

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

# MAPLE BLUES NEWS



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Danny Marks  
Blues Awards  
Jammin the Blues  
Loose Blues News  
Top Blues  
Live Blues

**Danny Marks will host the Canadian Blues Music Awards, March 30 at the Phoenix Concert Theatre, Toronto**

# TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

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*Kenny 'Blues Boss' Wayne makes his way back to Toronto to perform at the Canadian Blues Music Awards on Monday, March 30 at the Phoenix Concert Hall. There will also be performances from Steve Marriner, Crystal Shawanda (pictured on next page), Brandon Isaak, Dana Wylie of Secondhand Dreamcar and host Danny Marks.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Thursday, March 19** TBS Jam Night with host Little Magic Sam The Only Café, 966 Danforth Ave

**Monday, March 30, 2026** Canadian Blues Music Awards with performances by Steve Marriner, Crystal Shawanda, Kenny 'Blues Boss' Wayne, Brandon Isaak, Dana Wylie of Secondhand Dreamcar and host Danny Marks. Phoenix Concert Theatre, 310 Sherbourne, Toronto

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

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# CH-CH-CHANGES

## What to expect at this year's Awards Gala at the Phoenix

There are many people asking what will the Canadian Blues Music Awards Gala look like this year?

Here's the breakdown:

The Gala will be held at The Phoenix Concert Theatre on Monday March 30, 2026 7pm start

All 17 Awards given out with 6 performances sprinkled through the night with an intermission.

This year's host will be **Danny Marks** who will also perform a song. **Steve Marriner, Crystal Shawanda, Kenny 'Blues Boss' Wayne, Brandon Isaak and Dana Wylie** (Secondhand Dreamcar) will be the feature performers who will all perform a song each.

The awards backing band 'Pass the envelope' will be run by Manny DeGrandis (MD & Bass) with Quincy Bullen (keyboards), Dave Patel (drums) and new additions Cecile Doo-Kingue (guitar) and Dan Jancar (Sax)

Blazing Kitchen will also be in the house serving up tacos during the show

There will be an After party but not our typical open jam. We will have Emerging artist nominees Glenn

Marais & The Mojo Train, Ollie Owens, JP LeBlanc, plus Secondhand Dreamcar and more to be announced perform a few songs in the main room on the big stage starting immediately after the awards.

We will be wrapping up at 11pm so everyone can venture off to other Toronto bars and catch more live music or get to bed for work the next day.

- Manny DeGrandis



Hello everyone,

I've been asked by editor Brian Blain to share the changes that were made to the Canadian Blues Music Awards.

We are pleased to say that the first year of the new system saw a great uptake, with a total of 462 submissions!

Here are the changes made:

### Canadian Blues Music Awards

We are Canada's National Blues Music Awards program, wholly independent of any society, association, organization, or other influence, to maximize the impartiality and integrity of the awards.

### CHANGES INCLUDE:

- Consideration for all awards is by submission only.
- All artist category entries must be based upon recordings.

For the 2025 awards:

- released September 1, 2023
- through September 30, 2025.

• Voting for awards is by judges only, selected from a jury panel representing 5 regions across Canada. Potential jury members must apply to ensure expertise, diversity & national representation.

• Lifetime Achievement and Industry Person awards are now nominated by qualifying blues societies, festivals, concert series, and venues & presenters, for voting by the judges.

• There is now a Fan Favourite Award, which is a public write-in vote.

• All Submissions, Applications, & Entries are entered on an online system.

To Vote for Fan Favourite

- Any Canadian person / member of the public can enter their choice.
- Free to enter your vote.

To apply to be in the Jury Pool

• Canadian blues music industry experts submit applications to be in the Jury Pool (radio, print, labels, artists, engineers, producers, promoters, academics, and venue & festival producers)

• A panel of judges is randomly selected from the Jury Pool to be geographically diverse.

- Free to apply.

For Lifetime Achievement and Industry Person Awards

• Only registered Canadian Blues Societies, and qualifying blues festivals, concert series, and venues & presenters can submit to these 2 categories

- Free to submit.

To submit to an Artist category

• Submit to the Canadian Blues Music Awards to have your music heard by a national panel of 15 Canadian blues music professionals, from various facets of the blues industry.

• All artist category entries must be based upon Canadian recordings.

For the 2025 awards:

- released September 1, 2023
- through September 30, 2025.

• including for awards for the musicians, songwriters, producers, & videos featured on those recordings.

- Submission fees apply.

Although the Canadian Blues Music Awards is a volunteer run organization, there are hard costs for the third party voting platform, which provides exceptional security. Submissions fees are applied to the annual licensing fee for this platform.

Cindy McLeod

Canadian Blues Music Awards



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# Here's.... Danny Back to the Blues

by Georgina Lynn Boucher

## “Blues has always been good to me.”

Danny Marks grew up in North Toronto. The old Beltline railway tracks ran behind his family home on Chaplin Crescent. The Toronto Beltline Railway system was a steam-driven commuter railway built in the early 1890's to connect developing suburban neighbourhoods to downtown Toronto. After its closure in 1894 the Canadian Pacific Railroad used part of the line until the 1970's. "I remember the steam engines. And I remember the first beautiful red subway cars that came off the boat from the UK and rolled down the beltline to the new Davisville Station." He also recalls hanging out in his room and listening to 45's on his brother's Seabreeze record player. Danny dreamed of having his own radio show. By sixteen his passion for music was undeniable and he gradually became part of the exploding Yorkville scene, often playing Blues with musicians five and ten years older than him. In 1966 Danny joined two local musicians, Larry Evoy and Paul Weldon eventually forming the band Edward Bear. It wasn't long before this popular Toronto trio were making a name for themselves. And not just in a small way. They were signed to Capitol Records and soon were opening for bands like Humble Pie, Badfinger, Led Zeppelin, Paul Butterfield and The Byrds. One can only imagine how exciting this experience must have been for this Blues-loving teenager.

## “You Can't Deny It”

Between 1970-72, Edward Bear changed their blues inclined rock sound for more commercial soft rock radio play. This was not the musical direction Danny Marks wanted to take. On Edward Bear's first album "Bearing" (1969), this is easily understood if you have a listen to Danny's searing, powerful guitar sound on covers of songs by Blues legends Freddie King and BB King. Or have a listen to an original song written by Danny called "You Can't Deny It" on their second album "Eclipse" (1970) What you can't deny is that this is a young man with Blues in his soul. He amicably left the band shortly before a refreshed Edward Bear had a huge pop radio hit called "Last Song" which charted #1 in Canada in 1973.

After leaving Edward Bear Danny Marks became a sought-after guitarist whose evolving eclectic style had him working with many diverse artists including Bo Diddley, Rita Coolidge, Hank Ballard, the Drifters, Ronnie Hawkins, Ken Tobias, Malcolm Tomlinson and even Tiny Tim, Johnny Bower and Mr. Dress-up! With talent and hard work, he began to build one of the most diverse and respected music careers in Canada. During this era Danny hosted and created the Stormy Monday TV series on Rogers Cable 10 which was seen across Canada and was the impetus in revitalizing jam culture in music clubs from coast to coast.

## “I'm the Man on the Radio”

From 1980-2010 Danny pursued the broadcasting career that he had hoped for as a young boy. In 1987 he joined Arthur Black and Shelagh Rogers on CBC Radio One. After Black retired in 2000, Danny moved on to Toronto's Jazz FM.91 where he created and hosted BLUZ-FM on Saturday nights, a radio show infused with Danny's deep reverence, knowledge and love of Blues. This show is soon to celebrate 25 years on air and has helped to make him one of the most recognized voices on Canadian radio. None of this, however, has kept Danny Marks from creating music, in fact it has only fueled his life time passion. Danny has continually released highly regarded albums throughout his career: **Guitarology** in 1996, **Big Town Boy** in 2004, **A Friend in the Blues** in 2007 and **Cities in Blue** in 2013. In 2006, he won Canada's prestigious **Blues with a Feeling Lifetime Award**.

## Cities in Blue

In 2013, Danny Marks was asked by HiFi TV, then a Canadian specialty channel, to create a series that traced the regional roots of Blues across America. It examined the evolution of Blues in cities like Chicago and New Orleans and in regions like the Piedmont and the Delta. As writer and host, Danny's extensive Blues knowledge and adept storytelling is the backbone to this excellent series. Sadly, it is no longer publicly available, but his companion album "Cities in Blue" is. It is an album that endures as testament to the series and to Danny's deep respect for music history.

## Blues is Truth

“If truth is what we seek

It must be what we speak”

Danny Marks

Guitarist, song writer, broadcaster, historian, educator, storyteller and Blues ambassador; Danny Marks has become “our” Danny. He is the authentic Canadian Blues

man whose life time dedication to all facets of music is unmatched today. His recent release leaves us little doubt. Following a devastating fire at his home residence, this emotional loss became a catalyst for new songwriting. In 2025 and in the spirit of the double sided 45's he listened to as a kid, he released two double sided singles, “One Way Ticket Home”/“Please Mr. Conductor” and “Man on the Radio”/“I'm Ready on the independent artist controlled Cabbagetunes Records label. These songs tell real life experiences and suggest that although challenges can be difficult they can also be rewarding. “One Way Ticket Home”, written in the aftermath of the house fire, is about resilience; its soaring chorus embraces the universal sentiment that “home is where the heart is”. In the poignant “I'm Ready” he tells us how living truthfully gives strength and how one, when ready, can turn something difficult into something triumphant.

Seeing Danny Marks perform live has always been entertaining. But hearing Danny Marks perform today is downright fun. As always, he brings his talent, his storytelling and his “man on the radio” encyclopedic knowledge of music to his performances. But now more than ever, Danny enjoys sharing his humour and his love of music with his audience. And in that moment this boy from the Toronto Beltline, this musician with Blues in his soul, this “man on the radio” shares with us what is distinctly and unapologetically Canadian.

Danny Marks will be the host of this year's Canadian Blues Music Awards Gala, to be held at the Phoenix Concert Theatre on Monday March 30<sup>th</sup>/2026. Doors open at 6pm and the show starts at 7pm. TBS members get a 20% discount. Prices range from \$40.49 to \$62.61 including all fees. Tickets may be purchased at the Toronto Blues Society website or <https://www.eventbrite.ca>

For more information about Danny Marks and to find a list of upcoming shows go to:

[www.dannym.com](http://www.dannym.com) or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/danny.marks3/>

Listen to BLUZ FM Saturday 8pm and Beyond the Fringe Tues. 11pm

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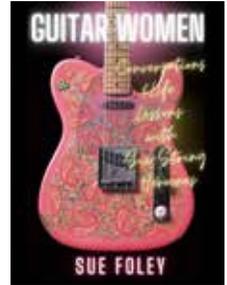
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Edmonton's *Secondhand Dreamcar* are the buzz band out west and are on their way to a national profile with a JUNO nomination and three CBMA nominations. We will get a taste of their western energy when lead vocalist Dana Wylie is featured at the gala backed up by the awards backing band, 'Pass the envelope' led by Mammy DeGrandis with Quincy Bullen, Dave Patel, Cecile Doo-Kingue and Dan Jancar. Expect some of the Dreamcar band members to be sitting in on the post-awards Nominee Jam.



**Guitar Woman and Scholar:** Sue Foley's long-anticipated book, *Guitar Women: Conversations and Life Lessons with Six String Heroines*, is coming out in May and is now available for pre-order. Sue writes, "Seeing it live on Amazon, cover and all, is surreal. This book has lived in my head, my notebooks, and my hard drive for years...Every generation carries myths about the guitar. Who gets to hold it. Who gets to define it. What it means to play it. *Guitar Women* moves past those myths through intimate conversations with women who shaped the instrument's sound and story. Part oral history, part memoir, part cultural reckoning, the book spans generations and genres, featuring artists like Bonnie Raitt, Nancy Wilson, Charo, Suzi Quatro, Joan Armatrading, and Sharon Isbin. Writing from the inside, as a touring guitarist, I approach these conversations as lived experience. What emerges is a lineage built on persistence, artistry, and devotion to the instrument, told in the artists' own words". Pre Order *Guitar Women* Book here: <https://amzn.to/4troQL6>



**Summer Festival announcements** are starting to trickle in and as we scour for blues content - even festivals that have blues in their title. Mariposa (July 3-5) has Taj Mahal, Ottawa Bluesfest (July 9-19) has Adam Karch, TJ Wheeler, Jay Blues and a healthy dose of estrogen with Grace Bowers, Nikki D and the Sisters of Thunder, Samantha Martin and Delta Sugar and an all-star Women's Blues Showcase. Australian Lloyd Spiegel plays both but not a lot of Americans - not like there used to be.

**Folk Canada Developing Artist Program:** The Developing Artist Program is designed to provide structured mentorship, performance opportunities, and valuable industry connections for new generation, emerging artists from across Canada aged 18-25. Participants will be selected by a jury of industry professionals based on artistic potential, experience, and enthusiasm for career growth. Participants learn directly through one-on-one mentorship with established artists, collaborate with their peers, sharpen industry knowledge and technical skills at workshops and master



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

- Dave Weld & the Imperial Flames *Bluesin' Through the Years* Delmark Records
- GA-20 *Orphans* Colemine Records
- Handsome Jack *Barnburners!* Naturalsound Records
- \*Cheryl Lescom & the Tucson Choir Boys *Last Call Busted Flat* Records
- Farmhand *Long Hollow Blues* independent
- Reckless and Blue *Seven Deadly Gins* independent
- \*Debra Power *Unapologetically Me* independent
- Jimmy Burns & Soul Message Band *Full Circle* Delmark Records
- \*James Buddy Rogers *Covered in Blues* independent
- Teresa James & the Rhythm Tramps *Bad at Being Good* MoMojo Records
- Duke Robillard & His All Star Band *Blast Off!* Nola Blue Records
- Ma Polaine's Great Decline *Monster Swan* OMH Records
- Charlie Barath w/ Special Guest Johnny Burgin *Issaquena Getaway* independent
- Ed Alstrom *This Idea of Humanity* Haywire
- \*Robert Connely Farr *New Land Blues* independent
- Shy Perry *Daughter of a Bluesman* independent
- \*Big Time Lew & the Screamin' Rockets *Let's Swing* Blue Coati Productions
- Billy Thompson *This World* MoMojo Records
- \*Johnny Max Band *Johnny Max & His So Called Friends* independent
- Laura Chavez *My Voice* Ruf Records (due March 20)

\* = Canadian

classes, and integrate into a welcoming community. Selected artists will be offered the opportunity to showcase at the Folk Canada Conference, in Hamilton, October 14-18, 2026. More info at <https://www.folkcanada.com/programs/professional-development>

**Guitar Show and Gear Swap:** Tundra Music is presenting its Guitar Show and Gear Swap 2026 on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Canadian Legion, 828 Legion Road in Burlington. Join players, collectors, buyers, and music lovers from across Ontario and beyond for a full day of buying, selling, trading and showcasing musical instruments of all kinds. From vintage guitars and rare amplifiers to recording equipment and classical instruments, the event welcomes gear of every make, model, and style. This is more than a show, it's a gathering of vibrant community united by a love of music and craftsmanship. Bring your gear, whether it's hiding in a closet or under your bed, for expert appraisals, trade, opportunities and discovery. Admission is \$10.00 per person. For vendor pricing and registration form please email: [matt@tundramusic.com](mailto:matt@tundramusic.com)

**Blues awards nominees:** The Blues Foundation has announced the nominees for the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Blues Music Awards to be held May 7 in Memphis. Canadian connections include Annika Chambers for Soul Blues Female Artist, Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne for Piano (Pinetop Perkins Award) and Kenny



*Brandon Isaak is nominated in five categories for the Canadian Blues Music Awards and will perform at the gala on Monday, March 30 at the Phoenix Concert Hall.*

Neal inducted to the Hall of Fame. SomeB.B. King Entertainer of the Year: Rick Estrin, Ronnie Baker Brooks, Ruthie Foster, Vanessa Collier, Mr. Sipp (Castro Coleman). Other Noms of interest include...

Album of the Year: \* Help Yourself – Blood Brothers (Mike Zito & Albert Castiglia), Young Fashioned Ways – Bobby Rush & Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Talkin' Heavy – D.K. Harrell, Heartbreak City – Larry McCray, Closer To The Bone – Tommy Castro & The Painkillers

Band of the Year: Southern Avenue,

Tedeschi Trucks Band, Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra, John Németh & The Blue Dreamers, Vanessa Collier Band.

Contemporary Blues Album: Family (Southern Avenue), Truth Is (Carolyn Wonderland), Talkin' Heavy (D.K. Harrell), Keep Living Til I Die (Monster Mike Welch), Which Way Do We Go? (Brandon Santini).

Contemporary Blues Male Artist: Chris Cain, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, D.K. Harrell, Brandon Santini, Mr. Sipp.

## LIVE MUSIC IN MARCH

### AT SLABTOWN CIDER - UXBRIDGE

March 1 - Joel Saunders 2-5pm

March 7 - Madison Mueller 2-5pm

March 8 - Caitlin O'Connor Duo 2-5pm

March 14 - Nate Douglas 2-5pm

March 15 - Lucas Stagg 2-5pm

March 21 - Kyle Wallace 2-5pm

March 22 - Kevin Foster 2-5pm

March 28 - Emily Power Duo 2-5pm

March 29 - Geneviève Cyr 2-5pm

### AT SLABTOWN ARMOURY - AURORA

March 19 - Jeff Eager 6-9pm



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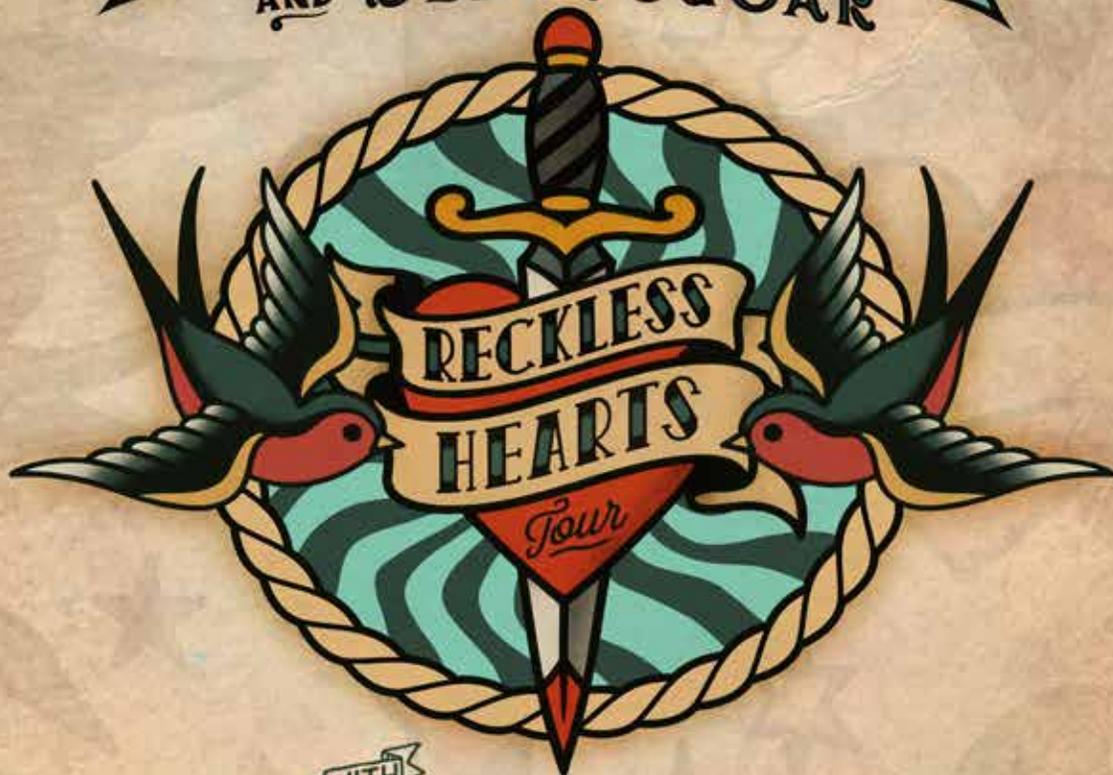
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## Guitar Talk:

# For the love or the money? (what little there is)

by Frank Cosentino

The question of whether musicians pursue their art for love or for money is a timeless one, echoing through dive bars and grand concert halls alike. It's a particularly poignant query in an era where the financial rewards for many artists seem to dwindle, making the "money, what little of it there is" a stark reality. Yet, for most, the answer isn't a simple either/or; it's a complex interplay, often weighted heavily towards an undeniable passion.

At its core, music is an act of love. It's the inexplicable urge to translate emotion into melody, to craft rhythm from silence, to tell stories through harmony. For many, this love begins in childhood, a spark ignited by a first instrument, a captivating song, or an inspiring performance. It's the tireless hours spent practicing scales, perfecting chords, and writing lyrics, often with no guarantee of an audience, let alone financial compensation. This dedication is fueled by an intrinsic joy, a profound connection to the creative process that transcends monetary value. The sheer catharsis of creation, the thrill of a perfect performance, or the bond formed with listeners over a shared musical experience are rewards that money simply cannot buy.

However, to completely dismiss the role of money would be naive. While the initial impulse may be pure love, living solely on passion is a luxury few can afford. Musicians, like all professionals, have bills to pay, families to support, and instruments to maintain. The "money, what little of it there is" becomes essential for survival, enabling the continuation of the very art form they love. For some, the pursuit of financial stability might even inspire greater creativity, pushing them to innovate, market themselves, and connect with a broader audience. It allows them to invest in better equipment, recording studios, or tour support, elevating their craft to new heights.

Moreover, the aspiration for financial success in music isn't always about greed. Often, it's about validation, recognition,

and the ability to make music a sustainable career rather than a fleeting hobby. A well-compensated artist might be able to dedicate themselves entirely to their music, free from the distractions of a day job, thus enriching the world with more of their art. For these artists, money isn't the primary driver, but a vital enabler of their artistic dreams.

Ultimately, the journey of a musician is a delicate dance between these two forces. The love for music provides the soul, the inspiration, and the unwavering drive. The money, however scarce, provides the means to keep that love alive, to share it with the

world, and to continue creating. In an ideal world, every note played for love would be met with an abundance of financial support, but until then, musicians will continue to navigate this intricate balance, forever driven by the profound, insatiable love for their art, hoping that the little money there is will be just enough to keep the music playing.

For more and everything Guitar and Blues

visit: [frankcosentino.com](http://frankcosentino.com)



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# BLUES

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- Willie Dixon

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# Blues Jams in Southern Ontario

## MONDAY

O'Grady's Toronto 9pm

The Black Swan Toronto 9:45pm  
(Acoustic)

## TUESDAY

DROM Taberna Toronto 9pm

Jazz Room Waterloo 6:30-10pm

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

La Gabbia Newmarket 7-10pm

Fionn MacCool's, Richmond Hill 7-10pm

## WEDNESDAY

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

DROM Taberna Toronto 9pm (Last  
Wednesday)

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

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

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

## THURSDAY

Nookies Oshawa

Barber Towne Pub Georgetown

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

## FRIDAY

The Black Swan Toronto 9:45pm

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

## SATURDAY

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

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

Port Credit Legion Branch 82  
Mississauga 3-7pm

## SUNDAY

Grossman's Tavern, Toronto 9 pm – 1 am

The Black Swan Toronto 9:45pm

Rockpile Toronto noon – 4pm

The Pilot Toronto 7pm (3rd Sunday)

The Black Bear Toronto 8pm

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

The Edge Ajax 6-10pm

Jethro's Peterborough every Sunday  
3-6pm

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

Malones Pint house Barrie 4pm



## The power of a JAM

by Little Magic Sam Taylor

I had been playing guitar for just a couple years when the blues bug bit me. I had been strumming on my first guitar- a Harner Slammer copy of a Fender Strat that came to me for Christmas at thirteen- and really not getting too far. I had been trying to learn songs from a Green Day songbook my older sister had given me and listening to anything passed on from my dad's record collection while trying to lift whatever I could by ear. I had just switched high schools to start my Grade 10 year when I walked into Mr. Falconer's drama class. I was a few minutes early and overly nervous about my first day at a new school. As I approached the drama room, I could hear something absolutely blaring out from inside. Mr. Falconer had Buddy Guy's "Damn Right I've Got The Blues" on the stereo. From the moment I turned to him and said, "What the #&@% is THAT?", everything changed.

Growing up in St. Thomas, ON and going to school in Aylmer, ON meant I didn't have many options when it came to seeking out other people to play with, to try my skills with, to JAM with. Fortunately, a club existed in London, the London Music Club, where a weekly blues specific jam was held. As I went down the rabbit hole of trying to listen to and find out as much about blues and blues guitar as I could, all I wanted to do was find somewhere that had a group of people who also wished to try out what they had been practicing and to discuss this music and our heroes together. It was well known amongst the musicians that this jam at the London Music Club was welcoming not just to adults, but to those underage as well as long as they brought their legal guardian. Side note- If it

wasn't for this club being so...accepting of all comers, I would never have been able to sneak in to see guys like Luke Doucet or Matt Andersen at sixteen, seventeen years old. I simply wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today without that.

The first time at a jam can be extremely nerve wracking and uncomfortable for an individual no matter their skill level, social abilities etc. depending on the type of atmosphere provided by the venue, its patrons and those involved in playing the music itself. The first few times coming out to that blues jam in London made me feel like a total fish out of water. Here were these people onstage all night who not only seemed to know each other well, they were able to improvise, adjust and play to the room. Most of them were regulars to the jam who went religiously each week. It wasn't until I stepped onstage with these strangers for the first time that I realized what I feared jumping into was actually more of a safety net than it was a pool of circling sharks. These people "got it". They understood why I was there, because they had been in my shoes several times themselves. All of them, regardless of their age, experience or their skill level. I was shown warmth, kindness, encouragement and a sense of belonging from the first note I picked, no matter if it was in tune, tasteful, or anything else. To feel accepted meant I had no reason not to give it my best shot. I was falling in love with playing blues music, and a community of Thursday night jammers- as well as the wonderful music fans who would come to watch- set me over the edge. This was now something I would end up craving non stop. Trouble brewing!

Fast forward to my move to Toronto fifteen years ago this year. I was busking, working two jobs and trying to land even one single paid gig anywhere that wasn't the street

corner of Yonge and College. I had already annoyed those security guards and outstayed my welcome by a long shot. I was tipped off about an open mic night happening weekly in the east end of Toronto at Danforth and Woodbine Ave. This open mic happened at a tiny little spot called Relish. When I first started coming out to Stir It Up Sunday (the jam night) weekly, I noticed the scene was mostly filled by singer/songwriters, folkies and those playing covers of the current top 40 hits. I had been shy as to even try to bring some blues into that intimate crowd of players and listeners, but I was determined to try. Little by little, bit by bit, I would try to work some more blues influences into the sound of my original songs I would show up with and even coerced a few of the regulars into jamming on a few blues standards. As time went on, I noticed more and more players and audience members gravitating towards the improvised, open style of blues music and the landscape of the "open mic" began to change to be more of a jam when certain parties showed up. This was where I would meet my wonderful pal Sandra Bouza. We would make up blues songs with the house band on the fly and I still don't think I've ever had so much fun in my life.

If it wasn't for the musicians, the crowd and the venue being so open and welcoming to all types of music, I'm not sure myself of a slew of others would have had the opportunity to play what we really wanted to play nor would we have met so many incredible friends and colleagues. The real magic was in listening to what each player brought to the table and finding a way to create something using all of our "colours" or "paints" so to speak. You were forced to think on your feet, to be in the moment and to trust in the music. That's the power of a JAM. Near the end of the time we had to enjoy the original Relish we came to know and love as a venue, word was getting out to anyone who didn't already know about this funky little spot in the Beaches called the Salty Dog. Everything I had heard about this place was positive and I couldn't believe I was so late to the party so to speak when it came to being aware of its brilliance. So THIS was where all the blues people were hanging out when they weren't at Grossman's! Now I knew. I was told to speak to a man with a Stratocaster named Mike Sedgewick. Gee, am I glad I did!

Mike and his partner Robin didn't mess around. That was clear from the first five minutes I spent observing how this blue jam worked. The place was absolutely packed out the door all night and the list of those wanting to play guitar, drums, bass etc. seemed endless. Somehow, Mike and Robin were able to wrangle all of this madness into a fluid, organized night where everyone seemed to leave satisfied and smiling. If you

have ever attempted to run a jam, you know just how daunting this can be to achieve! No matter how much they ran their behinds off, no matter the chaos, the volume, the egos of musicians that begged to be stroked, they ran their blues jam like a fine oiled machine because of one crucial factor- They gave a crap. You could tell how much they both loved the blues, the community, the smiles, the feeling of being happy that they could make other people happy. THIS was the way to do it, and it was inspiring through and through.

Here we are now in 2026. Mike and Robin have expanded their Friday Night Blues Jam to the Black Swan and are uniting blues fans and players week in and week out. As for me? I am thrilled to say my band and I have been operating an open blues jam at The Only Cafe (Danforth/ Donlands) for a few years now following the Covid pandemic and all the fallout it created in the live music industry. Many venues have shuttered, many jams have vanished and a lot of music lovers are finding themselves displaced when it comes to the current scene here in Toronto. The Only Cafe has been outstanding at treating the musicians they book and the patrons they serve like absolute gold as far back as I've read or heard about in my time here. Cristian, manager at The Only, was someone I met in my early days at Relish, the venue I wrote about earlier. He knows how it feels to be a local musician as well as being management on the venue side and this means he has a terrific ethic when it comes to communicating with and valuing the acts he books. When the players and the staff are happy, the audience is happy. It's as simple as that. When the Little Magic Sam Band was asked to host our own monthly blues jam, the only instructions we were given were to make sure everyone had a good time. That is something much easier said than done, but it became clear as the months progressed that these three hours we had a month to bring blues to the Only Cafe were not only looking to be a good time, they were going to be something we all looked forward to on a regular basis.

Our jam is all about blues. There's a lot of great open mics in Toronto and the GTA for songwriters, folk, country, roots artists etc but the Only Cafe made it clear to us they wanted BLUES and nothing but blues for this allotted night. We operate the night as if we were concocting a big stew of musicians who may or may not have ever met each other or played together before. If you want to come out with your friends or bandmates, you are more than welcome to do that, too. We try to organize players in a way we think will yield the most for everyone in terms of gaining experience, trying things possibly outside of their comfort zone and whichever configurations might mean a compelling and unique performance for the audience to experience. Guitar amps, a bass amp, a PA,

microphones and a piano are all available for jammers. We always try our best to assure a volume level and stage mix that allows everyone to be heard equally. After all, we feel the most important part of jamming is listening and being able to hear how one fits into the mix with their fellow players in order to best suit the song itself. If you come to our jam with open ears, and open mind and an open heart (this is BLUES after all), you should have a great time. Our goal is to provide lasting memories, useful practice, and an environment filled with positive people who want to see you shine just as much as you do yourself. We all love this music and we want to be around others who are passionate in the same way.

There sure is a limitless amount of love and passion for creating this music here in Toronto and the Only Cafe on the third Thursday each month is a great place to take it all in. You are guaranteed to make some new friends you will have for the rest of your days on this planet. Blues people are the best people. I've always said that and I always will. This life is a blessing and an embarrassment of riches. Most of us wouldn't last five minutes in an office chair. Just sayin'. Jam on, friends! A big thanks to the Toronto Blues Society for taking the time to highlight our jam and we hope to see you all on Thursday, March 19th.

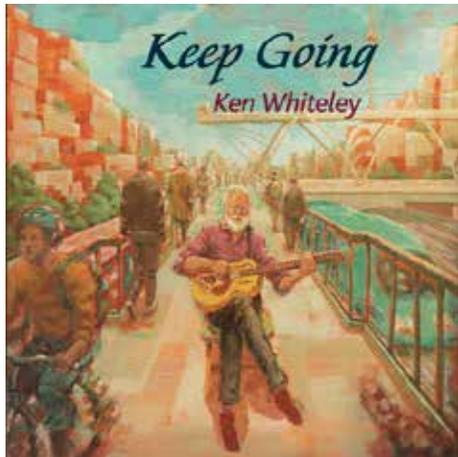
*-Little Magic Sam Taylor*

**Thursday, March 19 is TBS night at the Only Cafe blues jam. Drop by and maybe run into some old friends. There will be a membership table for anyone who wants to join or renew**

**And NEWS FLASH...there are two new blues jams kicking off on what is turning into a Blues Week-End. Glenn Marais & The Mojo Train and special guests will be performing the night before the Canadian Blues Music Awards Gala, Sunday March 29, 7pm at The Linsmore Tavern 1298 Danforth Ave. They will perform and open up the stage to CBMA nominees and guests to get up and jam though the night. This will be an exciting night of music and surprises.**

**That same night, Brian Blain is kicking off a bi-weekly residency at the iconic Rivoli, 334 Queen St W. It will be the new home of his legendary Campfire Jam which was always a part of the Maple Blues Awards and Blues Summit and a fixture at the Old Mill until COVID shut it down. It's a more casual affair - pull-up-a-chair, plug in and everybody plays together and swaps songs and stories. Michelle Josef is on drums and Brian's bass usually gets passed around. There's a spare guitar if you're travelling light. Mar 29, 7-10pm upstairs at the Riv.**

# ALBUM REVIEWS



**Ken Whiteley** *Keep Going*

You don't put out 37 albums without becoming a legend, and Ken Whiteley knows that.

In February of 2025, Whiteley slipped on some ice and broke a bone in his foot. Since he was confined to sitting for a while, he started working on writing new songs. As he put it, "...the theme of perseverance emerged." It sure did.

Whiteley came up with a time-honored prescription for himself and for all of us. *Keep Going*. That's the title of this, his 37<sup>th</sup> album. It's great advice.

The album opens with *Everybody's Got to Be Tried*. It's admirably picked on 1928 National guitar, with great harp and background vocals rounding out the sound. "How will we feel with our feet to the fire?" he sings. Good question.

The third track is *Keep Going*, where he sings

*"I'll take my rest when I'm tired  
I'm not fighting nature's laws  
When I'm done, I'll keep going,  
because this rest is just a pause..."*

He's going to get up again, without a doubt.

Whiteley leads us through a number of stalwart folk and blues tracks. He plays the old songs beautifully. He plays "Aberdeen" by Bukka (Booker) White. If you've ever seen Bukka White play this song on video or in person, you know it's a workout. It's not a song that is commonly covered. Whiteley knocks it out of the park.

He then moves on to play a song credited to Benny Goodman, but it's more of a Charlie

Christian guitar workout. Single guitar, no voice, all instrumental. It swings. In the liner notes he states that this is the only solo, non-vocal piece he's ever recorded. The playing is masterful.

Whiteley also plays an old Noah Lewis song, *Going to German*. Noah Lewis was a member of Gus Cannon's Jug Stompers, a historical Memphis jug band of some renown. The mandolin is featured. Then he goes on to do a completely re-arranged version of *Pallet on Your Floor*. It's an old song, often covered, and completely overhauled in this arrangement.

As Whiteley shows us, it's not just him, as a person, that keeps on going. It's the music. Most of these old songs are at least a century old, and some go back even further. The music keeps going, and it is sustaining and nurturing.

The final song on this recording is a co-write and a duet with Eva Goldberg. It's called *At the End of the Day*, and it's a sweet song and a fitting closer to this set.

#### Personnel:

Ken Whiteley – vocals, National resonophonic guitars, 6 string guitar, electric guitar, Hammond organ, piano, string bass, electric bass, mandolin, mandola, mandocello, harmonicas, washboard

Ciceal Levy – vocals

Gord Mowat – string bass

Bucky Berger – drums

Chris Whiteley – harmonicas, cornet

Betty Richardson – vocal (Track 8) Eve Goldberg – vocal (Track 12) Pat Patrick – vocal (Track 12) (John Mulligan)

#### **Cheryl Lescom and the Tucson Choir Boys** *Last Call*

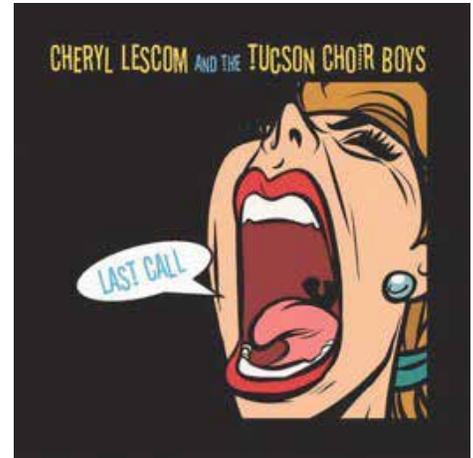
This, the newest album from Cheryl Lescom and the Tucson Choir Boys, is a rocking piece of work.

Lescom is a legend on the Canadian and international music scene. She's been singing professionally since at least 1975. She has worked with Ronnie Hawkins and with Long John Baldry, both formidable blues/rock singers in their own right. Both band leaders have heaped praise on Lescom as a singer and a bandmate. Those are good references.

This is her fifth album with the Tucson Choir Boys, and you can tell. She and the band have a comfortable fit, allowing them all to give their best. Just because they've been together a long time doesn't mean they don't push one another. They do, and you can hear it.

The songs are slices of a life, an emotional life. It's not always clear who she is singing about but it's very clear what emotions she is sharing. The songs are well written. They are both specific enough and general enough that anyone who hears the songs will be able to relate to them. The listener feels as though Lescom understands them, like the songs were written for us. And, of course, they were. That's the gift.

Let's look at the second song on the album, *Best Friend*. This is a moving song. She's singing about her best friend. It's hard to tell who her best friend is. Is it a fellow musician, as this line suggests?



*I feel you in the sunshine*

*and I see you in the moonlight*

*I get it, my friend, we've all been travelling*

*I hope you know, you are my best friend*

Later she sings:

*I'd sell my soul just to hear you knocking  
at my door*

This is a potent song, whether it's about a child who she doesn't see enough anymore, or a fellow musician who tours on a different schedule, or a lament for a lover who has, possibly, died. Or none of the above. Does it matter? The heartbreak and the longing are what matter in this song. You can feel it. You can relate to it. It reminds you of a situation in your own life.

Lescom has a throaty rock voice that she has been using her whole life. It might sound a bit rough around the edges sometimes, but it is as real as it gets. The emotions she is singing about and sharing are also real.

The Tucson Choir Boys are a tight rocking unit. They play well together and know when to support the singer and when to shine for themselves. At times they remind me of Bruce Springsteen's group, the E-Street Band, although they don't actually sound like them. It may be their mastery of dynamics that causes that similarity. There are a few songs on here that sound like Springsteen could cover them, using his own band, that would

not sound out of place on one of his albums. This speaks to the craftsmanship used to put this album together.

Lescom understands that an album is based on the life the artist is living right now. For it to work it has to be completely honest and a reflection of the lived experience. This album works. Listen to it at high volume to get the most out of it, the band rocks.

#### Cheryl Lescom–Vocals

Ray Walsh–Guitar

Dave The Cat–Guitar

Les Graham–Bass

Mike Menheere–Drums

Kristine Walsh–Washboard

All songs composed by Cheryl Lescom and Ray Walsh except *Evermore* (Dave McLean), *Best Friend* (Glenn Marais, John Shubat, Lescom, Walsh), and *Silver & Gold* (John Shubat, Lescom, Walsh). (John Mulligan)



#### **Johnny Max** *Johnny Max and his So-Called Friends* Pour Soul Records

With so many friends, it must have been a jolly time recording in the two studios where this album was recorded: Mark Lalama's "The Shed" and Jim Casson's "Pit Studio."

Time to put our friendship to the test!

The album opens with "You Can Do Better Than Him," a cheerful intro in which Johnny Max tells us that his father always challenged him with the words "You Can Do Better Than Him!" Relatable. A nice melody, easy singing, piano solo, ditto on the slide—in short, a bit of a Dr. John song with the continuous piano under the melody. Beautiful.

A spoken intro by Nan McAnaney precedes the swinging "How The Other Half Lives." A beautifully driven melody. Johnny sings: "I don't have love, I had my fun," and now it's time to discover how the other "half"

of the world lived, "How The Other Half Lived." Sung with fervor and matching background vocals, the accompaniment roars on like a rocket! Beautiful!

Apparently, "I've Said All The Sorry's I'm Gonna Say" isn't enough, because it doesn't impress her enough to dissuade her from the idea that their relationship "comes to an end." Sad stuff, which can't be said of the song itself, as it has a great melody, deep, old-fashioned guitar playing, excellent drums and bass. Beautiful, high-pitched background vocals. Beautiful.

"Might As Well Be On Mars" was written by Neil Chapman and Graeme Williamson and released as such as a track by the Pukka Orchestra, of which both were members. Johnny was eager to include the song on his album and even found Neil willing to take on the guitar! A nice, "sawing" track with lots of keyboards. Johnny imagines a life sitting in his penthouse, reading the New York Times, so that he feels like his life is "Might As Well Be On Mars" where only the stars have any meaning... A delusion that seems to afflict more and more people who think their fat bank account is solely their own doing... Oh well... what goes up must come down! Always! And in advance: Get well soon and put on some good music. That helps. Always!

A nice, cynical track with some great guitar riffs!

Long awaited, but here's Jay Burr on his tuba in a true tuba melody, subtly accompanied by an acoustic guitar. That's "I've Never Met A Bridge." Another delightfully cynical piece about social life with colleagues you work with who will never be your friends, family members you'd rather not talk about, and other such "joy-enhancing" relationships. Absolutely beautiful!

A lovely, slow melody, introduced by Dave Dunlop's delightful trumpet playing, gives Johnny the opportunity to muse about "These Are The Things That Make Me Think Of You." Wonderfully relaxing. Fantastic! Dave Dunlop isn't mentioned in the bio, but he certainly belongs there, especially with such fine trumpet playing!

There are such combinations... Memphis Women & Fried Chicken. Johnny is hungry for love, but also for fried chicken, and according to Johnny, you're guaranteed to find that with Memphis Women! Sung with great gusto and plenty of backing vocals, this Dan Penn song has been on the JMB setlist for decades but never made it onto an album. Until now, and rightly so.

Tight drums, percussion, bass, and guitars kick off the funky Kiss From Joanne. More connections to New Orleans, or rather, Dr. John... And as sociable as this song truly is, Johnny only wants one thing: A Kiss From Joanne. Top-notch, a bit of Iko Iko and some

fine guitar playing accompanied by subtle keyboards. Nicely varied, too!

What starts as discrimination is leveled by Johnny. What's good for one is also good for the other. What's Good For The Goose Is Good For The Gander! A lovely piano boogie with rattling "bee" sounds. Nicely driving, with a starring role for Bill Evans! Fantastic!

A bit faster, on keyboards with group vocals, creating a true gospel sound, complete with "Oooh" by one of the singers. When You Love Somebody. With a fitting keyboard solo, accompanied by female vocals. I say it often, but try sitting still for this! It's impossible! Fantastic!

In times of need... Johnny sings in "Be Good To Yourself" that "You can count on me when it's a friend you need." A song attributed in the bio to Frankie Miller, who did have a hit with it in 1977, but the song was actually written by Andy Fraser in 1975, although other sources state that Andy co-wrote it with Frankie.

For the younger visitors of Bluestownmusic, Andy Fraser was a bassist and, at the age of 15, formed The Free with singer Paul Rodgers, guitarist Paul Kossoff, and drummer Simon Kirke. They are known not only for "All Right Now" (with a more prominent bass part in later versions), but also for songs like "Mr. Big," "Oh I Wept," "Heavy Load," "The Hunter," and many more! Recommended for your listening pleasure! Wonderful BLUES music!

But... back to Johnny Max and his so-called friends with *Be Good To Yourself*, in which he guarantees to be there when "a friend" is needed. But at the same time, "Be good to yourself every day and every night!" because Graham Nash already sang the wise words in *Wounded Bird* on his iconic first solo album, *Songs For Beginners*: "In the end, remember it's with you you have to live." This album is also highly recommended! I played it a lot during my military service, along with *Déjà Vu* by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, and came home with the necessary grains of sand between the grooves... In the case of *Be Good To Yourself* by Johnny Max, we have a nice, pounding, continuous song, the lyrical content of which will now be clear after my extensive explanation above.

Ever heard Paul Newman sing in a movie? A bit coyly, but still. In the film *Cool Hand Luke*, Paul sings "Plastic Jesus." The melody is the same as Woodie Guthrie's "Oklahoma Hills," and the 1967 film itself depicts Paul Newman/ *Cool Hand Luke* in prison after vandalizing some parking meters. During his sentence, his mother dies, and the warden refuses to let Luke attend the funeral, fearing he'll escape. Ultimately, Luke does, and does so several times, ending up in a church for the last time, where he complains to "God" about his life. And that song that Paul Newman sings, *Plastic*

Jesus, is supposed to be a parody because that Plastic Jesus is a plastic Jesus figure on the dashboard of his car... Sung very basically by Johnny and accompanied only by a simple guitar, everything comes together in this very short song: Johnny Max's favorite movie, the song in the movie sung by Paul Newman, the original melody by, how could it be otherwise, Woodie Guthrie, and the fact that Johnny Max, his Band, and the so-called friends close the album with it. Could it be better?!

A special album, that's what it is. Because without high-flown hits, this album has no weak spots! When do you hear something like this?! Everything just fits: beautiful stories, meaningful lyrics, excellent music, great solos, and actually a very personal album from Johnny Max! Absolutely beautiful. So beautiful, in fact, that I've happily taken the liberty of occasionally (...) digressing to "others" who, however, have more than apparent similarities with the wonderful music on this album and are therefore worth mentioning, even though it's obviously Johnny Max, his band, and their so-called friends. And by digressing to The Free and Graham Nash or even Dr. John, I just want to emphasize how wonderful this album is!

Absolutely recommended, with 12 out of 12 as favorites! (Gerard Haarhuis, *Bluestown Music NL*)



**Mike Finnigan** *Mike Finnigan* Forty Below Records.

I first heard of Michael Finnigan when I worked in a record store, and he put out *Crazed Hipsters* as part of Finnigan and Wood. I was especially enamored of their take on the Dylan tune *Down in The Flood*. By this time he had already appeared on Electric Ladyland with Jimi Hendrix. He played organ on the song *Rainy Day, Dream Away* and its reprise, *Still Raining, Still Dreaming*.

Finnigan went on to enjoy a long career working with the greats. He spent 40 years working with CSNY, Bonnie Raitt, Etta James, Taj Mahal and a long list of others. Stephen Stills calls him his "sidekick and best friend." So, you know, the guy is talented. I've seen him in concert playing with the Bonnie Raitt band. His playing was solid all night and his spotlight numbers were a nice change of pace in the show. He's well-known as a great sideman.

The first song here is *20 Years of B.B. King*, written by Curtis Salgado and Dave Duncan. It tells about a woman who taught the singer more about the blues in two weeks than B.B. King could in 20 years. Joe Bonamassa plays hot blues guitar. Bonamassa knows his business, and so does Finnigan. The vocals are masterful. Written like a novelty song, dropping lines from well-known B.B. King songs, these blues hounds suffer through it like it's all real. Killer performances all around.

They move on to *My Credit Didn't Go Through*, a list of familiar blues woes. A Chairmen of the Board song from 1973, it was popularized by Freddie King. The horns and organ power the whole thing. Finnigan's ability to arrange a performance stands him in good stead here. It reminds me of his tenure in Taj Mahal's Phantom Blues Band.

*Don't Answer the Door* and *I'm a Fool For You* are familiar blues-soul songs that Finnigan and the band are comfortable with, and they put the songs across like pros. Finnigan as a vocalist is full of bluster, but he knows what he is doing and he pulls it off. Special commendation goes to the horn section on *Fool*.

*The Way You Do the Things You Do* features Smokey Robinson and a good supporting vocal group. The song may be overly familiar, and Robinson's vocal takes front and center. Unfortunately, Smokey is not the singer he was in years gone by and the song suffers a little.

The next couple of songs move us back into late-night blues territory and this is where Finnigan excels. Finnigan and friends tear into them and do them justice.

The eighth song on this album is a cover of Little Feat's *All That You Dream*, featuring, in this case, Stephen Stills and his son Chris Stills. Stephen Stills is a consummate arranger. The singing on this one reminds me that Stills actually arranged the Crosby-Stills-Nash harmonies on the CSN records. It certainly shows here. The vocals jump out at you with energy and commitment. The song sounds fresh and alive and exciting.

The next two songs are *Lay Around and Love on You* and *Let That Liar Alone*. *Lay Around* is a Ray Charles song, but the definitive version is actually a Delbert McClinton record. Finnigan mixes both versions to pleasant effect. *Liar* is a Staple

Singers song written by Roebuck "Pops" Staples. Finnigan and friends make it into a dance floor workout without worrying too much about the meaning.

The final song in this set is *Sing Me Back Home*, a Merle Haggard gem about a man taking his final walk on death row. This is a strong song, and Finnigan does it justice. It's a moving and worthy wrap-up to this album of covers by a man who spent his whole life in music.

Mike Finnigan died from liver cancer on August 11, 2021. The album was completed posthumously, with participation from his close friends and collaborators. This album stands as a tribute to the man, his music and his life's work. The album is titled *Mike Finnigan*. The release date is March 20, 2026, from Forty Below Records. (John Mulligan)

## MEET THE NEW BOARD



**ROB QUAIL**

Rob has played clubs and festivals, primarily in the GTA, since 1979. An inaugural member of the Jeff Healey Band, he has played pretty much every blues club that has existed in Toronto since the early 1980s. Since 2016, Rob has been one of the revolving hosts of Toronto's longest running blues jam, at Crossman's Tavern.

In his other life, Rob worked for Ontario Hydro and Hydro One for 28 years, including periods in Internal Audit and Risk Management, and as Vice President of Customer Care.

Since 2016 he has run an independent consulting business in the area of Enterprise Risk Management, advising senior executives and Board in many sectors including non-profit, healthcare, financial services, energy, agriculture, retail, and government/regulators. Rob is also Program Director of a Master's Certificate program at York University's Schulich School of Business, and co-editor of a Wiley-published business textbook on Risk Management.

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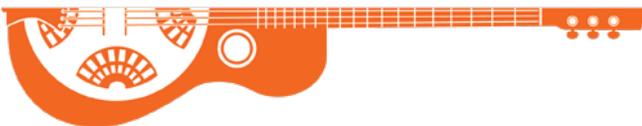
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**Sunday, March 1**

**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

**The Blues Era's** 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315, One time only! Tony D, Suzie Vinnick, Toney 'Wild TV' Springer and Jack Dekeyzer backed by the Blues Eras Band - Steve Marriner, Jesse O'Brien and Gary Craig., \$50

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

**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 2:00pm - 4:30pm, weekly guests, reservations recommended: 905-892-0782

**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, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416 551-8057, Blues jam hosted by Junction City All-Stars, PWYC

**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

**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

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

**Monday, March 2**

**Thomas Nelson Band** 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Spirit In Niagara Distillery, 458 Lakeshore Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake

**Jazz Up The Winter Blues (Steve Strongman, Suzie McNeil, Harrison Kennedy, Jack De Keyzer, Spencer Mackenzie, Dave Tabone)** 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Ancaster Mill, 548 Old

Dundas Rd, Ancaster, Fundraiser for Good Shepherd

**Julian Fauth and James Thomson** 9:15 pm to 11:00 pm, Emmet Ray, 924 College St., Toronto, 416-792-4497

**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

**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

**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, 4164612655, No Cover

**Dan Thomas & Greg Brisco - Delta Hamilton Blues Night** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, East End Social Bar & Grill, 1342 Main St E, Hamilton, 289-389-6992

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

**Ndidi O** 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Hugh's Room Live, 296 Broadview, Toronto

Ticket info: <https://hughsroomlive.com/event-details/?slug=ndidi-o>, \$35

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

**Melvin Davis** 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Local Pub, 396 Roncesvalles, Toronto, (416) 535-6225

**Thursday, March 5**

**Rob Lutes & The Stories Behind the Music Workshop** 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Blues at the Cove - The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636, \$15

**Alfie Smith** 7:00 pm, Turtle Jack's (Waterdown), 255 Dundas St E, Waterdown, (905) 690-1787



**Tano Jones Revelry** 7:30 pm, Rivoli, 334 Queen St W, Toronto  
**Thuds (Paige Armstrong, Nicole Cerminera, Mark Rogers, Myles Rogers)** 8:00 pm, Local. (Niagara Falls), 5984 Main St, Niagara Falls

#### Friday, March 6

**Daley / Miczek / Cross** 5:30 pm, Castro's Lounge, 2116 Queen St E, Toronto, (416) 699-8272  
**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 District, 43 Tankhouse Ln, Toronto, The Jay Blues Trio continue their monthly residency at the comfy and cozy Old Flame Brewery, PWYC  
**The Maple Blues Revue feat: The Maple Blues Band w/ Jay Douglas, Quisha Wint** 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Westdale Theatre (Hamilton), 1014 King Street West, Hamilton, 905-577-0074 Ticket info: <https://www.thewestdale.ca/event/maple-blues-revue-with-jay-douglas-and-quisha-wint/>, \$44.75  
**Tonewheels** 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$15  
**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, 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  
**Dave Murphy Band** 2:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754  
**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, 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

**Jay Bleu 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 & DaGroovmas-ters** 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  
**Paul Reddick** 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655  
**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  
**Dirty Sweet** 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000, come groove with us.... Blues, Rock n Roll, RnB  
**Jesse Karwat & The Coin Collection Manny DeGrandis & Blake Manning** 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Function Bar, 2291 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, 416-440-4007

#### Sunday, March 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 Raoul Bhaneja & Jesse Whiteley** 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  
**New Orleans Connection All Star Jazz Band** 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000  
**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, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416 551-8057, Blues jam hosted by Junction City All-Stars, PWYC  
**Chuck Jackson** 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

**The Gary Kendall Trio feat: Tyler Burgess & Teddy Leonard** 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St W., Toronto, VThree Cool Cats®, PWYC  
**Sunday Night Blues Jam** 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000  
**Rae Melvin Band – Sunday Night Jam** 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

#### Monday, March 9

**Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmas-ters** 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Valley Park Library, 970 Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek, 289-779-7588, Celebrate Int'l Women's Day w Garnetta Cromwell, Free  
**Mike Sedgewick – Acoustic Jam Mondays** 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

#### Tuesday, March 10

**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  
**Steve Marriner (SOLD OUT)** 7:45 pm, Tasting Lounge at Northumberland Fine Food, 39 Richardson Street, Brighton  
**Quality Building Supplies** 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

#### Wednesday, March 11

**Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards** 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, The Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, 4164612655, No Cover  
**Trini Blue & The Distractions** 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm, Rockpile, 5555a Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416-464-7614  
**Steve Marriner – 'Just Me' Tour** 7:00 pm, Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St. E, Toronto  
**Dan Thomas & Greg Brisco – Delta Hamilton Blues Night** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, East End Social Bar & Grill, 1342 Main St E, Hamilton, 289-389-6992  
**Ragwax** 7:30 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754  
**Action Sound Band** 9:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000  
**Meredith Moon** 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

#### Thursday, March 12

**THE RAMBLE SERIES with Kevin Breit** 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655

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

#### Friday, March 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  
**Chuck Jackson and Tyler Yarema** 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Mrs. Mitchell's Restaurant, 887395 Mono-Mulmur Townline, Mulmur, (519) 925-3627, Dinner + Concert Series, \$90  
**Rosie's Smokehouse Deluxe** 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, Reservations 905.844.2655 Ticket info: <https://www.themoonshinecafe.com/>, \$15.00  
**Jesse Karwat & Manny DeGrandis** 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, The George Whiskey Lounge, 238 Main St S., Newmarket, (905) 235-1050  
**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, March 14

**Blues & Roots Matinee w/The Coachmen and Dylan Wickens** 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  
**Mike Branton & Friends** 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655  
**The Swingin' Blackjacks** 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, SomePlace Else Bar and Grill (St Catharines), 49 Scott St W, St Catharines, 905-688-1340  
**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  
**Tyler Wilson** 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Two Doors Down (Brantford), 139 Market St, Brantford, 519-802-5250  
**The Happy Pals** 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Grossman's Tavern, 377 Spadina Ave., Toronto, (416) 977-7000  
**Junction City All-Stars** 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Inter Steer Tavern, 357 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto, 416-588-8054

**Kenny Wayne Shepherd, w/Jimmie Vaughan** 8:00 pm, OLG Stage at Fallsview Casino Resort, 6366 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls, Ledbetter Heights 30th Anniversary Tour Ticket info: <https://www.ticketmaster.ca/kenny-wayne-shepherd-ledbetter-heights-30th-niagara-falls-ontario-03-14-2026/> event/10006338BB0B6001, Ticket-master

**Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmasters** 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655 Ticket info: <https://www.themoonshinecafe.com/>, \$15.00

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

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

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

**Krista Blondin** 9:30 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

**Ginger St. James** 10:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

### Sunday, March 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 Wendell Ferguson and Steve Goldberg** 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Iggy's Pub & Grub, 115 Hwy 20 E., Fonthill, 905-892-6667, reservations: 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

**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, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416 551-8057, Blues jam hosted by Junction City All-Stars, PWYC  
**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

**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 Bleu** 10:00 pm, Handlebar, 159 Augusta Avenue, Toronto, (647) 748-7433

### Monday, March 16

**Thomas Nelson Band** 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Spirit In Niagara Distillery, 458 Lakeshore Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake

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

### Tuesday, March 17

**Mardi Gras Hosted by Red Hot Ramble & Swamperella** 6:00 pm, Drom Taberna, 458 Queen St. W, Toronto

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

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

### Wednesday, March 18

**Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards** 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, The Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, 4164612655, No Cover  
**Dan Thomas & Greg Brisco – Delta Hamilton Blues Night** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, East End Social Bar & Grill, 1342 Main St E, Hamilton, 289-389-6992

**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  
**Jessie Whiteley Trio with Nicholas Campbell, Matt Greco** 9:00 pm, Local Pub, 396 Roncesvalles, Toronto, (416) 535-6225

**Meredith Moon** 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto  
**Ken Yoshioka & Julian Fauth** 11:00 pm, Drom Taberna, 458 Queen St. W, Toronto

### Thursday, March 19

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

**Little Magic Sam Open Jam night** 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Only Café, 966 Danforth Ave., Toronto, 416-463-3249

**Dave Murphy Band** 7:00 pm, Timothy's Pub, 344 Browns Line, Etobicoke, 416-201-9515

**Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards** 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto, No Cover Charge

### Friday, March 20

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

**Crystal Shawanda Band** 6:00 pm, Blues at the Cove – The Cove Inn, 2 Bedford St, Westport, (613) 273-3636

**Garret T. Willie** 7:00 pm, Sonic Hall (Guelph), 12 Wyndham St

**Mike Stern Band** 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, AEG Lieberr Auditorium (Oakville), 130 Navy Street, Oakville, 905-815-2021 Ticket info: <https://www.oakvillecentre.ca/whats-on/upcoming-events/mike-stern/>, \$85

**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

**Gary Cain Band** 9:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130

**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

**Glenn Marais & The Mojo Train** 9:30 pm, Function Bar, 2291 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, 416-440-4007

**The Johnny Max Band** 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto, The Johnny Max Band play songs from their new album plus some fan favs, \$20

### Saturday, March 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, 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

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

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

**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

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

**Lily Sazz** 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, NeuLokal, 3047 Dundas Street West, Toronto, 647-834-6363, w/Rob Lamothe. Tickets available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lily-sazz-at-neu-lokal-tickets-1983>, \$20.00



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## 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](mailto:tbs.listings@gmail.com)

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

**Garret T. Willie** 7:00 pm, Baby G, 1608 Dundas St W, Toronto

**The Johnny Max Band w special Guest Chuck Jackson** 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm, The Gibson Centre, 63 Tupper Street West, Alliston, 705-435-2828, \$40.00

**Easy Street Blues Band** 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Gingerman Social Corner (Oakville), 416 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-849-9898

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

## Sunday, March 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

**Jimmy's Juke Joint w/ host Jim Casson, guests The Johnny Max Band** 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

**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 Swingin' Blackjacks** 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Smokeshow BBQ and Brew, 744 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, 416-901-7469, Hi-Octane Rockabilly & Roadhouse Blues!!, \$15.00

**The Sunday Junction Jam** 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416 551-8057, Blues jam hosted by Junction City All-Stars, PWYC

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

**Fraser Melvin Band** 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St W., Toronto

**Garret T. Willie** 7:00 pm, Mills Hardware (Hamilton), 95 King St E., Hamilton Ticket info: <https://www.tixr.com/groups/sonicunyon/events/garret-t-willie-167335>

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

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

**Chloé Watkinson and the Back Street Men: Brief History of Music** 8:00 pm, Emmet Ray, 924 College St., Toronto, 416-792-4497

**The Tonewheels (Matt Weidinger, Chris Latta, Mike Rajna)** 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Busholme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315, PWYC

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

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

## Monday, March 23

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

## Tuesday, March 24

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

**Tyler Yarema** 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Roc'n Docs, 105 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, (905) 891-1754

**Colin Linden** 8:00 pm, Warehouse Concert Hall, 11 Geneva St, St Catharines, 289-214-7684

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

## Wednesday, March 25

**Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards** 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, The Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, 4164612655, No Cover

**Dan Thomas & Greg Brisco – Delta Hamilton Blues Night** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, East End Social, 1342 Main St E, Hamilton, 289-389-6992

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

**Little Magic Sam Band** 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Rivoli (upstairs), 332 Queen Street W, Toronto

**Meredith Moon** 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

**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, March 26

**Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne** 8:00 pm, Moonshine Cafe, 568 Kerr St, Oakville, 905-844-2655, \$20

**Trombone Charlotte** 8:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto

## Friday, March 27

**The Wanted** 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

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

**Suzie Vinnick – Sit Down Series** 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Monte's at Tir Nan Og, 200 Ontario St, Kingston

**The Organ Summit – v1.0: Two Hammonds (Lance Anderson, Matt Weidinger, Lou Pomanti)** 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St. E, Toronto, This is a rare chance to see the organ masters live on one stage, with two hammonds.

Join Lance, Matt, and Lou with special guests.

**The Johnny Max Band with The Swinging Blackjacks** 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Simcoe Street Theatre, 65 Simcoe St., Collingwood, Some Blues & Rockabilly with The Johnny Max Band & The Swinging Blackjacks, \$40.00

**Tyler Wilson** 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Sassy Britches (Brantford), Brantford **Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmasters** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Shawn & Ed Brewing Co., 65 Hatt St., Dundas, (289) 238-9979

**JUNOfest Presented by CBC: Garnetta Cromwell & DaGroovmasters, Steve Strongman, Miss Emily, and Steve Marriner** 8:00 pm, Mills Hardware (Hamilton), 95 King St E., Hamilton

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

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

## Saturday, March 28

**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

**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

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

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

**Blackburn Brings the Blues** 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Loft 1020 (Port Elgin), 1020 Goderich Street, Port Elgin, 226-256-7751, \$40

**Barbara Lynch** 8:00 pm, Sellers and Newel Bookstore, 672 College St, Toronto, 647-778-6345

# Concerts of Note

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

**Canadian Blues Music Awards Gala w/Kenny 'Blues Boss' Wayne, Steve Marriner, Crystal Shawanda, Brandon Isaak, Dana Wylie of Secondhand Dreamcar and host Danny Marks | Phoenix Concert Theatre | Toronto | March 30**

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

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

**Sue Foley | El Mocambo | Toronto | April 10**

**The Black Keys | OLG Stage at Fallsview Casino Resort | Niagara Falls | May 8**

**Buddy Guy | Massey Hall | Toronto | July 15**

**Bonnie Raitt | FirstOntario Concert Hall (Hamilton) | Hamilton | August 12**

**Bonnie Raitt | Massey Hall | Toronto | August 15**

**Junction City All-Stars** 8:00 pm to 11:30 pm, My House in The Junction, 2882 Dundas St W, Toronto, \$10  
**Paul James Band** 8:00 pm, Bush-olme Inn, 156 Main St, Erin, 519-315-0315

**The Maple Blues Revue feat: The Maple Blues Band w/ Jay Douglas, Samantha Martin, Suzie Vinnick** 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Market Hall (Peterborough), 140 Charlotte St, Peterborough, Ticket info: <https://tickets.markethall.org/eventperformances.asp?evt=523>, \$60.00  
**clean|breaks** 8:30 pm to 11:00 pm, Emmet Ray, 924 College St., Toronto, 416-792-4497, Tight grooves. Sharp breaks. Instrumental funk-rock. Monthly residency w/special guest vocalists!, \$15  
**Danny B** 9:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington St. E, Toronto, 416-955-0887

### Sunday, March 29

**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 Chris Chambers & Rich Moore** 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

**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, The Cat Pub & Eatery, 3513 Dundas Street West, Toronto, 416 551-8057, Blues jam hosted by Junction City All-Stars, PWYC

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

**Paige Armstrong Band w/Mark Rogers and John Irvine** 6:30 pm, Irish Harp Pub (NOTL), 245 King St, Niagara-on-the-Lake, (905) 468-4443

**Glenn Marais & The Mojo Train & Guests** 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Linsmore Tavern, 1298 Danforth Ave, Toronto, 416-466-5130  
**Brian Blain's Campfire Jam** 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Rivoli (upstairs), 332 Queen Street W, Toronto, (hel's baaaack!), No Cover  
**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, March 30

**Thomas Nelson Band** 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Spirit In Niagara Distillery, 458 Lakeshore Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
**Canadian Blues Music Awards Gala w/Kenny 'Blues Boss' Wayne, Steve Marriner, Crystal Shawanda, Brandon Isaak, Dana Wylie of Secondhand Dreamcar and host Danny Marks** 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne St, Toronto Ticket info: <https://www.ticketweb.ca/>  
**Steve Marriner's Local Electric** 8:00 pm, Sauce on Danforth, 1376 Danforth Ave., Toronto  
**Mike Sedgewick – Acoustic Jam Mondays** 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth, Toronto

### Tuesday, March 31

**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

**Sandra Bouza** 7:30 pm, Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre, Wilson St. E, Ancaster, Sisters in Song Series  
**Quality Building Supplies** 9:00 pm, Cameron House, 408 Queen St W, Toronto

### Wednesday, April 1

**Rob Hiemstra and Chairmen of the Boards** 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, The Epochal Imp, 123 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, 4164612655, No Cover

**Dan Thomas & Greg Brisco – Delta Hamilton Blues Night** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, East End Social Bar & Grill, 1342 Main St E, Hamilton, 289-389-6992

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

### Thursday, April 2

**George Thorogood & The Destroyers** 7:00 pm, FirstOntario Concert Hall (Hamilton), 1 Summers Lane, Hamilton, 905-546-3100 Ticket info: <https://www.ticketmaster.ca/george-thorogood-the-destroyers-the-baddest-hamilton-ontario-04-02-2026/event/1000634F0AAB9FF7>, Ticketmaster  
**Steve Marriner, Jesse O'Brien, David Gogo, Gary Craig and John Dymond** 8:00 pm, Brantford Polish Hall, 154 Pearl St, Brantford, (519) 753-0414, <https://ticketscene.ca/events/58080/>, \$25

**The Hogtown Allstars** 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Redwood Theatre, 1300 Gerrard St. E, Toronto, 2nd Annual Bad Thursday Ticket info: <https://www.theredwoodtheatre.com>, \$40.00

### Friday, April 3

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

**Chuck Jackson and Tyler Yarema** 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Mrs. Mitchell's Restaurant, 887395 Mono-Mulmur Townline, Mulmur, (519) 925-3627, Dinner + Concert Series, \$90

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

**George Thorogood & The Destroyers** 9:00 pm, Casino Rama, 5899 Rama Rd., Orillia Ticket info: <https://www.ticketmaster.ca/george-thorogood-the-destroyers-the-baddest-rama-ontario-04-03-2026/event/10006366792A4958>, Ticketmaster

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



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## The Toronto Blues Society Cultural Statement

The Toronto Blues Society wishes to acknowledge and thank the first creators of the blues who gave us all this beautiful music that we enjoy today. African American musicians, singers, and songwriters created and used this music to sustain them through pain and hardship throughout their quest for freedom and equal rights.

## The Toronto Blues Society is a Registered Charity

Make a donation beyond membership and merchandise, and get your charitable tax receipt in time for this year! (Charitable # 87487 7509 RR0001). You will be helping to support events like the annual Women's Blues Revue, The Blues in the Schools program, numerous workshops and career development activities for the musician community as well as the Maple Blues Awards and the Blues Summit conference, the most important blues industry gathering in Canada that occurs every other year. Networking events within this conference allow for industry discussion alongside artist discovery through the showcase program.

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### 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)

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### CKRL 89.1 (Quebec City)

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### CKUT FM 90.3 (Montreal)

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

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### CBC Radio (National)

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Saturday at 6:05pm + online at CBC Music



### JAZZ-FM 91.1 (Toronto)

*Bluz FM*, w/ **Danny Marks**

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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](https://www.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**

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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**

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