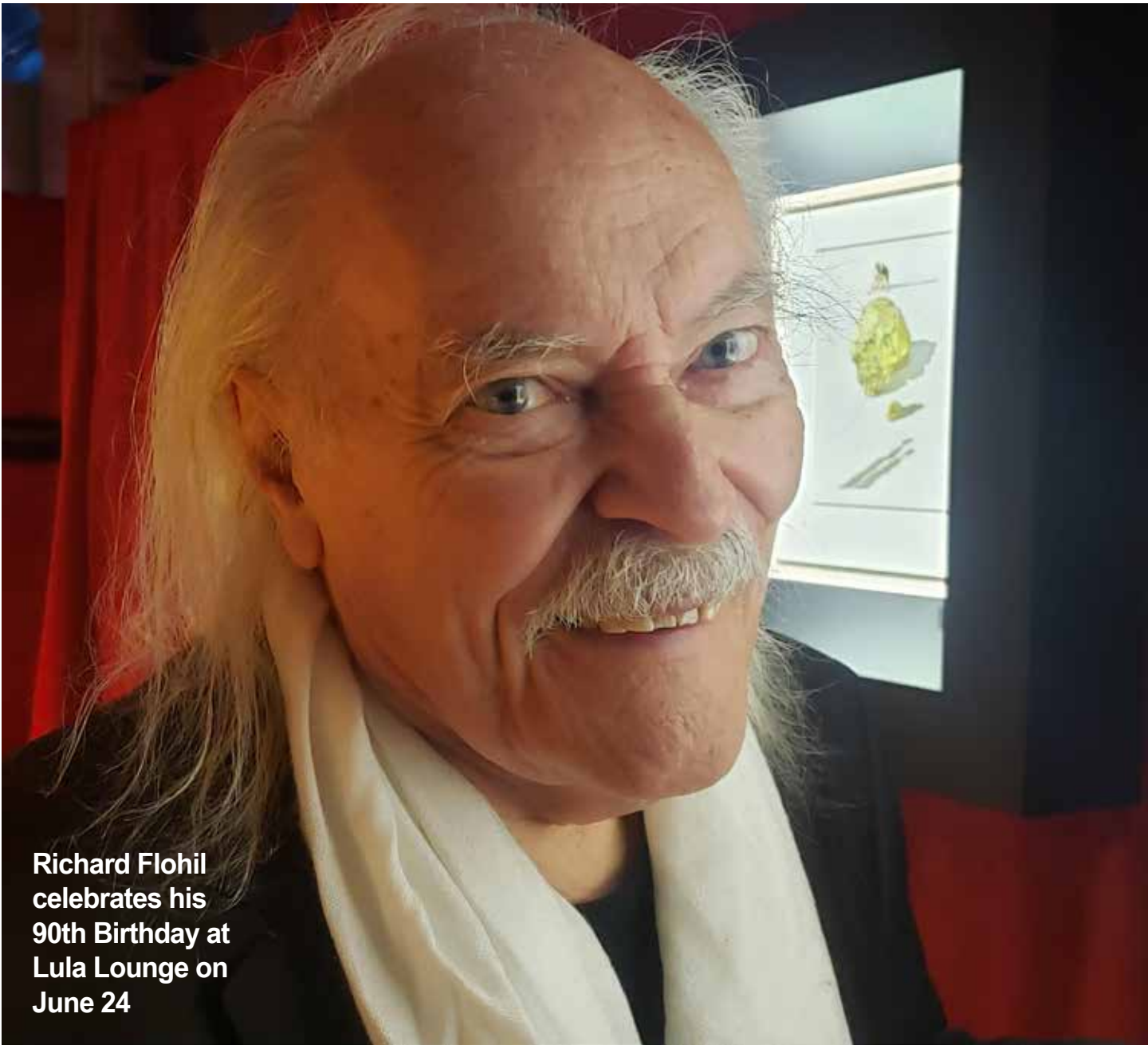


TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY **MAPLEBLUES**

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

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Richard Flohil celebrates his 90th Birthday at Lula Lounge on June 24

- Richard Flohil turns 90
- Blues Festival Guide
- CD Reviews
- Loose Blues News
- Top Blues
- Live Blues

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TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

910 Queen St. W. Ste. B04 Toronto,
Canada M6J 1G6
Tel. (416) 538-3885 Toll-free 1-866-871-9457

Email: info@torontobluesociety.com
Website: www.torontobluesociety.com

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Managing Editor: **Brian Blain**
editor@torontobluesociety.com

Contributing Editors: **Janet Alilovic, Carol Flett**

Listings Coordinator: **Janet Alilovic**

Mailing and Distribution: **Ed Parsons**

Advertising: **Manny DeGrandis**
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, June 15, 2pm - **TBS Annual General Meeting** - TBS Office, 900 Queen St W. (basement)

Every Monday, June 24 to August 19 **Blues Mondays** - noon and 6pm Union Station, 65 Front St. W

Sunday, June 30, 4:30 - 7:30, Toronto Jazz Festival, Yorkville Stage - TBS Talent Search Finals - **CALL FOR ENTRIES** Deadline May 20. Details at <https://www.torontobluesociety.com/2024-talent-search>

Sunday, September 22, 2pm **Blues In The Garden**, 900 Queen St. West



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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and much more!



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT orangevillebluesandjazz.ca



Summer Blues Festivals (part 2)

"Summertime and the living is easy."

George Gershwin

Summer should be easy, fun and full of music but the cost of food, accommodations, transportation, concert and festival tickets has skyrocketed. If you are on a tight budget it could mean a deep cut into attending any music events this summer, or even this year. That would be a shame as Summer Blues festivals, generally speaking, give us a great Bang for our Buck! And they go a long way in supporting Canadian Blues musicians not only financially but in a tangible, loving crowd kind of way. It really is the perfect formula for spending a few days outside on a Summer day.

Blues Festivals have been taking a hit with lower attendance and an aging demographic. It is certainly not because there has been a decline in the quality of the music. TBS has a complete list of upcoming festivals across Canada. Reconsider them for this Summer, as they are usually reasonably priced and provide an opportunity to see artists that you would pay a great deal more to see in a single concert at other times of the year. Some are family friendly and mostly free like the **Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival (May 31-June 2)** or the **Kitchener Blues Festival (August 12-15)**. Both these festivals were featured in last month's newsletter and are highly recommended but let's look at a few more.

There could be no better kick off to the festival season than this year's Orangeville Blues and Jazz festival, May 30 to June 2

Orangeville has consistently placed in the top tier of best music festivals in Ontario for years. Orangeville's main street, Broadway, closes for most of the festival and it becomes a pedestrian haven. There will be a return of the popular Blues Cruise on Broadway, with more than 200 vintage cars on display for perusal. It all opens with The Broadway Ramble & New Orleans style March and closes with the Blues and Bikes Show and Shine event. A free music stage & pop up bands will provide live music throughout the week-end. All is free with the exception of the ticketed Blues festival held at the Main Stage in Alexandra Park. Admission

May

[Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival](#) | May 31-June 2 | Downtown Orangeville, ON

June

[Pender Harbour Blues Festival](#) | June 7-9 | Pender Harbour, BC

[Grand River Black Music Festival and Conference](#) | June 14-16 | Kitchener ON

[Stratford Blues & Ribfest](#) | June 21-23 | Stratford, ON

[Toronto Jazz Festival](#) | June 21-30 | Toronto, ON

[Vancouver Jazz Festival](#) | June 21-30 | Vancouver BC

[East York Rotary BluesFest](#) | June 22 | Toronto ON

[Montreal Jazz Festival](#) | June 27-July 6 | Montreal QC

July

[Ottawa Bluesfest](#) | July 4-14 | LeBreton Flats, Ottawa, ON

[Mariposa Folk Festival](#) | July 5-7 | Orillia, ON

[Tremblant International Blues Festival](#) | July 10-14 | Mont-Tremblant, QC

[Beaches International Jazz Festival](#) | July 4-28 | Toronto, ON

[Lighthouse Blues Festival](#) | July 12-14 | Kincardine ON

[Vancouver Island Musicfest](#) | July 12-14 | Courtenay, BC

[Au son du Moulin / Blues & Gin](#) | July 19-21 | Gentilly, QC

[Festival BLUES D'LA BAIE Petit-Rocher](#) | July 25-28 | Petit-Rocher, NB

[Salmon Arm Roots & Blues](#) | July 26-28 | Salmon Arm BC

[Donnacona Blues Festival](#) | July 31 - Aug 4 | Donnacona QC

[Calgary Blues Festival](#) | July 28 - Aug 4 | Calgary AB

August

[TD Kitchener Blues Festival](#) | Aug 8-11 | Kitchener, ON

[Live from the Rock Folk Festival](#) | Aug 9-11 | Red Rock, ON

[Nanaimo Blues Festival](#) | Aug 8-11 | Nanaimo BC

[Edmonton Blues Festival](#) | Aug 16-18 | Edmonton AB

[Markham Jazz Festival](#) | Aug 16-18 | Markham, ON

September

[Southside Shuffle Blues & Jazz Festival](#) | Sept 6-8 | Port Credit, ON

[Belleville Downtown Blues Festival](#) | Sept 6-7 | Belleville, ON

[Harvest Music Festival](#) | Sept 10-15 | Fredricton, NB

[Wasaga Beach Blues Festival](#) | Sept 13-15 | Wasaga Beach, ON

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for the TBS BOARD of DIRECTORS

Voting members of the Toronto Blues Society are eligible to run for the 2024 Toronto Blues Society Board of Directors.

In order to run, you must be a member in good standing, and you must be nominated in writing by three voting members of the society. AGM will be held at 2pm on Saturday, June 15 at the Toronto Blues Society Offices, 900 Queen St. W. Toronto. Deadline to receive nominations is 5 pm, June 1, 2024.

includes performances in the Town Hall's original Opera House built in 1875.

This year the Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary and the lineup is sensational. It includes: the legendary Downchild Blues Band, The Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling, Dawn Tyler Watson with the Ben Racine Band, the Jack de Keyzer Band, the Ghost Town Blues Band, Harps of Gold featuring Steve Marriner, Paul Reddick, Jerome Godboo and Larry Kurtz, Spencer Mackenzie, Canefire featuring Jeremy Ledbetter, the Toronto Mass Choir, Brandon Isaak, Conor Gains & Devin Cuddy, Joshua Arden Miller & the Pappy Johns Band, She Wolves of London, the Angelina Hunter Trio, Danny Marks, Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmasters, Alan Gerber, Campbell & Johnston, Glenn Marais and the Mojo Train and Larry Kurtz and the Lawbreakers with special guest Rick Taylor.

The performer workshops held in Orangeville's historic downtown public library have returned for this year and they are free.

Then in June...

Pender Harbour Blues Festival (June 7-9) Pender Harbour, BC Produced by the Pender Harbour Blues Society is a festival whose mandate is to "preserve, nurture and promote BC Blues in all its forms." Headliners include Tom Lavin with the Grand Koolios, Marcus Mosely, Diana Braithwaite & Chris Whiteley and the Paperboys. There are no weekend passes and individual ticket prices range from \$15-\$40. Saturday afternoon's "Blues in the Park" from 1-4pm is free with a suggested donation of \$10.

Grand River Black Music Festival and Conference (June 14-16) Kitchener, Ont. The focus of this festival is to present some of our country's best Black musicians in concert embraced by music conferences that are open to discussion, learning and sharing the versatility of Black artistry. All events are at the Kitchener Public Library. Headliners include Errol Starr & TRIBZ, Reharmon, July Black, Zochi, Solitaire and the Toronto Mass Choir. Conference speakers include Michael Williams, Eric Alper, July Black, Rudy Blair, Carlos Morgan, Will Strickland and Master T. Food vendors and artisans will be available to the public in the library courtyard each day and to ticket holders in the evening as a licensed event. A free Sunday afternoon concert from 1-5 pm will be given by Solitaire at the adjacent Civic Park. A complete listing and schedule can be found on their website. The 3 day pass that includes all conferences, concerts, taxes and charges is \$107.83.

The Toronto Jazz Festival (June 21-30) Yorkville, Toronto Ticketed shows are

in various halls and clubs and at various prices. Headliners include Al di Meola, Cory Henry, Hiatus Kaiyote and the Preservation Hall Band. Yorkville will be the setting for free concerts with over 100 free shows. The Toronto Blues Society Talent Finals will be held on the TD Village Stage in Yorkville at 2:30 on June 24th. Free performances include Molly Johnson, Garnetta Cromwell & the DaGroovmasters, Blue Moon Marquee, July Black, BadBadNotGood and Charlotte McAfee-Brunner & her Fireflies. Late night jams begin at the Pilot at 10pm and there is no cover. Artists there include Jane Bunnnett's Afro-Cuban Band, the Chris Gale Trio, Larnell Lewis X Joy Lapps & Friends and more. Please check the website listings.

In July:

Mariposa Folk Festival (July 5-7) Orillia, Ontario. Technically not a Blues Festival but it is the revered grandfather of all Canadian Summer outdoor festivals. Here, there is a wide variety of styles of music including Blues. This festival was first held in Orillia in 1961, moved to Toronto or area for many years and returned home to Orillia in 2000. It is a family friendly celebration for all ages with over 100 performances on eleven stages. Gordon Lightfoot and many other Canadian superstars have helped to define this superb festival. This year's lineup includes Noah Cyrus, Bahamas, William Prince, Band of Horses, Bruce Cockburn and Old Crow Medicine Show. The multiple stage line up is extensive but here is a taste: Colin Linden, Kim Churchill, Jesse Cook, Amanda Rheame, Ken Whiteley and Blue Moon Marquee. Too many great musicians to mention so check their website for a complete listing. The vibe is one of Peace and Love. Parking can be limited but shuttle buses will be available. All children 12 and under are free. An adult weekend pass for all shows for the entire 3 days including all taxes and charges is \$229. For young adults aged 19-24, \$125, and for youth aged 13-18 only \$50.

Lighthouse Blues Festival (July 12-14) Kincardine, Ontario. This is a top drawer, smaller festival in Kincardine, Ontario. With its beautiful lakeside 1000 seat venue overlooking Lake Huron's beaches, Kincardine Harbour and Lighthouse; this festival has injected huge amounts of charity support dollars into the community since its inception in 2009. Headliners this year include Blue Moon Marquee, Steve Marriner & Local Electric, Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar, FOG Blues & Brass Band, Steve Strongman and Colin Linden with multiple artists on various stages. There are 4 smaller stages, a free Saturday Street Festival, Artist Row & Retail Street Market, a vintage British

sportscar display, Children's Zone and Petting Zoo and a Sunday morning 3 hour outdoor Revival that starts the day with a performance of Gospel music. Affordable. Weekend passes for the entire event with fees and taxes is \$82.02. Single day tickets are a little over \$40.

Donnacona Blues Festival (July 31-August 4) Donnacona, Quebec This 5 day event is another small festival that is worth the drive, although it is a long one from Toronto. Divide the trip in half by staying a night in Ottawa, which is always a great Music & Museum city to visit, and then head out to Donnacona, which is now about a 4 hour drive. There is only one outdoor stage which can be enclosed if it rains. This year's lineup includes Mr. Sipp (Mississippi, U.S.) Sue Foley (Canada/U.S.) Popa Chubby (New York, U.S.) Matt Schofield (UK) the Boneshakers (Detroit U.S.) Lloyd Spiegel (Australia) Brandon Santini (Memphis, U.S.) and Big Dez from Paris, France. A complete lineup can be found on their website. Affordable. \$60/person for 4 nights with free admission to shows held in local clubs on July 31st. Children under 14 free. A trailer camping area is provided on site with an add on cost of approximately \$120 for the entire event. For this, booking must be done in advance. Otherwise look for a hotel or airbnb a short distance from the site but book soon!

Slash's **SERPENT Festival** (July 28) Budweiser Stage, Ontario Place. S.E.R.P.E.N.T. is an anagram and stands for Solidarity, Engagement, Restore, Peace, Equality N' Tolerance. Starring SLASH with a rotating cast of accomplices including Keb Mo, Robert Randolph, ZZ Ward and more (more of a roadshow - lineup varies at different cities) July 27 in Windsor.

In August:

Calgary Blues Festival (August 1-August 4) Calgary, Alberta Held in Millenium Park in downtown Calgary this is an easy park to access either by free transit, biking or walking once you are in the downtown area. There is no parking at the site. This 4 day event includes headliners Lester Quitzau, Johnny Max Band, Chris Cain, Angeliq Francis, Bobby Dean Blackburn and much more. After the daily concerts in the park, Festival passholders have free entrance to the Twilight Blues series held just a short walk from the park at Kirby Center. Shows go from 10pm until 1:30am. Full 4 day events including the Kirby Center are \$153.06 including all charges. Free music, workshops and events will be held at the legendary King Eddy for 3 days prior to the festival from July 29-31. A visit to the Bell Center Music Hall of Fame is highly recommended.

cont'd on p6

FESTIVALS *cont'd from p5*

Chenango Blues Festival (August 16-17) Chenango County Fairgrounds, Norwich NY. Not too far across the border with Ruthie Foster, Sue Foley, Coco Montoya, Tinsley Ellis/Bywater Call, Ghalia Volt & many more

The West Coast Blues/Salt & Harvest Festival (August 30-Sept.1) Goderich, Ontario The Goderich Salt & Harvest festival was recently awarded best new event in Ontario in 2023 by Festival Events Ontario. This year, the organizers formed a new partnership with the West Coast Blues Festival which has been bringing Blues to the Goderich area since 2007. With this new alignment this year's festival will probably be the only one in the world that will combine Blues and, of course, Salt. Look for Salt markets, Salt activities, Salt information and history walks. Visit the Salty Basin Beer Garden. Jump on the Hop On-Hop Off bus tour. Enjoy the Flea Market, Farmer's Market, car show, petting zoo and wagon rides. Family friendly. Affordable. Line-up pending.

In September:

Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues Fest (Sept13-15) Wasaga Beach, Ontario In existence for twelve years, this is one of the last Summer outdoor festivals in Ontario. It brings three days of great Blues to two performance stages. Held on the Main Street of Stonebridge Town Center in Wasaga Beach there is an abundance of parking, shops, restaurants and services. This is a bring your own lawnchair event. Coolers are allowed but all liquids are not. The line-up includes Smoke Wagon Blues Band, Erin McCallum, John Finley, the Soul Motivators, Jeff Rogers and LMT Connection. Please check the schedule for a complete list of musicians. Affordable. A 3 day pass is \$42.89 with fees. A single day pass is \$17.27. VIP tickets are available for \$53.14 per night. Located on grass, wheelchair mobility may be an issue.

Harvest Music Festival (Sept10-15) Fredericton, New Brunswick One of the last of the year in Canada and one of the biggest! Originating in 1991 this festival is considered Eastern Canada's premiere music event with over 400 musicians, 150 performances covering 6 city blocks and 27 stages. Funk, Cajun, Jazz: you will find it all here and there is lots of Blues with a designated Blues stage. Headliners include Broken Social Scene, Feist, Spoon, Sarah Harmer, Skydiggers and Alejandro Escovedo. The Blues line-up includes Colin James & the Little Big Band, Big Sugar, Joanna Connor & the Wrecking Crew, Connor Fox, the Downtown Blues Band, Friends of the Brothers, Matt Minglewood and the Julian Taylor Band. The ultimate 5 day pass that includes all stages and all shows is \$345 plus taxes & fees, so

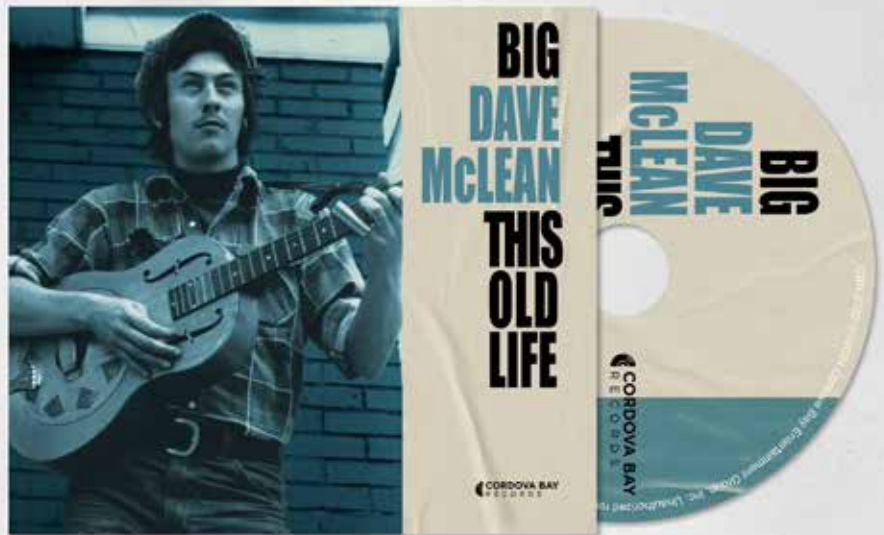
just under \$400. Combinations of various combined day or 2 day passes go from \$85/\$115 to \$155 plus taxes and fees. Prices vary but are quite reasonable for individual stage performances, so check their website for detailed information. There is an all free stage and tons of buskers, visiting artisans and food vendors. If you have never been to Fredericton this might be one of many good reasons to consider going.

Summer should be livin' easy and fun and outdoor music festivals can sure help to make it feel that way. Even with inflation, many of these festivals are quite affordable. Accommodations can be your biggest cost so look to alternative ways of keeping prices manageable. Consider sharing. Book early.

Find more affordable accommodations a short drive from the site. Consider camping or glamping. If there is an abundance of hotels to choose from compare prices. If the festival is in your area take public transit. Book airbnb's that have kitchens and/or outdoor bbq's to save on the cost of food. If you are travelling by car pre-buy your alcohol and plan and pre-cook some of your meals.

A Margarita toast to the pleasure of listening to live music on a Summer evening at an outdoor music festival. Here's to the Blues! Have a great Summer!

- Georgina Lynn Boucher



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Apr 30 Ancaster ON, Coach & Lantern*

May 1 Toronto ON, Hugh's Room Live

May 2 Blue Mountain ON, Studio 79

May 3 Ottawa ON, The Rainbow

May 4 Burnstown ON, Neat Cafe

May 5 Erin ON, The Busholme*

FEATURING: Steve Marriner, Jim Bowskill & Adam Warner
* with Jesse O'Brien

"Keep me searching for a Heart of Gold! And I'm getting old." Neil Young

Richard Flohil-

A life on the Edge of Music

After nearly a 65 year life commitment to music as a major Canadian publicist, writer, manager and concert promoter you would think Richard Flohil would be ready for a rocking chair to ponder that life. But no, Richard has never lost his passion for music or the desire to search out great talent. Nor has he stopped going out to hear live music, still attending concerts locally and across the country: close to 40 shows already this year. He will be celebrating his 90th birthday on Monday, June 24th at Lula Lounge and it is going to be one hell of a party and a celebration not to be missed.

The lineup rocks and is a reflection of the deep respect musicians have for Richard. The fact that he is turning 90 years old is a lovely tidbit, but it is his lifetime of dedication to music and musicians that is the real story. It is going to be an all star concert and includes Jaymz Bee, Kevin Breit, Charlotte McAfee-Brunner, Sonya Cote, Treasa Levasseur, Mariska Martina, Andrea Ramolo, Corin Raymond, Paul Reddick, Shakura S'Aida, Loryn Taggart, Samantha Windover and long-time friend Holger Petersen. A set will be given by Samantha Martin and Delta Sugar is the house band. There is also a very special surprise guest. All proceeds will go to the Unison Fund, a non profit charity created in 2010 that offers life saving financial and counselling services to musicians in the Canadian music community.

"At my age I don't think I want to rest in peace; if there is some sort of afterlife (which I doubt) I want to party my face off."

Richard Flohil was nine years old when he was sent to a private boarding school 30 miles north of London, England. He now refers to it as a school for unwanted children. It was a place where every moment of the day was organized and controlled, and he hated it. "I was grubby and a poor student." I once scored 2 out of 100 on a mathematics

test, having only got my name and the date right. Even worse, I was hopeless at sports." The written word however fascinated him and he produced his first hand-written school newspaper at twelve years old. He developed a love for reading and books. The one sport he excelled at was long-distance running which helped him to tear to the common room once a week after classes to hear the BBC Jazz Club on the radio. "Alone among my peers I loved this music- the energy, the drive, the simplicity of the tunes, the skill of the players"

"I wanted to meet those iconic Blues musicians I had only heard on records".

This early passion for Jazz and the written word was to take him a long way. At sixteen, he began to work as a junior newspaper reporter north of London eventually becoming a chief reporter at the Selby Gazette and the Herald. He moved to Canada in his early 20's.

Once in Toronto he began to edit trade magazines, slowly starting a career promoting and managing local artists and presenting concerts and writing entertainment articles most often for the Toronto Star. In 1970 he became editor of the music magazine "The Canadian Composer/Le Compositeur Canadien. He held that job for 22 years.

Richard Flohil's reputation as a "good guy" in the industry (something rarer than you would think) grew exponentially and he soon became one of the most prominent and experienced publicists in the music industry. He did get to present the first Canadian appearance of those very Blues musicians he had longed to meet in his youth: Muddy Waters, BB King, Bobby Bland and Buddy Guy. As a music promoter his clients read like a Who's Who of talent and are to be found in almost all genres of music: from Sir George Martin to kd Lang to Alice Cooper. In Canada he has worked for decades promoting Canadian musicians particularly in the early stages of their career. Clients have included Ani DiFranco, Prairie Oyster, Crash Test Dummies, Ian Tyson, Shakura S'Aida, Long John Baldry, Loreena McKennitt....too many to mention. He was the program director of the Mariposa Folk Festival for several years and was inducted into the Mariposa Hall of Fame in 2017. He was the co-manager of the Downchild Blues Band for several decades.

"It's too late to quit now." John Lee Hooker
Richard's long involvement with music

has presented him with many opportunities to interact with iconic musical artists. Last year he launched "Stories from the Edge of Music". He is a masterful story teller and a gifted writer. There are already 29 instalments of stories that are personal, funny, insightful and delightful. They are about human beings who happen to be musicians, sometimes very famous ones. Take his poignant story about helping to bring legendary trombonist Chris Barber to Toronto to play with Jeff Healey not too long before Jeff died from sarcoma cancer at 42 years of age: it is a story that melts the heart. Or his memories of meeting and then writing the very first cover story on Stompin' Tom Connors, a man who came from a poverty stricken childhood framed by orphanages, group homes and ill-chosen foster parents. Or his remarkably personal yet bitter sweet interaction with the then reclusive, eccentric Jazz genius Miles Davis who offered to buy his beat up old vehicle for \$2000 cash so he could drive home after a show at Massey Hall.

And there are many more stories yet to come: "more than anything else I consider myself a storyteller. I got into music promotion because I wanted to hear and meet the musicians. How could a passion for music in a career as long as mine not have stories to tell?"

"Richard is my guardian angel, my buddy, a great artist of those who become great. It was so important to have him on my record. He has never been on an album and he deserves that." Shakura S'Aida

In 2022 Shakura S'Aida released "Hold on to Love", a soulful, sexy exhilarating album of mostly original songs. She decided her last song on the album would be Neil Young's "Heart of Gold" and she knew she wanted Richard to be part of that song. Her interpretation is beautiful and ends with Richard's final whisper of the lyrics. It was a wise and respectful choice by an artist who understands that Richard only has to look to himself to find that heart. A heart of gold that has lived a life rich with the love of music. And a heart that is soon to log 90 years of living.

Book your dinner & date for June 24th at Lula Lounge. Come and sing Happy Birthday and offer best wishes to Richard. Experience a once-in-a-lifetime lineup of exceptional musicians. Help support Unison Fund.

"People, try to live as long as you can and don't waste a single day." Richard Flohil

"Stories from the Edge of Music"
<https://richardflohil.substack.com>
www.facebook.com/richard.flohil/
Tickets for Richard Flohil's 90th Birthday are \$25+ hst/fees and the link is <https://tinyurl.com/Flohil90> reservations for dinner can be made at lula.ca (416) 588-0307

- Georgina Lynn Boucher



Al Duffy Benefit: Our dear friend and fellow musician needs our help. There will be a fundraiser for Al, who is suffering from cancer and no longer able to work. The concert will be held at the Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St. E. on Sunday June 9, 3-6pm. Al's long-time bandmate Jack de Keyzer will be performing along with Brant Parker and Josh Miller. A professional bassist for over 50 years, Al's list of credits includes Downchild Blues Band, Morgan Davis, Mark Haines, as well as Josh Miller, Brant Parker and over 20 years as bassist for the Jack de Keyzer band. Al has contributed his talents and time to so many fundraisers throughout his career it is our turn to support our brother in the blues. Tickets are \$35 + sc. If you are unable to attend please consider buying a ticket to support Alan. If you can't make it to the show you can send a donation e-transfer to jackdekeyzer@rogers.com

Blues Mondays coming back to Union Station: The lineup has not been announced but the dates are set for another summer of free blues on Front Street, June 24 to August 19 with shows at noon and 6pm all curated by the Toronto Blues Society. Watch these pages and our socials to see who's playing.

cont'd on p9



Congratulations to TBS Board Member Suzie Vinnick for winning the Contemporary Singer of the Year award at this year's Canadian Folk Music Awards ceremony held in St John's, Newfoundland. Next year's 20th anniversary edition will take place back in Ottawa. Suzie is currently inspiring budding blues singers at the Hornby Island Blues Camp and then heads off to Italy on tour with guitar maestro Beppe Gambetta.

**P
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Paul has officially released his third album, Beautiful Sin. Now available on CD, LP and digital download.

Scan the QR code and get your copy today.

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www.paulblack.ca

Friends of King Biscuit Boy annual concert:

The 20th annual *Blues with a Feeling* concert will be held Saturday, May 11 at 8:00pm at the Leander Boat Club in Hamilton. Presented by The Friends of Richard Newell the annual concert pays tribute to Hamilton's foremost exponent of the blues, the late Richard Newell a.k.a. King Biscuit Boy. This year's show presents two dynamic blues guitarists and their electrifying bands – Steve Strongman and Brant Parker and a tribute to King Biscuit Boy must include at least one outstanding harmonica player and this year it's multiple Maple Blues Award winner and Juno nominee Carlos del Junco. In addition to those acts, Lester Smith, Larry Feudo and Paul Panchezak of the band Trickbag will offer a short set of acoustic blues from the "Ronnie Copple Memorial Chair" in the foyer of the Leander Boat Club. Acting as musical greeters of sorts and invoking the busking spirit of Chicago's Maxwell Street they will start the festivities at 7:30. Proceeds from this year's concert will be donated to the Hamilton Musicians' Guild's Bob Pedler Fund, a benevolent fund which provides financial assistance to musicians who are unable to perform due to health issues. Tickets for the concert are \$30 cash only please. Available Dr Disc, Stardust Records, Looney Tunes Records (Burlington), and Picks and Sticks.

Etwell concert series announced: Muskoka will be ringing with the blues as the Etwell Concert series gets underway. Here's what's announced so far:

Paul James (Sunday, June 30, 3pm), The Tonewheels (Sunday, July 7, 3pm), Campbell & Johnston (Wednesday, July 10, 7pm), Garret T. Willie (Sunday, July 14, 3pm), Cameo Blues Band (Sunday, July 21, 3pm), Glenn Marais (Thursday, July 25, 7pm), JW Jones (Sunday, July 28, 3pm), The Good Brothers (Sunday, August 4, 3pm), Carlos Del Junco (Sunday, August 11, 3 pm), Jerome Godboo (Tuesday, August 13, 7pm), Paul Reddick (Sunday, September 1, 3pm), Durham County Poets (Sunday, September 8, 3pm), Swamperella (Sunday, September 15, 3pm), Lance, Tobin & Roly (Sunday, September 22, 3pm). <https://www.etwellconcertseries.ca/>

Hugh's Room Fundraising: Hugh's Room Live has been having a great first year at their new digs on Broadview but despite a lot of support from the roots music community (financial and otherwise) they still need to raise \$2.5M to retire three mortgages as they fall due. They will be offering a combination of community bond purchases (up to \$1.3M, secured by a new first mortgage). They raised exactly this amount through the sale of community bonds (secured by a second mortgage) from generous friends of HRL last year to help purchase the building. They plan to retire the other two mortgages



The Great Lakes Blues Society's Pegg Saunders presented Brian "Mortz" Mortimer with a proclamation recognizing his life-long contribution to the music scene in London at the Final Firehall Reunion with performances by Tim Woodcock, Chris Murphy, the LTZ Band, Joel Dupuis and Jack de Keyzer. Photo by Nick Harding

through donations. They raised donations of about \$600K last year and now seek another \$1.2M in donations to replace the rest of the mortgage debt that the bonds don't cover. Support this local treasure by coming out to some shows and, if you're able, donate at <https://hughsroomlive.com/support/>

Afro-Metis Constitution: Chris White and Russ Kelley, two of the protagonists on the Afro-Métis Constitution album that came out a few years ago were in town doing some pre-production for the forthcoming follow up album. Before heading back to Ottawa, they dropped in to Ken Whiteley's Gospel Brunch at Hugh's Room where they were enjoying the gospel sounds of Nova Scotia's Linda Carvery, who will also be appearing on the new project (to be recorded at Ken Whiteley's Casa Wroxtton studio). www.afrometis.ca

The Mighty Duck Blues Band wraps up the 2023/2024 Saturday afternoon Blues series at Jo Blos Rock & Wok with two final shows featuring special guests Chuck Jackson (Downchild) May 4th and Jerome Godboo May 11th. The band will take their usual spring/summer hiatus, returning for the 2024/2025 edition of their popular matinee in mid October. The loss of guitarist and founder Dave Curry in December 2023 was difficult but the current lineup of Gary Kendall bass/vocals, Lorraine Ingle keyboards/vocals, Teddy Leonard guitar/vocals and Jim Casson drums/vocals will continue. The Dave Curry Memorial Music Fund has been established to provide financial support for music education and career development in the Niagara region. Jo Blos Rock & Wok, 2 Pelham Rd St. Catharines ON, Saturdays, 2:30 -6:30pm. www.mightyduckbluesband.com.

Musicians Take Note: Submissions from artists and labels for the 17th Annual Blues Blast Music Awards are open until May

31st, 2024. Albums released between June 1, 2023 and May 31, 2024 are eligible this year. Submit your music now. Click this link: www.bluesblastmagazine.com/blues-blast-awards-submission-information

Guitar show in Hamilton: Alfie Smith is starting a new guitar swap meet in Hamilton on Sunday, June 9th 3-7pm at the Laidlaw Memorial United Church. More info on their Facebook Group: Hamilton Players Grade Guitar Show. Like and share the page to spread the word. Tables are going to be \$50 and \$25 for a second table - you can split your booth with a second person if you want to keep costs down. General admission is \$5 and even if you don't get a table you can bring in one instrument to try and sell or trade. Alfie writes, "I want this to be a great yearly event. We want to build a great yearly community event for local musicians and collectors". If you need more info ALFIEZ1@yahoo.com

Increased Support for Music in Budget 2024: A big thank-you to the Canadian Government, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Minister of Canadian Heritage Pascale St Onge, for the increase in support to Canada Arts Presentation Fund (CAPF) and the Canada Music Fund (CMF) in the 2024 Federal Budget. The budget allocates \$31 million over two years (starting 2024-25) to the CAPF, supporting organizations that professionally present arts festivals/performing arts series. The budget also includes \$32 million over two years (starting 2024-25) to the CMF supporting the development and promotion of Canadian musicians and Canadian music. This funding represents a pivotal demonstration of support for our music community. The budget also proposes \$50 million over four years to support creative workers who may be impacted by Artificial Intelligence (AI), starting in 2025.

ALBUM REVIEWS



Glenn Marais & the Mojo Train *Red, Hot and Blue*

It's not easy to settle on a genre that defines *Red, Hot and Blue* the latest album from Newmarket, Ontario's Glenn Marais & the Mojo Train. Is it blues? Funk? Rock? R&B? Yes.

If you've ever met Marais, you'll know that the Juno-nominated singer-songwriter likes to colour outside the lines. Saying that his band's new album doesn't easily fit into any one musical genre probably won't bother him at all.

You'll hear it in Marais' cackling laugh. He likes to mess with people. For sure, he likes to get people moving, dancing and singing, but the artist in him also likes to challenge people.

Marais does this on multiple levels: in his songwriting and music, but also with his poetry, with the story and characters in his award-winning play *JOOK*, and in anti-racism and anti-bullying performances he delivers in schools throughout Ontario.

So how are Marais and the Mojo Train "messing with us" with their latest album "Red, Hot and Blue"?

I caught up with Marais recently to capture some of his thoughts behind the band's latest album. He and the Mojo Train were fresh off a trip where the band performed many of the songs on their new album en route to reaching the semi-finals in the International Blues Competition in Memphis, Tenn.

"This time around, it's all about love," said Marais with a laugh. "Love denied, love discovered. I'm in a better place now than I was and that's reflected in the writing and in the music. I'm more comfortable now with who I am, and being more loving. I'm learning to appreciate the moment more."

Marais said recovering from the grief of losing his brother and mother had a profound

effect on him. "My brother Andre was always pushing me, saying 'you hold back too much.' I don't play the same way now. I'm much more uninhibited."

Marais said part of opening up was allowing more room for his bandmates to get involved with this album. "We started to change the way we were doing things," he said. "It was more collaborative. Before I would just try to do everything, even things like fundraising and merchandising. It wasn't effective and it was frustrating me."

This openness is reflected in the album's sound, with bandmates taking a much more active role in lyrics, and in the directions of songs.

Performing on *Red, Hot and Blue* are the Mojo Train regulars: drummer Jeff Saulnier, bassist Manny DeGrandis, and keyboard player Jesse Karwat (who recently played keys on tour with I Mother Earth). Other session musicians Mike Stevens who played harmonica on some tracks and former Mojo member Nick Bogoeff who played flute and sax. The album was produced by Karwat and Marais and mastered by Adam Ayan.

"This is really a band album. Each of us was fully involved for the whole recording," said DeGrandis. "The album shows exactly what we are like now as a band. High energy, funky catchy hooks with a blues rock base."

DeGrandis said the pandemic shut down the band in the middle of recording the album, but it ended up working out for them, because it gave them time to keep improving the songs. "We would record a couple songs at a time, work on finishing them, and then hit another couple of songs. A lot of times bands need to rush recording their albums because of time or financial constraints."

Marais said four of the songs on the new album were born during sound checks. "There is a loose atmosphere during sound check in the way we interact. You are just feeling everything. There's a lot of work to get everything set up, and now we just get to play and be creative," he said.

The Mojo Train has been playing together for more than a decade and it shows on the album and in their live performances. For a band fully capable of jamming and improvising for hours at the drop of a hat, they are tightly-connected on the new album. Even though Marais is a skilled lead guitarist known for blistering solos, he's reined it in on the album, all in the support of keeping the vibe and elevating the songs.

This self restraint lets the listener glide along on a rhythmic wave, hearing each of the instruments clearly and with the vocals well up in the mix to deliver the nuance and emotion to deliver the message behind the music.

But the band's irrepressible energy can only be contained for so long, and when the dynamics shift on the title track *Red, Hot and Blue*, the slow ride on the *Mojo Train* speeds into full-blown blues rock, ending only after an emotion-packed and lengthy note held by Marais that ends the song.

The Delta Blues make more than just a guest appearance on the album with the track "It All Went Down", a heavier rhythmic number with a driving beat with a wailing harmonica trying desperately to be heard in the mix, like a suppressed cry.

"That's Where My Mojo's At" showcases the band's strengths as a high energy live act, and is the song they used to kick off their performances in the Memphis blues competitions. The strength of the band's rhythm section shines through with DeGrandis' driving bass and Saulnier's drumming holding the ship steady while Marais unleashes his Strat and delivers some tasty licks.

On "Love, Sweet Love", the band switches it up again and delivers a Stevie Wonder vibe that would have been perfectly happy lighting up radio stations in the 70s. It's a tune that just makes you want to smile and clap along.

On "Pink Lemonade", the band veers into pop terrain with a punchy beat and "fluffier" lyrics, with Marais reminiscing about youthful days drinking pink lemonade, giving us a break from the heavier themes, and taking us back to a time when life was less serious and less complicated.

"The Song of Love" is a sleepy blues burner that would be perfectly suited for an upscale coffee house or jazz bar. Horns make an appearance, adding to the jazzy feel, and even the guitar licks are slow and yearning, adding new musical directions.

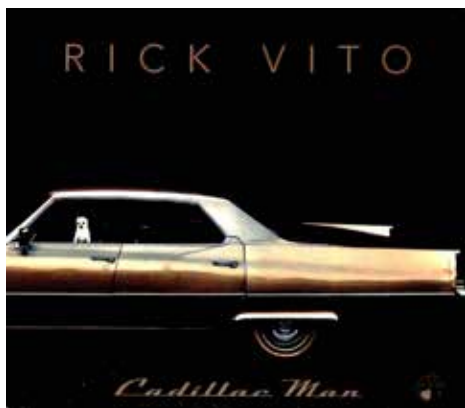
Red, Hot and Blue won't be for everyone's taste, because while the album holds together, it crosses into different musical lanes.

Even in Memphis, the band's genre-fluidity probably kept them from advancing further in the competition because the judges didn't quite know what to do with a band whose driving energy ignited the crowds in the Beale Street clubs, but did so outside the familiar confines of the 12-bar blues.

But Glenn Marais and the Mojo Train don't like to play by the rules, they set their own and take what comes their way, which is usually praise and more fans.

For more Mojo Train, check out the band's other albums released in 2017, "The Mojo Train" and a live Delta Blues Record "Preachin' From Down Low."

(Todd Phillips toddphillips.ca tphillips@fast4word.com)



Rick Vito *Cadillac Man* Blue Heart Records

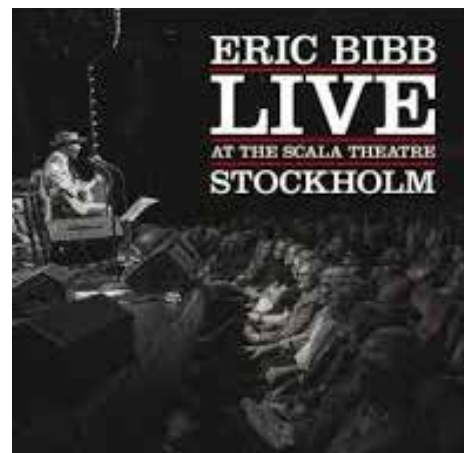
Rick Vito, born in 1949 had, I must say, escaped my attention, like an invisible man who has nevertheless played on over a hundred records, including a dozen releases, CDs and DVDs under his own signature. When I listened to him blind, I was seduced by his slide guitar playing! His sound and know-how made me open my ears and all my senses, wide! This guitarist and singer went to the right school, learning slide guitar from Elmore James and Robert Nighthawk, not to mention B.B. King, Les Paul and many others. By the 1970s, he had played on albums by such diverse artists as Todd Rundgren, Bobby Whitlock, John Mayall, John Prine, Roger McGuinn, Steve Goodman and Maria Muldaur. His contributions have since multiplied, including Bob Seger, Bonnie Raitt, Albert Collins, Jackson Browne, Little Richard, Roy Orbison, John Fogerty, and the list goes on... From 1987 to 1991, he was a member of the legendary band Fleetwood Mac. Nominated for a Grammy in 2010 in the Best Traditional Blues category, as both artist and producer, he also won a W.C. Handy Award in 2001 for his song "It's Two AM", then performed by the warm Shemekia Copeland, the daughter of the Texas Twister. Returning to his Cadillac Man album, on which, incidentally, he enlists the help of Canadian harmonica player Steve Marriner on the upbeat, danceable "Little Sheba", it sounds like a comfortable ride in a Cadillac, cruising through different blues styles and the vagaries of the road! "Crying At Midnight" is a slow blues with a solemn style, soaring guitar tones and expressive vocals. The result is an intense, atmospheric blues! "Sliding In The Blue", which closes the album, is a slow, slide-instrumental blues that showcases all the finesse and subtlety of a musician with refined taste and enhanced experience. With the release of Cadillac Blues, Rick Vito proves once again that he is a high caliber artist to be discovered or revisited, as the case may be. Enjoy the ride!

(Pierre Jobin – originally published in *Tendances Electronique & Design*, where you can access back issues with more blues reviews. www.tedpublications.com)

Eric Bibb *Live at the Scala Theatre* Stony Plain

After five decades of a fruitful career and thirty-six albums behind him, Eric Bibb, in the tireless pursuit of his musical journey of blues, folk, gospel and Americana represents for me a style, a genre in itself. Faithful to his deep roots, his rich family musical legacy, his positive philosophy and style, he breathes his music, his voice and his approach into the spirit of the times for whoever wants to listen. His latest opus, *Live at The Scala Theater in Stockholm*, flows and unfolds harmoniously with the close, heartfelt collaboration of his musician friends. The instrumentation used is rich and includes acoustic and electric guitar, slide guitar, pedal steel guitar, bass and double bass, drums, harmonica, violin, kora, mandola (alto mandolin of Algerian origin), piano and keyboards. The use of a string quartet for two songs, as well as three vocalists for the final tune, demonstrates that he did not skimp on the means and efforts to make the best possible arrangements work. The ensemble of musicians, as in a concert of roots music, tastefully renders Americana that is sweet to the ear, peaceful to body and soul as well as to the live audience who basked in this human and warm celebration! The repertoire includes the traditional "Goin' Down The Road Feelin' Bad", "500 Miles" and "Mole In The Ground", arranged in his own unique style. The blues pioneers, Leadbelly

and Walter Vinson of the Mississippi Sheiks are revisited and we are also treated to some compositions by Bibb, "Silver Spoon", "Along The Way", "Rosewood", co-written with Glenvin Anthony Scott, his musical director, as well as "River Blues".



These tell us more about Bibb's life experiences and his view on the facts of life. At the end of the show, he invites the audience to sing with him the chorus of the simple and beautiful "Mole in the Ground", this sing-along resulting in a warm and feel-good finale! Eric Bibb represents for me the sharing of music, and sung poetry that never goes out of style, well rooted in the tradition and evolving with the seasons! It's a generosity, a charm, an enchantment! (Pierre Jobin)



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

- Mr. Sipp** *Old Time Church* Malaco Records
- ***Mike Clark Band** *0-60* independent
- Eric Bibb** *Live at the Scala Theatre Stockholm* Stony Plain Records
- ***Al Lerman** *Country-Fried Blues* independent
- J.P. Soars** *Brick By Brick* Little Village Foundation
- Nick Gravenites w/ Pete Sears** *Rogue Blues* M.C. Records
- ***Jeff Rogers** *Dream Job* Diesel Management Productions
- John Primer & Bob Corritore** *Crawlin' Kingsnake* VizzTone
- ***Wailin' Al Walker** *All Fired Up* Jitterbug Records
- Eddie Cotton** *The Mirror* Malaco Records
- Canned Heat** *Finyl Vinyl* Ruf Records
- ***Matthew Chaffey** *Hotel Texas* Gypsy Soul Records
- ***Dave Mowat** *Crooked Road* independent
- Kevin Burt & Big Medicine** *Thank You Brother Bill: A Tribute to Bill Withers* Gulf Coast Records
- ***Angelina Hunter Trio** *Let It Slide* independent
- ***Jack de Keyzer** *Solo* Blue Star Records
- Rick Vito** *Cadillac Man* Blue Heart Records
- Seth James** *Lessons* Qualified Records
- ***Mike Goudreau Band** *Just Wanna Have Fun* independent
- Joanne Shaw Taylor** *Heavy Soul* Journeyman Records

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Wednesday, May 1

In Spite of Ourselves: an evening of John Prine 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, The Regent Theatre, 50 King St E, Oshawa, ON, 905 721 3399, presented by Black Rose Entertainment, \$35.00

Big Dave McLean w/ Steve Marriner and Jimmy Bowskill 8:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto

The Capys: Alec Fraser, James McKie, Chris Bartos 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054, every Wednesday

Action Sound Band 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, May 2

Mike Daley & Eric Schenkman 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272

The Swingin' Blackjacks 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474

Friday, May 3

Red Hot Ramble 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm, The Distillery District, 55 Mill St., Toronto

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

Weber Brothers Band 8:00 pm, Ganaraska Hotel, Address 30 Ontario St Port Hope ON, Toronto

Grant Lyle Trio 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville

Miss Emily 8:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

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

Saturday, May 4

The Mighty Duck Blues Band with Chuck Jackson 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm, Jo Blos Rock and Wok, 2 Pelham Rd (@ St. Paul St. W.), St. Catharines, 905-685-8280, \$10.00

Blues at the Regency w/ Johnny Max 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls

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

John Fraser Findlay w/ guests 4:00 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Catfish Blues Band 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Goldenfield Brewery, 71 Sunrise Avenue, North York, No cover.

Tim Bastmeyer 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Flying Monkeys Brewery Barrie, 107 Dunlop St E, Barrie, (705) 721-8989

Digging Roots w/ David Celia opening 7:00 pm, Upper Canada Playhouse, 12320 County Rd 2, Morrisburg

Morgan Davis 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Waring House, 395 Sandy Hook Rd, Picton

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

Stacey Kent Trio and Alison Young Trio 8:00 pm, RCM Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. W., Toronto, 416-408-0208, \$45

Blackburn Brothers w/ Bobby Dean (Dinner Buffet) 9:00 pm, Spot 1 Grill and Music Hall, 289 Rutherford Rd S, Brampton

Sunday, May 5

Chuck Jackson & Tyler Yarema 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, Shawn & Ed Brewing Co., 65 Hatt St., Dundas, (289) 238-9979, \$10

Camilo Restrepo 1:00 pm, Flying Monkeys Brewery Barrie, 107 Dunlop St E, Barrie, (705) 721-8989

Blues Church: Big Dave McLean w/ Jimmy Bowskill, Steve Marriner, Jesse O'Brien, Adam Warner,

opening act Al Lerman 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315, \$40

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Frank Cosentino & more 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

Patrick Fockler, Glenn Marais & Mojo Train, The Trainwrecks 2:30 pm, Jazz Room in Waterloo, 59 King St N, Waterloo, Grand River Blues Society AGM 12:30 followed by show, \$20

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

Rick Taylor Band 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, The Crystal Chandelier, 3878 Erie Rd, Crystal Beach, (905) 894-9996, No cover

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

Monday, May 6

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



Hamilton's beloved bluesman **Steve Strongman** gives the Escarpment Blues Society a big kick-off with an all-star lineup including Harrison Kennedy, Jack de Keyzer, Dawn Tyler Watson, Suzie Vinnick, Steve Marriner and The EBS Allstars Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 pm at the Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre, Wilson St. E, Ancaster, \$45

Tuesday, May 7

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

Quality Building Supplies feat. Paul Reddick, Clayton Yates, Gary Craig, Wayne DeAdder 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Wednesday, May 8

Steve Strongman & Colin Lapsley w/ Lori Yates 8:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822

Morgan Davis 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Deadleaf Distinguished Gentlemen, 42 Dundas St, Napanee, (343) 884-5355, DONATION

The Capys: Alec Fraser, James McKie, Chris Bartos 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054, every Wednesday

Action Sound Band 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, May 9

Fraser/Daley 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272

Morgan Davis 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Blues at the Cove – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636, \$20.00

In Spite of Ourselves: an evening of John Prine 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, The Westdale Theatre, 1014 King St W, Hamilton, 905 577 0074, An evening of your favourite John Prine songs with 4 great singer songwriters & full band, \$40.00

Friday, May 10

Morgan Davis 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Upfront Cafe, 313 Front St., Belleville, 343 600-3313, \$20.00

David Rotundo (2 nights) 7:00 pm, Blues at the Cove – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636, Donations support St. Edward Catholic School & Rideau Vista Public School of Westport

Tyler Yarema 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Shawn & Ed Brewing Co., 65 Hatt St., Dundas, (289) 238-9979, \$10

Matt Weidinger: The Music of Van Morrison 8:00 pm, Gayety Theatre, 161 Hurontario St., Collingwood, \$50

Cheryl Lescom & Tucson Choir Boys 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville

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

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto
Fraser Melvin Blues Band 10:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Saturday, May 11

Blues at the Regency w/ Joel Johnson 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls
Brant Parker Band with Mike Branton 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Donnelly's Pub, 54 Front St S,

Thorold, (905) 227-1947, \$10
The Mighty Duck Blues Band with Jerome Godboo 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm, Jo Blos Rock and Wok, 2 Pelham Rd (@ St. Paul St. W.), St. Catharines, 905-685-8280, Series Finale-The Mighty Duck Blues Band will return in Oct. 2024, \$10.00

Gail Gunnis & The Dirty Roosters 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Goldenfield Brewery, 71 Sunrise Avenue, North York
David Rotundo (2 nights) 7:00 pm, Blues at the Cove – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636, Donations support St. Edward Catholic School & Rideau Vista Public School of Westport
Morgan Davis 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Hotel Wolfe Island, 1237 County Rd 96, Wolfe Island, 613 305-2626, \$25.00
King Biscuit Boy Tribute: Steve Stongman & Brant Parker Band w/ Carlos del Junco 8:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Leander Boat Club (formerly Bay City Music Hall), 50 Leander Dr, Hamilton, Tickets are \$30 (cash only) at Dr Disc, Stardust Records, Looney Tunes Records (Burlington), and Picks and Sticks, \$30
Jesse Whiteley Trio 9:00 pm, Noonan's Irish Pub, 141 Danforth Ave, Toronto ON, 416 778 1804

Sunday, May 12

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Marshall Dane & 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
Mother's Day Matinee & Buffet: Nicholas Campbell & The Two Meter Cheaters 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Front Porch Southern Kitchen and Blues Joint, 4 Albert St., Langton, 226-397-1223, reservations@frontporchsouthernkitchen.com or by phone 226-397-1223, \$65
Rick Taylor Band 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, The Crystal Chandelier, 3878 Erie Rd, Crystal Beach, (905) 894-9996, No cover
Richard Henderson Blues Combo 7:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469
Paul Reddick and Kyle Ferguson w/ guests 7:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Monday, May 13

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

Tuesday, May 14

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Quality Building Supplies feat. Paul Reddick, Clayton Yates, Gary Craig, Wayne DeAdder 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto



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Show @ 7:30pm
Tickets: \$45* + fees available at
boxoffice@memorialarts.ca

***EBS Members Discounts will apply**

Wednesday, May 15

Morgan Davis 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Waring House, 395 Sandy Hook Rd, Picton, Free

The Capys: Alec Fraser, James McKie, Chris Bartos 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054, every Wednesday

Action Sound Band 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

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

Thursday, May 16

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

Blackburn Brothers 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, John Saunders Centre, 80 Sandford Fleming Dr, Collingwood, \$55.00

Morgan Davis 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, \$30.00

Steve Marriner 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Bluebird Bar, 2072 Dundas W., Toronto

Friday, May 17

Alfie Smith 6:00 pm, Mann's Distillery, 581 West St., Brantford

Genius+Soul = The Music of Ray Charles 8:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, \$38

Morgan Davis 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville, \$15.00

Larry Kurtz & The Lawbreakers 8:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Revival 1863, 35 Armstrong Street, Orangeville, (519) 307-2100

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

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Saturday, May 18

Tim Bastmeyer 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, The Beaufort Pub, 173 Dundas Street East, Belleville

Blues at the Regency w/ Mark Stafford 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls

Paul James Band 3:00 pm, Smoke-show BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

The Johnny Max Band & The Weber Brothers 6:30 pm, Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, 130 Navy St, Oakville, (905) 338-4161, 45 - 55

Alfie Smith Trio 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville, \$15

Fraser Melvin & Robert Davis 9:00 pm, Shakey's Bar, 2255 Bloor Street West, Toronto, 4167675608

Sunday, May 19

Emily Burgess Band (matinee) 2:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St, Oakville, \$20

Joshua Miller and The Pappy Johns Band 2:00 pm, Stonewalls Restaurant, 339 York Blvd., Hamilton, 905-577-0808, \$15

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Glenn Marais & Manny DeGrandis 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

Dr. Mike Daley presents: The Story of the Blues 3:00 pm, Church of the Redeemer, 162 Bloor St. W., Toronto, \$30

Rick Taylor Band 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, The Crystal Chandelier, 3878 Erie Rd, Crystal Beach, (905) 894-9996, No cover

Morgan Davis 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Waring House, 395 Sandy Hook Rd, Picton, Free

Mike Sedgewick's Blues Revue 7:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130, Linsmore every 3rd Sunday of month

Monday, May 20

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

Tuesday, May 21

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Quality Building Supplies feat. Paul Reddick, Clayton Yates, Gary Craig, Wayne DeAdder 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Wednesday, May 22

Red Hot Ramble w/ East Side 6 Swing & Blues Dance 7:00 pm, Reid's Distillery, 32 Logan Avenue, Toronto, +1 416-465-4444, \$10 cover for band, \$20 for lesson + band. Beginner Lesson at 7PM, music at 8PM, 10 - 20

Tommy Emmanuel 8:00 pm, First Ontario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St Paul St, St Catharines, 905-688-0722, 55 - 69

The Capys: Alec Fraser, James McKie, Chris Bartos 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054, every Wednesday
Action Sound Band 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, May 23

Mike Daley and Dave Murphy 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272

Concerts of Note

Big Dave McLean w/ Steve Marriner and Jimmy Bowskill | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | May 1

Miss Emily | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | May 3

Morgan Davis | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | May 16

Genius+Soul = The Music of Ray Charles | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | May 17

Paul James Band - Bob Dylan Tribute | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | May 30

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram w/Grace Powers | The Opera House | Toronto | June 2

Junkhouse w/Voodoo Pawn Shop | Blues Holler | Uxbridge | June 22

Anthony Gomes | El Mocambo | Toronto | June 29

Natural Balance: Dave Mowat w/ friends from Alderville First Nations | Westben Performing Arts Theatre | Campbellford | July 11

Sonny Landreth / Sean Pinchin | Blues Holler | Uxbridge | July 21

Festivus w/ Spencer Mackenie, Glenn Marais & The Mojo Train, Voodoo Pawn Shop | Blues Holler | Uxbridge | July 27

Hogtown All Stars | Blues Holler | Uxbridge | August 18

Harry Manx | Blues Holler | Uxbridge | August 25

Chris Smither | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | September 5

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

Morgan Davis 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Trestle Brewing Co., 9 Great North Road, Parry Sound ON, 705 751 9108, \$10.00

Friday, May 24

Morgan Davis 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Riverbowl, 310 Ontario St, Burks Falls, 705 382-3813, Free

The Last Waltz - A Musical Celebration of THE BAND 8:00 pm, Regent Theatre Oshawa, 50 King St. E., Oshawa, \$50

Paul James Band 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Shawn & Ed Brewing Co., 65 Hatt St., Dundas, (289) 238-9979

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

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Parkside Drive (members of Bywater Call) 10:00 pm, 3030 Dundas, 3030 Dundas St. W., Toronto, 416-769-5736

Saturday, May 25

Terry and the Blues Pirates 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Hy-Hope Farm, Pickering

The Blues Corner -Open Blues Jam 2:30 pm to 7:00 pm, The Blues Corner, 1594 Queen St East, Toronto, 6476080993, Outdoors (BYOB), Free

Blues at the Regency w/ Chuck Jackson 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls

The Don River Blues Band 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469, No Cover

The Johnny Max Band 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, The Grand Maple Event Centre, 19 Albert St E, Trent Hills, ON, 705 922 2106, \$45.00

Catherine MacLellan 8:00 pm,
Newmarket Legion, 707 Strigley St.,
Newmarket, Tickets via Ticketscene
or etransfer to newmarketfolk@gmail.
com, \$30

Conor Gains 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm,
Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave.,
Collingwood, 705-293-3474

Sunday, May 26

Garnetta Cromwell and DaGroov-
Masters wsg Danny Boy Phelan 2:00
pm to 5:30 pm, Back Alley Bar and
Grill, 18 Princess Ave., St. Thomas,
Maple Blues Awards Nominee - New
Artist/Group Of The Year 2024 Ticket
info: [https://www.ticketscene.ca/
events/46544/](https://www.ticketscene.ca/events/46544/), \$35

Rick Taylor Band 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm,
The Crystal Chandelier, 3878 Erie Rd,
Crystal Beach, (905) 894-9996, No
cover

Swingin' Blackjacks 3:00 pm,
Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt
Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

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

Rocky Verweel & Queen City Blues
7:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew,
744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-
7469

Gary Clark Jr. (2 shows) 8:00 pm,
History, 1663 Queen St E (Coxwell),
Toronto

Ken Yoshioka 9:00 pm, Grossman's
Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto,
(416) 977-7000, Blues jam, PWYC

Monday, May 27

Gary Clark Jr. (2 shows) 8:00 pm,
History, 1663 Queen St E (Coxwell),
Toronto

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

Tuesday, May 28

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on
Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Escarpment Blues Society Launch:
Harrison Kennedy, Jack de Keyzer,
Dawn Tyler Watson, Suzie Vinnick,
Steve Marriner, Steve Strongman,
The EBS Allstars 7:30 pm, Ancaster
Memorial Arts Centre, Wilson St. E,
Ancaster, \$45

Quality Building Supplies feat. Paul
Reddick, Clayton Yates, Gary Craig,
Wayne DeAdder 9:00 pm, Cameron
House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Wednesday, May 29

The Capys: Alec Fraser, James
McKie, Chris Bartos 8:00 pm to
11:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357
Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-
8054, every Wednesday

Morgan Davis 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm,
Foster's Inn, Stratford, FREE
Action Sound Band 8:30 pm to 11:30
pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina
Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, May 30

Shawn Kellerman 7:30 pm, John
Saunders Centre, 80 Sandford
Fleming Dr, Collingwood, \$35
Paul James Band – Bob Dylan
Tribute 8:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live,
296 Broadview, Toronto

Friday, May 31

Campbell & Johnston 8:00 pm,
Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St,
Oakville, \$15
Lance Anderson and NOLA Parish
8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Jazz Room in
Waterloo, 59 King St N, Waterloo
Zeke Pippin 8:30 pm, Sauce on
Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night
Blues Jam 9:30 pm, Black Swan
Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Saturday, June 1

Blues at the Regency w/ Chris
Chambers 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm,
Regency Athletic Resort, 8068
Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls

Tim Bastmeyer 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm,
Flying Monkeys Brewery Barrie, 107
Dunlop St E, Barrie, (705) 721-8989
Andre Bisson Band 8:00 pm,
Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St,
Oakville, \$25

Sunday, June 2

Rick Taylor Band 3:00 pm to 6:00
pm, The Crystal Chandelier, 3878 Erie
Rd, Crystal Beach, (905) 894-9996,
No cover

Danny Marks Combo 3:00 pm,
Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt
Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469
Dan Walsh (solo matinee) 3:00 pm,
Moonshine Cafe, 137 Kerr St,
Oakville, \$10

Morgan Davis 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm,
Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E,
Toronto, (416) 699-8272, DONATION
Ghost Town Blues Band 5:00 pm to
8:00 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10
Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-
3474

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

**Christone "Kingfish" Ingram w/
Grace Powers** 8:00 pm, The Opera
House, 735 Queen St E., Toronto,
(416) 466-0313, \$40



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Monday, June 3

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

10521 Hwy 64, Lavigne, 705-594-2301

Tim Bastmeyer 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Acoustic Grill, 172 Picton Main St., Picton

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Tuesday, June 4

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

Saturday, June 8

Thursday, June 6

Brant Parker Blues Band 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474

WINTERFOLK Spring edition: Garnetta Cromwell, Gary Kendall, Donne Roberts, Lynn Harrison, **Isaak Bonk and more** 12:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St. E, Toronto, One day only **Blues at the Regency w/ Dave Rave** 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls

Friday, June 7

Morgan Davis 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Black Horse Pub, 452 George St N, Peterborough, DONATION
Murray Kinsley & Wicked Grin Trio 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Lavigne Tavern,

Gail Gunnis & The Dirty Roosters 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Goldenfield Brewery, 71 Sunrise Avenue, North York

Tim Bastmeyer 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Flying Monkeys Brewery Barrie, 107 Dunlop St E, Barrie, (705) 721-8989



Isaak Bonk made a big impression at the Blues Summit with his old-time approach to the blues and he'll be part of a mini-Winterfolk all-day event at the Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St. E on Saturday, June 8 which will also feature Garnetta Cromwell, the Gary Kendall Trio, Donné Roberts, Lynn Harrison, and more 12:00 pm to 11:30 pm. A great opportunity for Winterfolk regulars to get together despite the cancellation of this year's February edition



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Many thanks to Davie and Lena Kim for their help with the Newsletter mailing.

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