

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

MAPLE BLUES NEWS

Toronto Blues Society
40
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

December 2025

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Vol 41, No 12



Harrison Kennedy
Singles Season
CD, Film & Book Reviews

Loose Blues News
Top Blues
Live Blues

**Congratulations to Hamilton's
Harrison Kennedy on his
induction to the Escarpment
Blues Society Hall of Fame**

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

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Dear Members and Friends of the TBS,

As we arrive at the close of another remarkable year for TBS, I find myself deeply grateful for the dedication, passion, and resilience of our Blues community. From the artists who continue to push the music forward, to the volunteers and members who faithfully support our mission, each of you has contributed to keeping the spirit of the Blues alive in Canada.

This past year has been one of creativity, growth, and meaningful connection. Together, we have supported emerging artists, celebrated established ones, and created spaces where music can continue to flourish. The TBS team has worked tirelessly to honour the roots of the Blues while championing its future, and I am proud of all we have accomplished.

As we move into the Christmas/Holiday season and wrap up 2025, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who have stood with us, whether by attending our events, volunteering your time, renewing your membership, or simply spreading the word. Your support allows us to dream boldly and continue building opportunities for artists and audiences alike.

I also want to acknowledge Giving Tuesday, which plays a vital role in helping us fund our community initiatives. Your generosity on this day enables us to bring Blues in the Schools to young people, create accessible programming, and support outreach projects that keep the Blues vibrant and relevant across the GTA and beyond. These initiatives matter. They shape the next generation of listeners and ensure that this music, its history, its legacy, and its stories continues to thrive.

As we look ahead to 2026, I am filled with hope and excitement for what's to come. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Your commitment makes all the difference.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas / Holiday season and a beautiful start to the New Year.

With gratitude,

Quisha Wint, Chair, Toronto Blues Society

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 2 Giving Tuesday A good day to make a donation to the TBS

Friday, December 12, 8pm TBS Christmas Party, Johnny Max's Bluesy Christmas w/Chuck Jackson & Cheryl Lescom, Long Branch Social House, 3595 Lake Shore Boulevard West. tix: Dining Room \$35.00, Bar \$25.00. (15% discount for TBS members, 10% Discount for Groups of 10+).

Monday, January 12, 7pm TBS Annual General Meeting, Hugh's Room, 296 Broadview Ave. Toronto + via Zoom (members will be sent the Zoom link ahead of the meeting)

Monday, March 30, 2026 Canadian Blues Music Awards, Phoenix Concert Theatre, 310 Sherbourne, Toronto

Saturday, April 11, 2026 Members Appreciation Party, Hugh's Room, 296 Broadview Ave.

The Toronto Blues Society is a member of



ONTARIO PRESENTS



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TBS Chair Quisha Wint joined the 2025 Women's Blues Revue for a rousing finale. L to R band leader Elena Kapeleris, Carrie Chesnutt, Tara Kannangara, Alison Young, Jenie Thai, Jackie Richardson, Shakura S'Aida, Cheryl Lescom, Joce Reyome, Jasmine Jones-Ball, Celeigh Cardinal, Angelina Jones, Quisha, Angelique Francis, Cécile Doo-Kingué and Emily Burgess.

Single Season

The music business has undergone a serious transformation and one of the notable effects has been the re-emergence of “singles”. All those streaming platforms have focused the listening public’s attention on “the song” rather than “the album”. As a result, many artists are opting to release singles ahead of the album, or not even worry about making an album. The name of the game is getting your music out there.

Blue Room fans will be delighted to know that their boys (always a fixture at the Beaches Streetfest) have released some new music. The single is called “A Little Walk” and features Brian Neller-vocals, Paul Sanderson-guitar, John Bjarnason-harp, Fraser Lawrason-fretless bass, Pat Quinn-drums, Brent Barkman-organ. The song was written by Brian Neller and Paul Sanderson and produced by Russ Mackay for Blue Sound (Distributor: Distro Kid). *BR 5* is the title of the forthcoming album. <https://www.blueroommusic.com>. Stream it on Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/album/3YLaQvl3piF0eAvYfRbnAx>

Not content with a simple single, **Danny Marks** has upped the ante and included a “B-side” (just like the old days!) His new double-sided single “One Way Ticket Home” b/w “Please Mister Conductor,” is out now through Cabbagetunes Records. The release unites Marks’ authentic voice and masterful guitar work in a celebration of homecoming, resilience, and the spirit of the Blues. A lifelong pillar of Canadian music, Marks began playing guitar at age 11, later co-founding Edward Bear, who opened for Paul Butterfield, Led Zeppelin, The Byrds, Badfinger and Humble Pie. His collaborations include Bo Diddley, Rita Coolidge, and Rick James, *cont’d on p4*

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS BOARD & COMMITTEE

Are you passionate about the blues?
Join the Toronto Blues Society!



Do you want to help shape the future of Toronto’s vibrant blues community? The Toronto Blues Society (TBS) is seeking dedicated and enthusiastic individuals to join our Board of Directors and Committees.

What you need to know:

The nomination process is open to all. The goal of TBS is that our Board of Directors represents our diverse community. We encourage nominations from those communities that are typically under-represented, such as candidates who are Black, Indigenous, racialized, women, 2SLGBTQIA+ identifying or gender diverse.

To ensure a diverse board that encompasses a representation of our membership as well as a healthy range of skill sets, not all nominees may appear on the final ballot. We appreciate everyone’s interest in participating in the TBS and encourage folks to engage in committees if not selected for this election to the board.

To find out more, visit <https://torontobluesociety.com/call-for-tbs-board-nominations/>

SINGLES *cont'd from p3*

and his award-winning solo career spans acclaimed albums like 'Guitarchaeology' and 'Cities in Blue'. Since 1997, Darryl has hosted BLUZ FM on JAZZ FM91, cementing his reputation as a trusted voice of Blues culture.

Reflecting on the songs, Marks says, "I got down to the station a little bit late and jumped on board without proper fare. Blues is truth. Every song is a story, and these two are pages from my life." Truth-telling is the heart of Marks' songwriting: real experiences turned into musical allegories that anyone can feel.

The A-side, "One Way Ticket Home", was born from a personal chapter of resilience following a devastating house fire. In its soaring chorus, Marks sings 'Home is where the heart is' capturing a universal truth about belonging, recovery, and the pull of familiar ground. It's a pledge of hope set to a driving Americana rhythm, shaped by a twelve-string Rickenbacker that channels the classic spirit of the Traveling Wilburys.

The B-side, "Please Mister Conductor", turns up the heat with raw, unfiltered Blues energy. Based on a true story of jumping aboard a train to Hamilton to sing with Lori Yates, Marks transforms the tale into a soulful plea – "Please Mister Conductor, won't you let me ride your train." The song carries humor, humility, and redemption all in one groove.

Both tracks feature an all-star lineup: Alec Fraser Jr. on bass, Jonathan Goldsmith on piano, Robert Piltch on guitar, Barry Keane and Chuck D Keeping on drums, and Gene Hardy on saxophone. The songs were produced by Marks and Fraser Jr., mixed and mastered by Jeff Wolpert, with the memory of Peter J. Moore honored throughout the project.



Spencer Mackenzie has released not one, not two, but THREE singles from his forthcoming album, *Empty Chairs*, releasing February 20th, 2026 on Gypsy Soul Records

"What You Do" is Spencer Mackenzie's 1st single and it makes you question when we say we are fine, are we really? Or are we just trying to save others over ourselves? We

think we are doing the right thing, by holding up a lie, but we aren't! "What You Do" is a high energy blues rock song that's meant to bring your attention to the guessing game we all play and being able to see right through someone.

"Shoot Me Down" is Spencer Mackenzie's 2nd single. Released on October 24th, it cuts deep with its swampy slide guitar and stripped-down blues-rock grit, a raw reflection on one-sided love and the weight of carrying a relationship alone. "How can you hold up both ends if you're the only one?" Every note feels like a push and pull between hope and frustration, the sound of giving everything to someone who won't meet you halfway. With each slide and sting of the guitar, "Shoot Me Down" reminds us that you can't spend your life making up someone else's mind if all they ever do is tear you down.

"Frozen Hearts," Spencer's 3rd single is a personal tribute honouring the victims of residential schools. With searing guitar riffs, soulful vocals, and a rhythm that echoes both sorrow and defiance, this song became a memorial in sound – ensuring that the voices of those who never made it home are forever heard. Writing Frozen Hearts meant confronting the painful legacy of children taken from their families, children whose laughter was silenced, whose lives were cut short, whose culture and identities were stripped away.



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This month's recommended listening by Brad Wheeler, music writer for the Globe and Mail
Twitter: @bwheelerglobe

Maïis Staples *Sad and Beautiful World* Anti-

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

***Miss Emily** *The Medicine* Gypsy Soul

Billy Branch & The Sons of Blues *The Blues Is My Biography* Rosa's Lounge

Sean McDonald *Have Mercy!* independent

Robert Finley *Hallelujah! Don't Let the Devil Fool Ya* Easy Eye Sound

John Primer *Grown in Mississippi* Blues House

Kyle Rowland *Not Holding Back!* independent

Lonnie Mack *Live in Louisville 1992* Last Music Co.

Alastair Greene *Live in Sin City* Ruf

Maria Muldaur *One Hour Mama: The Blues of Victoria Spivey* Album Nola Blue

Wailin' Walker *Blues Lightnin'* Jitterbug

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram *Hard Road* Red Zero

Dave Weld & The Imperial Flames *Bluesin' Through The Years* Delmark

***Blue Moon Marquee and Northern Cree** *Get Your Feathers Ready* independent

Pierre Lacocque's Mississippi Heat *Don't Look Back* Delmark

Ana Popovic *Dance to the Rhythm* Electric Heel

***Honeybear** *I Was Wrong* Playmor

Larkin Poe *Bloom (with An Acoustic Companion Volume II)* Tricki-Woo

Shirley Johnson *Selfish Kind of Gal* Delmark

***Dominique Fils-Aimé** *Live at the Montreal International Jazz Festival* Ensoul * = Canadian



Harrison Kennedy Honoured: Harrison Kennedy was honoured at a special gala performance on November 25th at the Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre as the Escarpment Blues Society inducted him into their Hall of Fame. The event featured heartfelt stories and tributes to Harrison Kennedy and live performances by several Hamilton bluesicians led by Steeltown's favourite guitar slinger, Steve Strongman. Selected by unanimous vote, the Escarpment Blues Society Board of Directors chose Mr. Kennedy for his massive contribution to blues and soul music in Canada and beyond, as well as his pride in being a Hamiltonian.

"Harrison Kennedy is not only a music icon, but he's also a Hamilton treasure. He's garnered a boatload of prestigious awards over his illustrious career and when he belts out a tune he can turn the room upside down", says EBS President Ken Wallis. "He's a sensational entertainer who as a veteran performer, knows how to deliver exactly what audiences want." You can see Harrison's acceptance speech here:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1DEsdPd2zm>

Folk Alliance in New Orleans: MusicOntario and Folk Canada are joining forces under the FOLK NORTH banner to host three nights of private showcases at Folk Alliance International (FAI) in 2026. If you're a Canadian roots music artist interested in playing the States this is your chance to network with that community. They don't make it easy to play in the States these days, but if you're willing to make the investment, this is a good showcase for a new artist. It's the world's largest gathering of the folk music industry and community, which celebrates a diverse range of genres including Blues, Bluegrass, Roots, Celtic, Cajun, Appalachian, Traditional, World, and Singer-Songwriter. The event offers a comprehensive conference, tailored business opportunities, and hundreds of showcase performances. It takes place in New Orleans January 21-25, 2026. The deadline to apply is...NOW. <https://music-ontario.ca>

2025 Penguin Eggs / Roots Music Canada Critics' Poll: Roots Music Canada has opened up their annual end-of-year top ten album poll (named after the beloved and now defunct Penguin Eggs Magazine). Previously judged exclusively by a panel

of industry people it is now open to the public at large. So what were your favourite new albums in 2025? If you can answer that question, then you're invited to take part in the 25th annual Penguin Eggs Roots Music Canada Critics' Poll (previously the Penguin Eggs Critics Poll). Each year, they invite DJs, music journalists, industry professionals and fans to submit a list of their top 10 new releases of the year and their three favourite new discoveries. From those they tabulate a list of the Top 10 Critics' Albums of the Year and Top 3 Critics New Discoveries of the Year.

Please email heatherkitching@gmail.com with your top 10 albums of 2025 and your three favourite new discoveries of the year. These albums can be from anywhere; they don't have to be Canadian.

They're looking for albums released in 2025 only. Please list the albums in alphabetical order by the artists' first name or group name.

UPDATED: Please use the following format: artist – title (no need to include the label anymore!)

NEW: Place an asterisk next to UP TO five albums on the list that constitute your absolute favourite albums of the year. You can choose fewer than five but not more than five. Albums listed with an asterisk will be double-weighted. This is your chance to signal boost the records that you feel stood head and shoulders above the others. Remember, the fewer asterisks you award, the more statistically impactful each one will be.

Please also list your three new discoveries in alphabetical order.

And, finally, please supply a brief one sentence biography. Please don't list everything you do. Here's an example: Andrew Donnelly: Host, The Celtic Show, CKUA Radio. The deadline is Dec. 20, 2025. www.rootsmusic.ca

Polaris Music Prize: The Polaris Music Submission Portal is now open! For the first time ever Canadian musicians can submit their music directly to the Polaris jury for consideration. And it's all free. These awards honour the best Canadian music released each year based strictly on artistic merit, not popularity or sales. By allowing artists to submit their own work, they hope to create a broader pool of music the 200+ members of the Polaris jury may consider for their annual Polaris Album Prize and SOCAN Polaris Song Prize. These awards honour the best Canadian music released each year based on artistic merit, without regard for commercial consideration. www.polarismusicprize.ca

Grammy Nominations Announced:

The Recording Academy has revealed the nominees for the 2026 GRAMMY Awards, and this year's blues categories feature a mix of living legends and modern torchbearers keeping the genre alive.

Best Traditional Blues Album

Ain't Done With The Blues — Buddy Guy

Room On The Porch — Taj Mahal & Keb' Mo'

One Hour Mama: The Blues Of Victoria Spivey — Maria Muldaur

Look Out Highway — Charlie Musselwhite

Young Fashioned Ways — Kenny Wayne Shepherd & Bobby Rush

The Traditional Blues category showcases some of the genre's most iconic names, including Buddy Guy, Taj Mahal, Keb' Mo', and Charlie Musselwhite, each continuing to shape the sound of authentic blues well into their storied careers. Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Bobby Rush's collaboration on Young Fashioned Ways also highlights the bridge between generations that defines today's blues scene.

Best Contemporary Blues Album

Breakthrough — Joe Bonamassa

Paper Doll — Samantha Fish

A Tribute To LJK — Eric Gales

Preacher Kids — Robert Randolph

Family — Southern Avenue

The Contemporary Blues category showcases the evolution of the genre to where it is today, from Joe Bonamassa's Breakthrough to Samantha Fish's soulful, hook-driven Paper Doll. Eric Gales earns another nomination for A Tribute To LJK, while Robert Randolph and Southern Avenue round out a field that blends tradition with innovation and gospel-funk flair.

The 2026 GRAMMY Awards take place Sunday, February 1, at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles. The ceremony will broadcast live on the CBS Television Network and stream live and on demand on Paramount+. www.grammy.com

ALBUM REVIEWS



Miss Emily *The Medicine* Gypsy Soul Records

Emily Fennell is a blues singer, but her honesty and clarity mean she could choose any genre. She has a history of winning blues music awards. As a blues singer, she avoids cliché. She writes her own songs and has a distinctive voice. She also has a strong drive to sing her own truth. She's been singing for audiences since she was four years old.

Emily's commitment to singing her truth drives her artistry. When she performs onstage she sings right at you, driving a nail directly into your soul.

There is never anything pretentious about Fennell or her music. When she takes the stage, she pitches the tent right where she stands. Let the revival commence.

*There ain't no use in lookin' back
When the past is dark and reckless
My dreams appear suspended
In the time I should forget...*

*I was the one who held the key
To my freedom...*

Those are the opening words on the album *The Medicine* by Emily Fennell, also known as Miss Emily. The first song serves as a statement of purpose for this album. It's called *My Freedom*. She's leaving the past behind and steps into the now. The band lays down a groove worthy of Stax Records. Fennell delivers the song with ferocity. She means every word, as always.

The next song is *Stand Together, Band Together*. The title is the message. It has a

haunting backing track, powered by insistent drums. This album was produced by Colin Linden, so it follows that everything sounds great. There is a section where Fennell is joined by backup singers in a call-and-response section of the chorus. It's an all-purpose inspirational anthem.

One of the most powerful tracks is *The Medicine*. "You took the medicine until the medicine took you," she sings. It is a lament about the losses of human life through the current drug epidemic. It's somber, with a nice organ part giving it a gospel feel. In its seriousness it never builds to a crescendo but remains sober and sorrowful.

Maybe is torchy in the best sense. Fennell belts it out, supported by an outstanding band. They play like they're happy to be on this song, supporting this magical singer. "I'm not telling you, baby..." The emotion, as everywhere on this record, is palpable.

You Make Believe is about the power of belief. Belief can save you, it can betray you. It can change your life for good or ill. Be careful what you choose to believe in. "Where would we be without dreamers, baby?"

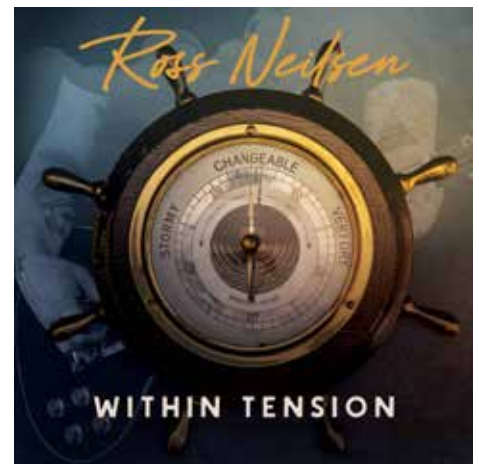
Running Again has a great vocal hook. Hot electric guitar comes in smoking about 2/3 of the way through the song. "It's all over before we get the words right... it's all right if it takes all night," she sings in a voice that turns sultry for just one phrase. This song is not about the words, it's about the feeling and the feeling is real.

Solid Ground. This may be the most moving song on the album. Any parent who has seen their child venture out into the world knows this feeling, hoping they have laid a solid foundation for their child to stand on. "I can't promise you I will always be around... at least I will have laid some solid ground..." As a parent, we hope we have done enough to give our child what they need to stand on their own. It is a feeling composed of hope, fear, and a longing so intense it borders on anguish. It is the longing that your child will be all right, whatever happens. That we have, indeed, done enough. Life is full of challenges and disasters, as well as joys and fulfillment. We wish, always, for the sun to shine on those we love. As a parent, we strongly hope we have helped them discover the inner resources to stand strong when the wind blows. Ferrell's delivery on this song is strong but restrained. The melody is engaging and powerful, and the band is majestic and supportive.

Smith's Bay Drowning is a song based on a poem by Suzanne Pasternak. Pasternak is best known for her book on the Halifax Explosion of 1917. This shipwreck poem has its roots in Prince Edward County, as does Fennell herself. It's a song she has been singing for years, and it's good to have it recorded.

Remember This Song is the last song on the album. It kicks off with a guitar passage that sounds like it was lifted from San Francisco, 1966. "Do you want to sing along, remember this song," she sings. "I want this to move you." The song is not simplistic. It is a song of thanks, and the arrangement is thrilling throughout. It's a great way to close out the album.

Vocals: Emily Fennell, Guitar: Colin Linden, Drums: George Recile, Bass: David Santos, Hammond B3: Michael Hicks (*John Mulligan*)



Ross Neilsen *Within Tension* Independent

What is "Within Tension", exactly? Ross Neilsen describes it as the pressure an artist feels, in-studio, as well as referring to the actual barometric pressure *within* the studio. Older era production giants like Jim Dickinson and Sam Phillips believed that the success of the recording process was influenced by the actual in-studio barometric pressure at the time of the session, based on its instantaneous effect on the recording artists themselves. Recording his 11th release in Sam Phillips' renowned Studio in Memphis, Neilsen has tackled this notion of tension – on both levels – with an eye to arriving at the perfect balance at this stage in his life. *Within Tension*, too, is the product of an acutely-focused attempt to reduce the stress of recording, if not a strong attempt to control its influence. His latest release brings you 9 original songs and 1 cover which – when absorbed in one sitting – delivers a progress report on where this chameleonic singer-songwriter is today.

I first met Neilsen in Fredericton, where he was an up-and-coming local hero, given his strong talents as a writer and performer, together with his built-in blend of energy and enthusiasm. Based on his popularity, it seemed to trumpet the fact that this guy was going somewhere. And go somewhere he did – following his muse to various stopping points across the country and beyond, forever seeking a strong sense of place, if not belonging.

This seasoned road warrior has represented both Fredericton and Saskatoon at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, together with multiple nominations in music competitions across the country. At the same time, between raising a family and touring constantly, Neilsen lives to play and steadily improves at what he does, evolving his substantial talents as a singer, a guitarist and a songwriter. To namecheck key influences, I once saw Neilsen burn up a Fredericton stage while teamed up with Cody Dickinson and the rest of his Hill Country Revue while time invested into Steve Earle's Camp Copperhead songwriting school in New York in '15 has only paid big dividends in Neilsen's ability to craft a smart lyric and glue it to a muscular melody.

There have also been bumps in the road – big bumps. Every artist goes through serious soul-searching when immersed in the largely thankless task of performing live music, getting there and back in one piece and slugging it out with venues for every dime promised. At the same time, these experiences, trial and tribulations not only build character – they provide the very meat and potatoes behind quality songwriting.

Enlisting friends and Memphis-ites John C. Stubblefield on bass, Rick Steff on all keyboards (both of Lucero) and Jay Sheffield III on drums, the chemistry seemed instantly in place. Mixing in the horns of Marc Franklin and Art Edmaiston (Little Feat) and added percussion from co-producer Kevin Houston on a few tracks and the barometer quickly pointed to fair weather.

Launching with the hard-hitting "Rock Ranger", you're immediately reminded of Neilsen's Rawk heritage. Always the rocker, *Within Tension* boasts both the bold, balls-to-the-walls component of his musical personality with the soft, tender side across these wide-ranging originals. Aside from Neilsen's big guitar sound (with tasty slide), a large presence from Steff's B3 and crack drumming from Sheffield III, this will scare the children – especially as it erupts into an extended jam.

"Best For You" cranks the speed even more, reminiscent of down'n'dirty ZZ Top with its hard rock pulse, underlining lyrics which tout total devotion and deep-set dedication.

Few know the "Road To Memphis" as well as Ross Neilsen – quite literally. He has created a tasty travelogue in praise of place, adding signature slide to Steff's standout piano. Perhaps their tourism board should be notified?

One might expect a sense of homesickness for the east coast with "Salt & Sea" – but you'd be wrong. A total change of gears as horns are

harnessed to create a slightly cosmopolitan feel, while added piano and Neilsen's vocal (with a reverb effect) to punch a lyric which espouses 'lightening up', for lack of a better phrase.

The next track – "Come To Be" – marks a sharp turn in the direction of this record and is the very best song on the album. Neilsen's elastic vocals allow him to roar with power or gently croon with the intimacy of a caring lover. Everything clicks – from the hook-ish melody to the soft instrumentation supporting the singer. The lyrics are the hero. A dash of B3 offsets acoustic guitar – the end result being a deep planting of an earworm which refuses to go away.

And then – "Devil's Picasso" – a complete turnaround as Neilsen and company erupt with guns a-blazing. It's a guitar and B3-driven rocker which, to me, conjures both Thin Lizzy and Uriah Heap (if you can believe it). Again, Neilsen's strengths on guitar are not to be understated as his beefy lead suggests here.

With a little tongue-in-cheek, Neilsen's perky "Troubled Mind" incorporates a little bit of quirky fun as it rocks back and forth, compliments of a sturdy rhythm section, while Neilsen's guitar spars with Steff's burbling B3.

Those familiar with Eddie Hinton's reputation won't be surprised by Neilsen's cover of a lesser known "Something Heavy". Like Hinton, Neilsen sports a soulful vocal whenever he wants to while, like Hinton, Neilsen's guitar-playing would command serious attention if he couldn't sing at all. So, in the spirit of Muscle Shoals, this comparably gentle, rhythmic track enjoys a sensitive reading from a fellow soul-searcher as the band follows suit. A stand-out vocal.

The horns return to add some majesty to "Good Enough" – another highlight track which makes the most of subtlety and a strong lyric as the song's intensity builds, paced by Neilsen's extremely soulful vocal. Again, the lyrics work like poetry while Steff's piano and minimal guitar serve the song. This is a beautiful composition which seemingly revels in heartbreak and lost love.

Likewise, the bittersweet "Bold & Beaten" begins with fingerstyle acoustic guitar and B3 backing while Neilsen turns in yet another gem, his vocal steeped in the sadness that comes with living life, taking its punches yet appreciating every minute of it. Neilsen shines in the light of the heart he wears on his sleeve.

Without doubt this is an album of extremes, yet it's all bound together by an artist who is searching for his rightful place. At the same time, he's already arrived there, driven by his deep desire to make bewitching music which speaks to everyone who hears it. This is an album – like many of his others – deserving of

an extended audience. And, while some of the 70's-style rockers may not be for everyone, his softer side remains his ace in the hole. (Eric Thom)



Pierre Lacocque's Mississippi Heat
Don't Look Back Delmark Records

Pierre Lacocque's Mississippi Heat has a unique approach to presenting blues music. In the true spirit of the Blues, the leader gathers a collection of the finest male and female musicians, singers, to deliver the messages contained in his songs and creating a musical energy rich with these blended talents! The result is a sophisticated, original performance, a strong cohesion, and remarkable sounds. With his precise and relevant touch, Lacocque's amplified harmonica enlivens and elevates the interpretations with his unique flavour and spices. "The blues is like salt, you put it everywhere" (Roosevelt Sykes). Pierre Lacocque, the excellent harmonica player, is also a musician-creator, a gatherer, a leader... a band guy!...

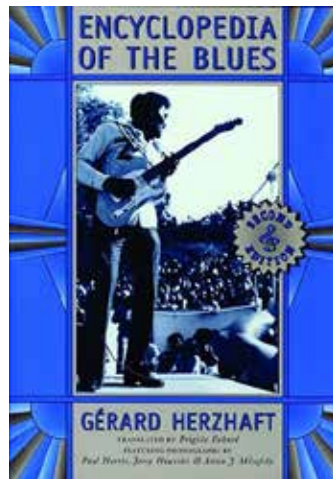
Don't Look Back is Mississippi Heat's 14th album. *Straight From The Heart*, the first, was released in 1992. Thirty-three years of discography—that's what you call experience! Mississippi Heat invents and charts its path built on talent, passion, and resilience... This new release features 14 tracks, including one instrumental. For the first time, Pierre Lacocque wrote and composed all the pieces in this consistent offering. His favorite subjects are inspired by his life experiences, his joys, interests, and concerns. Among other things, it talks about love, the devastation of drugs and alcohol, the pain of losing his father, who died at the age of 94 from COVID complications... In fact, all the artist's themes illustrate the "facts of life" with this positive and liberating vision, which is inherent to the Blues. Before talking about the album content itself, I think it is useful to mention that this opus was co-produced by Lacocque alongside Michael Freeman,

cont'd on page 7

described as a "Legendary Producer" and also a Grammy winner. Another point to highlight is the participation of 21 musicians, including four female vocalists and one male vocalist, on this album, each invested in their contributing role for a harmonious and unified result. Once again, Lacocque exemplarily puts into practice his motto, "My motto is to build on the talents that surround me." The result is that each artist contributes to the delivery and expression of the message, as well as to the particular atmosphere of each of the songs.

The album opens with **You Ain't The Only One**, a driving shuffle interpreted by the energetic Sheryl Youngblood, the main vocalist who performs on nine tracks in total. The band is solid, Giles Corey's lead guitar is sharp and dynamic, and Lacocque's harmonica is very present. The tone is set!... The expressive Danielle Nicole follows with **Third Wheel**, a slightly slower shuffle; Billy Flynn is on guitar, Johnny Iguana on piano, and Lacocque heats up the harmonica! Thereafter, Inetta Visor & Daneisha Hamilton are not left behind when they interpret **Quarter To Three**. After three shuffles, Youngblood skillfully interprets **Stepped Out Of Line**, a slow, elegant blues, enhanced by a choir of three female vocalists. The entire track, interpreted impeccably, exhales soul and refinement! One can appreciate the solid performance of John Kattke on the organ. **Moonshine Man** is a lively harmonica duet with Omar Coleman on acoustic and Lacocque on electric. This driving challenge gives way to a knowing, well-supported dialogue between the two harmonicas! **Shivering Blues**, a slow blues, is, in my opinion, the album's pièce de résistance!... It's kind of a fresh look at St. Louis Jimmy Oden/Howlin' Wolf's classic "Going Down Slow". It is written by a son intimately connected to the painful passing of his father, André Lacocque, due to COVID, to whom this anthology moment is dedicated... It is interpreted with confidence, intensity, heart, and guts by Danielle Nicole, a truly exceptional singer! The entire band is wonderful in this deep blues, a blues of urgency... when life hangs by a single thread!...

From start to finish, there is no downtime on this album. It is dedicated to Carl Weathersby, guitarist and Soul Man who was a faithful friend of Pierre's! Overall, this 14th milestone of 14 tracks of blues & associated music is a rapid-fire offering that modulates acutely and navigates competently through the turbulent waters and deep emotions of the blues! Highly recommended! (Pierre Jobin)



ShortTake: Gérard Herzhaft's *The Great Encyclopedia of the Blues*, published by Fayard in 1997 (450 pages), is a relevant and very well-documented reference tool that I highly recommend. Its original publication date is 1979. This encyclopedia by one of the most remarkable writers on American music has been translated into at least eight languages, including English, under the title *Encyclopedia of the Blues*, University of Arkansas Press (Second edition), 1997, 300 pages.

The first edition with the same publisher dates back to 1989, and it has since been reprinted six times. Gérard Herzhaft is a diverse, prolific, and fascinating author to discover! He received the Keeping the Blues Award from the Blues Foundation in 2014 (Pierre Jobin).

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Blues Britannia: Can Blue Men Sing the Whites?

by Bill King

I was doing my usual YouTube journey last night — a bit of forging for berries in the Alaskan wilderness, a detour through historic lofts in New York City, and then a jaw-dropping study in the tech brilliance of China — Chongqing, a megacity of 32 million, where a single transit terminal could host an entire metropolis. It's architectural bravado at a level beyond comprehension. After the sensory overload of steel, glass, and light, I sought something familiar, human, and raw. That's when I stumbled across the BBC Four series *Blues Britannia: Can Blue Men Sing the Whites?* — and it stopped me dead in my tracks.

I'd already spent an hour flipping through Apple, Netflix, and Crave, scanning thumbnails like a lost miner searching for gold dust. Nothing felt right. I wasn't sure what another British documentary could teach me about the blues — that well-worn story of English boys repackaging the raw nerve of America's Black soul music. But what I didn't expect was the emotional precision, the social archaeology, and the honesty of what followed. This wasn't nostalgia. It was a revelation.

Post-war Britain was a wounded landscape. Bomb craters are still filled with rainwater. Brick chimneys coughed soot into the cold gray air. The nation survived on ration cards and tepid hope. For the young, there was little promise beyond a lifetime in the factory, a modest room with peeling wallpaper, and the weight of history pressing down like fog.

Music was still stuck in a parlour frame — sentimental songs that clung to pre-war notions of decorum and longing. The BBC spoon-fed ballads to an audience that had yet to shake off the Great War's shadow. But across the Atlantic, a different sound crackled through transistor radios: the explosion of rock 'n' roll — Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis. The spark of liberation. The blueprint for teenage rebellion.

When Elvis was drafted, Chuck got locked up, Jerry Lee scandalized himself into exile, and Little Richard turned to God — that bright flame dimmed. Yet for a restless new generation of British boys, the hunger didn't fade. They wanted something more profound, earthier, truer.

And then came the imports — vinyl slabs that carried the voice of the Mississippi Delta, the Chicago South Side, and the Louisiana juke joints. The faces on the covers were unfamiliar — proud, Black, weathered, mysterious. Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Elmore James, John Lee Hooker, B.B. King.

Their names sounded like thunder. The music within was a raw sermon — distortion, pain, redemption.

There was no 12-bar count, no polished production, no three-minute formula. Just instinct, repetition, and the heartbeat of a life lived on the margins. These young British kids — future Stones, future Yardbirds, future Cream — took that sound and made it their own.

They didn't mimic. They worshipped. They studied the phrasing, the tone, the feel. They went to the woodshed, guitars in hand, and returned with something transformed — a hybrid born of reverence and rebellion.

Here's what the documentary nails: the British didn't just copy the blues — they resurrected it.

In America, by the late 1950s, the blues had become background music for white audiences. It was juke music, bar music, the soundtrack to Black labour and heartbreak — dismissed as primitive by the same society that owed it its soul. But when Muddy Waters landed in London, guitar plugged in, roaring through "Hoochie Coochie Man," those young white audiences stood in rapture. They listened, learned, and bowed their heads.

The British press referred to it as the blues boom. Clubs like the Marquee, the Crawdaddy, and the Ealing roared with this new electric sermon. Alexis Korner and Cyril Davies led the congregation. The young converts followed — Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Brian Jones, Eric Clapton, Peter Green, Jimmy Page, Jack Bruce, Ginger Baker, and John Mayall.

For the first time, the blues were not the background. It was front and center, a holy language being spoken anew in a foreign tongue.

The Stones carried that sound into the pop mainstream, forever tethered to Muddy Waters and Robert Johnson. The Yardbirds gave us a triad of guitar gods — Clapton, Beck, and Page — each channelling a different emotional current: Clapton's mournful clarity, Beck's screaming distortion, Page's dark mysticism.

John Mayall became the conservatory — his *Bluesbreakers* record with Clapton in 1966 was the gospel text. That Les Paul tone, pushed through a Marshall combo, was like lightning striking copper. "Clapton is God," someone scrawled on a London wall, and for a brief shining moment, he was.

Then came Cream. Bruce, Baker, and Clapton — three men who broke every rule of form and duration. They turned the blues into a canvas for jazz improvisation, modal exploration, long-form tension and release. Every bar of "Crossroads" or "Spoonful" felt like a cosmic negotiation between precision and chaos.

Meanwhile, the blues themselves came home to roost. The very artists who inspired the movement — B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Muddy Waters — found themselves suddenly in demand across Europe. Their pay jumped from thirty bucks in an American bar to a thousand a night in London or Manchester. For once, they were treated as the royalty they had always aspired to be.

What struck me most about *Blues Britannia* is the humility in the telling. The British musicians — Keith Richards, Jack Bruce, Mick Fleetwood, and John Mayall — all acknowledge where it came from. They speak with awe, not arrogance. They were custodians of a sacred fire, not claimants of a stolen one.

This wasn't cultural theft. It was cultural salvation. They amplified the voices of the very men America ignored. They reintroduced the blues to its homeland, dressed in feedback and fury. And in that act of translation, they lit the fuse for rock, metal, psychedelia, and everything that followed.

Watching those grainy black-and-white clips — Willie Dixon in a pressed suit, Sister Rosetta Tharpe shredding gospel riffs in a British rail yard, Muddy Waters grinning through a cloud of cigarette smoke — you can feel the world turning.

You realize that pain travels well. That the cry of the human spirit doesn't need a passport. Whether it's the Delta or Deptford, the blues speak the same truth: survival, desire, faith, and the long road home.

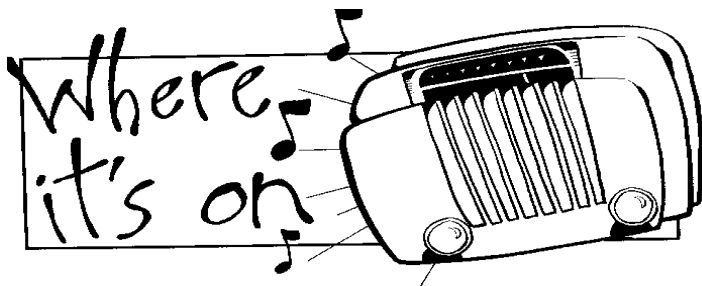
The doc isn't just about music — it's about empathy. It's about how one oppressed culture reached across the ocean and gave another the means to find itself. It's about how the language of suffering can become the architecture of liberation.

B.B. King once said, "The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you." By the time he died, after taxes and the endless grind of touring, he was worth around five million dollars — not vast by today's standards, but for a man who started on the plantation, it was redemption writ large.

Those British bands didn't just play the blues. They gave the blues a second life — one that still echoes through every bar band, festival, and street corner solo across the planet.

The film closes on that haunting question: Can blue men sing the whites? The answer, after all these years, is both yes and no. They didn't just sing the whites — they sang for them, with them, through them. And in doing so, they bridged the Atlantic not with money or politics, but with twelve bars of truth.

(originally published on Bill King's blog, www.billkingpiano.substack.com)



CBC Radio (National)

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

Saturday at 6:05pm + online at CBC Music



JAZZ-FM 91.1 (Toronto)

Bluz FM, w/ **Danny Marks**

Saturday 8:00 pm-midnight

Listen link at <https://jazzfm91.streamb.online/JAZZFM91-CJRT-FM-3681370880/streamb-popup>



CIUT 89.5 FM - U of T (Toronto)

Calling All Blues, w/rotating hosts **Brooke Blackburn, Andrew Galloway** and **Blues Doctor Julie** (Tuesday 8-9pm)

Listen link at <https://ciut.fm/>



CKWR 98.5 FM (Kitchener)

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

Thurs 7-9pm <https://ckwr.com> and Mix985.ca



CJLX 91.3 FM - Loyalist College (Belleville)

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

Saturday 6-7pm

Listen at <https://91x.fm/>

WBFO 88.7FM (Buffalo)

The Blues on WBFO

Saturdays 7-11pm w/ **Pat Fedballe**

Sundays 7pm-Midnight w/ **Tommy 'Z'**

Listen at <https://www.wbfo.org/show/the-blues-on-wbfo>

CKCU 93.1FM - Carleton University (Ottawa)

Black and Blues, w/ **John Tackaberry**

Sunday 9-11pm

Listen at <https://cod.ckcufm.com/programs/38/info.html>

CFRU 93.3 FM - University of Guelph

Blues Around The Block, w/ **Mac Dee**

Monday 7-9:00 pm

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

CANOE FM 100.9 FM (Haliburton)

Buckslide Blues Cruise w/ **Rich Anton**

Tuesday 9-11pm

<https://canoe.fm/listen/ways-to-listen>

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)

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>

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**

Thursday 10am

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

CFFF 92.7 FM (Peterborough)

Blues Themes, delivered by

"The Milkman" **Blake Frazer**

Thursday 9-10:30pm

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



ATC Blues

At The Crossroads w/ **Brant Zwicker**

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CKRL 89.1 (Quebec City)

Rue d'Auteuil, w/ **Jacques Dulac**

Friday 8 – 10pm

Live on the web on: <https://www.ckrl.qc.ca>

CKUT FM 90.3 (Montreal)

Cha Cha Cha In Blue w/ **John Detchevery** Sundays

9-11pm <http://www.ckut.ca>

Blues Jams in Southern Ontario

MONDAY

O'Grady's Toronto 9pm

The Black Swan Toronto 9:45pm (Acoustic)

TUESDAY

DROM taberna Toronto 9pm

Jazz Room Waterloo 6:30-10pm

[Grey Goat Pub & Grill](#) Main Street Newmarket. 8pm till 12

La Gabbia Newmarket 7-10pm

Fionn MacCool's, Richmond Hill 7-10pm

WEDNESDAY

Froggin Jam [Frog and the Crown Restaurant & Bar](#) Toronto 8pm

DROM taberna Toronto 9pm (Last Wednesday)

[Eastside Bar & Grill](#) London 8-11pm

Olde Village Free House Newmarket 9-12 Acoustic expect Last Wednesday of the month Full Band

Donnelly's Pub . Thorold 7-10pm (Last Wednesday)

THURSDAY

Nookies Oshawa

Barber Towne Pub Georgetown

[The Only Café](#) Toronto 7-10pm (3rd Thursday)

FRIDAY

The Black Swan Toronto 9:45pm

Queens Bar in Port Elgin (Last Friday of the month)

SATURDAY

Corktown Pub Hamilton 4pm-7pm [Garnetta Cromwell](#) (1st Saturday)

T.O. Lounge Toronto 3-7pm (2nd Saturday)

Port Credit Legion Branch 82 Mississauga 3-7pm

SUNDAY

Grossman's Tavern, Toronto 9 pm – 1 am

The Black Swan Toronto 9:45pm

Rockpile Toronto noon – 4pm

The Pilot Toronto 7pm (3rd Sunday)

The Black Bear Toronto 8pm

[The Cat Pub & Eatery](#) Toronto 4-7pm

The Edge Ajax 6-10pm

Jethro's Peterborough every Sunday 3-6pm

The Block Co Burklingron 3-6pm (4th Sunday)

Malones Pint house Barrie 4pm



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.



Monday, December 1

Wilber James Blues Band 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Spirit In Niagara Distillery, 458 Lakeshore Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, FREE
Acoustic Jam Mondays – Mike Sedgewick 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Tuesday, December 2

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Tyler Yarema 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754
Colin James Trio 7:30 pm, River Run Centre, 35 Woolwich St, Guelph, 519-763-3000, \$55
Quality Building Supplies 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto, Tip Jar

Wednesday, December 3

Rob Heimstra & Friends 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto
Colin James Trio 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Stephen Leacock Theatre, 130 Gwendolyn Blvd, Keswick
Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, December 4

Mike Daley & Eric Schenkman 6:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
A Bluesy Christmas w Johnny Max, Chuck Jackson & Cheryl Lescom 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm, Fergus Grand Theatre, 244 St. Andrew St W, Fergus, (519) 787-1981, A Bluesy Christmas with all your favourite Christmas songs w your favourite Bluesy vocalists Ticket info: [\\$40.00](https://secure1.tixhub.com/tcwfergus/online/b_otix.asp?cboPerformances=3826&cboEvent=1757&width=1264)
Colin James Trio (2 nights) 8:00 pm, Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, 130 Navy St, Oakville, (905) 338-4161, \$110

Friday, December 5

Gail Gunnis & The Dirty Roosters 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Brunswick Bierworks, 25 Curity Avenue, Toronto, (416) 285-1269, Kick-off to Christmas
A Weber Brothers Christmas 7:00 pm, Old Church Theatre Trenton, 940 Bonisteel Rd, Trenton, \$30

Trombone Charlotte (Charlotte McAfee-Brunner) And Her Band 7:00 pm, Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St. E, Toronto Ticket info: <https://www.theredwoodtheatre.com/event-details/tc>, Ticketed
The Jay Blues Trio 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Old Flame Brewery – Distillery District, 43 Tankhouse Ln, Toronto, The Jay Blues Trio continue their monthly residency at the comfy and cozy Old Flame Brewery, PWYC
Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmasters 7:30 pm, High Park Club, 100 Indian Rd., Toronto, FREE
Trombone Charlotte 8:00 pm, Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St. E, Toronto Ticket info: <https://www.theredwoodtheatre.com/event-details/tc>, Ticketed
Ian Andrews Band 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Helliwell Hall (St Catharines), 107 St Paul St, St Catharines, Event Info Contact: DeShaun Jones TailorMade Management Group tailormadeaem@gmail.com, No Cover
Colin James Trio (2 nights) 8:00 pm, Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, 130 Navy St, Oakville, (905) 338-4161, \$110
Steve Strongman Holiday Show wsg Colin Linden 8:00 pm, Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre, Wilson St. E, Ancaster, Ticketed
Rob Elder Band 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474
Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar

Saturday, December 6

Blues and Roots Matinee Sessions at The Upper Coach wsg Dave Rave 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822, \$10
Mike Branton & Friends (matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$10
Blues Etc. wsg South River Slim 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls, FREE
The Credit River Rock 'n' Roll Revival: Open Jam with Dingo 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Port Credit Legion, 35 Front St, Port Credit
Colin Linden wsg Jay Linden 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Clyde Road Sunroom Sessions (Cambridge), 1185 Clyde Road, Cambridge Ticket info: [\\$65.23](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/colin-linden-with-special-guest-jay-linden-sat-dec-6-cambridge-on-tickets-1899922973759)
Garnetta Cromwell & Dagroovmasters (matinee open jam) 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Corktown Pub, 175 Young St, Hamilton
Christmas Jazz & Reflection w/ Red Hot Ramble 4:30 pm, Beach United Church, 140 Wineva Avenue, Toronto

Johnny Max's A Bluesy Christmas with Chuck Jackson & Cheryl Lescom 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm, Roselawn Theatre (Port Colborne), 296 Fielden Ave., Port Colborne Ticket info: <https://lighthouse theatre.com/event/bluesy-christmas/>, \$36.50
Brooks & Bowskill (evening show) 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$35
More Stories & Songs: Paul James 8:00 pm, Sellers and Newel Bookstore, 672 College St, Toronto, 647-778-6345, \$20
Colin James Trio 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, FirstOntario Arts Centre (Milton), 1010 Main Street East, Milton, \$105
Raoul & The Big Time 8:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Jazz Bistro, 251 Victoria St, Toronto, (416) 363-5299, \$25

Sunday, December 7

Trini Blue and the Distractions Rockpile's Blues Open Jam 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614
O Soul-y Night Matinee: Harrison Kennedy, Samantha Martin, Sandra Bouza, w/ Festivus Four (Chris Caddell, Jesse O'Brien, Steve Marriner and Gary Craig) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315, \$50
Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Frank Cosentino & Gary Kendall 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667
Brooks & Bowskill (matinee) 3:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$35
Danny Marks Band 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469
Tim Bastmeyer (matinee) 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, The Second Wedge Brewery, 14 Victoria St., Uxbridge
Danny Marks Combo 3:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469
The Sunday Junction Jam 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas St W. (at Jane St.), Toronto
Chuck Jackson 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754
Jerome Tucker Band – Blues Sunday 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130
Sunday Night Blues Jam 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000
The Jay Blues Trio 9:30 pm, The Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth Ave, Toronto, "Psychedelic Sundays" The Jay Blues Trio's Psych, Funk, Jazz, Blues Jam! Open to all jammers!, PWYC

Rae Melvin Band – Sunday Night Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Monday, December 8

Samantha Martin (duo) 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto
Thomas Nelson Band 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Spirit In Niagara Distillery, 458 Lakeshore Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, FREE
Acoustic Jam Mondays – Mike Sedgewick 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Tuesday, December 9

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Tuesday Blues Jam with Dingo 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754
Quality Building Supplies 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto, Tip Jar

Wednesday, December 10

Rob Heimstra & Friends 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto
Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000
Grant Lyle & Brotherhood 10:00 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto, FREE

Thursday, December 11

Mike Daley and Wayne DeAdder 6:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
MonkeyJunk 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Blues at the Cove – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636
Robichaud's Ride 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Harbour St. Fish Bar, 10 Keith Ave., Collingwood, 705-293-3474
Quisha Wint – The Ladies of Soul: Part 3 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Jazz Room in Waterloo, 59 King St N, Waterloo, \$30
Greene and Bleus Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Friday, December 12

Fraser/Daley 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
John McKinley solo 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Lancaster Smokehouse, Kitchener
Alfie Smith 6:00 pm, Le Tambour Tavern, 345 James St N, Hamilton

'Jammin' For Joy' SickKids
Hospital charity concert: Gavin
McLeod, Lost Faculty & Everbloom
 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Rivoli, 334
 Queen St W, Toronto, \$22
Toronto Blues Society Christmas
Party: A Bluesy Christmas Show
 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Longbranch
 Social House, 3595 Lake Shore Blvd
 W., Etobicoke Ticket info: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/johnny-max-a-bluesy-christmas-show-tickets-1925121011769?aff=oddticketcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawN_h2JleHRuA-2FibQlXMAbIcmIkETF2VnI0b-GdSQ3hEU1ZVWwXMc3J0YwZhchB-faWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg-5MgABHsfMsv6c7jSS7dwsim3cJOX-rxU8qhAl8_wKvJi612liGB7Gat23kT-8j5fk7o_aem_F4f37Ywnr5twKD26x-0CokQ, \$27

The Gary Kendall Trio feat: Tyler
Burgess & Teddy Leonard 8:00 pm
 to 10:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new
 location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville,
 905-844-2655 Ticket info: <http://www.themoonshinecafe.com>, \$20.00
VOODOO Pawn Shop 8:30 pm to
 10:30 pm, The Second Wedge
 Brewery, 14 Victoria St., Uxbridge,
 Share the Joy Bring a Toy
Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm,
 Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth
 Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar
Fraser Melvin Blues Band 10:00 pm,
 Cameron House, 408 Queen St W,
 Toronto

Saturday, December 13

The Coachmen wsg Feddy on
Guitar (Blues and Roots Matinee
Sessions at The Upper Coach) 1:00
 pm to 3:00 pm, Coach and Lantern,
 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-
 7822 Ticket info: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/blues-and-roots-matinee-sessions-at-the-upper-coach-tickets-1975024820404>, \$10

Mike Branton & Friends (matinee)
 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe
 (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville,
 905-844-2655, \$10

Blues Etc. wsg Dave Rave 2:30 pm
 to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort,
 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls,
 FREE

The Credit River Rock 'n' Roll
Revival: Open Jam with Dingo 3:00
 pm to 7:00 pm, Port Credit Legion, 35
 Front St, Port Credit

A Bluesy Christmas w Johnny Max,
Chuck Jackson & Cheryl Lescom
 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm, Meaford Hall
 Arts And Cultural Centre, 12 Nelson St
 E, Meaford, A Bluesy Christmas with
 all your favourite Christmas songs
 with your favourite Bluesy singers!!
 Ticket info: <https://purchase.meafordhall.ca/EventAvailability?EventId=7401>, \$40.00

The Swingin' Blackjacks 9:00 pm to
 11:30 pm, Noonan's Irish Pub, 141
 Danforth Ave, Toronto ON, 416 778
 1804, Hi-Octane Rockabilly &
 Roadhouse Blues!!, Free Event
Alfie Smith 9:00 pm, Red Harp Pub,
 Acton

The Swingin' Blackjacks 9:30 pm to
 11:30 pm, Noonan's Irish Pub, 141
 Danforth Ave, Toronto ON, 416 778
 1804, Hi-Octane Rockabilly &
 Roadhouse Blues

Sunday, December 14

Trini Blue and the Distractions
Rockpile's Blues Open Jam 12:00
 pm to 4:00 pm, Rockpile, 5555a
 Dundas Street West, Toronto,
 416-464-7614

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim
Casson, guests Paige Armstrong &
Dane Wedderburn 2:00 pm to 4:30
 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20
 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667

The Gary Kendall Trio feat: Tyler
Burgess & Teddy Leonard 3:00 pm
 to 6:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116
 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272,
 "Three Cool Cats", PWYC

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

The Sunday Junction Jam 4:00 pm
 to 7:00 pm, The Cat Pub & Eatery,
 3513 Dundas St W. (at Jane St.),
 Toronto

Chuck Jackson 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm,
 Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E.,
 Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Alfie Smith w/ Jordan Stevens 8:00
 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location),
 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655,
 \$15

Sunday Night Blues Jam 9:00 pm to
 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377
 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416)
 977-7000



Trombone Charlotte (Charlotte McAfee-Brunner) And Her Band play the historic
 Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St. E, Toronto (doors at 7)

Ticket info: <https://www.theredwoodtheatre.com/event-details/tc>

Rae Melvin Band – Sunday Night
Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black
 Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Monday, December 15

Acoustic Jam Mondays – Mike
Sedgewick 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm,
 Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth,
 Toronto

Tuesday, December 16

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on
 Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Chris Ayries 7:30 pm, Ancaster
 Memorial Arts Centre, Wilson St. E,
 Ancaster, Ticketed

Tyler Yarema 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm,
 Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E.,
 Mississauga, (905) 891-1754
Kellylee Evans Wintersong 8:00 pm
 to 11:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296
 Broadview, Toronto, \$45
Quality Building Supplies 9:00 pm,
 Cameron House, 408 Queen St W,
 Toronto, Tip Jar

Wednesday, December 17

Rob Heimstra & Friends 1:00 pm to
 2:30 pm, Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth
 Avenue, Toronto
Chris Chambers Band with Special
Guest Chris Caddell 8:00 pm to 9:30
 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson
 St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822 \$31.59

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

Thursday, December 18

Mike Daley and Tim Bovaconti 6:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
Blues For Christmas- A Little Magic Sam Holiday Bash 7:00 pm, The Only Cafe, 962 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Proceeds to Daily Bread Food Bank
A Soulf Christmas feat. Quisha Wint, Micheal Dunston and Sean Jones 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, \$40

Friday, December 19

Steve Strongman & Rob Szabo Annual Holiday Show 7:00 pm, Room 47 (ex Starlight Lounge), 47 King St N, Waterloo, \$40
Soul Stew – Dance Party 7:00 pm, Ticketed
Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar
Chloe Watkinson 9:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Saturday, December 20

Mike Branton & Friends (matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$10
Alfie Smith (matinee) 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Nickel Brook Brewing Co., 3426 Mainway, Burlington
The Credit River Rock 'n' Roll Revival: Open Jam with Dingo 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Port Credit Legion, 35 Front St, Port Credit
Paul James Band 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469
Mike Branton & The Late Night Band 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$15

Sunday, December 21

Trini Blue and the Distractions Rockpile's Blues Open Jam 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614
James Anthony Band w/ guest Virgil Scott 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Ned Devine's Irish Pub, 575 Ontario St S., Milton, (905) 864-6794, no cover
Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Danny Marks & Alec Fraser 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667

The Sunday Junction Jam 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas St W. (at Jane St.), Toronto
Chuck Jackson 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754
Jay Bleus Trio 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, The Emmet Ray, 924 College St., Toronto, 416-792-4497
Sunday Night Blues Jam 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000
Rae Melvin Band – Sunday Night Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Monday, December 22

Acoustic Jam Mondays – Mike Sedgewick 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Tuesday, December 23

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Tuesday Blues Jam with Dingo 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754
Quality Building Supplies 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto, Tip Jar

Wednesday, December 24

Rob Heimstra & Friends 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto
Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Friday, December 26

Fraser/Daley 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar

Saturday, December 27

Mike Branton & Friends (matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$10
The Credit River Rock 'n' Roll Revival: Open Jam with Dingo 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Port Credit Legion, 35 Front St, Port Credit
Mike McKenna's Slidewinder Blues Band 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto, \$10
Suzie Vinnick 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, \$35

Chuck Jackson Trio feat. Tyler Yarema & Gene Hardy 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$20
Fraser Melvin Band 9:00 pm, Noonan's Irish Pub, 141 Danforth Ave, Toronto ON, 416 778 1804

Sunday, December 28

Trini Blue and the Distractions Rockpile's Blues Open Jam 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614
James Anthony Band w/ guest Terry Chisholm 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Ned Devine's Irish Pub, 575 Ontario St S., Milton, (905) 864-6794, no cover
Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Dave Murphy & Peter Murray 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667
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
Swingin' Blackjacks 3:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469
The Sunday Junction Jam 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas St W. (at Jane St.), Toronto

Chuck Jackson 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754
Paige Armstrong Band w/Mark Rogers and John Irvine 6:30 pm, Irish Harp Pub (NOTL), 245 King St, Niagara-on-the-Lake, (905) 468-4443, FREE
Rocky Verweel and Queen City Blues 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Smoke-show BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469, Live Horn/ Guitar driven Blues and R&B, Tip jar
Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Dave Murphy & Peter Murray 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Lucky's at Fallsview Casino, 6380 Fallsview Blvd, Niagara Falls, 905-354-7775
Sunday Night Blues Jam 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Rae Melvin Band – Sunday Night Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Monday, December 29

Acoustic Jam Mondays – Mike Sedgewick 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Tuesday, December 30

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Tyler Yarema 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Wednesday, December 31

Donnie Meeker's Boomer New Year's Eve (matinee) 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Timothy's Pub, 344 Browns Line, Etobicoke, 416-201-9515, \$10
Toney Springer Trio w/Opener Senior Delinquent 7:00 pm, Huntsville Legion, 21 Veterans Way, Huntsville, \$30
NYE Countdown w/ Jack de Keyzer 9:00 pm, Leander Banquet Hall (formerly Bay City Music Hall), 50 Leander Dr, Hamilton
James Anthony 9:30 pm, Marquee Steakhouse (Milton), 204 Main Street East, Milton, 289-878-5717

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Jack de Keyzer New Year's Day Matinee w/Easy Street Blues Band 4:00 pm, Polish Hall Brantford, 154 Pearl St., Brantford, 519-753-0414, 31st Annual, \$25

Friday, January 2, 2026

The Jay Blues Trio 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Old Flame Brewery – Distillery District, 43 Tankhouse Ln, Toronto, The Jay Blues Trio continue their monthly residency, PWYC
Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Doctor Nick and the Rollercoasters 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St W., Toronto,
The Credit River Rock 'n' Roll Revival: Open Jam with Dingo 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Port Credit Legion, 35 Front St, Port Credit
Garnetta Cromwell & Dagroovmasters (matinee open jam) 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Corktown Pub, 175 Young St, Hamilton, FREE

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Trini Blue and the Distractions Rockpile's Blues Open Jam 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614
Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Spencer Mackenzie & Stacy Shopsyowitz 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667, weekly guests, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782

Danny Marks Band 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

The Sunday Junction Jam 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas St W. (at Jane St.), Toronto

Chuck Jackson 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Jerome Tucker Band – Blues

Sunday 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Sunday Night Blues Jam 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

The Jay Blues Trio 9:30 pm, The Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth Ave, Toronto, "Psychedelic Sundays" The Jay Blues Trio's Psych, Funk, Jazz, Blues Jam! Open to all jammer's!, PWYC

Rae Melvin Band – Sunday Night Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto



*The **Maple Blues Band** is bringing back their Maple Blues Revue show with a touring agenda through 2026 into 2027. The high energy show will be constructed around their instrumental music taken from the Let's Go and Intrumentalz recordings augmented by dynamic vocal performances by world class vocalists Jay Douglas, Samantha Martin and Suzie Vinnick. The Maple Blues Revue is an expansion of The Maple Blues Band's role that provided the musical landscape for The Maple Blues Awards in Toronto from 1999 until their departure in 2023 in pursuit of a new chapter as a touring and recording act. This time around the fluctuating vocal features will be gleaned from a long list of musical friends and colleagues developed over their 26 years as an all star super group. Current tour dates for next year include Feb. 14-Capitol Theatre, North Bay, Feb. 20-National Arts Centre, Ottawa, Feb. 22-Algonquin Theatre, Huntsville, Mar. 6-The Westdale Theatre, Hamilton (Quisha Wint, Jay Douglas), Mar. 28-Market Hall Performing Arts Centre, Peterborough and more*

Monday, January 5, 2026

Steve Marriner & Local Electric with Special Guests TBA 8:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Acoustic Jam Mondays – Mike Sedgewick 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Tuesday Blues Jam with Dingo 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Rob Heimstra & Friends 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto
Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Sean Pinchin wsg Scott Fitzpatrick 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Blues at the Cove – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636

Friday, January 9, 2026

Fraser/Daley 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
Alfie Smith 6:00 pm, Le Tambour Tavern, 345 James St N, Hamilton

The Hogtown Allstars 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, 27.27 – 48.02
Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar

Saturday, January 10, 2026

The Credit River Rock 'n' Roll Revival: Open Jam with Dingo 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Port Credit Legion, 35 Front St, Port Credit
Sean Pinchin wsg Scott Fitzpatrick 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315, Ticketed

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Trini Blue and the Distractions Rockpile's Blues Open Jam 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614
Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Sean Pinchin & Scott Fitzpatrick 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667
Little Magic Sam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Rivoli (Pool Hall), 332 Queen Street W, The Little Magic Sam Band brings their electric energy to the historic Rivoli pool lounge. No Cover

The Sunday Junction Jam 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas St W. (at Jane St.), Toronto
Chuck Jackson 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754
Sunday Night Blues Jam 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000
Rae Melvin Band – Sunday Night Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Monday, January 12, 2026

Steve Marriner & Local Electric with Special Guests TBA 8:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Acoustic Jam Mondays – Mike Sedgewick 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Tyler Yarema 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Rob Heimstra & Friends 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto
Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000
Sean Pinchin wsg Scott Fitzpatrick 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, The Local, 396 Roncesvalles, Toronto

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Sean Pinchin wsg Scott Fitzpatrick 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655
Little Magic Sam Open Jam night 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, The Only Cafe, 962 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Friday, January 16, 2026

Sean Pinchin wsg Scott Fitzpatrick 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Slabtown Armoury (Aurora), 89 Mosley Street, Aurora, L4G 1V8
January Blues with Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, \$40
Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar



Steve Marriner & Local Electric resume their popular Monday night residency at Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave. starting Monday January 5.

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Paul James Band 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

Alfie Smith (matinee) 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Nickel Brook Brewing Co., 3426 Mainway, Burlington

The Credit River Rock 'n' Roll Revival: Open Jam with Dingo 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Port Credit Legion, 35 Front St, Port Credit

Julian Taylor & Logan Staats 7:30 pm, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre (St Catharines), 250 St Paul St, St Catharines, 905-688-0722, Ticketed

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Trini Blue and the Distractions Rockpile's Blues Open Jam 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614

Sean Pinchin wsg Scott Fitzpatrick 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, The Woolly Pub, 176 Woolwich St, Guelph

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Marshall Dane & Rich Moore 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667

The Sunday Junction Jam 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas St W. (at Jane St.), Toronto

Chuck Jackson 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Sunday Night Blues Jam 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Rae Melvin Band – Sunday Night Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Monday, January 19, 2026

Steve Marriner & Local Electric with Special Guests TBA 8:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Acoustic Jam Mondays – Mike Sedgewick 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Julian Fauth 6:30 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Tuesday Blues Jam with Dingo 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Rob Heimstra & Friends 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto
Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Friday, January 23, 2026

Fraser/Daley 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
Sean Pinchin wsg Scott Fitzpatrick 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto
Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar

Saturday, January 24, 2026

The Credit River Rock 'n' Roll Revival: Open Jam with Dingo 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Port Credit Legion, 35 Front St, Port Credit
Al Lerman 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

Concerts of Note

Toronto Blues Society Christmas Party: A Bluesy Christmas Show | Longbranch Social House | Etobicoke | December 12

Jack de Keyzer New Year's Day Matinee w/ Easy Street Blues Band | Polish Hall Brantford | Brantford | January 1, 2026

Billy F Gibbons and the BFG Band | Avalon Theatre At Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort | Niagara Falls | February 4, 2026

Matt Andersen w/ Mariel Buckley | Centre In The Square | Kitchener | February 19, 2026

Kenny Wayne Shepherd, w/Jimmie Vaughan | OLG Stage at Fallsview Casino Resort | Niagara Falls | March 14, 2026

George Thorogood & The Destroyers | FirstOntario Concert Hall (Hamilton) | Hamilton | April 2, 2026

George Thorogood & The Destroyers | Casino Rama | Orillia | April 3, 2026

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Trini Blue and the Distractions Rockpile's Blues Open Jam 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Andy Colonico & Steve Lucas 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667

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

The Swingin' Blackjacks 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469, Rescheduled from Mon Jan 26, \$15.00

Mike McKenna Slidewinder Blues Band 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto
The Sunday Junction Jam 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas St W. (at Jane St.), Toronto

Chuck Jackson 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

Sunday Night Blues Jam 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Rae Melvin Band – Sunday Night Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Monday, January 26, 2026

The Swingin' Blackjacks 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469, Hi-Octane Rockabilly & Roadhouse Blues!!, \$15.00
Steve Marriner & Local Electric with Special Guests TBA 8:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave.,



Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with the Women's Blues Revue:

Nana Bonsu

Thomas Hanes

Betty Jackson

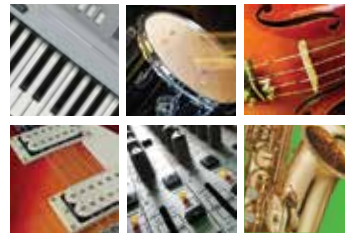
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- **Discounts** on TBS merchandise purchases at TBS events
- **Exclusive** access to industry discounts, ticket giveaways, and more!

Membership Options

CHARTER MEMBERSHIP – \$50 for 1 year / \$95 for 2 years / \$135 for 3 years

See benefits list above.

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INSTITUTIONAL or BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP – \$150/year

Same benefits as CHARTER membership, plus discounts on Maple Blues Newsletter advertising.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP – \$20/year

Same benefits as CHARTER membership. (please include name of post-secondary institution)

MUSICIANS MEMBERSHIP – \$30/year

Same benefits as CHARTER membership

Must supply proof – Minimum 6 gigs in our calendar over the past year, Spotify link, website

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TBS Christmas Party



Friday December 12 8pm
Long Branch Social House
3595 Lake Shore Boulevard West Toronto

