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February 2012

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1938

Etta, James

2012

**MBA** winners John's Blues Picks **Loose Blues News** 

**Event Listings** & more

**CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #40011871** 

#### **Upcoming TBS Events**



Julian Fauth and Paul Reddick will appear Thursday, February 2 at the Gladstone Hotel's Melody Bar as part of the Toronto Blues Society First Thursday series. The Toronto Blues Society presents the best in blues talent the first Thursday of each month at the recently renovated Melody Bar in The Gladstone Hotel. Performances are free to the public and begin at 9pm. The next show in the series is on March 1, and features a performance by Rick Taylor and Carlos del Junco. Check back soon to find out about upcoming performances including Layla Zoe (April 5), and Morgan Davis (May 3).





February 11, 1pm-4pm at Lula Lounge (1585 Dundas St W) - Digital Dollars: The second Digital Dollars seminar. The monthly seminar series features leading thinkers on the new digital music landscape. Your host will be Johan Hultqvist. Jason Loomis from New York City's Ariel Publicity CyberPR will be one of the expert panelists. Watch live at www. livestream.com with more details and webcast archives at www.

digitaldollars2012.com. This FREE series is being presented by the Toronto Blues Society, Batuki Music, OCFF and Lula Lounge, and is supported by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture.



Saturday, March 3, 1-4pm at Dominion on Queen (500 Queen St. E) Donna Grantis will be sharing some of her tips & tricks at the TBS Guitar Workshop. Danny Marks is hosting. More details TBA



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Canadian Blues
Artist from Coastto-Coast were
honoured by
their peers at
the 15th Annual
Maple Blues
Awards gala
in Toronto last
night as a crowd
of blues lovers
gathered to

celebrate Canadian blues at Koerner Hall.

Ottawa's MonkeyJunk received three awards, including, Electric Act of the Year, Recording of the Year and Drummer of the Year (Matt Sobb). New Brunswick's Matt Andersen brought home awards for Entertainer of the Year, Acoustic Act of the Year and Male Vocalist of the Year. Now based in Toronto, Saskatoon native Suzie Vinnick won awards for Songwriter of the Year and Female Vocalist of the Year. MonkeyJunk, Andersen and Vinnick have each had a very successful year with national and international touring and extensive radio airplay, giving exposure to their own talents and further promoting Canadian blues artists as leaders in the industry.

Long-time Toronto talent buyer Randy Charlton and blues scholar Rob Bowman presented the Blues With a Feeling (Lifetime Achievement Award) to veteran entertainer and guitarist Paul James. James has been performing for over four decades and is considered to be a Canadian music icon. Toronto Blues Society President Derek Andrews and Montreal Blues Society President Brian Slack presented the Blues Booster of the Year award, a very special Maple Blues Award honouring outstanding contribution to the Canadian blues music industry, to Liz Sykes, President of the Ottawa Blues Society.

Other highlights include British Columbia's Sabrina Weeks & Swing Cat Bounce won the New Artist of the Year Award, presented by performers and Maple Blues Award nominees Bill Johnson and Rita Chiarelli. Other notable presenters of Maple Blues Awards were Stony Plain Records Holger Petersen, Andrew Galloway of Electro-Fi Records, Borealis Records Grit Laskin, SOCAN CEO Eric Baptiste, and CRTC Vice-Chairman Tom Pentefountas.

Hosted by internationally recognized blues artists Shakura S'Aida and Treasa Levasseur (both of whom gave stunning performances at the gala) the Maple Blues Awards included outstanding performances from Maple Blues Award nominees past and present, including Nova Scotia's Joe Murphy, last year's Blues With A Feeling Award winner Rita Chiarelli, Toronto's Fathead, long time blues artist Bill Johnson from Victoria, B.C., Ottawa's Monkey Junk, as well as the awards gala house band, The Maple Blues Band.



MBA co-hosts **Shakura S'Aida** and **Treasa Levasseur** share a moment of mirth. Photo by Dougal Bichan

## Congratulations to Winners of the 15th Annual Maple Blues Awards

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR Matt Andersen

ELECTRIC ACT OF THE YEAR MonkeyJunk

ACOUSTIC ACT OF THE YEAR Matt Andersen

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR **Matt Andersen** 

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR Suzie Vinnick

BLUES WITH A FEELING (Lifetime Achievement)

**Paul James** 

BB KING INTERNATIONAL ARTIST OF THE YEAR Gregg Allman

NEW ARTIST OR GROUP OF THE YEAR

Sabrina Weeks & Swing Cat Bounce

RECORDING OF THE YEAR **To Behold**, **MonkeyJunk** 

GUITAR PLAYER OF THE YEAR Steve Strongman

HARMONICA PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Carlos del Junco

PIANO/KEYBOARD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne

HORN PLAYER OF THE YEAR Chris Whiteley

DRUMMER OF THE YEAR Matt Sobb

BASSIST OF THE YEAR Alec Fraser

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR
Suzie Vinnick

BLUES BOOSTER OF THE YEAR Liz Sykes





Blues at the Trane: This mostly-jazz venue (one of the few still standing) is launching a bi-weekly residency featuring the blues infused grooves of the Son Roberts Band with special guests. NuBlue Mondays will take place every second Monday and the inaugural event, February 13th (8pm), will feature Jake Chisholm, sideman for Paul Reddick, Julian Fauth, Jerome Godboo and other Canadian blues luminaries

The Trane Studio is also the new home of Noah Zacharin's "Liberty Wednesdays." After several years hosting a blues-friendly open-mic at the now defunct Liberty Bistro, Noah is taking it to the Trane. They will continue to call it "Liberty Wednesdays" in honour of their former locale. Every Wednesday starting February 1, 8 pm, no cover! The Trane is located at 964 Bathurst St., 1 1/2 blocks north of Bloor St. on the west side. www.tranestudio.com

WinterBlues: Winterfolk comes to the Delta – the Delta Chelsea, that is. From February 17 to 19, Winterfolk takes over Toronto's biggest (and best) hotel with 4 performance areas and some great blues artists like David Essig, Jack de Keyzer, Rick Taylor, Al Lerman, Richard Henderson, Mr. Rick and more. The fest will feature the all-new Winterfolk All Star Blues Band w/ band leader Jack De Keyzer, Al Lerman of the award-winning blues outfit FATHEAD, Gary Kendall and Mike Fitzpatrick of the legendary Downchild, plus special guests who will be dropping by for some spontaneous blues jammin'.

Several workshops will also be taking place throughout the weekend including a highlighted event in the "Listening Room" called "An Intimate Evening Of Acoustic Blues." This event will showcase a "Blues Guitar Workshop" hosted by John Jackson, w/ David Essig and Mr. Rick of Mr. Rick and the Biscuits. Artists will perform in a song circle, share their tunes, talk about their influences and demonstrate six-string techniques such as slide, fingerstyle and unique tunings. The second showcase will be a "Blues Songwriting Workshop" hosted by Gary Kendall w/the awardwinning and outstanding blues entertainer Danny Marks, and colourful campfire host "Colorblind" Brian Blain playing tunes and assembling a blues song on the spot. This is a ticketed event - \$8 adv./ \$10 door - and there are only 50 tickets available by visiting www.winterfolk.com.

Beyond Toronto, there are two more February blues festivals - in Aurora, and Barrie. The inaugural Aurora Winter Blues Festival takes place at Theatre Aurora on Feb 25, and features Shawn Kellerman, Michael Pickett, and 2012 Maple Blues Award winner MonkeyJunk (www.



Al Lerman is celebrating the release of his first solo album, Crowe River Blues, on Saturday, February 25th at 3pm in Monarch's Pub at the Delta Chelsea Hotel. Joining Al will be bassist/producer Alec Fraser, Bucky Berger on drums and organist Dennis Keldie. Al is best known leading 2x JUNO-winning blues band FATHEAD and is pictured here at the Maple Blues Awards gala with the Maple Blues Band where he played sax, harmonica and even a little acoustic guitar. Photo by Dougal Bichan.

aurorawinterbluesfestival.ca). The Barrie February Blues Festival takes place at various venues in Barrie Feb 2-5, featuring Michael Pickett, Steve Strongman, Carlos del Junco, Carey Worrod, The Jack de Keyzer Band, The Paul James Band and more www.barriejazzbluesfest.com.

Acoustic Blues Guitar Masterclass: Multiaward winner and 2x JUNO nominee Michael Pickett will be offering a Masterclass in Ragtime, Delta Blues, Texas Blues and Piedmont style guitar playing on Sunday, March 11 in Crystal Beach. He has studied and performed (electric cont'd on page 7



**July 4-15, 2012** LeBreton Flats, Ottawa, ON

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and updates on this year's
amazing line-up!

www.ottawabluesfest.ca





## Muchas Gracias

New Members: Jim A. Carter, Beverley Thompson, Serge Sloimovits, Brian Taylor, Stephen Sinclair, Christine Langlois, John Nagy

Renewing Members: Roger Zuraw, Gordon Young, Geoff Virag, Elizabeth Hartenberger, Andre Fredette, Steve Strongman, Sharon Evans, Rick Brouckxon, Rico Ferrara, Trynie de Vries, Stephen A. Brake, Shari Campbell, Samuel E. Turton, Desmond Brown, Norm Bailey Steve Sofferin, Owen Sagness, The Theriault Family, Deetta Schulte, David Torosianr

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Honorary Members (Honorary Membership is assigned to musicians in the past year who have participated in a TBS event): Mark Stafford, Pat Carey, Joe Murphy, Bill Johnson, Steve Marriner, Tony D, Matt Sobb, Dawn Tyler-Watson, Robin Banks, Rick Fines, Howard Willett, Omar Tunnoch, Teddy Leonard, John Mays, Paul Reddick, Dylan Wickens, Julian Fauth, Harrison Kennedy, Johnny Max, Kat Danser, Al Lerman, Terry Gillespie, Jerome Godboo, Richard Henderson, Myrrhine Faller, Matt Mosionier, Jeff Sceviour, Kyron Newbury, Neil Hendry, Anthony Rinaldi, Eugene Smith, Scott McCord, Rebecca Hennessy, Carrie Chesnutt, Colleen Allen, Lindsay Beaver, Jonathan Wong, Emily Burgess, Fraser Melvin, Michael Archer, Brandi Disterheft, Shakura S'Aida, Treasa Levasseur, Emma-Lee, Ada Lee, Donna Grantis, Matt Andersen, Jim Byrnes, Sue Foley, Peter Karp, Tom Lavin, Angel Forrest, Nicole Christian, Bradleyboy MacArthur, Al Wood, Ken Yoshioka, Bucky Berger, Brooke Blackburn, Layla Zoe, Rick Taylor, Michael Jerome Browne, Suzie Vinnick, Tracy K, Doc MacLean

Lifetime Members (Blues Boosters are Maple Blues Award recipients for their good work in the national blues community): Liz Sykes, Gord MacAuley, Ed Torres, Rob Bowman, Brad Wheeler, Mako Funasaka, Richard Flohil, Brian Slack, Elaine Bomberry, Andrew Galloway, Fred Litwin, Ralph Strodeur, Brent Staeben, Mark Monahan, Holger Petersen

**Lifetime Members** (Blues With A Feeling Award members are the Maple Blues Award lifetime achievement recipients): Paul James, Rita Chiarelli, Chris Whiteley, Amos Garrett, Big Dave McLean, Colin Linden, Danny Marks, Jackie Richardson, Mel Brown, Chuck Jackson, Jack de Keyzer, Michael Pickett, Long John Baldry, Morgan Davis, Gary Kendall, Donnie 'Mr. Downchild' Walsh, Dave 'Daddy Cool' Booth, B.B. King, Holger Petersen, Bruce Iglauer

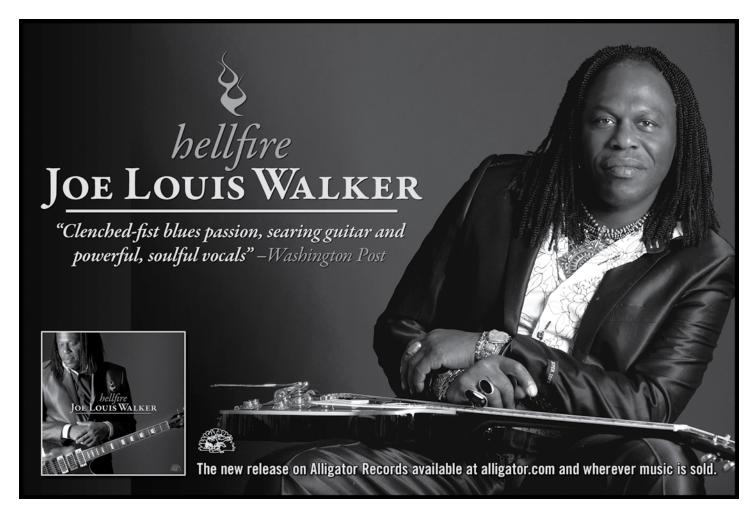
Special Thanks to Nada Saranovich, John Warrener and Myrrhine Faller for helping out at TBS events last month. The (barely)managing editor would like to thank Roz for helping out with the listings.







**Paul James** acknowledges a rousing ovation as he accepts the Blues With A Feeling Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing 40+ years playing the blues, and making a living at it, as he pointed out, "without a manager, agent or record label." Photo by Greg King

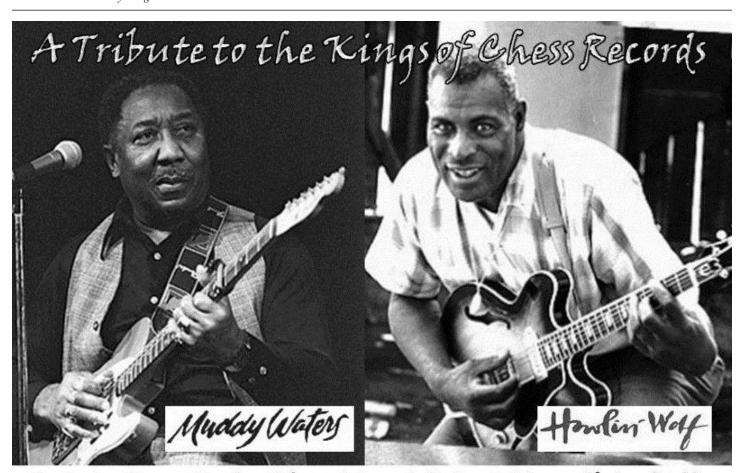




Suzie Vinnick accepts her MBA (she won two this year) from CRTC Vice-Chair Tom Pentefountas and Digging Roots' Shoshona Kish at the Maple Blues Awards gala at Koerner Hall. Photo by Dougal Bichan



Blues Society Trinity: Ottawa Blues Society prez Liz Sykes accepts the "Blues Booster" award from Montreal Blues Society's Brian Slack and Toronto Blues Society's **Derek Andrews**. Photo by Dougal Bichan



Featuring Danny Marks with special guests Dylan Wickens, Shrimp Daddy, Chris Antonik and Julian Fauth amd more... Feb 18 at Hugh's Room



#### LOOSE BLUES NEWS cont'd from p 5

and acoustic) blues for decades and loves to teach. His organic teaching method takes his students on a musical journey that reveals the very heart and soul of this beloved musical art form.. For more info call 289-876-9202 or email mem@michaelpickett.com

East Coast Blues Society News: Dale Schimpf of Halifax is the new Chair of the East Coast Blues Society. Mr. Schimpf replaces Kim O'Brian who was thanked for his contributions to the Society which has operated now for about ten years. Mr. Schimpf confirmed the new make-up of the board in a statement last week. "Gordie Thomas is Vice Chair now, Pam Patterson is Recording Secretary, Ruth Hanson is Treasurer. Other existing members include Chris Steeves and Tony Baak. New members include Tiffany Spencer, Darla Preeper who has rejoined, and Joe Murphy." He extended thanks to "Fran Cumming and Ron Coolen and all outgoing board members for their hard work over the years." The East Coast Blues Society is a not-for-profit organization, which was created in November of 2002. The mandate of the Society is to nurture and promote Blues Music throughout Atlantic Canada.

JUNO Awards: The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) announced today that tickets for CTV's broadcast of The 2012 Juno Awards go on sale Friday, February 10 at 10:00am (EST). Returning to Ottawa for the first time since 2003, The 2012 Juno Awards, airing live on CTV the evening of Sunday, April 1 from Scotiabank Place, will feature a spectacular lineup of Canadian artists including 2012 Canadian Music Hall of Fame inductees Blue Rodeo and JUNO Award—winning artists City and Colour, deadmau5 and Feist. More acts to be revealed soon! www.junoawards.ca

Folk Alliance in Memphis: The 24th annual International Folk Alliance Conference takes place February 22-26, 2012 in Memphis. This year's conference will have a large Canadian contingent once again and will have some special events in anticipation of the 2013 conference which will take place in Toronto, February 20-24 at the Delta Chelsea Hotel. Many Canadian blues artists have been selected for official showcases including Charlie A'Court (Dartmouth, NS), C.R. Avery (Bastard Township, ON), Ridley Bent (Winnipeg, MB), BettySoo and Doug Cox (Austin, TX), Blackie and the Rodeo Kings (Hamilton, ON), Jim Byrnes (Vancouver, BC), Kat Danser (Edmonton, AB), Steve Dawson (Vancouver, BC) and The Sojourners (Vancouver, BC).

This year's Folk Alliance Awards program will honour the 2012 recipients of the Elaine Weissman Lifetime Achievement Awards: Harry Belafonte, Robert Johnson, and the Highlander Center.

Other events of interest to blues fans: a special tribute to the late Memphis area producer Jim Dickinson will feature appearances by Jim's sons Luther and Cody (North Mississippi All-Stars) and

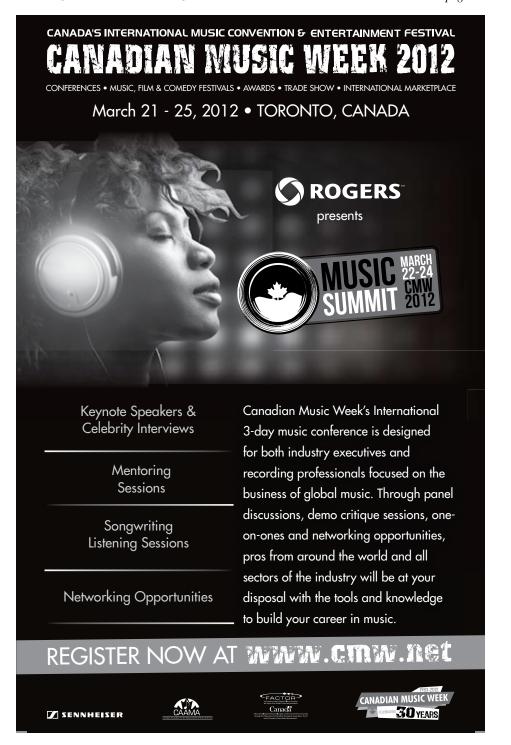
some very special guests. The keynote speaker will be legendary music industry icon Bob Lefsetz and the FA will celebrate the centennials for folk music legends Woody Guthrie, Robert Johnson, and Bill Monroe as well as many special concerts, panels, presentations, and workshops.

They will be broadcasting 24/7 live on the internet on www.dittytv.com with official and unofficial showcase artists, special music clinics, executive roundtables, films, videos, classic concerts, and much more. Keep an eye on dittytv.com and folk.org for updates and more information.

Cab Calloway on PBS: Cab Calloway: Sketches premieres nationally Monday, February 27 on PBS. "Hi de hi de hi de ho!" Charismatic

music and dance pioneer Cab Calloway (12-25-1907 - 11-18-94) is an exceptional figure in the history of jazz and blues. As a singer, dancer and bandleader, he charmed audiences around the world with his boundless energy, bravado and elegant showmanship. Calloway was also an ambassador for his race, leading one of the most popular African American big bands during the Harlem Renaissance and jazz and swing eras of the 1930s-40s. American Masters celebrates "The Hi De Ho Man's" career and legacy during Black History Month with the new documentary Cab Calloway:

Emmy-winning filmmaker Gail Levin explores Cab Calloway's musical beginnings cont'd on page 12







Al Lerman Crowe River Blues Self

At the Awards show, Matt Andersen was being accompanied to the podium by one of those wonderful stings by the band - this time Al Lerman was playing guitar & harp. Matt quipped 'we got to take some instruments away from Al'. That delightful compliment is a good way to introduce Al's new solo album on which he gets to play all his instruments plus he gets to sing, something that with FATHEAD is confined to harmony vocals. We're used to seeing Al play harp or tenor sax but the band doesn't play all the time. Increasing opportunities for solo shows and requests for CDs to purchase led eventually to this delightful disc. The cover shows Al standing beside the Crowe River, in the country, where he's lived for a couple of years now, and country life permeates the program. He does have some assistance in having Alec Fraser on bass, Lance Anderson on keys and Bucky Berger on drums in a program of originals and covers that gives us a rather different sound than what you'd expect from listening to FATHEAD. His choice of covers holds a few surprises: "Suitcase Blues" is not the hit by **Sippie Wallace**, but by the legendary Hollywood Fats and the full band does a nice job. "Chugging The Blues" has Al layering multiple harps, the various lines meshing to achieve quite an unusual effect - a tour de force. "Gypsy Feet" is a rather attractive song about a wandering musician that must be a highlight of his solo acoustic shows, augmented here by acoustic bass and a spot-on harmony vocal from Fraser. Not for the only time here, there's the distinct influence of The Band. A solo version of Snooky Pryor's "Judgement Day" is up

next. A fellow Electro-Fi recording artist, the late Snooky Pryor isn't acknowledged nearly often enough - this is a fine tribute. "Nobody But Myself To Blame" is perhaps the closest he comes to a FATHEAD song, with his tenor sax appearing for the only time but the players take this R&B number to a different place. How about "Blues So Bad I Could Write A Country Song" for a title - he does just that with lovely piano from Lance. "You're The One" is a lively solo, Piedmont style romp for guitar & harp. "Harmonica Romp" uses the "Iko Iko" tune for a first rate showcase. "I'm Gone" is another ballad with a lovely tune - a specialty of his, it seems. The band returns to help on "Indifference", a clever song about a common problem. "She Calls Me River" invokes The Band even more strongly. Lerman seems to have found a voice that is reflected these songs. He writes for FATHEAD as well but it's hard to imagine him as the singer of those urban songs. His more rural-centred material here is a better match. The next time you see that Al is playing a solo show, be sure to take it in and be sure to get one of the these, you won't be disappointed. Al & the band will re-assemble with Denis Keldie sitting in for Lance at Monarch's Pub in the Delta Chelsea Hotel on Saturday, February 25th. See you there.



Donna Grantis Suites Diamond Gem

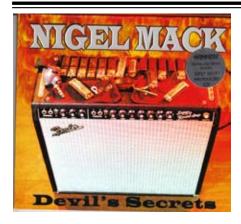
Donna Grantis is the guitarist and cosongwriter for Shakura S'Aida and the Musical Director for the Women's Blues Revue Band. She plays lead guitar on Saidah Baba Talibah's recent album, (S) Cream. She is also a serious student of the electric guitar and the proof is here: her debut all-instrumental album, available as a CD or as a download. It's organized into two parts: Elektra Suite and Starla Suite. Each is divided into five distinct sections. As she describes it on her web site: it took 13 months to complete, using 4 studios, 7 guitars, 30+ guitar pedals and one blown amplifier. Roger Travassos plays drums

and Steve Zsirai, bass but they don't seem to have any overdubbed parts. The layering is all Grantis. "Elektra", from the first Suite is available as a free download for you to check out and it's intended as a tribute to Jimmy Page. Jeff Beck's work also comes to mind while listening but Ms. Grantis is among equals on guitar, production and creativity here. "My Purple Heart" from the second suite is a highlight as well. The web site is www.donnagrantis.com.



Lou Pomanti Welcome To The Boogaloo Lounge Self

Lou Pomanti is one of the behind-thescenes people that make events happen. Since being invited by David Clayton-Thomas to join Blood, Sweat & Tears in 1980, he's been a Gemini award-winning TV show arranger, film scorer and producer. There's much more in the bio at his web site. He was out in public for a while, however, as the B3 player for **The Dexters**, who had a regular gig at the Orbit Room. He's found time to record a tribute to those days, putting the band back together for Welcome To The Boogaloo Lounge, his pet name for the Room. His 'day job' has had an impact here, though: he's developed a concept album, using similar chord structures throughout. Bernie LaBarge returns on guitar, Peter Cardinali on bass and Larnell Lewis took Mike Sloski's place on drums. Art Avalos adds percussion and Jake Langley sits in on guitar for three songs. Pomanti adds synths and programming to his B3 and piano for a fully contemporary edge but the full sound is still primarily organ-based. After a couple of instrumentals that set the scene, "The Boogaloo Lounge" and "In Orbit", LaBarge takes a vocal on "Give It Up". Pomanti then inserts a lovely ballad, "Loving You", a duet sung by Dione Taylor & Duane Blackburn. After these, it's back to the hot, funky organ band nights at the Orbit, updated, of course, with great variety and played wonderfully. The web site is www.loupomanti.com.

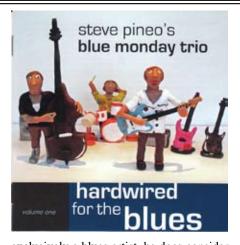


Nigel Mack Devil's Secrets Blues Attack

Nigel Mack (Mackenzie) has been living in Chicago since 2003 but still maintains his Vancouver connections. His latest CD was recorded in both locations and he bills it as a cross section of Americana. All the songs here are by Nigel or co-written by him and show a remarkable facility across the styles. He's a strong singer and the guitar is his primary instrument, although he plays harmonica as well. "King For A Day" is a fine, catchy opener - a horn-led romp with a great guitar solo. "Devil's Secret" has him switching to a dirty slide guitar over a solid organ - the Devil knows Nigel will always yield to temptation. This one's a keeper. The horns are back for the soul ballad "Here's To You" - some fine BB-styled guitar here. He can do some Zydeco too and invited CJ Chenier along - they tear up "Come Back Baby". "Dead Presidents (Don't Tell No Tales)" was done in Vancouver with James Rogers on guitar & David Webb on keys. Playing harp, Mack imparts some advice about the perils of leaving a paper trail, he was using a credit card and his wife saw the bill. "Chicago Bound" is not the Jimmy Rogers song, but a very good original composition recorded live at a club in Chicago, with Mack solo on National Steel. "Meet Her Funk" shows he can handle that too, another Vancouver recording. "Mid Life Crisis" is a bit of rock 'n' roll, another keeper. This album won the Windy City Blues Society's award for best self-produced CD so he can add producer to his resume as well. His web site is www.nigelmack.com and maybe he can come and visit - Chicago is a little closer than Vancouver.

#### **Steve Pineo's Blue Monday Trio, Volume One** *Hardwired for the Blues* Stamp

Toronto-born, Calgary residing **Steve Pineo**'s reputation as a songwriter preceded him to this column, a song of his, "Canadian Man", is on *Naturally* by **Harpdog Brown & Graham Guest**, who described his songwriting in glowing terms. Not

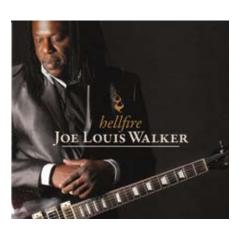


exclusively a blues artist, he does consider the blues as his foundation. He recently began a "Blue Monday" evening at Mikey's Juke Joint in Calgary and that was so much fun, he's gone back through his songs for a live album. In the event, only some of the disc is live at the club but I think you'll find this to an eminently worthwhile acquisition. Many people already have, it's doing very well on the current roots music radio charts. "Outside Looking In" concerns a man whose 15 minutes of fame are up. "Hardwired For The Blues" is an excellent song, written in the style of Paul Butterfield's Better Days Band, for whom Amos Garrett played lead guitar. I'm sure they would have been pleased to record it. "Just The Way I Like It" is described in the booklet as 'in the style of Dinah Washington & Brook Benton - lots of smouldering sexual energy'. "Hole In The Head" takes as its template the songs of Willie Dixon, it being a list of reasons why he shouldn't love her, but he does. "Uneasy Rider" takes on the easy rider of blues parlance. Perhaps he shouldn't have given away his songwriting secrets in the notes but they show an expert at work. He's a very good singer and an even better guitarist. Kelly Kruse plays drums and Kit Johnson plays bass in the Blue Monday Trio and the forthcoming Volume Two will concentrate on other styles of music. I think Mikey's Juke Joint should definitely be on your agenda for your next trip to Calgary.

**Joe Louis Walker** *Hellfire* Alligator/Fontana North/Universal

Walker is no stranger to this column as many of his 23 previous albums have been reviewed here. And he continues to impress: New label Alligator has teamed him up with **Tom Hambridge**, who piloted the last two **Buddy Guy** discs to the stratosphere. That raises the bar mightily and a quick comment would be to say that this disc is superb. The songs here are almost all original, with Walker contributing seven and Hambridge helping out on two more and Hambridge contributing two of his own. **Hank Snow**'s

"Moving On" closes out the program. "Hellfire" certainly is an apt title too: not only is it an autobiographical slice of his hellfire life - electric blues at it's finest. He sings that hellfire *is* his church. Walker's vocals have always been among the best in contemporary blues and his imaginative, **Mike Bloomfield**-influenced guitar playing has certainly kept him in the front ranks of players. The band suits him just fine with Hambridge on drums & **Reese Wynans** on keys. Together they maintain a relentless pace, an energy level and passion that should make *Hellfire* a major contender for next year's awards lists. "I Won't Do That" begins



slowly, with Walker protesting that he won't leave her despite evidence to the contrary. It builds in a mighty crescendo that I sure hope convinces her. "Ride All Night" seems like an attempt by Walker & Hambridge to outdo the **Rolling Stones** on their own turf. They do a good job incorporating "Brown Sugar" riffs, but one does wonder why. "I'm On To You", about his two-timing woman, is the most traditional sounding blues here, with Walker on harp sounding a bit like Mick Jagger. "Soldier For Jesus" is originally from his New Direction CD from 2004 but this is a far more fully realized performance - more evidence of his hellfire, gospel/blues life. "Too Drunk To Drive Drunk" rocks out, a timely message well presented. The bartender has taken his keys but he's not so drunk that he doesn't understand why. "Black Girls" maintains that you have to use black girls as singers to put the soul in rock 'n' roll – perhaps another dig at the Stones. "I'm Movin' On" is very well done, with the band chugging away and Walker providing a few re-writes to keep everything in a blues vein, and there are excellent solos. For all his accomplishments, Walker is not yet the headliner that Buddy Guy is. This album should change that.

-John Valenteyn jvalenteyn8724@rogers.com

#### LOOSE BLUES NEWS cont'd from p 9 and milestones in the context of the Harlem Renaissance and segregationist America using archival footage, animation based on caricatures by famed illustrator Steve Brodner and French cartoonist Cabu, and interviews. The animated Cab dances alongside Matthew Rushing, choreographer/principal dancer of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Uptown), who explains how modern Calloway's movements were and his impact on hip-hop. Additional interviewees includegrandson and Cab Calloway Orchestra bandleader Chris "Calloway" Brooks; horn player Gerald Wilson; and The Blues Brothers (1980) director John Landis and band members Steve Cropper, Lou Marini and Donald "Duck" Dunn. The film introduced Cab and his music to a new generation, when he acted and performed as The Blues Brothers's mentor, Curtis.

"I am especially delighted to bring Cab Calloway to younger audiences -- and he does become quite alive through the inventive animation in this film," says Susan Lacy, American Masters series creator and executive producer. The film will stream after the PBS premiere on the American Masters website: http://www.pbs. org/americanmasters

Correction: Apologies to Paul Corby for reporting the demise of his radio show, Corby's Orbit. The show, formerly on CKLN, is alive and well and heard over the internet every Friday from 5-7 at www.radioregent.com

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FEB.24 - 8PM FRASER MELVIN **BLUES BAND** 

FEB.26 - 3PM SWEET DERRICK

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#### **TOP BLUES**

This month's recommended listening by Brad Wheeler. music writer for the Globe and Mail

Eddie C. Campbell Spider Eating Preacher (Delmark)

Tim Bastmeyer Tim Bastmeyer (independent)\*

**Hope Waits** Introducing Hope Waits (Spann)

Brandon Isaak Bluesman's Plea (independent)\*

Mike Stevens & Matt Andersen Push Record: The Banff Sessions (Borealis)\*

Paul Rodgers & Friends Live at Montreux (Eagle)\*

Charlie Haden and Hank Jones Come Sunday (Universal)

David Vest Rock A While (Criminal)\*

Toronzo Cannon Leaving Mood (Delmark)

Michael Jerome Browne The Road Is Dark (Borealis) \*

Sharrie Williams Out of the Dark (Electro-Fi)

Sharon Lewis & Texas Fire The Real Deal (Delmark)

Wynton Marsalis & Eric Clapton Play the Blues: Live from Jazz at Lincoln Centre (Reprise/Rhino)

The Black Keys El Camino (Warner)

Joe Louis Walker Hellfire (Alligator)

Marcia Ball Roadside Attractions (Alligator)

The Pack A.D. Unpersons (Mint)\*

Matt Andersen Coal Mining Blues (Busted Flat)\*

\* = Canadian





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) "John Valenteyn's Blues" w/ John Valentevn

Thursday 4-5pm





CHRY-FM (105.5) "Everyday I Have the Blues", w/ Vince Vitacco Monday 9-11pm,

The Haze FM www.thehazefm.ca "Sunday Morning Soul "w/Johnny Max Sundays at 11AM-1PM



"At The Crossroads" w/Brant Zwicker Sundays at 1PM "Southern Crossroads" w/Patrick Le Blanc Sundays 2-4PM "Dawg Howlin' Blues Show" Mon-Fri 10 pm – Midnight

Radio Regent, Toronto

"Blue Remedy"

w/Blues Doctor Julie Hill,

Wednesdays 8-10 pm ET, at www.radioregent.com,

CKWR (98.5 FM)

"Old Chicago Blues" w/ Willy A. Friday 10:30 pm-midnight (Waterloo)

CIOI-FM (101.5 FM)

"Thursday Night Blues Revue", with Little Willie Thursday 6-9pm (Hamilton)

CJLX (91.3 FM)

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

CFRU (93.3 FM)

"The Blues Review", with Roopen Majithia Tuesday 9.00 pm (Guelph)

CFBU (103.7 FM)

"Eclectic Blues" with Deborah Cartmer Tuesday 7-9 pm (St. Catharines)

CFMU (93.3 FM)

"Patchwork Blues" w/ Diane Wells (aka Misty Blue) Every Monday 6-9 am (Hamilton)

CANOE-FM (100.9 FM)

"Blue Canoe" with Zoe Chilco

Tuesday 7-9 pm (Haliburton County)

CKMS (100.3 FM)

"Poor Folk Blues" w/ Bruce Hall (aka Brewski) Monday 7:30-9 pm (Waterloo)

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#### TORONTO LISTINGS

Alliance Française de Toronto 24 Spadina Road 416-922-2014 Feb-10 Madagascar Slim, Philipe Flahaut & Philipe Lafreniere 7.30 pm, \$15 (\$10 TBS members)

Aquila 345 Keele St. 416-761-7472 Feb-2 Voodoo Walters & the Rhythm Method 9.00 Feb-10 Fried Angels 9:30-1:30 pm Feb-18 Ken Yoshioka Blues Band 9:00pm Feb-22 Ken Yoshioka 9:00pm Mar-2 Crossroads Blues Band 9:00 PM Every Sun Junction Jam w/ New Mynah Birds 3:30 to 7:30 pm

Axis 3048 Dundas St. W. 416-604-3333 Every Sat. & Sun Noon to 3.00 pm Julian Fauth

Blue Goose Tavern 1 Blue Goose St 416-255-2442 Mimico Feb-18 Fried Angels 9:00 -1:00 pm

Cadillac Lounge 1300 Queen St W 416-536-7717 Feb-3 Jack de Keyzer 10pm

Dora Keogh 141 Danforth 416-778-1804 Feb-11 The Swinging Blackjacks 9.30 pm with Gary Kendall

Duffy's Tavern 1238 Bloor St. W. 416-628-0330 Every Sun Ken Yoshioka 9:30pm

Fogarty's 3481 Lake Shore Blvd W 416-253-5500 Etobicoke Every Sat The Josh Gordon Band 3-7 pm Open Stage Blues Jam

Gate 403 403 Roncesvalles Ave. 416-588-2930 Every Wed Brian Cober & Aslan Gotov, The Boogie Brothers 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm Mar-13 Tim Bastmeyer 9.00 pm with Julian Fauth, James Thomson & Corey Richardson Every Tues. Julian Fauth 9.00 pm

**Grossmans Tavern** 379 Spadina Ave 416-977-7000 Every Wed Ernest Lee & Cotton Traffic Rockin' Blues Jam-9pm start Feb-3 Swinging Blackjacks 9.30 pm Every Sun Brian Cober Blues Jam 9:30 Feb-17 Julian Fauth 9.30 pm with Jay Danley, James Thompson and Bob Vespaziani Mar-10 Chloe Watkinson and the Crossroads 10:00pm, no cover

**Highway 61 BBQ** 1620 Bayview Ave 416-489-7427 Every Fri Dylan Wickens 8pm **Every Mon Chris** Chambers 8pm





David Vest plays Monarch`s Pub at the Delta Chelsea on February 16th as well as other Ontario dates at The Duck, The Firehall Reunion and Peters Players. David is an authentic, Southern-bred boogie-woogie piano player. He has been rockin' and shoutin' the blues since 1957. An Alabama native and longtime Texas resident, he has been filling dance and concert halls from Vancouver Island to southern Ontario since relocating to Canada. He was among the headliners at this year's Labatt Blues Festival in Edmonton and appeared at last year's Calgary Blues Festival. David was a 2011 Maple Blues Award nominee in the best piano/keys category

**Hollywood On The** Queensway 1184 The Queensway 416-251-0288 Etobicoke

Feb-4 Go Freddy Go 4:30pm until 9pm no cover Reservations welcomed Feb-12 Robbie Lane & The Disciples 5pm until 9pm \$5 admission 4pm reservations recommended Every Wed Jay & Viv Latin Heat 3.30 pm

Hugh's Room 2261 **Dundas Street West 416-**531-6604 Feb-4 FATHEAD 8:30pm/\$18 Advance/\$20 Door Feb-18 Tribute to the

Kings of Chess Records with Danny Marks, Dylan Wickens Shrimp Daddy, Julian Fauth, Chris Antonik and more 8.30 pm \$22.50 adv./\$27.50 door Feb-23 Treasa Levasseur with Tanika Charles -\$18/\$20 Feb-26 Ken Whiteley Gospel Matinee 2pm, \$20 adv, \$22.50 door special guests Marlene O'Neill, Joan Harris, Len Udow.

Jazz FM 4 Pardee Avenue 416-595-0404 Feb-21 Jack de Keyzer 7.00 pm

Lola Pub 40 Kensington Ave. 416-348-8645 Every Thursday 9pm Brian Cober

**Monarchs Pub Delta** Chelsea Hotel 33 Gerrard St W 416-595-1975 Feb-9 The Gary Kendall Band 9.00pm Feb-16 The David Vest Band 9.00 pm Feb-17,18,19 10th Anniversary Winterfolk, Blues & Roots Festival Jack de Keyzer, Al Lerman, Danny Marks, Gary Kendall and more - various stages Feb-23 Jack de Keyzer 9.00 pm Mar-1 Jerome Godboo, Shawn Kellerman, Alec Fraser, Gary Craig 9:00

Not My Dog 1510 Queen St. W 416-532-2397 Feb-25 Ken Yoshioka 10:00pm

p.m.

Rebas Cafe 3289 Dundas St. W 416-626-7372 Feb-26 Ken Yoshioka 1pm Southside Johnny's 3653 Lakeshore Blvd W 416 521 6302 Etobicoke Feb-18 The Blazers 10pm

The Blue Goose Tavern 1 Blue Goose Way 416-255-2442 Mimico Feb-12 20th Anniversary Party with The Pie Guys 3.00 pm to 7.00 pm Every Sun. The Pie Guys plus special guest 3-7pm

The Dominion on Queen 500 Queen St. E. 416-368-6893 Mar-3 TBS Guitar Workshop - Host Danny Marks 1-4.00 pm. Featuring Donna Grantis and more

The Emmet Ray 924 College st 416-792-4497 Feb-23 Ken Yoshioka 9:00pm

The Gladstone Hotel Melody Bar 1214 Queen St. W. 416-531-4635 Feb-2 Julian Fauth and Paul Reddick 9.00 pm - no cover Feb-16 The Distillery 9:15pm, No Cover Mar-9 Fried Angels 9:00 -11:00 pm

The Rex Hotel 194 Queen St W 416-598-2475 Every Sat Danny Marks & Friends 12 noon Brunch Matinee Feb-11 Jake Chisholm Group 3.30 pm Feb-12 Dr. Nick & The Rollercoasters 3.30 pm

The Riverview Room 35 Front St N 416 902 9801 Port Credit Feb-11 Dave Murphy Band 8PM

The Virgin Mobile Mod Club Theatre 722 College St 416-588-4663 Mar-3 Urban Preacher 11pm

Timothy's Pub 344 Brown's Line 416 201 9515 Etobicoke Mar-9 Rich and The Poor Boys 9.00 pm

Wise Guys 2301 Danforth 416-690-8343 Feb-14 The Swinging Blackjacks 9.30 pm with Gary Kendall, Valentines Day Party

#### **905 & BEYOND**

**Aurora Blues Festival** 150 Henderson Dr. 905-727-3669 Aurora Feb-25 Monkey Junk, Shawn Kellerman, Michael Pickett 7.30 pm

**Barrie Blues Festival** Various Venues Barrie, Bradford and Innisfill Feb-2-5 Michael Pickett, Carlos del Junco, Carev Worrod, The Jack de Keyzer Band, The Paul James Band & more

Black Swan 4040 Palladium Way 905-336-1200 Burlington Every Sat James Anthony Band 2-6 pm Special quests each week Every Thurs. Open Mic with James Anthony Band 7.30 to 11.30 pm Mar-10 James Anthony 2 to 6 p.m. with Andre Bisson

**Hog Tails Barbeque** 645 Laurelwood Dr. 519-888-9911 Waterloo Mar-14 Tim Bastmeyer



The Tedeschi Trucks Band has just been announced as one of the headliners at the TD Toronto Jazz Festival. They play the mainstage at Nathan Phillips Square on Friday, June 29.

9.00 pm with Julian Fauth, James Thomson & Corey Richardson

**Lionheart British Pub** 24-3221 Derry Rd. W. 905-824-6669 Mississauga, ON Feb-4 Andre & the J-Tones 9:30 p.m.

Liquid Lounge 159 Sydenham St. 519-756-3939 Brantford Feb-4 Steve Beach with Blaine Bomberry and Stan Szymkow Saturday Matinee 3 to 6pm Feb-11 Tortoise Blue with Teddy Leonard Saturday Matinee 3 to 6pm Feb-18 Terry Gillespie with Larry Bodner Saturday Matinee 3 to 6pm

Feb-25 Mark LaForme with Jesse O'Brien Saturday Matinee 3 to 6pm

**Melrose United Church** Locke Street/Homewood Hamilton Feb-18 Andre & the J-Tones 7:30 p.m. Acoustic Blend Cafe

Music Hall Lounge 185 Queens Avenue 519-432-1107 London Mar-15 James Armstrong 7:00 p.m. (doors open) \$20 ( \$15 for members of any blues society)

**Orleans Restaurant and** Jazz Lounge 17380 Yonge St. Newmarket Mar-2 Eddy Blues Band

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The Mighty Duck Blues Band, Saturday Blues Matinee at The Duck, 244 Ontario St. St. Catharines every Saturday afternoon with special guests 2:30-6:30pm. Feb.4-Krista Blondin Feb.11-Jack de Keyzer Feb.18-David Vest Feb.25-Mike Branton www. mightyduckbluesband.com

Peters Players 830 Muskoka Rd S 705-687-2117 Gravenhurst Feb-19 David Vest 7.00 pm Mar-9 The Toasters host Toast & Jam 8.00 pm, The Toasters then a Jam Mar-15 Lee Rintenour 8pm

Roc 'n Docs 105 Lakeshore Blvd E 905-891-1754 Port Credit Feb-24 Jack de Keyzer 10.00 pm

Salvatores Trattoria 263 Queen St. 905-985-3500 Port Perry Feb-17 Tim Bastmeyer 8.00 pm with Jerome Tucker, Corey Richardson & Jeff Haynes

Simcoe Blues & Jazz 926 Simcoe St. N 905-435-1111 Oshawa Feb-11 Tim Bastmeyer 9.00 pm with Julian Fauth, James Thomson & Corey Richardson

St. George's Church 99 Woolwich Street 519-763-6396 Guelph Feb-4 Harry Manx 3:00 pm/ with Kim Churchill/ \$29.50

Sticky Fingers 199 Essa Rd 705 721-8793 Barrie Feb-3 Paul James Band 9.30 p.m. \$ 8.00 cover Feb-4 Jack de Keyzer 9.30 p.m. \$ 8.00 cover Feb-11 Wild T & The Spirit 9.30 pm

Feb-17 Corey Worod with Memphis Mudd 9.30 pm

**Stonewalls** 339 York Blvd 905-577-0808 Hamilton Feb-11 Jack de Keyzer 9.30 pm

The Augusta House 17 Augusta St. 905-522-5111 Hamilton, ON Feb-11 Andre & the J-Tones 10 p.m. FREE

The Casbah 18 Huron St. 705-293-0483 Collingwood Feb-8 Ronnie Hayward 7pm/ \$5/ CD Release Party Feb-17 The Swingin' Blackjacks 9pm/\$5 Feb-24 Frasier Melvin Blues Band 7pm/10pm/\$5 Feb-26 Sweet Derrick Peart 3pm/ Gumbo Avail/\$10

The Cove Inn 2 Bedford St 888-COVE-INN Westport Feb-17 The Original Homewreckers w. Miss Angel Blues On The Rideau 7-11 pm, Dinner & Show \$60, Proceeds support local charities. Advance reservations required.

The Duck 244 Ontario St. 905-687-9505 St. Catharines Feb-4 Krista Blondin with The Mighty Duck Blues Band 2.30 pm to 6.30 pm Feb-11 The Mighty Duck Blues Band 2:30-6:30pm w/ special guest Jack de Keyzer

Feb-18 The Mighty Duck Blues Band 2:30-6:30pm w/ special guests David Vest & Chris Murphy Feb-25 The Mighty Duck Blues Band 2:30-6:30pm w/ special guest Mike Branton

Mar-3 Paul Reddick with The Mighty Duck Blues Band 2.30 pm to 6.30 pm Mar-10 Danny B with The Mighty Duck Blues Band 2.30 pm to 6.30 pm

The Harp Pub 55 Lakeshore Rd E 905 274 3277 Port Credit Feb-2 Guy Fortier & Glenn Groves Storytellers Night Feb-25 Johnny Max & The Heart Attacks 9PM start The Huron Club 92 Pine St. (at 2nd) 705-293-6677 Collingwood Mar-8 Tim Bastmeyer 9.00 pm with Julian Fauth, James Thomson & Corey Richardson

The Niagara 4683 Crysler Ave 905-354-7474 Niagara Falls Ontario Every Sat Rich and The Poor Boys 7:30pm till 11:30pm

The Powerhouse 21 Jones St. 905-930-8731 Stoney Creek,ON Feb-3 Andre & the J-Tones 9.00 pm

The Slye Fox 4057 New St 905 639 3900 Burlington Feb-9 Stevie Connor & Glenn Groves Storytellers Burlington

The Waterfront 590 Liverpool Road 905-831-8661 Pickering Feb-17 Loco Zydeco Mardi Gras Party - 9PM

The Wortley Roadhouse 190 Wortley 519-438-5141 London Mar-15 Tim Bastmeyer 9.00 pm with Julian Fauth, James Thomson & Corey Richardson

Theatre Aurora 150 Henderson Drive 905-727-3669 Aurora Feb-25 Winter Blues Fest w/MonkeyJunk, Shawn Kellerman, Michael Pickett 7:30PM - \$40



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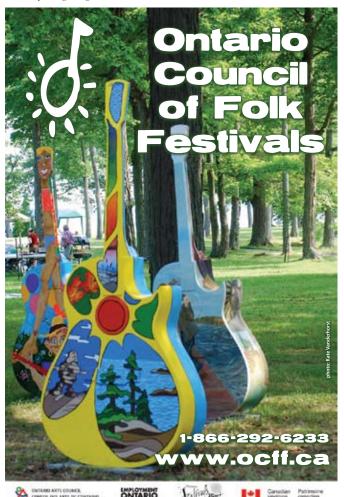


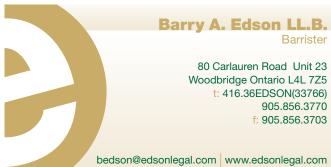






East Coast blues sensation Matt Andersen took home three MBAs, Entertainer of the Year, Acoustic Act of the Year and Male Vocalist of the Year. Photo by Greg King







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Feb 9 - The Gary Kendal Band

Feb 16 - David Vest

Feb 23 - The Jack de Keyzer Band

Mar 1 - Jerome Godboo/Shawn Kellerman

Mar 8 - The Conor Gains Band

Mar 15 - The Chris Antonik Band

Mar 22 - The 24th Street Wailers

Mar 29 - The Jack de Keyzer Band

#### SPECIAL-NIGHT PERFORMANCES

Weekend of Feb 17/18/19 - WinterFolk Festival Sat Feb 25 - Al Lerman CD Release, 3pm to 6pm



#### **FEATURING**

Feb 1 - The Laura Hubert Band

Feb 8 - The Laura Fernandez Band

Feb 15 - Danny Lockwood and The Favorite Groves

Feb 22 - closed for private function

Feb 29 - Melissa Boyce

Mar 7 - The Michael Danckert Jazz Band

Mar 14 - The Steve Kovan Jazz Trio

Mar 21 - Bill King with Sophie Berkal-Sarbit

Mar 28 - The Jim Gelcer Ouartet



#### **FEATURING**

Feb 3 - The Juilan Taylor Band

Feb 10 - Broken Bricks

Feb 24 - Topper

Mar 2 - The High Rollers

Mar 9 - The Government

Mar 16 - Tim Bovaconti

Mar 23 - Tony Springer

Mar 30 - Pat Rush



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