

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY **MAPLEBLUES**

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



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Nova Scotian Reeny Smith will make her Toronto debut at the Women's Blues Revue November 26 at Roy Thomson Hall



**Reeny Smith at WBR
Live Blues
Coping with Covid**

**Loose Blues News
Album Reviews
Top Blues**

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International Blues Challenge - From Toronto to Memphis



The Toronto Blues Society is looking for its next representatives to the **International Blues Challenge**.

The IBC will take place between **January 18 and 22, 2022** and musicians can apply to compete in the "band" or "solo/duo" category.

The Toronto contest for the IBC will take place in October (date TBD) and select bands **MUST** be available to perform at both the preliminary competition in Toronto and the finals in **Memphis**.

The **Deadline** for submission of interest to Toronto Blues Society is Friday, **September 17, 2021**

Please send an e-mail to info@torontobluesociety.com with the subject line "IBC".

To learn more about the rules and details please visit The Blues Foundation's IBC website: <https://blues.org/international-blues-challenge/>



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Paul Reddick has spent most of the pandemic looking out for rare birds but has now shifted his attention to seeking out gigs. Sporting his new outdoorsy look along with his signature beret he will be perched on the back patio of the Painted Lady every Tuesday this month from 7-9pm

Live Blues

New York and New Orleans are now both requiring full vaccine or testing proof at indoor venues! With covid-19 protocols evolving lately, some shows have popped up, been announced and also not so clearly announced! Venues are struggling to figure out all their next steps with vaccine protocols, seating capacity, spacing, masks and the various elements of Ontario's phase three.

Outdoor festivals are getting live music up on stages in **Kitchener, Kingston, Kincardine, Owen Sound, Trois Rivieres, North Bay** and of course **Port Credit**. If you travel out of town there are blues stops in **Oakville, Mississauga, St. Catharines, Uxbridge, Hamilton, Orillia, Collingwood and Stratford**. But there remains uncertainty, witness the recent withdrawal of a much anticipated **Sue Foley** tour of southern Ontario.

According to our friends at **True North / Stony Plain**, "Touring plans were always hard to lock down with so many uncontrollable conditions able to affect concerts dates in the best of times. There's so much up in the air right now about crossing borders, bringing American band members to Canada and Canadian band members into the US. There are backlogs for work permits, a scarcity in tour buses for rent, and a lot of competition for a limited pool of stages that has grown smaller over the past two years. Sue will be doing Canadian dates as soon as we can reschedule."



Horseshoe Tavern. The gang at Collective Concerts are firing on most of their cylinders and developed virtual offerings before seating was allowed. Limited advance tickets are available for shows, including Hamilton's remarkable Terra Lightfoot August 14.

W h e a t S h e a f

Tavern. Toronto's oldest watering hole on the south west corner of Bathurst and King is now offering shows. Bad Luck Woman got in early and The Mercenaries just held down the weekend, no cover, limited seating, 9:30pm showtime.

The Painted Lady. Paul Reddick is found every Tuesday, 7-9 in the back patio with a \$15 cover. The web site hasn't been updated, but this is not unusual during these hesitant times. Open mike Monday returns on Labour Day.

Painted Lady comments: "We desperately want to bring our 7 day a week calendar of live music back as soon as possible. Limited hours for outdoor performance with wanting to be cognisant of our residential neighbours, as well as limited distanced seating and uncertainty indoors, we have taken a breath, and tried to tell ourselves it's ok to take the pressure off of our team and come back a little more slowly. We are, however, thrilled beyond measure to be ramping up during the month of August!"

Communist Daughter. If you've squeezed into the Saturday afternoon steady to catch Michael Johnson, Terry Wilkins and friends you know it is a special session. Here is what Terry had to say about the gig, "...an 18 year run says we must be doing something right. Live music is best!!!"

Reservoir Lounge. Tyler Yarema is holding down a steady Friday / Saturday on Wellington with doors open at 7:15 and showtime 9:15pm, reservations recommended.

Senator Winebar. From 4-6pm you can enjoy the "Serenade from the Balcony" series featuring the inimitable Tabby Johnson supported by Brooke Blackburn September 18 while on the patio enjoying fine food and drinks.

Castro's Lounge. You won't find Aunt Lydia at the club, but Fraser Daley do a 5:30-7:30pm every second Friday, reservations required, for limited seating.

Black Swan Tavern. Gradually getting the doors open for live, Mike

Sedgewick is moving his popular east end jam to the legacy venue with a duo set plus guests on August 14. Rob Quail is featured in this Covid Acoustic Edition, no cover so hit the tip jar.

Crows Theatre. At Dundas and Carlaw a very special series called Crowsnest Streetcar has come together in partnership with the swank french restaurant adjacent, Gare de l'Est. Reservations required for no cover charge lobby bar sets featuring Brooke Blackburn, Blue Standard (Raoul Bhaneja / Jesse Whiteley) and Raha Javanfar with Fraser Melvin. Slight Music and the City's ShowLoveTO brought this about.



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LIVE BLUES *cont'd from p3*

The Medley. At 2026 Yonge this music theatre venue has Ori Dagan bringing in some shows to a well laid out listening room. Covid seating is spaced to 80 people for a \$25 food minimum but no cover to see Jesse Whiteley on the house piano August 15. Watch for more coming here!

Scarboro Music. This is home to the latest "Dinner and a Song" presentation featuring a 4pm start on August 28 with McKenna Moonah, where the \$40 ticket includes dinner at the Beech Tree Restaurant. Seating is limited but the set will be offered digitally on zoom as well.

Missing in Action. Grossman's Tavern has yet to surface, same with the Dakota on Ossington, at The Rex there are plenty of jazz shows but no blues as yet. A handful of listening rooms are worth checking including Alchemy on College and several in Kensington Market - Poetry Jazz Cafe, The Oud and the Fuzz and Pamenar Cafe.

OUT OF TOWN

Moonshine Cafe. The popular and well organized Oakville room is home to tons of music including Alfie Smith, Paul Reddick, Bywater Duo, Kevin Breit, Andre Bisson, Al Lerman. Out of the blocks fast with a retracted "No Jab, No Tab" statement, cover charges pay the band and reservations are required for limited seating.



Jo Blo's Rock & Wok. As of August 7 St. Catharines rocks with the Mighty Duck crew rolling and guests each Saturday starting with Chuck Jackson, then Little Magic Sam, Frank Cosentino, Johnny Max, Robin Banks and Sugar Brown. No cover, no reservations, 2:30pm start.

Mississippi Queen Foods. On August 15 Connie Rouble will host her "last supper" in Hamilton with Harrison Kennedy and Jesse O'Brien, 6-8pm before relocating the Southern Supper to Langton, Norfolk County, under a new brand, 'Front Porch....Southern Kitchen & Blues Joint'.

Connie says, "Basically, I'm stepping up- not stepping out. With the new venue, I'll have more space for my shows, which means I'll be able to book a larger configuration of players, than what I was able to previously. While I don't want to use such a dangerous word, during these times, we should also have some space for 'dancing'. While I'm sad to close the Hamilton chapter, I'm really looking forward to what this new venue will bring to the proverbial table."

Music By The Bay. Stay alert for show news popping up in Uxbridge, Ajax, Port Perry or Whitby but on sale now is Lance Anderson's production of the Last Waltz, set for November 16.

StoneCropAcres Winery. In the far east there is a steady flow of talent near Morrisburg including Shakura S'Aida, Suzie Vinnick, Roxanne Potvin (August 29) and later Miss Emily and Dione Taylor produced by Harmony Concerts.

Orillia Opera House. August 22 will see a staging of Lance Anderson's Matchedash Parish with typical theatre covid protocols of no intermission or drinks, plus spacing, masks and the usual precautions.

Stratford Festival. Fancy a train ride to theatre town? The summer music program includes the Freedom Cabaret and a Beau Dixon production "Spirit and Legacy of Black Music" featuring our favourite, Alana Bridgewater running August 19 to September 5. Reserve tickets are \$75 at the Canopy and their box office gives you the option to order food and drink online.

Fire up your search engines and seek out answers to the many questions we have about the return of Live Blues. And watch the TBS web site as we deliver a new calendar software presentation for show details. We should also take a moment to acknowledge the loss of some great rooms, The Orbit, N'Awlins, The Old Nick, Relish, Alleycatz and Club 120.

-Derek Andrews

Reeny Smith

For this edition of Notes & Quotes, readers will, perhaps, be brought to an unfamiliar artist – there is, however, plenty to get familiar with. Reeny Smith is an artist from Nova Scotia; she debuted with a soul-inspired dance hit album in 2018. Although a songwriter, musician, and producer – as described on her website – Smith is perhaps best known for her vocals (she studied as a vocal major for two years at university) and confident stage presence. The 25 year old has taken the musical influence she grew up with, and made a sound of her own. Her first professional recognition came in 2011 after receiving the Portia White Award for Excellence In Vocal Performance, along with a scholarship from the Nova Scotia Talent Trust. She's been steadily ascending on her career path since then, and now, Reeny Smith is slated to be one of the featured artists at this year's highly anticipated Women's Blues Revue. This article will get readers and event-goers alike properly introduced to Reeny Smith, if they aren't already acquainted. Although she has already performed at the Halifax Jazz Festival, the P.E.I. Jazz & Blues Festival, and even has festival plays at the Honeyjam Concert at The Mod Club in Toronto, the Blues scene in Ontario appears to be part of Smith's accelerating career path.

Smith comes from a generational lineage of musicians within her family. Of note, both her father and grandfather are noted to be former members of one of Canada's premier Gospel bands; her uncles are described as

being highly esteemed musicians as well. It seemed like a natural point of conversation to ask Smith about where her inspiration stems from. When asked, Smith points to that familial heritage without hesitation;

"I come from a long line of musicians in my immediate family, and music is something I've grown up with. It's so much a part of me and my upbringing that it really is inherent. All of my siblings are professional musicians as well.

With her genre officially listed as R&B Soul, after listening to tracks offered on Smith's website in research for this article, tracks suggest a sound that is, perhaps, soul

woven into each other that creates my sound."

Knowing that Smith has tapped into her talents - and taken action - at an earlier age than most people plan and begin executing a career path, it seemed fitting to ask her if she had any key pieces of advice to other artists who might be planning on taking the same route as her. Smith offers this:

"The best lesson that I have learned is 'Don't be in a rush to go nowheres' – basically, take the time and make the time to make sure that you are representing yourself in the best way, rather than meeting a deadline or rushing your process. Really take the time to be true to what you are doing, and make sure that it's the best that you can do, and don't compromise that in order to meet a deadline or some other expectation outside of what it is you are really trying to represent."

In closing the conversation, Reeny Smith was asked what it is that she would like people to know about her as an artist. She leaves us with this:

"On a personal level, I want people to know that music is such an important force in my life. It's one of the most important forces in my life. I want people to know that when they hear me sing, that is the genuine me."

In investigating Reeny Smith's accomplishments (both academically and professionally acknowledged) her work, and her musical roots, it is safe to say that she possesses the skill and talent required to stand alongside the

other featured artists on the roster at the Women's Blues Revue on solid footing. For more information on Reeny Smith, visit www.iamreeny.com. For details on the Women's Blues Revue, visit the Toronto Blues Society's website at www.torontobluesociety.com, and stay tuned to Maple Blues as more featured artists are featured.

-Erin McCallum – singer, songwriter, bandleader, instrumentalist



inspired contemporary R&B; a current style that is clearly anchored in more traditional genres. When asked to describe her sound, Smith says;

"My sound is like a mix between a lot of Southern Gospel and modern contemporary R&B – funk even. All of the music and genres that I grew up listening to are really incorporated into my sound. I kind of have my own type of sound that is unique because it is that blend of all the stuff I grew up listening to. It's really all of my influences layered and

Tim Hortons
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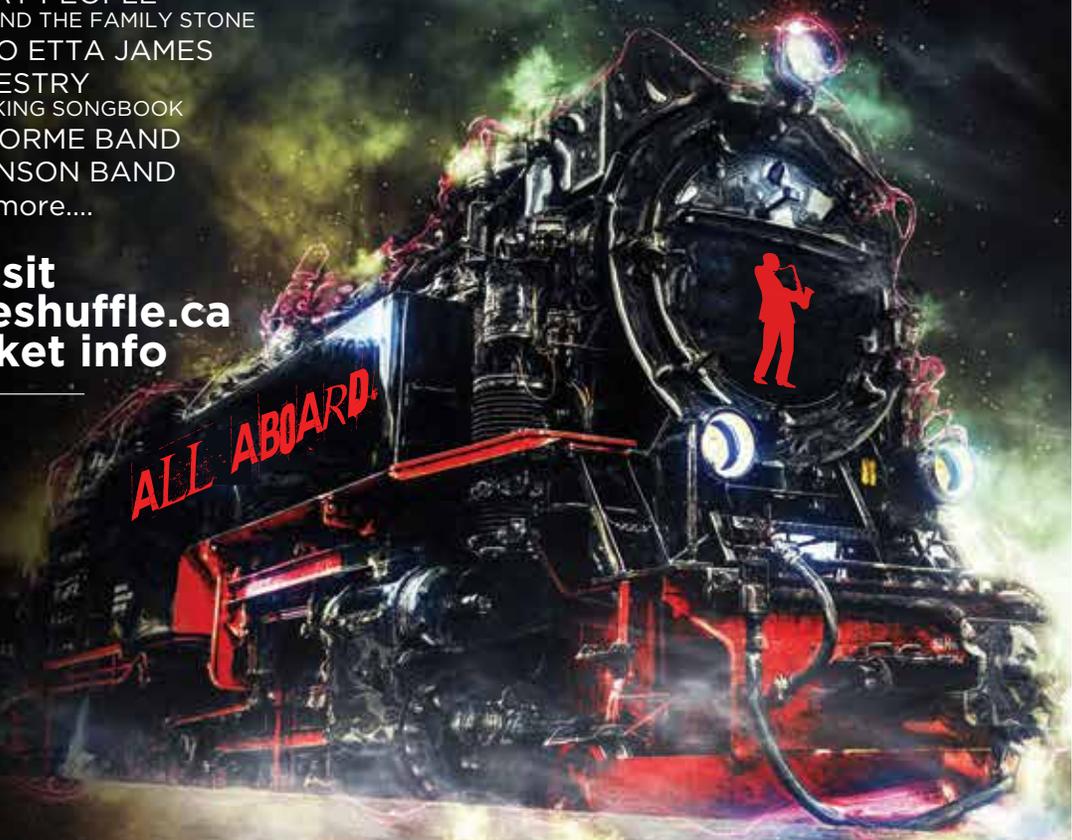
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Bywater Call

I have to assume that it's never easy being a couple who lives together, works together (VERY closely, running a home-based self-employed business) and socializes in mainly the same group of friends, no matter what the business may be.

But imagine if that business is also your shared passion, hobby, only source of income, and has been completely shut down; no side-hustle to fall back on, neither partner able to pick up the slack, and nowhere to go because ... well, you're supposed to stay at home.

Also imagine that the business had been on a pretty good roll when that momentum suddenly vanished, near the bottom of a huge hill you actually thought you might have the steam to scale ... at least part of the way anyway.

Stopped. In your tracks. Together.

In late 2019 and early 2020 – Dave and I saw our dream of Bywater Call manifesting. We released our first original album, held an incredible CD release party at Hugh's Room Live, earned a Maple Blues Nomination and headed out to Europe for a 7 week tour. Many of our favourite Canadian festivals



Guitarist Dave Barnes and singer Meghan Parnell of Bywater Call. The band, who were nominated for a 2020 Maple Blues Award in the Best New Artist category, had just returned from a European tour and were preparing for festival dates across Canada as Covid hit.

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committed to having us on board for the upcoming season, and we had our first chance in summer 2020 to bring our music across Canada.

Months into the pandemic however, it began to feel as though the album almost never existed and our chance to reach out to the greater Canadian scene was slipping out from under us. It's difficult to find motivation in such a space, and though we had plenty of time to be creative, especially early on, we did not have the inspiration.

We knew our situation was not unique, but that certainly didn't make it easier.

So, to fill the space we couldn't fill with music (at least for the time being) we did A LOT of reading. We also started some new projects ... I tried my hand at sewing, Dave worked on health and fitness, and eventually together, we decided to turn our love for coffee into a small business idea. We had been roasting our own beans for the better part of 2 years and imagined that a coffee roasting company was a great way to reconnect with friends, the music community and family in such a strange time. PARKSIDE GRIND was officially launched in January. We now have a steady rotation of regular clients and are hearing from people all over Ontario who are interested in giving our beans a try! The response has been so uplifting.

It has also been an incredible on-going

lesson in marketing, branding, sales, and time management, all the while bringing in a little supplemental income and giving us the joy of sharing our love for a quality cup of joe with others.

I don't know if it was all the coffee we were drinking as a result or all the books we'd been reading, but we also re-discovered our musical mojo.

Dave and I, along with the band are inching closer and closer to completing the writing for our second album and are super excited to be heading into the studio this fall.

We have found comfort and drive in creating routines for ourselves amidst the chaos of the last year and a half, joy in the friendships that have kept us sane, and awe and inspiration in seeing fellow musicians rise to the challenge that has been COVID.

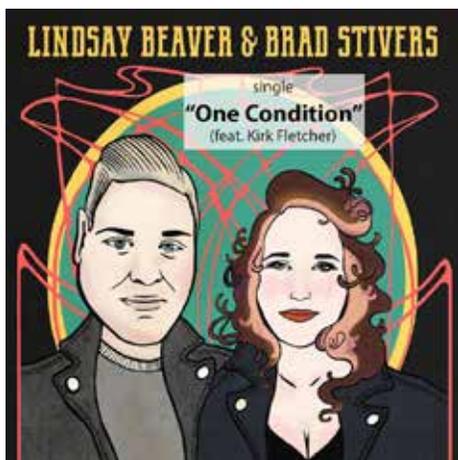
Although not all the opportunities of 2020 have resurfaced, new ones have arisen, and we feel strongly the support of our band, our team, our family, friends, fans and the music community backing us up all the way.

We will be returning to Europe in 2022, and are VERY much looking forward to our shows this summer and fall, including Paisley Blues Fest, Southside Shuffle, The Heartwood Concert Theatre and some other really cool stuff in the works!

There is a light!

- Meghan Parnell

ALBUM REVIEWS



Lindsay Beaver & Brad Stivers

Two Austin residents, drummer, vocalist Lindsay Beaver and guitarist, vocalist Brad Stivers have teamed up to present a pretty impressive debut duo disc.

Put some blues injected heart, a few shots of soul and touches of rockabilly reverb together and voila, 12 songs that should give listeners a sound that has an identity that's easy to discern from the pack.

While cruising through the set that is all original material, with the exception of the album closer, touchstones to stylistic imprints of eighties electric Americana roots, everything from The Paladins to The Fabulous Thunderbirds, abound.

That's a good thing and the duo covers a lot of musical ground and tempos without ever coming so close to those influences to be accused of emulation.

Beaver is the stronger vocalist of the two but that doesn't mean Stivers can't handle his duties when called up and on a tune like *Somebody Else Will*, he delivers the lyrics like he's lived knee deep in them.

Stivers' cohort rings the bell a few times but interestingly enough Beaver's finest moment vocally may well be on the ballad *Take It Slow*, where a perfect hint of Etta James caresses the well-crafted lyrics in both phrasing and timbre departments.

The two completely mesh as a duo on the album opener *One Condition* and eight tunes later on *It's Love*. Both tunes are driven by the two sharing the vocals and it's that unison delivery that brings an entirely different tone and additional shot of power to the arrangements. So satisfying are these moments that one wonders why they weren't mined a little bit more.

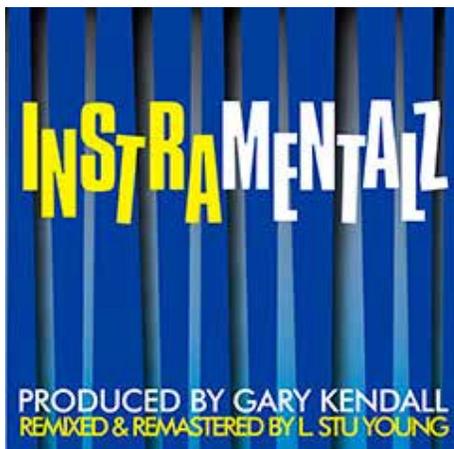
That said there are other stellar moments

including the Stivers original instrumental tune *Slim Pickin'*, that is a showcase for his guitar playing. The tune arguably deserved to be set midway through the album rather than second to last in the set. Another highlight is the stone-cold blues tune *Somebody Else Will* penned by Beaver. She passed the lead vocal duties on to her partner who tears into the number while adding an inspired solo as Beaver's tasty drumming plants the piece in a firm foundation.

There are some cool cameos early on, including an appearance by guitarist Kirk Fletcher on *One Condition* while gritty harp from Joe Murphy beefs up the loping groove of *I Know What to Do*.

Ms. Beaver pilots this album to its conclusion with a solitary and earnest solo guitar and vocal reading of "You're So Fine", the tune Johnny Burnette covered, as opposed to the Little Walter number.

This is one listener who also looks forward to hearing these tunes in a live setting. (*Peter North*)



Gary Kendall *Instrumentalz*

There are not enough words in the English language to explain the incredible impact Gary Kendall has had on the Canadian Blues Industry. His work with Legendary Downchild Blues Band is just the tip of a very deep ice berg.

As a player with The Kendall Wall Band, Mighty Duck Blues Band, a who's who of blues, rock and jazz stars, not to mention his solo albums, Gary Kendall earned his reputation as one of the most in demand and highly respected blues players in the great white north.

Add to that, his work as music director of the Maple Blues Band and as a producer and promoter through 47 records, you can begin to understand just what an impact player he truly is.

His latest release, The four song EP

"Instrumentalz", is just a small selection from his impressive musical legacy, revisited from the original recordings with co producer L. Stu Young.

The album opens up with the Maple Blues Review's appropriately titled 'Open Up', originally released on "Live From Twisted Pines". The full phat toe tapping sound only an award winning group like MBR can deliver is the perfect appetizer leading into a delicious meal of Blues.

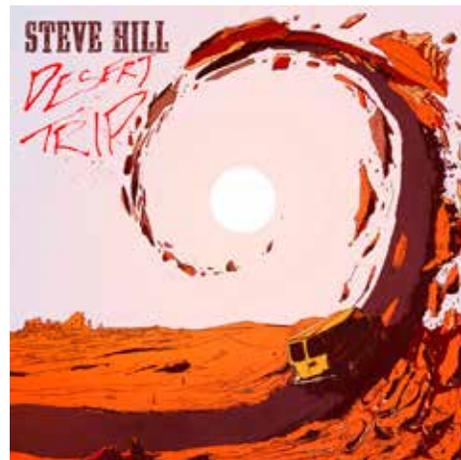
Up next is Chris Murphy and his smoky, jazzy classic 'Bluesona Slonite'. This song also features a wonderful performance by multiple collaborator and friend, the late great Michael Fonfara.

The third cut is the Gary Kendall Band with a beautiful tribute to a true blues legend, with 'Sumlin Around'. Kendall teams up with the fabulous Teddy Leonard to give new life to a blues classic, a true Labor of Love.

The album closes with the iconic 'Thanks A Lot' also from the Maple Blues Review. This is a piece I personally loved so much, I used it as the theme for my syndicated radio show, The Blind Lemon Blues.

Close your eyes as you listen to this piece (or the entire album) and feel the heart and soul pouring out of instruments, in the hands of true masters. Some of the class of Canadian Blues, sharing their love of music, through the music.

Short but sweet, 4 deep cuts from the career of a true Canadian blues icon. (*Terry Parsons*)



Steve Hill *Desert Trip*

After almost a decade (and 5 recordings) as a one man band, Steve Hill has come out with a brand new album (and a new direction) creating the next logical step in his progression as a player, singer and songwriter.

Inspired by his trip to California, the Desert Trip Festival in Coachella, followed a couple of weeks in LA and a three week

odyssey in a rented camper around the American south west, this new album is a brilliant mix of original songs written by the campfire at night, as the soundtrack to an epic road trip.

It opens with 'Evening Star', as song that conjures up the cool desert night, a crackling camp fire and a vista of stars cloaked in patterns as sold as time itself.

The second cut, 'Rain', lends itself to the quiet patter that accompanies a summer shower. The reflective road weary mood of this piece is dark and powerful.

Up next, 'Follow You Down' is drenched in atmosphere. The sound reminiscent of an empty hall or church, haunted by echoes of unanswered prayers.

The fourth cut on the album brings in the rhythm section, bass and drums driving 'Cold Hearts' from the campfire to a roadside watering hole where lonely travelers gather in the night to share the company of each other and the dance of the desperately lonely.

Up Next is 'I Won't', an ode to the road less travelled and the free spirits that wander it, not always on the right side of the law. The sixth cut is 'Gotta Be Strong', a toe tapper with a gospel feel. A feel that could be well at home in a roadside tent with the sun baked faithful and prayers for guidance in a confusing world.

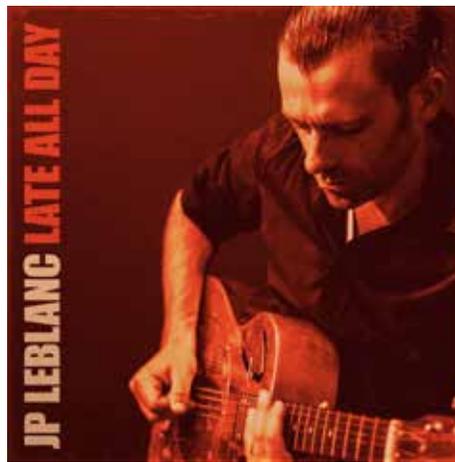
Up next is 'Make Believe', a soulful and plaintiff cry for self realization. Are we a result of the real world, or is the real world a product of our deepest hopes, darkest desires and heady dreams.

The eighth cut, 'Days' continues taking the listener back to Steve's one man band style, a full rich sound syphoned straight from the heart and expertly strained through harp, guitar, flesh and bone.

Up next, 'Judgement Day' flows like a river through the night. This cut draws heart and soul out of that darkness, lays it in the stark light of day for all to see. The sure knowledge that eventually we all face our own personal judgement day.

The album closes with 'Tail Lights', the pinpoints we follow on the darkest highway. If you have ever driven under the deepest night, with only the red tail lights of some other lost soul, like demon eyes staring and daring you to follow, then you get the feel of this instrumental.

This collection is ripe with imaginative explorations of music, in its many forms, from solo recordings to full band, from soulful folk to rockin' blues. Each cut a rest stop along the blues highway, a respite for the road weary traveler. (Terry Parsons)



JP LeBlanc *Late All Day*

This is JP LeBlanc's first album in 15 years, and man, was it worth waiting for. The native of Bathurst, New Brunswick was somewhat of a young prodigy, infected by the blues at the age of 11, picking up guitar and joining high-powered jams as a teenager and recording his first CD at the age of 21.

Now in his mid-thirties, LeBlanc has created an album that shows great chops, vocals and most of all, a great feeling for the blues. No wonder, much of it was recorded with his mentor Joe Murphy, a legendary Atlantic Canada performer who started off with the great Dutch Mason nearly 50 years ago. Lots of growling harp here, tasty slide guitar and passionate vocals.

LeBlanc was once dubbed the "Baby Stevie Ray Vaughan," but he has obviously gone much deeper into the well of Delta blues. On "Aberdeen," he starts off spare and moaning, accompanied only by playing slide on his National-style steel guitar before the band kicks in at a rollicking tempo. It's great to hear clean acoustic guitar over a full rhythm section. On "Get Ready," he plays some mean acoustic licks over a relentless shuffle. The Piedmont influence is evident even on a cover version of "Folsom Prison Blues."

Recorded at Sand Reed Studio in Petit-Rocher, NB and at Michael Reid Studio in Halifax, this album should get recognition from blues fans far from the Maritimes. (Mike Sadava)

Tommy Castro *A Bluesman Came to Town* Alligator

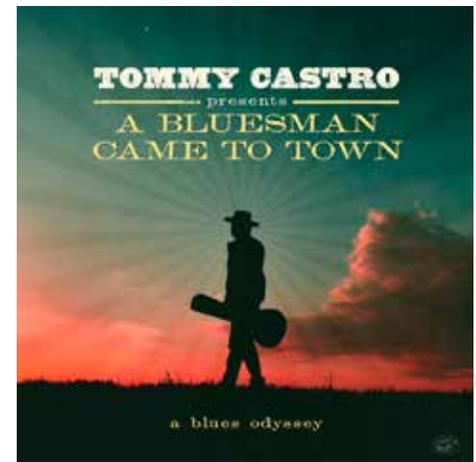
So you want to be a bluesman? Or woman (to bring us into the 21st century)? Take a listen to Tommy Castro's latest album, "A Bluesman Came to Town, a blues odyssey." It's an invitation and a warning of the joys, fringe benefits and bumps in the road, all wrapped up in vivid storytelling.

In the title song, a certain "Mr. Johnson" comes to town, and our protagonist, after working hard days in the field, puts down

his pitchfork and picks up a guitar. He feels the tug, gets the bug, and before you know it he's got the blues. In "Child Don't Go," a rollicking gospel-tinged duet with Bay Area blues chanteuse Terri Odabi, parents fearful of watching their child lose his innocence, plead with him not to go out *into this wicked world all alone. Take that guitar off your back, keep your suitcase all unpacked.*

"I Got Burned" will be familiar to any musician who has ever played in bars and has to struggle to get paid at the end of the night. "Women, Drugs and Alcohol" is self-explanatory about the big three pitfalls of the road, and it even clocks in at 4:20.

There are songs of loneliness and failure, but it's not all doom and gloom. "I Caught a Break," which could be hailed as the updated Johnny B. Goode, complete with a Chuck Berry chunka chunka rhythm, is the long-awaited reward — having a big hit on the



radio. *I'm in the money, I'm having so much fun it ain't funny.*

Castro has survived and thrived on the road for more than three decades, as well as recording since 1994. Over the years he has won numerous blues awards, including the B.B. King Entertainer Of The Year Award, regarded as the highest award a blues performer can receive. It's no wonder.

He's one of the most versatile blues guitarists in the business. He can play in all kinds of configurations and feels, from heavy blues-rock to the wonderful acoustic slide guitar on the final track, "Somewhere."

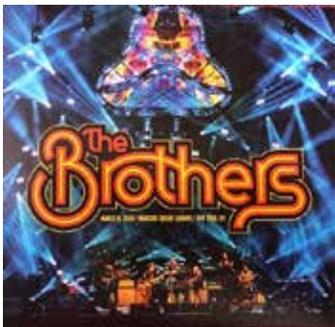
And he's a passionate vocalist and fine songwriter — a triple threat for sure. As usual, he's backed up by a crew of fine musicians, including members of his road band, the Painkillers.

Castro and co. have created thirteen great tracks of blues, complete with some sage advice for anyone who would follow in his footsteps and take to the road: *If you want to be a bluesman, you've got learn how to play your cards.* (Mike Sadava)

cont'd on p 10

The Brothers March 10, 2020, Madison Square Garden, NYC
Peach Records

When Jaimoe, a founding member and drummer of the Allman Brothers made a call to members of the group alumni suggesting they reconvene for a concert celebrating 50 years of the brotherhood, he was met with the kind of positive responses he had hoped for.



Rather than block booking a multi-date run at The Beacon Theatre, the group's long-time New York performance home, Madison Square Gardens became the preferred choice for a one-night only gala.

With the exception of founding member Dickey Betts, who is long estranged from the band, Jaimoe is the last man standing from the original line-up. That said, guitarist and vocalist Warren Haynes was with the band for two stints between the time the band reunited in 1990 to when they called it a day seven years ago, making him the pivotal piece of this reunion.

That percussionist Marc Quinones, guitarist Derek Trucks, bassist Oteil Burbridge collectively have around 50 years of membership in the Allman Brothers meant that this one-off would be built on a formidable foundation. The line-up was solidified with the additions of organist Reese Wynans, Widespread Panic drummer Duane Trucks, and second-generation Allman, pianist Chuck Leavall, whose significant contributions to the seventies Allman albums, *Brothers and Sisters* and *Wipe The Windows*, cannot be understated.

Mere hours before the COVID clampdown hit this continent a packed house in New York witnessed a 25 tune, two set concert that put an exclamation point on the importance of the best of the Allman Brothers canon of work.

Working within a skill set that includes incredible chops and improvisational brilliance, the octet whipped up 3 plus hours of musical magic that hit bullseyes throughout. True to form, all the essential elements in an Allman Brothers show were in full flight immediately. Locked in from the outset on tunes like *It's Not My Cross To Bear*, *Festival*, *Hot 'Lanta*, *Soulshine*, *Dreams* and *Jessica* it was the second set that took this crew to jaw-dropping heights.

The twin guitar interplay between Haynes and Trucks is extraordinary for its precision and improvisational elasticity, and the array of colour that Quinones and Wynans inject into the material brought a freshness to gems like *One Way Out* and *Ain't Wasting Time No More*.

However, the biggest triumph here is that Haynes was able to take on the lead vocal role and vanquish any thoughts that this show could not be pulled off without the voice of the late Gregg Allman. Haynes more than finds the vocal sweet spot between emotions dispensed in various shades of blue, phrasing, interpretation and heartfelt soul and it all hits a double-barrelled crescendo on the encores of *Midnight Rider* and *Whipping Post*.

It was smiles all around with these musicians as they took their bows at the end of this important event and it will be the same for any fan of the seminal group and sound. *The Brothers* is also available on DVD. (Peter North),



Saturday Night Blues leaving Radio One: Not to worry, Canada's longest-running national blues show is not going away but will no longer be a fixture at 9pm on Saturday nights. Holger Peterson reports that SNB has been dropped from CBC Radio One starting Sept. 11th replaced by Marvin's Room and Unreserved. He'll still be on CBC Music and available via CBC Listen on Demand.

Sue Foley postpones Ontario Tour: Sue Foley's record label reports that she has had to postpone the tour dates that had her crossing borders with a band and crew comprised of both Canadians and Americans. She will be doing Canadian dates as soon as they can reschedule. "Sue's Canadian fans deserve a proper tour that brings Sue to them under optimal performance conditions. There's so much up in the air right now about crossing borders, bringing American band members to Canada and bringing Canadian band members into the US. And with everyone starting up their touring plans at the same time, there are backlogs for work permits, a scarcity in tour buses for rent, and a lot of competition for a limited pool of stages that has grown smaller over the past two years.



Kitchener keyboardist John Lee is the recipient of the Mel Brown Blues Award for 2021. Lee has had an exemplary career as a blues musician, having been a touring member of *The Dutch Mason Blues Band*, *Matt Minglewood* and *Mel Brown and the Homewreckers* and is currently working on his own CD.



Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whiteley are back from BC and will perform a live (IN-PERSON) concert to kick off the Markham Jazz Festival, though the festival has been re-invented due to Covid but will have some other offerings from August 20-22 with live-streamed sets from Elmer Ferrer, Tanika Charles, Turboprop, Friendly Rich, Jenie Thai and more. <http://www.markhamjazzfestival.com/>

Touring plans were always hard to lock down with so many uncontrollable conditions able to affect concert dates in the best of times. Itineraries will be a little hard to set in stone for a few months yet while we all get used to the new normal of the post-pandemic world.”



New Orleans Jazz Fest Cancelled: Rising cases of Covid-19 in Louisiana have led to the cancellation of the New Orleans Jazz Fest for the second year running, organizers announced Sunday. The annual jazz festival will not take place “as a result of the current exponential growth

of new Covid cases in New Orleans and the region and the ongoing public health emergency,” the festival said in a statement on its website. The festival, which normally takes place over two weekends in late April and early May, had been moved to October earlier this year. “We now look forward to next spring, when we will present the Festival during its traditional timeframe. Next year’s dates are April 29 - May 8, 2022.” Previously announced acts for this year’s Jazz Fest included the Rolling Stones, who were scheduled to play the 2019 festival and had to cancel due to an illness from Mick Jagger. Ticket holders for the Stones show will be refunded and it was recently reported that Charlie Watts will not be part of this tour due to illness.

Blues Festival Guide

August 19-21 in Brockville, Ontario **1000 Islands Blues Fest** MonkeyJunk, Harpdog Brown, JW-Jones and many more. Camping packages start at \$199.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/173783381152993>.

August 20-22. **Trois Riviere Blues Festival.** Larkin Poe, Sugaray Rayford, Downchild Blues Band, Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne, Colin James, Dawn Tyler Watson, Quebecois legends Michel Pagliaro and Breen Leboeuf and more.

<http://3renblues.com/en/>

August 20-22. **Summerfolk**, Owen Sound. Shakura S'Aida, Crystal Shawanda, Ray Bonneville, Terra Lightfoot, Ken Whiteley, Julian Taylor, Samantha Martin and Delta Sugar and more.

<https://summerfolk.org/>

August 27-28 The **Limestone City Blues**, downtown Kingston. Steve Marriner, Raoul & the Big Time, Paul Reddick and Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar & more Two-day festival wristbands are \$20. <https://www.downtownkingston.ca>

September 2-5 **North Bay Blues Festival**, North Bay Jack de Keyzer, Suzie Vinnick Band, Crystal Shawanda, Spencer MacKenzie, Johnny Max Band. Films, Art Exhibit and Blues Cruise on the Chief Commanda II with Jake and The Fundamentals on Friday. Tix at <http://capitolcentre.org>

September 9-12. **Southside Shuffle**, Port Credit Downchild, Durham County Poets, Miss Emily, Smoke Wagon Blues Band, Bywater Call, Suzie Vinnick, TBS Talent Search Winner Mike Nagoda and more. <https://www.southsideshuffle.ca/>

Sept. 10-12. **Lighthouse Blues Festival**, Kincardine. Jack de Keyzer, Bill Durst, Samantha Martin and Delta Sugar, Miss Emily, Crystal Shawanda, Fog Blues and Brass Band, Murray Kingsley and Wicked Grin, Shakey Trill and more. .

<https://www.lighthousebluesfestival.com/>

Sept. 15-19. Montreal International Jazz Festival.

<https://www.montrealjazzfest.com/>



The **Mighty Duck Blues Band** will break out of the Covid Lockdown and jump start their Saturday afternoon matinee at St. Catharines stalwart live music venue, Jo Blo's Rock & Wok on August 7, 2:30-6:30pm with Downchild's Chuck Jackson. Subsequent weeks will see Little Magic Sam, Frank Cosentino, Johnny Max, Paul Reddick, Robin Banks, Sugar Brown and many more blues artists making appearances at the Garden City's popular blues event. 155 St. Paul Cres. @ Pelham Rd., St. Catharines. <http://www.mightyduckbluesband.com>



This month's recommended listening by Greg Torrington, programmer of Stingray's blues channels.

- Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar** *The Reckless One*
- Wide Mouth Mason** *I Wanna Go With You*
- Bywater Call** *Bywater Call*
- Matchedash Parish** *Saturday Night*
- Tami Neilson** *Chickaboom!*
- Guy Bélanger** *Eldorado*
- Bad Luck Woman & Her Misfortunes** *Cruel Thing*
- Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne** *Just Do It*
- JW-Jones** *Sonic Departures*
- Lisa Mills** *The Triangle*
- Jim Diamond Revue** *Friends and Family*
- Coco Love Alcorn** *Rebirth*
- Wayne Nicholson & John Campbell** *John Elmore's Blues*
- Adam Karch** *Everything Can Change*
- Dwane Dixon** *Betting on a Gambling Man*
- David Rotundo** *So Much Trouble*
- Dione Taylor** *Spirits in the Water*
- Kat Danser** *One Eye Open*
- Sass Jordan** *Rebel Moon Blues*
- Casey Hensley** *Good As Gone*



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 7:00 pm-midnight



CIUT-FM (89.5)
A to Z Blues w/ **Screamin' Red**
Tuesday 6-7pm
Calling All Blues w/ rotating hosts
Andrew Galloway, Sugar Brown,
Brooke Blackburn, and Julie Hill
Saturday Noon.



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 Source Canada (Tuesdays, 4-5pm), *Blues Source International*
(Tuesdays, 5-6pm) with **Ken Wallis** (Hamilton)
Both of these shows also repeat on bluesandroots-
radio.com. BSC re-airs Thursday at 8, Friday at
10pm, Saturday at 7.30pm, and Monday at 6am
and BSI airs Friday 6pm/Saturday 2pm/Monday
4am ET.



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) Wed, Thurs, Fri 11pm (Stouffville)



CFFF Trent Radio (92.7 FM)
Blues Themes, Delivered by..The Milkman
(**Blake Frazer**) Thursday 9 to 10:30 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.Comp-**
ton. 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
Buckslide Blues Cruise with Patrick Monaghan Tues. (7-9pm)
(Haliburton)

CFBU (103.7 FM) *Eclectic Blues* with **Deborah Cartner**
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)

CKAR (88.7 FM) Hunters Bay Radio
The Big Beat Bar-B-Cue Radio Show w/**Matt Allen**
Sundays 10am to 12pm
huntersbayradio.com/listen

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

Raoul's Blues w/**Raoul Bhaneja** Wed. 11am-1pm www.jazzcast.ca



Blues Bands Stay Tuned! The TBS Talent Search will be taking place this summer one way or another so it's time to start planning to take part in this launchpad event that has been a great leg up for many blues artists over the years. Deadlines and details to be announced shortly.

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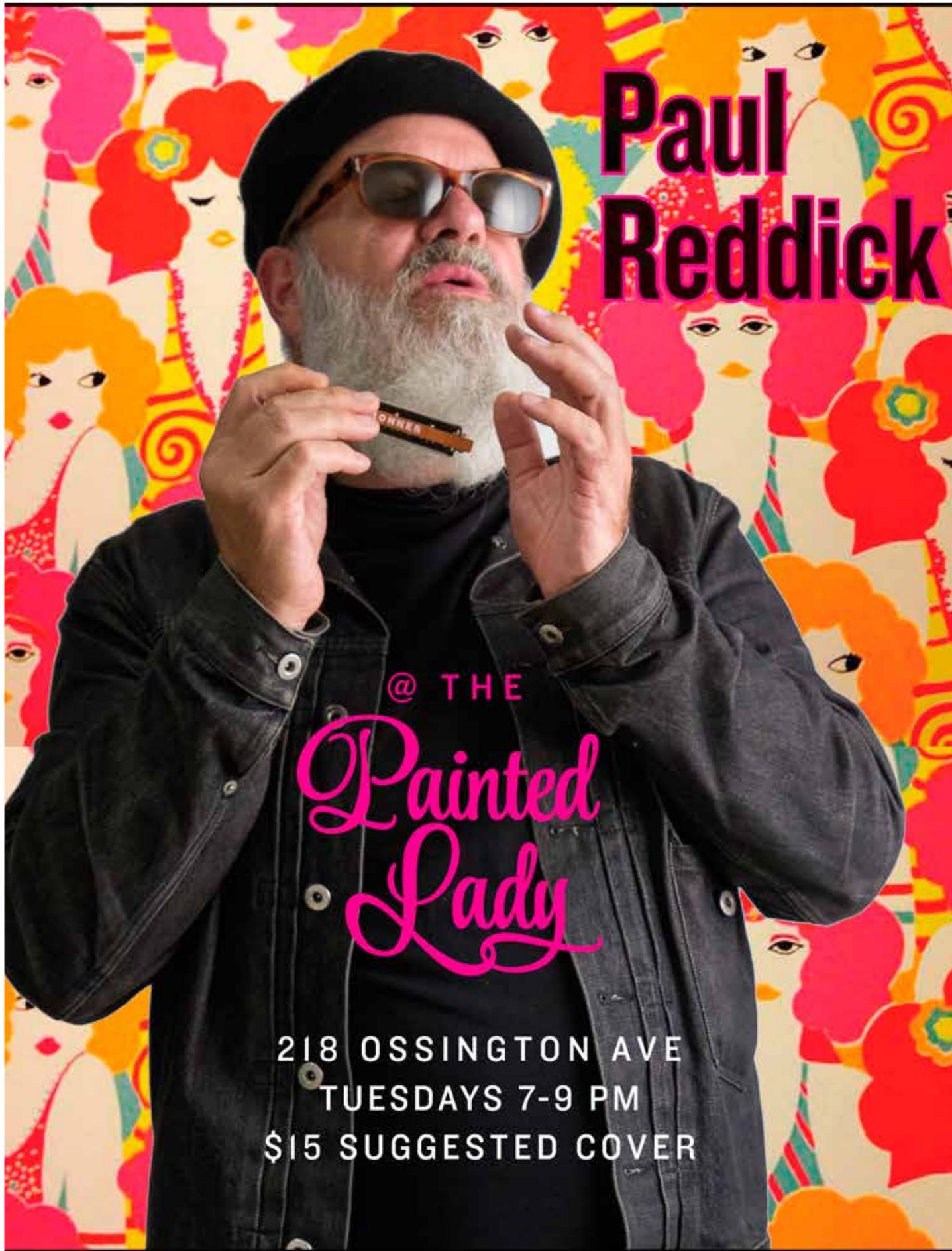
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