

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

MAPLE BLUES NEWS



February 2026

www.torontobluessociety.com

Published by the TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

since 1985

info@torontobluessociety.com

Vol 42, No 2



Blues Award Nominees

Jay Douglas

Jammin the Blues

Loose Blues News

Top Blues

Live Blues

**Jay Douglas salutes Jimmy
Cliff for Black History Month at
Harbourfront Centre on Sunday
February 1 at 3pm**

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

New Mailing Address:

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

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

MapleBlues is published monthly by the Toronto Blues Society ISSN 0827-0597

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee: Quisha Wint (Chair), Ron Clarkin (Treasurer), Mike Smith (Interim Secretary), Lori Murray (Executive), Ken Simms (Interim Vice-Chair)
Directors: Brian Blain, Carol Flett, Johnny Max, Suzie Vinnick

Volunteer & Membership Committee: Carol Flett, Lucie Dufault, Mike Smith

Office Manager: Manny DeGrandis
Grants Officer: Cat Bird
Bookkeeper: Judy Smyth

Publisher: Quisha Wint

Managing Editor: Brian Blain
editor@torontobluesociety.com

Contributing Editors: Janet Alilovic, Carol Flett

Listings Coordinator: Bonnie Baker

Distribution: Special Thanks to Ed Parsons for his many years of service!

Advertising: Manny DeGrandis
mannydeg@hotmail.com

Ad rates & specs www.torontobluesociety.com/newsletters/rate-card

Charitable # 87487 7509 RR0001

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



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



FUNDED BY
THE CITY OF
TORONTO



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

Project support is provided by:

FACTOR Canada

We acknowledge the financial support of FACTOR,
the Government of Canada and of Canada's private radio broadcasters.
Nous remercions l'appui financier de FACTOR, du gouvernement
du Canada, et des radiodiffuseurs privés du Canada.

FOUNDATION
SOCAN
FOUNDATION



ONTARIO
CREATES

SOCAN



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

Black History Month: Honouring the Roots of the Blues

As we enter Black History Month, the Toronto Blues Society pauses to honour, reflect, and give thanks.

The blues is not just a genre of music, it is a living history. It carries the voices, stories, pain, resilience, and creativity of African-American people who created and shaped this music in the midst of unimaginable hardship, while striving for freedom, dignity, and equal rights.

In our land acknowledgements, we say:

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 people created and used this music to sustain them through pain and hardship throughout their quest for freedom and equal rights. Thank you for joining us in these acknowledgements

This month, we invite our community to sit with the weight and the beauty of those words.

Throughout February, Toronto Blues Society will be recognizing and celebrating artists and musicians on our social media platforms past and present whose contributions continue to shape the sound, spirit, and future of the blues. From pioneers who laid the foundation, to contemporary artists carrying the torch forward, we honour their artistry, influence, and legacy.

Black History Month is not only about remembrance; it is also about recognition, respect, and responsibility. As a society rooted in the blues, we are committed to continuing these conversations, amplifying Black voices, and ensuring that the origins of this music are never separated from the people who created it.

Thank you for being part of our community, for listening deeply, and for celebrating the roots that connect us all.

With gratitude,

Quisha Wint

Chair, Toronto Blues Society

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday February 3, 2026, 7pm TBS Annual General Meeting, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview Ave, Toronto and on ZOOM (RSVP to info@torontobluesociety.com to register for the AGM. Everyone is welcome. Only TBS Members can vote)

Sunday, February 15 7pm TBS Town Hall, on Zoom (send RSVP, questions, concerns to tbstownhall@gmail.com before February 12)

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. w/Jack de Keyzer, Paul Reddick and Halo Rider (USA) Free to TBS Members

The Toronto Blues Society is a member of



ONTARIO
PRESENTS

FOLK MUSIC
ONTARIO

EUROPEAN
BLUES UNION
ACTIVE MEMBER

CIMA



The Blues Foundation
MEMBER

The Toronto Blues Society is committed to the principles of the Personal Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) in safeguarding the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information.

Congratulations to the Canadian Blues Music Awards Nominees

Canadian Blues Music Awards is pleased to announce the nominees for its awards program. As part of a celebration of Canadian musical excellence in blues, artists recognized from coast to coast will vie for the top honours. For more information please visit the Canadian Blues Music Awards.

Continuing to bring greater exposure to the wealth of Canadian blues music, the program honours outstanding achievements in 16 categories, including a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ottawa's **Angelique Francis** leads the nominations with eight, followed by five each for Yukon native **Brandon Isaak**, and Alberta-born **Blue Moon Marquee**, now both of Vancouver Island. Other multiple nominees include **Crystal Shawanda** of Wikwemikong, ON, and newcomers Edmonton's **Secondhand Dreamcar**, Calgary's **Marcus Trummer**, and **Jeff Rogers** from Ottawa, as well as stalwarts **Steve Marriner**, Vancouver's **Ndidi O**, and **Bywater Call** of Toronto. **Emerging Artist** nominees stretch from Atlantic to Pacific, including **JP LeBlanc** (NB), **Glenn Marais** (ON), **Ollee Owens** (AB), and **Paul Black** (BC).

A record number of first-time nominees was delivered by the new Canadian Blues Music Awards process, which requires submissions based on the year's recordings, and voting by industry experts representing all regions of Canada.

In addition to those for musicians and their recordings, the categories for **Blues Video**, **Producer**, and **Song of the Year** likewise produced impressive nominees, as did **Industry Person** and **Lifetime Achievement**, in which entrants are submitted by Blues Societies across Canada.

A **Fan Favourite** winner, chosen by the public, will also be announced at the awards presentation on March 30, 2026, at Toronto's Phoenix Concert Theatre.

Tickets on sale now at <https://thephoenixconcerttheatre.com>



ELECTRIC BLUES RECORDING OF THE YEAR

Angelique Francis: Not Defeated
Brandon Isaak: Walkin' With The Blues
Crystal Shawanda: Sing Pretty Blues
David Gogo: YEAH!
Steve Marriner: Hear My Heart

ACOUSTIC BLUES RECORDING OF THE YEAR

Al Lerman: Country-Fried Blues
Big Dave McLean: This Old Life
Blue Moon Marquee: New Orleans Sessions
David Vest & Terry Robb: CrissCross
Sue Foley: One Guitar Woman, A Tribute to the Female Pioneers of Guitar

BLUES SONG OF THE YEAR

Angelique Francis: "Train Coming" (Not Defeated)
Blue Moon Marquee: "What I Wouldn't Do" (New Orleans Sessions)
Brandon Isaak: "Walkin' With The Blues" (Walkin' With The Blues)
Crystal Shawanda: "Sing Pretty Blues" (Sing Pretty Blues)
Ndidi O: "Working Girl" (Simple Songs For Complicated Times)

EMERGING BLUES ARTIST OR GROUP OF THE YEAR

Glenn Marais & the Mojo Train (Glenn Marais & the Mojo Train: Red Hot and Blue)
Jeff Rogers (Jeff Rogers: Dream Job)
JP LeBlanc (JP LeBlanc: All In My Blood/Je l'ai dans l'sang)
Ollee Owens (Ollee Owens: Nowhere to Hide)
Paul Black (Paul Black: Beautiful Sin)

cont'd on p4

BLUES PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Blue Moon Marquee (Blue Moon Marquee: New Orleans Sessions)

Brandon Isaak (Brandon Isaak: Walkin' With the Blues)

Renan Yildizdogan & Ross Hayes Citrullo (Marcus Trummer: From The Start)

Steve Dawson (Ndidi O: Simple Songs For Complicated Times)

Steve Marriner (Steve Marriner: Hear My Heart; Big Dave McLean: This Old Life; David Gogo: YEAH!)

FEMALE BLUES VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Angelique Francis (Angelique Francis: Not Defeated)

Crystal Shawanda (Crystal Shawanda: Sing Pretty Blues)

Dana Wylie (Secondhand Dreamcar: Answer the Call)

Ndidi O (Ndidi O: Simple Songs For Complicated Times)

Samantha King (Samantha King and the Midnight Outfit: Samantha King and the Midnight Outfit)

MALE BLUES VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Big Dave McLean (This Old Life)

Brandon Isaak (Walkin' With The Blues)

Jeff Rogers (Dream Job)

Marcus Trummer (From The Start)

Wayne Nicholson (Gin House)

BLUES HARMONICA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Al Lerman (Al Lerman: Country-Fried Blues)

Guy Bélanger (Guy Bélanger: Postcards from London)

Shawn Hall (The Harpoonist: Did We Come Here To Dance)

Steve Grant "Cabbagetown Steve" (Little Magic Sam: Live At The Rivoli)

Steve Marriner (Steve Marriner: Hear My Heart)

Big Dave McLean: This Old Life; David Gogo: YEAH!)

BLUES GUITARIST OF THE YEAR

Brandon Isaak (Brandon Isaak: Walkin' With The Blues)

David Gogo (David Gogo: YEAH!)

Paul DesLauriers (Chambers DesLauriers: Our Time To Ride)

Sue Foley (Sue Foley: One Guitar Woman, A Tribute to the Female Pioneers of Guitar)

Tony D (Tony D: Electric Delta)

BLUES VIDEO OF THE YEAR

Blue Moon Marquee: "Come On Down" (New Orleans Sessions)

Angelique Francis: "Train Coming" (Not Defeated)

The Harpoonist: "Show Me The Green" (Did We Come Here To Dance)

Bywater Call: "Colours" (Shepherd)

André Bisson: "Latchford" (Latchford)

Ray Lemelin & Steve Hill: "Walk On"/"Ain't No Use In Worryin'" (Brother Ray Lemelin & The Matinee Kings: Stirring the Pot)

JP LeBlanc: "All On Your Own" (All In My Blood/Je l'ai dans l'sang)

BLUES KEYBOARD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

David Vest (David Vest & Terry Robb: CrissCross)

Jeff Rogers (Jeff Rogers: Dream Job)

Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne (Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne: Ooh, Yeah!)

Miles Evans-Branagh (Marcus Trummer: From The Start,

Sandra Bouza: A Sound In The Dark)

Rooster Davis (Secondhand Dreamcar: Answer the Call)

BLUES HORN PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jerry Cook (Wailin' Walker: All Fired Up)

Julian Nalli (Bywater Call: Shepherd)

Kharincia Francis (Angelique Francis: Not Defeated)

Kira Francis (Angelique Francis: Not Defeated)

Loretta Hale (André Bisson: Latchford)

BLUES BASSIST OF THE YEAR

Angelique Francis (Angelique Francis: Not Defeated)

Harry Gregg (Secondhand Dreamcar: Answer the Call)

Jack Lavin (Wailin' Walker: All Fired Up)

Jasmine Colette (Blue Moon Marquee: New Orleans Sessions)

Mike Meusel (Bywater Call: Shepherd)

BLUES DRUMMER OF THE YEAR

Bruce McCarthy (Bywater Call: Shepherd)

Jim Casson (Davis Hall & The Green Lanterns: Canboro Canborough)

Kiran Francis (Angelique Francis: Not Defeated)

Sandro Dominelli (Samantha King and the Midnight Outfit: Samantha King and the Midnight Outfit)

Sylvain "Sly" Coulombe (Chambers DesLauriers: Our Time To Ride)

BLUES INDUSTRY PERSON OF THE YEAR

Bruce Morel (Morel Music International)

Ken Simms (Think Tank Music Network)

Ken Wallis (Blues Source Entertainment)

Lori & Paul Murray (Music By The Bay Live)

Ron Simmonds (Blues In The Dark)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Amos Garrett

Bobby Dean Blackburn

Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne

Russell Jackson

Tim Williams

Jay Douglas

by Georgina Lynn Boucher

The Spirit Within Me

By the mid 1950's the Canadian government needed to respond to a new demand, and it looked to Jamaica and the Caribbean for the answer. Although historic policy then dictated that nonwhite immigrants were rarely allowed to permanently enter the country, they brought 3000 women to Canada as domestic workers (nannies) over a period of about ten years. The first 75 to ever enter Canada in this way were from Jamaica. These women settled primarily in Toronto and Montreal. Initially, they were offered one-year contracts where they lived in the "employees" homes. They often worked 12-16 hour days, faced racial discrimination and isolation, terrible working conditions and subpar wages. Many had little choice but to leave their children behind for years. After a year of domestic work, they were granted landed immigrant status and in five years they could apply for Canadian citizenship. But courage pride and hope defined these women. They had left familiarity for opportunity and with time they became community leaders and pioneers who navigated racism with grace and determination. Jay Douglas's mother was one of these women.

Jay grew up in Montego Bay, Jamaica, but joined his mother, Noreen in 1963 when he was a teenager. Upon his arrival at the Toronto airport Noreen welcomed him with a guitar in hand and a mother's determination. "You are going to need an education, and we are not going to compromise on that." Although only 15 years old, Jay had already been singing and performing in Jamaica. Even by then, his talent was tangible, winning talent shows and playing live locally. He shares this memorable story. "I had not recorded yet, but I had been invited to audition at the now legendary Studio One which I did, and they said come back tomorrow. I returned the next day only to find out that Bob Marley and the Wailers were there to audition Marley's debut song *Simmer Down*. It became the day that changed Bob Marley's life because up until then he had not been the lead singer for the Wailers, Junior Braithwaite was." *Simmer Down* became the first major debut single for Bob Marley and the Wailers and a number one hit in Jamaica. Young Jay was overshadowed that day and was never recorded. But this chance connection to Bob Marley later proved to be transformative. A few years later in Toronto, Jay had an uncle who decided to visit Jamaica for a vacation and had asked Jay to pick him up at the airport when he returned. As he watched his uncle disembark he noticed that

Bob Marley and the Wailers were also on the plane. Jay went over to say hello. Marley told Jay that they were just starting on their first international world tour and that the opening show was to be in Toronto at Massey Hall. He was happy to see Jay and wanted to know more about him. He asked Jay, "What is the man doing here for himself with the music?" This was not a casual question. For Jay it was a profound one as after seeing the Wailers perform at Massey Hall, Jay's life began to change. "I knew that I needed to start to write, to live more consciously and to link up with the universe."

The Soul Seeks to Give

Jay attended Toronto's Central Tech High School, and it was during this time he helped form a band called the Cougars at what was then known as the West Indian Federation Club. **The Cougars** quickly became the house band there, and W.I.F. became a refuge for the many Jamaicans that were now putting down roots primarily in the Toronto's Eglinton Ave. W. area from Allen Road to Keele Street. It soon became known as "Little Jamaica". At its peak, it was home to over 150 Reggae recording studios. Artists like Jackie Mittoo, Leroy Sibles and countless local musicians recorded there.

Ska, Rocksteady and Reggae spilled out onto the streets from the shop doors. Within this cultural center, a "Toronto Sound" was created in Reggae, Dub and later Hip-Hop.

In 1963 the Cougars included lead singer Jay Douglas, the great percussionist/drummer Everton "Pablo" Paul and Karl Mullings, who many consider the forefather of Canadian Reggae. And although American Black artists were welcomed and loved to play in Toronto, for local Black talent there was no easy entrance. The Cougars were playing at banquets and small clubs but could not get a gig on Yonge Street where the music scene was thriving at places like the Zanzibar, the Colonial, the Brown Derby and Friars. Yonge Street was the place to be, but they were simply not getting mainstream radio play. Le Coq D'or was the heart and soul of the Yonge Street scene. It featured international artists. But the club had no interest in the Cougars. One day the band decided to go to Le Coq D'Or's matinee show hosted by the American Soul band Little Charles and the Sidewinders. They asked the band if they might play for a few minutes when they went on their break. The answer was yes. They had about twenty minutes. The Cougars lit the

cont'd on p6



Tuesday February 3, 2026

7PM

In Person

Hugh's Room Live

296 Broadview Ave, Toronto

and on

ZOOM

RSVP

Email

info@torontobluessociety.com

To register for the AGM

Let us know if you will be attending
in person or on Zoom

Everyone is welcome
Only TBS Members can vote

An agenda and zoom link
will be e-mailed to the registrants in advance of AGM

place up and the crowd went crazy. They were immediately booked. After that, they became regulars at the club, gradually gaining a huge following that extended throughout Toronto and into Montreal. They were the first band to play at the original Caribana that began in Toronto in 1967. In 2006, **Light in the Attic Records** released a compilation album called **"From Jamaica to Toronto: Soul, Funk and Reggae"** featuring music recorded by Caribbean musicians who came to Toronto during the period of 1967-1974. This is a superb collection of 16 tracks which not only includes the Cougars, but also rare and under-recognized Jamaican/Canadian artists. It is a gem.

"Music is the international language, and the Creator has chosen me to be one of the messengers, to deliver the message of Peace and Love, and that is what I have been doing all these years."

After the Cougars disbanded, Jay Douglas went on to pursue a solo career. He was often billed as Jay Douglas and the Allstars or "and the Jay Walkers", depending on the line up. He continually appeared at festivals around the world from Hong Kong to Cuba and regularly at Toronto's multi-cultural events. He was a regular at Harbourfront Centre. He collaborated with Blues, Jazz and Soul bands. He continued to record and release albums. He became known as a cross generational artist as elders loved him and young musicians learned from him. He was motivated by a deep conviction that young people as the next generation should be nurtured and supported. He started mentoring young musicians. There are many examples of this but one that comes to mind is artist, trombonist, producer and engineer Canadian born Chris Butcher. It was because of Jay's encouragement that Chris moved to New Orleans eventually opening his own music studio called Butcher Studios. Recently, three new albums recorded there were nominated for 2026 Grammys. On a recent trip to New Orleans by Jay, Chris was there to meet him as he was deeply honored to see his mentor once again. He had not forgotten how important Jay's early support was to him. To Jay's surprise he had arranged a visit to the New Orleans fabled Dew Drop Inn. For Jay it was a sublime moment. This is where it had all started musically- Jazz, Blues and Rock and Roll; the Soul music he had heard on the radio when he was a kid. This impromptu visit to the Dew Drop Inn was a major musical highlight for Jay as he got to sing one of his songs while he was there which was welcomed with a standing ovation.

"Confession Blues" — Ray Charles first recording, 1949

In 2022 Jay released what many consider his first Blues album titled **"Confession"**. It is an album that speaks volumes by giving tribute to the Blues. Powered by Jay's great vocals, backup singers and a hot horn section, he pays homage to his roots and the artists that inspired him. Produced by Eddie Bullen, nearly forty of Canada's best musicians bring their talent to the mix, a project that began during the time of Covid. With 4 original songs and 10 covers, Jay "confesses" his love for the musicians and the music that helped define him. The spirit of Bobby "Blue" Bland, Johnny Ace, Roscoe Gordon, Ivory Joe Hunter, David Bartholmew, Big Jay McNeely and Ray Charles* fuel and inspire this wonderful album. Nor does Jay forget the importance of the cornucopia of musical influences that began for him as a teenager when he made Canada his home. For over sixty years he has embodied those influences in his music. One of the original songs on the album, "I Love Toronto" unabashedly proclaims his deep gratitude to the city he has called his home now for multiple decades.

"There was a time when I thought that this moment in history would be lost forever. That the music would be lost. I did not understand how the laws and the principles of the universe work. But now I know it was meant to be." Jay Douglas

In February 2025, the music documentary **"Play it Loud: How Toronto Got Soul."** was released as part of the Hot Docs Cinema Season and premiered on TVO network television. Narrated by Jay, the story shares his personal journey while tracing the growth of Reggae and Soul music in Toronto that began in the 1960s. Directed by Graeme

Mathieson, this film is essential to the idea that the evolution of Canadian music cannot be appreciated without examining the legacy of Jamaican/Caribbean music and that this musical lineage has uniquely influenced Canadian culture. The film has become one of the most celebrated Canadian music documentaries of this past year winning multiple "best documentary" awards at various film festivals. Most recently, it won the "Best Feature Documentary" at the Black Film Festival in New Orleans. The film has opened doors for Jay as he has introduced and shared its viewing with audiences in many parts of the world. At a recent showing to 200 University of Toronto students he was thrilled by their keen interest. It is Jay's hope that Jamaican Canadian music will not only be less overlooked but celebrated. Toronto was once one of the most populous Jamaican diasporic communities in the world. From the 1960's to the 1980's Toronto was the Global Center for Ska music second only to Jamaica. Jamaican immigrants still rank first among all Caribbean groups in Canada today. It is a story worthy of celebration.

To see Jay Douglas perform today (*and yes, you still can and yes! You still should*) is a chance to see a great and enduring spirit wrapped in timeless energy and goodwill. His talent is still undeniable. His is a story of music, love and inspiration, and a story that is destined to endure.

Jay has won multiple awards including "Male Vocalist of the Year" at the Canadian Reggae Music Awards in 2007. He is a three-time Juno award nominee, producer and band leader of the Jay Douglas All-Star Band. To learn more about Jay including upcoming shows, visit the Jay Douglas Music Official Website @ <https://jaydouglasmusic.com>



Desert-blues sensation **Boubé** makes a return visit to Harbourfront as part of Batuki Music's Afro-Franco Music Showcase on Sunday February 15, 7pm at the Fleck Theatre as part of Kuumba, Harbourfront's celebration of Black History Month, with this year's theme being "Sounds of Blackness". Guests can look forward to a variety of activities: dance, film, family programming and much more. <https://harbourfrontcentre.com/series/kuumba/>

Hats off to the Canadian Blues Scene this Black History Month 2026. Canada, We Did It!

It's now four years later, since I gave my keynote speech at the Toronto Blues Summit, and I was thrilled to have been asked by the TBS to write an article for the newsletter for this Black history month.

It's been an exciting journey that the Canadian blues scene has been on, as we navigated the wonderful world of playing the blues together – a path that had its twists and turns, but one that ultimately led us to a harmonious destination.

Looking back over the road, that brought us here today, it really fills my heart with immense joy to have witnessed what I see as a vibrant evolution and I'm glad to have the opportunity to express my thoughts and opinions 4 years later.

From intimate house concerts featuring acoustic solo acts and duos, to large concert halls with full bands, from the dancing as the first note hits crowds at blues bars and weekly jams across the country, or the summer and winter blues festivals that happen on a yearly basis, I feel, the spirit of the blues is not just alive in Canada in 2026, but flourishing.

I also do believe that people listened to my keynote speech. And how they responded, well, it was very Canadian of them!

I think that our Canadian process has shown a deeply rooted profound respect for the legacy and authentic spirit of the blues, and that today, people have found a balance - a way in which to honour the rich history and cultural significance of the music, while at the same time, relaxing and being comfortable with doing their thing, and being who they are.

And in this process, I believe that we've not only found our stride, but we have embraced the beauty of the music, and found a comfort level to work with.

It seems that people listened to the conversation that was happening, and thought about it, yes, some went off the chain, thinking they could never play or sing another blues song again, or that they were banned from the blues in all aspects, because they were not Black, but then slowly, maybe after a lot of conversations, and with time, these ideas drifted away, and people started relaxing, getting back to the music, taking the edge off, while also absorbing some of the new thoughts and understanding about the blues.

At the end of the day, open-mindedness, acknowledgement and freedom for individual expression plus dropping the anger, is what would powerfully enrich the blues experience.



And from what I see on the blues scene in Canada, people are meeting new people, mixing it up, working together, having a lot of fun, moving on, not dwelling in the past. Even doing things like celebrating Black History Month with diverse audiences together. And having a great time. Across the country. Wow.

We have a truly collaborative Canadian blues sound with musicians working together creating magical moments, and making audiences incredibly happy, week after week, month after month—with the blues.

So...The dust has truly settled, and it's inspiring to witness how our dedicated community is actively keepin' on keepin' on'. Once again, it's very Canadian of us.

It's a testament to our collective passion that we navigated the political currents and bumps along the way, emerging not just intact, but stronger and prouder. We never gave up.

For example, taking a look behind the scenes, throughout the economic ups and downs across the country, enthusiastic fans still continue to support artists at shows and concerts, and fantastic boards and members in Blues Societies are still working hard on activities and events they present, like the Toronto Blues Society, or Nanaimo Blues Society, and the Calgary Blues Society, just to name a few.

Writers are writing, in blues columns and newsletters, engineers are recording,

promoters are promoting, and DJ's are spinning tunes week after week, gaining new listeners and audiences while keeping radio listeners happy, lighting up their lives with familiar voices and keeping them coming back for more. It's really impressive.

We have a national blues scene with musicians who are doing shows in many different shapes and forms across the country, and audiences who love what that band, or brand does. Everyone's music is different. And Canada, in its unique way celebrates and welcomes the diversity.

In closing, if I never engage in another political endeavor, such as being the keynote speaker that shook the blues world in Canada, I will forever cherish the role and impact I may have had on this one.

It is a profound satisfaction to know that we emerged on the other side, vibrant and more connected than ever. This journey, proves that the blues in Canada isn't just surviving; it's soaring.

So, let's keep hanging in with the blues, facing new challenges along the road with an open mind, and let's keep supporting our Canadian music scene. Let's allow the vibe and greatness of the music to continue to foster genuine connections, bring enjoyment to our lives, and spark happiness.

Thank you, take care and see you on the blues highway!

- Diana Braithwaite

Congratulations to the Blues JUNO nominees, *Sing Pretty Blues* Crystal Shawanda, *Ooh Yeah!* Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne, *The Medicine* Miss Emily, *Answer the Call* Secondhand Dreamcar and *Hear My Heart* Steve Marriner. Matt Andersen was nominated in the Contemporary Roots Recording. The 55th Annual JUNO Awards, produced by Insight Productions (A Blue Ant Studios Company), will air live across Canada at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT on CBC TV, CBC Gem, CBC Radio One, CBC Music, CBC Listen, CBCMusic.ca/junos and stream globally on CBC Music's YouTube channel. See the complete list of nominees at <https://junoawards.ca>

ECMAs: The East Coast Music Association (ECMA) have announced the 2026 ECMA nominees for the 38th annual East Coast Music Awards, to be held in Sydney, Nova Scotia, from May 20–24. The Nominees for Blues Release of the Year were Aging Disgracefully – *Shatter the Mirror*, Angelo Spinazzola – *Harp-Centric*, Geoff Arseneault – *Hired Hand*, Jon Hines – *Memphis Sun* and JP LeBlanc – *All In My Blood / Je l'ai dans l'sang*. www.ecma.com

Blues rules at Winterfolk Friday Night is Blues Night at Winterfolk: At 6pm, there's a workshop called Blues Guitar Styles with Noah Zacharin, Suzie Vinnick and Jesse Greene. There will be sets in the Main Hall from Jesse at 8pm, Swinging Blackjacks at 7pm and Suzie Vinnick at 9pm, as well as a CD release from a new artist with a bluesy bent, Suzanne Jarvie and appearances by Clela Errington, Tony Quarington. Later in the week-end you can catch Shakura S'Aida, Danny Marks, Toney Springer and Malagasy bluesman Donné Roberts. Check the schedule at www.winterfolk.com and look for discount codes.

And just up the road, The newly revived Aurora Winter Blues Festival presents Harrison Kennedy, a living legend of soul and blues with a decades long career..

The performance will take place on March 1 at 2:00pm at Aurora Town Square – Davide De Simone Performance Hall, 50 Victoria Street, Aurora. The performance will feature an opening set by Dave Mowat, an accomplished blues performer with a passion for the post-war music of the '40s and '50s, he is also former Chief of Alderville First Nation. In partnership with Music Aurora, the newly revived Aurora Winter Blues Festival will feature performances from Jack de Keyzer, Suzie Vinnick, Glenn Marais'



The undisputed hardest-working, hardest-playing bluesman in these parts, Steve Marriner, will be performing at the Canadian Blues Music Awards on March 30 at the Phoenix Concert Theatre. Bluescaster/guitartheologist Danny Marks will host the event with more guest performers to be announced shortly.

Jook, Dominique Fils-Aimé, and Little Magic Sam, plus a series of free blues workshops over four days from February 26 - March 1, 2026. Tickets for the paid performances at Aurora Winter Blues Festival are on sale now at www.auroraculturalcentre.ca/awbf2026.

Black History Month Showcase: The Canada Black Music Archives (CBMA), brings its annual Black History Month Showcase to the City of Toronto Archives - 255 Spadina Rd, Toronto - on Thursday, February 5, 2026, offering a special day of music, conversation, and cultural celebration rooted in Black Canadian excellence. The evening showcase highlights live performances from Jully Black, Tanika Charles, Divine Brown, Dru (In Essence), and Liberty Silver, with DJ and production support from Carl Allen. There will be daytime activities and more events throughout the month. Go to <https://thecbma.com/> for tix & details.

Grand River Blues Camp Fundraiser! The Grand River Blues Camp has nurtured numerous young bluesicians who have made their way onto some festival stages and even became successful touring artists. They are having their annual fundraiser on Sunday, Feb 22 from 4 pm to 8 pm at the Edelweiss Tavern in Kitchener. Blues Camp Instructors and Alumni will perform. Each August The Grand River Blues Camp offers a four-day Youth Blues Camp, providing an intensive Blues educational experience to improve

musical skills, to learn from and play with professional musicians. On the last day of the Camp students perform with peers at the Kitchener Blues Festival. Let's help them keep the camp affordable for all young musicians! Tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blues-camp-fundraiser-tickets-1979526361635>

Meanwhile, Stateside: At the Folk Alliance Conference in New Orleans, a Lifetime Achievement Award went to Taj Mahal who is moving slow but plays just fine - great house band backing him up and playing the walk-on stings. Clifton Chénier was also honoured. During a very bluesy night. Good looking stage set and fine video production. No Canadian content except for an environmental stewardship award to the Edmonton Folk Festival. AD Terry Wickham accepting on video because he chose not to travel to the US in these "uncertain times" (as did many Canadians methinks). Meanwhile in Memphis, there were far fewer Canadian representatives at the International Blues Challenge. No Canadians in the finals (only 3 acts from Canada came down) and far fewer Canadian blues fans cruising Beale Street. This year Derrick Dove was the big winner at the International Blues Challenge (best band + best guitarist) and lots of emerging talent alongside some journeymen/women singing "You Got Me Running to Sweet Home Chicago". Devin C. Williams (runner up in Solo/duo category) is a real rising star. Keep an eye on him



SPENCER MACKENZIE

EMPTY CHAIRS NEW ALBUM RELEASE TOUR

FEBRUARY 19TH	HUGH'S ROOM LIVE	TORONTO, ON
FEBRUARY 20TH	ANCASTER MEMORIAL ARTS CENTRE	HAMILTON, ON
FEBRUARY 27TH	THE SANCTUARY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS	RIDGEWAY, ON
FEBRUARY 28TH	THE GERMAN CANADIAN CLUB	LONDON, ON
MARCH 27TH	RCHA CLUB	KINGSTON, ON
APRIL 10TH	LA PETITE ÉGLISE	SAINT-EUSTACHE, QC
APRIL 11TH	THÉÂTRE DU MARAIS	VAL-MORIN, QC
APRIL 19TH	THE BRUCE	KINCARDINE, ON



TICKETS SPENCERMACKENZIE.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 9pm – 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



The Jam Tradition lives on at the Black Swan

By Mike Sedgewick

Every Friday at Black Swan Tavern (154 Danforth Ave), the Friday Night Blues Jam lights up the room with some of the best weekly blues in Toronto. Many reading this will remember the 80's and 90's on the second floor of the Black Swan Tavern with the Kendall-Wall Saturday afternoon blues. World class acts traveled through our city and performed nights at Albert's Hall or El Mocambo, and then also performed in the afternoon at the Black Swan Tavern with the legendary Kendall-Wall Band. Today, one enters the Black Swan and is immediately immersed in that era by the many frames of past performers on the walls: those now who are household names in the blues world. Musicians from that era often regale me with tales of lugging Super Reverbs or a Hammond Organ up and down the back fire escape on icy winter nights with great trepidation, to say the least.

Flash forward to February of 2020. The Friday Night Blues jam was looking for a new venue and serendipitously landed in the same building where so many of those past, memorable performances had taken place.

Beginning in 2017, I had the opportunity to host a blues jam at the Salty Dog in the Beaches; I had no idea what I was doing other than wanting it to be an event that I would

want to attend as a blues fan and player. I was new to the scene. My first time on stage had been just a couple of years earlier at the famous Grossman's jam. But, I had met enough musicians and friends to be able to put a jam together. I enlisted the help of my partner, Robin Hutchison, to organize and host. With her help, in a few short months the jam gained some traction in the scene with many established players dropping by, from Maple Blues winners Jonny Wong and Tom Bona, to great guitar players like Toney Springer and Frank Cosentino. We have always, and continue to, put the music first. I think it's part of our success at attracting great players, as well as filling seats with fans of the genre in general.

From 2017 to 2020 many memories were made there and the timing was right to move to a bigger venue. The last jam was February 28th 2020. We had arranged to start up at the Black Swan on March 20th of that same year but, due to Covid it, got pushed to August 2021, and the Black Swan has been our home since.

Every Friday one can expect to see, hear, and play with veteran musicians, future stars, and newcomers just getting over stage fright. No two nights are the same. It's not uncommon to have players from the Danforth Music Hall come by after their gig and end up on stage or even Juno or Grammy winners. Last summer, we had singer Dennis Graham return to the Black Swan stage, 30 years after having played with the Kendall-Wall Band, only to bring along his son Drake.

Anything can and has happened. What can be expected is a welcoming community, from near and abroad who love the genre. It's always great to meet Americans, Europeans, anyone from around the world passing through Toronto and ending up at the Swan when they search out live blues.

We open the night with the house band set and then I see who wants to play and start putting together groups for 3 song sets (2 if time is limited). Typical nights will see 20-40 jammers. I try to make sure that everyone is on the same page with the material. So, there's no list per se, but we try to be fair with the order. Our sound team, Kevin and Jen, make everyone sound their best. The music is not just 12 bar blues, although there are plenty of those throughout the night. We'll do anything 'rootsy' so long as everyone is on board and you can throw in a guitar or harp solo.

Our house band consists of myself on guitar, Dave "Tex" Bachelor on bass, Juliet Ann on vocals, and a rotating drum seat of Tim Gittens, Paul Domanski, Tom Bona, Chris Bender, and many more. In 2023 we decided to start recognizing our community with the Friday Night Blues Jam Awards. There were so many regular talented players. We just wanted to give a wink and a nudge to those who have supported our weekly event with their talent and enthusiasm. 2026 will be the 4th annual awards night. Typically in early October, past award winners have included Jay Blues, Andrea Dibitonto, Richard Taylor, Josh Lopez, and many that are sure to be heard from in the near future.

What's been great over the past few years is to see many younger players develop on that stage. There are some really talented up and coming musicians regularly attending, as well as seasoned veterans to learn from.

Through the music passed down from previous generations, the lineage that's preserved and respected, it's clear that The Blues is alive and well at the Black Swan Tavern! Every Friday from 9:30 - 1:30.

Friday, February 6 is TBS night at the Swan Jam. Drop by and maybe run into some old friends. There will be a membership table for anyone who wants to join or renew

Guitar Talk:

Witnessing a great show can actually change you as a player and a listener.

by Frank Cosentino

"One great song can change the world."

An extraordinary show has an incredible power to shift your perspective, inviting you to explore new ideas and experiences.

The proper performance can spark a passion within you, awakening emotions that inspire change or encourage meaningful self-reflection.

Through captivating storytelling,
unforgettable performances,

and stunning visuals, these productions resonate deeply, leaving a lasting impression that encourages you to see the world in a new light.

This dynamic force functions not just as entertainment but as a catalyst for personal growth, challenging you to rethink your beliefs and attitudes.

Like many music lovers and performers,

I've experienced live shows that left me in awe, compelling me to return home, pick up my guitar, and rewire my thoughts in an attempt to capture some of the magic that struck me so profoundly.

These experiences linger in my mind, urging me to embrace the transformative power of art and creativity in my own life.

It's something I truly value.

I've had the privilege of witnessing some legends perform live, including:

Ray Charles pouring his soul into

'Drown in My Own Tears.'

BB King delivering a moving rendition of

'Sweet Little Angel.'

SRV electrifying the crowd with his iconic

'Texas Flood.'

Albert Collins commanding the stage with his powerful

'Lights Are On, But Nobody's Home.'

Each one a master class in soul.

Each one changed me personally.

Any more questions?

*For more and all things Guitar and the
Blues visit:*

frankcosentino.com



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

Solomon Hicks *How Did I Ever Get This Blue* Mascot
The James Hunter Six *Off The Fence* Easy Eye Sound
Robert Finley *Hallelujah! Don't Let the Devil Fool Ya* Easy Eye Sound
Maria Muldaur *One Hour Mama: The Blues of Victoria* Spivey Nola Blue
Mavis Staples *Sad and Beautiful World* Anti-
Joe Bonamassa and guests *B.B. King's Blues Summit* 100 KTBA
Tinsley Ellis *Labor of Love* Alligator
*Miss Emily *The Medicine* Gypsy Soul
Candice Ivory *New Southern Vintage* Nola Blue
Kim Wilson *Slow Burn* MC Records
Top Jimmy and the Rhythm Pigs *Pigus, Drunkus, Maximus* Blind Owl
*Honeybear *I Was Wrong* Playmor
Billy Branch & The Sons of Blues *The Blues Is My Biography* Rosa's Lounge
Christone "Kingfish" Ingram *Hard Road* Red Zero
*Blue Moon Marquee and Northern Cree *Get Your Feathers Ready* independent
Devon Allman *The Blues Summit* Ruf
Ana Popovic *Dance to the Rhythm* Electric Heel
Larry McCray *Heartbreak City* KTBA
*Dominique Fils-Aimé *My World Is The Sun* Ensoul (out Feb. 20)
Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials *Slideways* Alligator (out Feb. 27)
Altered Five Blues Band *Hammer & Chisel* Blind Pig (out Feb. 27)

* = Canadian

A Chance Discovery In Japan

His name is KING. King Takahashi. He is THE MAN at an establishment that he has named Blues Guitar Forever. I stumbled upon it (and him) during my recent trip to Japan. I was visiting Yokohama at the time, specifically Yokohama's Chinatown, the largest Chinatown in Japan. King's place is a restaurant and bar serving Western-style food and drinks with a side order of live blues music to accompany diners' meals.

King is BGF's owner, chef, sommelier, MC/host, and resident blues guitar player. As if that wasn't enough, at 67, he's also a published author and broadcaster. His book *Seven Stories* came out the same year that his weekly half-hour radio show debuted (2022). Since then, more than 160 shows have been posted to YouTube, starting with this one from June of that year: [youtube.com/mojomama-minko](https://www.youtube.com/mojomama-minko)

As my wife and I walked around Yokohama looking for a Chinese restaurant, I would've known nothing about King and BGF. It was a happy coincidence that she saw a sign pointing in BGF's direction, which we followed. Fortunately for us, the place was open and not very busy. That's how we came to meet King, dressed in his chef's white coat, on a Sunday night in November. He graciously agreed to pose for a photograph strumming an old guitar in front of his club.

Judging by the blues-guitar-forever website, well over 80 blues musicians and performers have formed a community around BGF since it opened its doors in 2019. Some of them use English stage names -- including B'Elmo, Blue with Iggy, Dust & Groove, Re:Ze, Sky Dogs, and Suz/Gen.

I believe that King himself has chosen to adopt an English first name in lieu of his given Japanese name. And why shouldn't he? He reveres all three legends of the blues guitar named "King" to such an extent that he has put their names on three of his signature square-shaped pizzas.

There's the vegetarian B.B. King pizza with garlic and jalapeno; the Albert King pizza with clams and octopus; and the Freddie King pizza with anchovies and bacon. Each one costs the equivalent of \$12.50 Canadian (tax included). These prices don't seem unreasonable when you consider that there's no cover charge for the entertainment and that generally there's never any tipping in Japan.

While this happens to have been the only blues club that I encountered on my trip, I'm confident that there are more hideaways like this one to be found throughout Japan provided you've done some research and know where to look. Happy hunting!

- Christian Mueller



FEB 13	THE HUE	PENTICTON, BC	FEB 20	THE RAINBOW*	OTTAWA, ON
FEB 14	SONG SPARROW HALL	SALMON ARM, BC	FEB 21	THE BROOM FACTORY*	KINGSTON, ON
FEB 15	RED BIRD BREWING	KILLOWNA, BC	MAR 5	THE KING EDGY	CALGARY, AB
FEB 17	THE RICHMOND	LONDON, ON	MAR 6	THE AVIARY+	EDMONTON, AB
FEB 18	HORSESHOE TAVERN*	TORONTO, ON	MAR 7	THE HAILEY+	CAMROSE, AB
FEB 19	L'ESCOFFIER*	MONTREAL, QC	* W/ MR. PINKSTEPS + W/ KYLA MOSHAK AND HIS BAND		

ALBUM REVIEWS



Jon Hines is an award-winning Canadian blues musician based in Cape Breton. He released his first band recording, called *Memphis Sun*, in October 2025. The band consists of Hines on guitar and vocals, Kevin Fletcher on harmonica, Cameron Palmer on drums and George Wolf on bass guitar. George and Victoria Hines also provide backing vocals on "Me and The Devil".

Hines wrote all the songs on this album. Writing a blues song is difficult. There are albums full of proof of how hard it is. There are all kinds of traps to fall into. While his songs are full of references to classic Mississippi blues of the past, he manages to avoid cliché in his own songwriting. The songs have titles like *Me & the Devil*, *Holy Ground*, *Memphis Sun*, and *Working Man*, and Hines keeps it all fresh. That's an accomplishment.

This is not big-bluster blues-rock. This is a guy with "a six string and a pocketful of steel," as he sings on the title track. He knows what he's talking about. The pocketful of steel refers to the slide he slips on his pinky finger to play slide guitar. He references blues history out of a reverence for the music and his musical ancestors.

The opening track sets the tone for the record, and it does not disappoint. It starts with a rocking rhythm figure stated by the guitar, which is picked up by the band. The harmonica and the guitar lock in on the figure, and stay there, propelling the song. Their playing makes the small band sound like a much bigger outfit. The slide guitar solo, when it comes, looks back to Elmore James with shades of Sonny Landreth. The band is rocking. They do their choruses and get out without beating it to death.

Parts of this record veer into a jazzier blues territory, but it is so bluesey, laid back and just plain groove-oriented that I encourage the listener to not hold it against Jon and the band. They know what they're doing and they handle themselves gracefully.


I mentioned awards. The Jon Hines Band represented Atlantic Canada in Memphis, Tennessee, during the International Blues Challenge, where they made it to the semi-

finals in the 2025 Band category. Hines is also a Blues Recording Artist of the Year recipient for Music Nova Scotia. More awards will be forthcoming, I am sure.

This is a solid set by a musician who knows who he is and is confident about what he has to offer.

- John Mulligan
(visit John's blog, john1b1.substack.com)

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY



Sunday, February 15, 2026

7:00 PM ET on Zoom

What to expect:

- Updates from the TBS Board
- Open dialogue and community feedback
- Q&A with Canadian Blues Music Awards representative

Send questions, concerns
and RSVP
by February 12

Email tbstownhall@gmail.com

Why Blues?

As 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 last month we had a flash-of-the-past with the local live music listings from October, 1999. This month we've asked TBS founder and former board chair Derek Andrews to rewind the roots of his work as an organizer of blues concerts and festivals to acknowledge the revival of the Aurora Winter Blues Festival.

What were your earliest encounters with blues music?

As a teen I checked the credits on my Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, John Mayall and The Yardbirds recordings. I became familiar with the names of some American song authors. While I frequented the Yorkville venue Boris's to hear Luke and Apostles, the biggest influence may have been attending the Toronto Island Blues Festival in 1973. The island blues festival only lasted one year, but it left an indelible impression on my music mind.

You booked Albert's Hall in the early 80s and many greats came to the room. How did you find those artists and how did you get that gig?

I give credit to **Jordy Sharp** for hiring me at Albert's. He had worked for me when I managed The Edge and he bought the **Brunswick House**, due to his family's good fortune. I suggested to Jordy that the city needed a blues room and the second floor of the Brunswick was an ideal listening room. However it was a generous moment of sharing by **Gary Cormier** that allowed me to track down some of the American artists we brought in. I also got tips from **Rob Bowman** when he oversaw the blues section of Records on Wheels on Yonge Street. Gradually I figured out what worked in the room and we had a success story on our hands with line ups down the street.

Did you have any memorable occasions at Albert's Hall?

There were many great nights at Albert's Hall, but the most epic was the night **Stevie Ray** came by after his set opening for Dire Straits and sat in with **Albert Collins**, joined

by the young buck **Jeff Healey**. We featured greats like **Lowell Fulson**, **Neville Brothers**, **Son Seals**, **Eddie Cleanhead Vinson**, **Buddy Guy**, **Junior Wells** the club was jammed, especially for **Etta James**.

Was it difficult to arrange for Etta to come to Toronto?

I presented Etta many times, more than twenty, but it all started with a gift from my musician friend **Al Kates** who was booking the **Club Bluenote** on Pears at the time. Al called to say that the R&B crowd found Etta too bluesy and that she was available if I called her up in Los Angeles. I dealt directly with her and flew her in to play for several full week stands, backed by top local players. We also did a show at The Diamond (now Phoenix) and several at Harbourfront Centre.

Why did you leave Albert's Hall for Harbourfront Centre?

In 1985 I had a very troubling restraint put on my booking at the club, so I gave my notice. Fortunately I received another gift from my friend Al Kates who had booked Martha Reeves for **Lily Zendel** at the waterfront. I asked Al for an introduction and took a lunch at **Scana Landing** on Stadium Road with Lily and my soon to be boss, **Marilyn Brewer**. They heard about my blues booking and asked if a blues festival was possible. We had put **Albert King**, **Willie Dixon**, **John Lee Hooker** and **Johnny Copeland** into the

main floor at the Brunswick, so I was certainly ready to spread my festival organizing wings.

How many editions of the Harbourfront blues festival did you organize?

We launched the "**Soul 'n Blues**" weekend model in 1986 but it was surrounded by a summer long series of genre themes and concerts, Rockabilly, Caribbean and all the bands blowing up on Queen Street West like **Blue Rodeo**. I had an office downstairs at the **Horseshoe Tavern** and brought artists from Albert's like **John Hammond**, **Roy Buchanan**, **Rufus and Carla Thomas**, supporting what **X-Ray MacRae** was doing with their broad roots music policy. Eventually I had to focus entirely on the programming at Harbourfront Centre which continued until 2003, so I got to produce 18 blues festival weekends.

Was it difficult to keep your blues festival programming relevant and interesting?

Harbourfront Centre was unique in North America at the time I was presenting, not dissimilar to an approach at **Central Park Summerstage** in New York or the **South Bank** in London. We were determined to mix innovation with recognizable names. We brought African blues artists like **Tao Ravao**, **Boubacar Traore** and **Ali Farka Toure**, I even put Portuguese fado sensation **Mariza** on the blues stage on a Sunday afternoon.

cont'd on p14



Willie Dixon with Derek Andrews at Albert's Hall

New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival was also very inspiring.

It sounds like you shifted from blues to world music at Harbourfront Centre.

No, the blues festival remained an integral component of my work, but we evolved into a summer long mix of ten theme weekends from jazz in late June to **Ashkenaz** on Labour Day weekend, often with as many as 200 acts across the season. My "on the job" training shifted when we were introduced to Peter Gabriel's **WOMAD** organization. From 1988 to 92 we delivered the WOMAD Festival, a site wide experience that elevated the waterfront into being a summer destination.

If 2003 was your last blues festival at Harbourfront Centre, how did you stay in touch with the community?

Having lost the festival model, I focused on my volunteer work at the **Toronto Blues Society** where we developed the **Women's Blues Revue, Maple Blues Awards and Blues Summit**. Being recently recruited by the **Aurora Cultural Centre** as Performing Arts Manager, I've been gifted again with the opportunity to produce a blues festival. Throughout my time as an organizer I've maintained relationships with blues artists like **Madagascar Slim, Suzie Vinnick, Ndidi Onukwulu, Harry Manx**, hundreds of great artists and even next generation artists like **Jay Blues**.

Why blues in Aurora outside of Toronto?

I grew up in Richmond Hill and have family all over York Region so I'm grateful to be able to revive the **Aurora Winter Blues Festival** started up by **Jamie MacDonald** and his colleagues at **Music Aurora**. They had a ten-year run until covid crushed the project, but we are putting under one roof at the newly built **Aurora Town Square**.

What excites you about this Aurora revival?

I love the freedom to program a festival and we are getting a great reception from a variety of supporting organizations like the **Aurora Museum**. We are working with **Diana Braithwaite** on a cool Underground Railroad settle story triggered by a photo from 1877 of a Black man photographed in Aurora with a banjo in the shot. The session is happening on Saturday afternoon and is dubbed **Banjo Man Blues**.

R.I.P. HOWARD WILLETT

*Now Playing Harp
with the Angels*



2025-26 SEASON **BLUES AT THE COVE** ALL SHOWS SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES

BLUES

★ ★ ★ AT THE COVE ★ ★ ★



"Miss Emily has the best pipes we have ever heard, in an unsigned artist!"
- Gene Simmons

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

3 X MAPLE BLUES FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR / JUNO NOMINEE BLUES ALBUM OF THE YEAR

MISS EMILY BAND


CHARITY CONTRIBUTION: THE WESTPORT FOOD BANK

7-11PM • \$95 INCLUDES BUFFET DINNER + LIVE SHOW + DONATION TO LOCAL CHARITY
RESERVATIONS CALL 613-273-3636 OR EMAIL THECOVEINN@GMAIL.COM

BOOK WELL IN ADVANCE • MOST SHOWS SELL OUT • WWW.COVEINN.COM

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS





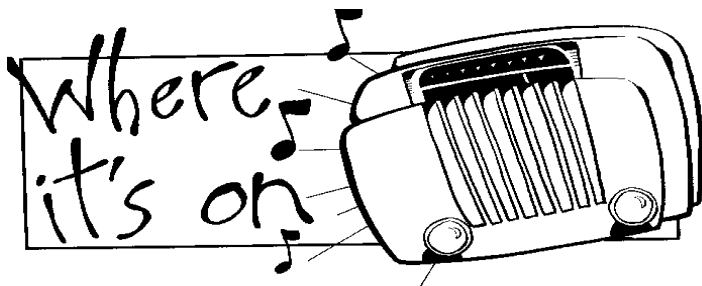
MATT ANDERSEN

WITH
SPECIAL
GUEST

MARIEL BUCKLEY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20
MASSEY HALL
TORONTO, ON

MATTANDERSEN.CA



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://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**

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 Detchevery** Sundays

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



Sunday, February 1

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

Steve Strongman Sunday Blues Series 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Shawn & Ed Brewing Co., 65 Hatt St., Dundas, (289) 238-9979, Featuring Chris Ayries (vocals), Dave Murphy (piano), and Mark McIntyre (Bass)

David Gogo with Brant Parker Blues Band 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm, RIDICULOUS, 38 King William St (Lower), Hamilton, \$20

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, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782

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

Tim Gibbons and the Swamp-busters wsg Dave Rave 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Boiler & Whistle (Hamilton), 1900 King St E, Hamilton, 905-549-1889

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

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

Rocky Verweel and Queen City Blues 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272, Rocky Verweel and Queen City Blues is a soulful guitar and horns-driven Blues and R&B band, Tip jar

Sunday Blues Jam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Jethro's Bar + Stage, 137 Hunter St W, Peterborough

New Orleans Connection All Star Jazz Band 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

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

Trombone Charlotte (Charlotte McAfee-Brunner) Bessie Smith Tribute 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Jazz Bistro, 251 Victoria St, Toronto, (416) 363-5299

Jerome Tucker Band – Blues Sunday 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Dave Mowat & Clayton Yates 9:00 pm, Local Pub, 396 Roncesvalles, Toronto, (416) 535-6225,

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

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

Tuesday, February 3

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

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

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

Kim Doolittle, Mark Lalama (Steve Strongman Acoustic Series) 8:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822

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

Wednesday, February 4

Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, The Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, 416-461-2655, No Cover

Trini Blue & The Distractions 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614

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

Thursday, February 5

Shakura S'Aida – Live Rehearsal 7:30 pm, NeuLokal, 3047 Dundas Street West, Toronto, 647-834-6363, \$10

James Anthony 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Scout Cafe, 100 King St., Stoney Creek

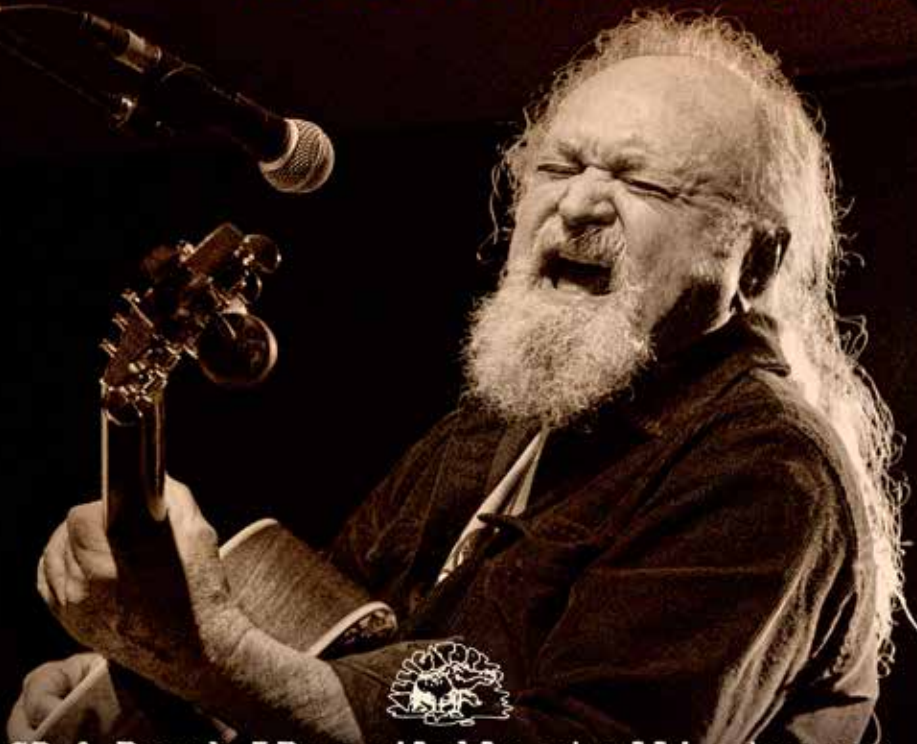
TINSLEY ELLIS LABOR OF LOVE

"A powerful punch of raucous and raw deep roots blues and wicked guitar...a joyous and triumphant celebration of acoustic music"

—LIVING BLUES

TINSLEY ELLIS

LABOR OF LOVE



CD & Peach LP available at alligator.com
 GENUINE HOUSE ROCKIN' MUSIC SINCE 1971

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
Don River Blues Band 8:00 pm, Axis Café, 3048 Dundas St W, Toronto, 416-604-3333
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, February 7

Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Weekly Special Guest 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822, The Coachmen: Chris Wheeler, Colin Lapsley, and Matt Burns. Check site for weekly guest.

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

Brant Parker Band wsg Kim Doolittle 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Donnelly's Pub, 54 Front St S, Thorold, (905) 227-1947

Grant Lyle – The February Blues 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library and Cultural Centre, 425 Holland St W., Bradford, (905) 775-3328, Barrie Winterfest - Warm up your winter with an afternoon of Roots & Blues featuring Grant Lyle., FREE

Blues Etc. (Steve Grisbrook) wsg Chuck Jackson 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls, 905-354-2340

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

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

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 Happy Pals 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmasters 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Corktown Pub, 175 Young St, Hamilton, Garnetta's Monthly Open Jam, Free
Clela Errington and Barbara Lynch 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto
Isaak Bonk and The Roast Chicken Ramblers 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Emmet Ray, 924 College St., Toronto, 416-792-4497

Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ Jim Casson, Frank Cosentino & Gary Kendall 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Lucky's at Fallsview Casino, 6380 Fallsview Blvd, Niagara Falls, 905-354-7775

Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards 9:00 pm, Black Bear Pub, 1125 O'Connor Drive, Toronto, 416-752-5182, No Cover

Sugar Brown trio 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000, Sugar Brown, Nichol Robertson and Andrew McCarthy

Danny B 9:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington St. E, Toronto, 416-955-0887

Sunday, February 8

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 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

James Anthony w/Special Guest Weekly 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

Brant Parker Blues Band wsg Kim Doolittle 2:00 pm, RIDICULOUS, 38 King William St (Lower), Hamilton, \$20 pp, e-transfer to brantparkermusic@gmail.com with your full name and Feb 8 on message line (reserve your tickets) or cash at the door., \$20
Sunday Blues Jam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Jethro's Bar + Stage, 137 Hunter St W, Peterborough



Alana channels Nina in Feeling Good: Alana Bridgewater Sings Nina Simone, February 21 at 7:30 pm at the TD Music Hall – Allied Music Centre, 178 Victoria Street

New Orleans Connection All Star Jazz Band 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

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

Heather Luckhart 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St W., Toronto, Varying Prices, visit TheRex.ca
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

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

Tuesday, February 10

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

To all Blues Bands and Venues

Take a minute to promote your show

Add your gig to our calendar

<https://torontobluessociety.com/events/>

Your gig will also show up in our weekly email blast

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



Blast Toronto
 Igniting the Live Music Scene

Facebook- Blast Toronto
 Instagram- Blast Toronto
www.blasttoronto.com



Wednesday, February 11

Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, The Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, 416-4612655, No Cover
Trini Blue & The Distractions 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614
Action Sound Band 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Thursday, February 12

Mike Daley & Selena Evangeline 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272
Grant Lyle & The Brotherhood 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469, \$10
Shakura S'Aida – Live Rehearsal 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, NeuLokal, 3047 Dundas Street West, Toronto, 647-834-6363, \$10
Greene and Bleus Band (Jesse Green / Jay Bleus) 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Friday, February 13

Alfie Smith 6:00 pm, Le Tambour Tavern, 345 James St N, Hamilton
James Anthony 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Scout Cafe, 100 King St., Stoney Creek
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 14

Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Weekly Special Guest 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822, . Check site for weekly guest.
James Anthony Band w/Special Guest Weekly 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Uptown Social, 1900 Walkers Line, Burlington, 905-331-4700
Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmasters 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Erie Lodge No# 149, 425 Main Street, Port Dover, ON, (519) 427-8649 Ticket info: <https://www.garnettacromwell.com>, \$5.00
Blues Etc. (Steve Grisbrook) Mardi Gras Party with Lance Anderson 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls, 905-354-2340

Mike Branton & Friends 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655
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
Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob Gusevs 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Outtrigger, 2232 Queen St E, Toronto, 647-748-2232, No Cover
The Happy Pals 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000
Senior Delinquent 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Huntsville Legion, 21 Veterans Way, Huntsville, The Etwell Concert Series presents a Valentines Day Dance, \$20
Russel deCarle (with Steve Briggs and Russ Boswell) 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Treasure Mollys House of music, Mimico, Toronto, 416 251 3878, Treasuremollysmusic@gmail.com A full buffet is provided BYOB, \$50.00
Treasure Molly presents Russell de Carle 7:07 pm, Treasure Molly presents Russell deCarle with Steve Briggs and Russ Boswell In a living room setting , \$50.00
The Maple Blues Revue feat: The Maple Blues Band w/ Jay Douglas, Samantha Martin, Suzie Vinnick 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Capitol Centre, 150 Main st E, North Bay, "World Class" Ticket info: <https://capitolcentre.org/all-events/theatre-events/the-maple-blues-revue>, \$49.00
Cécile Doo-Kingué co-bill with The Laws 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Théâtre Le Sésame (Kingston), 1290 Wheathill St, Kingston, (613) 546-1331, \$30
Grant Lyle & Brotherhood 8:00 pm, Black Bear Pub, 1125 O'Connor Drive, Toronto, 416-752-5182
The Swingin' Blackjacks 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Noonan's Irish Pub, 141 Danforth Ave, Toronto ON, 416 778 1804, , Free Event
Danny B 9:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington St. E, Toronto, 416-955-0887

Sunday, February 15

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 Dave Rave, Mark Foley & Tristan Bernardi 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782
James Anthony w/Special Guest Weekly 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Ned Devine's Irish Pub, 575 Ontario St S., Milton, (905) 864-6794
FOG Blues and Brass Band 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Bruce, 750 Queen St., Kincardine ON, (519) 396-5100, 19th Winter Reunion at The Bruce hosted by Bruce County Blues Society, 25 – 30

Georgette Fry & Friends 2:30 pm, Studio Theatre Perth, 63 Gore St E, Perth, 613-267-7469, \$36.50
Sunday Blues Jam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Jethro's Bar + Stage, 137 Hunter St W, Peterborough
New Orleans Connection All Star Jazz Band 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000
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
Mike Sedgewick's Blues Revue & Open Jam 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130
Matt Anderson 7:30 pm, Showplace Performance Centre, 290 George Street North, Peterborough, 705.742.7469, Ticketed Event
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
Jay Bleus 10:00 pm, Handlebar, 159 Augusta Avenue, Toronto, (647) 748-7433

Monday, February 16

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

Tuesday, February 17

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
Matt Anderson 8:00 pm, Music Hall (Hamilton), 24 Main St W, Hamilton, Ticketed Event
Quality Building Supplies 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

Wednesday, February 18

Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, The Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, 416-4612655, No Cover
Trini Blue & The Distractions 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614
Honeybear, the Band 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W., Toronto, W / Mr. Pinstripes (Montreal) Ticket info: <https://tickets.honeybear.band/events/playmor/1964734>, \$16

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

Thursday, February 19

Fraser Melvin Band 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Shore Grill and Grotto, 71 Lakeshore Blvd E, Mississauga
Little Magic Sam Open Jam night 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Only Cafe, 962 Danforth Ave., Toronto
Matt Andersen w/ Mariel Buckley 8:00 pm, Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St N, Kitchener, (519) 578-1570, \$50
Spencer Mackenzie Album Release 8:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto
Shakura S'Aida – Live Rehearsal 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, NeuLokal, 3047 Dundas Street West, Toronto, 647-834-6363, \$10

Friday, February 20

James Anthony 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Scout Cafe, 100 King St., Stoney Creek
Big Sugar 7:00 pm, Danforth Music Hall, Toronto Ticket info: <https://www.ticketmaster.ca/big-sugar-toronto-ontario-02-20-2026/event/1000637B-8C073EF5>, Ticketmaster
The Maple Blues Revue feat: The Maple Blues Band w/ Jay Douglas, Samantha Martin, Suzie Vinnick 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, National Arts Centre, 1 Elgin St., Ottawa, "World Class" Ticket info: <https://nac-cna.ca/en/event/39772>, \$34.00
Spencer Mackenzie Album Release Concert 7:30 pm, Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre, Wilson St. E, Ancaster
Matt Anderson 8:00 pm, Massey Hall, 178 Victoria Street, Toronto, 416-872-4255
Rick Fines 8:00 pm, Market Hall (Peterborough), 140 Charlotte St, Peterborough Ticket info: <https://tickets.markethall.org/eventperformances.asp?evt=505>
Teddy P's Gin and Jazz (Ted Peters, Kevin Bolger) 8:00 pm, Black Box 70, 70 Kong St E, Oshawa, Join us for a night of Gin & Jazz with some Blues and Soul too., \$20
Laura Hubert 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000
Zeke Pippin 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Tip Jar
Jay Bleus Trio 9:30 pm, Helliwell Hall (St Catharines), 107 St Paul St, St Catharines
Mike Sedgewick's Friday Night Blues Jam 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

Saturday, February 21

Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Weekly Special Guest 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822, The Coachmen: Chris Wheeler, Colin Lapsley, and Matt Burns. Check site for weekly guest.

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

Blues Etc. (Steve Grisbrook) wsg Ian Andrews 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls, 905-354-2340

Mike Branton & Friends 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 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

Trickbag 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Corktown Pub, 175 Young St, Hamilton

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

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

The Happy Pals 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Rick Fines Sit Down Series 6:00 pm, Monte's at Tir Nan Og, 200 Ontario St, Kingston Ticket info: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/sit-down-series-presents-rick-fines-tickets-1979126677168>

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

Lance Anderson Presents An Evening of Blues and Gospel XIV 7:00 pm, Orillia Opera House, Orillia, FEATURING: Garnetta Cromwell, Gavin Hope, Wade O. Brown, Mackenzie Jordan, Steve Pelletier, Everton White and musical director Lance Anderson. Ticket info: <https://secure1.tixhub.com/orillia-oh/online/b-otix.asp?cboPerformances=6120&c-boEvent=2501&width=1530>

Loco Zydeco + Chuck Jackson, Gene Hardy – Southside Shuffle Mardi Gras 2026 7:00 pm, Rama Gaming House Mississauga, 2295 Battleford Rd, Mississauga, ON, (905) 821-7821

Feeling Good: Alana Bridgewater Sings Nina Simone 7:30 pm, TD Music Hall – Allied Music Centre, 178 Victoria Street, Toronto Ticket info: <https://alliedmusiccentre.mhrth.com/tickets/alana-bridgewater>, \$40

Steve Strongman (Solo/Acoustic Show) 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$30

Wide Mouth Mason 8:00 pm, Warehouse Concert Hall, 11 Geneva St, St Catharines, 289-214-7684.

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

Danny B 9:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington St. E, Toronto, 416-955-0887

Blues and Soul (Donagh Cadogan, Andrew Kerr, Pierce White) 10:00 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto, FREE

Sunday, February 22

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

The Maple Blues Revue feat: The Maple Blues Band w/ Jay Douglas, Samantha Martin, Suzie Vinnick 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Algonquin Theatre, 37 Main St. E, Huntsville, "World Class" Ticket info: <https://huntsvillefestival.ca/event/maple-blues-revue/>, \$50.00

Sunday Blues Jam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Jethro's Bar + Stage, 137 Hunter St W, Peterborough

New Orleans Connection All Star Jazz Band 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

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

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 23

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

Tuesday, February 24

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 25

Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, The Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, 416-461-2655, No Cover

Trini Blue & The Distractions 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614

Blues For Greeny 8:00 pm, Warehouse Concert Hall, 11 Geneva St, St Catharines, 289-214-7684, Ticketed Event

Jesse Whiteley Trio 9:00 pm, Local Pub, 396 Roncesvalles, Toronto, (416) 535-6225, PWYC

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

Special Interest Group 9:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto

Thursday, February 26

The Jazz Room: Tribute to the Blues (Seating 1 of 2) 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St. W, Toronto Ticket info: <https://feverup.com/m/429287>, \$38.50

Junctional Rhythm 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm, Emmet Ray, 924 College St., Toronto, 416-792-4497

Jack de Keyzer 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Aurora Cultural Centre, 89 Mosley St., Aurora, <https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/jack-de-keyzer-awbf-2526/>, \$45.00

Bywater Call 7:30 pm, Burlington Performing Arts Centre, 440 Locust St, Burlington, 905-681-6000

Jack de Keyzer (Aurora Winter Blues Festival) 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Aurora Cultural Centre, 89 Mosley St., Aurora

Shakura S'Aida – Live Rehearsal 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, NeuLokal, 3047 Dundas Street West, Toronto, 647-834-6363, \$10

Blues for Greeny 8:00 pm, Horse-shoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W., Toronto, \$18

The Jazz Room: Tribute to the Blues (Seating 2 of 2) 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St. W, Toronto Ticket info: <https://feverup.com/m/429287>, \$38.50

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

Friday, February 27

Rick Fines 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Olde Stone Cottage Pub, 3750 Kingston Rd., Scarborough, Dinner and a Song Ticket info: <https://www.dinnerandasong.com>, \$65

SLABTOWN
UXBRIDGE • AURORA

PROUD SPONSOR
TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

Check our website for live music schedule
slabtowncider.com

SLABTOWN CIDER CO.
LEGENDARY CHERRY
MADE THE OLD FASHIONED WAY
WITH 100% CANADIAN APPLES
4% ALC/VOL (8% ALC BY VOL)

SLABTOWN CIDER CO.
FOUNDERS DRY
MADE THE OLD FASHIONED WAY
WITH 100% CANADIAN APPLES
4% ALC/VOL (8% ALC BY VOL)

James Anthony 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Scout Cafe, 100 King St., Stoney Creek

Miss Emily 6:00 pm, Blues at the Cove – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636

Jack de Keyzer 7:00 pm, Shawn & Ed Brewing Co., 65 Hatt St., Dundas, (289) 238-9979

Suzie Vinnick wsg Kevin Breit, Tony D, Jay Blues (Aurora Winter Blues Festival) 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Aurora Cultural Centre, 89 Mosley St., Aurora
The Johnny Max Band w The Swinging Blackjacks 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm, The Old Town Hall, 38 John St S, Aylmer, 519 773 3164, brand new music from both The Johnny max Band and The Swinging Blackjacks! Bluesy Rockabilly, \$40.00

Dixie Chicken: Live at The Black Swan (John Fraser Findlay, Taylor Clark, Craig Riley) 8:00 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto
Spencer Mackenzie 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Sanctuary Centre For The Arts, 209 Ridge Rd N, Ridgeway, (289) 321-0502, Album Release Concert, \$30

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

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

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

Saturday, February 28

Glenn Marais' Jook (Aurora Winter Blues Festival) 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Aurora Cultural Centre, 89 Mosley St., Aurora

Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Weekly Special Guest 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822, The Coachmen: Chris Wheeler, Colin Lapsley, and Matt Burns. Check site for weekly guest.

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

Blues Etc. (Steve Grisbrook) wsg Martin Aucoin 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls, 905-354-2340

Mike Branton & Friends 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 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

The Happy Pals 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Little Magic Sam – Blues & Billiards

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Rivoli (Pool Hall), 332 Queen Street W, Toronto

Rick Fines 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Old Church Theatre Trenton, 940 Bonisteel Rd, Trenton Ticket info: https://oldchurch.ca/event/rick-fines-2026/?instance_id=3350

Dominique Fils-Aimé (Aurora Winter Blues Festival) 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Aurora Cultural Centre, 89 Mosley St., Aurora

Raoul & The Big Time 28th Anniversary 8:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto

Andre Bisson Band 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

Danny B 9:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington St. E, Toronto, 416-955-0887

Sunday, March 1

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

Steve Strongman Sunday Blues Series 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Shawn & Ed Brewing Co., 65 Hatt St., Dundas, (289) 238-9979

James Anthony w/Special Guest Weekly 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 Ron Hoover & Rich Moore 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667, Two sets from 2:00 pm – 4:30pm, weekly guests, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782

Harrison Kennedy + Dave Mowat (Aurora Winter Blues Festival) 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Aurora Cultural Centre, 89 Mosley St., Aurora

New Orleans Connection All Star Jazz Band 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

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

Sunday Blues Jam 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Jethro's Bar + Stage, 137 Hunter St W, Peterborough

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

Trombone Charlotte (Charlotte McAfee-Brunner) Billie Holiday Tribute 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Jazz Bistro, 251 Victoria St, Toronto, (416) 363-5299

Jerome Tucker Band – Blues Sunday 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

Little Magic Sam (Aurora Winter Blues Festival) 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Aurora Cultural Centre, 89 Mosley St., Aurora

Concerts of Note

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

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

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

Feeling Good: Alana Bridgewater Sings Nina Simone | TD Music Hall – Allied Music Centre | Toronto | February 21

Bywater Call | Burlington Performing Arts Centre | Burlington | February 26

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

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

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

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

Bonnie Raitt | Massey Hall | Toronto | August 15



HUGH'S ROOM LIVE
296 Broadview Ave. Toronto
Tickets & info at [HUGHSROOMLIVE.COM](https://hughsroomlive.com)



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, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto, "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, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

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, March 4

Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, The Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, 416-4612655, No Cover
Trini Blue & The Distractions 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614

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

Friday, March 6

James Anthony 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Scout Cafe, 100 King St., Stoney Creek

The Jay Blues Trio 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Old Flame Brewery – Distillery, 43 Tankhouse Ln, Toronto, PWYC

The Maple Blues Revue feat: The Maple Blues Band w/ Jay Douglas, Quisha Wint 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Westdale Theatre, 1014 King St W, Hamilton, 905 577 0074, "World Class" Ticket info: [https://www.thewestdale.ca/event/maple-blues-re-](https://www.thewestdale.ca/event/maple-blues-revue-with-jay-douglas-and-quisha-wint/)

[vue-with-jay-douglas-and-quisha-wint/](https://www.thewestdale.ca/event/maple-blues-revue-with-jay-douglas-and-quisha-wint/), \$44.75

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, March 7

Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Weekly Special Guest 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Coach and Lantern, 384 Wilson St E., Ancaster, 905-304-7822, Check site for weekly guest.

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

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

Blues Etc. (Steve Grisbrook) wsg

Frank Cosentino 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Regency Athletic Resort, 8068 Mountain Rd., Niagara Falls, 905-354-2340

Johnny Wright w/Robbie Rox & Rob Gusevs 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Outtrigger, 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

Jay Blues Trio 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469

The Happy Pals 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000

Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmasters 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Corktown Pub, 175 Young St, Hamilton, Garnetta's Monthly Open Jam @ Corktown Pub, Free

Clela Errington and Barbara Lynch 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto

Jack de Keyzer 8:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto

The Johnny Max Band w special Guest Chuck Jackson 8:30 pm to 11:00 pm, The Ganaraska Hotel, 30 Ontario St, Port Hope, 905 885 9254, The Johnny Max Band bring their good pal Chuck Jackson to the Ganny for some Blues fun!! \$20.00



Breaking News! Rick Fines is coming home to his old stompin' grounds to say hello to his myriad of devoted fans. He'll be at the Market Hall in Peterborough on February 20, Monte's at Tir Nan Og in Kingston on February 21st, the Old Stone Cottage Pub on Kingston Road in Scarborough on February 27 as part of their Dinner & a Song series (5:30 for dinner, show at 7:30) and the Old Church Theatre in Trenton on February 28.

Toronto Blues Society

Volunteers Needed

Do you love Blues Music?
TBS can use your help at our
live events

More Info and Register at
info@torontobluesociety.com

The Toronto Blues Society Cultural Statement

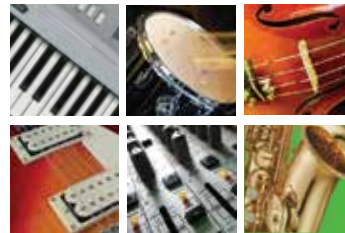
The Toronto Blues Society wishes to acknowledge and thank the first creators of the blues who gave us all this beautiful music that we enjoy today.

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.

FOLK
C A N A D A



Where the
Music
Begins

Sales / Rentals / Repairs / Print Music / Lessons / In-Store Financing



Long & McQuade
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

www.long-mcquade.com

8 locations in the GTA, including 925 Bloor St. W. Toronto, 416.588.7886



**Award-winning Canadian
Music Publicity**



@sf_publicity



@sarahfrenchpublicity

www.sarahfrenchpublicity.com



**Head over to
our website
or email info@torontobluessociety.com
to get one of
these, M, L & XL**



Jeff Wilson

WILSON
Music Services

Sales & Service of Harmonicas & Accordions Since 1986

P.O. Box 4025
Newmarket, ON L3Y 0C8
Walk In Address: 750 Lowell Ave.,
Newmarket, ON L3Y 0T5

Phone: (905) 853-5082
Email: dr.harp@rogers.com
www.wilsonmusic.ca

THAT ERIC ALPER PR



eric@thatericalper.com

647.971.3742

www.thatericalper.com

25 YEARS of making sure the **BLUES** get heard

**Our New
Mailing Address**

**Toronto Blues Society
PO BOX 94035
Toronto RPO Bedford ON
M4N3R1**



BECOME A BLUES MEMBER TODAY!

Benefits of Membership

- **20% discount** on **Maple Blues Awards tickets** & exclusive early bird ticket access
- **20% discount** on **Women's Blues Revue tickets** & exclusive early bird ticket access
- **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

THANK YOU FOR
Supporting The Blues

TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

www.torontobluessociety.com / (416) 538-3885



MONDAY MARCH 30, 2026
7PM

— THE —
PHOENIX
— CONCERT THEATRE —

410 Sherbourne St, Toronto

**Honouring the finest in
Canadian Blues**

Tickets

<https://thephoenixconcerttheatre.com/>