

Toronto Blues Society MAPLEBLUES

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

October 2020

www.torontobluesociety.com

Published by the TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

since 1985

info@torontobluesociety.com

Vol 36, No 10



Crystal Shawanda performs at the
online Rez Bluez 25th Anniversary
celebrations on October 9th

Mike Nagoda wins Talent Search
Remembering John Valenteyn
Loose Blues News

Blues Reviews
Blues Events
and More

CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #40011871

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MapleBlues is published monthly by the Toronto Blues Society ISSN 0827-0597

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Charitable # 87487 7509 RR0001

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Mask up! ...and show your TBS colours. Blues-branded masks available in two styles (one size on the larger end fits all!). \$10 at TBS website online store ONLY: torontobluesociety.com/store. Purchased masks will be mailed directly and won't be available for pick-up at TBS office nor one of the TBS events due to COVID-19. Stay safe and support your local Blues Society.

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 October. Hence new & renewing members will be receiving their new membership cards as soon as our operations go back to our regular work hours. Please e-mail info@torontobluesociety.com if you have any questions and be sure to follow TBS accounts on social media for immediate updates.

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John Valenteyn 1947-2020

After a difficult fight with a rare blood disorder HLH John passed mid day on Sunday October 4 at Toronto Western Hospital according to his wife of 46 years, Brenda Valenteyn. Co-founder of the Toronto Blues Society in 1985, John was a pillar of the Canadian blues community broadcasting at CIUT for fourteen years following a twenty year run with The Blues Hour at CJRT (now JAZZ.FM). According to life long Port Colborne friend Doug McVicar, John's first taste of broadcasting at Queen's University flipped him from a path in engineering to the Ryerson Radio and Television Arts program and his stint as a producer, leading to years on the air. An avid collector, John travelled yearly to the Chicago Blues Festival trolling the aisles at Bob Koester's Blues and Jazz Mart while catching live shows at Petrillo Band Shell. His enormous collection made him a natural member of the Maple Blues Award Steering Committee and monthly Maple Blues newsletter reviewer in John's Blues Picks. His knowledge and passion for blues recordings and artists made him the leading figure in Canada's blues history. He will be missed.

Remembering JV

Tributes have been rolling in as the blues world learns of the passing of John Valenteyn. Here's a sampling:

John was a dear friend to so many of us in the blues community. He contributed so much. Incredibly knowledgeable, generous, helpful and always the most informed person at our committee meetings. Wonderful idea to honor him somehow. My condolences to Brenda and John's family. – *Holger Petersen, Saturday Night Blues / Stony Plain Records.*

This news immensely saddens me. I send my deepest condolences to the entire Canadian music community, who I know John touched, with prayers for his memory to remain a blessing to all who knew and loved him. – *Barbara Newman, past Blues Foundation Executive Director.*

I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. My condolences to his family. He was a wonderful person and I will miss him. – *Kris Kane, South Side Shuffle.*

Like so many others, I'm shocked and deeply saddened by this news. John was such a nice guy, sweet and gentle and funny and a great champion of the music we love. He gave us so much.... – *Bruce Iglauer, Alligator Records.*

This is terribly sad news, and a serious loss to his family, friends, the Toronto Blues Society and the Canadian blues community as a whole. I hope it will be possible to memorialize John in some way — perhaps naming one of our regular events in his honour, or one of the more significant Maple Blues Awards. John was one of the most warm-hearted, gentle and kind people many of us have ever known. We've all lost a friend. – *Richard Flohil.*

I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. A wonderful, knowledgeable man who shared his love of the blues with all of us ... a huge loss to the Canadian blues community. My condolences to his family. – *Liz Sykes, Past President Ottawa Blues Society.*

I learned a lot from John and will miss him. – *Mike Smith, TBS Board of Directors.*

Although I only knew him a short time I found him to be a true gentleman and passionate and incredibly knowledgeable about the blues. Condolences to his family and friends. – *Ron Clarkin, Treasurer, TBS Board of Directors.*

cont'd on page 6

Tune in to TBS livestream events



Rez Bluez 25th Anniversary live stream with Crystal Shawanda **Friday, October 9** | 8pm (EST) on Facebook Live

TBS Pioneer Profile Series: Eugene Smith interviewed by Bill Munson at Duncan Garage

Tuesday, October 13 | 8-9pm (EST) on Facebook Live

Miss Emily MBA Performance

Wednesday, October 14 | 6pm on TBS Youtube channel



Rez Bluez 25th Anniversary live stream with Pura Fé Friday, **October 16** | 8pm (EST) on Facebook Live

Corona Blues: A Mental Health and Wellness Workshop w/ Unison Fund & special guests

Monday, October 19 | 7-8:30pm (EST) on Facebook Live

Miss Emily CD Premiere "Miss Emily LIVE at The Isabel"

Wednesday, October 28 | 8pm on Facebook Live



Michael Schatte CD Premiere "Conundrum"

Wednesday, November 4 | 8pm on Facebook Live

Michael Jerome Browne MBA Performance

Wednesday, November 11 | 6pm on TBS Youtube channel



Sugar Brown in conversation with Adam Gussow on "Whose Blues?" w/ special guests

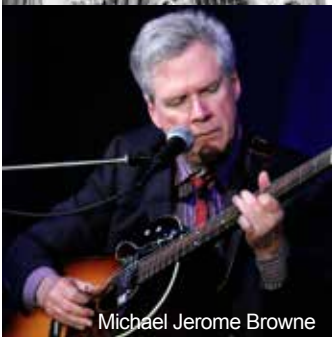
Saturday, November 14 | 5pm on Facebook Live

Raha Javanfar & Regent Park School of Music Students MBA Performance

Wednesday, December 9 | 6pm on TBS Youtube channel

Maple Blues Band MBA Performance

Wednesday, January 13 | 6pm on TBS Youtube channel



Also, watch for upcoming new events from TBS including: TBS Pioneer Profile Series and new interviews Jay Douglas and others!



TBS TALENT SEARCH FINALISTS

Each year, the Toronto Blues Society searches for new and undiscovered Canadian blues talent. This year, we received a great selection of applications. This year's six finalists had a showdown on Sunday, October 4 at Bar Twelve 16 in Etobicoke and Mike Nagoda and The Spectrum Blues Band were selected to receive a professional development package that includes a feature in Maple Blues, a showcase at Blues Summit 10 in 2022, a photo shoot with Bill King, mentoring sessions, rehearsal time at Cherry Beach and much more. You'll be hearing from all these future blues stars.



Federico Luiu began developing his deep passion for music at thirteen years of age. His attraction to the guitar was inspired by his father, who is an exceptional guitarist in his own right. His father's love of blues and country music lead Federico to the legendary music of Muddy Waters, Johnny Winter, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Albert King, B.B. King and Albert Collins. The musical stylings of Joe Bonamassa, Matt Schofield and Danny Gatton, helped inform and shape Federico's guitar pedigree.

Gail Gunnis. As far back as she can remember, Gail always wanted to sing. In grade school her choir teacher told her "she has the voice of a songbird". At the age of 10 she received a keyboard for Christmas, teaching herself the basics of music, then later, picking up the guitar. From there joining the Choir at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Being influenced by her partner and guitarist, Fabio Parovel, she discovered her voice was meant for the blues! Her influences, Janiva Magness, Etta James, Freddy and B.B. King, Little Walter and many more!



Josh Ritchie is a singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and producer based in Ontario. Having grown up in the Canadian music scene with a family of music teachers, performers and songwriters, Ritchie has had music in his soul since day one. From the moment he was able to stand Ritchie has been playing anything he can get his hands on. His love for music quickly became an addiction giving the up and coming 21-year-old musical chops and an artistic maturity beyond his age. Then came the voice, quickly developing in choirs and music classes, now having a seemingly endless range and power. Ritchie can go from an intimate whisper to a boisterous roar with unequalled effect. In early 2019 Ritchie took to the studio to record his debut, self produced record "Louder." The album was released to a sold out crowd on August 24th, 2019. The title track Louder was voted on the top 100 list in the 2020 CBC Music Searchlight competition. Ritchie is currently working on new material for his second studio album, "Love at the End of the World" set to be released in 2021.

Madison Galloway is an emerging voice in Canadian roots music. With her signature blend of folk, rock and blues, she takes the stage with guitar, harmonica, ukulele, and driving band, charming audiences with her catchy original tunes and soulful voice in a high-energy show! Born and raised in small town Fergus, Ontario, 20-year-old Madison Galloway infuses her music with rustic, earthy tones, reaching back to pay homage to the great artists of the past while forging a sound all her own; at times gritty and groovy, and others sweet and sunny!

Madison began pursuing her passion for music from a young age. Growing up in rural Ontario, she discovered a love of nature, community, and roots music, which continues to inspire her art today. At age 6, she began classical piano training, eventually advancing through conservatory programs and voraciously delving into the world of music theory and appreciation. However, it wasn't until she picked up a guitar at age 12 that she discovered her true calling and began pouring out original songs. Drawing inspiration from her upbringing, current issues, and environmental concerns, she started to shape her signature sound and identity as an artist.

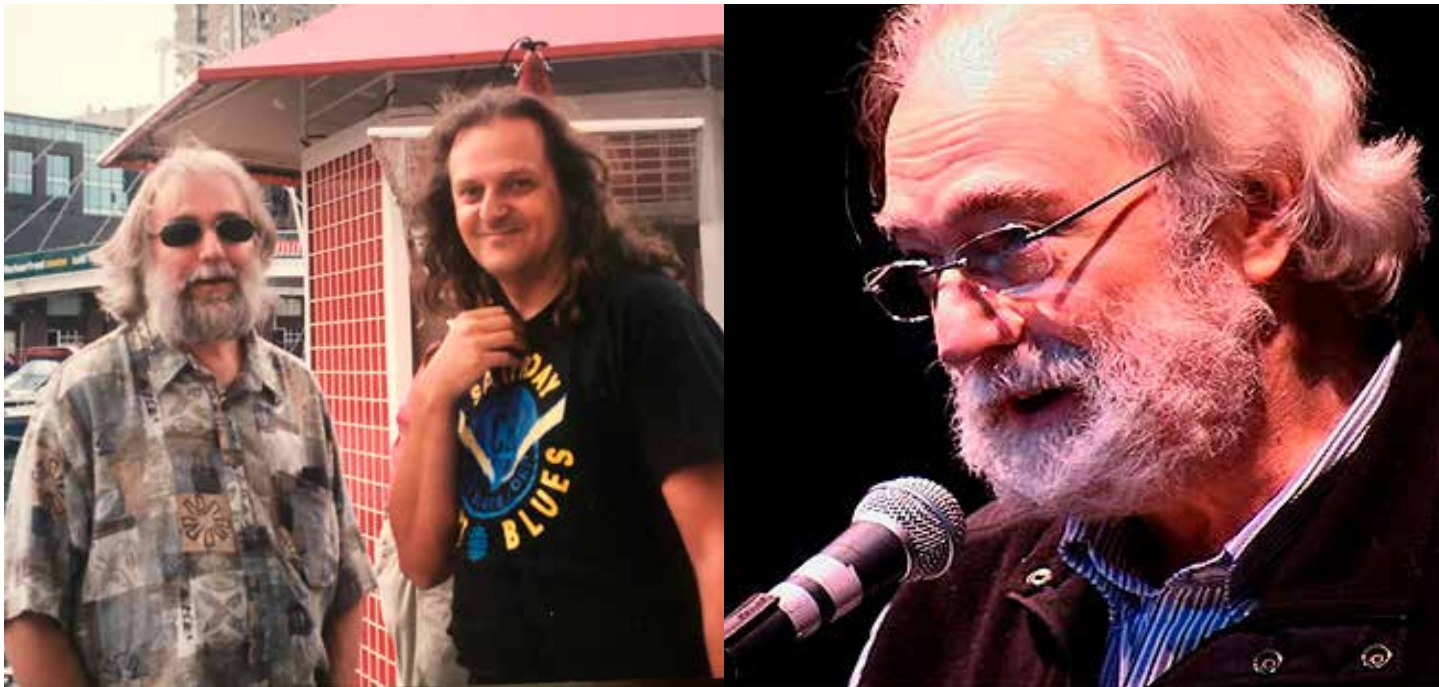


Mike Nagoda is an LGBT Blues musician from Toronto, Canada. He began learning the piano at age six, and nearly immediately he struggled with hands that would not respond as he wanted them to because of his Cerebral Palsy. A resourceful teacher helped him overcome his difficulties with the piano, reworking arrangements so that he could comfortably play. The same could not be said for the guitar. Merely holding the guitar was painful, as was forcing his hands into chord shapes. Still, neither he nor his guitar teacher would give up. Upon finding an old lap steel guitar in a pawn shop, Mike purchased his first steel guitar and found it much easier to play with a slide on his hand. However, he was still frustrated. The music in his head could simply not be expressed with a single slide. Mike began hearing about Brian Cober, a local blues musician who had perfected a double slide system which allowed two slides to be used in any style of music, as well as the ability to form complex chords. Mike went down to Toronto's oldest Blues bar, Grossmans Tavern, and saw Brian play. It immediately changed his life and he was so impressed that he eventually approached Brian to teach him this system.

Shaky Trill. Shakey was a nickname given to guitarist/vocalist Mike MacDonald because of his extremely jittery hands. Harmonica player/vocalist Tyler Pantlin can't get enough of playing the "Trill" - it is the sound of two notes being played rapidly back and forth. In January 2019 the duo participated at the 35th International Blues Challenge in Memphis Tennessee representing the Bruce County Blues Society. The challenge was a week long event with performances up and down the famous Beale Street. They were part of the solo/duo category which included over 80 different acts from around the globe. Shakey Trill made it into the final top 8 spots which earned them the privilege to play at the historic Orpheum Theatre in Memphis. Currently the duo are in the process of recording their debut album.



A big THANK YOU to our judges, **Sarah Kim Turnbull** (Artistic Director of Markham Jazz Festival), **Diana Webley** (Harbourfront Centre Senior Producer), **Josh Grossman** (Toronto Jazz Festival Artistic Director), and **Kris Kane** (Southside Shuffle Festival Chair).



John Valenteyn and Derek Andrews at Harbourfront Centre 1998 (photo by Linda Turu). John Valenteyn speaking at Maple Blues Awards (photo by Mako Funasaka).

VALENTEYN TRIBUTES *cont'd from p5*

Sincere condolences Derek to you and your Blues Family. John led an amazing life and was a true Blues Brother to all and I will really miss our conversations, his radio shows and so much knowledge in his music reviews. He will be dearly missed by the Blues Community and I'm confident that the TBS will memorialize John with deep respect. Accept my heartfelt condolences and to all and healthy Thanksgiving. - *Bruce Hall, Grand River Blues Society.*

This is a very shocking news. I knew John had some health issues but I surely expected to see him again next time around in To as I did most every time. I will really miss meeting and reading my blues friend. - *Rene Moisan, Bros. Productions.*

Very sad news indeed - our condolences to his friends and family.... - *Dave Brennan, President Ottawa Blues Society.*

John Valenteyn always had a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his lips. He was a kind soul who had many good things to say about the Blues and the People. It would be respectful to memorialize him in some way at the MBAs, as someone who with great spirit, curated and nourished the Blues and its survival, especially right here in Canada. Wishing the best to all. - *Danny Marks, Musician / JAZZ.FM91*

John was for sure an inspiration to us all! This is sad news indeed. He had a long and productive life, though. - *Paul Norton, CFRO / CiTR.*

I am feeling punched in the gut to hear this news, despite the knowledge that it was possible, given his recent health

challenges. I can only surmise that he was still doing what he loved to do right up until he neared the end, and that is something we can all only hope for ourselves. What a kind and gentle soul he was. The last solid he did for me was to reach out and ask me for advanced access to my latest CD so that he could review it prior to his trip up north. The opposite of being ignored, from a musician's point of view. I'll always remember John, and I hope that Brenda and the rest of his family find comfort through our words. - *Lily Sazz, Musician / Cootes Paradise, TBS Musicians Advisory Council.*

It is a sad day for all of us here at CIUT. All of our staff had ongoing interaction with John each and every week. John was so dedicated to his radio show and could always be relied on to meet the commitment he made to us and his listeners for the past 10 years or so. John always arrived at the CIUT studios at least 2 hours prior to show time (that is one sign of a radio veteran). He was the consummate professional in every way. We will all miss him. - *Ken Stowar, Station Manager / Program Director, CIUT 89.5.*

I first met John in the mid 80's when I was trying to figure out how to promote my Saturday Afternoon Blues Matinee at The Black Swan. Someone told me about a blues radio show on CJRT (now JazzFM). It was mentioned that if I sent the host a notice he would mention our gig during his show and he did every week. John's show started at 2pm and ended at 3pm, our start time. We would play the Blues Hour through the sound system and when we heard his closing theme, Freddie King's

Funky London, we knew it was time for us to hit the bandstand.

Eventually I got to know John and once jokingly mentioned that he was The Kendall Wall Band's opening act every Saturday at the Swan. He came and did his show remotely from the club once and that was a big deal for the band.

His contribution to blues in Canada was big, founding member of The Toronto Blues Society, The Juno Blues Award Screening committee, The Maple Blues Award Nominating Panel, The TBS Board and his radio show that moved to CIUT, featuring all the new releases, Canadian and International. When his health was good he didn't miss many live blues shows.

I don't think John ever gave anyone a bad review in his Maple Blues column. He always accented the positive. It was more about letting people know who was releasing recordings and helping the artists get the exposure they needed.

We've lost someone important. My condolence to Brenda and all those who loved him. - *Gary Kendall, Musician / Blues Times Productions, TBS Musicians Advisory Council.*

It's so sad to hear this news of John's passing. I can only echo what's already been said: he was a gentle soul, a hip cat with a big heart, and he sure knew and loved the blues. My deepest condolences to his family. - *Sugar Brown, Musician / TBS Musicians Advisory Council*

There was never a greater Blues Booster than JV. - *Brian Blain/Musician / TBS Musicians Advisory Council*

Upcoming Live Performances

The MacKenzie Blues Band will be performing a live performance Thursday, October 8 from noon to 2pm. The concert will take place at Owen Sound Farmer's Market (88 8th St E., Owen Sound) as part of the Music at the Market series.

The Mighty Duck Blues Band (Dave Curry guitar/vocals, Canada Dave Torosian keyboards, Jim Casson drums, and Gary Kendall bass/vocals) is back with their Saturday afternoon music series at 2:30-6:30pm at Jo Blo's Rock & Wok in St. Catharines (155 St. Paul Crescent). Paul Reddick will be joining the band as the special guest on Saturday, October 10, Dan McKinnon October 17, Jake Chisholm on October 24, Carlos del Junco October 31, John Dickie November 7, Michael Schatte will be joining the band as the special guest on Saturday, November 14 and Dwayne Laforme November 21. Limited capacity. Call 289-990-1286 for reservations.

Celebrating the international release of their 50th anniversary live album, recorded at last year's Toronto Jazz Fest, **Downchild Blues Band** will be playing Empire Theatre in Belleville on Friday, October 16th at 8pm. Limited tickets will be sold to the actual live show, but you can also buy tickets for the live-stream at www.downchild.com.

Part of the new Toronto Symphony Orchestra series, TSO at the Drive-In: First Ladies of Soul will take place on Saturday, October 17 at the Cityview Drive-In (20 Polson St., Toronto) for an hour long tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Nina Simone, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston and more by sensational Canadian blues vocalist

Shakura S'Aida. Tickets are between \$80-\$200 per vehicle. More info at www.tso.ca.

Samantha Martin and Delta Sugar will be performing a live performance on Wednesday, October 21 from noon to 2pm. The concert will take place at Owen Sound Farmer's Market (88 8th St E., Owen Sound) as part of the Music at the Market series.

Canada's Great Kitchen party is happening for Toronto on Thursday, October 22 at 7:30pm as an online show featuring some of Canada's most iconic musicians including **Julian Taylor, Terra Lightfoot, Whitehorse** and more.

Samantha Martin Trio will be performing at The Cove Inn (Westport-ON) presented by Choose The Blues Productions and Blues on The Rideau, on Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24 at 7-10pm (dinner & show). Tickets are \$70+HST including meal, show, and door prizes. Proceeds go to the Ruby Gland Foundation. Advance RSVP required. Call the Cove at 613-273-3636. The show will also be broadcasted on the BOTR Youtube channel.

MonkeyJunk will be performing at Irene's Pub in Ottawa (885 Bank St) on Saturday, October 24th with two sets, one starting at 8pm, and the other at 10:15pm. Tickets are between \$85-\$169. Limited indoor socially distanced seating available by table.

The Kensington Market Jazz Festival will take place virtually this year between November 7-8 and the lineup includes blues-friendly names along with local heavy-weights like **Colleen Allen, Heather Luckhart, Jay Douglas, Shakura S'Aida, and Jackie Richardson**.

Lance Anderson will bring his critically acclaimed performance of "The Last Waltz - A



The TD Toronto Jazz Festival Streaming Concert Series presents **Sass Jordan** as part of Casa Loma Sessions. The pre-recorded performance will go live on Tuesday, October 27th at noon on Toronto Jazz Festival Facebook page and www.thestar.com. **Emily Burgess** plays an opening set

Musical Celebration of The BAND Live" show to Peter's Players in Gravenhurst-ON to celebrate the 44th Anniversary of the historic concert and film in 2020 on November 13 & 14 at 8pm. This is a 28 seat, socially distanced concert with one set only (no intermission).

HOROJO Trio featuring Jamie Holmes (drums), Jeff Rogers (keyboards & vocals), and JW-Jones (guitar & vocals) will be performing at The Cove Inn (Westport-ON) presented by Choose The Blues Productions and Blues on The Rideau, on Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14 at 7-10pm (dinner & show). Tickets are \$70+HST including meal, show, and door prizes. Proceeds go to the Westport Food Bank. Advance RSVP required. Call the Cove at 613-273-3636. The show will also be broadcasted on the BOTR Youtube channel.



CORONA BLUES

A Mental Health and Wellness Workshop
Mon, Oct 19 | 7pm-8:30pm

Speakers: Dan McKinnon, Dawn Tyler Watson, Dr. John Chong, Sarah Hagerman, Sean Pinchin

Moderated by Pam Beatson





Save the Moonshine: The Moonshine Cafe in Oakville is an excellent venue for live music, and deserves some extra support during these tough times. Check out their GoFundMe campaign. We need live music venues to survive, run by people who love music and support musicians.

Steve Strongman joins Linus: Linus Entertainment will be representing Steve's music publishing catalog, and the distribution of his sound recording catalog, as well as future recordings and songwriting. A new album is in the works and will be released alongside his back catalog on the Linus affiliated Stony Plain Records.

Advance: Canada's Black Music Business Collective has established a \$2M partnership with the City of Toronto and Slaight Family Foundation that will help fund initiatives, projects, and research over the next four years. Partnered with Canada's Independent Music Association (CIMA) for their 'Breaking Down Racial Barriers' Zoom series, which continues to run every Tuesday and will do so for another two weeks. All episodes can also be revisited on CIMA's Facebook page. Advance and Music Canada have established a three-year partnership in that includes direct financial support from Music Canada, as well as their commitment to "contribute professional services to help achieve tangible reform in the music business landscape, particularly in the corporate, private, and government sectors" through initiatives and infrastructural change. For more info visit www.advancemusic.org

Congratulations to Patricia Wilson Aden on her appointment as President & CEO of the Blues Foundation. With a specialization in the preservation and celebration of African American cultural resources, Aden's most recent experiences were being the President & CEO of the African American Museum in Philadelphia as well as the Executive Director of the Rhythm & Blues Foundation. Aden will join the Foundation's staff on October 1, 2020, and will succeed Barbara Newman, who will begin her retirement September 30th.



(L to R) TBS VP **Lucie Dufault**, Talent Search winner **Mike Nagoda** and TBS Pres. **Derek Andrews** at the socially distanced Talent Search Finals at Bar Twelve 16. Josh Ritchie was the first runner-up, and Madison Galloway the second runner-up. See info on all the finalists on page 4.

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TRIBUTE

1. ARE YOU READY?
2. ON THE MONEY
3. LET'S DO IT
4. THAT'S HOW WE MAKE LOVE
5. COMING UP
6. SUPERNATURAL
7. SHAKE WHAT YOUR MAMA GAVE YOU
8. YOU TURNED MY WORLD TO BLUE
9. JUST FOR THE FUNK
10. IF MY BABY LEFT ME
11. KEEP THE FIRE BURNING
12. FOREVER

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ARE YOU READY?

The Mississippi Sessions

Release to Press/Media - September 28, 2020 Radio Play November 1 USA/CA/EU/AU.
Radio Promotions - Michelle Castiglia & Rick Lusher macradiopromo@gmail.com
Digital/Media: Caitlin Julie caitlinjulie@gmail.com Artwork/Design: Debi Brooks

What They Are Saying?

"Prolific lyrics, stark imagery contrasting the times we're living in; a real gut punch of truth with a message of hope for healing a troubled society." Tom Easley: Producer
AVA Entertainment

"I was honored to be a part of this project and hope everyone loves the magic we all made together. It was certainly God ordained." Greg Martin: Kentucky Headhunters

"This entire album shines and will surely find a highly receptive audience in these troubled times." Claude Hill: Grammy Winning Pro-Audio Engineer, Studio Design and Consulting

"Danny Brooks and Lil Miss Debi's 'Mississippi Sessions' is as authentic as it gets. Real music that speaks soul to soul!" Kyle Lehning: Producer/Bandy Travis

*Jamaica Sun: "Great R&B soulful feel, Love it", "Where Will You Stand", "Awesome song and message, Very Springsteen'ish, Love it!", "Jesus Had The Blues: 'What a great project this is. Reminds me of Delbert. Great soul here that people need to hear.' Dann Rogers His songs have been covered by Johnny Cash, Prince, and Lionel Richie to name a few.

"You hit this one out of the park. Loved every song!" Bill Johnson//Mastering
Sound/Austin TX

Thank you for supporting Danny Brooks & Lil Miss Debi

Watch for upcoming tour dates to be announced!

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www.dannybrooksmusic.com



Maple Blues Awards Going Virtual in 2021

The 24th Annual Maple Blues Awards is going virtual on its next edition which will take place in February, 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.

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.

Online voting is open from November 2nd, 2020 at 12:01 am Eastern Time, through December 1st, 2020 at 11:59 pm Eastern Time.

www.mapleblues.ca



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Illustration by Nathaniel Mesner

Guest Reviewer: **Brad Wheeler**,
music writer for the *Globe and Mail*



Miss Emily Live at the Isabel Independent

Suddenly Miss Emily (Kingston's Emily Fennell) is a veteran on the scene. When did that happen? She has sung her heart out, loud, for years, and yet she has snuck up on us.

Perhaps her potent new album, recorded at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts in her Kingston hometown, will turn some heads. The record more or less demands it. Miss Emily even wrote a letter. Does Canada's public broadcaster take requests?

"Dear CBC, won't you please, play my music on your stations 2 and 3," she pleads on *Dear CBC*, one of the three previously unreleased originals of hers on the album. On the song, "rotation" is rhymed with "frustration." She announces that her bar-band days of singing Creedence are behind her. But don't take her word for it – just listen to the record.

On it she reveals her enthusiasm for spry vintage soul-rock of the Solomon Burke kind, with *Cry to Me*. She has a knack for turning an iconic song (the Tragically Hip's *Long Time Running*) into something all her own. She's got a voice on her: Big velvet thunder.

Gospel influences are apparent. Pianos and horns happen.. Members of the Tragically Hip guest. Fans of Kelly Hunt will find a lot to like here.

The convincing ballad *Three Words* would make Adele and Etta James cry. Miss Emily doesn't spell out what the three words are. She doesn't have to. She shouldn't have to.



Danny Brooks & Lil Miss Debi *Are You Ready? – The Mississippi Sessions* AVA Entertainment

Danny Brooks opens up his new record the same way Jack de Keyser does, with a song called *Are You Ready*. Brooks' doesn't end in a question mark. Must be rhetorical. With road gravel in his epiglottis and promise in his heart, Brooks sings "Are you ready to have a good time of-down home Southern soul?" Sure, why not.

As the album title indicates, the tracks – 20 of them in all – were recorded in Mississippi, outside Jackson. Brooks and Lil Miss Debi (no relation to Miss Emily) identify as Texanadians. One imagines that gets them into all sorts of trouble when they have have to deal with immigration officials at the border.

If you haven't guessed by now, this is a Southern record. We have swamp Americana, harmonica-heavy Delta blues, Alabama riff rock and an album-ending New Orleans dirge that gets Tom Waits's attention.

I like the warmth of *Jamaica Sun* – like a Rasta Bob Seger. Less successful is a cover of John Prine's *Angel from Montgomery*. Let's just say Bonnie Raitt won't feel threatened by Lil Miss Debi's voice.

As always with Brooks, there's a spirituality at work, with road-weary songs about perseverance and journeys travelled: *One More Mile*, *Climb That Mountain* and the slide-driven *No Easy Way Out* (with a snippet of the spiritual *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*).

It's a road record mostly. As in load up the Winnebago, mother, we're ready.

Bill Bourne *A Love Fandango* Twelve Point Records

I'd like to say the Edmontonian Bill Bourne sounds like he has a hell hound on his trail, but he deserves better than a

blues cliché. Still, he sounds like he has a hell hound on his trail.

Released in September, *A Love Fandango* has a lovely autumnal feel, like a soundtrack to a wheat-field film starring Lucinda Williams. Bourne plays banjo, dulcimer and four or five varieties of guitar – I lost count. You don't need me to tell you that he's accomplished on all those stringed things. He could probably play a bean if he had to.



But what stands out on here is Bourne's voice. There's world-weariness to it. He's lived. You believe him when he sings *Love Never Cost a Dime*. You believe him when he proposes that love makes him feel alright, that it turns darkness into light, that it makes us want to dance and that it isn't all wild romance.

Then he sings about something that cost \$40. Maybe he's talking about his first guitar? Could be, but even if he isn't, I believe the song equates love with music – that it's all the same and it's all free.

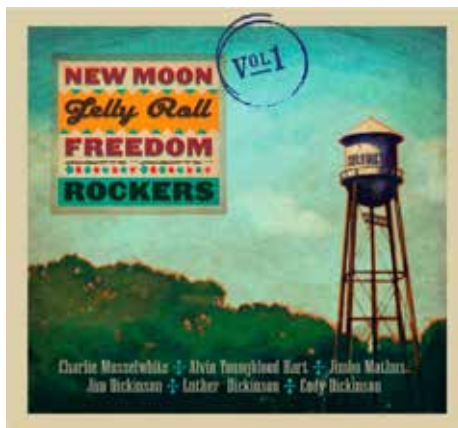
Bourne closes the album with the cozy *Hunker Down*, about taking care of yourself. It's for all seasons. "Hunker down, play guitar, sing along," he advises. "Stay warm, like you are." Same to him.

New Moon Jelly Roll Freedom Rockers Volume 1 Stony Plain

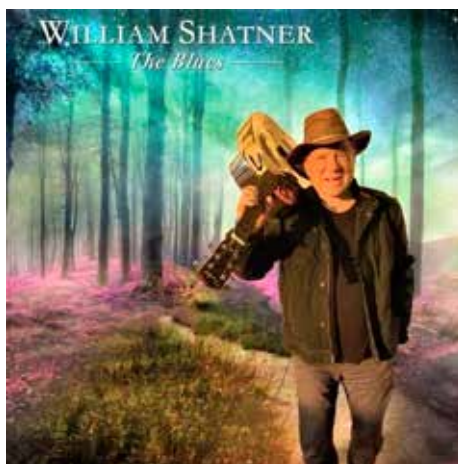
The best news I heard all month was that singer-harpist Charlie Musselwhite, singer-songwriter Alvin Youngblood Hart, Squirrel Nut Zipper founder Jimbo Mathus, and drummer Cody Dickinson and guitarist Luther Dickinson of the North Mississippi Allstars and their late father Jim Dickinson had made a record together in 2007. The second best news was that the album is finally seeing the light of day, on the Alberta roots label Stony Plain. The third best news was that it's called *Volume 1*. More to come, then.

Part one is professional fun, ragged as you'd want it be but not a bit more. Musselwhite revives *Strange*

Land from his debut album *Stand Back!* from 1967, but he's in familiar territory. He blows harp on the Hendrix anti-authoritarian classic *Stone Free* like he's a man a third his age.



Stand-out tracks include a cover of Canned Heat's *Let's Work Together* that tumbles and rolls, with Jim Dickinson on vocals. That's him on the boozy take of *Come on Down to My House* too. "Let somebody else play," he says at one point. A fiddle solo emerges, and then a twinkling mandolin. Everybody gets a nip at the jug here.



William Shatner The Blues Cleopatra

Stratford festival, Star Trek and now *Smokestack Lightnin'*. Is there nothing William Shatner will not try? With an all-star cast of guitarists including Albert Lee, Brad Paisley, Steve Cropper, Ritchie Blackmore, Sonny Landreth, Jeff "Skunk" Baxter and Pat Travers, the shame-free Montreal-born thespian butchers blues standards with gusto and cartoonish hysteria. There are some places one needn't boldly go, and this album is one of them.

– Brad Wheeler



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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
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Friday 1-2pm



At The Crossroads w/ **Brant Zwicker**
<http://atcblues.ca> and syndicated on
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CKWR (98.5 FM)
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Saturday 12:30pm - 2:00pm (Kitchener)
www.ckwr.com



CIOI FM (101.5 The HAWK)
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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**
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CJLX (91.3 FM)
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CFMU (99.3 FM)
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Swear to Tell the Truth: the Blues and Rhythm Show, with
C.M.Compton. Tuesday 1-2:30pm (Hamilton)

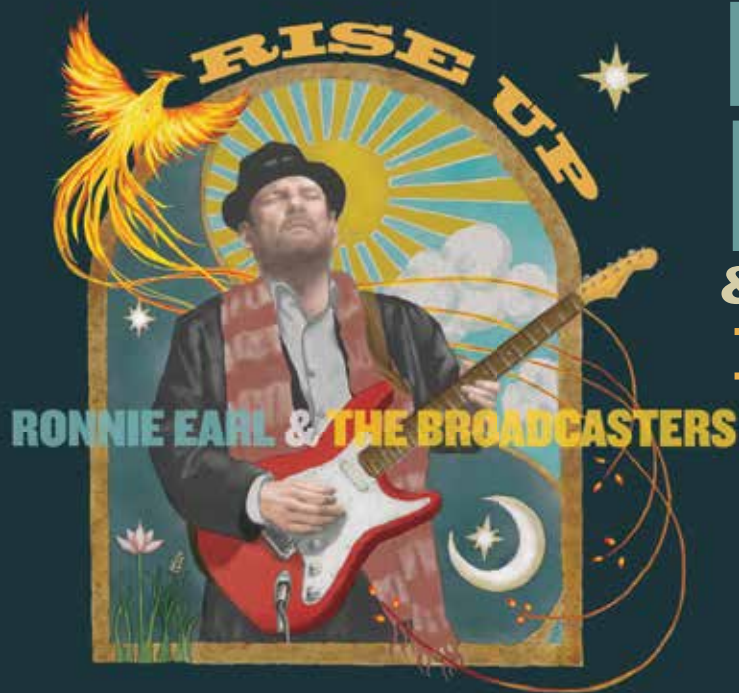
CFRU (93.3 FM)
The Thrill is Back with **Andy and Andrew** Mondays 1 to 3pm
The Blues Review, with **Roopen Majithia** Tues 9:00 pm (Guelph)

CANOE FM (100.9 FM) canoe.fm
Buckslide Blues Cruise with Patrick Monaghan Tues. (7-9pm)
(Haliburton)

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

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

CKMS (100.3 FM)
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