

All the news about the blues, blues artists and blues events

MAPLE BLUES NEWS



September 2025

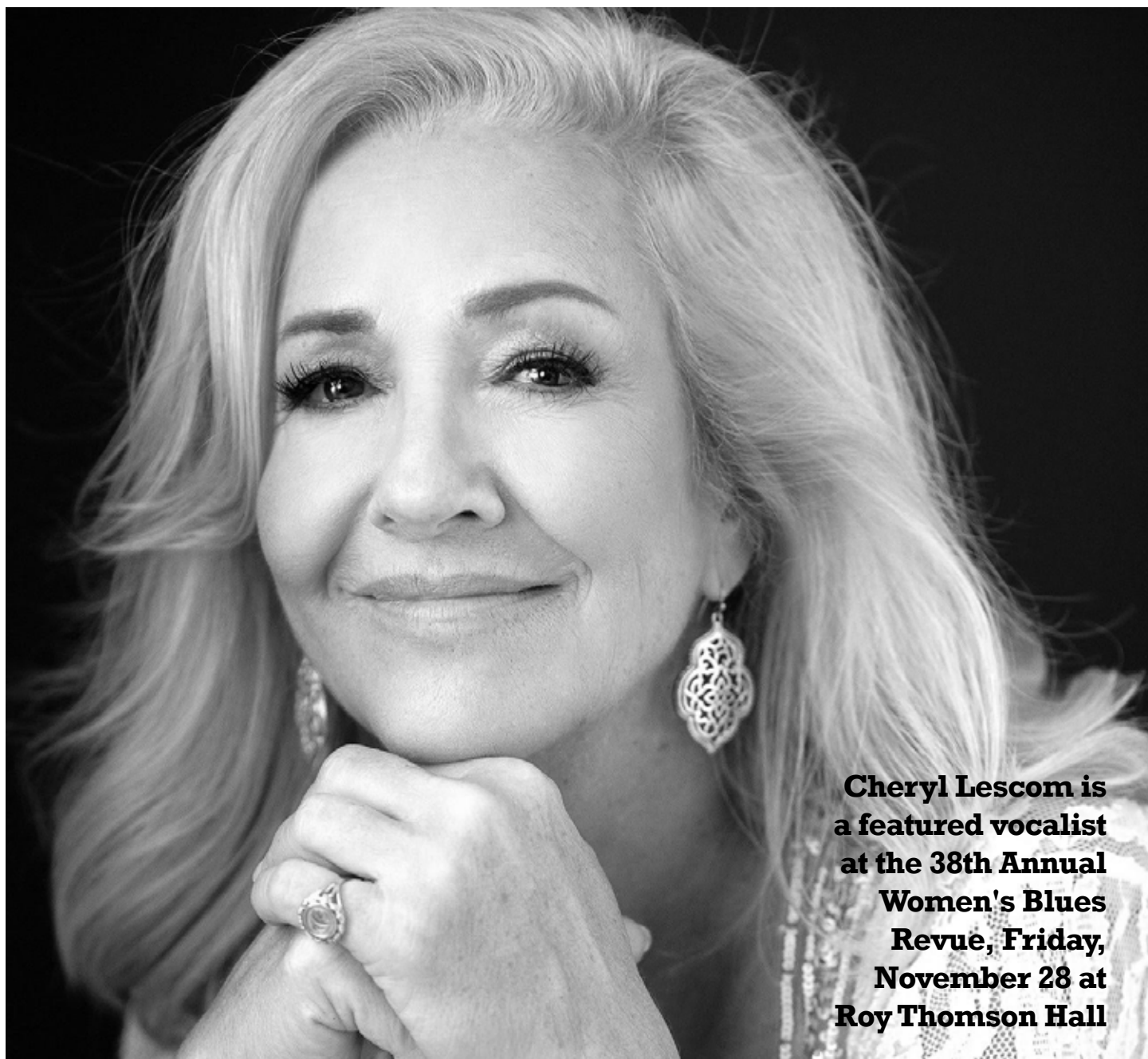
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**Cheryl Lescom is
a featured vocalist
at the 38th Annual
Women's Blues
Revue, Friday,
November 28 at
Roy Thomson Hall**

Cheryl Lescom at WBR

Shawn Kellerman

Festival Finale

Reviews

Loose Blues News

Top Blues

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

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Friday, November 28, 8pm Roy Thomson Hall The 38th Women's Blues Revue. Stay tuned
for full lineup.

Sunday, March 29, 2026 Maple Blues Awards

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Cheryl Lescom at WBR

Cheryl Lescom is the first featured vocalist to be announced for this year's Women's Blues Revue on Friday, November 28 at Roy Thomson Hall. Cheryl is no stranger to the WBR. She played it in 1987, 1997 and 2016. She is now celebrating 50 years as a full-time blues singer and has no intention of retiring, "I'm not retiring. I can't retire. I will retire when my voice is gone. To be honest with you, I think it's better than it's ever been so I'm not gonna quit till I can't. If I start sucking I'll quit but I'm not sucking yet..."

Starting off in 1975 with several of her own bands before becoming a back up singer for Ronnie Hawkins and touring with Long John Baldry, Cheryl also sang on many national jingles in the 1980's. She has toured and performed with Canada's best, the likes of Jeff Healey, Matt Minglewood, Dutch Mason, the Downchild Blues Band, Jack deKeyser, Mel Brown, Paul James, various Lance Anderson conflagrations and every summer she is the MC for the main stage of the Kitchener blues festival.

She is well known throughout the blues and roots community as "one of the best and biggest voices in Canada". Her soulful, road weary, yet sweet and sophisticated vocals perfectly and convincingly deliver the emotion, rawness and double-entendre that blues and soul music fans enjoy.

As the late, great Long John Baldry once said, "I've had many great singers with me over the years and Cheryl is by far one of my favourites!" To date, Cheryl has released 7 CD's and has a new one that is currently being mastered. "The new record is gonna



be called "Last Call" and it's all originals and it's with the Tucson Choir Boys."

Remembering past experiences at the Women's Blues Revue she said, "The second time I did it I was pregnant with my son and he's 35 now...I like a revue where you've got more than one person or one band on there, so I think that's the biggest thrill for me - just getting to meet all the people that you know and that we have a admiration for...we all have our deep respect for each other and that's the key, and being able to see new people that are coming up ...it's just a very cool environment."

She says, "Especially, who's the new girl that won the Blues Challenge in Memphis, Joce Reyome. Yeah, I'm really looking forward to seeing her and meeting her and she's a Maritimer. I got a love for Maritimers. As soon as I heard her Memphis stuff from the contest, I went online and just started Googling and I was just in love. I love discovering new talent and I love discovering new women and you know I'm at the point where I'm kind of at the latter part of my career and they're at the top part and it's so nice. It's so nice to see where it's all going."

Encouraging young blues artists has been a big part of her life, mostly as a mentor at the Grand River Blues Camp. "I teach at the Blues Camp every year and I have since the beginning - it's been 17 years. The kids start out at 11 and they go up to 18-19. A lot of times you get to see the progress for like eight years with these kids and that's been one of my biggest thrills. Matt Weidinger, Spencer MacKenzie and a lot of people have come up from the Blues Camp.

I really had an opportunity to see some great talent come up. (This year's TBS Talent Search Winner) Isy Aboagye was 11 when she started at the camp so I watched her develop into the artist that she has become. When she first came in you know she was just singing and I said 'honey, this day you got a play an instrument, you got it? You can't just be a singer anymore'. It's not like the 60s right? So she's playing now, she's worked really hard and there's a few girls that have come up to Kitchener ... I couldn't even begin to run them off because there's been so many. These young people that you just kinda go wow and they work hard and then you can see that there's a future for them and in the business of music ...now, I don't know what the future music business is gonna be...

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.

Give Me My Blues

by Georgina Lynn Boucher

*"I'm a Blues man; I'm
a Blues man. I'll sing
the Blues for you. We're
Blues men, we're Blues
men. Let us play the
Blues for you"*

- Kell's Kitchen" 2024 by Shawn
Kellerman with guest Blues musician
Bobby Rush

To say that Shawn Kellerman is blues to the bone would be an understatement. This Canadian born, Waterloo, Ont. resident has been singing and playing the Blues for 3 decades. The word "quintessential" is defined as the most perfect, typical or essential representation of a quality or of a class. Something that embodies the purest and most significant characteristics of a kind. For Shawn being mentored by quintessential Blues men has defined his life journey.

It began when he was very young and in his own family, especially in his strong relationship with his father. They would travel together to American music hubs like Memphis, Austin and New Orleans. They would go to Blues concerts in Toronto. His father played piano, and his stepmother sang in clubs. By the time Shawn was 16, he was encouraged to play guitar in those clubs. "I got to sit in with the band in the third set. Soon, I was asked to play with adult bands. I was always the kid in the band who was underage." At some point his dad began to run Kitchener's famous "Pop the Gator". It was here that Shawn was first embraced by legendary American/Canadian Blues musician Mel Brown. It was a life altering mentorship. "It changed my trajectory and my whole career having his blues knowledge, skill, and road cred right at my fingertips like a university library."

During this early time many iconic musicians passing through Kitchener like Robert Cray, Buddy Guy and Jimmy Johnson would visit and sometimes even stay for dinner at Shawn's family home. "It was Jimmy who gave me a heads up with guitar lessons."

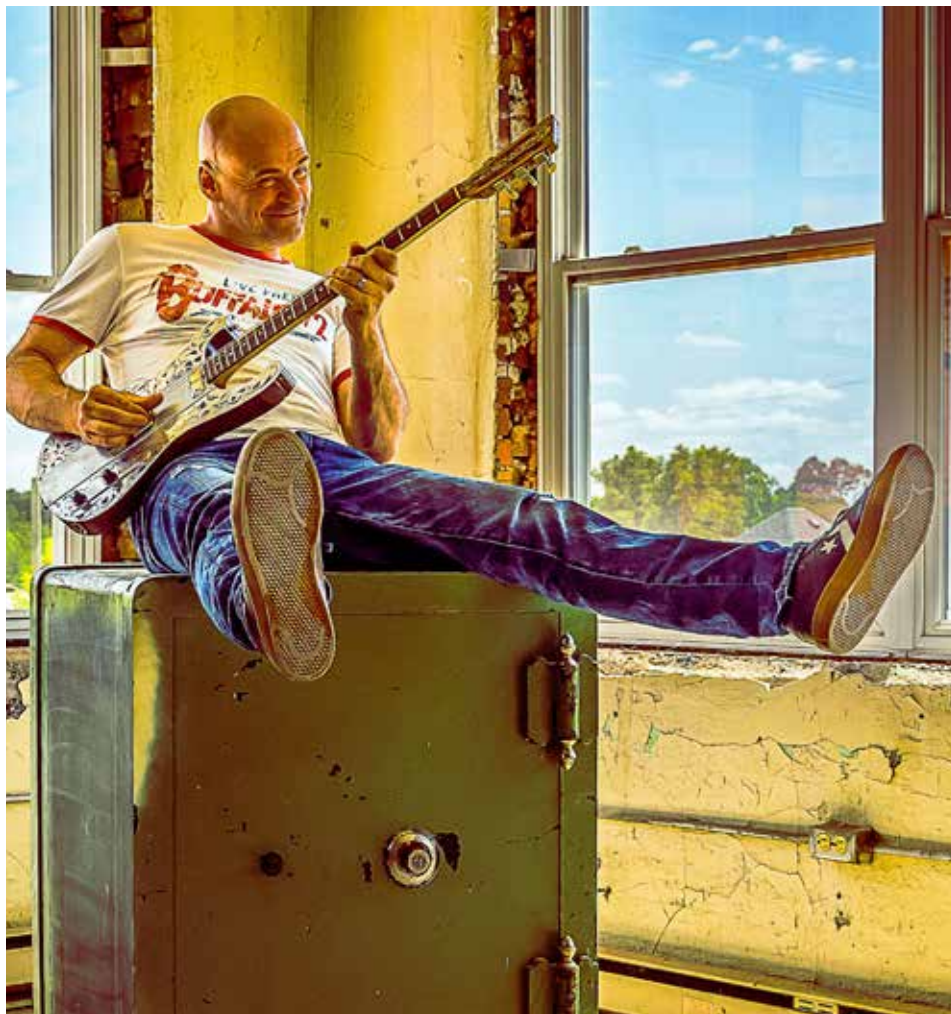


PHOTO BY NICK HARDING

Determined to meet the high standards exemplified by Mel Brown, Shawn was ready to hit the road by the 1990's, moving to Jackson, Mississippi to join the one and only Bobby Rush. "I played with Bobby Rush before he was well known or had the three Grammys he has now. We first met at a studio session and that was when he invited me to join his band." It was an extraordinary opportunity and opened the door to lasting friendships, the Deep South and the Chitlin' Circuit. Their relationship has lasted until this day.

Encouraged by great artists, inspired by true talent and compelled to work hard to hone his craft: his next mentorship would be one that would have him playing over 200 gigs a year and would take him around the world. He was to join the Lucky Peterson Band! Although not a household name like BB King or Muddy Waters; Lucky Peterson and his father James Peterson, are no less important in the history of American Blues music. Blues musician James Peterson (1937-2010), like Mel Brown, also mentored young musicians, including his son, Lucky. In 1965, James opened Governor's Inn: The House of Blues in Buffalo. It would become a living legend as a venue for Blues giants such as Howlin' Wolf. Like Shawn, his son Lucky Peterson often met great Blues musicians, and he too

started young but at an even earlier age. He was considered a child prodigy and by the age of six had appeared on major tv programs like The Ed Sullivan and The Tonight Show. Mentorship also played a key role in his music journey. He considered jazz organist Jimmy Smith his "first master and mentor on the Hammond B-3 organ," an influence that would shape Peterson's signature style by blending blues, gospel and jazz with soulful organ grooves. For Shawn it was an indelible relationship. "I had admired Lucky since I was a teenager, I had invited him to come to Kitchener as my guest and play in my band around 2004. "Right away, getting to play on stage with him changed everything. His power and command of the stage was larger than you can imagine. We did things over the years but in 2011 Lucky asked me if I wanted to join his band full time. My dad, who had just passed away two months before, would have loved this opportunity for me. Of course, I accepted." Shawn spent eight years touring the world with Lucky Peterson as well as performing, recording and producing records with him until his untimely death at the age of 55.

**"The power of the Blues is to
transform suffering and negative
experiences into something joyful."**

Shawn continues to recognize and give honor to his past but has continually moved forward redefining and breathing new life into his music. He has performed in nearly 50 countries from Russia to Morocco to Central Europe. He has collaborated with a wide variety of Canadian artists such as Carlos del Junco, Paul Reddick and Shakura S'Aida, who he recently completed a Western Canada tour with. "We had some amazing opportunities to play at workshops with other musicians that allowed us to really dive into some different styles of Blues and Roots music." Along with touring the Deep South and Europe with Bobby Rush, Shawn performed with many other notable American musicians such as award-winning singer and harp wizard Jason Ricci and longtime friend and Blues singer Zoom, releasing a joint album with her in 2021. He has released three of his own albums. He coproduced two of Lucky Peterson's albums and appeared on two of his live CD's. He played bass and co-produced Eric Schenkman's "Who Shot John" CD.

Kellerman's respect for the Blues and the musicians who mentored him is evident in his most recent 2024 album "Kell's Kitchen". It contains 12 original songs and 2 covers. Shawn feels that the album reflects the deep influences that quintessential musicians Mel Brown, Bobby Rush and Lucky Peterson had on him. "When you were in their presence it was like some sort of perfection. I knew I had to try to be as proficient and as good. It was always a very humbling experience." It is that very humility paired with quality that guarantees that Shawn Kellerman gives his best in his performances. Today Shawn embraces Blues as a conduit for all genres of music. But there is no question that Blues is in his DNA. Or that he is the quintessential bluesman who has no fear in declaring, performing and singing "I am a Blues man."

"Give me My Blues" by Albert Collins can be found on the Shawn Kellerman release "Blues Without a Home" 2009

Don't miss a chance to see Shawn's show at the **Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues Festival (Sept. 12-14th) on Saturday, Sept. 13th at 6:55pm.** Shawn loves musical collaboration, and his upcoming **"Caravan of Soul"** is going to be just that. It features Eric Schenkman, Shawn Kellerman, Paul Reddick, Johnny Max and special guest Miss Emily. **At the Redwood Theater at 1300 Gerrard Street East, Toronto on Friday, Nov. 21st. And at the Busholme Inn in Erin, Ont. on Saturday, Nov. 22nd.**

For more information on future events or to buy his music; visit Shawn's website at <https://shawnkellerman.com/>

Tales of a Novice MC

As part of TD-sponsored Union Summer, TBS was responsible for a series of six free outdoor concerts from June 30th to August 4th at Toronto's Union Station. While Monday evening concerts like these have long been a staple of Union Summer, none have ever had a stronger lineup than this year's series of shows.

Starting with Jay Douglas, whose performance was interrupted by a torrential downpour that ended his set, the current crop of Blue Monday shows featured a consistently high calibre of talent. These talented artists, in turn, attracted an enthusiastic audience of dedicated Blues fans who could be counted on to arrive early and occupy their favourite tables in front of the stage.

Eventually I began to recognize the regulars. Almost immediately, however, what I didn't see concerned me. There was no MC. I believe that both artist and audience benefit when there's an MC present ("a host person") to facilitate communication. An MC helps to communicate a certain amount of appreciation and respect for artist and audience alike. An MC's primary role in my view is to provide a reminder that "everyone's welcome to the party".

But why should I, of all people, MC these shows? What made me think I could do it? I've not had a lot of practice. What tiny bit I've had goes back a few months. When I was stage managing at North By Northeast, several bands allowed me to MC their sets. Having just met these bands, I quickly did an internet search for some information about each one before they played. Thus somewhat partially prepared, I could say something to introduce each band that wouldn't come off sounding like I'd made it up on the spot ... which I had! And it was fun doing it!

My experience generally, drawn from a variety of public speaking situations, has been that the most effective talks seem to be delivered effortlessly, regardless of how much or how little preparation has gone into them. If you can appear to be talking spontaneously -- i.e. off the cuff -- while still making sense, then you're probably doing an excellent job of establishing rapport with your audience.

When it looks like I'm thinking out loud as I speak, I feel that those listening are not only hearing what I'm saying but also participating in a conversation that engages them directly.



Such was my approach at Union Station, organizing my thoughts/mental notes in advance of each show.

Because I was seeing Miss Emily and Angelique Francis for the first time, they required slightly more work to prepare compared with any of the others: Diana Braithwaite & Chris Whiteley, Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar, and Jay Blues Trio.

Of course, I was delighted to meet all of the artists, who were uniformly warm and gracious. Without exception, they thanked me for the introductions I gave them, which was a pleasure and a special privilege for myself.

Rather than introducing them over again for their second set, which would have been redundant, I suggested that we do a short impromptu Q&A. I might ask them a question like "How did you get into the Blues?" or "How did you put your band together?" Their unrehearsed answers were pure gold, gaining the audience's attention and holding it better than anything I could have said.

I can tell you that my enjoyment increased with every show I hosted, as I became more confident about my developing MC skills.

- Christian Mueller

P.S. An added delight during my initial week of TBS shows was that Quisha Wint and her QW Band were playing a Friday Soul Session in the same place, and she let me MC their show. Thank you, Quisha! And thank you to the venue personnel assisting in various ways behind the scenes!

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History Lesson: If you haven't visited the Friar's Music Museum in Dundas Square (on the 2nd floor of a Shoppers Drug Mart at 283 Yonge Street) you might want to check it out before they turn over the exhibition at the end of September. The current exhibit is "Shaking the Foundations: Women Trailblazers in Toronto Music," which honors the contributions of women to the city's music scene. The exhibit features rare photos, recordings, and memorabilia from influential artists across genres, highlighting their impact and breaking barriers in the music industry. Some of the artists highlighted include Carole Pope, Kiran Ahluwalia, Jane Bunnett, Jackie Shane, Salome Bey, Sylvia Tyson, Jully Black, Lori Yates and Lorraine Segato. This initiative is managed by the Downtown Yonge BIA and a new organization called The Toronto Music Experience. It is a bold new cultural destination that celebrates the music, its creators and performers of Toronto – past, present and future.

Located in an accessible downtown location, TME will preserve and showcase the city's unique music history across all genres, including jazz, blues, classical, pop, folk, rock, reggae, hip-hop, latin, Indigenous, electronic and world music. As a Registered Canadian Charity, TME will not only honour the city's musical past, but present current artists and music of Toronto today. And through educational and public programs, exhibitions, events and performances, it will inspire future generations of performers, writers, artists and music industry leaders and foster a love and appreciation for music. Through preservation and presentations, TME aims to inspire music lovers with museum exhibitions, events and programs that explore the city's unique and diverse music culture, past and present. www.torontomusicexperience.com

Passings: Two "behind-the-scenes" figures whose names are probably not familiar to most of our readers passed away last month but they left their mark on the Canadian Blues landscape. **Harvey Glatt** started out promoting concerts (early ventures included Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin) and then opened a record store (Treble Clef in Ottawa), started a record label (Posterity Records and later was a major investor in Linus/True North), launched a radio station (CHEZ-FM) and managed and supported many roots artists for his entire life. He managed Bruce Cockburn in his



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

The Blues Masters ft. Cassie Taylor *The Blues Masters ft. Cassie Taylor* Exulans DMD
Garry Burnside *It's My Time Now* Strolling Bones Records
Monster Mike Welch *Keep Living Til I Die* independent
***Jon Hines** *Memphis Sun* independent
Alan Arena *Deceived* independent
Candice Ivory *New Southern Vintage* Nola Blue Records (September 12)
***Jill Newman** *Little Bit of Luck* independent
Warren Haynes *The Whisper Sessions* Fantasy Records
***Little Magic Sam** *Live at the Rivoli* independent
Kyle Culkin *Shades of Trouble* Tonebucker Records
Mike Farris *The Sound of Muscle Shoals* Malaco Records
***Brother Ray Lemelin & the Matinee Kings** *Stirring the Pot* independent
Kirk Fletcher *Keep On Pushing* VizzTone
Maria Muldaur *One Hour Mama: The Blues of Victoria Spivey* Nola Blue Records
Jimi 'Prime Time' Smith *It's My Time* New Folk Records
***Aging Disgracefully** *Shatter the Mirror* independent
***Chambers DesLauriers** *Our Time to Ride* Forty Below Records
Mikey Junior *Tribute to Sonny Boy Williamson* 8th Train Records
Mississippi MacDonald *Slim Pickin'* APM Records
ZZ Ward *Liberation* Sun Records

* = Canadian

early days and Bruce remembered, "Harvey was hugely helpful to me in the '60s — more than I was able to appreciate at the time. He was my introduction to the music business. Even outside of Ottawa. It was through his connections that the virtually invisible band I was in, based in Toronto, got to open for Cream, Jimi Hendrix, Wilson Pickett — great gigs, and almost the only ones we had. Harvey gave so many of us opportunities we might not have had without him.

Guitarist Tony D remembered Glatt as someone who championed musicians from the ground up. "If you told him you were playing somewhere, he would come and show up if he liked what you were doing," he said. "Then he would help you — he'd pass your name along to other promoters, to agents, to other clubs or wherever to get you exposure. He was that kind of guy."

Glatt and his wife Louise co-owned Ottawa's legendary Le Hibou Coffee House at its Sussex Drive location. The folk venue, which closed in 1975, attracted such big names as Joni Mitchell, Muddy Waters, Van Morrison, Kris Kristofferson and Gordon Lightfoot.

Closer to home, the passing of **Denise Curry** was a heavy loss for the Canadian Blues and live music community, most notably the Niagara region of southern Ontario.

Always working quietly behind the scenes Denise was the driving force behind her late husband, Dave Curry's Mighty Duck Blues Band. Although she didn't accept being referred to as the band's manager, that was the role she played. Negotiating the deals, venue changes and payroll, that was the ground she covered. The Mighty Duck Blues Band was a residency group, holding down weekly engagements at three clubs in St. Catharines, Ontario over 19 years. The Golden Pheasant a.k.a The Duck, The Bar Upstairs and Jo Blos Rock & Wok were the venue stages they called home for eight months yearly. Over the years The Mighty Duck Blues Band opened the door at their weekly gig to share the stage with some of the best Canadian blues performers working today. Gary Kendall wrote, "Denise rarely missed a show, handling the payouts and making everyone happy. She played a big role in the band's public relations, surveying the audience and doing her best to keep club owners smiling". She also established The Dave Curry Memorial Music Fund lending financial support to The Laura Secord Secondary School Music Program in St. Catharines and contributing to The Joel Dupuis Band expenses when they took part in the International Blues Challenge, Memphis TN in 2024.



BLUES FESTIVAL GUIDE

September

[Southside Shuffle Blues & Jazz Festival](#) | Sept 5-7 | Port Credit, ON

[Belleville Downtown Blues Festival](#) | Sept 5-6 | Belleville, ON

[Harvest Music Festival](#) | Sept 9-14 | Fredricton, NB

[Wasaga Beach Blues Festival](#) | Sept 12-14 | Wasaga Beach, ON

[Belmont Village Festival](#) | Sept 12-13 | Kitchener, ON

October

[Canal bank Shuffle Blues Festival](#) | Oct 17-20 | Thorold, ON

Guitar Talk: Where do you turn for guidance in your musical journey

by Frank Cosentino

With nearly four decades of teaching guitar and music under my belt, I've gathered a wealth of insights shaped by countless trials and the enlightening experiences that come with them.

The musical landscape is vast and diverse, and navigating it can sometimes feel overwhelming.

A question I frequently encounter—whether it's from enthusiastic beginners just picking up the guitar for the first time or seasoned players yearning to elevate their skills—is a profound one:

“Should I immerse myself in the works of the old masters whose timeless techniques have laid the foundation for modern music, or should I delve into the innovative approaches of today's young talents who are courageously rewriting the rules of the game?”

This inquiry reflects a fundamental dilemma faced by many musicians: how to find balance between paying homage to the artistry and technical mastery of past legends while also embracing the fresh perspectives and experimental spirit of emerging artists.

On one hand, studying the old masters, such as Robert Johnson, BB King, or Albert Collins,

can deepen your understanding of musical theory and genre-specific techniques, providing a solid foundation that can enhance your playing.

Their works not only demonstrate the beauty of melody and harmony but also illustrate the intricacies of composition and structure. On the other hand, exploring the innovative sounds of contemporary musicians who are pushing boundaries often ignites creativity and inspires new ways of thinking about music.

Young talents, influenced by a myriad of genres and cultures, challenge traditional concepts and encourage us to break free from established norms. Their fresh approaches can spark a newfound sense of excitement and exploration in your musical journey.

Ultimately, the choice of where to focus your efforts will significantly influence your development and understanding of the instrument. Striking a balance between honoring the past and embracing the present can lead to a richer, more fulfilling musical experience.

It's a journey worth embarking on, filled with discoveries that can reshape your artistic identity.

Visit www.frankcosentino.com for more insight and all things

Autumn Leaves fall on Summer Blues Festivals

by Georgina Lynn Boucher

“All the months are crude experiments, out of which the perfect September is made”

Virginia Woolf

September is usually a lovely month. If you have spent most of your summer at the beach or on vacation or even just at home, it is the ideal month to catch up on what you might have missed: outdoor Summer Blues Festivals.

And September begins with one of the biggest, best and last of the year: the wonderful **Southside Shuffle Blues and Jazz Festival** in Port Credit. (Sept. 5-7) If you have never been or have not gone there in a long time, consider it. This enduring festival was introduced to us twenty-seven years ago by Canada's legendary Downchild Blues Band and Mississauga's Mayor Hazel. It is the perfect festival to bid a fond farewell to Summer.

Located along the beautiful shore of Lake Ontario, Southside still offers ticket-free music for all. And what is scheduled is top drawer. On Saturday, Sept. 6th the LiUNA Street Shuffle's opening ceremonies begin at 12:45 with the Top Hat Marching Orchestra and Blues Men on Stilts. The entire main street is traffic free and live music can be found from Hurontario to Front Street from 1 until 5pm. There are 15 bands in all, and they are diverse musically: from festival alumni The Swingin' Blackjacks to the best of Motown by Act 3, the Salsa sound of Latintrain and the ultimate party band, Raquel's Riot. Within Memorial Park there is free music all weekend long. Queen Bea is the smaller and more intimate free stage and features a great lineup that includes Jesse Greene, Erin McCallum/Teddy Leonard, Mark “Bird” Stafford, Kalia, Penny Skolski and Crossfield Bend. At the free World Stage on Friday night look for Club Django (6:45pm) Swamperella (8:15 pm) and the fabulous Jay Douglas and the All Stars (at 9:45pm) Saturday begins early at this stage with the Mississauga Youth Band Challenge at 12:30pm, Isy Aboagye (Toronto Blues Challenge winner 2025) at 2:30, Ireland's Delta Fuse at 4pm, the delightful Frankie Foo and the YoYo Smugglers at 5:30, Loco Zydeco with veterans Chuck Jackson, Cheryl Lescom and Pat Carey at 7pm and the Detroit based headliners Duende at 8:30. Sunday is no less compelling with Toronto Blues Society's Talent Search winner J.E. Lopez at 1:30pm, the label busting ASD Band at 3pm and the vintage soul of Boomerang at 4:30pm.

The ticketed Main Stage is still a bargain. A weekend pass that includes all three nights is \$97.78 with all taxes and fees included. (sale ends on Sept.5/25) Single day passes are \$37.61 on Friday and Sunday and \$49.64 on Saturday with all taxes and fees included. The weekend VIP tent is sold out. The Friday lineup is impressive with Ira Walker (7pm) Steve Strongman (8:30pm) and Canadian sensation the Sheepdogs at 10:15 pm. Saturday begins with Pappy Johns Band featuring Joshua Arden Miller (4:30pm), an Evening of John Prine with Blair Packham, Johnny Max, Kirsten Jones and Bill Craig (6:00pm) Tom Wilson (8:00pm) and the headliner is Big Sugar at 10:00pm. An ideal way to start Sunday before heading to the Main Stage is to take a stroll along the Music Walk of Fame in Memorial Park where you can celebrate the induction ceremony of Donna Grantis and Triumph at 11am (World Stage). Have lunch at one of the many great restaurants Port Credit has to offer and then head back to the Main Stage for the dynamic talent of Miss Emily Unplugged at 1pm, followed by David Rotundo, (2:45pm) David Gogo(4:30pm) and the Hogtown Allstars Extra Large Band at 6:15 pm. This 10-piece band is not only big in size but big in talent. As it is the last show of this truly iconic Canadian festival, I suggest you bring handheld Canadian flags to wave as we have every right to be proud of this all-star band. Collectively they are winners of over 20 Maple Blues awards, 5 Juno awards and numerous international awards. The band includes inductees into the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Blues Museum Hall of Fame and has received the Maple Blues Lifetime Achievement Award.

Unless you are VIP, don't forget to bring your own chairs into the park. And do check out what is going on in the clubs. In total, there are nine venues featuring live music both during the day and after hours. Consider the Donegal Arms Irish Pub for example. On Friday, see the Memphis IBC 2024 semi-finalists Glen Marais and Mojo Train at 8pm. And on Saturday, direct from Donegal Ireland; Delta Fuse will bring their Blues Rock Irish sound here beginning at 8pm. And if you need more to encourage you to head in the direction of the Southside Blues Festival for the week-end, that can easily be found at Port Credit's seminal live music spot "Roc'n Doc's" where the official opening Kick Off Party (Thursday, Sept.4th) hosted by Chuck Jackson with Guests begins at 7pm, and the official closing After Party hosted by DinGo with Guests begins at 8pm on Sunday, Sept. 7th. I suggest you get there early. For complete club listings and more info on the artists check out the festival website where you will find the Official Festival Program (look for the beaver!)

Much smaller and far newer but equally as dedicated to Blues is the **Belleville**

Downtown Blues Festival (Sept.5-6) As well as Main Stage performances, there are shows and workshops in various locations. It is a free festival but donations of food or money to the local foodbank are gratefully accepted. On opening night September 5th, we have the swinging Shawn Dore Big Blues Band from 7-8:30pm at the Pinnacle Playhouse, 256 Pinnacle Street. On Saturday at 11am at the Belleville Public Library also on Pinnacle Street (254, 3rd floor) we have Paul Denys and Greg Hyne presenting a workshop "Nothin' but the Blues". Between 12 and 2pm at Jim's Computer Shop at 392 Front Street, the band Reconsider Baby will pay homage to Blues legends. Between 1-3pm at The Core (223 Pinnacle Street) we have rising star Blue Syl and the Sweet Home Band. Meanwhile at Market Square Place at 169 Front Street, the Soulfire Band will heat things up from 1-3pm. Two shows not to be missed are at the Theatre in the Wings at 30 Bridge Street East (2-3pm) with Miss Peggy Voigt and Alan Bergman. Peggy is a long time Blues performer and stalwart supporter of the Blues. They will be doing a tribute to "Women in Blues." This will be followed by Reverend Freddie Vendetta's workshop entitled "How to Write a Saturday Night Blues Song" at 3pm. From 4-6pm, the Belleville Club at 210 Pinnacle St. will be presenting "super virtuoso" Tony Silvestri. At the Main Stage the Matt Smith Trio throws down the gauntlet to get the party started from 12:30-2pm followed by multiple Maple Blues nominated/award winning couple Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whiteley and his band from 3pm to 4:30. This should be a great show! Belleville's dynamic and Blues loving group "The Stir" will bring their Blues Power to the Main Stage from 5-6pm. The final show features a veteran musician of beauty and talent who will close this fledgling, sweetheart of a festival on the right note: the incomparable Miss Emily. If you like a smaller locally funded and supported festival this is the one for you. Close to "oh-so- pretty" Prince Edward County and the historic city of Kingston, this new festival is one worth supporting.

Another September festival that should be considered is the **Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues Festival** (Sept.12-14) The lake should still be warm for swimming, and the sunsets should still be grand. The line-up this year is a good one and the cost is reasonable. General admission for all 3 days is only \$53.14 which includes all taxes and charges. Single day tickets are \$22.99. The lineup is extensive and wonderful but here are a few highlights: Ireland's Delta Fuse, the Blushing Brides, Lisa Hutchinson, The Angelica Jones (Hunter) Trio (they were nominated for best new group at the 2024 Maple Blues Awards) quintessential bluesman Shawn Kellerman, the superb singer/songwriter Quisha Wint, Ottawa's son JW Jones, (he won the Gibson

Guitar award for best Guitarist and his band Horrojo placed first in Best Band at the 2020 International Blues Challenge in Memphis) the always uplifting Cheryl Lescom and the Tucson Choir Boys, the unique voice of the Shane Clouthier Band, a ZeP Show tribute to Led Zeppelin and my personal favorite, The Commotions; a killer 12 piece Soul inspired band from Ottawa that features 3 lead vocalists and 5 horn players. Truthfully, I have barely scratched the surface of the talent to be seen at this 3-day festival. A full line up can be found at <http://wasagabeachblues.com> There is plenty of free parking and you are advised to bring your own chair.

Bellmont Village Bestival (Sept.12, 13) Kitchener, Ont. Founded in 2017 by musician and music teacher Tim Moher, this is a local Arts and Music Festival that celebrates the community spirit of Belmont Village located inside Kitchener, Ont. The festival closes its streets to traffic, creating a vibrant party atmosphere. There are Visual Art Installations and art vendors, food and craft vendors, a beer garden, workshops and multiple activities for children. And yes, Blues can often be found here. This year's lineup includes Ben Rollo giving honor to Tom Petty, Blues inspired guitarist and song writer Jesse Webber, Tdot Batu, the Weber Brothers, Swamp Blues Rock band Sundown Saints, Bus, and the incredibly talented 5 times Juno nominated Whitehorse. Check their website for current updates and complete listings.

There are fewer Blues festivals in September outside of Ontario but one festival that should be mentioned is the **Harvest Festival** in Fredericton, New Brunswick (Sept 9-14th) This is a huge festival held over six days in the heart of downtown Fredericton. It brings big name artists to 4 venues and offers nonstop music. Bigger names include Melissa Ethridge, Lotus, The Revivalists, Goose and the Indigo Girls. But there is no shortage of Blues-Garrett Mason and Keith Hallet, Joce Reyome, Suzie Vinnick, the Blackburn Brothers, Conner Fox, Miss Emily and a tribute to The Band with a performance of The Last Waltz.

As we look forward to Fall, we can be thankful for the many summer music festivals that Canada so richly supports. We can tip our Maple Leaf embellished hat to the many volunteers, organizers and sponsors that make these festivals available to us, often for free or at basement bargain prices. But don't let the cold weather stop you from getting out and continuing to support talent- especially local, independent and original Art and Music. Support "Blues in the Schools", "Blues Camp" and local clubs that have live music. Get involved by singing in a choir or becoming a volunteer at Blues/Music societies. Not only will you enrich others, but you will enrich yourself.

ALBUM REVIEWS



JP LeBlanc *All In My Blood/ Je l'ai dans le sang*

JP LeBlanc's album "All In My Blood"/ "Je l'ai dans le sang" on the Acadian Connection label was crafted in Canada, and recorded in Nashville with Colin Linden producing.

Rooted in his Acadian heritage and seamlessly shifting between French and English, the album delves deep into themes close to JP's heart—growing up within his tight-knit Bathurst, New Brunswick community as well as the push-and-pull between his life touring Canada, Louisiana, and Europe, and his central roles as a family man, and a father.

"When I first heard JP's demos, I thought there was an honesty I was drawn to," Linden recalls. "I also heard a very unique take on his influences and culture that was very compelling."

The nine track album is the result of two years long-distance songwriting between the Maritime blues guitarist, and Toronto-based music industry journalist Larry LeBlanc.

"Larry had earlier co-written the song 'Memphis' recorded by Johnny Reid," recalls JP. "It's a high-energy Stax Record-inspired track about two Scottish friends who grew up together, and later regretted not visiting Memphis together while younger. Just for fun I worked up a French version, and sent the lyrics to Larry. He then asked if I'd be interested in co-writing with him, and I agreed."

"The first set of lyrics Larry sent was 'Wanda's Bar (In The French Quarter)' about a raucous New Orleans bar where the party never stopped. I immediately imagined a Cajun tune with a syncopated Bo Diddley rhythm beat. After what seems like endless revisions, we finally nailed what we had first heard in our minds, and went on to co-write

song after song for the next two years. We really pushed each other hard to write the best songs possible."

"Larry and I have been friends since I was a kid," Linden says. "He was always an insightful music person, and a knowledgeable resource. A really creative guy who has seen generations of musicians, and has a strong sense of what will last. So it didn't surprise me that he was a gifted songwriter.... Made me happy though."

As JP and Larry first began to write, they soon discovered a profound common ground. "Our music is about making reconnections—reconnecting to our roots, to our shared Acadian culture, and to both of our families," says JP

This is most evident with such songs as "All In My Blood," "Ashes In The Wind," "I'll Keep On Movin'," "All On Your Own," and "I Still Dance In The Rain."

Other songs touch on the duo's shared Acadian/Cajun background, and travels, as found in the rollicking swamp rockers "Louisiana Checkbook," and "Wanda's Bar (In The French Quarter)," as well as in songs like "Danger Zone," and "NOLA," the latter recorded fully in French.

"Both Larry and I spent time in Louisiana, so that definitely shaped the album," says JP. "I can't speak for Larry, but I've never felt so at home while being there. I have deep connections with the people there. It first felt like a pilgrimage, especially in meeting distant cousins in Lafayette. They welcomed us like family, inviting us for supper, and offering us a place to stay without really knowing us. I guess family is family, no matter how long we've been apart."

"This recording has brought me face to face with my Acadian roots that I share with JP," adds Larry. "It's been fascinating hearing the album on the streaming services and on radio, and reliving memories in writing specific lyrics."

The album was recorded at a fairly fast clip in a pair of 2024 sessions.

"A beautiful aspect of 'All In My Blood' was the freedom in the studio," says JP. "Working with Colin and with such incredible musicians felt like the culmination of everything I've worked for. It was a dream come true. I soon realized that I could play whatever my imagination called for, and knew that the musicians would make it sound awesome in minutes. I just let Colin do his job, and he brought out the best in every song, and raised the bar for me."

"JP had such a positive attitude," recalls Linden. "He had faith in me and in the process, and all the other players—none of whom he had previously known—really enjoyed him."

Asked about JP's strength as a guitarist,

Linden without hesitation answers, "JP knows how to go for the sweet notes."

Of the significance of dual French/English album title, JP explains, "When we realized we had an album of the best songs possible, we decided we'd name it, 'All In My Blood' which in French translates to 'Je l'ai dans le sang.' I felt it was important to acknowledge where I come from in the album's title. It's a way of connecting directly to my roots, and showing pride in my heritage."

"All of these songs inform each other," explains Linden. "JP's French singing tells you so much about his English singing. His sense of blues is heavily informed by the French Acadian music of both Canada and Louisiana. It's a unique combination."

JP was born and raised in Bathurst, a bilingual speck of a place in New Brunswick; a region rich in Acadian culture, and where singing, dancing, and playing music come as naturally as walking and talking.

"Growing up, my family didn't really celebrate our Acadian heritage at home," he reveals. "While we spoke French the music we listened to, and the TV shows we watched were all in English."

At 11 years old, JP fell in love with the blues and began to play guitar. By his teen years, he was performing alongside seasoned musicians. At 17, he recorded his first album, "Take Me Back" which earned him an East Coast Music Award nomination, and a considerable reputation as a distinctive young Acadian blues voice.

As JP reflects on the road that brought him to present day, he mentions such revered American blues figures as Buddy Guy, Lightnin' Hopkins, and Muddy Waters, and Canadian blues players Colin James, and Garret Mason.

JP recalls that it wasn't until 2004 when he and his band performed at the Congrès Mondial Acadien in Grand-Pré, Nova Scotia—a festival of Acadian and Cajun culture and history held every five years—that he truly felt a sense of deep pride in the family's culture.

"After our show, there was a big ceremony where they displayed the names of the Acadian families deported in the Grand Dérangement from that very spot in 1755, during an expulsion by which many families were separated, and many people drowned in shipwrecks. That hit me hard. It sparked a deep interest in my family's history, and it inspired me to write more in French. Before that, I had mainly been performing and writing songs in English."

A pivotal moment in JP's career came in early 2024 when he represented Atlantic Canada at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the world's leading blues talents.

That experience in his mind cemented his place on the international stage, and drove his passion for putting together what is his most ambitious album to date with Linden.

To JP's immense delight, Larry recruited his friend, Cajun music legend Steve Riley of the Mamou Playboys, to play accordion on four tracks on the album, including doubling fiddle on "I Still Dance In The Rain."

"Having Steve really brought the (Cajun) sound home," exclaims JP. "That was the icing on the cake. What a joy it was this summer to play with Steve and the Mamou Playboys at the Acadian Festival in Caraquet (New Brunswick). So many of their songs are iconic to the folks in this part of l'Acadie; songs like 'Bayou Noir' and 'Allons Danser' just to name a few. There is a real strong bond between the Cajuns, and the Acadians, and that is why it was so special to have Steve as a guest on my album."

For the two sessions at his 1,000 square-foot, stand-a-lone home studio in his Nashville backyard, dubbed Pinhead Recorders Studios, Linden recruited A-list players.

For the first session in April, 2024, there was multi-instrumentalist George Recile, one of New Orleans' premier drummers, and Bob Dylan's primary drummer from 2001 to 2019, who has also worked with Dr. John, Mavis Staples, Bonnie Raitt, and Keith Richard.

On bass was Linden's lifelong Toronto collaborator John Dymond who has toured with celebrated Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster, and toured and recorded with k.d. lang, Bruce Cockburn, and Blackie and The Rodeo Kings. He's a 5-time Canadian Country Music Assn. Bass Player of the Year recipient, and Hall of Honour inductee.

While the original musicians weren't available for the second Nashville session in December, Linden matched the quality of the earlier session by bringing in some equally heavy hitters. Again he played guitar on all tracks.

The session included drummer Bryan Owings who has recorded with Buddy Miller, Wanda Jackson, Alicia Keys, Delbert McClinton, and Lucinda Williams, and toured with John Prine, and Tony Joe White; and world-class bass player/educator/producer David Santos who has worked with Billy Joel, Toto, Melissa Etheridge, John Fogerty, Crosby, Stills, & Nash, and the Neville Brothers.

Additionally, Kevin McKendree, played piano on "Wanda's Bar (In The French Quarter)," and Janice Power played B3 organ on "All On Your Own," and "Danger Zone" as well as being an invaluable production assistant for the project.

"I try and find out what the artist really wants, and then try to do it," explains Linden about his production ground plan. "And I

try to ensure that it will be a fulfilling and transformative experience for the artist too. I make a bunch of suggestions, and see what resonates, and then come up with a plan that brings out the spirit If I can."

JP is most thankful for Linden's step-by-step approach. "'All In My Blood' is kinda my Mona Lisa. There are no love songs, but each song tells a story about love—love for our families, love for our shared Acadian culture, and even (our love) for a small rowdy bar in New Orleans."



Bywater Call Sunshine

This is a new live album by Bywater Call, the rock-soul-funk band that had been a touring sensation over the last few years. They have been releasing albums of new songs, and this is your chance to hear how they play those songs live.

Sunshine is the band's first live album. If you have ever seen the group play live, then you know why they need a live album. They are a smoking hot unit, and people need to hear how good they are on stage.

Sunshine is also the name of the first song on the album. It is a tour de force of songwriting, interpretation and full-band greatness. The song is about people looking for a miracle. Julian Nall burns down the house on a saxophone solo that is a searing, explorative and as thoughtful as it is sweaty. The whole band seems to be playing at the height of their considerable powers. The recording quality is impeccable. You can hear every note that the seven-piece band plays in a song that is a torrent of sound and musical ambition. On top of all that, it's a banger.

Bring Me Down is from their eponymous 2019 album. It features a spacious arrangement to showcase Meghan Parnell. Her hint-of-grit voice is one of the greatest rock-soul voices since Bonnie Bramlett. Horns and organ create a lush bed for her to sing from. Dave Barnes comes in with

a slide guitar solo that remains as hushed and unobtrusive as everybody else until he takes the time to slowly build to a fever-pitch, and then Meghan and the horns pitch in. Everything is pushed so hard you can't believe you're hearing it. It's a great moment in rock and roll, the likes of which we don't see often enough.

I could go on. Every performance here is spectacular. Every single member of the band excels. You might not have known that you needed a ten-minute version of Love the One You're With. Now you know better. Just like the people in 1961 who didn't know they needed a thirteen-minute version of My Favorite Things until John Coltrane let them know. Bywater Call's version of this old Steven Stills chestnut is a magic carpet ride of improvisation, and it all works.

They perform other songs from their repertoire, and every tune is a performance of joy and top-notch musicianship. The improvisational sections are well thought out, and they always remember to take the audience along for the ride.

I've enjoyed the in-person Bywater Call experience a number of times. I'm a fan. You may not have had the pleasure yet. Audiences in Canada, the U.S., and all over Europe agree with me: Bywater Call delivers! I'm glad that this album shows them off so well. Production is excellent throughout.

Bywater Call is Meghan Parnell on vocals, Dave Barnes on guitar and slide guitar, Mike Meusel on bass, Bruce McCarthy on drums, John Kervin on keys, Julian Nalli on sax, and Stephen Dyte on trumpet. (John Mulligan)



Check out the new TBS 40th Anniversary T-shirts. We only made a limited number for the party but there are a few left over. Only \$30 Each plus shipping. Sizes M, L & XL. Head over to our website to get one now or email info@torontobluesociety.com for more info



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Old Chicago Blues, w/ **Willy A.**

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Saturday Night Blues Review, w/ **George Vaughan**
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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/>



- 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)

Buckslide Blues Cruise w/ **Rich Anton**

Tuesday 9-11pm

<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/>



CFMU 99.3 FM - McMaster Campus (Hamilton)

Breakfast of Champions, w/ **Paul Panchezak**

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Ottawa guitar player **JW-Jones** will be coming our way for an appearance at the Wasaga Blues Festival, Saturday September 14 (3pm) and also September 13 at the Etwell Concert Series in Huntsville (also 3pm) the onto the Ottawa Bluesfest and some US dates. Regretfully, no Toronto stopover this time. Photo by Mark Maryanovich



Tuesday, September 2

Ragwax 7:00 pm, Timothy's Pub, 344 Browns Line, Etobicoke, 416-201-9515

Tuesday Blues Jam with Dingo 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Wednesday, September 3

Tedeschi Trucks Band & Gov't Mule 6:30 pm, Budweiser Stage, Toronto
Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Friday, September 5

Southside Shuffle: Ira Walker, The Sheepdogs, Steve Strongman and more... 5:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Tim Horton's Southside Shuffle – Main-Stage, 40 Lakeshore East, Port Credit, ON
Jesse Greene 5:30 pm, Drom Taberna, 458 Queen St. W, Toronto

Southside Shuffle: Penny Skolski, Crossfield Bend 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Southside Shuffle Queen Bea Stage (free), 40 Lakeshore Blvd E, Port Credit
Southside Shuffle: Jay Douglas, Swamperella, Club Django and more... 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Tim Horton's Southside Shuffle – Free World Stage, 40 Lakeshore Rd E, Port Credit Mississauga
Delta Fuse (Ireland) 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, RCHA Club, 193 Ontario St, Kingston, \$20
Glenn Marais & The Mojo Train 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Donegal Arms, 136 Lakeshore Rd E, Mississauga, 905 2747377, Glenn Marais & The Mojo Train Southside Shuffle
Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Saturday, September 6

Southside Shuffle: Miss. Youth Band Challenge, Isy Aboagye, Delta Fuse, Frankie Foo, Loco Zydeco, Duende 12:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Tim Horton's Southside Shuffle – Free World Stage, 40 Lakeshore Rd E, Port Credit Mississauga
Southside Shuffle: Kalia, Mark 'Bird' Stafford, Jesse Greene 1:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Southside Shuffle Queen Bea Stage (free), 40 Lakeshore Blvd E, Port Credit

Blues at the Regency w/ guest Big Dan Jeffares 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls
Heather Luckhart Blues Band 3:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469
Southside Shuffle: Pappy Johns Band, Tom Wilson, Big Sugar and more... 3:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Tim Horton's Southside Shuffle – Main-Stage, 40 Lakeshore East, Port Credit, ON
Garnetta's Sweet Saturday Open Jam 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Corktown Pub, 175 Young St, Hamilton
Toney "Wild T" Springer 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000
Danny B. 9:30 pm, Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington St. E, Toronto, 416-955-0887

Southside Shuffle: Penny Skolski, Erin McCallum & Teddy Leonard 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Southside Shuffle Queen Bea Stage (free), 40 Lakeshore Blvd E, Port Credit
Broke Fuse one-man blues band 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Common Good Beer Co., 475 Ellesmere Rd., Scarborough, 416-639-6579
Delta Fuse (Ireland) 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Etwell Concert Series – Outdoor Venue, 2012 Etwell Rd, Huntsville, 705-789-2972, \$20
Danny Marks Combo 3:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469
Little Magic Sam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Rivoli (Pool Hall), 332 Queen Street W, Toronto, No Cover
Jerome Tucker Band 7:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Sunday, September 7

Southside Shuffle: J.E. Lopez, ASD Band, Boomerang and more... 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Tim Horton's Southside Shuffle – Free World Stage, 40 Lakeshore Rd E, Port Credit Mississauga
Southside Shuffle: Miss Emily, David Rotundo, David Gogo, Hogtown Allstars and more... 12:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Tim Horton's Southside Shuffle – MainStage, 40 Lakeshore East, Port Credit, ON

Tuesday, September 9

Quality Building Supplies 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W,

Wednesday, September 10

James Anthony w/ Krista Blondin 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Falcon Brewing Co., 30 Barr Rd, Ajax, (905) 686-6686, \$10
Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

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*Children 12 and under free Performances subject to change without notice.

Thursday, September 11

Alfie Smith 6:00 pm, Honsberger Estate Winery, 4060 Jordan Rd, Jordan Station

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

Delta Fuse (Ireland) 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Black Box 70, 70 Kong St E, Oshawa, Delta Fuse are an Irish Powerhouse Trio w Geoff Day Band and Johnny Max, \$25

Greene and Bleus Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Delta Fuse (Ireland) 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Wasaga Beach Blues Festival, 291 Main Street, Wasaga Beach, **Luke and the Apostles** 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Carlos del Junco & The Blues Mongrels 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Old Church Theatre Trenton, 940 Bonisteel Rd, Trenton

Rae Melvin Blues Band 9:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Danny B. 9:30 pm, Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington St. E, Toronto, 416-955-0887

Friday, September 12

Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues: **Lisa Hutchinson, Pukka Orchestra, Blushing Brides, The Zep Show** 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Stonebridge Town Centre, 291 Main Street, Wasaga Beach

Jesse Karwat & The Coin Collection 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Function Bar, 2291 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, 416-440-4007, Jesse Karwat & The Coin Collection (Manny DeGrandis & Graham Shaw)

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

Delta Fuse (Ireland) 10:00 pm to 11:30 pm, The Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth Ave, Toronto, Delta Fuse an Irish Powerhouse Trio coming to Toronto for the first time, \$15

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

Saturday, September 13

Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues: **Delta Fuse, Angelica Jones, Quisha Wint, Shawn Kellerman, Rosie's Smokehouse Deluxe, Durham County Poets and more...** 12:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Stonebridge Town Centre, 291 Main Street, Wasaga Beach

Gail Gunnis & The Dirty Roosters 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Wasaga Beach Blues Festival, 291 Main Street, Wasaga Beach

JW-Jones 2:45 pm to 6:00 pm, Etwell Concert Series – Outdoor Venue, 2012 Etwell Rd, Huntsville, 705-789-2972

Sunday, September 14

Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues: **Lowdown Dirty Mojos, Glenn Marais, Cheryl Lescom, JW Jones, Soul Stew and more...** 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Stonebridge Town Centre, 291 Main Street, Wasaga Beach

Red Hot Ramble 2:00 pm, Drom Taberna, 458 Queen St. W, Toronto
Grant Lyle – Roots & Blues 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Ave. W., Toronto, 416.789.7011, \$20

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

Jimmy's Juke Joint: Jim Casson w/ 'Tuba' Jay Burr & Bruce Tournay 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667

Tuesday, September 16

Quality Building Supplies 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Wednesday, September 17

Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, September 18

Mike Daley & Jenie Thai 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
In Spite of Ourselves: an evening of



Mike Daley is a bona fide musical treasure in our city. Guitar virtuoso, historian, musicologist, teacher and human jukebox of blues (as well as Dylan and Beatles). He can mostly be found at Castro's in the Beaches where he brings in different guests for his Thursday matinees, Selena Evangeline on September 11, Jenie Thai on September 18 and Trombone Charlotte on September 25 (all shows at 6-8pm). He'll also be playing with Alec Fraser on Friday September 19 (5:30-7:30).

John Prine 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, The Historic Roxy Theatre, 251 9th St E, Owen Sound, 519 371 2833, an evening with all of your favourite John Prine songs, come and join us for a full night of John

Friday, September 19

Fraser/Daley 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
Glenn Marais & The Mojo Train 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Market Brewing Company, 17775 Leslie St. Unit 4, Newmarket Ontario, 905 235 9333
Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Saturday, September 20

Doctor Nick and the Rollercoasters 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St W., Toronto

Alfie Smith 3:00 pm, Nickel Brook Brewing Co., 3426 Mainway, Burlington

Paul Reddick Band 6:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Glenn Marais & The Mojo Train 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Function Bar, 2291 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, 416-440-4007

Blues Spectacular: Prakash John, Mike Branton, Roly Platt, Sahej Rai, Mick Maratta 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315, \$55

Danny B. 9:30 pm, Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington St. E, Toronto, 416-955-0887

Go to www.torontobluesociety.com/events to submit your GTA Blues Events to be included here as well as the TBS website and our weekly "Where it's At" e-blast.

As the MapleBlues goes all-digital starting with the March 2025 issue, we want to remind the blues community that it is our mission to spread the word on new releases. We invite all blues influencers and aficionados to send us reviews for new releases by Canadian blues artists (CDs, and EPs). If it has been previously published please advise so we can give credit.



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Christone "Kingfish" Ingram has been hailed as the "future of the blues" and he is living up to that rep. See him raise the roof at the Danforth Music Hall, Toronto Saturday, October 4 (7:00 pm)

Sunday, September 21

Little Magic Sam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Rivoli (Pool Hall), 332 Queen Street W, Toronto, The Little Magic Sam Band brings their electric energy to the historic Rivoli pool lounge. No Cover

Jimmy's Juke Joint: Jim Casson w/ Steve Grisbrook, Steve Goldberger & Dwayne LaForme 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Super Mario's Pizza, 281 King St., Port Colborne, 905-834-1441

Mike Sedgewick's Blues Revue 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Tuesday, September 23

Quality Building Supplies 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Wednesday, September 24

Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, September 25

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

Friday, September 26

Hogtown Allstars 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Old Mill – Jazz Lounge, 9 Old Mill Rd, Toronto, \$20

Heather Luckhart Blues Band 9:30 pm, Function Bar, 2291 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, 416-440-4007

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

Saturday, September 27

Julian Taylor 8:00 pm, Newmarket Legion, 707 Srigley St., Newmarket, \$35

Sugar Brown 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Danny B. 9:30 pm, Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington St. E, Toronto, 416-955-0887

Sunday, September 28

Jimmy's Juke Joint: Jim Casson w/ Danny Boy Phelan & Scott Fitzpatrick 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667

Lance, Tobin & Roly 2:45 pm to 6:00 pm, Etwell Concert Series – Outdoor Venue, 2012 Etwell Rd, Huntsville, 705-789-2972

The Swingin' Blackjacks 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469,

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

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

Tuesday, September 30

Quality Building Supplies 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Rocky Verweel and Queen City Blues 9:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, 416-466-5130,

Wednesday, October 1

Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Friday, October 3

Bywater Call 8:00 pm, TD Music Hall – Allied Music Centre, 178 Victoria Street, Toronto

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

Saturday, October 4

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram 7:00 pm, Danforth Music Hall, Toronto

Jack de Keyzer 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315

Sunday, October 5

Jimmy's Juke Joint: Jim Casson w/ Glenn Marais & Manny DeGrandis 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667

Broke Fuse one-man blues band 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Common Good Beer Co., 475 Ellesmere Rd., Scarborough, 416-639-6579

Little Magic Sam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Rivoli (Pool Hall), 332 Queen Street W, Toronto, The Little Magic Sam Band brings their electric energy to the historic Rivoli pool lounge. No Cover

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

Wednesday, October 8

James Anthony w/ Terry Chisholm 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Falcon Brewing Co., 30 Barr Rd, Ajax, (905) 686-6686, \$10

Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, October 9

In Spite of Ourselves: an evening of John Prine 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Burlington Performing Arts Centre, 440 Locust St, Burlington, 905-681-6000, Come and join us for a full evening of all of your favourite John Prine songs!!

Friday, October 10

Colin Linden (solo) 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, \$50

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

Saturday, October 11

Colin Linden (full band) 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, \$50

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Marty Allen & Kenny Lee 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Lucky's at Fallsview Casino, 6380 Fallsview Blvd, Niagara Falls, 905-354-7775

Sunday, October 12

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

Wednesday, October 15

Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Friday, October 17

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

Saturday, October 18

The Swingin' Blackjacks 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Noonan's Irish Pub, 141 Danforth Ave, Toronto ON, 416 778 1804, Hi-Octane Rockabilly & Roadhouse Blues

Sunday, October 19

Steve Marriner & Local Electric (matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315

Little Magic Sam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Rivoli (Pool Hall), 332 Queen Street W, Toronto, No Cover

Mike Sedgewick's Blues Revue 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Wednesday, October 22

Matt Weidinger 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, \$25

Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Friday, October 24

Charlie A'Court 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, \$30

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

Sunday, October 26

The Swingin' Blackjacks 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469, Hi-Octane Rockabilly & Roadhouse Blues, \$15.00

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

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

Wednesday, October 29

Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Friday, October 31

The Johnny Max Band & Shawn Kellerman 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Market Hall Performing Arts Centre, 140 Charlotte St, Peterborough, Johnny Max & Shawn Kellerman get together for the best in Blues & Soul - All Blues, No Filler

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

Saturday, November 1

The Last Waltz – A Musical Celebration of The BAND 8:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Uxbridge Music Hall, 16 Main St S., Uxbridge, See Website

Sunday, November 2

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Carl Jennings & Matt Gormley of Freedom Train 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667
Broke Fuse one-man blues band 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Common Good Beer Co., 475 Ellesmere Rd., Scarborough, 416-639-6579
Little Magic Sam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Rivoli (Pool Hall), 332 Queen Street W, Toronto, The Little Magic Sam Band brings their electric energy to the historic Rivoli pool lounge. No Cover

Wednesday, November 5

Joe Bonamassa 8:00 pm, Great Canadian Casino Resort @ Woodbine, 1133 Queens Plate Drive, Etobicoke



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Concerts of Note

Tedeschi Trucks Band & Gov't Mule | Budweiser Stage | Toronto | September 3

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

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram | Danforth Music Hall | Toronto | October 4

Colin Linden (acoustic) | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | October 10

Colin Linden (full band) | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | October 11

Matt Weidinger | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | October 22

Charlie A'Court | Hugh's Room Live | October 24

Joe Bonamassa | Great Canadian Casino Resort @ Woodbine | Etobicoke | November 5



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