

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY MAPLE BLUES

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March 2021

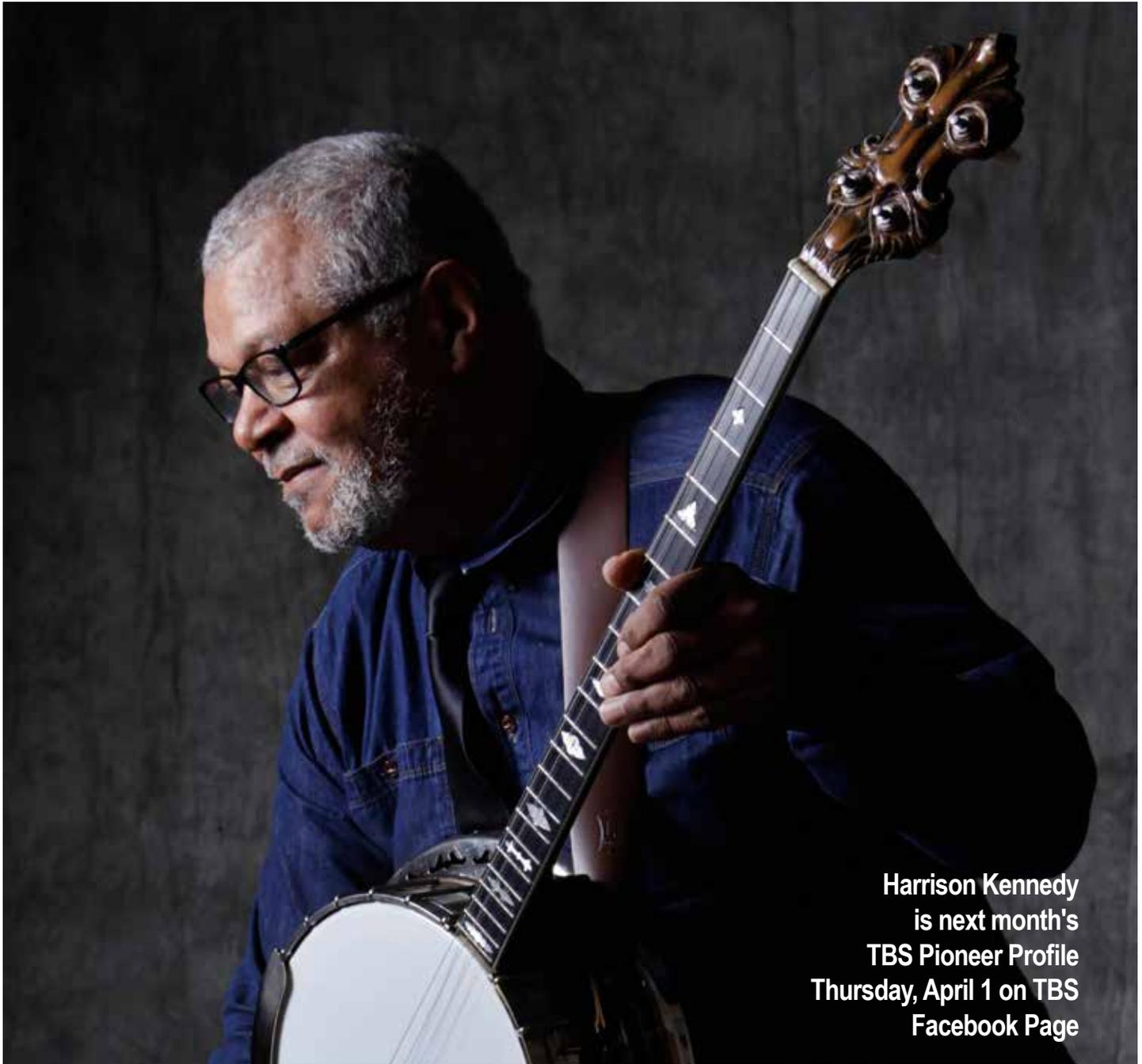
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**Harrison Kennedy
is next month's
TBS Pioneer Profile
Thursday, April 1 on TBS
Facebook Page**

**Maple Blues Award Winners
Harrison Kennedy
Loose Blues News**

**Blues Reviews
Top Blues
Blues Events**

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Halifax blues pioneer **Joe Murphy** relaxes with his brand new Maple Blues "Blues With A Feeling" award. This year there was a tie for the BWAf and Ken Whiteley was also honoured.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, March 18 | 8pm-9pm (EST)

Pioneer Profile Series: Cindy McLeod interviewed by Holger Petersen

Sunday, March 28 | 4pm (EST)

Talkin' Blues: Digging into Mako Funasaka's Archives
featuring Mel Brown, Eddie Clearwater & Jeff Healey

Thursday, April 1 | 8pm-9pm (EST)

Pioneer Profile Series: Harrison Kennedy interviewed by Julian Taylor

Sunday April 4, 11, 18 & 25 | 2pm Skills Development Workshop w/Quammie Williams

Sunday, 25 April | 4pm

From the Archives: Jodie Drake Tribute from 1995 Toronto Jazz Festival

May (Dates TBD) Live Streaming Bootcamp w/Guillermo Subauste - 4 sessions in May

Thursday, May 6th | 8pm-9pm (EST)

Pioneer Profile Series: **Jay Douglas**

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Watch TBS website and socials for a special acceptance video of MBA winners! The four awards webcasts reached approx 12.5K views! Thanks to all who joined us live!

The Toronto Blues Society broke up this year's celebrations into four virtual award ceremonies hosted throughout February from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver.

Dawn Tyler Watson was named entertainer of the year, taking home one of the biggest awards. The Montreal-based singer's latest honour arrived after she won the Juno Award for blues album of the year in 2020 for her album *Mad Love*.

Singer-songwriter and guitarist Matt Andersen was named both acoustic act of the year and male vocalist of the year. The Juno nominee from Perth-Andover, N.B., was celebrated for his latest album *Halfway Home By Morning*.

The Smoke Wagon Blues Band from Hamilton, Ont., was another two-time winner, earning trophies for new artist of the year and recording/producer of the year for their album *Ballad of Albert Johnson* with producer Steve Sherman.

Toronto blues veteran Jack de Keyzer led this year's list with five nominations (along with two others for members of his band), and ultimately took home one award for electric act of the year.

The Blues with a Feeling Award for lifetime achievement went to Canadian roots legend Ken Whiteley and East Coast blues fixture Joe Murphy.

Here are all the 2021 nominees for the Maple Blues Awards, with the winners in bold.

Entertainer of the Year

Dawn Tyler Watson
Downchild
Jack de Keyzer
JW-Jones
Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar

Electric Act of the Year

Dawn Tyler Watson & Ben Racine Band
Jack de Keyzer
JW-Jones
Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar
Sue Foley

Acoustic Act of the Year

Harrison Kennedy
Matt Andersen
Michael Jerome Brown
Rick Fines

Male Vocalist of the Year

Chuck Jackson
Harrison Kennedy
Jack de Keyzer
Jim Byrnes
Matt Andersen

Female Vocalist of the Year

Angel Forrest
Crystal Shawanda
Dawn Tyler Watson
Dione Taylor
Samantha Martin

New Artist of the Year

Dione Taylor
HOROJO Trio (Holmes, Rogers, Jones)
Liam Docherty
Matt Weidenger
Smoke Wagon Blues Band

Recording/Producer of the Year

Crystal Shawanda – *Church House Blues* (Dewayne Strobel)
Durham County Poets – *Hand Me Down Blues* (Bill Garrett)
Jack de Keyzer – *Tribute* (Jack de Keyzer)
JW-Jones – *Sonic Departures* (Eric Eggleston)
Smoke Wagon Blues Band – Ballad of Albert Johnson (Steve Sherman)

B.B. King International Artist of the Year

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
Ghost Town Blues Band
Larkin Poe
Rick Estrin & The Nightcats
Victor Wainwright

Songwriter of the Year

Colin Linden
Crystal Shawanda/Dewayne Strobel
Dione Taylor
Kevin Harvey (Durham County Poets)
Paul Reddick
Garrett Mason
Jack de Keyzer
JW-Jones
Sue Foley
Tony D (MonkeyJunk)

Harmonica Player of the Year

Guy Bélanger
Harpdog Brown
Paul Reddick
Roly Platt
Steve Marriner

Piano/Keyboard of the Year

David Vest
Duane Blackburn
Jesse O'Brien
Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne
Michael Kaeshammer

Horn Player of the Year

Jerry Cook (Harpdog Brown)
Mark LeClerc (Fuel Junkie)
Gordon Aeichele (Smoke Wagon Blues Band)
Richard Thornton (Jack de Keyzer Band)
Mat "Moose" Mousseau (Ben Racine Band)

Drummer of the Year

Cory Blackburn
Dani Nash (Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar)
Gary Craig (Colin Linden, Steve Dawson)
Lindsay Beaver
Matt Sobb (MonkeyJunk)

Bassist of the Year

Alan Duffy (Jack de Keyzer)
Alec Fraser
Gary Kendall
John Dymond (Steve Dawson, Big Dave McLean)
Keith Picot

Blues With a Feeling Award (Lifetime Achievement Award)

Alec Fraser
Brent Parkin
Danny Brooks
Joe Murphy
Ken Whiteley
Michael Fonfara
Tom Lavin



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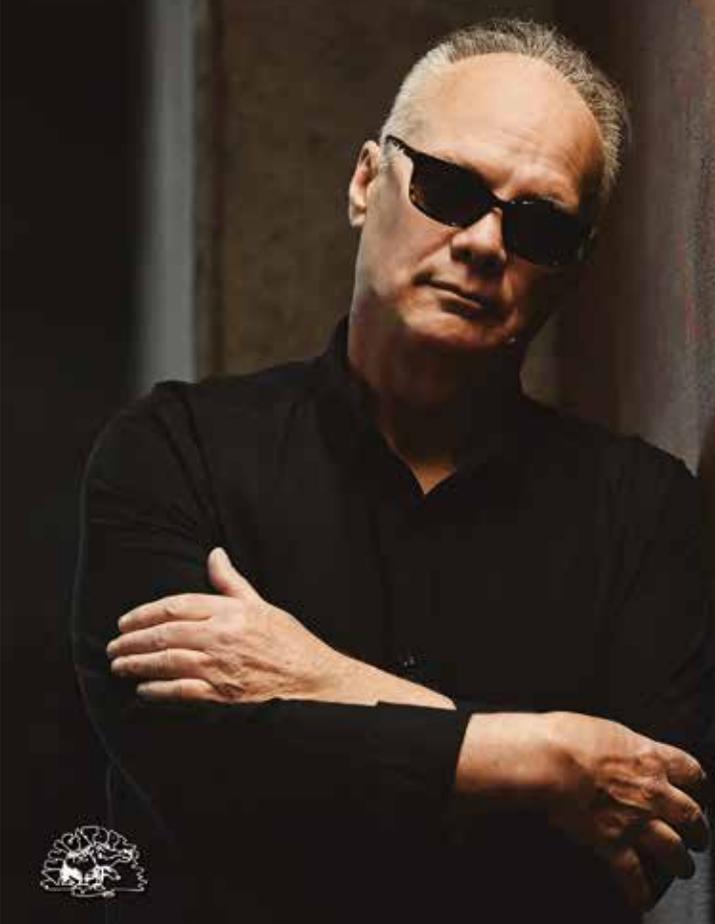
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Harrison Kennedy

How does an artist who has been active on the music scene since the 1960s stay inspired?

The question begs answers, creates a pensive thought, and can be quenched by this edition's Notes & Quotes feature, singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Harrison Kennedy. Through thoughtful conversation, Kennedy delves into the reasons behind his ability to stay inspired, gives advice to aspiring artists, and what is currently happening with his musical endeavours.

Rightfully labeled as a "Modern Blues Master," Harrison Kennedy has performed with many Greats such as B.B. King, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, and Smokey Robinson – to name a few. He has sold a million albums commercially, brushed elbows with the Beatles, and is even pictured on a postage stamp. Many MapleBlues readers and Canadian Blues fans alike are already acquainted with the JUNO Award winning (Blues Album of The Year, 7 times nominated), multiple Maple Blues nominated (13 was last count), countless award-winning Harrison Kennedy.

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, he has always left the GTA with a sense of pride that hails from close to home. From his time in Chairmen of The Board, where Kennedy served as one of the lead vocalists of the band while it reached its highest commercial successes, to his solo endeavours, his music has always impacted listeners and industry professionals, and he continues to thrive as an artist and entertainer today. For reference, Chairmen of The Board is a Canadian-Detroit based soul group that was formed in the 1960s and is still active to date.

As the conversation began, the most natural topic was about the unavoidable reality musicians are faced with today; the covid-19 pandemic. Interestingly, Harrison was in Paris, France last March, and told the story of how he was able to navigate his way back home to Canada. Like most artists, the landscape of performing live has been different, however, that hasn't stopped him from creating music. When asked what he

is doing currently, we discussed a project he's been working on with esteemed Hamilton based musician in his own right, Jesse O'Brien. They are in the midst of working on a full length all-original album. In speaking of the project, Harrison says:

"I've been working with Jesse O'Brien – I'm writing the songs, and he's been doing arrangements. We have about 30 songs right now, and once we've got all of the ones that are looking and sounding really strong, we will record. Every song on this one is going to be great. I'm looking forward to having an album by the end of the year."

With a biography and resume that could warrant a dedicated archivist, the conversation was pointed in a self-explanatory direction to anyone who is interested beyond the musical notation itself; Kennedy was asked how he remains an inspired artist after over 50 years on the scene. His remarks are rather profound, as he shares:

"I've always looked at entertaining as a way of making people happy...or to give them amnesia. Music has always been, to me, like eating – it is inherent. It's always been there, and I've always been mystified by people who react to music...I suppose we need it."

It also deserves mention that the discussion was peppered and laced with stories that showed the evidence of why performing and music is, in fact, rather inherent to Kennedy. Tales of how he grew up in a home of bootlegging (alcohol) and music explain that he was immersed in it from a young age. Often times, he would be called by his mother to sing and entertain guests who came over to enjoy a few drinks, and this is where he sang for the first time.

"I can remember, my mother would call me and say 'Harry, come on down here and sing that song'. I didn't know what song they wanted me to sing, so I just made it up, based on what I saw around me, and they loved it. They clapped and cheered, so that's really where I first started performing."

One thing that Harrison Kennedy nonchalantly mentions is that artists such as Billie Holiday, to name one, were among the guests he interacted with in his home. One might ask themselves why Harrison Kennedy entered a life of music and entertaining, but they would be more appropriate to ask questions if he didn't. Many may not be aware that Kennedy is a highly educated individual, with a university education in both English and chemistry – perhaps one could speculate that the two subjects lend themselves to his craft in the philosophical sense.

For many, Kennedy serves as an example of what it looks like to "make it". When asked what advice he would give to aspiring artists, he says:

"Don't try to be an aspiring artist – just do art. Gain experiences and just do you."

Of note, Harrison Kennedy is set to be a part of the Toronto Blues Society's Pioneer Profile Series interviewed by Julian Taylor on April 1st on the TBS Facebook Page.

For more information, visit www.torontobluesociety.com, or visit the Toronto Blues Society's YouTube Channel and other online platforms. The Pioneer Series is a special live interview series which profiles and interacts with notable artists who have impacted the music scene through their longstanding musicianship, contributions, and experience. The series started in September 2020, and has emerged as a must-see for artists and fans alike.

For more information on Harrison Kennedy, visit www.harrisonkenedy.ca

Erin McCallum

Singer, songwriter, instrumentalist

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Don't miss seeing the recently unearthed VHS footage of the TBS Tribute to **Jodie Drake** at the 1995 Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival. Sunday, April 25 at 4pm on TBS Facebook and YouTube

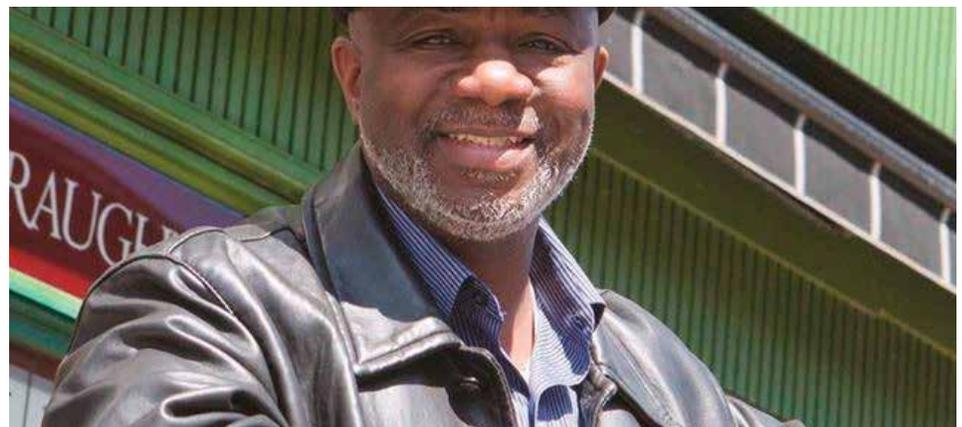


Juno Awards: Nominees for the 2021 JUNO Awards will be announced at 11 AM on Tuesday March 9. Winners will be revealed on the 50th Annual JUNO Awards Broadcast (CBC) on Sunday, May 16.

Songwriting Competition semi-finalists: Congratulations to Sunday Wilde who was recently listed as a semi-finalist in the International Songwriting Competition for two of her songs in the blues category ("Storm Is Raging" and "Love Bender"). She is the only Canadian with two songs in the semi-finals. Other Canadian blues contenders include Debra Power for "Takin' The High Road", Gary Kendall for "Take A Piece Of My Heart", Mark LeClerc (Fuel Junkie) for "Kiss In The Moonlight" and Victor Nesrallah for "Isolation Blues." Good luck in the Finals! More info at www.songwritingcompetition.com.

Cootes Paradise release single for kids of all ages: While the members of the band Cootes Paradise from Dundas, Ontario have not been in the same room together since

their last live performance in March 2020, they have been occupying their time in ways they can do safely and their latest venture is the release of a new single and accompanying video for children of all ages called "Little Evie"- a song based on a real little girl who lives in Chatham, Kent, U.K. She is the great-niece of Cootes Paradise bass player Ian Taylor and his wife Josephine, who co-wrote the lyrics. The song was written by Wayne Krawchuk, who was profoundly inspired by Evie's unwavering enthusiasm for all things Cootes Paradise. At one point, their self-described biggest fan Evie drew a picture of



Rudi Quammie Williams will be hosting a series of professional development workshops for the TBS on four consecutive Sundays in April (2PM EST on Facebook). Topics to be covered include "Grants, Gigs, and Getting It Done - Keys to Success," "Putting it out there - Disseminating the music and Building a community of support" and more.

the band, which was unanimously decided to be the perfect artwork to represent the song. Originally, "Little Evie" was intended as little more than a small gift to share with close friends and family, but the reaction has been so positive, that they've been encouraged to distribute it a little more widely so they created a video (https://youtu.be/Cq_00qf-bRU) and put a single up on Bandcamp (<https://cootesparadise.bandcamp.com/>)

Celebrating World Water Day: March 22 is World Water Day, and across the planet there will be many events to raise awareness to the water crisis including the release of the *United Nations World Water Development Report* recommending policy direction to decision makers. Locally, Brian Blain will do his part with his (2nd) Annual World Water Day streaming event on his Facebook Page to feature the "Water Song", the first single from his CD "I'm Not Fifty Anymore" which was first released last March but didn't get much attention due to the pandemic. Brian also released a moving video for the song which you can view on his YouTube channel.

In the Doghouse: Faced with travel restrictions, venue closures and other limitations due to the global pandemic, blues artist Harpdog Brown has been displaced from his touring life and is temporarily riding out the pandemic in Alberta. Harpdog and his team had planned to film more music videos for the 2019 release of *For Love & Money*. Unfortunately, those plans were thwarted along with all the tour cancellations. Now Harpdog has reunited with former bandmates from The Bloodhounds to create a 'Daryl's House' type program and invited some of the best blues players and media personalities in the country (and beyond). Upcoming episodes will feature John Nemeth (March 7), Holger Petersen (March 14) and Tim Williams (March 21). Check it out on Harpdog Brown's YouTube channel where all the shows are archived.



Guillermo Subauste's Stream Tune-up has been an invaluable service for performers to improve the quality of their livestream audio and video and he will be sharing his know-how in a series of workshops called "Live Streaming Bootcamp" throughout May. Watch for more details.

Fundraising for Blues Friends: Three-time Maple Blues Award-nominee Chris Antonik has just launched a crowdfunding campaign to help complete his highly anticipated, fourth studio album. The CD is being co-produced by Juno Award-winner Derek Downham and Chris Antonik himself, and is a progressive blues-rock record about the power of community. You will access a variety of perks, such as song writing journals, guitar lessons, or even become an Executive Sponsor of the record if you support the

campaign and purchase the record! Find him on indiegogo.com.

Another friend of the blues, legendary photographer John Rowlands needs support with daily living and with cataloguing his millions of unique images as national cultural heritage. He has suffered several strokes, which have weakened him, impaired his mobility, and at least for the time being cost him the use of one hand. As a result, he is more than ever in need of help. But today, because of Mr. Rowlands' fragile health the future of this unique Canadian cultural heritage is imperiled. His assets and merchandising manager, Sandra Mendez Rosenbaum, has begun a Facebook fundraiser for him and to draw the attention of the provincial and national governments, libraries and archives to Mr. Rowlands and his extraordinary legacy. John Rowlands is a national treasure, and his photographs are an irreplaceable treasure trove. To contribute, go to rocknrowlands.com and click on the guitar pick. You can also contribute via Facebook: [facebook.com/donate/736986177199992/](https://www.facebook.com/donate/736986177199992/)

No Blues at ECMA's? This is the time when we'd be congratulating the blues nominees in the East Coast Music Awards. Sadly, they eliminated the blues category due to lack of submissions. Hopefully, Maritime bluesicians will make sure there's enough submissions next year from the most musical corner in the country.



CBC Radio One (99.1)
Saturday Night Blues,
w/ **Holger Petersen** (national)
Saturday 9:05pm-11:00pm
(on Radio 2 Saturday at 6:05pm),



JAZZ-FM (91.1)
Bluz FM w/ **Danny Marks**
Saturday 7:00 pm-midnight



CIUT-FM (89.5)
A to Z Blues w/ **Screamin' Red**
Tuesday 6-7pm



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

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



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



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



CIWS 102.9FM (WhiStle Radio)
Whistle Bait w/**Gary Tate**
(aka Shakey-T) Wed, Thurs, Fri 11pm.
(Stouffville)



CFFF Trent Radio (92.7 FM)
Blues Themes, Delivered by..The Milkman
(**Blake Frazer**) Thursday 9 to 10:30 PM
(Peterborough)



CJLX (91.3 FM)
Saturday Night Blues Review, with **George Vaughan**.
Saturday 6-7pm (Belleville)

CFMU (99.3 FM)
Breakfast of Champions, with **Paul Panchezak**. Thurs 10am
Swear to Tell the Truth: the Blues and Rhythm Show, with
C.M.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
Buckle Up Blues Cruise with Patrick Monaghan Tues. (7-9pm)
(Haliburton)

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

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

CKMS (100.3 FM)
Poor Folk Blues w/ **Bruce Hall** (aka Brewski)
Monday 7:30-9 pm (Waterloo)

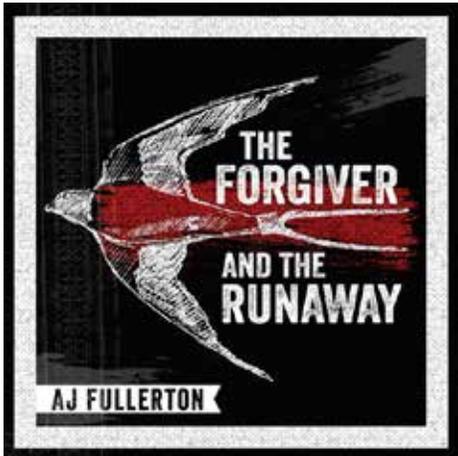
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- ***Danny Brooks & Lil Miss Debi** *Are You Ready? The Mississippi Sessions* HIS House
- ***Jack de Keyzer** *Tribute Blue Star*
- Grainne Duffy** *Voodoo Blues* independent
- Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters** *Rise Up* Stony Plain
- Early Times & the High Rollers** *The Corner* VizzTone
- Kirk Fletcher** *My Blues Pathway* Cleopatra
- Sonny Green** *Found! One Soul Singer* Little Village Foundation
- Martin Lang** *Bad Man* Random Chance
- Veronica Lewis** *You Ain't Unlucky* Blue Heart
- ***Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar** *The Reckless One* Gypsy Soul
- ***David Rotundo** *So Much Trouble* Dreams We Share
- Curtis Salgado** *Damage Control* Alligator
- ***Michael Schatte** *Conundrum* independent
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- ***Steve Strongman** *Tired of Talkin'* Stony Plain
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- ***Dione Taylor** *Spirits in the Water* Matay
- Ghalia Volt** *One Woman Band* Ruf
- Nora Jean Wallace** *Blues Woman* Severn
- Kim Wilson** *Take Me Back! The Bigtone Sessions* M.C.

*= Canadian



A.J. Fullerton *The Forgiver and the Runaway*

A gifted singer, guitarist and songwriter in his early twenties, A.J. Fullerton possesses a talent that belies his age. The Colorado native grew up steeped in blues, and since 2016 has won a remarkable sixteen awards from the Colorado Blues Society. In *The Forgiver and the Runaway* — his third album — he teams up with Canadian producer Steve Marriner — also a singer, composer, multi-instrumentalist and frontman for the band Monkeyjunk — and some stellar supporting musicians that include harmonica players Paul Reddick and Jake Friel.

Fullerton's vocals are warm, strong and sincere. His songwriting is first-rate. He wrote ten of the songs on this CD — the other two were contributed by Canada's prolific Colin Linden and harp player J.D. Taylor. Fullerton is an accomplished guitarist, adept at both fingerpicking and slide. But he's not a showy musician, sometimes choosing instead to accentuate a number with elegant guitar parts that are just right, never overdone.

Like an emanation from a southern church, the gospel-tinged "Remind Me Who I Am Again" kicks off the album deep in the groove with swelling organ, engaging drum patterns and Fullerton's discerning guitar. His expertise on bottleneck is centre stage in "Healing Takes Time," a captivating tune with a western slant. "Could've Been Mine" hints at Fullerton's rural roots in a song of heartfelt regret, coloured by harmonica and some masterful old-time piano. His guitar comes back to the fore in the upbeat "Slippin' Away," embellished with more excellent keyboards.

In a change of pace, "Say You'll Stay" features bass-heavy rhythm overlaid with distorted guitar and harp — reminiscent of

a scratchy 45 — that gives the number an appealing edge. A raunchy guitar sound accented with tasteful percussion animates the compelling title track, "The Forgiver and the Runaway." Then after the initial sustained resonance of Fullerton's guitar, the rhythm heats up in "I Cried," enhanced with fingerpicking and harmonica.

Catchy percussive guitar and a beefy groove provide the bedrock for "Wish You'd Tell Me" before Fullerton kicks into overdrive, his guitar soaring above it all. "Cherry Red" is augmented with gorgeous piano and Jake Friel's harp, enlivened with superb drumming. Fullerton picks up his slide again, expertly stinging and skimming through "Never Was," a rock 'n' roll song of regret.

The album concludes with two exquisite numbers, both showcasing Fullerton's poignant vocals and exceptional guitar work. The train-like rhythm that underpins "Homesick" perfectly enriches this song of loneliness on the road. There's a trace of rusticity here in Fullerton's bottleneck prowess. "Hooks in the Water" is a stunning country-blues duet of acoustic-guitar fingerpicking accompanied by harmonica. It's an atmospheric gem. His vocals are at their best here as he sings of his struggle to find direction.

The Forgiver and the Runaway is an impressive achievement, displaying Fullerton's breadth of skill and consummate artistry. A splendid musician, A.J. Fullerton is a talent to watch. (Sandra B. Tooze)



Curtis Salgado *Damage Control*
(Alligator Records)

The best — if not most intense — blues seem to originate from having endured real pain and suffering, helping to build an honest connection with others. While the 67-year old Washington native may hide it well, the colourful, soul-blues veteran with the big voice has come up on the other side of every

medical affliction the gods can throw at him — emerging more energized, if not stronger, than ever. This also accounts for the degree of authentic soul he injects into everything he does and, after a 4-year hiatus (if that's what you can call it), *Damage Control* adds a dozen originals and a cover of Larry Williams' rockin' "Slow Down", popularized by The Beatles. Salgado may account for the bulk of the boisterous firepower that drives this release, yet his choice of players doesn't hurt — an important ingredient to his rock-blues, -R&B-charged assault. Credit is shared with Kid Andersen (guitar), Jim Pugh (piano) and Mike Finnigan (organ) and a rotating cast, including guitarists, George Marinelli, David Gross and Johnny Lee Schell, piano ace Kevin McKendree and phenomenal backup vocals from She-Sounds-Like-Three-People, Karen Moten. Scan the baker's dozen song list and, while the titles may sound a mite morbid and depressing, many were likely penned somewhere between a liver and lung cancer diagnosis or a heart attack. Can you blame him? But the remarkable, not-so-secret factor behind the success of *Damage Control* is that Salgado remains undaunted by his challenges and, his sense of humour clearly intact, he delivers one of the strongest performances of his career. Having looked at life from both sides, he's gained a learned, positive perspective on life and spreads his dark-yet-jubilant joy across these largely self-penned confessionals.

Consider the hellfire explosion behind "The Longer That I Live" — as Finnigan and Andersen elevate their games to match Salgado's ferocity. Slowed down, "What Did Me In Did Me Well", has no less scorch, benefiting from the double caress of Finnigan's B3 and Pugh's piano, featuring Salgado's too-rare harmonica. An album highlight is the hard-hitting, honky-tonkin' "You're Going To Miss My Sorry Ass" — with Pugh's pulverizing piano joining uncredited B3 as the song's final minute slows things down to underline its passionate — and hilarious — conclusion. The show-stopper that follows is the disc's brightest moment: "Precious Time". Credit Marinelli's intoxicating slide guitar and Karen Moten's angelic wall of backup singing on this most serious observation, as Salgado unleashes his deepest hooks on a highly infectious song. Cue "Always Say I Love You (At The End Of Your Goodbyes)" as the smooth-soul, power-punch of Salgado's vocal joins Jackie Miclau's piano, Finnigan's B3 and Moten's rich backup vocal for a rich gospel statement of an important life lesson. The mood shifts with a N'awlins twist on a horn-laden "Hail Mighty Caesar", with an animated nod to the good Doctor while the equally funky, piano-driven "I Don't Do That No More" adds a tougher, Stones-ish guitar presence from Marinelli. Finnigan's beautiful piano intro to the comparably lazy, laidback title track

shifts gears again as Salgado ponders man's fate, with thoughtful guitar accompaniment from Johnny Lee Schell and Dave Gross as Jim Pugh levels on the B3. "Truth Be Told" adds fiery zydeco energy to the mix while

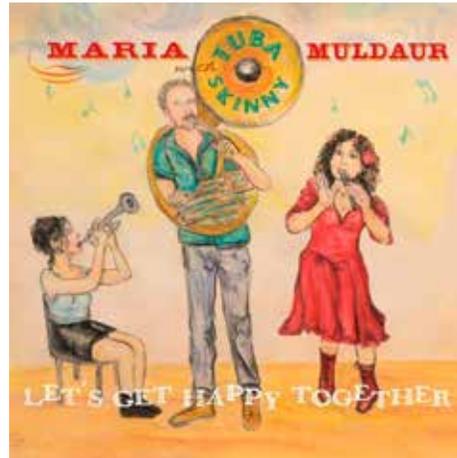
"The Fix Is In" gets serious in its tale of greed, set against Jerry Jemmott's playful bassline, Salgado's colourful harp and Kevin Hayes' spirited backbeat. "Slow Down" is simply a fun release – a rock'n'roll classic driven by McKendree's pounding keys as a 3-man barrage of saxophones elicits yet another of Salgado's best-ever vocals. It's also proof-positive that Salgado is no mere survivor. He is, instead, a beacon of man's ability to overcome adversity and transform it into something quite uplifting, if not spectacular. (Eric Thom)

Maria Muldaur with Tuba Skinny *Let's Get Happy Together* (Stony Plain)

With nearly sixty years in the biz and 42 albums released to date, Maria Muldaur has once again created a show stopper album, in which the veteran singer is perfectly paired with the youthful Tuba Skinny ensemble. *Let's Get Happy Together*, to be released on the Stony Plan Records label on May 7, 2021, once again reminds us of the greatness

that is Maria Muldaur, and her penchant for seeking the exact right musicians to bring her musical vision to life.

Maria's distinctive voice and inimitable style have always lent themselves to her songs of choice, those from the 20's and 30's that traverse jazz, blues, jug band,



bluegrass and ragtime. From working with Jim Kweskin, Geoff Muldaur and the Grateful Dead (among the many), to her long solo career, she's escaped the hit parade in favour of creating musical, incredibly dynamic recordings throughout. Although

she's been nominated a number of times for Grammy's, her work has never been mainstream, a personal choice that has never disappointed. The closest she came was with her iconic take on "Midnight At the Oasis", featuring legendary guitarist Amos Garrett on her self titled debut solo album, and her hit single, "I'm A Woman", from her *Waitress in a Donut Shop*.

In Tuba Skinny, Muldaur has found the perfect fit to bring this rare and delightful repertoire to life. Once a group of street performers in New Orleans, Tuba Skinny are now known around the globe, their joyful sound bringing traditional jazz to audiences of all ages, everywhere. They continue to perform on the streets of New Orleans, never forsaking their roots and the source of the music that makes them who they are. Deeply musical, accomplished performers all, Tuba Skinny brings us back to where it all began.

This album is a pleasing, relaxed format that showcases these golden gems of songs in a silky smooth performance from Maria Muldaur. The album title, *Let's Get Happy Together*, is exactly what one can expect from this outstanding recording. (Cindy McLeod)

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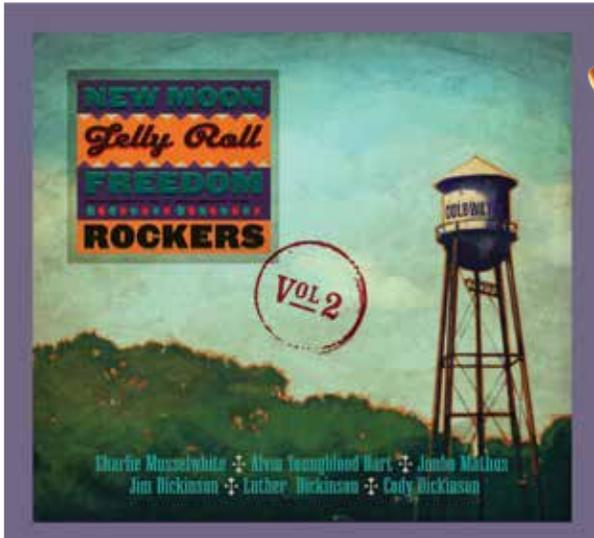
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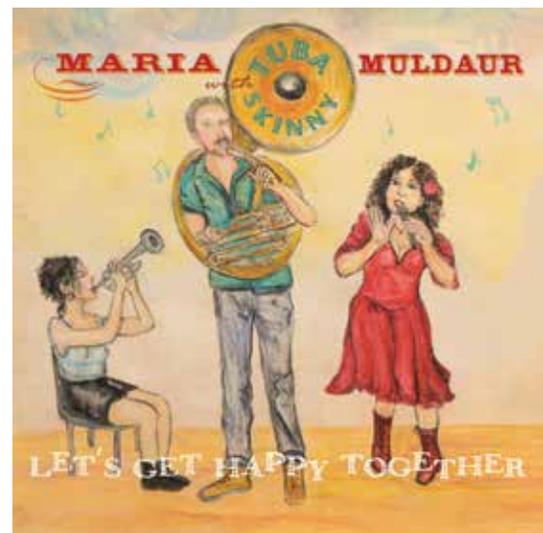


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