinnon Band as the opening act. Dan was the winner of the Toronto Blues Society's 2017 Talent Search event this past summer.

The Festival features live music, workshops, and pop-up performances throughout the month of February across several locations around Aurora. Music Aurora is a registered not-for-profit organization whose mission is to foster a vibrant and active music scene in the community of Aurora and area. More info at www.musicaurora.ca

Singers Take Note: MapleBlues contributor Rita di Ghent (aka Voxxy Lady) has published a book called "Vocal Technique for Non-Classical Singers" and will have a combination Book Launch/Workshop /Concert on Saturday, February 10 at the 120 Diner, 120 Church Street, (5pm to 7pmWorkshop, 7:30pm to 9:00pm Concert with the Rita di Ghent Trio). All workshop attendees will receive a copy of the book. Contact groovecanada@gmail.com

Mardi Gras: Only a few days until Mardi Gras!! Join Alex Pangman & Her Alleycats featuring Peter Hill and John Macleod, and John MacMurchy and Red Hot Ramble for a night of Mardi Gras celebrations in the spirit of New Orleans at Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas StW, Toronto You can purchase tickets

now at http://redhotramble.ca/mardi-gras-madness-redux-2018/. Red Hot Ramble is Roberta Hunt, Alison Young, Jacek Zorawski, Jamie Stager, and Glenn Anderson

Congratulations in order: Blues pioneer Taj Mahal was honoured at the Grammys with the Best Contemporary Blues Album for his collaboration with Keb' Mo', called *TajMo*. They also performed a laid-back acoustic tune at the Grammy "pre-broadcast" show that was streaming on their website – a nice contrast with all the slick production numbers. The Rolling Stones won for Best Traditional Blues Album for Blue & Lonesome.

And closer to home, congratulations to Alec Fraser and Mike Daley on the 10 year anniversary of their Wednesday Night house gig at the Inter Steer on Roncesvales!





doors will open. This package will certainly be a treat for her legions of fans. This show was recorded at the Centre des Arts Juliette-Lassonde in St. Hyacinthe last October 26. Her web site is www.angelforrest.ca.



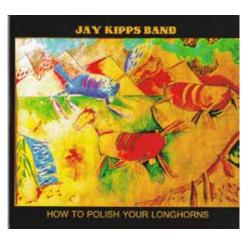
Angel Forrest Electric Love Ad Litteram/ Select

Our re-elected Female Vocalist Of The Year brought along a new album to the Awards evening. Back in 2014 we got Live Love, a two-disc set that presented her live show in an acoustic setting. Since that one she released Angel's 11, an ambitious set of songs each written for and featuring a different guitarist. Electric Love is a two-disc set that gives us her current live set with most of that album with her smoking regular band, which includes the amazing Ricky Paquette on lead quitar - you won't miss those other quitarists. With husband Denis Coulombe on acoustic quitar, Alec McElcheran on bass and Sly Coulombe on drums, Angel has has all the support she needs. Two songs from Angel's 11 open, "All The Way" and "Spoil Me Up" and they set a high standard that is maintained through the set. "Piece Of My Heart" goes back to her Janis Joplin Tribute days but stays remarkably fresh here. "Walking Blues" and "House Of The Rising Sun" bring traditional material into the set but serve as vehicles for Angel's vocal improvisations & Paquette's solos, clearly to the audience's delight. "How You Do", "Move On" and "Mother Tongue Blues" are from Mother Tongue Blues but as with all the material here these songs are shown in a much different light. "Goodbye", "Roll On Down" and "Hold On Tight, Mr. Right" are from Angel's 11. Lengthy pieces, the slow blues "Turtle Blues" and "Mama/Whole Lotta Love" are on the acoustic album as well and benefit mightily from electrification. Angel Forrest is one of the relatively few performers to venture beyond her home province, with a well-received show in Toronto last fall; with this indication of how excellent her live show is, perhaps more



Stan Grizzel and Canadian Bluez I Lost The Feeling Self

Stan Grizzel now resides in Strathroy but has quite a career behind him. According to his website, he's a descendant of a family that arrived here on the Underground Railroad. He was a child actor for the CBC and the first black child actor in ACTRA to model for the Eaton's, Sears & Simpson's catalogues. He later went on to a successful career in international business but with his sister married to William D. "Smitty" Smith of Motherlode fame, music was never very far away. He's now into a new career with a Kitchener band led by Paul Stouffer on keyboards singing his new songs that can perhaps best be described as soul blues. The title song is an attractive ballad about falling out of love, Robin Habermehl gets a lovely sax solo and Dave Lonsbury rips one on lead guitar. "Lookin' For A Woman" is a harder blues, with some very good lyrics and a searing guitar solo from Doug Entwistle. "This Old Body" is more soul blues, Grizzel singing to his partner about what his body can still do - very nice. Mortality is the theme of "Sunset" as well, as he's pleading for one more day in a piano-based highlight that builds to an impressive climax. The concluding "Walk With Me" is a tender love song with some nice harmonica from Stouffer. Grizzel has a warm, expressive voice, and I for one am happy he's decided to add this new chapter to his life story. The website, www. stangrizzel.ca, has info about some socially conscious songs that look that they might be very interesting. Now that he's recording, maybe we'll see them on the next disc.



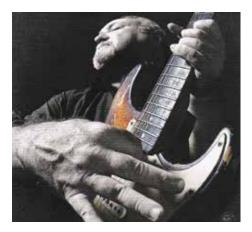
Jay Kipps Band How To Polish Your Longhorns Flint & Steel

The Jay Kipps Band hail from Mono, ON with Jay Kipps on vocals, harmonica & guitar; Chad Burford on lead guitar; Cory Bruyea on drums and Chris Lubker, bass. Strawberry Sunset aka Maddie Ball adds background vocals. They claim to bring blues into modern Americana and to that end open with a "Rawhide"-like instrumental "Colt 45". For the album photos they also dress in Old West garb and each of the songs is listed as a step to polish those longhorns. "Rotten Apple Blues" is a straight ahead 12 bar, though, about not liking life in the big city, perhaps explaining why they're in Mono. "Everyone But Me" is another blues, this time about being ignored. "Big Old Engine" is a very good harp-led train song. The program departs from straight blues here, although "Sinister" is a clever rocker. "The Only Reason" is a rather attractive love song with a cello part, played by Lillian Penner. Sound effects and handclaps accompany an all-too-brief Kipps solo, the multi-tracked "Harp Bomb". Two live songs are up next, recorded at BVR in Orangeville: "Gonzo" is an appropriately-titled poem recited over a hard rock background after which we go to a pleasing version of JJ Cale's "Call Me The Breeze". The concluding "Surffarie" is a guitar instrumental with some obvious antecedents. An eclectic set then, well produced by veteran Stewart Gunn. The web site, www.jaykippsband.com, shows they'll be playing the Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival, June 1-3.

Tinsley Ellis Winning Hand Alligator/ Fontana North/Universal

Atlanta-born guitarist Tinsley Ellis begins his third stint on Alligator Records with a blistering bluesrock disc. The hard-touring Ellis debuted album #19 for us at the Cadillac Lounge on Jan. 29, I hope you were there. This was one of the very few touring acts to come through here, if you want more, you should show the clubs that it's worth their while. Winning Hand has nine originals and one cover and most certainly honours his pledge

that this album is all about 'guitar, guitar, guitar, guitar'. He opens with "(How Can You Stand) Sound Of A Broken Man", a fiery mid-tempo lament about a mistreating woman. The guitar work is as good as that song title. The slow blues "Gamblin' Man" is treat, Ellis betting



she'll be back someday. Kevin McKendree's electric piano provides sterling support, later adding organ to accompany Ellis' stunning guitar solo. The quote from Otis Rush was much appreciated. Ellis can come up with attractive melodies too, as "Nothin But Fine" and "I Got Mine" show. "Autumn Run" is an ambitious ballad, with a vocal that's occasionally outside of his comfort zone. "Satisfied" is a blast of rock n' roll, a little bit of social commentary but he doesn't let any of these problems bother him too much."Don't Turn Off The Light" is another attractive slow blues, about keeping our love. McKendree's string synth adds enormously. Leon Russell wrote and produced quite a few songs for Freddy King for his Shelter Records label. The hit "Dixie Lullaby" was not one of them. Ellis corrects that oversight here - wonderful stuff. The set concludes with an even slower blues, "Saving Grace", described in the press release as 'Hendrix meets Trower' but the lyric, about how their love will overcome their differences, is all Ellis. Apart from McKendree, there are no guests and Steve Mackey & Lynn Williams provide sterling support on bass & drums. As I write this, Tinsley Ellis' Winning Hand is #1 on the Billboard Blues Chart, the cream rises to the top.

Curtis Salgado & Alan Hager Rough Cut Alligator/Fontana North/Universal

Soul bluesman/harmonica player **Curtis Salgado** and his lead guitarist **Alan Hager** decided to record an acoustic album and a fine decision it was. They've worked up a program of originals and newly arranged covers that's a delight to hear. Salgado has had rather more health problems than any man should endure but he's back, a fact celebrated in the opening "I Will Not Surrender". Hager, who is a graduate of

the Berklee School and of the New England Conservatory, brings a unique sophistication to the music. The spectre of an empty house led to some very good lyrics to make "So Near To Nowhere" another highlight. Salgado adds some fine harmonica. John Lee "Sonny Boy" Williamson & the Bluebird Beat are celebrated in Salgado's "One Night Only", augmented by Jim Pugh on piano and Jimi Bott on drums - fabulous. Apparently a crowd favourite, "IWant My Dog To Live Longer (The Greatest Wish)" has many more wishes that we can readily agree with. Muddy's "I Can't Be Satisfied" is the first cover, Salgado does a superb job on the vocal and Hager plays some stunning slide. Keith Brush on double bass and Russ Kleiner on brushes really move things along. The other Sonny Boy, Rice Miller is up next with his "Too Young To Die", yet another highlight. Son House follows with his "Depot Blues" with Hager on acoustic, an illuminating performance. "Morning Train", also known as "Get Right Church", is a duet



with Larhonda Steele and a rousing gospel tour de force. Elmore James gets a nod too with a sparkling arrangement of "You Got To Move", Brush & Kleiner are back and Hager proves he's done his homework. Salgado's "Hell In A Handbasket" is a talking blues, with Salgado solo on boogie piano. This is a song about straightening out your life and there's a very funny bit about meeting St. Peter at the Pearly Gates and getting rejected. Rev. Robert Wilkins' "Long Train Blues" is a Hager vocal with some lovely harmonica and an intricate guitar part. Hager turns in an attractive solo instrumental next, "The Gift Of Robert Charles", featuring some nice tempo changes and gorgeous slide work. Big Bill Broonzy gets the closing song, "IWant You By My Side", a toe tapper, with Keith Brush back on double bass. You'll find yourself listening to the vocal and getting distracted by the guitar playing and vice versa throughout, not many albums feature that much virtuosity. It looks like a lot of people agree, this album debuted at #2 on the Billboard Blues Chart.

-John Valenteyn



CBC Radio One (99.1) Saturday Night Blues, w/ Holger Petersen (national) Saturday 9:05pm-11:00pm (on Radio 2 Saturday at 6:05pm),



JAZZ-FM (91.1) Bluz FM w/ **Danny Marks** Saturday 8:00 pm-midnight



CIUT-FM (89.5) A to Z Blues w/ Screamin' Red Saturday 8-9am John Valenteyn's Blues w/ John Valenteyn Thursday 4-5pm



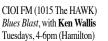
Sunday Morning Soul w/Johnny Max Sundays at 11am (6, 8, 10, 11AM, 5 & 7PM at www.sundaymorningsoul.com syndicated on www.bluesradiocanada.com, www.dawgfm. com and more stations across the continent)



At The Crossroads w/Brant Zwicker

http://atcblues.ca/ and syndicated on www.bluesradiocanada.com, and stations across the continent)

CKWR (98.5 FM)
Old Chicago Blues w/ Willy A,
Friday 10:30 pm-midnight (Waterloo)





COUNTYFM (99.3)
Sideroads with Blues Sister Peg and
Brotha 'Z' Tuesday 8-10pm (Picton)



CIWS 102.9FM (WhiStle Radio) Blues on WhiStle with



Mon, Tues, Fri 11pm



CFFF Trent Radio (92.7 FM)
Saturday Night Roadhouse Blues w/ Jackson Park
Every Saturday 7-8 pm (Peterborough)

CJLX (91.3 FM)

Saturday Night Blues Review, with George Vaughan. Saturday 6-7pm (Belleville)

CFMU (99.3 FM)

Breakfast of Champions, with Paul Panchezak. Thurs 10am Swear to Tell the Truth: the Blues and Rhythm Show, with C.M.Compton. Tuesday 1-2:30pm (Hamilton)

CFRU (93.3 FM)

The Thrill is Back with **Andy and Andrew** Mondays 1 to 3pm The Blues Review, with **Roopen Majithia** Tues 9.00 pm (Guelph)

CANOE FM (100.9 FM) canoe.fm.com

Zoe's Haphhazard Saturday Night with **Zoe Chilco** Saturday 10 pm Buckslide Blues Cruise with Patrick Monaghan Tues. (7-9pm) (Haliburton)

CFBU (103.7 FM) *Eclectic Blues* with **Deborah Cartmer** Tuesday 7-9 pm (St. Catharines)

CKCU(93.1 FM) www.ckcufm.com Black and Blues w/ John Tackaberry Every Sunday 9-11 pm (Ottawa)

CKMS (100.3 FM) Poor Folk Blues w/ **Bruce Hall** (aka Brewski) Monday 7:30-9 pm (Waterloo)





This month's recommended listening by Brad Wheeler, music writer for the Globe and Mail Twitter: @bwheelerglobe

*Sue Foley The Ice Queen Stony Plain

The James Hunter Six Whatever It Takes Daptone

*Jim Byrnes Long Hot Summer Nights Black Hen

Bernard Allison Let it Go Ruf

*Crystal Shawanda Voodoo Woman New Sun

Son Little New Magic Because Music

Benjamin Booker Witness ATO

Tinsley Ellis Winning Hand Alligator

*Billy Joe Green Born To Lose Strongfront

Curtis Salgado & Alan Hager Rough Cut Alligator

*Miss Emily In Between self-released

Nick Moss Band Featuring Dennis Gruenling The High Cost of Low Living Alligator

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

*Downchild Something I've Done True North

*Julian Fauth The Weak and the Wicked Electro-Fi

The Como Mamas Move Upstairs Daptone

Samantha Fish Belle of the West Ruf

*Betty Bonifassi Lomax Select

*Little Miss Higgins My Home, My Heart Self-released

Hayes McMullan Everyday Seem Like Murder Here Light in the Attic

Gregg Allman Southern Blood Rounder

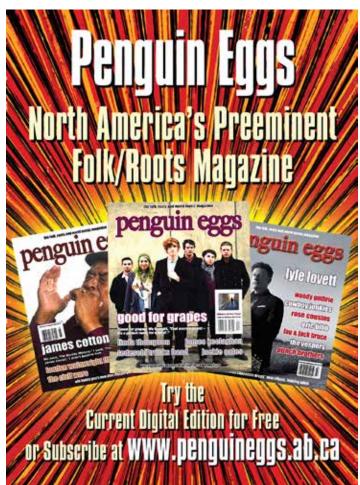
David "Honeyboy" Edwards I'm Gonna Tell You Somethin' That I Know:

Live at the G Spot Omnivore

* = Canadian











Harrison Kennedy received the Songwriter of the Year Maple Blues Award (finally taking home some hardware after 30 MBA nominations over the years) and has now been nominated for two Blues Music Awards by the Blues Foundation in Memphis, TN. The pride of Hamilton, Ontario is nominated as Acoustic Artist of the Year as well as Acoustic Album of the Year for his Who U Tellin' album, recorded in Toronto, and featuring several of Canada's finest Blues musicians: Jack de Keyzer, Jim Bowskill, Julian Fauth and Alec Fraser, who co-produced the album with Harrison. Proudly released by Canada's all Blues label Electro-Fi. All in all a pretty nice nod to a well loved and respected Blues Artist who is more than proud to represent Canada in a field of legendary, international artists. Voting began January 23rd at www.blues.org and runs until March 1st for Blues Foundation members. The 39th annual Blues Music Awards will be presented May 10th, 2018 in Memphis. Photo by James Dean



Thursday, February 1

James Anthony Band at 5 West Brewpub, 7PM, 3600 Dundas St, Burlington, 905-315-8782

Lou Moore plus guest at Col. Mustard's Pub & Deli, 9PM, 16925 Yonge St, Newmarket, 905-895-6663

Nothin' But The Blues at N'Awlins Bar, 8PM, 299 King St. W, 416-595-1958 Tamica Herod & the Harbour Street Band at Harbour Street Fish Bar, 7PM, 10 Keith Ave, Collingwood, 705-293-3474 Tim Bastmeyer at The Briars Resort and Spa, 8PM, Jackson's Point, 1-800-465-2376

Friday, February 2

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

Emily Burgess at Dakota Tavern, 9:30 PM, 249 Ossington, 647-520-0169 Jerome Godboo's Godboogie at Sticky Fingers, 9PM, 150 Dunlop St. W., Barrie, 705-721-8793

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

Ken Yoshioka Trio at Hole In The Wall, 10PM, 2867 Dundas W, 647-350-3564 Tim Bastmeyer at Grey Goat, 9PM, Newmarket, 905-898-0418

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

Saturday, February 3

Sons of Rhythm, Aurora Winter Blues Festival Kickoff & Fundraiser at Highland Automotive Professionals, 7PM, 15783 Yonge St., Aurora

Bill Heffernan and guests at Gate 403, 5PM, 403 Roncesvalles, 416-588-2930 Dan McKinnon at Grossman's Tavern, 10PM, 379 Spadina Ave. 416-977-7000 Danny Marks at Cadillac Lounge, 12PM, 1296 Queen St W, 416-536-7717



To submit listings, browse to www.torontobluessociety.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@ torontobluessociety.com

Don River Blues Band at Blue Goose Tavern, 9:30 PM, 1 Blue Goose, 416-255-2442

FOG Blues and Brass Band at Dominion House, 10PM, 3 Guelph St, Stratford, 519-272-3870

Gail Gunnis + The Dirty Roosters at Tara Inn, 8:30 PM, 2365 Kingston Rd, Scarborough, 416-266-6200

James Anthony Band at 5 West Brewpub, 2PM, 3600 Dundas St, Burlington, 905-315-8782

Jerome Godboo & Godboogie at Harbour Street Fish Bar, 9PM, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474

John Glass, Mark "Bird" Stafford, Papa John King at Offsides Sports Bar & Grill, 10PM, 200 Simcoe Ave., Keswick, 905-218-0420

Johnny Wright & Michael Fonfara at Outrigger Tap & Table, 3PM, 2232 Queen St E, 416-748-2232

Niagara Rhythm Section with guests at Old Winery, 9PM, 2288 Niagara Stone Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 905-468-8900 Sinners Choir at Rex Hotel, 12PM, 194 Queen St W. 416-598-2475

Smoke Wagon Blues Band at Hideout, 3PM, 423 College St, 647-539-5712

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

The Sil Simone Band with guest at Carrigan Arms, 2PM, 2025 Upper Middle Rd, Burlington, 905-332-6131

Tyler Yarema and His Rhythm at Reservoir Lounge, 9:45 PM, 52 Wellington St E, 416-955-0887

Whitey and the Roulettes at Blue Goose, 3PM. 1 Blue Goose St 416-255-2442

Sunday, February 4

Big Groove w/ Jesse Whiteley & Emily Burgess at Blue Goose Tavern, 3PM, 1 Blue Goose St. (Royal York & Cavell), (Mimico), 416-255-2442

Brant Parker & Corktown Blues Superbowl Matinee w/ Blaine Bomberry at Corktown Pub, 2PM, 175 Young St., Hamilton, 905-572-9242

Chris Murphy Band at Wortley Roadhouse, 4PM, 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 Sunday Night Jam with Bill Hedefine at

Grossman's Tavern, 10PM, 379 Spadina Ave., 416-977-7000

Monday, February 5

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

Tuesday, February 6

Mardi Gras Southern Supper w/ Roberta Hunt at Mississippi Queen Foods, 6:30 PM, 635 King St E, Hamilton, 905-526-0909

Wednesday, February 7

Rob Davis Blues Trio at Gate 403, 5PM, 403 Roncesvalles, 416-588-2930

Thursday, February 8

Lisa Hutchinson Band at Harbour Street Fish Bar, 8PM, 10 Keith Ave, Collingwood, 705-293-3474

Sugar Brown at The Local, 9PM, 396 Roncesvalles, 416-535-6225 Weber Brothers at Moonshine Cafe, 8:30 PM, 137 Kerr St., Oakville, 905-844-2655

Friday, February 9

Dylan Wickens & The Grand Naturals at Kiwi Gastropub, 10PM, 47 Dickson St., Cambridge, 519-622-3722 Paul Reddick & The Sidemen at Dakota Tavern, 7PM, 249 Ossington, 416-850-4579

Saturday, February 10

Brian Blain's Campfire Jam w/ Emily Burgess, Jon Wong, Jesse Whiteley at Home Smith Bar - Old Mill, 7:30 PM, 21 Old Mill Rd, 416-236-2641 Dirty Blues Band at Moonshine Cafe, 8:30 PM, 137 Kerr St., Oakville, 905-844-2655 Michael Kaeshammer at Burlington Performing Arts Centre, 8PM, 440 Locust St., Burlington, 905-681-2551 The Mighty Duck Blues Band w/ Tyler Yarema & Gene Hardy at Bar Upstairs, 2:30 PM, 16 Melbourne St. (Ball Hockey Complex), St. Catharines, 905-684-7688

Sunday, February 11

Big Groove w/ Darran Poole & Gene Hardy at Blue Goose Tavern, 4PM, 1 Blue Goose St. (Royal York & Cavell), (Mimico), 416-255-2442 **Brant Parker & Corktown Blues Band** w/ Jenie Thai at Corktown Pub, 2PM, 175 Young St., Hamilton, 905-572-9242

Monday, February 12

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

Tuesday, February 13

Alex & Her Alleycats/Red Hot Ramble Mardi Gras Party at Lula Lounge, 7:30 PM, 1585 Dundas St W, 416-588-0307 Fat Tuesday Supper w/ Ragweed at Mississippi Queen Foods, 6:30 PM, 635 King St E, Hamilton, 905-526-0909

Wednesday, February 14

Dawn Tyler Watson & Ben Racine Band at Simcoe Street Theatre, 8PM, 65 Simcoe St., Collingwood, 705-238-

Kings Of Lowertown at Horseshoe Tavern, 9PM, 370 Queen St. W., 416-598-4226

Michael Kaeshammer at FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, 7:30 PM, 250 St. Paul St, St. Catharines, 905-688-0722 Southern Valentine's Supper w/ Alfie Smith & Nicole Christian at Mississippi Queen Foods, 6:30 PM, 635 King St E, Hamilton, 905-526-0909

Thursday, February 15

Sue Foley at Cadillac Lounge, 9PM, 1296 Queen St W, ON M6K 1L4, 416-

Ken Whiteley & Freedom Blues at Aurora Cultural Centre, 8PM, 22 Church St., Aurora, 905-713-1818

The Ramble w/ Steve Marriner at Moonshine Cafe, 8:30 PM, 137 Kerr St., Oakville, 905-844-2655

Friday, February 16

CJ Chenier and the Louisiana Red Hots at Geneva Event Center, 8PM, 16 West St South, Orillia, 705-238-9282 Chris Staig Band at Gate 403, 9PM, 403 Roncesvalles, 416-588-2930 Jerome Godboo, Shawn Kellerman, Eric Schenkman & JK at Linsmore Tavern, 9:30 PM, 1298 Danforth Ave, 416-466-5130 T.O. Blues Dance - includes free lession at Dovercourt House, 9PM, 805 Dovercourt Rd Winterfolk TBS Showcase w/ Al Lerman, Julian Fauth, Kim Doolittle, David Essig and Jack de Keyzer at Black Swan Tavern, 8PM, 154 Danforth, 416-469-0537

Saturday, February 17

Bsd Luck Woman & Her Misfortunes at Dakota Tavern, 9:30 PM, 249 Ossington, 416-850-4579

Jack de Keyzer, Godboogie, Cheryl Lescom, Chuck Jackson, Tim Woodcock, Chuckee Zehr at London Music Hall. 7:30 PM, 185 Queen St., London, 519-432-1107 Paul Reddick at Rex Hotel, 3:30 PM, 194 Queen St W, 416-598-2475 Sleaper Group at Gate 403, 9PM, 403 Roncesvalles, 416-588-2930

Sugar Brown at La Revolucion, 8PM, 2848 Dundas St W, 416-766-0746 Tim Bastmeyer at Mill Creek Pub, 8:30 PM, Orangeville, 519-307-5700

Sunday, February 18

Big Groove w/ Paul Reddick & Kyle Ferguson at Blue Goose Tavern, 4PM, 1 Blue Goose St. (Royal York & Cavell), (Mimico), 416-255-2442

Corktown Blues Band w/ Mike Branton &



Barrelhouse pianist **Bill Westcott** is a hidden treasure on the Toronto music scene, a composer, arranger, musicologist and Professor Emeritus in music at York University. Scarborough musician Jay Moonah, who performs as Broke Fuse, has brough him together with blues guitar legend Mike McKenna for the first "Dinner and a Song" event of 2018 on Friday, February 23 at The Stone Cottage Pub in Scarborough. Tix and info at www.dinnerandasong.com or call The Stone Cottage Pub bar at (416) 265-7932.

Concerts of Note

Robert Plant - Massey Hall - February 17, 2018

Dione Taylor and Digging Roots - Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts - February 24

The Sheepdogs - Massey Hall - March 2, 2018

Buddy Guy - Massey Hall - April 14, 2018

George Thorogood and the Destroyers -Massey Hall - April 26, 2018







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Phone/Fax: (905) 853-5082 www.wilsonmusic.ca Email: dr.harp@rogers.com Harpdog Brown at Corktown Pub, 2PM, 175 Young St., Hamilton, 905-572-9242 Dr. Nick & The Rollercoasters at Rex Hotel, 3:30 PM, 194 Queen St W, 416-598-2475 Jack de Keyzer at Gunner's Club, 8PM, 115 Henry St., Brantford, 519-753-8182 Rob Davis and Fabio Parovel Blues Brunch at Southern Accent, 12PM, 839 College St., 416-901-3211

Monday, February 19

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

Thursday, February 22

Dione Taylor & The Backsliderz, Digging Roots at Rose Theatre, 8PM, 1 Theatre Lane, Brampton, 905-874-2800 Fraser Melvin Blues Band at Gate 403, 9PM,

403 Roncesvalles, 416-588-2930 Tim Bastmeyer at The Briars Resort and Spa, 8PM, Jackson's Point, 1-800-465-2376

Friday, February 23

Harpdog Brown & the Travelin' Blues Show at Station 1 Coffee House, 8PM, 28 Main St E, Grimsby, 905-309-4000

Mike McKenna, Bill Westcott, Jay Moonah at Old Stone Cottage Pub, 5:30 PM, 3750 Kingston Rd., Scarborough, 416-265-7932 Steve Strongman, Jack De Keyzer and Michael Schatte - "Journeymen Blues" Showcase at St. Andrew's College - Ketchum Theatre, 7PM, 15800 Yonge St., Aurora, 705--Sweet Derrick Blues Band at Gate 403, 9PM, 403 Roncesvalles, 416-588-2930

Saturday, February 24

Mad Dogs and Englishmen Show Plus The Dan McKinnon Band

at St. Andrew's College - Ketchum Theatre, 7PM, 15800 Yonge St., Aurora

Dione Taylor and Digging Roots at Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, 8PM, 130 Navy St. Oakville, 905-815-2023

Dylan Wickens & Tortoise Blue with Blues Etc. at Monty's Gastropub, 3PM, 547 Ontario St., St. Catharines, 905-397-7770 Jack de Keyzer at Moonshine Cafe, 8:30 PM,

137 Kerr St., Oakville, 905-844-2655 The Mighty Duck Blues Band w/ Steve Marriner at Bar Upstairs, 2:30 PM, 16 Melbourne St. (Ball Hockey Complex), St. Catharines, 905-684-7688 x 4

Sunday, February 25

Big Groove w/ Steve Marriner & Curtis Chaffey at Blue Goose Tavern, 4PM, 1 Blue Goose St. (Royal York & Cavell), (Mimico),

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416-255-2442

Brant Parker & Corktown Blues Band w/ David Miller at Corktown Pub, 2PM, 175 Young St., Hamilton, 905-572-9242 Tim Bastmeyer at The Second Wedge, 3PM, Uxbridge, 905-852-3232

Monday, February 26

The Skyliners at Skyline Restaurant, 10PM, 1426 Queen W, 416-536-3682

Wednesday, February 28

Dione Taylor & The Backsliderz, Digging Roots at Georgian Theatre, 7:30 PM, 1 Georgian Dr., Barrie, 705-739-4228

Friday, March 2

Ken Yoshioka Trio at Hole In The Wall, 10PM, 2867 Dundas W, 647-350-3564 Tim Bastmeyer at Earnie's Roadhouse, 7PM, Cambridge, 519-658-9562

Saturday, March 3

FOG Blues and Brass Band at Churchill Arms, 9PM, 355 Erb St W., Waterloo, 519-746-2530 **Toronto Blues Society Guitar** Workshop w/Dan McKinnon at Dakota Tavern, 3PM, 249 Ossington, 416-850-

Monday, March 5

The Skyliners at Skyline Restaurant, 10PM, 1426 Queen St., 416-536-3682

Tuesday, March 6

Sheepdogs at Showplace Lounge, 8PM, 290 George St N, Peterborough, 705-742-7469

Friday, March 9

Sue Foley at Cadillac Lounge, 9PM, 1296 Queen St W, ON M6K 1L4, 416-536-7717

Saturday, March 10

Brian Blain w/ Duane & Brooke Blackburn at Home Smith Bar - Old Mill, 7:30 PM, 21 Old Mill Rd, 416-236-2641

Sue Foley Band at Cadillac Lounge, 9PM, 1296 Queen St W, ON M6K 1L4, 416-536-7717



REPEATING

EVERY SATURDAY

Blue Goose Tavern 1 Blue Goose St. 416-255-2442 Toronto(Mimico) Whitey and the Roulettes (Every Sat)

Cadillac Lounge 416-536-7717 Danny Marks (Every Sat) Carrigan Arms 2025 Upper Middle Rd 905-332-6131 Burlington The Sil Simone Band with guest (Every Sat)

Gate 403 403 Roncesvalles 416-588-2930 Toronto Bill Heffernan and guests (Every Sat)

Old Winery 2288 Niagara Stone Rd 905-468-8900 Niagara-onthe-Lake Niagara Rhythm Section with guests (Every Sat)

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)

EVERY TUESDAY

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

Allevcatz Restaurant Lounge 2409 Yonge St 416-481-6865 Toronto Midtown Blues Jam hosted by Voodoo Walters (PWYC, Every

Black Swan Tayern 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)

EVERY THURSDAY

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)

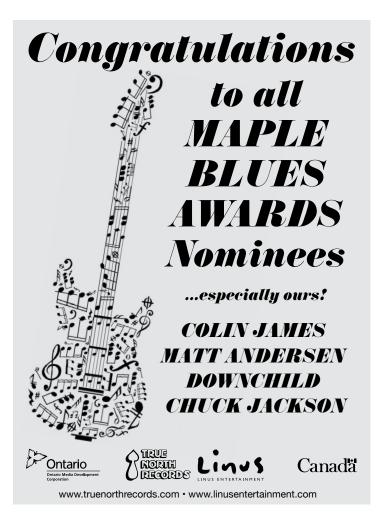
5 West Brewpub 905-315-8782 James Anthony Band (Every Thu 7-11pm)

EVERY FRIDAY

Lancaster Smokehouse 574 Lancaster St W 519-743-4331 Kitchener John McKinley Band (Every Friday)

Events are subject to change. Check with the venue before heading out

14 MapleBlues February 2018





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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.



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