

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

MAPLE BLUES NEWS



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PHOTO BY SCOT DOUBT

Winter Festivals

J. E. Lopez

Jammin the Blues

Loose Blues News

Top Blues

Live Blues

Sue Foley kicks off 2026 with a new album (Live at the Elmo), a new house (in Austin) and a whack of high-profile gigs

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

New Mailing Address:

Toronto Blues Society
PO BOX 94035
Toronto RPO Bedford ON M4N 3R1
Tel. (416) 538-3885

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

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Publisher: Quisha Wint
Managing Editor: Brian Blain
editor@torontobluessociety.com
Contributing Editors: Janet Alilovic, Carol Flett
Listings Coordinator: Bonnie Baker
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Advertising: Manny DeGrandis
mannydeg@hotmail.com
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Congratulations to Kirsten Dressler, winner of the 50/50 draw at the the TBS Bluesy Christmas party hosted by Johnny Max. Thanks to all who came out for this festive occasion. Photo by David Myhre.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, January 19, 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.

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Winter Festivals

JUST IN CASE.....

you think there are only Blues festivals in the summer.

by Georgina Lynn Boucher

Yes, sitting outside on a warm day listening to live Blues is a grand invention but Blues in the Winter can be a terrific thing to do when you need to shake your feathers and chase away the blues with the Blues. Here are two upcoming festivals to consider.

One that shines like a bright star on a cold clear night is the **Aurora Winter Blues Festival** which will be held for four nights from **February 26th to March 1st**. After celebrating its ten-year anniversary, this award-winning festival was sidelined by the Covid epidemic. But this year, Music Aurora and the Aurora Cultural Centre formed a partnership to bring about its revival. And it is going to be a very special celebration! The event will feature six shows and four live music workshops. The lineup is impressive. It includes the 2024 Maple Blues "new artist of the year" **Little Magic Sam** and his band; the multi-instrumentalist soul singer **Harrison Kennedy** with Bluesman **Dave Mowat**; the powerful visionary voice of **Glenn Marais** and two-time Juno award winner **Dominique Fils-Aimé**. Dominique is a highly regarded jazz singer known for her soulful, Blues-inspired artistry. The whole shebang opens with celebrated Canadian blues legend **Jack de Keyzer** on Feb. 26th and **Suzie Vinnick** on February 27th. Suzie is a multiple Juno nominated and Maple Blues award winner. She has twice won the International Songwriting Competition in the Blues category. Suzie will be playing with superb guest musicians **Kevin Breit**, Ottawa's **Tony D** (MonkeyJunk) and rising star **Jay Bleus**. The live and intimate workshops will include the fine musicianship of Toronto's **Manny DeGrandis**, who will be interviewing **Glenn Marais** about the early instruments of blues; harmonica torchbearer "Cabbagetown" **Steve Grant**; local singer and emcee **Steve Falk**; Aurora Museum historian **Michelle Johnson** and Underground Railroad historian and musician **Diana Braithwaite**. Workshops run from Friday to Sunday, to be held in Brevik Hall. Prices vary from \$20-\$50 for main stage shows. The festival entrance pass for all events is only \$199.00. The ticket office can be reached at (365) 550-3313. Tickets can be purchased on line and questions can be



Greene & Bleus (Jesse Greene and Jay Bleus) have become a fixture at Grossmans with their 2nd Thursday residency but will be going their separate ways in the two Festival programmes described below. Jesse is part of the Winterfolk lineup and Jay will be opening for Suzie Vinnick at Aurora Winter Blues on February 27.

emailed to info@auroraculturalcentre.ca. Seats are reserved and you can pick your seat at time of purchase. With I.D. all shows for students are only \$15.

The Aurora Cultural Centre is a registered charity supported by local volunteers. This remarkable Centre has received a rare "Imagine Canada Trustmark" which acknowledges its exceptional service to the Aurora community. Located in a beautifully restored 1886 schoolhouse it features art exhibition spaces; educational instruction classes for children, teens and adults; rotating artists in residence and diverse artistic partnerships with local businesses, schools and the community at large. A 15% ticket discount is available if you purchase 3 or more of their upcoming events. Here is just a sample: on January 24th, be ready for a British Invasion. John Sheard's British Invasion! John Sheard is a pianist, producer and long-time music director of CBC Radio's Vinyl Café. The show will feature U.K born guitarist and vocalist Greg Wyard and upcoming singing sensation Charmie. On January 31st, mega producer, composer and pianist Lance Anderson will be performing one of his True Tribute concerts, this one to the great pianist Oscar Peterson. Lance was a good friend of Oscar's and will be sharing personal stories. On March 14th, five-time Juno award winner Jane Bunnett will be appearing with her all-female Afro Cuban band, Maqueque.

Aurora can be reached by bus, train, car or taxi from Toronto. For the most part you can be there in under an hour. Davide De Simone Performance Hall, Brevik Hall, Aurora Cultural Centre: Aurora Town Square, 50 Victoria Street in Aurora, Ontario

Winterfolk- the Tranzac Club, Toronto, Ont. February 12th-15th 2026

Originally billed as a "summer festival in Winter" this Roots and Blues event was founded in 2002 by Toronto musician Brian Gladstone. It has changed locations over the years, but it has never lost its desire to honour its grassroots origins. This year, for the first time the festival will be extended to four days with an emerging talent night on February 12th. It is to be held at the TTC accessible Tranzac Club at 292 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto. The venue will feature over 100 artists on multiple stages.

This year's programming blasts a breath of fresh air into the lineup with both new and seasoned Blues artists. In the "new artist" column, we will have an opportunity to see **Jesse Greene**, a powerhouse singer, guitarist and songwriter who hails originally from the Ottawa area. Jesse won the 2024 Amy Louie Grossman's Music Scholarship and was a previous finalist at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. In the "seasoned" column we have **Toney Springer** of Wild T and the Spirit fame. When Jeff Healey was alive Jeff claimed that "he had learned more about music from Toney than from any other musician he knew." Jeff was not alone. Wild T impressed David Bowie so much that he used him as his guitarist on the album "Black Tie, White Noise". Toney also appeared with Bowie on every late-night show of the time. Toney has also backed Bon Jovi, appeared and performed as Jimi Hendrix in movies and toured extensively throughout Europe, the United States and Canada. Today, Wild T. is more exciting than ever; his talent is still undeniable, and his shows never disappoint!

cont'd on p4

Another band in the “seasoned column” are **The Swingin’ Blackjacks**. They have been the backbone of the local Toronto scene for over 20 years. This tight, professional trio of Matt Allen, Gary Kendall and Adam David always know how to get it right with a toe tapping mix of rockabilly and jumping Blues.

Danny Marks is probably one of the most recognized names in the local Toronto music scene. From his youthful days in the 1960’s as founding member of the band Edward Bear to his 28-year tenure as host of the excellent Saturday night radio show BLUZ FM (8pm-midnight) (JAZZ.FM.91) he has carved his signature style in all that he does. In 2006 he won the “Blues with a Feeling” lifetime achievement Maple Blues award. In 2013 he created a critically acclaimed TV documentary series called “Cities in Blue” that explored the origin and evolution of Blues music in major American cities. With his vast knowledge of music and penchant for story telling his live performances are eclectic and entertaining.

To say that **Shakura S’Aida** is a seasoned performer would be an understatement. Simply known as Shakura, this remarkable Brooklyn-born Swiss-raised artist has contributed to the Toronto Music, Art and Theatrical scene for over 40 years. She is known as a singer/songwriter, actress, band leader/front woman, humanitarian, producer and playwright. Shakura not only continues to “Hold on to Love” as her 2023 Juno nominated, multi award winning album suggests; she exemplifies the value of love in all that she does. In 2021 she won the “Blues with a Feeling” lifetime achievement Maple Blues Award. Shakura is considered one of Canada’s most exciting and enduring voices in Blues/ Roots and Soul music today.

And expect some bluesy sounds from **Harpin’ Norm Lucien, Clela Errington, Kevin Breit, Noah Zacharin** and popular world music man **Donné Roberts**.

Finally, in the “new artist” column is the **Winterfolk** festival itself. For the first time its opening night is going to feature **new and emerging artists**. This event will be free. A 3-day pass can be purchased on line for \$108.47 which includes all fees and taxes. Single night ticket prices can be found at www.Winterfolk.com. A complete list of all the many other talented artists scheduled to perform over the three-day festival is also posted here.

This unique festival is a true antidote to the deep freeze that February can bring. Organizers expect tickets to sell out fast so check it out soon. The names of emerging new artists should be announced sometime in January.

Guitar Talk:

The Blues continue to stay true

by Frank Cosentino

The Blues stay true to their roots, maintaining an authentic presence in a constantly changing music scene characterized by rapid genre-blending, the rise of digital streaming platforms like Spotify and Apple Music, and shifting audience tastes across diverse groups, including younger generations and international listeners. This steadfast commitment to tradition helps preserve the soulful integrity that fundamentally defines the genre.

For dedicated musicians and industry insiders, following this authentic approach remains the only viable path to lasting success, as it clearly separates genuine artistry from fleeting trends and commercial gimmicks.

Any seasoned “lifer” will say that change is unavoidable, but staying deeply grounded in the principles laid down by legendary

pioneers such as Robert Johnson, B.B. King, and Muddy Waters—whose innovations shaped modern blues—keeps a writer connected to the mojo, ensuring that the spirit of the blues stays vibrant and real.

Meanwhile, contemporary Blues artists are exploring new musical territories at a rapid pace, constantly opening doors to push the boundaries of what makes this music meaningful and relevant today.

Does this invite change to the blues as we know it?

It's raw, emotional, goosebump-inducing DNA that connects deeply with audiences worldwide.

That's a question I, as a songwriter, wrestle with every time I pick up a guitar to write.

We see boundaries pushed regularly, but does that make it right?

That's the question I want to leave with you.

Discussing the art keeps it alive as much as practicing it.

Discuss.

For more and all things Guitar and the Blues visit:

frankcosentino.com



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

Mike Bourne Band Kansas City O'Clock Overton Music

Dave Keyes Two Trains MoMojo Records

BB & the Bullets High Tide Dixie Frog

***Paul Pigat Presents Cousin Harley** Plays the Blues Vol. 1 Cellar Music Group

Altered Five Blues Band Hammer & Chisel Blind Pig Records

Chris Vincent & the Raw Deals Good Crook Chris Vincent Music

***The Riverview Band** Finger Prints independent

Lil' Magic Sam Tired Out independent (artist from France, not our own Sam Taylor)

***The Joel Dupuis Band** Very Best Fool independent

Duwayne Burnside Red Rooster Lucky 13 Records

Vineet Delta Blues Revival/Kyon? Punjabi Blues independent

Hudspeth & Taylor Kimuziki – Live in Des Moines independent

Mark Cameron Blues Factory Overton Music

Kim Wilson Slow Burn M.C. Records

***Terry Robb** Howlin' Waters New-Folk Records

Robbin Kapsalis The Blues is in the House Blues House Productions

***Father'n'Son** Night Time for Sinners independent

Catfish Keith Sugar for Sugar Vol. 1 Fish Tail Records

Greg Nagy Just a Little More Time independent

Rory Block Heavy on the Blues M.C. Records

* = Canadian

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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 Burlington 3-6pm (4th Sunday)
Malones Pint house Barrie 4pm



Sunday Jam is Alive and Well at Grossman's Tavern

By Rob Quail

On Sunday, January 11, Hap Roderman and I, and special guest Al Cross, will be hosting the jam at this legendary venue. You should come! Here's why.

Any Toronto Blues fan will be familiar with Grossman's Tavern. It was one of the first taverns in Toronto to secure a liquor license, and began hosting live music not long afterward, in the early 1950s. It's been a storied live venue and a musicians' hangout ever since. And it is one of the only remaining live venues in the GTA where the focus is on the Blues and its close musical relatives.

The Grossman's Sunday Jam is by far Toronto's longest running blues jam. It goes back so far no-one seems to know exactly when it started up; at least 50 years ago. I personally started being a regular in the early 1980s, and other than the location of the stage, the stainless steel bar counter, improvements to the PA (there are functioning monitors now!), and numerous renovations of the men's room, it is pretty much unchanged in all that time. Many of my fondest musical moments have happened between those faded walls. The place has magic.

And there's history. When you set foot on that stage, you stand where legends have stood, including Jeff Healey, Big Sugar, Holly Cole, Amanda Marshall, the Shuffle Demons, Mel Brown, Shakura S'Aida, King Biscuit Boy, Paul James, Jack de Keyzer, Lorne Lofsky, David Wilcox, Colin Linden, Kim Wilson, the Phantoms, McDonald-Rush, Dutch Mason, Philip Sayce, Downchild's Hock and Donnie Walsh (including their brief reunion on a Sunday there in 1985), Toney Springer, and

many many more. The jam has gone through changes, from the 1980s and 1990s when it had rotating "host" bands, to the long and storied residency of the Nationals and Brian Cober, to the years when Bill Hedefine kept on as host.

Since things opened up after COVID, to keep things varied we have had four rotating hosts. I host on the second Sunday of each month. On bass is my musical brother, the infinitely creative Hap Roderman, and for the past year or so we have rotated many of Toronto's very finest drummers; on January 11 Hap and I are thrilled to welcome the magnificent Al Cross. The other Sundays are hosted by Paul Polisano, Ken Yoshiaka, and the Charter Blues Band.

The format is very laid back and informal: our band kicks things off at 9pm with a set, toward the end of which we are often joined by a guest or two, and then things open up and the fun really starts. We have witnessed some truly amazing spontaneous performances over the years. As is the case with any jam, the best moments happen when musicians really click and musical conversations start to happen, and in my experience, something about the magic of that room means that these moments seem to happen more often on the Grossman's stage than anywhere else. It's a great place to meet other players and see if there's chemistry.

Grossman's calls itself "Toronto's Home of the Blues," and while this is at its core a blues jam, the music that gets performed is actually pretty wide ranging (one recent Sunday included songs by Frank Zappa, Merle Haggard, Bob Marley, James Brown, the Beatles, and Sting.) And over the decades we have seen lots of unexpected instruments make appearances, including an oboe, a double bassoon, a cello, a harp (not a blues-harp...an actual classical harp, with strings), a theremin, a washboard, and numerous other wind and brass instruments.

All are welcome!

J.E. Lopez: A Blues Artist of Intention

by Georgina Lynn Boucher

"I once heard someone say that classical music is the music of the spirit and jazz music is the music of the mind. For me Blues is the music of the flesh. Raw. Visceral. It moves me in a way that nothing else does." J.E Lopez

J.E. Lopez is what they call a true Torontonian. He was born here and he grew up here. Like many of us whose roots go back to other countries, his personal connection to his Filipino ancestry is somewhat distant. But he does recognize that the Canadian Filipino diaspora echoes a complex cultural history, and one that is part of his own familial story. As a child, he was deeply influenced by American culture. He grew up listening to what his parents enjoyed; artists such as James Taylor, the Eagles and America. But when he started making his own musical choices he fell hard for American Rhythm and Blues. He especially loved the R&B music of the 1990's and 2000's: bands like Boyz II Men and the legendary producer and artist Babyface.

"From the beginning my father always supported my interest in music. He knew I liked to listen to R&B from this era. One day he brought home the DVD "MTV Unplugged Concert by Babyface from 1997."

The first song of the concert was "Change the World" made famous by Eric Clapton but written and produced by Babyface. In it, Babyface appears with guest artist Eric Clapton playing electric guitar. "I'd never seen anyone play guitar like Eric Clapton. His fingers would navigate up and down the guitar neck in a flowing, improvised style as if he was singing through his guitar, I felt I was witnessing magic." It was this moment of magic that was to change the young life of J.E. forever. It was the beginning of a love affair.

"I became obsessed with the art of Blues guitar and the history and lineage of the Blues."

Not long after that his ever-supportive father brought home a DVD of Stevie Ray Vaughan playing live at Toronto's legendary El Mocambo. "I remember sitting with my dad glued to the tv screen in awe of Stevie Ray, his music was raw and powerful, I knew I had experienced a Blues Tornado" By the age of sixteen J.E. began to play, sing and perform Blues music. His passion for the Blues only deepened during his time at university where he studied Theology and Classical History.



In 2025 J.E. Lopez was nominated runner up in the Toronto Blues Society talent search. He is currently working on several singles to be released in 2026 with the intention of more soon to follow including an EP and full album.

As inspirational as Clapton and Vaughan and other major Blues artists were to J.E. he never wanted to be a carbon copy of anyone. This love affair with the Blues had to be real and that meant finding his own voice. It was not long before he was performing in clubs all around Toronto, either playing his guitar and singing with other musicians or performing as a solo artist. He honed his talent and developed his own style of Blues.

"My first name was chosen by a boy starting out his journey in music, but the name J.E. Lopez was chosen by a man, with intention."

In 2023, Joshua Emmanuel Lopez (affectionately nicknamed Jlatte) experienced an epiphany. He made an intentional and conscious decision to change his professional name to J.E. Lopez. "I used to laugh when I heard about musicians changing their names, especially when they were well known. I didn't understand it." With time and the evolution of his music, however, it was a change that became profoundly important to Joshua: a symbol of rebirth and an act of intention. It was to be the beginning of a new chapter in his life.

Today the J.E. Lopez love affair with Blues has blossomed. He has become a skilled

singer, guitarist and song writer. To hear him perform today is to hear the raw energy of Blues, the dynamic of pure Soul and the smoothness of modern R&B. He plays regularly at local clubs which he thrives on. "I enjoy the interplay and exchange of energy that happens between myself, the members of the band and the audience." He is still deeply inspired by the Blues but has a larger vision for himself. "I hope to continue to be a positive force musically and to be an artist for a long time to come."

J.E. Lopez will be performing with his band at The Handlebar at 159 Augusta Avenue in Kensington Market on January 17th. Doors open at 9pm. PWYC. To coincide with the Handlebar show, he will also be releasing his first single of 2026, a live version of the soul classic "Hold On, I'm Coming" by Sam and Dave. Available January 17th on all streaming platforms. On Saturday January 24th, look for J.E. to do a solo show at the Wintersong Music Festival in Stouffville, Ont., 6236 Main Street at Whitchurch/Stouffville at 5pm.

To have an opportunity to hear J.E. Lopez and know more about his upcoming shows join his mailing list at jelopezmusic.com. You can also find him on Instagram and YouTube: @jelopezmusic.

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BREIT & TONY D
+ JAY BLUES

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GLENN MARAIS'
JOOK

Sat., Feb. 28 / 1:00 PM



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FILS-AIMÉ

Sat., Feb. 28 / 7:30 PM



HARRISON
KENNEDY
+ DAVE MOWAT

Sun., Mar. 1 / 2:00 PM



LITTLE MAGIC
SAM BAND

Sun., Mar. 1 / 7:30 PM

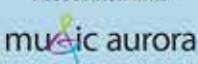
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Paul James at 75: Toronto's blues community is gearing up for a milestone celebration as the legendary Paul James takes over the Phoenix Concert Theatre on Saturday, January 17, 2026. This isn't just another annual bash; it's a diamond jubilee marking James's 75th birthday, promising a high-octane night that honours one of Canada's most enduring musical icons. Paul James has been a cornerstone of the Canadian blues scene for over five decades. A Juno Award winner and recipient of the Maple Blues Lifetime Achievement Award, James is a "musician's musician" whose resume reads like a hall-of-fame roster. From backing Bo Diddley more than 100 times to his long-standing friendship with Bob Dylan, James represents the bridge between raw, 1950s rock-and-roll and authentic, foot-stomping blues.

Fans attending the 75th Birthday Bash can expect the signature showmanship that has made James a legend. Whether he's playing slide guitar with a beer bottle, wandering through the crowd mid-solo, or performing his acclaimed Dylan interpretations, James's energy remains as vital as it was during his Yorkville coffeehouse days.

The Phoenix, a venue that has hosted its fair share of history, provides the perfect backdrop for this 19+ event. Doors open at 7:00 PM. To show his appreciation for his fans, tickets are available free at thephoenixconcerttheatre.com

Marcia Ball honoured: Legendary Texas Musician and HOME (Housing Opportunities For Musicians And Entertainers) Founder Marcia Ball will be honoured following Ball's announced retirement from performing. On Thursday, January 29, 2026, the city of Austin, Texas will come together to celebrate the life and music of the legendary, five-time GRAMMY-nominated, Austin-based musician, Marcia Ball. Back in October, Ball announced her retirement from touring and performing due to a recent diagnosis of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Ball will be on hand for the show alongside some very special guests, but will not perform. The program, entitled *HOME With The Armadillo: An Evening Celebrating Marcia Ball*, will take place at Austin's Paramount Theatre, with proceeds benefiting HOME (Housing Opportunities For Musicians And Entertainers), the musician assistance program Ball founded with friends and fellow musicians in 2012. The concert event will bring together the artists, collaborators, and friends who shaped Ball's musical journey including Carolyn Wonderland, Cindy Cashdollar, Ruthie Foster, Sarah Brown, Tracy

Nelson, Sonny Landreth, Terrance Simien, Sue Foley and more.

Winter workshop: Rob Lutes has announced his January-February online workshop series, "The Stories Behind the Songs - A History of American (and Canadian) Popular Music." It will be held on eight Wednesday evenings, from Jan. 7 to Feb. 25 (when it's really cold out!) - 6:30-8 PM EST. Go to www.roblutes.com or email rob@roblutes.com

Rob explains, "I perform songs, tell stories, show images, and play recordings to lead a journey through the fascinating evolution of popular music in America and Canada from the 1700s to the 1950s. There are lots of great characters and unexpected twists. I have a wealth of new material gained from teaching a course on this subject at the Thomas More Institute this Fall. These workshops will be on Zoom so the sound is good, and I get on early and stay late to greet and chat."

Say Hello to our new New Listings Coordinator: Toronto Blues Society is happy to introduce Bonnie Baker as the new Live Blues Listings Coordinator, stepping into the role after almost a decade of wonderful service by Janet Alilovic. Bonnie and her husband, John Mulligan, have been TBS members for nearly 25 years and are dedicated supporters of live blues throughout the GTHA, Niagara, and beyond. Although based in St. Catharines, Bonnie is passionate about keeping the region's blues scene



Bonnie Baker

visible, vibrant, and well-connected. Artists, venues, and promoters are encouraged to submit their upcoming blues events to the TBS Events Calendar at torontobluesociety.com/events. Bonnie has also created a dedicated email, tbs.listings@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Jeff Davis • Blues Foundation Honoree

Honoring a Lifetime of Passion, Dedication, and Keeping the Blues Alive

The Blues Foundation
PlayingWithFireOmaha.net

"Honorary Torontonian" and friend of the TBS, Jeff Davis, has received The Blues Foundation's 2026 Keeping the Blues Alive Award. His Playing with Fire series has been presenting free blues concerts for 22 years in Omaha, Nebraska and he is working with TBS to put on a great event in Toronto later this year. Details to come.

This Was Then

As we welcome our new Listings Coordinator and prepare for the next generation of the TBS Board of Directors (Annual General Meeting - Monday Jan 19), we endeavour to stay connected with our history. We've had a few "old-timers" sharing their memories of the early days in our "Pioneer Profile" feature (**and we invite more!**), and this month we have a blast-of-the-past of what the Blues Scene in Toronto looked like in the last century. These are the local listings from October, 1999. Thanks for the mem'ries!

Live Blues Listings

THE ARTFUL DODGER, 10 Isabella Oct 16 BLUES UNION W/ DYLAN WICKENS
BARCODE, 549 College, 928-5012 Oct 27 SWING GANG DELUXE WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: RITA CHIARELLI, MORGAN DAVIS, ALEX PANGMAN
BLACK SWAN, 154 Danforth, 469-0537 Every Tuesday: Jam w/ ERNEST LEE Oct 1 JOHN MARSHALL BAND Oct 2 THE STRANGERS Oct 6 L.R.T.
Oct 8 BRUCE DOMENEY BAND Oct 9 BLUES BUTCHER Oct 13 & 20 PHILIP SAYCE Oct 15 TONY SPRINGER BAND Oct 16 IAN TAYLOR AND THE KING KONG BOOGIE BAND Oct 21 STREET HELP Oct 22 ANTHONY GOMES BAND Oct 23 JEROME GODBOO AND ONE MONKEY Oct 27 LIANNA Oct 29 JOHNNY NIETHER Oct 30 MICHAEL PICKETT BAND Nov 3 COLORBLIND BRIAN BLAIN
BLUE GOOSE TAVERN, 1 BlueGoose, Etobicoke, 255-2442 Every Sunday from 4-7 pm THE PIE GUYS w / Guests: Oct 3 DANNY B Oct 10 GARY BRIETT Oct 17 JOE MAVETY & MICHAEL FONFARA Oct 24 JOHN MAYS Oct 31 CARLOS DEL JUNCO Nov 7 TYLER YAREMA
BLUES ON BELLAIR, 25 Bellair, 944-2095 Tues night - Open Blues Jam starting October Oct 1-2, 8-9, 22-23 & 29 MIKE McKENNA W/ PETER JERMYN A.W.O.L.
Oct 15-16 LUKE AND THE APOSTLES

Oct 30 MAINLINE Every Wed "PROFESSOR PIANO" SCOTT CUSHNIE Every Thurs GREG GODOVITZ ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS WITH BOB SEGARINI
THE CAMERON, 408 Queen W. 703-0811 Every Monday: JAKE & THE BLUE MIDNIGHTS Oct 5 JUICE JOINT **CHICAGO'S**, 335 Queen W. 598-3301 Oct 1 MORGAN DAVIS Oct 8-9 MARK STAFFORD Oct 15-16 DANNY MARKS Oct 22-23 MIDNIGHT WALK Oct 29-30 COLORBLIND BRIAN BLAIN Every Thursday: THE BOTTLE DEVILS
COURTHOUSE, 57 Adelaide E. 214-9379 Every Thursday: ALEX PANGMAN & HER ALLEY CATS
ESPLANADE BIER MARKT Oct 29-30 FATHEAD
43 BELOW, 43 Elm, 971-6619 Every Tues: KIM COLE w/ Guests Every Wed: THE UNDESIRABLES Every Sun: BRUCE DOMONEY Oct 2 BQ BASIUP Oct 16 JOOK JOINT
FOSSIL & HAGGIS, 790 Military Trail, 281-6959 Oct 1 & 2 HEAVYWOOD Oct 8 & 9 OLIVER TOWNE Oct 15 & 16 AVERY STONE BAND Oct 22 & 23 BAD DOG Oct 29 & 30 TONY SPRINGER BAND
GATE 403, 403 Roncesvalles, 588-2930 Every Sunday: Jam session w / RICHARD Oct 1 GRANT LYLE BLUES TRIO Oct 23-24 ELAINE KILPATRICK Oct 28 CARLOS DEL JUNCO & RICK FINES
GLENDON MANSION, The Cafe, Glendon College, Bayview & Lawrence, 487-6703 Oct 5 & 26 MICHAL HASEK
GROSSMAN'S TAVERN, 379 Spadina, 977-7000 Every Monday: JEROME GODBOO Every Tuesday: PHILIP SAYCE Every Wednesday: MIKE MCDONALD Oct 1,2 JEROME GODBOO Oct 7 SUSPECT Oct 9 DYLAN WICKENS BAND Oct 14 DOCTOR NICK & THE ROLLER COASTERS Oct 15-16 BRUCE DOMONEY BAND Oct 24 STEVEN C

Oct 29-30 MARK STAFFORD
HEADS OR TAILS, 847 Browns Line, Etobicoke, 253-0037 Sunday matinee CHUCK JACKSON & THE ALL-STARS Oct 23 ANTHONY GOMES BAND
HORSESHOE, 370 Queen W. 598-4753 Oct 11 CHRIS COLEPLAUGH & THE COSMIC CREW Nov 4 ROBBEN FORD
MR SLATE, 952 Kingston Rd. 694-9495 Every Wed: THE PRIMA DONNAS Every Thurs: KILLN' JIVE Oct 1 BLUE WILLOW Oct 2 BLUE WILLOW CD Release Party Oct 8 BRASS ROUTES STEVE AMBROSE Oct 15-16 JOE JOHNSON & COMPANY Every Fri & Sat from Oct 22: GEORGE OLIVER & GANGBUSTER
THE MUSIC GALLERY, 179 Richmond W. 530-4288 Oct 24 KEN WHITELEY, MOSE SCARLETT, & JACKIE WASHINGTON CD Release Concert
ORBIT ROOM, 580A College, 535-0613 Every Sunday: DAVE MURPHY BAND Every Monday: TYLER YAREMA Every Wed: LMT CONNECTION
Q CLUB, 1574 Queen St. E, 469-3660 Oct 1 THE SIDEWINDERS Oct 2 THE MARY SMITH BAND Oct 8 & 22 MIDNIGHT OWL & THE RAGING BUTANES Oct 9 DALE JONES BAND Oct 15 THE LOST MARACCAS Oct 16 DOCTOR NICK & THE ROLLER COASTERS Oct 23 FOOLISH BEHAVIOUR Oct 29 MAUREEN BROWN Oct 30 SLOWPOKE
RAKERS, 2625 Weston Rd. 249-7665 Oct 9 THE FABULOUS TONE DOGS
RANCHO RELAXO, 300 College, 920-0366 Oct 15 PAUL JAMES BAND
RESERVOIR LOUNGE, 62 Wellington E., 955-0887 Every Tuesday: TYLER YAREMA & HIS RHYTHM Every Wed: JANICE HAGAN Every Friday: JAKE & THE BLUE MIDNIGHTS Every Saturday: TORY CASSIS (except Oct. 2: ALEX PANGMAN and HER ALLEYCATS)



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://canoefm.com/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://993countymf.ca/show/sideroads/>

CFMU 99.3 FM - McMaster Campus (Hamilton)

Breakfast of Champions, w/ **Paul Panchezak**
 Thursday 10am
 Listen at <https://cfmu.ca/>



CFYY 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**
 Also syndicated on stations across the continent
 Listen at <https://www.atcblues.ca>

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



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

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 at the comfy and cozy Old Flame Brewery , PWYC
Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar
Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Terry Chisholm (Matinee) 1:30 am to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700
James Anthony Band w/Special Guest Weekly (matinee) 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700
Doctor Nick and the Rollercoasters 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St W., Toronto, "Old School" electric Blues

Muchas Gracias

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out at the TBS Bluesy Christmas party:

Dave Shuken
 David Myhre
 Deb Devgan
 Kathi Maxwell Nicoll

Mike Branton & Friends (matinee) 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

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

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

Isaac Bonk & The Roast Chicken Ramblers 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Emmet Ray, 924 College St., Toronto, 416-792-4497

Al Lerman – Sit Down Series 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Monte's at Tir Nan Og, 200 Ontario St, Kingston

Paul Reddick 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Only Cafe, 962 Danforth Ave., Toronto

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 Shopsowitz 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667, Two sets from 2:00pm – 4:30pm, weekly guests, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782

Boiler Blues Band – Brant Parker w/ Special Guest Weekly 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Boiler & Whistle (Hamilton), 1900 King St E, Hamilton, 905-549-1889

Rob Quail Trio 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272, No cover
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, 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

Laura Hubert Band 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St W., Toronto, PWYC

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

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

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
Michael Spiroff – Ragtime, Blues, Cabaret Songs 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm, Emmet Ray, 924 College St., Toronto, 416-792-4497

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

Friday, January 9, 2026

Daley / Miczek / Cross 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
Toney Wild T Springer 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655
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

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

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

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Weekly Special Guest 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, The Coachmen: Chris Wheeler, Colin Lapsley, and Matt Burns. Check site for weekly guest.

The Speakers Annex with Dr. Andrew Scott

Musical Meccas: The world's great music cities and the artists they inspired

Tuesdays | Jan 20-Feb 24 | 10:30am-12pm

James Anthony Band w/Special Guest Weekly (matinee) 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700

Mike Branton & Friends (matinee) 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

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

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

Local Wisdom – Instrumental Jazz, Blues, and Rock 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Emmet Ray, 924 College St., Toronto, 416-792-4497, Joe Spina : Bass, Paul Fitterer : Drums, Craig Brandys : Guitar

Ronnie Hawkins A Heavenly Birthday Celebration w/Weber Brothers + The Trebletones 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Clifford Brewing Company, 398 Nash Rd N, Hamilton, \$25

Sean Pinchin wsg Scott Fitzpatrick 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315, Ticketed

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

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

Boiler Blues Band – Brant Parker w/ Special Guest Weekly 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Boiler & Whistle (Hamilton), 1900 King St E, Hamilton, 905-549-1889

James Anthony w/Special Guest Weekly (Matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Ned Devine's Irish Pub, 575 Ontario St S., Milton, (905) 864-6794

Red Hot Ramble (Second Line Sunday Matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Drom Taberna, 458 Queen St. W, Toronto

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, 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, 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

Conor Gains 7:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

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

Matt Weidinger Trio 8:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822 Ticket info: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-matt-weidinger-trio-tickets-1977913208651?aff=oddtctcreator>

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, Local, 396 Roncesvalles, Toronto



Dr. Nick and the Rollercoasters return to the Rex on Saturday, January 3. Nick is a master of the fat-tone amplified harmonica sound that is so emblematic of the golden age of Chicago Blues. Juno award winning Julian Fauth also graces the stage on piano and vocals. On guitar, the talented Darren Gallen digs into some deep Blues grooves and is supported by the stellar rhythm section of Bob Vespaiziani on drums and James Thompson on acoustic bass.

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Little Magic Sam Open Jam night 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Only Cafe, 962 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Sean Pinchin wsg Scott Fitzpatrick 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam

9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

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

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Weekly Special

Guest 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, The Coachmen: Chris Wheeler, Colin Lapsley, and Matt Burns. Check site for weekly guest.

James Anthony Band w/Special Guest Weekly (matinee) 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700

Mike Branton & Friends (matinee) 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

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



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If you're having trouble, email our new listings coordinator, Bonnie Baker at tbs.listings@gmail.com

Paul James Band 75th Birthday Party
Phoenix Concert Theatre, 310
Sherbourne ST. Toronto Admission
Free with Ticket

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

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 Reddick Band 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Kevin Breit Presents "Holy Men" 7:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

Jack de Keyzer Band Dinner, Show + Charity 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Blues at the Cove – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636
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

Boiler Blues Band – Brant Parker w/ Special Guest Weekly 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Boiler & Whistle (Hamilton), 1900 King St E, Hamilton, 905-549-1889

James Anthony w/Special Guest Weekly (Matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Ned Devine's Irish Pub, 575 Ontario St S, Milton, (905) 864-6794
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

Sean Pinchin wsg Scott Fitzpatrick 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, The Woolly Pub, 176 Woolwich St, Guelph
The Sunday Junction Jam 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, 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

Laura Hubert Band 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St W., Toronto, PWYC

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

James Anthony & Friends 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Puddy's (St. Catharines), 36 Wright St #8, St Catharines, James Rasmussen Bass, Mark Hagarty Drums

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

Sean Pinchin with Scott Fitzpatrick 8:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Monte's at Tir Nan Og, 200 Ontario St, Kingston

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

Thursday, January 22, 2026

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

Albert Lee 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto, \$79

Friday, January 23, 2026

Daley / Miczek / Cross 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

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

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

Saturday, January 24, 2026

Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Weekly Special Guest 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, The Coachmen: Chris Wheeler, Colin Lapsley, and Matt Burns. Check site for weekly guest.

James Anthony Band w/Special Guest Weekly (matinee) 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700

Mike Branton & Friends (matinee) 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

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

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

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

Al Lerman 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

Heather Luckhart 9:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

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

Lily Sazz w/Rob Lamothe (double bill with Dale Roosien) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$15.00

Boiler Blues Band – Brant Parker w/ Special Guest Weekly 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Boiler & Whistle (Hamilton), 1900 King St E, Hamilton, 905-549-1889

James Anthony w/Special Guest Weekly (Matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Ned Devine's Irish Pub, 575 Ontario St S, Milton, (905) 864-6794

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

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

Mike McKenna Slidewinder Blues Band 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto, \$10

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

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

Chloe Watkinson and the Back

Street Men, History of Contemporary Music 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Emmet Ray, 924 College St., Toronto, 416-792-4497, Chloe Watkinson–voice; Neil Hendry–guitar; Tim Shia–drums; Gram Whitty–bass. Discussing a brief history of contemporary music, and playing through the evolution of popular music in the 20th century with an emphasis on protest and social commentary.

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

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 27, 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 28, 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 29, 2026

Trombone Charlotte (Charlotte McAfee-Brunner) 8:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Grant Lyle & Brotherhood 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Friday, January 30, 2026

Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

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

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Weekly Special

Guest 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, The Coachmen: Chris Wheeler, Colin Lapsley, and Matt Burns. Check site for weekly guest.

James Anthony Band w/Special Guest Weekly (matinee) 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700

Mike Branton & Friends (matinee) 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

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

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

Cheryl Lescom – Album Release Party "Last Call" 7:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

Bywater Call 8:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315

Sunday, February 1, 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

Boiler Blues Band – Brant Parker w/ Special Guest Weekly 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Boiler & Whistle (Hamilton), 1900 King St E, Hamilton, 905-549-1889

James Anthony w/Special Guest Weekly (Matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Ned Devine's Irish Pub, 575 Ontario St S., Milton, (905) 864-6794 **Jimmy's Juke Joint – 1st Anniversary at Iggy's! – w/ host Jim Casson, guests Suzie Vinnick & Russ Boswell** 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667, Two sets from 2:00pm – 4:30pm, 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, 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

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

Monday, February 2, 2026

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

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Matt Weidinger 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

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

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Rob Heimstra & Friends 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto

Billy F Gibbons and the BFG Band 8:30 pm, Avalon Theatre At Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort, 6380 Fallsview Blvd, Niagara Falls, With Chris 'Whipper' Layton and Mike 'The Drifter' Flanigin., Ticketmaster

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

Friday, February 6, 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 at the comfy and cozy Old Flame Brewery , PWYC

Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

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

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Weekly Special Guest 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, The Coachmen: Chris Wheeler, Colin Lapsley, and Matt Burns. Check site for weekly guest.

James Anthony Band w/Special Guest Weekly (matinee) 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700



The Hogtown Allstars slide into 2026 with the "Shaking Off Winter" show at Hugh's Room Live, Jan. 9th, adding special guest Quisha Wint and welcoming spring at the 2nd Annual Bad Thursday event, The Redwood Theatre, April 2 (the night before Good Friday). As summer approaches, the band will move into theatre/festival mode filling out the year's blues calendar. www.thehogtownallstars.ca

Concerts of Note

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

The Hogtown Allstars | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | January 9, 2026

January Blues with Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | January 16, 2026

Albert Lee | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | January 22, 2026

Cheryl Lescom – Album Release Party "Last Call" | Moonshine Cafe (new location) | Oakville | January 31, 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

Spencer Mackenzie Album Release | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | February 19, 2026

Raoul & The Big Time 28th Anniversary | Hugh's Room Live | Toronto | February 28, 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

Mike Branton & Friends (matinee)
2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe (new location), 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

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

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

Sunday, February 8, 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

Red Hot Ramble (Second Line Sunday Matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Drom Taberna, 458 Queen St. W, Toronto

Boiler Blues Band – Brant Parker w/ Special Guest Weekly 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Boiler & Whistle (Hamilton), 1900 King St E, Hamilton, 905-549-1889

James Anthony w/Special Guest Weekly (Matinee) 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Ned Devine's Irish Pub, 575 Ontario St S., Milton, (905) 864-6794

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests Martin Alex Aucoin & Garth Vogan 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667, Two sets from 2:00pm – 4:30pm, weekly guests, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782

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

Grant Lyle & Brotherhood 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469, Join us for an afternoon of Rockin' Roots & Blues! Reservations recommended (416) 901-7469, \$10

The Sunday Junction Jam 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, 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, February 9, 2026

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

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Matt Weidinger 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

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

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

Wednesday, February 11, 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, February 13, 2026

Alfie Smith 6:00 pm, Le Tambour Tavern, 345 James St N, Hamilton

Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar

Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

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

★ BLUES EXTRAVAGANZA! ★

Friday January 16

7-10 p.m.



Toronto Blues Society

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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.



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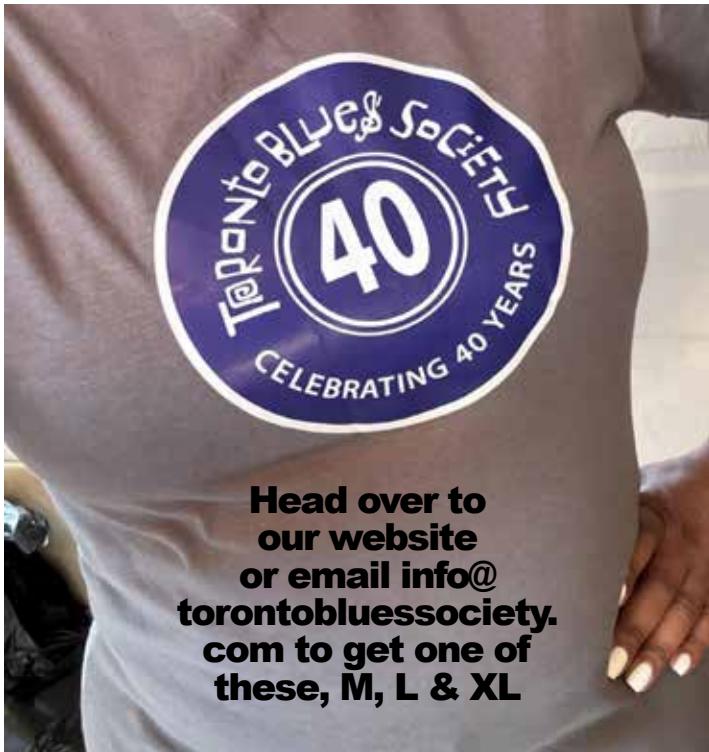


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- **Savings** on Advance Tickets to shows
- **10% off every purchase** from the **Dead Dog Records**, Toronto (1209 Bloor St. West)
- **TBS voting rights**
- **Discount** tickets to all **TBS events** (including TBS Workshops)
- **Discounts** on TBS 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.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - \$75 for 1 year / \$140 for 2 years / \$210 for 3 years

Same benefits as CHARTER membership for a maximum of 2 adults and 2 children under 19.

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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