

# TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY MAPLEBLUES

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



June 2020

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Jack de Keyzer will be online celebrating the TBS 35th on June 15 and hosting the TBS Guitar Workshop on June 27

Jack de Keyzer  
Remembering Lucky  
Loose Blues News

John's Blues Picks  
Top Blues  
Blues Online

CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #40011871

# TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

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## President's Message

**Blues Pivot:** Yes, we too are using the most overworked word in the contemporary vocabulary. Everyone is pivoting! The Toronto Blues Society had a big year planned in 2020, you may have seen some of our early 35th Anniversary hype! As usual our solid monthly programs were rolling along, as well as workshops that have been a staple of the organization. Big shows and partnerships were in the works with the **Toronto Jazz Festival** and **Harbourfront Centre**. Boom. Covid-19 crashed our party and we have had to stop and evaluate.

The TBS Board convened on what to do, and felt we should not lay down and watch

the world go by. We are taking action. As usual, our Office Manager **Hüma Üster** has been stellar in facilitating programming ideas that have been developed for the new virtual world of live music. Fortunately we have found partnerships with the **City of Toronto**, **National Arts Centre** and had a sponsorship pop up from **Music By The Bay Live**. We have also sought out our colleagues Small World Music, where we will experiment with a rare live offering, sorry no audience allowed yet. Our busy June programming will include our first support of a "Premier", helping **Cootes Paradise** draw attention to their new work via the **Hugh's Room Live** performance video they are debuting on June 18. Live on the Internet! Watch for more to come...

-Derek Andrews

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Thursday, June 4, noon** - TBS Presents Raoul Bhaneja as part of City Hall Live Series. Funds will be raised for Unison Benevolent Fund. Live on @CityHallLiveOnline & @TorontoBluesSociety Facebook page.

- **Monday, June 15, noon** - TBS Presents Meghan Parnell & Dave Barnes (of Bywater Call) as part of City Hall Live Series. Funds will be raised for Unison Benevolent Fund. Live on @CityHallLiveOnline & @TorontoBluesSociety Facebook page.

- **Monday, June 15, 7pm** - National Arts Centre Road to Canada Day - TBS 35th Anniversary Concert presented in association with Music By The Bay Live. Live from the Small World Music Centre w/ Jenie Thai (7pm) and Jack de Keyzer (8pm), both in trio format.

- **Thursday, June 18, 5pm** - Cootes Paradise Video Premier. Shot at Hugh's Room Live and drawn from their soon to be released EP "Downstream", the live version of "The First Time". Followed by a virtual interview of the band by DJ Ken Wallis.

- **Saturday, June 27, 2pm** - Guitar Workshop. Hosted by Jack de Keyzer w/Fraser Melvin, Suzie Vinnick and Madagascar Slim.

- **Monday, February 1, 2021** - 24th Maple Blues Awards going virtual! Pubic voting still takes place during the month of November. Stay tuned for more details!

### Attention TBS Members!

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, TBS is unable to deliver a physical copy of the MapleBlues June 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](mailto:info@torontobluesociety.com) if you have any questions and be sure to follow TBS accounts on social media for immediate updates.



**Streaming the Blues:** The TBS has partnered with the City of Toronto to provide some opportunities for local blues artists. Raoul Bhaneja kicks it off with a performance on June 4 at noon. Funds will be raised for Unison Benevolent Fund. Live on @CityHallLiveOnline & @TorontoBluesSociety Facebook page. Meghan Parnell & Dave Barnes (of Bywater Call) return on Monday, June 15, Live on @CityHallLiveOnline & @TorontoBluesSociety Facebook page.

**More Blues-friendly streaming:**

Carlie Howell will be performing live next Friday, June 5th at 7:30pm as part of YYYZ Online Live series.

Bad Luck Woman & Fraser Melvin will be doing a living room show on Saturday, June 6th at 8pm on Facebook and Instagram accounts, donations will go to Parkdale Food Bank

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

Glenn Marais live streams every night at 8pm on his Facebook page.

Lindsay Beaver live streams every Tuesday at 8pm.

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

Terra Lightfoot live streams every Wednesday with all-requests at 2pm.

Suzie Vinnick live streams on StreetJelly every Wednesday at 7pm.

Tedeschi Trucks Band is free streaming their full concerts as part of their Swamp TV event every Thursday at 8pm.

Steve Hill live streams every Friday at 8pm (dates may change/vary).

Whitehorse is live-streaming every Friday at 5pm on Bands in Town.

Heather Luckhart and Attila Fias perform live every Saturday at 7pm.

Brian Blain streams his weekly Backyard Blaincast every Sunday at 2pm on Facebook.

Jenie Thai live streams on her Patreon page regularly.

Bad Luck Woman aka Raha Javanfar & Fraser Melvin live stream from their living room regularly and videos can be found on their Facebook and Instagram accounts.



*Congratulations to Canadian blueswoman Sue Foley (though she now resides stateside) for winning the coveted Koko Taylor Award for Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year at the Blues Awards which were held (virtually) on May 3. Other winners included newcomer Christone "Kingfish" Ingram (5 Awards), Nick Moss and his band featuring Dennis Gruenling (two awards) while Moss took home the statue for song of the year for "Lucky Guy," Sugaray Rayford, Mavis Staples, Bettye LaVette, Bobby Rush and more. For complete list of winners go to [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org). The awards were streamed on the Blues Foundation's Facebook Page and YouTube Channel and are still online at <https://blues.org/blues-music-awards>. Photo by Andrew MacNaughtan.*

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# My Journey With "Luck"

I was about to turn 40...I was pretty shaken up from my fathers passing...and my new job was going to be with Lucky, who I idolized and he had already achieved so many musical accolades in over 4 decades, that it was a bit intimidating... but we ended up being best of friends.

So, he was an elderly statesman of the blues you say? NOPE! He was 1 or 2 generations younger than legends, in his mid 40's, and he had been a child prodigy. He made his first record at 5 years old with Willie Dixon as a producer and had been on Johnny Carson, Ed Sullivan and Soul by the time he was 7! After that, he continues to still go to school while his father owns a club that was for touring black musicians frequented by the likes of Buddy Guy and Junior Wells, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Howlin' Wolf, John Lee Hooker...The list of who he crossed paths with at a young age goes on and on. In the time I knew him, whatever his ears heard, he absorbed it and would at some point surprise me like 2 weeks later and say "remember this?"... with a funny smirk. So, whatever he heard in his father's club, I know, was locked in his mind forever. That was his special ability.

After his schooling was completed, at 19 years old, he joins Little Milton's band.... He moves to Bobby "Blue" Bland's band.... He has a band with another young bluesman of the time, Kenny Neal.... He cuts two albums for Alligator Records in the late 80's... But in 1992 is when things blew up in Europe for him. His first Gitanes/Verve CD is released in France, and to promote it, they put him on the opening slot for James Brown for a month, with 5 figure attendances every night. France adopted Lucky.

His popularity continues to grow and he puts out CD after CD with many greats like Mavis Staples, Bootsy Collins, Larry McCray, Willie Weeks, Dennis Chambers, Bernard Purdie... or live shows with TOTO and Wynton Marsalis....And this is just some of it.

I had been a fan since since I was about 18.... I saw him play a few times.... I thought his CDs were stellar....When I was on tour in 2002 with Paul Reddick and we were playing at Kalamazoo Blues fest...in the middle of a guitar solo, I open my eyes and right in front of the monitors is Lucky Peterson (I hadn't had the pleasure to meet yet) and his guitar player Rico McFarland (whom I met while I was with Bobby Rush Band) and they are staring up at



me giving me the evil eye...Like "come on boy....Show us something!" (in a good way... haha) I just about fell off stage!!!

I finally got to play with him, in 2007 when I was doing a CD release and he agreed to be my guest and do a full weekend in Ontario with myself and a band, which included Jordan John on drums and James Rasmussen on bass. We did 3 shows including one in Waterloo, Healey's and The Liquid Lounge in Brantford.

I pick him up at the airport, and one of the first things he says is, Mel Brown lives here right? I said, Yes. Right away he says... we have to always pay respect for those guys like Mel, that have paved the way for us. Wow, lesson number 1, right away. That night Mel showed up, and Lucky didn't play like his usual self but played to honour Mel and the fact that an elder was present and he was going to show his respect. It really was something to witness.

Lesson number 2 was a shock.... He shows up with a horrible \$120 guitar and he made it sound like it was made from gold. Nothing stopped his ability from coming through. Throughout our whole relationship we talked about guitars and guitar geek stuff, because we liked those things. But he never let anything material hold his talent back despite any equipment issues we encountered, and his talent and fire always shone through.

Last show of this weekend, there is an encore and he says to me that he is only going to use Jordan on drums for the song. I was miffed, because I didn't know when I

was going to ever play with him again and my dream weekend was coming to an end. Well, he starts ripping a fast jazz/blues organ tune, while I leaned on the spinning organ Leslie speaker, that proceeded to blow my mind to pieces. Jordan John followed his every move and after that 7-8 minutes, I almost fainted. He had just taken the whole room in Brantford, on a musical journey so far out of the box, only a chosen few on this planet could ever have made that feat. He always knew when he could carry the whole weight on his back, and knock it out of the park.

Over the years after that first weekend, we had done a few festivals in Canada and the USA with a couple trips to Russia also. But, over New Years and the first week of 2012, he asked me to play a gig in Edmonton with him, and at the end of the week, he asked if I would play full time with his band? I said, of course! My dream had come true and I sure needed it after my father's passing, to channel my grief.

I had already done OK traveling the world playing guitar in well over two dozen countries, but I was about to get a taste of Lucky's world. We were doing a little bit of the USA and then right away going to Europe and he was what I would call "The Prince of the Blues" in a few countries. We mainly played jazz or world music festivals, which would have many genres on the bill, and it was like, if you want blues...he is the ambassador to blues. We played shows with Stanley Clarke and Victor Wooten to Marilyn Manson.

His popularity in France was exuberant and we had amazing shows in North Africa like in Tunisia, Algeria, Senegal or Morocco.

His energy was infectious and it was a 2 hour workout for the audience made up of kids to seniors, and they all loved it! Right away I learned that this is different and if I was going to open this show for Lucky, I had to give 150% on my song. What I chose from my repertoire, was in the past a show stopper end-of-set type of song, but now this one was to start a Lucky set. The bar was set high, and I was expected to get that ball rolling.

Over the last 8 years until his passing May 17, 2020, I had recorded on a Live CD/DVD set, 2 studio CDs and one more live CD. The last project released October 27, 2019 "50 Years – Just Warming Up", I was the co-producer with Lucky, guitarist and was the Mix Engineer. This project was to represent his 50 years in the business, paying tribute to his influences while showing his appreciation for blues and the different styles which he morphed into the sound of Lucky Peterson. We convinced the record company to let us do it ourselves and not have outside help. It was an honour to do this alongside him, because it was about making sure the listener was absorbing Lucky's vision, conviction and amazing talent which sometimes gets lost in studio sessions. But we made sure his infectious energy made it from the speakers, to the listener's ears.

Last lesson... Every note played must be dripping in soul and it must mean something... whether it is the high energy blues funk pushing up the barometric pressure of a room, or the whisper of his voice and a piano on a ballad, where you could hear the air... he had the full attention of everyone in that mass of people in front of us, that few can demand... but he had you.

This is just a fraction of his life in music, and the fun I had with him when we were on stage. But our lives, our families and the music were all intertwined. He was a part of my wedding party to my current wife. There were phone calls that could happen in any one of the 24 hours in a day, to possibly put one of his brainstorms into motion. Always asking about my son, "Do you have the boy playing an instrument yet?" Interrupting a studio session to say he needed a Melodica to do something different for the CD... when in actuality he never played a note on it and signed it over to my son.

I will miss all the laughs, his big heart and his inspiration to present music, pure, unaffected, and with all of your being.

- Shawn Kellerman

# Cootes Paradise Releases Live Performance Video from Hugh's Room Live

Cootes Paradise was on a roll in 2019/2020, coasting on a well-deserved Maple Blues Award nomination for New Artist/Band of the Year, while nearing completion of their sophomore release to follow up their self-titled CD from late 2017, and preparing for the launch of a live performance video from Hugh's Room Live.

The band was hit with a couple of major setbacks. First, the death of their beloved producer in January 2020, the renowned and irreplaceable Nick Blagona, and then of course, the COVID-19 pandemic, which swept all plans away in a river of uncertainty, leaving them wondering what to do next.

While Nick was in hospital, just a day or two before he died, he expressed his care and concern for Cootes Paradise's project, and enlisted his friend and fellow producer Mike Marcone from Hamilton Ontario's Halo Studio, to take over the final mixes of the upcoming EP, giving him access to files, and providing detailed direction for completing the project.

One of the songs on the upcoming EP, called "The First Time", penned by the band's guitarist and

one of the two main vocalists, Wayne Krawchuk, is featured on the live video, which was filmed during the band's last Hugh's Room Live performance in April 2019. They were scheduled to return in April 2020, but the venue announced its imminent relocation, and then, we all know what happened next.

This video offers a sneak preview of one of the songs on their upcoming EP release, "Downstream", which is planned for release later this summer, and gives Cootes Paradise the chance to show off their live performance chops to both existing fans, and potential new devotees who may discover what they've missed in the almost five years the band has been together.

Filed by Hamilton's Adam Carter of Melodic Pixel Media, with sound mixing contribution from Hugh's Room Live's Colin Puffer, Cootes Paradise's live performance was beautifully captured, along with the great vibe that is (or was) arguably the best live performance venue of its kind in Toronto.

The Toronto Blues Society will present the premiere of the video on the TBS Facebook Page June 18 at 5pm along with a virtual interview of the band by Hamilton DJ Ken Wallis host of Blues Blast on 101.5 The Hawk FM and Blues and Roots Radio. The video will be available on several platforms, including YouTube.

*Cootes Paradise are: Amy Di Nino – drums, Wayne Krawchuk – guitar/vocals, Sue Leonard – vocals, Lily Sazz – keys, Ian Taylor – bass, Mark Volkov – violin (flute, and sax)*  
[www.cootesparadiseband.ca](http://www.cootesparadiseband.ca)



TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY PRESENTS:



# GUITAR WORKSHOP

Host: Jack  
de Keyzer

Suzie  
Vinnick

Madagascar  
Slim

Fraser  
Melvin



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# Jack de Keyzer

Jack de Keyzer will celebrate TBS' 35th Anniversary with an online Facebook Live concert on Thursday June 15, 7pm and will also host a "Virtual" Guitar Workshop Monday June 27, 2pm with guests Fraser Melvin, Suzie Vinnick and Madagascar Slim. Tune in on the TBS Facebook Page.

For an artist who needs little introduction within the Canadian Blues community, Jack de Keyzer has been featured in MapleBlues numerous times, as well as representing the Toronto Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN.

Jack has been adorned with International Songwriting and JUNO Awards, as well as produced his fair share of acclaimed albums. Jack is known as an artist who proves his worth nightly, with his live performances gathering new and seasoned fans alike at a wide array of festivals, events, and venues. He's also an artist who has been on the scene for decades. Although Jack possesses the coveted "triple threat" as an equally talented singer, songwriter, and guitarist, de Keyzer is most likely best known for his marksmanship on the guitar. It is that skill that will be front and centre in an upcoming workshop presented by the Toronto Blues Society on June 27. For this edition of Notes & Quotes, Jack de Keyzer discusses his thoughts on the music scene during the covid-19 pandemic, as well as offers some words of advice for aspiring guitarists.

The conversation began with the obvious topic of the day. Knowing that de Keyzer shares a situation with all other Canadian Blues artists, it was, perhaps, significant to ask Jack if he had any projections on what the Blues or live music scene might look like in a post-pandemic Canada. He offered this;

"I think it's a bit early to know. In my heart, I hope that it all levels out and things go back to 'normal', but it's really hard to know, and I don't want to make any predictions."

Knowing that de Keyzer will be one of the featured artists in the upcoming TBS workshop (which, by the way, will embrace physical distancing guidelines by going

digital on Facenook Live), Jack was asked if he had any words of advice to offer aspiring guitar players/artists. He says;

"Nowadays, with platforms like YouTube, it's pretty amazing. You can find any technique or genre you like, so I would say for people to use it. There are also ways you can slow things down that don't change the pitch. Before those applications were around, if you slowed down something, you learned it with the pitch changed and you had to transpose. I would also encourage people to practise. The more stuff you can do, the better, too. Being versatile keeps you on the scene playing, and that opens a lot of opportunities. Being versatile does not affect your artistic integrity either – it broadens your skillset. I find that, although I tend to gravitate toward Blues, R&B and Soul, I can read an audience and perform some rock, or funk, or some jazz for the people who will enjoy it. I love that music too, so yeah, being versatile and learning multiple genres and techniques is something I would definitely suggest to people who are looking to develop their skills."

When asked if de Keyzer had a broad message he would like to put forward to our readers, Jack readily replied;

"Support your local and Canadian Blues community. The Canadian Blues scene has a lot of fantastic artists, and the scene is a very robust one. It's as plentiful and talented as any one out there that I've seen."

For those who are wondering what is on the horizon for Jack de Keyzer beyond the upcoming workshop, there is news to be heard. Jack has been spending his time putting the final production touches on a new album which has been in post-production since the face of the music scene changed. The album, which is currently awaiting a title, will feature all-original songs – 12 tracks are slated for the album, to be exact. This will also, coincidentally be Jack's 12<sup>th</sup> commercially released album. Details on its release will be announced in the coming weeks, as more information about the touring landscape emerges. Perhaps there is a possibility of a single to be released in advance during this time of touring uncertainty.

For more information on Jack de Keyzer, please visit [www.jackdekeyzer.com](http://www.jackdekeyzer.com). Also, for those who would like to get connected join the official Jack de Keyzer Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Jack-de-Keyzer](https://www.facebook.com/Jack-de-Keyzer).

Erin McCallum

Singer, Songwriter, Instrumentalist



## Maple Blues Awards Going Virtual in 2021

The 24th Annual Maple Blues Awards is going virtual on its next edition which will take place on Monday, February 1, 2021. The Board of directors of TBS has been faced with the difficult decision considering the ongoing global pandemic. The Maple Blues Awards nominees will be announced in October, with public voting in eligible categories still taking place during the month of November 2020 and the winners will be announced during the online awards show on February 1, 2021.

Derek Andrews, president of Toronto Blues Society said, "The uncertainty of live music events has forced us to err on the side of caution by celebrating the best in Canada's blues virtually, with no boundaries worldwide!"

In addition, the tenth biennial Blues Summit conference and showcase was to be held January 29th – February 1st, 2021 but the decision has been made to move the event to 2022. Details to follow.

**Musicians! Promote Your New Albums!** Please make sure to mail and promote your new albums to the MBA Nominating Panel until the end of September. While the Panel is consisted of 62 members who are required to be familiar with Canadian blues artist activity and CD releases, artists are encouraged to service new releases to increase their national profile. The list of the Panel members can be found on TBS website with a link to their organizations. Please note, albums should be released during the eligibility period: September 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.



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](http://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) Wed, Thurs, Fri 11pm.  
 (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)

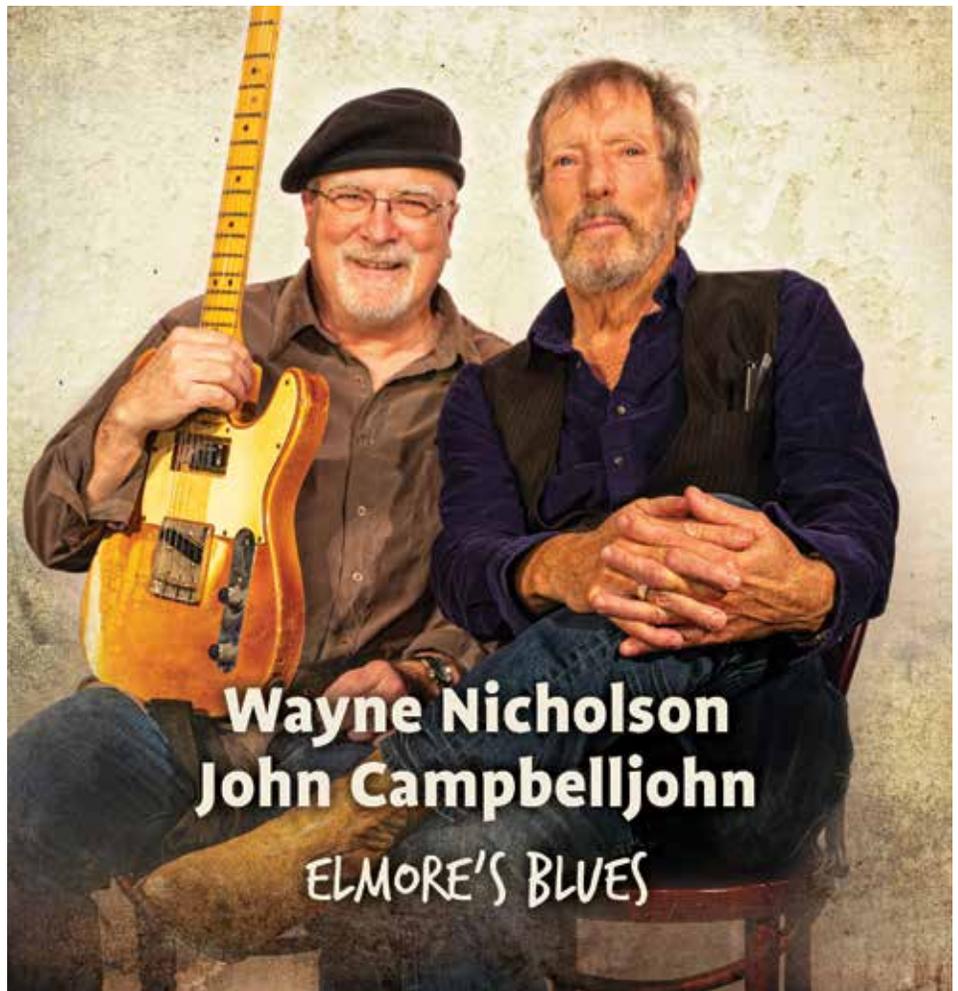
CFRU (93.3 FM)  
*The Thrill is Back* with **Andy and Andrew** Mondays 1 to 3pm  
*The Blues Review*, with **Roopen Majithia** Tues 9:00 pm (Guelph)

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](http://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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- John Valenteyn, *John's Blues Picks*, *Maple Blues*

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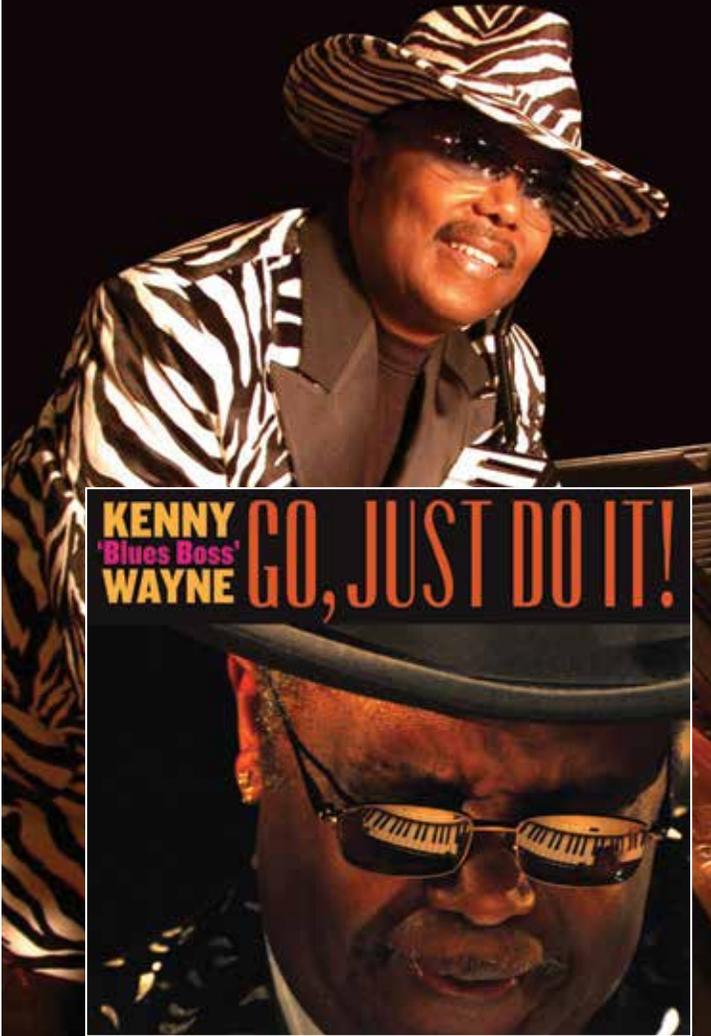
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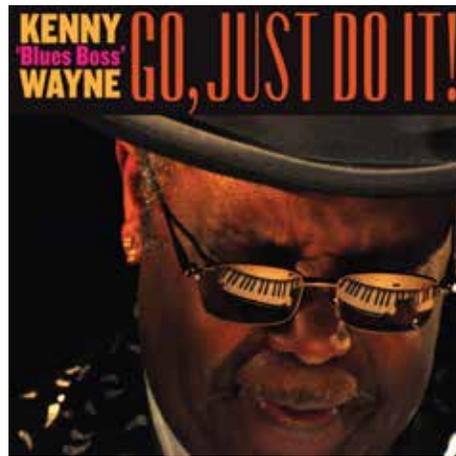
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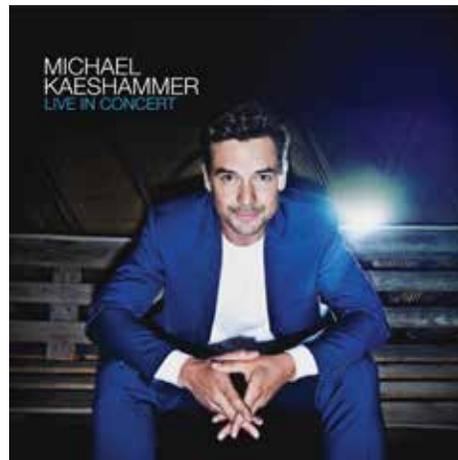
Illustration by Nathaniel Mesner



**Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne Go, Just Do It!** Stony Plain

Multiple international award-winning pianist singer songwriter **Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne (Spruell)** has put together an all-star band with a dream list of guests to highlight his new songs. The Vancouver native is the foremost modern practitioner of the West Coast piano sound pioneered by players like **Amos Milburn** and his continued success is assured with this album. That band is Hall of Fame bassist **Russell Jackson**, **Boogie Patrol's Yugi Ihara** on guitar and **Joey "The Pocket" DiMarco** of Chicago's **Studebaker John's** band on drums. Kenny wrote most of the songs including the rousing opener and first single "Go, Just Do It!" with another multiple award winner, **Dawn Tyler Watson**. This funky horn-led rocker encourages you to follow your dreams with Kenny's father urging him on as does Dawn's mother - quite an attractive way to start. "You Did A Number on Me" is another fine rocker that does indeed feature numbers and **Parachute Club's Julie Masi** on multi-tracked BG vocals. The pace slows down a little bit for "Sittin' in My Rockin' Chair", our narrator has done everything he wanted to do in his life and this is all he wants to do now - a wonderful performance. **Percy Mayfield's** "You're in for a Big Surprise" is a lovely slow duet opened by Grammy Award-winning

jazz vocalist **Diane Schuur**, who did an entire album with **BB King** some years ago. Tenor ace **Jerry Cook** adds a lovely solo. **Dawn Tyler Watson** returns for a rather surprising slab of contemporary R&B: "Sorry Ain't Good Enough" features a full horn section on an original breakup song. Another Percy Mayfield song is "I Don't Want to be President" which gets a delightfully funky arrangement. Kenny's son **Cory Spruell (aka SeQuel)** raps rather effectively on what he would rather do. **JJ Cale's** easy going "They Call Me the Breeze" gets an attractive acoustic treatment with just the basic band plus harmonica ace **Sherman Doucette**. Kenny's "T&P Train 400" finds him hoboing, riding the rails heading to Marshall, Texas to see his girl. There's some excellent horn work to accompany the train rhythm. The concluding, swinging "Let the Rock Roll" is the third and best instrumental and a fine way to close. Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne is one of our hardest touring artists, just check his web site, [www.kennybluesboss.com](http://www.kennybluesboss.com), to see when he starts up again. The album will be released June 12.



**Michael Kaeshammer Live in Concert** CD Linus + *Boogie Down the Blues Highway* DVD Corridor

This concert recording began life as a TV special for public television in the US, broadcast during a fundraising week last March. The subsequent CD and DVD are all slightly different from that original broadcast but it's all the same wonderful music. The DVD version for instance, also includes documentary filming of the New Orleans recording sessions. Recorded in Sidney BC, the live

concert set list has a couple of songs from the last album, *Something New*. More importantly though it uses that band and retains the New Orleans feel. **Michael Kaeshammer** originals like "Kisses from Zanzibar" from *Kaeshammer* sound just great in this setting. As do the rocking "Lucky Man", one of the new originals which happens to be the title song of his next album, due in October. "I Know I Will Again" is another new one from the forthcoming album, one with a most attractive melody and groove. In a departure from the carefully rehearsed set list, he inserts a quite wonderful, improvised slow blues, "Broke Down Piano". "Who Are You" was a duet with **Colin James** and **Randy Bachman** on *Something New* but Colin duets here with Kaeshammer and plays far more guitar. Colin sticks around but Randy Bachman is indeed in the house, telling the story that **Stevie Ray Vaughan** was planning to record his monster hit "Taking Care of Business". For the occasion Bachman wrote an extra verse and re-arranged the song as a Texas shuffle. Stevie Ray died before he could record this version but we get that here with Colin James on the other guitar. "Do You Believe" was a feature for soul blues singer **Curtis Salgado** on *Something New* and he travelled up the coast to do it again on this night, adding an imaginative, lengthy harmonica solo that displays his mastery of circular breathing. One of the backup singers, **Nicole Sinclair**, gets a lovely solo spot with **Sam Cooke's** "A Change is Gonna Come", with her colleague, **Amoy Levy**, helping out. **Allen Toussaint's** "Shoo-Ra", from *With You in Mind*, gets a powerful performance from the whole band before the encore of "Hamp's Boogie". You may recall Kaeshammer doing this one with the Maple Blues Band at the MBAs a few years ago. It has lost none of its excitement. He included the studio version on his *Lovelight* album. The 'Hamp' refers to jump band leader **Lionel Hampton** for whom this was a great hit in 1945. Along with the brief opening "Boogie Woogie", this is the kind of playing that initially brought Kaeshammer to everyone's attention. As the intervening songs show, he has far more to offer us. The all-star band features New Orleans drummer **Johnny Vidacovich**, bassist **David Piltch**, and the excellent horn section:

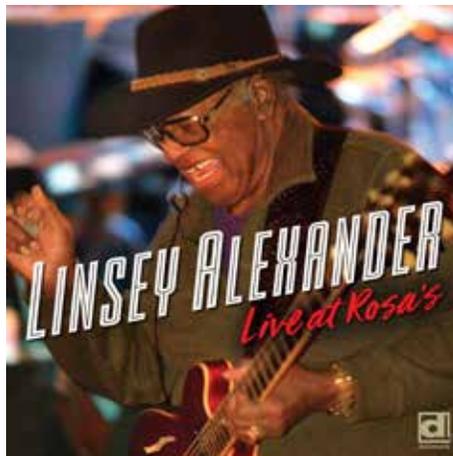
**William Sperandei** on trumpet, **Steve Hilliam** on tenor and **William Carn** on trombone. The web site is [www.kaeshammer.com](http://www.kaeshammer.com).



**Jeff Healey** *Heal My Soul Deluxe*  
2CD Convexe

The **Jeff Healey Estate** has reissued the albums released four years ago to celebrate what would have been Jeff's 50th. They were released separately at the time but are now available in a deluxe 2CD package. **Jeff Healey** would have been, should have been, celebrating his 50th birthday that March 2016, but it was not to be. In addition to *Heal My Soul*, a very successful tribute concert was held at Massey Hall. What was released originally from these sessions, back in 2000, was *Get Me Some* on his own Forte label, but as you'll hear, it was a prolific period. The newly retrieved songs on the first disc continue his hard rocking sound. For fans of this column, the supercharged version of **Albert Collins**'s "Put the Shoe on The Other Foot" is the major highlight, with **Philip Sayce** on rhythm guitar and **Dean Glover** on drums, who was possibly newly recorded on several songs for this release. The rocking "Daze Of The Night" is now available as a lyric video along with a couple of others. "Moodswing", one of these, and "Love in Her Eyes", were written by **Jerome Godboo** and **Ben Richardson** when they were a blues band from Ottawa calling themselves **The Phantoms**. The second disc proves that the blues was never very far away. Subtitled originally as a *Companion to Heal My Soul*, it contains five more songs from the same sessions plus a concert recording. The outtakes are by no means rejects: "Every Other Guy" is

the bluesiest of the band tracks but the delightful two-guitar "CNIBlues" is way too short. A live show, from The Rockefeller Music Hall in Oslo, Norway in 1999 is the star attraction. This is the trio at its best plus our best-kept secret **Pat Rush** on second guitar. "Dust My Broom" and "How Blue Can You Get" are obvious highlights, with Pat and Jeff alternating solos as only they could. As well, the bluesy opening "My Little Girl" from *See the Light* is a treat. Jeff's own "I Can't Get My Hands on You" from *Hell to Pay* is another blues highlight. The only song from *Get Me Some* is "Macon County Line". I also liked the version of **Mark Knopfler**'s "I Think I Love You Too Much", also from *Hell To Pay* and with Knopfler himself guesting on that disc. **Gerry Rafferty**'s "Stuck In The Middle With You", from *Cover To Cover*, should be added to the highlights as should the performance here of **John Lennon**'s "Yer Blues", a concert staple. One more thing to mention is the rapport Jeff develops with his audience, the between songs banter and the obvious enjoyment of the band members adds a great deal to the listening experience. Jeff would soon try to devote most of his time to his love of early jazz and play more cornet but these electric albums continue to bring pleasure to many. Stay informed by visiting [www.jeffhealey.com](http://www.jeffhealey.com).



**Linsey Alexander** *Live at Rosa's*  
Delmark

One of the great pleasures is to spend an evening at a blues club in Chicago. As this is quite impossible and will be for a while yet, we can

come very close to enjoying that pastime with this new live album. **Linsey Alexander** is a veteran Chicago bluesman who is sometimes dubbed the 'King of Halsted Avenue' on the North Side. On this occasion he is on Armitage St. on the West Side. Rosa's Lounge has been a fixture on the Chicago scene for decades and Delmark has recorded several albums and DVDs there over the years. Arriving in Chicago in 1963 from Holly Springs MS, Alexander has mostly been a sideman and confined his shows to small clubs until recently, joining late bloomers such as **Toronzo Cannon**. This is his third album for Delmark with some self-produced ones before that. He shows himself to be an excellent singer and songwriter, a master guitarist and a natural entertainer. Backed by a quartet of **Roosevelt Purifoy** on keys, **Sergei Androshin** on the other guitar, **Ron Simmons**, bass and **Big Ray Stewart** on drums, he gives us a stellar and varied set of covers and originals, starting with **BB King**'s "Please Love Me". It has some excellent Purifoy keyboard work. One of his own is the fine first single, "My Days Are So Long", an uptempo song from his first Delmark. **Freddie King**'s "Have You Ever Loved A Woman" gets a lengthy workout that will make you forget the version you probably thought of when you read this. Another Alexander original is "I Got A Woman", a funky dance floor filler with a solid groove. Androshin rips off a stellar solo too. The original "Goin' Out Walkin'" keeps the tempo going with a great Texas shuffle. **Latimore** is not usually thought of as a bluesman but his "Somethin' 'Bout 'Cha" sounds fabulous in this setting. Another new original is "Snowin' in Chicago", with a very nice groove but he's homeless and it's nineteen below. A little-known song by **Junior Wells**, "Ships on the Ocean", is another great slow blues. Alexander concludes with another new song, one whose idea came from his son, who is also a guitarist. "Goin' Back to my Old Time Used to Be" makes for a great set closer and you don't have to leave the club in the snow. Delmark's notes call him the 'Hoochie Man' and he has given us an authentic live in Chicago blues album for the new century. Go to [www.delmark.com](http://www.delmark.com) for more info.

-John Valenteyn

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

- 1 **The Paul DesLauriers Band** *Bounce* Disques Bros Records
- 2 **Bywater Call** *Bywater Call* Gypsy Soul Records
- 3 **Wide Mouth Mason** *I Wanna Go With You* We Are Busy Bodies
- 4 **Durham County Poets** *Hand Me Down Blues* Borealis
- 5 **Tami Neilson** *Chickaboom!* Outside Music
- 6 **Big Dave McLean** *Pocket Full Of Nothin'* Black Hen
- 7 **Matt Andersen** *Halfway Home By Morning* True North Records
- 8 **Darrell Scott** *Sings the Blues of Hank Williams* Soundly Music
- 9 **Giles Robson** *Don't Give Up on the Blues* American Showplace
- 10 **Sass Jordan** *Rebel Moon Blues* Stony Plain
- 11 **Dave Specter** *Blues From The Inside Out* Delmark
- 12 **Diana Braithwaite & Chris Whiteley** *Gold Cadillac* G-Three
- 13 **Tennessee Redemption** *Tennessee Redemption* Endless Blues
- 14 **Tad Robinson** *Real Street* Severn Records
- 15 **Harpdog Brown** *For Love and Money* Dog House Records
- 16 **Steve Strongman** *Tired of Talkin'* Independent
- 17 **Screamin' John & TD Lind** *Mr. Little Biog Man* Down in the Alley
- 18 **Sugar Blue** *Colors* Beeble
- 19 **The Betty Fox Band** *Peace in Pieces* Foxycavanagh
- 20 **Marcus King** *El Dorado* Easy Eye/Fantasy

## 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](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](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](http://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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