

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY MAPLEBLUES

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David Clayton-Thomas

David Clayton-Thomas John's Blues Picks
Shawn Kellerman Top Blues
Loose Blues News Blues Online

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The TBS Board of Directors held their first Zoom meeting (BYO pizza and beer this time!)
Photo courtesy Lucie Dufault

Attention TBS Members!

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, TBS is unable to deliver a physical copy of the MapleBlues May issue. While we are working from home like every other organization, we are hoping to catch up with expiring, new & renewing members in June. Hence new & renewing members will be receiving their new membership cards as soon as our operations go back to our regular work hours. Please e-mail info@torontobluesociety.com if you have any questions and be sure to follow TBS accounts on social media for immediate updates.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Talent Search:** Deadline extended till May 31st! Judging will take place virtually based on live performance videos submitted during application.

- **Harbourfront Centre Main Stage TBS 35th Anniversary Concert & Emerging Blues Spotlight - CANCELLED**

- **Women's Blues Revue** - Tickets still on sale - TBS & RTH are monitoring the COVID-19 developments, please make sure to check back our website and social media for updates.

- **TBS going virtual!** Check out TBS website and social media for more announcement on professional development series, workshops, talk and live streams!



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David Clayton Thomas

After a lifetime immersed in the music collective, there hasn't been too much that David Clayton-Thomas hasn't achieved, musically speaking. With over 40 million albums sold worldwide, a star on the Canadian Music Walk of Fame, induction into both the Canadian Music and Songwriters Hall of Fame, and a couple of Grammy Awards, David has the accolades to back his efforts. Perhaps best known as the most notable singer in the band Blood Sweat and Tears, David Clayton-Thomas knows what it's like to set up shop and rest comfortably for dozens of weeks on the Billboard charts, and execute tour schedules with 250 dates a year. Amidst it all, David Clayton-Thomas has always felt like Toronto is the place he calls home. For this edition of Notes & Quotes, David Clayton-Thomas discusses the Blues, his latest album, and his everlasting connection to his Toronto Roots.

It's no secret – for those who know his biography – that David Clayton-Thomas didn't have the most conventional start. Leaving an abusive family home as a young teenager, he became a "homeless street kid", which eventually even led him to being incarcerated for four years. By the 1960's, he was playing music on Yonge street in Toronto. It was there that he backed up John Lee Hooker in Yorkville, which eventually led him to travel to New York City in 1967. When speaking of that journey to New York, David Clayton-Thomas says;

"John liked me because I knew how to play all of his songs. He didn't drive and wanted me to drive his Cadillac down to New York for him. He told me that if I did, there would be a gig down there for me when I got there, so I did it. I drove down there, but when I got there, he wasn't there. He had gone off on tour, so there was a space open where no one was booked. The venue owner told me that if I had a band, I could fill the spot. I had like \$100.00 on me and a guitar, so what did I do? I went out and found some musicians, we rehearsed for like an hour, and we played the gig. Turned out, we had that gig for like a month."

When asked how much the Blues as a genre has influenced his musical stylings,



David Clayton-Thomas and the Shays in their heyday at Friar's Tavern on Yonge Street (currently home to a Shoppers Drug Mart and upstairs, the Friar's Music Museum, a wonderful collection of Toronto music memorabilia)

David Clayton-Thomas says;

"Totally, 100%. I learned to play listening to Blues, and I couldn't play anything BUT the Blues. I would listen to artists like John Lee Hooker, Lightnin' Hopkins, and Jimmy Reed, and all of those guys. I wore my Jimmy Reed record out! The Blues is a Universal Music. It is the common denominator, no matter what genre you are playing. I can go to a symphony and play the Blues, or I can get together with a group of musicians I have never played with or met before, and if someone says 'Blues in the key of G' we know what it's going to be, and we can all be on the same page doing it."

Knowing that after spending decades on the road and residing in New York that David Clayton-Thomas is living in Toronto full time now, the question was naturally about whether he thought his journey had come full circle. With great confidence, he offered;

"Living in New York, I never really left Toronto. My friends were always here. I visited often too. Always. I also never gave up my Canadian passport. I may have lived in New York, but Toronto was always my home."

With that statement in mind, the focus of the conversation shifted to David Clayton-Thomas' new album, *Say Somethin'* (March, 2020). The album is just how the title suggests; it says something about many of the current topics of political debate – ranging from school gun violence in "Never Again", to climate change in "The Precipices". Of note, a song called "The System" calls for action within the youth justice system. And, with mention of the latter song, it is noteworthy to say that David Clayton-Thomas has turned his plea for change into an action plan in his home city of Toronto. He has been an

active supporter of an organization called Peacebuilders – an organization focusing on keeping youth aged 15-18 out of jail through rehabilitation. When speaking of an organization that is close to his heart – and his history – he offers;

"They're a wonderful organization. I've been involved with them for a number of years. Peacebuilders focuses on sending kids to counselling instead of jail. If you send a kid to jail, what are they gonna do?? They're going to become criminals! Less than 10% of kids who come to Peacebuilders reoffend. 80% of kids who go to jail reoffend. The numbers just don't lie. If I can stop a kid from going through what I went through, I will. I spent four years at Burwash. Thank God they shut it down!"

For those who don't know, Burwash Correction Centre was an Ontario Provincial Prison, located in Killarney which opened in 1914 and operated until its abandonment in 1975. It was almost self-sufficient because of its remote location – it boasted a school (kindergarten to grade 10), a shoe repair shop, and a grocery store. Inmate labour is what enabled the facility to operate nearly independently.

Notably, with the exception of the final track on *Say Somethin'* - "God's Country" is an ode to David Clayton-Thomas' love of Canada - David was asked if much of his political outcry was aimed squarely at the United States of America. The album includes a song called "Mr. Obama", and other songs seemingly feature issues relevant to current issues affecting our neighbours to the south. Mentions of building walls, and youth speaking out about gun violence are

cont'd on p5

Shawn Kellerman

Shawn Kellerman has been the resident guitar-hero in the Kitchener Waterloo area for many years even though he hasn't spent a lot of time on his home turf as a busy touring artist and sideman to blues stars like Lucky Peterson and Bobby Rush. Terry Pender, music writer for the Waterloo Region Record and big blues fan published this profile and it is reprinted here with his permission

When Shawn Kellerman was 17 and playing at a bar in Hamilton he met Zoom, an African American blues-funk singer.

She loved Kellerman's guitar playing, and hired the Kitchener teenager for his first gigs in the U.S. in Detroit and around Michigan. That was 25 years ago.

"That was my introduction into the States, playing some blues clubs and blues festivals," says Kellerman.

Zoom was based in Detroit, but her sound and style are pure Chicago Blues—lots of electric guitars and horns. She played with some legends, including Bill Branch and the Sons of the Blues, around the U.S., Canada and Europe.

"Then she had a child and quit the business, literally, just stayed home for 20 years," says Kellerman. "And she got hold of me on Facebook last year."

Zoom wanted to make a comeback recording, and had some ideas. She wanted Kellerman's guitar on it. She started telling Kellerman what she wanted to do, and he jumped right in.

"And I was like: 'I gotta help you with this.' And I said to her: 'How about I produce the whole thing?'" says Kellerman. "She was scrounging around Detroit, getting the players of Detroit, but it wasn't coming out strong. I said: 'Let me work on it.'"

So beginning last July, Zoom sent Kellerman voice memos of her singing new material.

"I would make a song out of it, and send it to her and she would go: 'Oh my God, you are hearing everything in my head,'" says Kellerman. "We got 10 songs together and I am looking to wrap this up in a month or two."

In addition to producing it, Kellerman plays bass and guitar on Zoom's new CD. And he has some of the best musicians from



Guitarlinger Shawn Kellerman in his Waterloo home where he is mixing and producing a CD for a fellow blues artist. Photo by David Bebee, Waterloo Region Record

this region playing on it—Jimmy Boudreau on drums, Ray Podhornik on trumpet, Dave Wiffen on tenor sax and Matt Weidinger on keys.

"It is basically a whole Waterloo thing, but I am the liaison, I put it together because I knew her," says Kellerman.

Kellerman has just arrived at Weidinger's house in Kitchener. The two musicians are sitting in the kitchen. Weidinger's keyboard is plugged into three small devices on the table that, in turn, are connected to Kellerman's laptop. He calls this recording method 'guerrilla style.' During the next four hours Weidinger's keyboard and Hammond B3 organ will be added to some of the tracks.

This will be the fifth international release for Kellerman's company, Mouhaha Music.

The first was an acoustic CD of Bobby Rush playing guitar and singing at his home in Jackson, Miss. Kellerman recorded Rush in October 2006. It won a Blues Music Award for Best Acoustic Blues Album.

"Bobby wanted that porch sound he brought skid into the house, balanced a chair on the skid and popped his foot on the wood," says Kellerman. "I played Dobro on it."

Rush and Kellerman are old friends. When he was young, Kellerman played the Chitlin Circuit for years with the veteran bluesman's band.

Then Kellerman did the same thing for Miss Angel's CD "Down in Mississippi." He played all the guitar and bass on that CD, using Mel Brown's old hollow-bodied Gibson. That was released in 2015.

"I did that whole thing with Angel," says Kellerman.

It was a deeply personal project for Kellerman, who adored Mel Brown and wanted the sounds of Mel's old guitar all over his widow's CD.

Last year he co-produced, mixed and mastered the 50th anniversary CD for Lucky Peterson called "Just Warming Up." For eight years now Kellerman's been the guitar player and music director in Peterson's band. During 2019 Kellerman toured with Peterson in France, Germany, Switzerland, Israel, Argentina and England. He was gone about half the year.

Kellerman also cowrote two of the songs — "Repossess Your Love," and "Let the Good Time Party Begin."

"Even the horn players for Lucky's CD, I got the horn players from here," says Kellerman.

He also played on, mixed and mastered "Who Shot John" — Eric Schenkman's third solo CD that was released about a year ago. Schenkman was a cofounder of The Spin Doctors.

"That CD he recorded drums and guitar, one session in Mississippi and one in New Jersey, then he sent everything to me and I played bass on it," says Kellerman.

"Then I mixed that one," says Kellerman. "You can go anywhere and put the pieces together. With the technology these days you just come over with the hard drive, give it all to me."

In addition to his producing, recording, mixing and mastering Kellerman is writing a lot of new songs. He submits that music to publishing houses that try to place it in

soundtracks for movies and TV shows.

"I do songs which are totally different from what anyone's heard from me, I am developing a publishing catalogue, and it is just everything, it is acoustic songs, none of it is blues, it is all kinds of different music," says Kellerman.

Kellerman's prodigious talents were spotted early. He was mentored by Mel Brown, Bobby Rush, Otis Clay and Zoom.

"I guess they saw something in me, which I really appreciated and they all pushed me. Here you go from being a teenager playing bars in Ontario and pushing me to explore the world," says Kellerman.

And now he has the opportunity to do something for Zoom, as he did 13 years ago for Rush.

"It's funny how it just comes full circle," Kellerman says.

- Terry Pender

tpender@therecord.com

www.therecord.com

peppered in the lyrics throughout the album. When asked if it was fair to say that much of the lyrical content was pointed at the United States, David Clayton-Thomas says;

"On some songs, yes, on others, it's just general. Some is certainly pointed at the States. We are very connected to what the United States does. I'm a bit of a political junkie. We are watching history unfold, and as I'm watching it happen, I write down little sonnets as I think of them. That's how this album got written. There were lots of songs that got cut from this album because I wanted to keep the songs on it that made sense to the working title, which was actually always *Say Somethin'*.

There is certainly a running theme throughout the album, and despite the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, *Say Somethin'* is being very well received, although tour dates in support of the newest release have been shifted. Positive reviews online and front-page newspaper interviews have been featured in response to last month's release. If people are looking to hear what few

artists are willing to say directly in their music, *Say Somethin'* is currently available, and access can be found on the David Clayton-Thomas website at www.davidclaytonthomas.com. There are also several YouTube videos featuring songs from the new album, which are also included on the website.

As the conversation neared closing, David Clayton-Thomas was asked to speak about coming 'full circle' and returning to Toronto permanently after a lifetime of hard work and success. He offered;

"The road has had its ups and downs, and you just gotta get used to it. It was hard for a lot of years, travelling and doing 250 shows a year. I decided I wasn't going to do that anymore. If I play 12 shows a year at places I want to play, I'm happy. It gives you time to slow down, and it's a good thing. I have a beautiful place here in Toronto on the waterfront, and I love it."

In closing the conversation, David Clayton-Thomas was asked a question that has become a staple in Notes & Quotes about what advice he would give to aspiring artists looking to walk in his footsteps. Without hesitation, the message was clear and concise;

"Yeah, get a law degree!"

For more information on David Clayton-Thomas and *Say Somethin'*, visit www.davidclaytonthomas.com. If planning on attending a live event to see David Clayton-Thomas, please check the website regularly, as dates scheduled on the current tour list are subject to change, based on the ever-evolving current situation involving covid-19.

Erin McCallum

Singer, Songwriter, Instrumentalist



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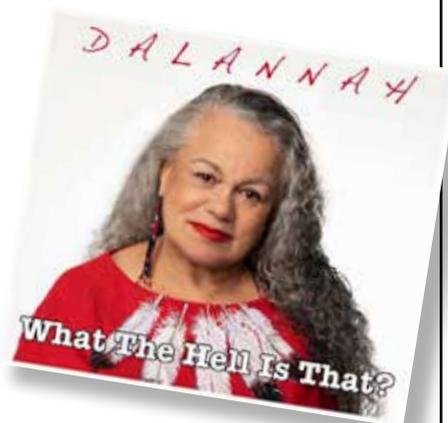
Dalannah Looking Back

The latest release from **Blues Hall of Fame Master Blues Artist Dalannah Gail Bowen** finds the 74-year-old force of nature looking back at a long and varied career in music and social activism.

Produced by **Michael Creber** and featuring a who's who of Canadian musicians — including **Jim Byrnes** and the vocal group **The Sojourners** — who join Dalannah for inspiring duets; **Looking Back** features eight brand new songs written by Dalannah including the first video single **“Somebody’s Watchin’ You”** and the second video single, **“What The Hell Is That?”** co-written with legendary Blues troubadour **Smiling Jack Smith** and scheduled for release in early May.

A worthy addition to any collection, the music on **Looking Back** “flows from a personal history of mixed heritage” before arriving at an exultant place of peace and well-being, captured in song by a respected elder vocalist and accompanied by some of the best players in the nation.

Give it a listen today!



Available to stream, download or purchase at dalannah.com



Artist contact: dalannahsmusic@gmail.com

Media/PR contact: Eric@ThatEricAlper.com





Streaming the Blues: The premiere event in Bluesworld, Blues Music Awards will proceed (virtually) on Sunday, May 3 (5pm ET) on Facebook and YouTube. Enjoy special

performances, award presentations, and a few surprises as part of a global watch party. Multi-BMA winning and GRAMMY® Award nominated artist Shemekia Copeland will host the event from her living room and BMA nominees will contribute exclusive performances recorded in their homes. Like prior BMA ceremonies, this online event will also feature announcements of all nominees and award winners, along with some special guest appearances. This online experience will give Facebook viewers a chance to share their enthusiasm and comments with fellow blues fans watching around the world as they celebrate blues' biggest night together.

Universally recognized as the highest accolade for blues musicians, the Blues Music Awards honor the past year's achievements in performances, recordings, and songwriting, along with sustaining the blues' rich cultural traditions. Join the celebration! www.blues.org

Here's a list of more streaming blues this month:

Friday, May 1st at 8pm - Ken Whiteley will be live streaming on his Facebook page with Ben Whiteley (the day after Ken turns 69)!

Saturday, May 2nd at 7pm - Avery Raquel will be performing this as part of McGonagalls daily musician showcase

Sunday, May 3 2pm Brian Blain This week's Basement Blaincast Brian plays all the country songs he wrote (not too many) on Facebook

Sunday, May 3 5pm - Blues Music Awards online www.blues.org

Wednesday May 6 8pm. - **Heather Luckhart Blues Jam** at 120 Diner will happen online

May 8. Blues On The Rideau at The Cove Inn presents **David Vest** online on his Facebook page

Thursday, June 4th at noon Raoul Bhaneja City Hall Live series on. Co-presented with the Toronto Blues Society.

Monday, June 8th at noon. Digging Roots will be performing as part of City Hall Live series Co-presented with Futuro Libre.

ONGOING

Miss Emily Mondays can be found here. www.facebook.com/themissemilymusic

Lindsay Beaver live streams every Tuesday at 8pm. www.facebook.com/LindsayBeaverDrummer/

Jesse Whiteley goes live with Clayton Yates on Tuesdays and for his requests weekend here (*dates may change/vary*). www.facebook.com/jessewhiteleymusic/

Terra Lightfoot live streams every Wednesday with all-requests at 2pm. www.facebook.com/terralightfoot/

Suzie Vinnick live streams on StreetJelly every Wednesday at 7pm. www.facebook.com/suzievinnickmusic

Steve Hill live streams every Friday at 8pm (*dates may change/vary*). www.facebook.com/stevehillmusic/

Heather Luckhart and **Attila Fias** perform live every Saturday at 7pm. www.facebook.com/HeatherLuckhartMusic/

Brian Blain streams his weekly Basement Blaincast every Sunday at 2pm on Facebook. www.facebook.com/brianblain.musician

Jenie Thai live streams on her Patreon page regularly. www.patreon.com/jeniethai

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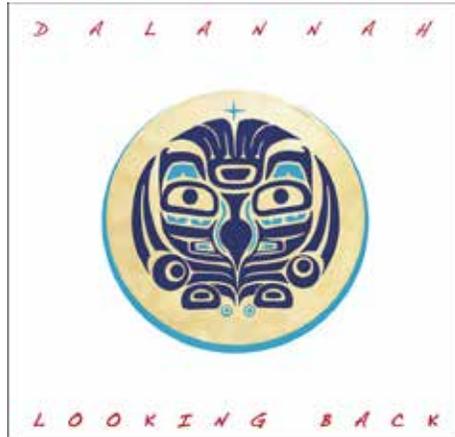
Illustration by Nathaniel Mesner



Philip Sayce *Spirit Rising* Warner

Electric guitar virtuoso **Philip Sayce** has come a long way since his apprenticeship with the **Jeff Healey Band**. *Spirit Rising* puts his mastery of the guitar and of the recording studio in the service of some very good songs. Most of them are on the rock side of the blues rock spectrum but he does include songs by **Magic Sam**, **Lightnin' Hopkins** and **Jeff Healey**, all very important influences for him. *Influence* was the name of his last studio album in 2015 and since then there was a live album recorded at the late, lamented Silver Dollar Room (*Scorched Earth*). A single from *Spirit Rising* was the hard rocking "Black Roller Coming", a black roller being a giant dust storm that he likens in a press release to the oncoming pandemic - the world will be a better place now that the dust storm has destroyed what was there before. "(I wanna believe that you'll be mine) Once (again)" is an attractive original power ballad. "Give Me Time" was a home recording by Magic Sam released posthumously by Delmark in 1991. This more realized version of the lovely R&B melody is a keeper and was the second single from the album way back in March. His own (all with collaborators) "Oh My" also has a nice tune with keyboards and a chorus helping (as they do in many of the songs here) with 'I want to thank you for being you'. Lightnin' Hopkins recorded "Awful Dreams" for Fire Records in New York, it was on *Mojo Hand*, one of his finest albums. Sayce's version captures the mood perfectly without

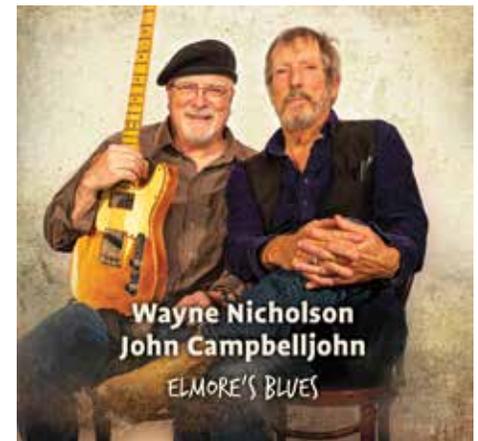
going overboard on FX. When you're in the Jeff Healey Band, you know all the songs. "One Foot in the Gravel" was a Healey original that never made it to an album and apparently was only played ten times live. Sayce remembered this rocker and we have his version of it now. As the Warner Music press release says, this album is full of 'blazing fretwork' from 'one of the best electric guitarists on the planet'. The attractive web site is www.philipsayce.com.



Dalannah Gail Bowen *Looking Back* Quest

Veteran Vancouver singer **Dalannah Gail Bowen**'s last album featured only virtuoso bassist **Owen** to stunning effect. This time out she has assembled a full band under the direction of **Michael Creber**. The basic band was made up of **Andreas Schuld** on guitar, **Chris Nordquist** on drums, **Miles Hill**, **Olaf de Shield**, **Brian Newcombe**, **Rob Becker**. There is a horn section and a female chorus plus **Jim Byrnes** dropped by for a duet. The title song leads off with the 74-year-old Matriarch "Looking Back" and seeing a full life. It's a strong gospel outing with a gorgeous backing chorus. "What the Hell is That?" might also be called 'Hippie Blues', she turns on the tv and hears one of her favourite 60's anthems being used to sell coffee. This almost talking blues features harmonica and slide guitar. For someone who's been a social activist all her life this must have been seriously depressing. **The Sojourners** join her for "Down to the River", another gospel highlight with the horns and a sax solo - the river will wash your troubles away. The duet with Jim Byrnes is "Don't Mess Up A Good Thing" with Dalannah asking for him to stop playing around and Byrnes singing that that would actually mess

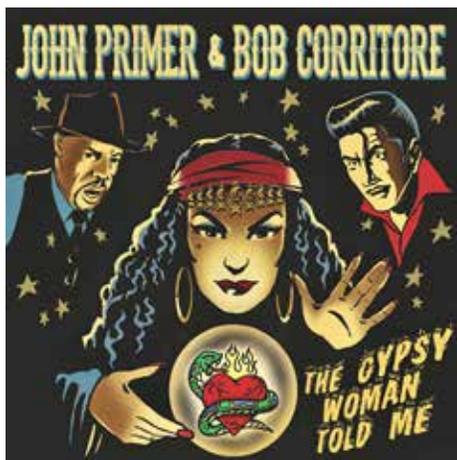
up the good thing - well done. **Donny Hathaway**'s "Tryin' Times" is another almost talking blues that doesn't refer to this trying time but it's not too hard to make that fit - another highlight. **Percy Mayfield**'s "Danger Zone" starts out with the solo bass the way we normally hear it but Dalannah has the band join in with fine contributions from harp & guitar. **Mose Allison**'s "Everybody's Crying Mercy" is also remarkably appropriate for something recorded last summer. While the concluding "Look Ahead" shares the backing chorus with the opening "Looking Back", this last one is not autobiographical. Opening with the drums that reflect her Cherokee heritage, she quotes **Chief Dan George** to give us a powerful environmental message about the proper way to look at the planet. A major effort from a major blues voice, you must check it out, her web site is www.dalannah.com.



Wayne Nicholson & John Campbelljohn *Elmore's Blues* Self

Cape Breton slide guitar master **John Campbelljohn** has just been signed to a worldwide record deal with the German company ZYX Music Pepper Cake Records and his first album under that deal will be *Guitar Lovin' Man*, to be released shortly. Until then we get a most magnificent fill-in: *Elmore's Blues* is a loving tribute to **Elmore James** with veteran Halifax singer **Wayne Nicholson**. **Barry Cooke** is at the piano, **Kim Dunn** on organ, **Bruce Dixon** bass and **Neil Robertson**, drums. These players have lived and breathed this music all their lives and it shows. Elmore James will forever be known for "Dust my Broom" and its famous riff but he wrote many more fine songs and, indeed, "Broom" isn't even here although that

riff makes an appearance or two. There is a gorgeous, raw sound to John's guitar, which combined with Wayne's powerful vocals and Barry's **Little Johnny Jones'** reincarnated piano playing makes for one exciting program. "Standing at the Crossroads", "Happy Home", "Rollin' and Tumblin'", and "Sinful Woman" are immediate, turn-it-up highlights but lesser known Elmore gems shine too like the opener, "I May Be Wrong" and "It Hurts Me Too". John doesn't slavishly copy Elmore's style so much as incorporate it into his own and they don't feel it's necessary to stick too close to the originals all the time: "I Believe" gets a delightful reggae treatment and a couple of their own are here too, with "If I Was Blue" using a Hawaiian slack key guitar for a rather different sound. "Shake Your Moneymaker", almost as well known as "Dust My Broom", acknowledges the sterling rhythm section as they get short but effective solos each. I think many of us have these songs etched into our brains but I think you'll be impressed with this tribute to a master. Available on all platforms May 15, go to www.campbelljohn.com.



John Primer & Bob Corritore *The Gypsy Woman Told Me* Vizztone

John Primer is perhaps the finest bluesman performing today in the classic Chicago Blues sound. He was a member of **Muddy Waters'** last band as well as with **Junior Wells** and for many years with **Magic Slim**. **Bob Corritore** may be based in Phoenix but he is a veteran harp player in that style with countless sessions accompanying the finest Chicago artists. This is also their third pairing and the chemistry shows. That Primer's main man is Muddy is shown by the title track, a vibrant performance

that proves these songs are just as valid in the new century. That validity is maintained throughout in this program of mostly '50's Chicago blues: The opening "Keep A-Driving" is by **Chuck Willis** in a version that is firmly in the tradition with its "Dust My Broom" riff as is "Knockin' on your Door", by **Sax Kari**. The band drops out for a lovely acoustic duet on "Gambling Blues" by **Lil' Son Jackson**. The band comes roaring back for "Little Bitty Woman" credited to Primer but actually "Rolling and Tumbling" incorporating lines from other songs based on that classic - it rocks. Another classic provides the slow blues on this set: "Walking the Back Streets and Crying" finds Primer in great voice on a pleasing Chicago-styled version. The performance of **Sonny Boy Williamson (Rice Miller)**'s "My Imagination" shows perfectly the Delta roots of Chicago blues. The deceptively easy **Jimmy Reed** groove is no problem for these veterans and "Let's Get Together" sounds great. **Jimmy Rogers'** "You Left me With a Broken Heart" is another treat with Corritore channeling **Big Walter Horton** in fine fashion. **Billy Flynn** takes a monster solo too. Much more original is Primer's "Walked So Long" once again performed acoustically along with string bass & brushes - superb. The closer is of more recent vintage but still from Chicago. **James Cotton's** *High Compression* album featured "Ain't Gonna Be No Cuttin' Loose" via **Junior Parker**, a rocking way to end the program. They recorded with two separate bands at **Kid Anderson's** new home of the blues, Greaseland Studios near Los Angeles. Special mention goes to **Bob Welsh** for his piano playing but all the players are on the money. You've no doubt noticed that most of the non-originals are not overused and worn out. I will always stress the importance of original material in these columns but every so often when classic songs are this well played it is tremendously satisfying. Web sites are www.johnprimerblues.com and www.bobcorritore.com, check them both out.

Roomful of Blues *In A Roomful of Blues* Alligator

Roomful of Blues is celebrating 50 years as a horn band. Tenor ace **Rich Lataille** and a couple of other horn players were added in 1970 to the smaller band that **Duke Robillard** founded in 1967. **Chris Vachon** took over the guitar chair from **Ronnie Earl** in 1992 and has

for some time served as bandleader, producer and principal songwriter. The other players in the current band are of much more recent vintage but the distinctive Roomful sound remains. They have added some different styles of music this time out but their position on top of the sales charts shows that listeners heartily approve. With *In a Roomful of Blues* being album number nineteen, the back catalogue has garnered five Grammy nominations and numerous Blues Music Awards and they've twice been named Blues Band of the Year by *Downbeat* magazine, their prominence is surely earned. **Phil Pemberton** has been the front man for years now, a job he obviously relishes. Starting out with some rocking Duke Records blues from **Texas Johnny Brown** in "What Can I Do" (including some fabulous piano from **Rusty Scott**), we get a sterling program of mostly originals that shows why this one is a chart topper. The title song is a Vachon original that **Albert King** would



have been proud to record: our narrator and his partner have to do something, anything, so that they're no longer "In a Roomful of Blues". A grinder of a tune underlies "Phone Zombies", a cleverly written commentary on all those people buried in their cellphones. They go to Louisiana with guest accordion player **Dick Reed** for "Have You Heard", a tale about a man feeling marginalized. "We'd Have a Love Sublime" is a slab of flat out rock 'n' roll with a great groove. A very good slow blues deals with a friend in chemotherapy in "Carcinoma Blues", a major highlight. With a generous program of thirteen songs, this band looks solid for the foreseeable future for sure, go to www.roomful.com for lots more history and info.

-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
 Tuesday 6-7pm
John Valenteyn's Blues
 w/ **John Valenteyn**
 Friday 1-2pm



At The Crossroads w/Brant Zwicker
<http://atcblues.ca> and syndicated on
 stations across the continent)

CKWR (98.5 FM)
Old Chicago Blues w/ Willy A.
 Saturday 12:30pm - 2:00pm (Kitchener)
www.ckwr.com



CIOI FM (101.5 The HAWK)
Blues Blast, with **Ken Wallis**
 Tuesdays, 4-6pm (Hamilton)



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



CIWS 102.9FM (WhiStle Radio)
Whistle Bait w/**Gary Tate**
 (aka Shakey-T) Sat 12-1am and Wed
 10-11 pm. (Stouffville)



CFFF Trent Radio (92.7 FM)
Blues Themes, Delivered by...The Milkman.
 Every Thursday night 9 to 10 PM

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
Buckside 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)

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 Blues picks on Spotify
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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.

- *Philip Sayce *Spirit Rising* Warner
- *Dalannah Gail Bowen *Looking Back* Quest
- *Wayne Nicholson & John Campbelljohn *Elmore's Blues* Self
- John Primer & Bob Corritore *The Gypsy Woman Told Me* Vizztone
- Roomful of Blues *In A Roomful of Blues* Alligator
- *Justin Saladino Band *Live Bros*
- Grant Dermody *My Dony* Thunder River
- *Crystal Shawanda *Church House Blues* True North
- *Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne *Go Just Do It!* Stony Plain
- *Steve Hill & The Devil Horns *All About the Love* Bros
- *Anthony Gomes *Containment Blues* BFD/Orchard
- *Jeff Healey *Heal My Soul Deluxe 2CD* Eagle
- *Big Sugar *Eternity Now* Bread 'n Butter/Universal
- Fenton Robinson *Out of Chicago* JSP
- Sam Charters *Searching for Secret Heroes* CD + DVD Document
- John Lee Hooker *Documenting The Sensation Recordings 1948-1952*
 3 CD Ace
- Joe Louis Walker *Blues Comin' On* Cleopatra
- Mike Zito *Quarantine Blues* Self
- Lucinda Williams *Good Souls Better Angels* Highway 20

*= Canadian

RESOURCES FOR OUT-OF-WORK MUSICIANS

Financial assistance for media, marketing, and communications pros <https://nabs.org/need-help>.

Emergency financial aid for entertainment pros - <https://afchelps.ca/get-help/>.

Financial aid for musicians <https://unisonfund.ca/services/financial-assistance>.

The Unison Benevolent Fund has also a list of resources available to musicians <https://www.unisonfund.ca/blog/post/covid-19-resources-music-community>.

Emergency financial aid for LGBTQ2S artists, performers, tip-based workers <https://www.gladdaylit.ca>.

Artist/Musician Relief Fund https://www.gofundme.com/f/canadian-lowincome-artistfreelancer-relief-fund?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet.

Akin accepting applications for rent relief from current Akin artists and creatives <https://www.akincollective.com/rentrelief>.

In partnership with Facebook Canada, and Slight Music: artists can apply for a \$1,000 grant to support a 45- to 60-minute live stream performance planned between March 19 and 31 on the NAC's Facebook page.

https://ottawacitizen.com/entertainment/local-arts/nac-unveils-100000-relief-initiative-for-performing-artists/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR11dhBh-is8YEnqPI1co-ilA3RdiCRwt7ACPqh4f3ykXXQyzCwUOxaBfQ.

Music Industry Relief Program out <https://unisonfund.ca/>.

FACTOR has announced that artists who received funding to travel for shows that have been cancelled can keep the money <https://www.factor.ca/covid-19-update-cancellation-policy/>.

Canada Council for the Arts: Information about CCA's cancellation policy can be found at <https://canadacouncil.ca/covid-19-information>.

Toronto Musicians Association's resources for financial assistance and bill <https://www.tma149.ca/2016-01-26-02-05-12/press-releases/349-coronavirus-information-for-tma149-members>.

Music Managers Forum Canada's constantly updated resource page <https://mmfcanada.ca/news/2020/3/12/covid-19-updates>.

Airline Cancellation Policies: A comprehensive guide by Forbes can be found at <https://www.forbes.com/sites/advisor/2020/03/26/master-list-of-all-major-international-airline-coronavirus-change-and-cancellation-policies/>

Nightly 60-second clip of tips by music publicist Eric Alper during pandemic will be available at www.thatericalper.com

If you are using Facebook, we highly recommend joining the group "I Lost My Gig" for immediate updates and as a platform for sharing. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ILostMyGigCa/>.

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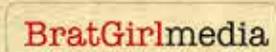
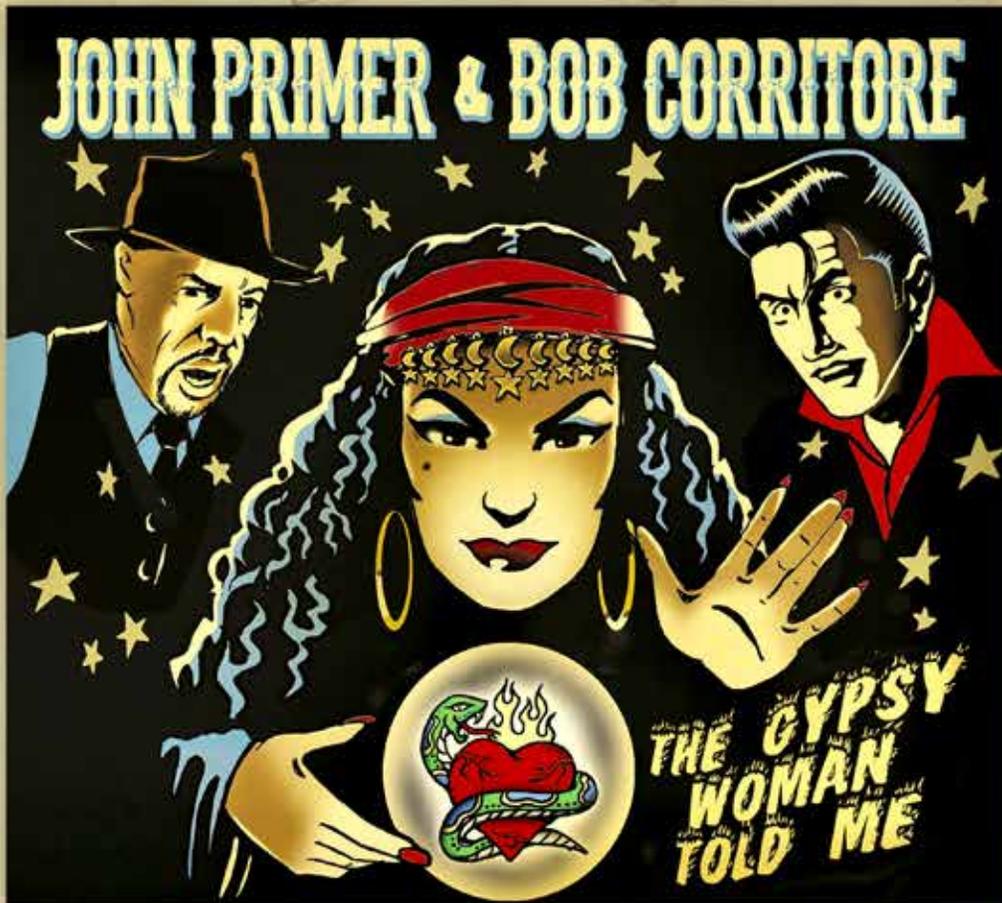
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JOHN PRIMER & BOB CORRITORE

THE GYPSY WOMAN TOLD ME

Here is that rare album that's fully connected to the core of Chicago Blues. Both John Primer and Bob Corritore are experienced veterans of the genre, fluent in its sacred, expressive vocabulary. With a team of A-list players, Primer and Corritore fulfill and expand their branded presentation of Chicago blues on this, their third collaborative effort.

With Billy Flynn, Jimi "Primetime" Smith, Kid Andersen, Bob Welsh, Ben Levin, Kedar Roy, Troy Sandow, Mike Hightower, June Core, Brian Fahey



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