

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY MAPLEBLUES

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



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Sugar Brown brings his authentic blues to the TBS Blues Dance at the Redwood on June 1

Miss Emily Responds
Loose Blues News
CD Reviews

Top Blues
Live Blues
and more

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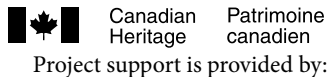
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The Toronto Blues Society acknowledges the annual support of the following agencies:



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 1, **TBS Birthday Party Blues Dance** with The Swingin' Blackjacks and Sugar Brown. Doors 6:30 Dance Lessons 6:45pm, 8pm Sugar Brown, 9pm The Swingin' Blackjacks \$15 (\$25 with Dance Lesson) TBS Members \$10 (\$20 with Dance Lesson) Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St E.

June 25, 3:30-5:30pm **TBS Talent Search** at Toronto Jazz Festival

June 26-August 21, Every Monday noon & 6pm **Blue Monday** at Union Station

February 9-12 **Blues Summit Eleven** Chelsea Hotel

February 12 **Maple Blues Awards**



The Toronto Blues Society Cultural Statement

The Toronto Blues Society wishes to acknowledge and thank the first creators of the blues who gave us all this beautiful music that we enjoy today.

African American musicians, singers, and songwriters created and used this music to sustain them through pain and hardship throughout their quest for freedom and equal rights.

The Toronto Blues Society is a Registered Charity

Make a donation beyond membership and merchandise, and get your charitable tax receipt in time for this year! (Charitable # 87487 7509 RR0001). You will be helping to support events like the annual Women's Blues Revue, The Blues in the Schools program, numerous workshops and career development activities for the musician community as well as the Maple Blues Awards and the Blues Summit conference, the most important blues industry gathering in Canada that occurs every other year. Networking events within this conference allow for industry discussion alongside artist discovery through the showcase program.

The Toronto Blues Society is a member of



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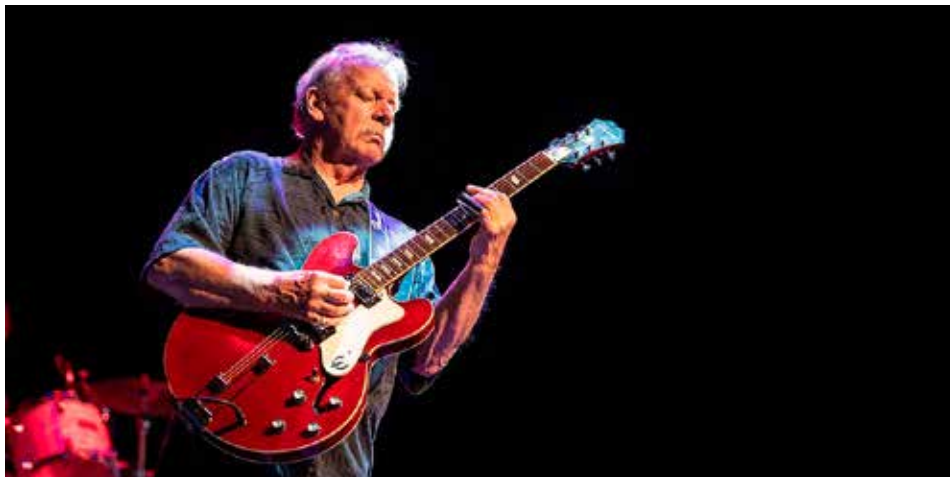
Radio News: CIUT has just opened a Podcasting Studio, a space to train University of Toronto students and community members in creating podcasts. This is the latest effort by the station to update and upgrade their facilities to support the changing demands in how people create and consume audio content. CIUT-FM is about to launch their own Podcast network with about 10+ programs, making everything available on-demand on your favorite podcasting platforms. The station has also launched a new "Music Committee" to help with the programming. The Music Committee will be a virtual group that will be sent music monthly for their consideration. More info at www.ciut.fm, where you can also contribute to their spring funding drive running from May 8th to May 14th. Support the radio station(s) who support the blues!

Mother's Day Congrats: Congratulations to Samantha Martin and Renan Yildizdogan on the birth of their new baby boy, Neko Heath Yildizdogan. Sam writes, "Neko (means Victory of the people) Heath (to honour my mom Heather Martin) and Yildizdogan which means star born (or star Falcon) in Turkish and is of course the love of my life's last name....May he live a long and healthy life, be kind to others and do good by everyone."

More Congrats: It seems like only yesterday that Andy Frank and David Newland handed over rootsmusic.ca to Heather Kitching but it's been five years and surely a labour of love to keep the roots community connected, with a healthy dose of blues news to remind everyone that blues is folk music. Hats off to Heather and all the volunteer contributors to rootsmusic.ca

On the Club Scene: The Cameron House, built in 1896 and a working hotel by the 1920's,

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Donnie Walsh is no stranger to awards and accolades, with his recent induction into the North Bay Musicians & Entertainers Hall of Recognition, his song "I've Got Everything I Need (Almost)" included in the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame and now this summer the Kitchener Blues Festival is presenting him with their Mel Brown Blues Award, awarded to individuals who have contributed to the festival and promoted blues as an art form. Downchild will close out the festival with a set at 4:30pm on Sunday, August 13



This month's recommended listening by Brant Zwicker, host/ executive producer of At the Crossroads syndicated blues radio. Website: atcblues.ca

- Mike Zito & Albert Castiglia *Blood Brothers* Gulf Coast Records
- *John Rutherford *Midnight Microphone* JRM Records
- The Cash Box Kings *Oscar's Motel* Alligator Records
- *Michael Jerome Browne *Gettin' Together* Borealis Records
- Joe Krown *Tribute* Sledgehammer Blues
- Boo Boo Davis *Boo Boo Boogaloo* Blue Lotus Recordings
- Bob Corritore & Friends *Women in Blues Showcase* VizzTone
- Mikey Junior *Blues in the Barn: Volume 1* 8th Train Records
- *Jerome Godboo *Golden Thread* independent
- Ana Popovic *Power* ArtisteXclusive Records
- *Tim Gibbons & the Swampbusters *Boogalator* independent
- Alabama Mike *Stuff I've Been Through* Little Village Foundation
- Skylar Rogers *Among the Insanity* Blue Heart Records
- Eastside Kings *Eastside Kings* Dialtone Records
- Deb Callahan *Backbone* Blue Pearl Records
- Rhythm Krewe *Unfinished Business* Rhombus Records
- Sister Lucille *Tell the World* Blue Heart Records
- Johnny Wheels & the Swamp Donkeys *Keep On Pushin'* Lightning in a Bottle Records
- The Nighthawks *Slant Six* VizzTone
- Ally Venable *Real Gone* Ruf Records

* = Canadian

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it has become an iconic Toronto music spot. Located in the historic & artistically rich Queen West area, local bands have been performing here since 1981. The Cameron have some great blues coming up in May with Paul Reddick Band on Friday, May 5 (10pm) the Fraser Melvin Blues Band on May 12. On May 13 Big Tobacco and the Pickers at 6pm and Garrett Mason at 9pm in the back room.

Sauce on the Danforth defines itself as a Victorian/Goth New Orleans inspired local bar. Easily accessible on the Danforth subway line, it is both intimate and fun. Great drinks and free live music most nights. There is no stage but a parlor style front room with an old piano in the corner. Think "kitchen party". Styles of music vary, but you can find Blues here. Julian Fauth, a staple at Sauce, plays every Tuesday (6:30pm). His barrel house Blues stylings are perfect for the piano in-the-parlor atmosphere that Sauce provides. He has received multiple Blues award nominations, both winning a Maple Blues Award & a Juno in 2008. His third solo album was named "Best Blues Album of the Year" in 2012 by CBC. Paul Reddick, or his alter-ego Zeke Pippin plays most Fridays (8:30pm). Many fine musicians show up on Tuesday to jam with Julian. If you have never experienced this "Kitchen Party in the Key of Blues" you really should check it out.

And Monday night at Sauce is bound to become a popular blues destination with the indefatigable Steve Marriner scheduled every Monday night (8pm) throughout the summer, though there will surely be the occasional sub for our globe-trotting blues sideman/frontman/bass/guitar/keyboards/harmonica wizard. He has won the Maple Blues Award for best harmonica player six times and best Male vocalist of the year in 2009. He saw the world touring with Colin James and Harry Manx and has played with some of the best of today's blues artists.

Blues in Kingston: How about a day full of Blues in Kingston as they celebrate the 15th year of a unique festival called the Home-Grown Live Music Festival. It is a one-day event, on May 6th, 2023. For the cost of a \$10 wristband, you can indulge in live local Blues at the historic waterfront R.C.H.A Club. Beginning at 2pm with the last show at 10pm, there will be 9 Blues bands featured. But that is not all. This festival celebrates multiple genres, everything from Singer-Songwriter, Folk & Roots, Indie, Jazz, Country, Youth & Emerging Artists, Ambient & Electronic, Alternative & Hard Rock... you name it. All proceeds are donated to the musician inspired Kingston non-profit called the Joe Chithalen Free Instrument Lending Library. For over 20 years this library has provided hundreds of instruments, amps & resources for free to anyone who has an interest in music.

This festival features local & live talent with more than 113 performances on 13 stages. The listings can be found on the Home-Grown Live Music Festival website.

Harpoonist & the Axe Murderer on screen: The National Music Centre will present "The Harpoonist & the Axe Murderer at the King Eddy" Concert and Film Screening on May 12 and 13. The blues duo will play the legendary venue where the live album was recorded on May 12, followed the next day by a Q&A and screening of the concert film at Studio Bell, where fans will get to see the electrifying concert film that was the culmination of the band's three-night residency in 2019. A live Q&A with the band will follow the screening.

In 2019, The Harpoonist & the Axe Murderer recorded a live-off-the-floor album at the Eddy using the adjacent Rolling Stones Mobile Studio, a marquee component of the National Music Centre recording collection. Germinating over three raucous nights, a rippin' live album and concert film of all the unfolding magic would result. The live album would also garner the band a 2023 JUNO Award nod and 2023 Western Canadian Music Award win for Blues Artist of the Year.

Donna Grantis tackling climate change: Famed music pioneer Brian Eno and Canadian guitarist Donna Grantis are collaborating on Grantis' newest creative

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project, *Culture vs Policy*, fusing the emotive power of music with thought-provoking dialogue about the climate and ecological crises. A live performance of the first song from her *Culture vs Policy* project, titled "A Drop In The Bucket," was filmed at the inaugural Canadian Music Climate Summit, presented by Music Declares Emergency. In the powerful video, Grantis' inspired and incendiary guitar playing is featured alongside the voice of Tzaporah Berman, Chair of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Throughout the performance, Grantis improvises a visceral soundscape in support of Tzaporah's words which highlight the urgency to stop the expansion of fossil fuels and manage a global, just transition away from oil, gas, and coal. Grantis wrote, "As a supporter of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, I was moved by Tzaporah's words from a recent podcast interview. She spoke about the continued extraction of fossil fuels; the resulting impacts on people and the planet; and ultimately, how change happens. I was inspired to compose 'A Drop In the Bucket' and highlight her message in hopes that it may evoke a feeling or spark an idea in someone, as it did with me."

Grantis completed the Climate Reality Leadership Corps Virtual Global Training led by former Vice President Al Gore. She was selected to join the first Creative Climate Leadership program in Canada hosted by Julie's Bicycle and the Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts. As an EarthPercent artist, an endorser of the Music Declares Emergency declaration, an advisor to The Jellyfish Project, and a roundtable member of SCALE/LeSAUT, she is passionate about harnessing the power of music to create transformative cultural change.

Another Robert Johnson biography: *Biography of a Phantom* has just been released by Smithsonian Books and it poses more questions than it answers about the already mysterious Blues legend Robert Johnson. Mack McCormick knew more about Robert Johnson than anyone and promised for years that he would publish a biography of the blues legend but it never happened until after his death and his archives were handed over to the Smithsonian museum who have just published an early draft that was left unfinished and unpublished at the time of McCormick's death.

"Mack allegedly had answers to all the open questions about Johnson. He had not only discovered the man who murdered the famous blues guitarist—but had even confronted the killer face to face. And that was just the start of what Mack knew about Robert Johnson and the Delta blues," writes Ted Gioia on his Substack blog, *The Honest Broker*. "Ever since it was announced a half

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CBC Radio (National)

Saturday Night Blues, w/ **Holger Petersen**

Saturday at 6:05pm + online at CBC Music
Listen on demand [HERE](#)



JAZZ-FM 91.1 (Toronto)

Bluz FM, w/ **Danny Marks**

Saturday 8:00 pm-midnight
Listen link at <https://jazzfm91.streamb.online/JAZZFM91-CJRT-FM-3681370880/stream-popup>



CIUT 89.5 FM - U of T (Toronto)

Calling All Blues, w/rotating hosts **Sugar Brown, Brooke Blackburn, and Blues Doctor Julie** (Saturday 12:00 Noon)

A to Z Blues, w/ **Screamin' Red** (Tuesday 8:00-9:00pm)
Listen link at <https://ciut.fm/>



CKWR 98.5 FM (Kitchener)

Old Chicago Blues, w/ **Willy A.**
Saturday 12:30pm - 2:00pm
Listen link www.ckwr.com



CJLX 91.3 FM - Loyalist College (Belleville)

Saturday Night Blues Review, w/ **George Vaughan**
Saturday 6-7pm
Listen at <https://91x.fm/>

WBFO 88.7FM (Buffalo)

The Blues on WBFO
Saturdays 7-11pm w/ **Pat Fedballe**
Sundays 7pm-Midnight w/ **Tommy 'Z'**
Listen at <https://www.wbfo.org/show/the-blues-on-wbfo>

CKCU 93.1FM - Carleton University (Ottawa)

Black and Blues, w/ **John Tackaberry**
Sunday 9-11pm
Listen at <https://cod.ckcufm.com/programs/38/info.html>

CFRU 93.3 FM - University of Guelph

Blues Around The Block, w/ **Mac Dee**
Monday 7-9:00 pm
Listen at <https://www.cfru.ca>

CKAR Hunter's Bay 88.7 FM (Muskoka)

Big Beat Bar-B-Cue Radio Show, w/ **Matt Allen**
Tuesday Midnight - 2:00am
Sundays 10am to 12 Noon
Listen at <https://muskokaradio.com/show/bigbeatbar-b-cue>

INDI 1015 FM (formerly Mohawk College station, Hamilton)

Blues Source Canada, w/ **Ken Wallis** (Tuesdays, 4-5pm)

Blues Source International (Tuesdays, 5-6pm)

Listen link at <https://indi1015.ca/>

Both of these shows also repeated on bluesandrootsradio.com

□ BSC re-airs Thursday at 8, Friday at 10pm, Saturday at 7.30pm, and Monday at 6am

□ BSI airs Friday at 6pm/Saturday 2pm/ Monday 4am ET



CFMU 99.3 FM - McMaster Campus (Hamilton)

Swear to tell the truth, w/ **Chris M. Compton**
Tuesday 10am

Listen at <https://cfmu.ca/shows/31-swear-to-tell-the-truth>



CANOE FM 100.9 FM (Haliburton)

Buckside Blues Cruise, w/ **Patrick Monaghan**
Tuesday 7-9pm

<https://canoefm.com/listen/ways-to-listen>

CFBU 103.7 FM - Brock University (St. Catharines)

Eclectic Blues, w/ **Deborah Cartmer**
Tuesday 7-9 pm

Listen at <https://www.cfbu.ca/>

COUNTYFM 99.3 (Picton)

Sideroads, w/ **Ben Parkin and Greg Hinde**
Tuesday 8-10pm

Listen at <https://993countyfm.ca/show/sideroads/>

Whistle FM 102.9 (Stouffville)

Whistle Bait w/ **Gary Tate aka Shakey-T**

Wed, Thurs, Fri at 11pm

Listen at <http://whistlefm.ca/popup-player>



CFMU 99.3 FM - McMaster Campus (Hamilton)

Breakfast of Champions, w/ **Paul Panchezak**
Thursday 10am

Listen at <https://cfmu.ca/>

CFFF 92.7 FM (Peterborough)

Blues Themes, delivered by "The Milkman" **Blake Frazer**

Thursday 9-10:30pm

Listen at <http://www.trentradio.ca/>



Ici Musique 90.3 FM (National)

Le Blues du terrien, with **Pierre Therrien**
Friday 8pm (replay Thurs 10pm)

Listen at <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/ohdio/musique/emissions/6005/lebluesduterrien>

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LOOSE BLUES NEWS *cont'd from p5*

century ago, this work has been eagerly anticipated by blues fans and music scholars—who hoped it would solve all the mysteries surrounding the most enigmatic figure in twentieth century American music. We heard crazy stories about him selling his soul to the devil, or showing up in unlikely cities under assumed names, or finally getting poisoned by a jealous husband who literally got away with murder in the racist South.”

McCormick’s literary executor, Mike Hall published an article in *Texas Monthly* and wrote “[Mack] said he was having serious doubts that the man whose trail he had discovered back in 1970—the Robert Johnson from Mississippi—was, in fact, the Robert Johnson who’d recorded those immortal songs in Texas. There was no proof, he said—no contracts, no letters...”

In fact McCormick researched 31 individuals named Robert Johnson, narrowing it down to 6 individuals. These theories do not appear in the newly published book because they chose to release an early draft of the biography, before Mack came up with all these conflicting stories late in life, some say as a result of an intense rivalry with other bluesologists and conflicts with Johnson family members, which resulted in the Smithsonian pulling out chapters that were based on information from Johnson’s sisters. You can hardly call this a “definitive” biography when the author admitted he made stuff up, but for Robert Johnson aficionados, it’s a must-read. *Biography of a Phantom* is available from Amazon and Audible.

- Brian Blain, Lynn Boucher

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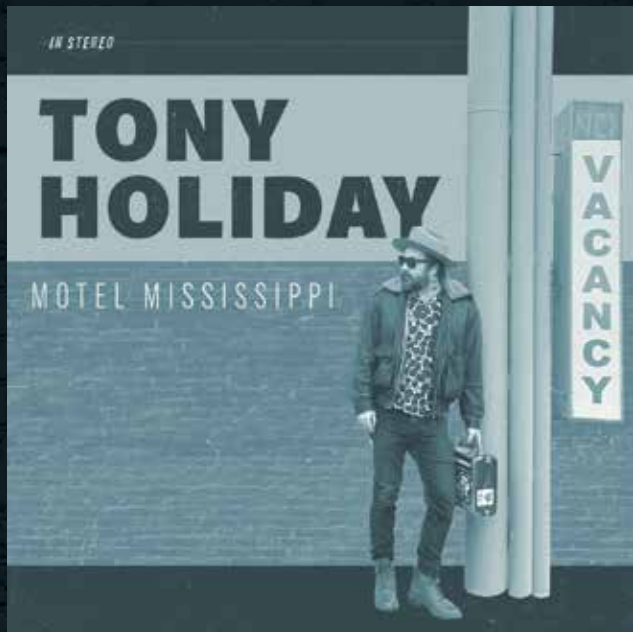
GLIDE MAGAZINE

TOUR DATES:

- 05/27/2023: Blues Blast. Thunder Bay
- 06/01/2023: The Ganaraska Hotel. Port Hope
- 06/02/2023: The Cameron House. Toronto
- 06/03/2023: Lion’s Head Tavern. Windsor
- 06/04/2023: Orangeville Jazz and Blues Festival. Orangeville



OUT NOW



Sam Morrow
Gettin' By On Gettin' Down



Sugaray Rayford
In Too Deep



Eric Corne
Happy Songs For The Apocalypse



John Mayall
Find A Way To Care



Sugaray Rayford
Somebody Save Me



John Mayall
The Sun Is Shining Down



Joe Louis Walker
Weight Of The World

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Here Come The Festivals

The Kitchener Blues Festival just announced their programme with highlights like Digging Roots and the Spin Doctors on Thursday Aug 10; Dawn Tyler Watson, Steve Strongman Band, David Gogo, Justin Saladino and the GRBS Blues Camp Kids on Friday, Aug. 11; Mr. Sipp, Samantha Fish, Thorbjorn Risager, MonkeyJunk, Spencer Mackenzie, McKenna/Moonah, Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar on Saturday, Aug. 12; Harrison Kennedy, Lyle Odjick, Slidewinder and Downchild on Sunday, Aug. 13...and much more. www.kitchenerbluesfestival.com

Also in Kitchener, the 2nd Annual Mel Brown Festival and Symposium (May 26-28). Though free, tickets must be reserved on their website. The event kicks off with a four-part Hip Hop workshop series for Black Youth led by Jon Corbin at Kitchener Public Library on May 4, 11, 18 and 24, 2023. The festival will feature performances by Faith Amour, Sean Jones, Varese Vassell Bowen, Douglas Watson, Ammoye Evans and a slew of emerging artists. www.melbrownfestival.ca

And heading into June, The Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival is presenting another highly anticipated multi-day event from June 2-4, 2023, in downtown Orangeville. It will feature 75 acts on 3 stages with several bands performing on Broadway and Mill Street plus live music being featured in participating local pubs and restaurants and other special events throughout the weekend. Featured artists include Rick Estrin & The Nightcats, Heather Katz, the Campfire Poets, Guy Belanger, Kenny Blues Boss Wayne, Sandra Bouza, Chris Antonik, Bywater Call, MonkeyJunk, Brandon Isaak, Jake Chisholm, Suzie Vinnick, JW-Jones and Shakura S'Aida, the Tony Holiday Band with special guest Steve Marriner, and Rob Lutes.

The Paisley Blues Festival (June 2-4) has some great blues with Morgan Davis, JW-Jones, Suzie Vinnick, Mackenzie Blues Band, Bywater Call, Alfie Smith, CJ Lee, Campbell & Johnson, Al Lerman, the Glenn Marais Band and Dawn Tyler Watson. www.paisleyrocks.com

Looking forward into the summer Blues content at the Ottawa Bluesfest, July 6-16 is overshadowed by names like Shania Twain, Weezer and the Foo Fighters but there will be some blues grooves provided by Son Little, John Németh, Southern Avenue, Digging Roots, Robert Plant & Alison Krauss, Lloyd Spiegel, HOROJO Trio, TJ Wheeler, Sugaray Rayford, Guy Belanger and Miss Emily. <https://ottawabluesfest.ca>



Countdown for the summer 2023 has started and Blues festivals from coast to coast started to reveal their exciting lineups! Save the date for these upcoming Blues festivals:

May

Smokestack Festival | May 26-May 27 | Hamilton ON
Mel Brown Music Festival and Symposium | May 26-28 | Kitchener ON

June

Paisley Blues Festival | June 2-4 | Paisley, ON
Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival | June 2-4 | Downtown Orangeville, ON
Pender Harbour Blues Festival | June 2-4 | Pender Harbour, BC
Beaumont Blues and Roots | June 16-17 | Beaumont, AB
Edmundston Blues Festival | June 15-17 | Edmundston, NB
Stratford Blues & Ribfest | June 16-18 | Stratford, ON
Toronto Jazz Festival | June 23-July 2 | Toronto, ON
Vancouver Jazz Festival | June 23-July 2 | Vancouver BC
Toronto BluesFest | June 24 | Toronto ON
Montreal Jazz Festival | June 29-July 8 | Montreal QC

July

Ottawa Bluesfest | July 6-16 | LeBreton Flats, Ottawa, ON
Tremblant International Blues Festival | July 12-16 | Mont-Tremblant, QC
Beaches International Jazz Festival | July 6-30 | Toronto, ON
Lighthouse Blues Festival | July 14-16 | Kincardine ON
Vancouver Island Musicfest | July 14-16 | Courtenay, BC
Festival Blues D'la Baie Petit-Rocher | July 27-29 | Petit-Rocher, NB

August

Donnacona Blues Festival | Aug 2-6 | Donnacona QC
Calgary Blues Festival | Aug 3-6 | Calgary AB
TD Kitchener Blues Festival | Aug 10-13 | Kitchener, ON
Live from the Rock Folk Festival | Aug 5-7 | Red Rock, ON
Nanaimo Blues Festival | Aug 10-13 | Nanaimo BC
Burnaby Blues & Roots Festival | Aug 12 | Burnaby BC
Salmon Arm Roots & Blues | Aug 17-20 | Salmon Arm BC
Edmonton Blues Festival | Aug 15-27 | Edmonton AB
Markham Jazz Festival | Aug 18-20 | Markham, ON
Limestone City Blues Festival | Aug 24-27 | Kingston, ON
Trois-Rivières en Blues Festival | Aug 24-27 | Trois Rivières, QC
North Bay Blues Festival | Aug 30 – Sept 3 | North Bay ON

September

West Coast Blues Festival | Sept 1-2 | Goderich, ON
Southside Shuffle Blues & Jazz Festival | Sept 8-10 | Port Credit, ON
Wasaga Beach Blues Festival | Sept 15-17 | Wasaga Beach, ON
Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival | Sept 12-17 | Fredricton NB

ALBUM REVIEWS



Michael Jerome Browne *Gettin' Together* Borealis

Michael Jerome Browne is the son of two university professors, so it's no wonder that his research into the blues is so deep. On this latest release, *Gettin' Together*, he has curated 14 songs from more obscure blues artists of the past century such as William Bunch and Bayless Rose, as well as the more familiar artists like John Hurt and Booker White.

Browne, who was born in Indiana and raised in Montreal, has been playing acoustic blues for over 40 years, starting as a teenager and getting right into the fingerpicking style which has become more powerful and intricate over the years. Playing the blues for so long has given him a great respect for the genre and the African Americans who created it under conditions of hardship. As he says in the liner notes: "I do not own it. I am merely borrowing it and I try to be true to its origins." It's no wonder he has been nominated no less than 35 times for Maple Blues awards, as well as for Juno and Canadian Folk Music awards.

After the three-year Covid hiatus, Browne got together mainly for duets with his favourite artists, some of whom have been a big influence on his art. Happy Traum wrote the instruction book from which he first learned fingerpicking blues. Harrison Kennedy took harmonica lessons from Sonny Terry. Browne learned table-spoonfuls from backing up and touring with Eric Bibb. And, of course, John Sebastian has a half-century of playing and influencing roots music.

One thing that strikes me about this album is the variety of the grooves and feel in country blues. Yes, it's mainly three chords, but there are so many ways of telling the truth. Booker White's *Shake 'em on Down* has a pulsating drive without a conventional rhythm section through the interplay of two guitars. Harold Holiday's *Married Man Blues* is almost funereal, mourning that the woman he loves is

married. *Diamond Joe*, with fiddle and gourd banjo, has an old-time feel, which says a lot about the origins of traditional Appalachian music.

Browne does some of his best work teamed up with Mary Flower, one of the greatest contemporary acoustic blues guitarists. The interplay between her picking and Browne's on *Coffee Blues*, backed by Sebastian's harmonica, makes this a standout. Flower's lap slide guitar on a slowed down instrumental version of *I've Got Those Big River Blues*, which became a standard in Doc Watson's hands, is downright incendiary.

Browne's vocal interpretations are warm, weathered and honest, and the guy is a virtuoso on all kinds of guitars (six-string, twelve-string and tenor) in lots of tunings as well as six-string and gourd banjo. This album is well one great dive into the blue, and that's the truth. (Mike Sadava)



Eric Bibb *Ridin'*

Eric Bibb's immense musical talents, his fierce and focused dedication to musical forms largely steeped in the blues and folk traditions, have long been coupled with his magnificent, immediately identifiable voice that is one of the most penetrating instruments of our time.

Bibb's voice is one of authority, sensitivity, conviction, and understated power, while the songs he sings, no matter the source, have left many a listener moved, enlightened, educated and inspired thanks to a discography that is now closing in on some three dozen releases.

With his latest album *Ridin'*, Bibb frames a number of civil rights related stories into one offering. The timing of this release couldn't be better, as *Ridin'* is a musical rallying point that acts as a reminder of what the black North American population has dealt with for countless generations. It also comes at a time when forces of racism and hate gather at a place that now appears to be much closer than the horizon.

It is no easy feat to combine fifteen

pieces of music that pinpoint specific and horrific tales of injustice, with those that tackle overarching themes of struggle and resistance, and come out the other side with a such a complete piece of work that is charged with indignation and determination, yet is musically riveting throughout the entire ride.

The multiple combinations of instrumentation and vocal arrangements are a reminder of what a deep well Bibb draws from, and what makes him such a distinctive artist when he gets into his brand of musical alchemy. Then there's variety of grooves, all of them consistently deep trenches, many of which co-exist with wonderful melodies. Each piece has its own firm setting but all of the offerings roll together with a fluidity that makes for a wonderfully engaging listen on every level.

The title track, the second song in, is gripping and gritty. Although it kicks in with the spare sound of Bibb's acoustic guitar and voice, it's a bass drum that starts driving the beat before some haunting slide guitar rips the piece wide open while Bibb's voice surfs the groove, imploring that freedom is an undeniable goal.

Taj Mahal shares the vocals with Bibb on "Blues Funky Like Dat", where an infectious rhythm, and lyrics, give a big nod to the groove and sound of a respected Atlanta preacher. All of it buoyed by the glistening metallic slide riffs of Jontavious Willis.

Many of us will remember John Griffin's sixties book *Black Like Me*, that documented a white man's transition to being colored under a doctor's care. Bibb retells Griffin's eye-opening and brutal story with admiration and appreciation.

Ridin' really is one exceptional piece after another. Whether it's the off-recorded gem "500 Miles" that is sung by Bibb with a sombre sense of loneliness and isolation that lifts up its great melody, or "Tulsa Town", where the bottom end of its sonic range delivers a brooding beat that foreshadows the impending horror of a white mob's massacre of a black community in Oklahoma in 1921.

There's an interlude that allows the lyrical focus to shift into sounds of hope and resistance. The piece "Joybells" is one of many the emotionally stirring songs of the collection as Bibb closes the piece with the recitation of names of black men who were murdered.

Additional guest appearances by Harrison Kennedy, master jazz and blues guitarist Russell Malone, Habib Koite and a female chorus are all perfectly placed, and soulfully played and sung by those artists. By the time *Ridin'* rolls to a close with Church Bells, it's evident that a masterpiece has been created by Bibb with considerable help from his musical friends, with producer Glen Scott deserving a special mention.

Recordings of such substantial depth and artistic brilliance as *Ridin'* don't come along very often, nor do artists like Eric Bibb. (*Peter North*)



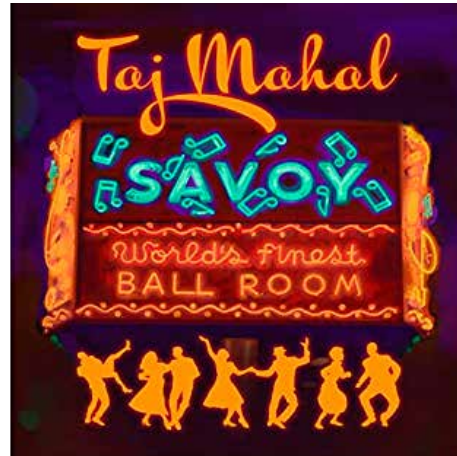
John Mayall *The Sun Is Shining Down* 40 Below Records

Marvel not at his age but at his legacy. From his hearty catalogue of 37 studio and 34 live releases (many defining the very heart and soul of British blues), Mayall remains the last of his kind and the great grandfather of this time-honoured genre. Regardless of whether you appreciate his reedy voice, his flash-free harmonica and his endless ability to reinvent himself, his seminal *Bluesbreakers* birthed some of the greatest guitarists of our time. Mayall's stamp of approval meant everything – and still does. Case in point, *The Sun Is Shining Down* is a showcase of established and/or up-and-coming guitarists. A stickler for adherence to standard blues forms (Mayall resented the godfather title, as his choice for the British Blues crown were heroes, Cyril Davis and Alexis Korner), to graduate from the Mayall school became a springboard to success for many players.

More bandleader than actual virtuoso on any of his chosen instruments, Mayall nevertheless delivers the blues every time, surrounded by hand-picked bandmates while coaxing the best out of them. He still does. His current band of Greg Rzab (bass), Jay Davenport (drums) and Carolyn Wonderland (rhythm/lead guitar) takes a slight backseat to featured artists on each song. Standout tracks include “Can't Take No More”, unleashing Marcus King's soulful sting, supplemented by a slick horn section (Ron Dzibla, sax; Mark Pender, trumpet; Richard Rosenberg, trombone) and both Mayall-original tracks accompanied by Scarlett Rivera's still-sultry violin (“Got To Find A Better Way” and “Deep Blue Sea”). Understandably, Mayall's voice is hit-and-miss, strength-wise, falling short on occasion (Bobby Rush's “I'm As Good As Gone” –

supplemented by effects – and the upbeat, but otherwise lacklustre take on Bernard Allison's “Chills and Thrills”, despite Mike Campbell's contribution). The back-to-basics strength of his own band on Tinsley Ellis' “A Quitter Never Wins” hits a strong note, with Mayall's harp and B3 more than compensating on a less-than-robust vocal. Roosevelt Sykes' “Driving Wheel” gets a significant boost from Mississippi-born guitarist, Melvin Taylor's jazz-inflected Chicago blues guitar, bolstered by strong horns and Eric Corne's rhythm guitar – seemingly taking the pressure off Mayall to weave his patented spell. The title track grants Wonderland her due in the spotlight, elegantly so.

All-in-all, Mayall continues to retain his distinctive sound, delivering his still-distinctive version of the blues, following a lifelong crusade to turn music fans onto the joy of the blues. His age has very little to do with it. Long may he reign. (*Eric Thom*)



Taj Mahal *Savoy*

Upon first glance at the song titles of Taj Mahal's latest album, one could be excused for initially wondering if renditions of 14 classic jazz/blues songs that have been cut dozens and dozens of times would be close to required listening.

Titled *Savoy*, after the legendary Harlem Ballroom that was the fountain of a musical explosion of black culture almost a century ago, the album rolls around titles like *Do Nothin' Till You Hear From Me*, *Sweet Georgia Brown*, *Lady Be Good*, *Caldonia* and *Summertime* in what is a fourteen song set.

Toss any perceived predictability factor out the window. Instead settle into a Taj Mahal album like no other and bathe in a glorious recording that is built upon expertly, uniquely delivered renderings of classics that are as much the creation of producer John Simon and a cast of brilliant instrumentalists, as they are that of the featured artist.

Out of the gate, *Stompin' At The Savoy* is

driven by soulful singing and a polished and swinging band that ingests these timeless pieces and then exhales them with a sense of pure purpose and joy with exacting precision.

The head turning arrangements are the work and artistry of Simon, whose body of work as a producer and arranger includes classic recordings from artists as varied as The Band, Big Brother & the Holding Company, Leonard Cohen, Gil Evans and John Hartford.

As Holger Petersen's liner notes state, Simon chose particular horn players for specific pieces, and with that compass as part of the equation, tone and nuance throughout *Savoy* is as varied as dialects of a particular language.

Put Taj Mahal's unmistakable voice, and one of the greatest in the history of the blues, into the midst of this delectable instrumental brew and it's guaranteed that any fan of this era of music, composed by heavyweights like Ellington, Goodman, Gershwin, Bigard, Arlen, Mercer, and Jordan, will be coming back for repeated listens.

The gravel in Taj's voice is the focal point of *I'm Just A Lucky So-and-So* that also features a lovely flute solo that floats above the superb playing of the core band, which finds Simon at the piano, Danny Caron playing guitar, Ruth Davies on bass and Leon Joyce Jr. at the drums, as they are throughout the session.

The main man sings with total conviction and investment from start to finish. Even though his instrument shows a little wear in his advancing years, Taj Mahal's ability to insert a new turn of a phrase, or his instinct to deliver a unique way of responding to a classic riff is central to the success of this set of classics coming off with a fresh feel.

On *Gee Baby, Ain't I Good To You*, which has been given some superb treatments over the decades, Taj delivers the lyric as though he's reading a love letter he's just penned, as the ghost of Charlie Christian, via the playing of Caron, binds the stunning piece together.

The lead vocal on *Summertime* gives the song a new spin and cadence that works wonderfully, while Simon's arrangement embraces a sound that personified some of Miles Davis's work in the late fifties.

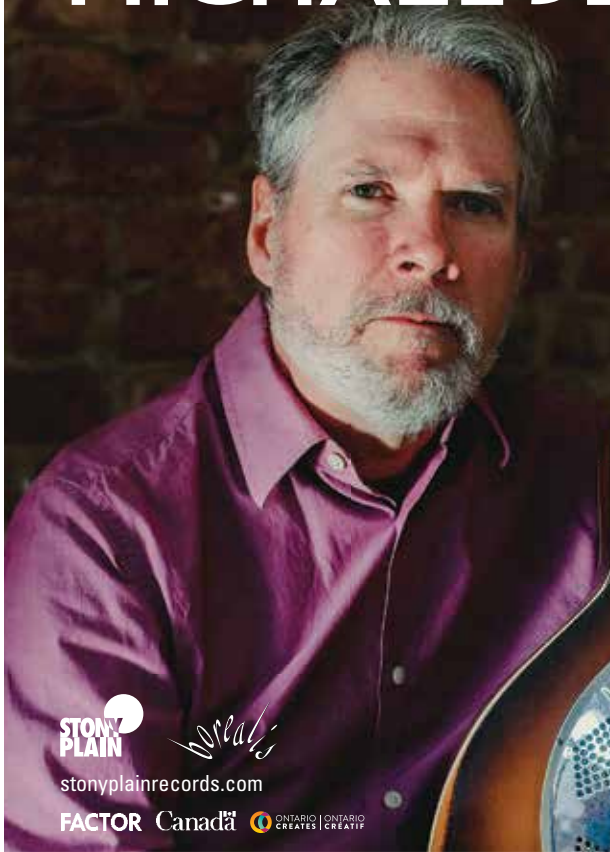
Everyone on the session shines, whether it's the bold clarinet playing of Sheldon Brown on *Mood Indigo*, which dovetails beautifully with a soothing vocal chorus, or the bluesy, swinging Grappelli-like violin work from Evan Price on the intro to *Sweet Georgia Brown* that gives way to some fabulous call and response between Taj Mahal and the horn section.

Trumpeter Charles McNeal, who has worked on some of Boz Scaggs' best sides, shines on a number tracks, and Danny Caron's

cont'd on p13

MICHAEL JEROME BROWNE

Gettin' Together



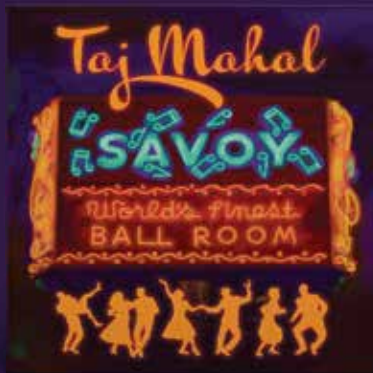
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Calling Out the Blues Purists



I am very aware that there are some incredibly varying opinions on what constitutes "Blues" music. Recently, after yet another criticism of some of my latest art being deemed "not Blues enough" by an album reviewer, I vented my frustration to a friend of mine in music who stated "It's just white people making more rules about black music."

And there it was. What feels like an incredibly true statement.

I refer to myself as a "Soul-Blues" artist. I have traditional Country/Americana elements in my music and traditional gospel elements in my music. I sing with soul. In my opinion, you can take almost any song, add pedal steel and call it "country music" so I'm not quite sure why there's such a passionate group of people when it comes to opinions on what is and is NOT Blues music.

With the conversation around Indigenous music and culture being appropriated, there has been more talk about what constitutes 'appropriation' versus 'celebration' of other cultures' music and art.

The conversation is happening in the Blues music genre. It's important to address where you stand through your actions as an artist, not just your words. In my personal creation of music, I want to celebrate the music that inspires me (ie: Blues music) without appropriating it... and in case you needed a real definition for what appropriation means, here's part of the Oxford Languages listing:

Appropriation 1. the action of taking something for one's own use, typically without the owner's permission. 2. the artistic practice or technique of reworking images from well-known paintings, photographs, etc., in one's own work.

I'm not here to blow the whistle on anyone. I'm a white woman who makes a living on music inspired by black art. The finger could be pointed at me and question the authenticity of the music I make. BUT, I have to ask, where is the line drawn between music that's 'Blues' or

'Not Blues Enough'? And honestly, who's making that call? Who has the right to make that call? White people? I don't think so.

The Grammy Awards recognize 'Best Traditional Blues Album' and 'Best Contemporary Blues Album'. Both 'Blues' recognized categories, but Blues purists might want to give a listen to 2021 winner Fantastic Negrito's album "Have You Lost Your Mind Yet". It's a great example of a Blues inspired musical art piece. This album uses modern day production and there's definitely no 12-bar Blues forms. Again - this album won a Grammy! A Blues Grammy!

I love traditional Blues music. I love the complex emotions in sometimes seemingly simple melodies or chord progressions. I love traditional Blues rhythms. In the many genres that exist in music on this planet, there's room for traditional or older styles and room for new interpretations. Classic Rock radio stations and Top 40 Pop stations help listeners know what they can expect when they tune in. There are also festivals and radio programs devoted to showcasing only traditional Blues styles. These are important for giving traditional Blues music a consistent platform. While some 'Blues' festivals have broadened the genres or sub-genres represented in their line-ups, others have made a point of focusing specifically on more traditional Blues styles. There are a lot of music lovers out there and lots of opportunities for artists, no matter what genre they generally fall into. Diversification is happening in so many ways in this industry and there's a place for everyone. The word is "inclusivity" and it plays an important role in many musical genres moving forward.

I'm a Soul-Blues artist. I make music inspired by the Blues. As a white woman, I don't feel it's my place to make super traditional sounding Blues recordings and claim them as MY art. You might be a white person (or person who isn't black) and make very traditional Blues sounding music and think that's fine. No problem. You do you. I'll stick to what I feel is best for me. If the Black community at large decides we, as non-black artists, shouldn't make music traditional to their culture, then we can look at the changes that need to be made. This very thing has happened with traditional Indigenous music and other Indigenous-rooted art forms. In the meantime - please can we STOP labeling music as not being 'Blues' enough?? We don't have to like everything, but what gives someone the credentials to claim whether something meets Blues genre standards? Maybe it's time we start encouraging the growth of the Blues genre, not trying to limit it.

- Emily Fennell

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nimble yet deadly guitar playing actually steals the spotlight on the Benny Golson classic *Killer Joe*. Maria Muldaur makes an appearance, helping her old friend Taj take *Baby, It's Cold Outside*, out of the Yuletide frame it's usually associated with. The two turn the song into a slow burning, sexually charged tour de force, as the arrangement eventually doubles down on the vocal duet with a gorgeous muted trumpet and violin conversation.

Add in some superb liner notes from Petersen that add interesting context to the creation of this work, along with some superior artwork and Taj Mahal's *Savoy* is an essential piece of work for fans of this classic and timeless music. (Peter North)



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James Anthony w/ Donnie Meeker 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700

Afternoon Blues Jam w/ Mike

Branton 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville

Mighty Duck Blues Band with Michael Schatte 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm, Jo Blos Rock and Wok, 2 Pelham Rd (@ St. Paul St. W.), St. Catharines, 905-685-8280

Blues at the Regency w/ guest Mark LaForme 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency 76 – The Original Sports Bar, 8068 Mountain Rd, Niagara Falls, 905-354-2340

Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob Gusevs 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Outrigger, 2232 Queen St E, Toronto, 647-748-2232, No Cover

Brother Paul & Blues Revival 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469, Electric Chicago Blues, PWYC

Donna Robbins w/ James Anthony 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Soulful Kafe, 81 Brant Ave, Brantford

Last Waltz: a Musical celebration of The Band 8:00 pm, Stratford Masonic Hall, 15 Church St., Stratford

Silvia Dee and the Boyfriends 8:00 pm, Churchill Arms, 355 Erb St. W, Waterloo

Puslinch House of Blues Band 8:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville

Fraser Melvin Band 8:30 pm, Capone's Cocktail Lounge, 1573 Bloor St. W (at Dundas), Toronto

Frank Cosentino 9:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Sunday, April 30

Blues For Soldiers: Jim Dan Dee 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Brant Artillery Gunner's Club, 115 Henry Street, Brantford, (519) 753-8128

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Joel Parisien & Rich Moore 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Peter Pipers Pubhouse, 111 Hwy 20 E, Fonthill, Two sets from 2:00pm – 4:30pm, weekly guests, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782

Road to Memphis Competition:

Grand River Blues Society 3:00 pm, Stonewalls Restaurant, 339 York Blvd., Hamilton, 905-577-0808, Submission Deadline is April 1st.

Red Hot Ramble 3:00 pm, Smoke-show BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

Sean Pinchin 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Slabtown Cider, 4559 Concession Rd. 6, Uxbridge

Mike's Monster Jam w/ host Mike McDonald 3:00 pm, Lancaster Smokehouse, Kitchener

Chuck Jackson 4:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Mike McKenna's Slidewinder Blues Band 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Donnie Meeker 5:00 pm, Timothy's Pub, 344 Browns Line, Etobicoke, 416-201-9515

Paul Reddick Band 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St W., Toronto

Russ & The Roadies 7:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Monday, May 1

Steve Marriner's Local Electric 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Tuesday, May 2

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Steve Strongman w/ guest Jimmy Bowskill 7:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822

Wednesday, May 3

Ragwax 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Vela Restaurant, 90 Portland St., Toronto

Camilo Restrepo 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Radical Road Brewing Company, 1177 Queen St. E., Toronto, (647) 794-7907

Fraser/Daley 8:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054

Action Sound Band w/ Leo Valvasorri & Eric Schenkman 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, May 4

The Boathouse Blues Project 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474

Steve Strongman Band 7:00 pm, Canadian Corps Unit #44 in Thorold ON, 7 Clairmont Street, Thorold ON

Friday, May 5

Sean Pinchin 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Blues on the Rideau – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636



Hamilton's Steve Strongman has a good run ahead of him with gigs at the Coach and Lantern in Ancaster (May 2), Thorold (May 4, with guest Jimmy Bowskill) at the Guelph Little Theatre (May 6 with special guest Sean Pinchin) as well as the Smokestack Festival in Hamilton on May 26. He'll also be appearing at the Kitchener Blues Festival later in August.

Fraser/Daley 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272

Erin McCallum & Teddy Leonard 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, The Gibson Centre, 63 Tupper Street West, Alliston, 705-435-2828, Doors open at 6:30pm. Advance tickets recommended, online or at box office 705-435-2828. Tickets at door based on availability., \$35

Ragwax 8:00 pm, St. James Gate, Etobicoke

Rosie's Smokehouse Deluxe 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474

Fraser Melvin Band 9:00 pm, Noonan's (formerly Dora Keogh) Irish Pub, 141 Danforth Ave, Toronto ON, 416 778 1804

Alfie Smith 9:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822

Paul Reddick 10:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Saturday, May 6

James Anthony w/ Djino LeFrancois 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700

Afternoon Blues Jam w/ Mike

Branton 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville

Mighty Duck Blues Band with Al Lerman 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm, Jo Blos Rock and Wok, 2 Pelham Rd (@ St. Paul St. W.), St. Catharines, 905-685-8280

Blues at the Regency w/ guest Joshua Arden Miller 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency 76 – The Original Sports Bar, 8068 Mountain Rd, Niagara Falls, 905-354-2340

Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob Gusevs 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Outrigger, 2232 Queen St E, Toronto, 647-748-2232, No Cover

Danny Marks 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272

James Anthony 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Stonehooker Brewing, 866 Lakeshore Road E, Mississauga, 289.847.5000

Lighthouse 7:30 pm, Meaford Hall Arts And Cultural Centre, 12 Nelson St E, Meaford

The Paul James Band 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Huntsville Legion, 21 Veterans Way, Huntsville, \$20

Steve Strongman Band w/ Sean Pinchin 8:00 pm, Guelph Little Theatre, 176 Morris St., Guelph, Tickets at Eventbrite \$38.60



McKenna Moonah Blues Duo 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, DogFish Bar & Grill, 7 Brimley Rd. S, Scarborough, (416) 269-9797, Playing the music of McKenna Mendelson Mainline, Broke Fuse, and more, no cover

Sunday, May 7

Kitchener Bluesfest: Youth Legacy Showcase competition 2:00 pm, Bobby O'Briens, 125 King St W., Kitchener, 519-743-5657
The Tonewheels 2:00 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315
Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Suzanne O'Davis & Garth Vogan 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Peter Pipers Pubhouse, 111 Hwy 20 E, Fonthill, Two sets from 2:00pm – 4:30pm, weekly guests, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782
Brant Parker & The Bay City Blues Band 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Stonewalls Restaurant, 339 York Blvd., Hamilton, 905-577-0808
Danny Marks Combo 3:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469
Po' Boy Jeffreys & Calamity Jane 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
Chuck Jackson 4:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754
Jerome Tucker Band 7:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Monday, May 8

Steve Marriner's Local Electric 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Tuesday, May 9

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Po' Boy Jeffreys & Calamity Jane 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054, PWYC

Wednesday, May 10

MonkeyJunk 5:30 pm, Studio 79, Collingwood
Fraser/Daley 8:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054
Action Sound Band w/ Leo Valvasorri & Eric Schenckman 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000
Pinchin & Fitzpatrick 9:00 pm, The Local, 396 Roncesvalles, Toronto

Thursday, May 11

Pinchin & Fitzpatrick 8:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville

Friday, May 12

Little Magic Sam 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
David Rotundo (2 nights) 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Blues on the Rideau – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636, Dinner & Show, reservations: (613) 273-3636. Proceeds to Westport In Bloom, Westport Arts Council., \$100
MonkeyJunk – 15th Anniversary Tour 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm, Biltmore Theatre, Oshawa Ticket info: <https://www.biltmoretheatre.com>, \$30
Sean Pinchin 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Stonehooker Brewing, 866 Lakeshore Road E, Mississauga, 289.847.5000
Jordan John and Prakash John 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Tabone Academy, 969 Upper Ottawa St, Hamilton
Garrett Mason 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Old Church Theatre Trenton, 940 Bonisteel Rd, Trenton, \$25
Zeke Pippin 8:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
The Last Waltz – A Musical Celebration of The Band 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm, Academy Theatre for Performing Arts, Lindsay
Fraser Melvin Band 10:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Saturday, May 13

James Anthony w/ Jack & April 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700
Blues at the Regency w/ guest Shawn Kellerman 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency 76 – The Original Sports Bar, 8068 Mountain Rd, Niagara Falls, 905-354-2340
Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob Gusevs 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Outrigger, 2232 Queen St E, Toronto, 647-748-2232, No Cover
David Rotundo (2 nights) 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Blues on the Rideau – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636, Dinner & Show, reservations: (613) 273-3636. Proceeds to Westport In Bloom, Westport Arts Council., \$100
Jordan John and Prakash John 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Tabone Academy, 969 Upper Ottawa St, Hamilton
Mother's Day w/ Red Hot Ramble 7:30 pm, McMichael Gallery, 10365 Islington Ave., Kleinburg, Dinner at 5:00pm, gallery hours extended to 7:00pm.
The Legendary Downchild Blues Band w/ guests Daniel Lanois, Natalie McMaster & Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne 8:00 pm, Massey Hall, 178 Victoria Street, Toronto, 416-872-4255
Jackie Richardson and Kellylee Evans 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, RCM Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. W., Toronto, 416-408-0208
Dave Murphy Band 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474
Garnetta & Dagroovmasters 8:00 pm, Avalon Lounge Port Whitby Marina, 301 Watson St W, Whitby, Music By The Bay Live presents, \$55
Sean Pinchin 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Taphouse Craft Beer and Kitchen, Orangeville
The MacKenzie Blues Band 8:00 pm, Tobermory Community Centre, Tobermory
The Last Waltz – A Musical Celebration of The Band 8:00 pm, Stephen Leacock Theatre, 130 Gwendolyn Blvd, Keswick
Paul Reddick Band, Morgan Davis & The Groove Disciples 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Prince George Hotel Kingston – Tir Nan Og, 200 Ontario St., Kingston, Tickets available at Spearhead Brewing Co.
Garrett Mason & Mike T. Kerr 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, The Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto, Juno winner Garrett Mason plays Toronto on his cross Canada tour, \$15
Sugar Brown quintet 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000, Sugar Brown Blues Quintet w Nichol Robertson, Victor Bateman, Derek Thorne and Walter Maclean, free

Concerts of Note

The Legendary Downchild Blues Band w/ guest Daniel Lanois, Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne & Natalie McMaster | Massey Hall | Toronto | May 13

Jackie Richardson and Kellylee Evans | RCM Koerner Hall | Toronto | May 13

TBS Birthday Blues Dance w/ The Swingin' Blackjacks & Sugar Brown | Redwood Theatre | Toronto | June 1

Tedeschi Trucks Band | Budweiser Stage | Toronto | July 13

Mdou Moctar | Phoenix Concert Theatre | Toronto | July 25

Eric Clapton w/Jimmie Vaughan | Scotiabank Arena | Toronto | September 10



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Sunday, May 14

Nicholas Campbell & The Two Metre Cheaters 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, Front Porch Southern Kitchen and Blues Joint, 4 Albert St., Langton, 226-397-1223, Mother's Day - Meal & Show

Brian Blain's Mother's Day Matinee with Ken Whiteley and Rick Taylor 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St. E, Toronto, show starts at 2pm. Come at 1pm if you want brunch, \$20

Crystal Shawanda 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, The Back Alley, 18 Princess Ave., St Thomas, ON, 519-207-3555 Ticket info: <https://www.ticketscene.ca/events/43606/>, \$35

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Sean Pinchin & Scott Fitzpatrick 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Peter Pipers Pubhouse, 111 Hwy 20 E, Fonthill, Two sets from 2:00pm – 4:30pm, weekly guests, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782

Frank Cosentino – matinee 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Stonewalls Restaurant, 339 York Blvd., Hamilton, 905-577-0808

Morgan Davis 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Irene's Pub, 885 Bank St., Ottawa

The Legendary Castaways 7:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Don River Blues Band 7:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

Monday, May 15

Steve Marriner's Local Electric 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Tuesday, May 16

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Wednesday, May 17

Fraser/Daley 8:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054

Action Sound Band w/ Leo Valvasorri & Eric Schenkman 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, May 18

Sil Simone Band 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474

Friday, May 19

David Rotundo Band 8:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville

Zeke Pippin 8:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Saturday, May 20

James Anthony w/ Ted Peters 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700

Blues at the Regency w/ guest Sean Pinchin 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency 76 – The Original Sports Bar, 8068 Mountain Rd, Niagara Falls, 905-354-2340

Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob Gusevs 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Outrigger, 2232 Queen St E, Toronto, 647-748-2232, No Cover

Danny Marks Combo 3:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmasters 7:00 pm, Durham Roots Festival, Markdale

Morgan Davis 8:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville

Sunday, May 21

Pinchin & Fitzpatrick 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, The Wooly Pub, 176 Woolwich St, Guelph

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Garnetta Cromwell & Dagroovmasters 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Peter Pipers Pubhouse, 111 Hwy 20 E, Fonthill, Two sets from 2:00pm – 4:30pm, weekly guests, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782

Rockabilly Blue 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto, Featuring Debbie Fleming, Jay Moonah, Kevin Fox, Rob Kirkpatrick, and David Morrison

Morgan Davis 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272

Chuck Jackson 4:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Mike Sedgewick's Blues Revue 7:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Monday, May 22

Steve Marriner's Local Electric 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Tuesday, May 23

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Po'Boy Jeffreys & Calamity Jane 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054, PWYC

Wednesday, May 24

Krewe de Bleu: Julian Fauth, Dave McManus, Cleave Anderson, George Baumann 7:00 pm to 10:30 pm, La Rev, 2848 Dundas St W., Toronto, 647-748-1376

Whitehorse 7:30 pm, Meaford Hall Arts And Cultural Centre, 12 Nelson St E, Meaford

Fraser/Daley 8:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054

Action Sound Band w/ Leo Valvasorri & Eric Schenkman 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, May 25

Little Magic Sam 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474

Paul James – Bob Dylan Tribute 8:00 pm, 3030 Dundas, 3030 Dundas St. W., Toronto, 416-769-5736, \$40

MonkeyJunk – 15th Anniversary Tour 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Market Hall Performing Arts Centre, 140 Charlotte St, Peterborough Ticket info: <https://www.markethall.org/upcoming>, \$30

Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmasters w/ guest Brooke Blackburn 8:00 pm, Heartwood Concert Hall, 939 2nd Ave E, Owen Sound

Morgan Davis 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Foster's Inn, Stratford

Friday, May 26

Little Magic Sam 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272

Alfie Smith 6:00 pm, Nickel Brook Brewing Co., 3426 Mainway, Burlington

Smokestack Festival: Steve Strongman, Hogtown Allstars, MonkeyJunk 7:00 pm, Bridgeworks, 200 Caroline Street North, Hamilton, 905-777-1223

Milky Whites and the Bluesmen 8:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Shooters Lounge, 68 Dennis St, Sault Ste. Marie, (705) 575-1195

Zeke Pippin 8:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Saturday, May 27

James Anthony w/ Mandy Leroy 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700

The Last Waltz – A Musical Celebration of The Band (matinee) 2:00 pm, Midland Cultural Centre, 333 King St, Midland

Blues at the Regency w/ guest Kim Doolittle 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency 76 – The Original Sports Bar, 8068 Mountain Rd, Niagara Falls, 905-354-2340

Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob Gusevs 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Outrigger, 2232 Queen St E, Toronto, 647-748-2232, No Cover

Brother Paul & Blues Revival 3:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, , 416-901-7469

Smokestack Festival: Whitehorse, Bywater Call, NQ Arbuckle 7:00 pm, Bridgeworks, 200 Caroline Street North, Hamilton, 905-777-1223

Milky Whites and the Bluesmen 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Lavigne Tavern, 10521 Hwy 64, Lavigne, 705-594-2301

Suzie Vinnick 8:00 pm, Greenbank Folk Society, Greenbank Centennial Hall, 30 min north of Whitby, 905-985-8351, \$25

David Rotundo 8:00 pm, The Juke Joint in Acton, 5495 25 Sideroad, Acton

Murray Kinsley & Wicked Grin w/ guest Larry Kurtz 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474, \$10

Sunday, May 28

Red Hot Ramble 3:00 pm, Smoke-show BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

Trickbag w/ Big John & The Night Trippers 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Stonewalls Restaurant, 339 York Blvd., Hamilton, 905-577-0808

Chuck Jackson 4:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Donnie Meeker Band 5:00 pm, Timothy's Pub, 344 Browns Line, Etobicoke, 416-201-9515

Frank Cosentino 7:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Don River Blues Band 7:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

Monday, May 29

Camilo Restrepo 11:00 pm, Drom Taberna, 458 Queen St. W, Toronto

Steve Marriner's Local Electric 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Tuesday, May 30

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Wednesday, May 31

Fraser/Daley 8:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054

Action Sound Band w/ Leo Valvasorri & Eric Schenkman 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Robert Davis & Fraser Melvin 9:00 pm, The Local, 396 Roncesvalles, Toronto

Thursday, June 1

Jim Dan Dee 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm,
Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave.,
Collingwood, 705-293-3474
Whitehorse 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm,
Dominion Telegraph Event Centre, 97
Grand River St N, Paris, (226)
227-1767

Tony Holiday 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm,
The Ganaraska Hotel, 30 Ontario St,
Port Hope

**TBS Birthday Blues Dance w/ The
Swingin' Blackjacks & Sugar Brown**
8:00 pm, Redwood Theatre, 1300
Gerrard St. E, Toronto,

Friday, June 2

Raoul and The Big Time 6:00 pm to
10:00 pm, Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Rd,
Toronto

Blackburn Brothers 7:00 pm to 11:00
pm, Blues on the Rideau – The Cove
Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613)
273-3636, Dinner & Show, reserva-
tions: (613) 273-3636. Proceeds to
Rideau District Museum., \$100

Tony Holiday 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm,
The Cameron House, 408 Queen St
W, Toronto

**Joshua Arden Miller & Pappy Johns
Band** 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Harbour
St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Colling-
wood, 705-293-3474

Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne 8:30
pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St,
Oakville

Saturday, June 3

**Blues at the Regency w/ guest Mick
Hayes** 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency
76 – The Original Sports Bar, 8068
Mountain Rd, Niagara Falls, 905-354-
2340

**Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob
Gusevs** 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm,
Outrigger, 2232 Queen St E, Toronto,
647-748-2232, No Cover

**Spring Blues Day Fundraiser for
Royal City Studios: Bad Omen,
Lucky Dog, Open mic** 3:00 pm to
11:00 pm, Royal City Studios, 930
Woodlawn Rd. W, Guelph, \$10

Tony Holiday 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm,
Lion's Head Tavern, 7880 Wyandotte
St E, Windsor

McKenna Moonah Blues Duo 8:00
pm to 10:00 pm, DogFish Bar & Grill,
7 Brimley Rd. S, Scarborough, (416)
269-9797, Playing the music of
McKenna Mendelson Mainline, Broke
Fuse, and more, no cover

Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne 8:30
pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St,
Oakville

Sunday, June 4

Danny Marks Combo 3:00 pm,
Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt
Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

Jerome Tucker Band 7:00 pm,
Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave,
Toronto, 416-466-5130

Monday, June 5

Steve Marriner's Local Electric 8:00
pm to 10:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth,
1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Tuesday, June 6

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on
Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

**Steve Strongman Blues Studio
Acoustic Sessions** 7:00 pm, Coach
and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E.,
Ancaster, 905-304-7822

Po'Boy Jeffreys & Calamity Jane
8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Inter Steer
Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave,
Toronto, 416-588-8054, PWYC

Wednesday, June 7

Garrett Mason 8:30 pm, Moonshine
Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville

Thursday, June 8

Big Dan & The Topside Band 6:30
pm to 9:30 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar,
10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-
3474

Friday, June 9

Little Magic Sam 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm,
Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E,
Toronto, (416) 699-8272

Fraser Melvin Band 10:00 pm,
Cameron House, 408 Queen St W,
Toronto

Saturday, June 10

**Blues at the Regency w/ guest Joel
Parisien** 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm,
Regency 76 – The Original Sports
Bar, 8068 Mountain Rd, Niagara Falls,
905-354-2340

**Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob
Gusevs** 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm,
Outrigger, 2232 Queen St E, Toronto,
647-748-2232, No Cover

**Ancaster Heritage Days: Steve
Strongman, Jacob Moon, Harrison
Kennedy** 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm,
Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre,
Wilson St. E, Ancaster, Free. Bring a
lawn chair, show weather permitting.

Sunday, June 11

**Brant Parker & The Bay City Blues
Band** 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Stonewalls
Restaurant, 339 York Blvd., Hamilton,
905-577-0808

The Legendary Castaways 7:00 pm,
Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave,
Toronto, 416-466-5130

Don River Blues Band 7:00 pm,
Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt
Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

Monday, June 12

Steve Marriner's Local Electric 8:00
pm to 10:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth,
1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Tuesday, June 13

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on
Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Wednesday, June 14

**Mark Hummel & The Blues
Survivors (USA)** 8:00 pm, Moonshine
Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville

Friday, June 16

Larry Kurtz 8:00 pm, Revival 1863,
35 Armstrong Street, Orangeville,
(519) 307-2100

Sugar Brown quintet 9:30 pm to
11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377
Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416)
977-7000, Sugar Brown Blues Quintet
w Nichol Robertson, Lowell Whitty,
Derek Thorne and Leo Valvasorri

Saturday, June 17

**Blues at the Regency w/ guest Joel
Johnson** 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm,
Regency 76 – The Original Sports
Bar, 8068 Mountain Rd, Niagara Falls,
905-354-2340

**Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob
Gusevs** 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm,
Outrigger, 2232 Queen St E, Toronto,
647-748-2232, No Cover

Danny Marks Combo 3:00 pm,
Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt
Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

**Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmas-
ters** 9:00 pm, Function Bar, 2291
Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, 416-440-
4007

Sunday, June 18

Rockabilly Blue 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm,
Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth,
Toronto, Featuring Debbie Fleming,
Jay Moonah, Kevin Fox, Rob
Kirkpatrick, and David Morrison

Mike Sedgewick's Blues Revue 7:00
pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth
Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Tuesday, June 20

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on
Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Thursday, June 22

Colin James Trio 8:00 pm to 9:30
pm, Jackson-Triggs Winery, Niaga-
ra-on-the-Lake

Saturday, June 24

**Toronto BluesFest: Danny Marks &
The BluzFM Allstars, Gene Hardy,
The Blues Miners, and more...**
12:00 pm to 9:00 pm, East York Civic
Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave., Toronto,
Free Admission. Rain or shine, family
friendly, bring a lawn chair.

**Blues at the Regency w/ guest Paul
Martin** 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency
76 – The Original Sports Bar, 8068
Mountain Rd, Niagara Falls, 905-354-
2340

**Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob
Gusevs** 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm,
Outrigger, 2232 Queen St E, Toronto,
647-748-2232, No Cover

Brother Paul & Blues Revival 3:00
pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744
Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-
7469, Electric Chicago Blues

**Last Waltz – A Celebration of The
Band** 7:30 pm, Meaford Hall Arts And
Cultural Centre, 12 Nelson St E,
Meaford

Alfie Smith 8:00 pm, Roxy's, 214
King George Rd, Brantford

Sunday, June 25

Red Hot Ramble 3:00 pm, Smoke-
show BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant
Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

Josh Miller 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm,
Stonewalls Restaurant, 339 York
Blvd., Hamilton, 905-577-0808

Frank Cosentino 7:00 pm, Linsmore
Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto,
416-466-5130



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1st
JUNE

The Redwood Theatre
1300 Gerrard St. E Toronto

Doors - 6:30

1 Hour Dance Lesson with East Side 6 (optional) - 6:45

Bands Start - 8:00

\$15 General Admission - \$25 with Dance Lesson
\$10 Toronto Blues Society Members - \$20 with Dance Lesson

Introduction to Blues Dancing (a little fast, a little slow)
No experience or partner is needed!

Tickets - www.theredwoodtheatre.com

East Side 6
DANCE



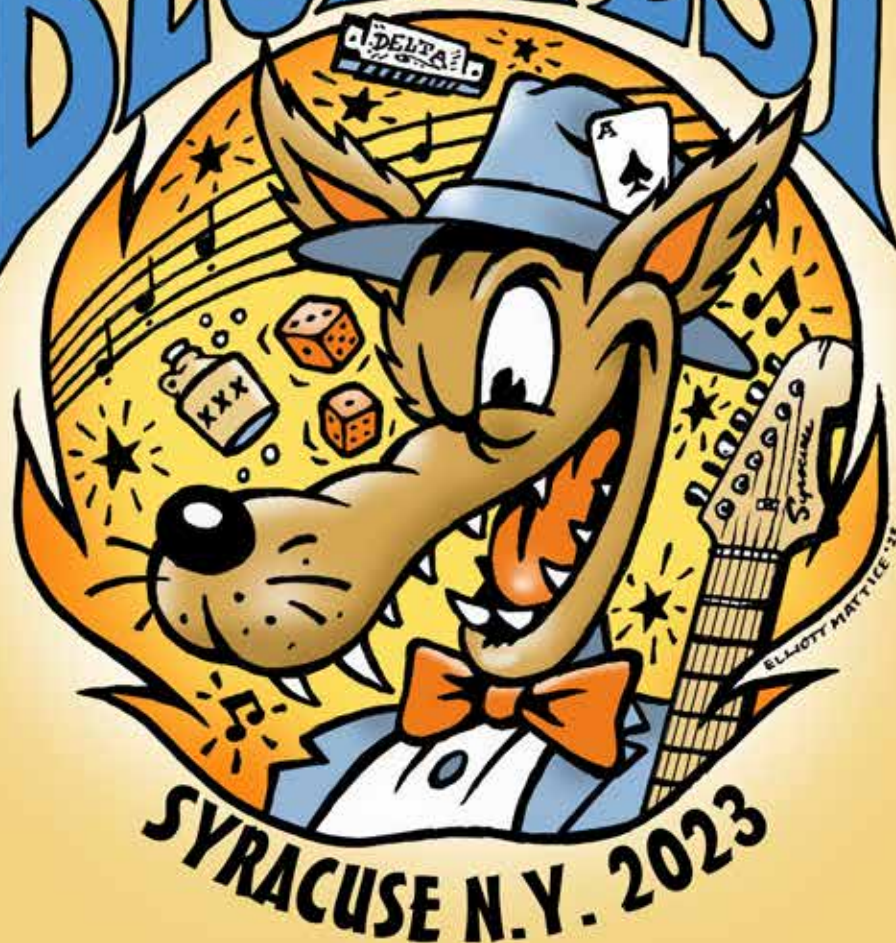
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