

Toronto Blues Society MAPLEBLUES

TBS is a non profit organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the Blues



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Treasa Levasseur will be a featured performer at this year's TBS Women's Blues Revue, November 26 at Massey Hall

Women's Blues Revue
Talent Search Winner
Lonnie Johnson in TO

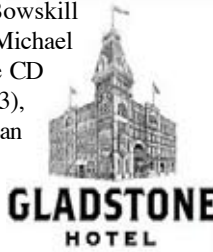
John's Blues Picks
Event Listings
& more

CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #40011871

Upcoming TBS Events



Robin Banks and Teddy Leonard play the Gladstone Melody Bar on September 22 (note that this is not a first Thurs). There will be no cover charge and the performance will begin at 8pm. TBS First Thursdays resume with Jimmy Bowskill solo (Oct 6), Michael Jerome Browne CD Release (Nov 3), and Doc MacLean (Dec 1)



Blues in the Garden



This annual event will take place on Sun Sept 18, 3pm-6pm in the Artscape garden beside the TBS office at the north west corner of Crawford and Queen. Part of the Queen West Art Crawl, the event will feature a live performance by **Richard Henderson** (pictured), and a display of Women's Blues Revue artwork. Food and beverages will be sold



TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY

910 Queen St. W. Ste. B04
Toronto, Canada M6J 1G6
Tel. (416) 538-3885
Toll-free 1-866-871-9457

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

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For rates & specs call 416-645-0295

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CKLN on the move: Although no longer on the fm dial, nor housed at Ryerson University, the blues lives on at CKLN.FM. "We've always been on the internet as well, so now we carry on that long history and following as an internet radio station" states Blues Doctor Julie Hill, producer & host of Blue Remedy on Wednesday nights, 8 to 10 pm. "CKLN is also available on all mobile devices via the Tune In Radio app, tunein.com, so you can listen on your smart phone, or tablet computer, as well. Additionally, all shows will soon be available as podcasts, so you can either listen live to the streaming, or download to listen to a show any time at your convenience. Later this year, CKLN will also be part of the Rogers station broadcasting to 10,000 homes in Regent Park in downtown Toronto. The station has just moved to the broadcast studios in the new Regent Park Youth Media Arts Centre, where youth learn radio, video, photography, writing, and other media - you'll see more CKLN radio shows video'd & you-tubed, which I look forward to for special guest interviewees and live performers."

cont'd on page 8



*Congrats to **Bradley Boy MacArthur**, winner of this year's TBS Talent Search. He will be receiving a professional development package that includes showcase opportunities at the Blues Summit Six, the South Side Shuffle Festival and the Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival, a photo shoot with Bill King, a performance at The Delta Chelsea Hotel Monarchs Pub, and mentor sessions with industry professionals. The finals were held August 18th at Nathan Phillips Square, and featured performances by six acts including Richard Henderson (second place), The Fraser Melvin Blues Band (third place), Nicole Christian, The Distillery, and Ken Yoshioka. Bradleyboy Mac Arthur has recently signed with Awesome Music/EMI and his latest recording "Salt Gun" is available now.*



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Remembering Fraser Finlayson

On Friday, Aug.12/11, the Canadian blues community lost one of it's early pioneers with the death of harmonica player/vocalist Fraser Finlayson. Fraser hit his stride in the 70's with bands like The Knights of The Mystic Sea and Cueball. A few of his many musical friends have expressed in words what his passing meant to them and the blues world at large.....

Sad news to hear of an old band mate passing - Fraser and I shared the front man duties in the Knights of the Mystic Sea - and because of the disparity in our heights, I jokingly called us as the "Mutt and Jeff Blues Band". Fraser had a very dry sense of humour and a sharp wit - we shared a lot of laughs on the road. When I think of Fraser a bunch of images come to mind.....going to 505 Queen St. after Toronto gigs and watching Fraser teach Dan Ackroyd some harmonica licks.....trying to crack each other up on stage through our attempts to do impressions of our blues heroes, with Fraser imitating Bobby Bland....and a late night at the Ottawa House in Hull with a bottle of "Alcool" (white lightning that the LCBO used to sell) and no mixer, observing Fraser pulverizing Danny Haugh's oranges into a glass to make juice for a cocktail. Fraser loved the blues and was a passionate player...he will be missed. **Morgan Davis**

"Fraser was a founding father of blues harmonica in Canada and we were all grateful when he came out of "retirement" a few years ago to sit in at our Little Walter Tribute at The Silver Dollar. He knew a lot about the music and blew some killer harp at the show. I could tell that he really had the soul of an artist and he took pride in creating music and playing in a style that was both original and groovin'. I'll miss our chats about art, showbiz and Little Walter." **Raoul Bhaneja**

Fraser was a close loyal friend and musical collaborator for over 35 years. His projects were always fun but he demanded perfection in the finished product. Fraser

had a knack for finding obscure songs and reworking them to suit his style. He was unselfish in sharing his good taste and knowledge of the R&B and Blues repertoire and steered me in directions I would not otherwise have gone. His big sound on harp and vocals reflected both his physical stature and his irreverent sense of humor and sense

were changing, the new ways of recording, new ideas on how to promote music and who the new players were. In recent years, Fraser kept a low profile in the music business, enjoying a private life with Diane Roblin, his wife of 36 happy years, but in my eyes he was still very much on the inside. Knowing that Fraser is gone is a tremendous loss for

me to deal with but there are many great memories and lots to smile about when I think of him. **Gary Kendall**

Fraser, aka Big Daddy, King Quaser, Flip etc. An inspiration to me musically because of his Harmonica talents and incredible knowledge of R&B, blues, funk, etc. He always seemed ahead of his time artistically and was looking to constantly forge into new territories. Our mutual passion for music and the visual arts led to hours of discussion and appreciation. They broke the mould when they created "The Tall Cool One". His sense of humor was legendary. You will always keep me laughing. I will miss you. **Bob "Omar" Tunnoch**

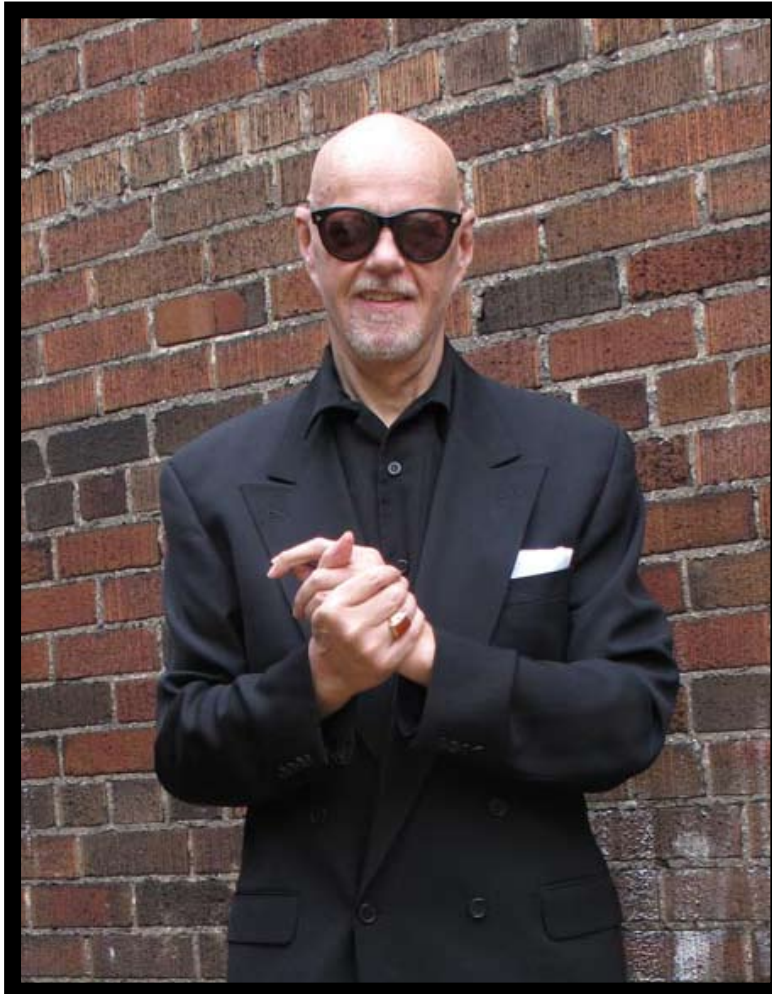
I met Fraser when I was 17 and took a few harmonica lessons from him at the time. He had a totally unique sound and way of playing - I remember learning from a 45rpm disc by Knights of The Mystic Sea (Morgan Davis' band) a song called "Harpoon", a rocking classic harmonica instrumental and I remember learning the song note for note.

He was always so generous with his time. We kept in touch over the years and would talk 'shop': about our fave harp amps, mics or new recordings. I had the honour of getting to know him a bit better in the last year as we started keeping more regular contact. I will miss him dearly. **Carlos del Junco**

At the time of his passing Fraser Finlayson was working in the studio producing new music, hopefully those sessions will be released. He'd also written a paper on Little Walter, one of his many influences. To read that piece of work go to <http://www.soundoflittliewalter.org>

A musical Tribute to Fraser Finlayson is being planned for early November in Toronto

- Gary Kendall



of mischief. Fraser was there for all of his friends' important life events and expected the same in return. He would not let you lose touch and would call you on it if you neglected the friendship. You never left a conversation with Fraser without having had a few good laughs. His passing has left a big hole in our lives emotionally and musically. **Rocky Verweel**

Fraser Finlayson and I started our journey into the blues world together as young men in the early 70's. He was a great musician, he was hip and he was cool. I needed his respect and his friendship. I was lucky enough to get both. There were times over the years when we wouldn't see each other for long periods but we could always pick up where we'd left off when we reconnected. Although he stopped performing live in the early 80's, Fraser always kept in touch with the music. He wanted to know how things



Way Down That Lonesome Road

Lonnie Johnson in Toronto 1965-1970

MARK MILLER

Toronto writer **Mark Miller** is the author of 10 books and served from 1978 to 2005 as the jazz critic for *The Globe and Mail* in Toronto. His latest effort is a comprehensive study of blues legend *Lonnie Johnson's* days in Toronto to be published in October by *The Mercury Press/tekst Editions* and he has allowed *MapleBlues* to give our readers a sneak preview. Here is the preface to *Way Down That Lonesome Road: Lonnie Johnson in Toronto, 1965-1970*

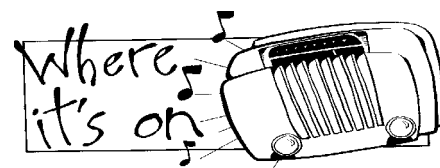
I want all you people to listen to my song
I want all you people to listen to my song
Remember me after all the days I'm gone

Mr. Johnson's Blues, 1925

So sang Lonnie Johnson on the very first recording that he made under his own name, 86 years ago in St. Louis, mindful even then of his own mortality. If he has indeed been remembered after all the days, and now decades, since his death, 41 years ago in Toronto, it has been largely for his early and essential contribution to the histories of both blues and jazz.

He was an original among singers and guitarists in the 1920s and, for that, he was influential in the years that followed. But originality and influence exist only in the abstract; they offer no sense of the man himself, no sense of the personal qualities suggested parenthetically on the invitation

cont'd on page 7



CBC Radio One (99.1)
"Saturday Night Blues",
w/ **Holger Petersen** (national)
Saturday 10:05pm-12:00am
(on Radio 2 Saturday at 6:00pm),

JAZZ-FM (91.1)
"Bluz FM" w/ **Danny Marks**
Saturday 8:00 pm-midnight



CKLN.FM
"Blue Remedy"
w/ **Blues Doctor Julie Hill**, Wednesday 8-10pm,

CIUT-FM (89.5)
"Let The Good Times Roll",
w/ **John Valenteyn**
Thursday 3-5pm,



CHRY-FM (105.5)
"Everyday I Have the Blues",
w/ **Vince Vitacco** Monday 9-11pm,

The Haze Fm www.thehazefm.ca
Sunday Morning Soul w/Johnny Max
Sundays at 11AM-1PM & Wed 10PM-midnight



CKWR (98.5 FM)
"Old Chicago Blues" w/ **Willy A.**
Friday 10:30 pm-midnight (Waterloo)

CIOI-FM (101.5 FM)
"Thursday Night Blues Revue", with **Little Willie**
Thursday 6-9pm (Hamilton)

CJLX (91.3 FM)
"Saturday Night Blues Review", with **George Vaughan**.
Saturday 6-7pm (Belleville)

CFRU (93.3 FM)
"The Blues Review", with **Roopen Majithia**
Tuesday 9:00 pm (Guelph)

CFBU (103.7 FM)
"Eclectic Blues" with **Deborah Cartmer**
Tuesday 7-9 pm (St. Catharines)

CFMU (93.3 FM)
"Patchwork Blues" w/ **Diane Wells** (aka Misty Blue)
Every Monday 6-9 am (Hamilton)

CANOE-FM (100.9 FM)
"Blue Canoe" with **Zoe Chilco**
Tuesday 7-9 pm (Haliburton County)

CKMS (100.3 FM)
"Poor Folk Blues" w/ **Bruce Hall** (aka Brewski)
Monday 7:30-9 pm (Waterloo)

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to a wake that was held in Toronto several months after his death.

"For Lonnie's real friends," the invitation read, "(those who knew all about him & loved him just the same)."

He was a gentle soul, a charmer and a ladies' man. He could be too trusting, an easy mark, but he was also rather sly, feigning innocence and playing for sympathy when it served his purpose. He looked out for himself first and foremost, but he could be generous toward others. He was regarded with respect, great affection and, occasionally, exasperation.

These, at least, are among the memories of some of the many people whose paths he crossed in Toronto between 1965 and 1970, the final years of his life — the years that serve as the time frame of this book.

As much, however, as *Way Down That Lonesome Road* is a biographical study of Lonnie Johnson in this period, it is also a social and cultural history of the scene that he encountered in Toronto. As such, it takes its lead from my book *Cool Blues*, which found in the visits of the legendary alto saxophonist Charlie Parker to Montreal and Toronto in 1953 an opportunity to bring the modern jazz communities in each of those cities back to life. And like *Cool Blues*, *Way Down That Lonesome Road* (which takes its title from a song that Johnson recorded in 1928) is populated by a cast of secondary characters — musicians, critics, friends and fans — who have stories of their own to tell.

Charlie Parker was in Canada for only a few nights altogether in 1953, but one of those nights found him at Massey Hall in a performance with Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Powell, Charles Mingus and Max Roach that would be immortalized as The Greatest Jazz Concert Ever. Johnson, who stayed in Toronto for almost five full years, also performed at Massey Hall, making a cameo appearance in a blues concert, headlined by Bobby "Blue" Bland and Buddy Guy, that would have been lost to history were it not for his presence on the bill — for the two songs that he sang, for the point in his life when he sang them and for the tumultuous response that they generated.

I was there on that February evening in 1970, an 18-year-old blues fan forever fortunate to have witnessed what was surely the crowning moment of Johnson's time in Toronto, and to have felt the surge of emotion that filled the hall first when he moved slowly to centre stage and again when he returned, even more slowly, to the wings. It was the only time that I heard him in person.

Johnson, of course, performed on many other nights in Toronto — nights at the Penny Farthing when he held his audience at rapt attention and nights at Steele's Tavern when he was all but ignored. He took the good with the bad. He was a proud man, but he was also practical. And he could be philosophical.

When asked in 1967, at what would be his final recording session, whether anyone was working on a biography about him, he said no, and added mildly that in any event writers seemed to have their own ideas — or rather, their own *idea* — of how his story should be told. "They look for me mostly to

tell the hardships of my life," he remarked, "instead of the best part of my life..."

The story of his years in Toronto combines both — the happiest of times and the hardest, a Dickensian sort of paradox, albeit in a tale of just one city. This is that tale; here is that city.

From *Way Down That Lonesome Road: Lonnie Johnson in Toronto, 1965-1970*, to be published on October 19/11 by The Mercury Press/teksteditons

© Mark Miller 2011

The Gladstone Series

First Thursday of each month

(with the exception for September 22)

FREE ADMISSION. Two sets beginning at 8:30pm

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Toronto Blues Society



AUGUST 4th
Eugene Smith



SEPTEMBER 22nd
Robin Banks with Teddy Leonard



OCTOBER 6th
Jimmy Bowskill



NOVEMBER 3rd
Michael Jerome Browne CD Release



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Visit Toronto Blues Society online at
www.torontobluesociety.com

Internet and apps-based radio seem to be the wave of the future - automobiles with internet radio capability are rising by a factor of more than 30, with internet radio leading the revolution with in-vehicle apps that are integrated into car electronics systems. As always, CKLN can be found on-line at CKLN.FM. You can also follow on facebook at ckln dot fm, and, on twitter, at ckln_fm, and at BluesDrJulie. CDs for airplay can still be sent to 2 Carlton Street, Suite 1803, Toronto M5B 1J3.

International Songwriting Competition:

Another Canadian wins the blues category in the International Songwriting Competition! John McAneney (aka Johnny Max) and Jesse O'Brien for their song "Daddy's Little Girl". Runners up Nick Moss from the US, and Thorbjorn Risager from Denmark. Honorable Canadian mentions include Bob Tunnoch, Chris Antonik, Chris Whiteley, and Layla Zoe.

Musicians Take Note: In the spring long time TBS supporter Tony Burns helped organize a home recording workshop with Roots Music Canada. It was a great success and we got terrific feedback from the participants. The goal was to take someone with little or no experience and teach them enough about multi-track recording that they would be comfortable enough to go home and try it themselves.

For the course they use Audacity as the recording software. It is chosen because it is freeware and the interface is very similar to the most popular software packages. Thus if someone has Garage Band they can easily transfer what they learned to that platform. The next workshop is on September 17th. You can find more information at <http://www.rootsmusic.ca/workshops/home-recording-101/>

More Blues Radio News: James Doran's show on DAWG-FM. *Inside The Blues*, has been gathering a new audience of blues lovers and he continues to present profiles and interviews with the movers and shakers on the Canadian (and international) blues scene. On Sept 4, he will interview Bruce Iglauer, founder of Alligator Records in Chicago - the largest independent Blues label in the world celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. This is the first of two shows with Bruce - it covers the first 20 years of Alligator, the following week, September 11, will cover the last 20. Mixed in with all the great Alligator music are songs from some of the best Canadian Blues artists from those same eras. James calls it a "Best Of" Can-Am Blues extravaganza! More info and archived shows at www.choosetheblues.ca

SoundClash Music Award: Harbourfront Centre's first SoundClash Music Award has been presented to Saidah Baba Talibah. Talibah is a founding member of the soul/rock



Jack Layton's life has been celebrated across the city and the nation but here at the Toronto Blues Society, he is remembered as a past member and all-around music supporter. TBS President Derek Andrews recalls "...we constantly ran into each other at shows at Albert's Hall, the Tranzac, Horseshoe, and I recall fondly his role as auctioneer at a TBS fund raising event in 1990. He had the crowd so aroused one excited person apparently bid against themselves to further help the cause."

group Blaxäx and was prominently featured on their 1998 EP, "Kiss My Afro." She is the daughter of the internationally renowned jazz/blues singer and actress Salome Bey, whom she credits greatly for her talent and ambition. Her debut album (S)Cream came out earlier this month on Last Gang Labels/Universal and received venerable response from Giant Step, OkayPlayer, Exclaim!, AOL Spinner and NOW Magazine. NOW Magazine even featured her new album as a 'Disc of the Week' and gave it a prestigious 4-N rating.

Talibah's SoundClash Music Award entry was filtered from over 250 entries submitted in April 2011. With only five shortlist spots available in the competition, a group of specially selected music industry experts (jurors) narrowed down the list to Saidah Baba Talibah, Miles Jones, Worst Pop Band Ever, Kids & Explosions, and Young Empires. Each band performed live on the WestJet Stage during the Hot Spot Summer at Harbourfront Centre this past July.

As the winner of the competition, Talibah will receive \$5,000 plus additional prizes and is set to perform at the upcoming Hot & Spicy Food Festival on Sept. 2 at 8 p.m. on the WestJet Stage. In second place, Kids & Explosions take away \$3,000 and the remaining cash prize of \$2,000 goes to Young Empires. Honourable mentions to Miles Jones and the Worst Pop Band Ever for making the shortlist and for participating in Harbourfront Centre's first major music award!

SoundClash is a new Harbourfront Centre initiative designed to showcase Toronto's

talented, creative and forward-thinking independent musicians. This past summer, five independent artists or bands had the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of some of Toronto's top musicians, play on Harbourfront Centre's WestJet Stage and compete for three cash prizes totaling \$10,000!

While other music competitions focus on specific genres, SoundClash was open to musicians from a wide variety of genres. Artists from diverse, contemporary and cutting-edge music forms including (but not limited to) rock, pop, hip hop, country, reggae, Latin and other global music forms were encouraged to apply. www.harbourfrontcentre.com/soundclash

Honeyboy Passes: Blues legend, and a favourite of Toronto blues fans, David "Honeyboy" Edwards died of congestive heart failure on August 29 in his Chicago apartment. He was 96 years old. The "last of the Delta bluesmen" was in the house when the iconic Robert Johnson took his last drink of poisoned whiskey. He witnessed the Mississippi River flood of 1927. In 1953, he moved to Chicago after recording "Drop Down Mama" for Chess Records. He won Grammys and had a cameo in the 2007 spoof movie "Walk Hard."

Mr. Edwards was born in Shaw, Miss. His father, a guitarist and violinist in country jukes throughout Mississippi, bought Mr. Edwards a Sears guitar for \$4 from a plantation worker. At the age of 14 Mr. Edwards left home to hobo with bluesman Big Joe Williams. Mr. Edwards' distinctive style of uneven phrasing and skewed timing was a response to woodshedding with Williams' clanky nine-string guitar.

After roaming the mid-South with Williams, Mr. Edwards debuted in 1935 on the legendary Beale Street in Memphis. He became homesick and returned to Greenwood, Miss., where he began playing with harmonica player Big Walter Horton.

"When you played with Honeyboy you were in the millisecond of the moment," said Rick Sherry reported to the Chicago Sun-Times, who plays harmonica, washboard, clarinets and sings in the Sanctified Grumblers, who were to play with Mr. Edwards at this year's Chicago Blues Festival, but Mr. Edwards cancelled because of illness. "You never knew where he went. Every song was 12 bars. It was never 12 bars. He'd hold that note, look in the audience and kick his leg. Playing with him was this amazing Zen thing I'm going to miss."

He loved to say, "The world don't owe me nothing." Just shy of his 96th birthday, Honeyboy played his last gigs at the Juke Joint Festival and Cathead Mini-Festival in Clarksdale, Mississippi April 16 and 17, 2011.

Saturday, November 26th, 8pm
at Massey Hall

ON
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FEATURING

Kat Danser

Ada Lee

Emma-Lee

Treasa Levasseur

Shakura S'Aida

Suzie Vinnick

Hosted by Shelagh Rogers
with

The Toronto Blues Society

Women's Blues Revue Band:

Donna Grantis: *Director/Guitar*

Lily Sazz: *Keys*

Brandi Disterheft: *Upright Bass*

Lindsay Beaver: *Drums*

Colleen Allen: *Sax*

Carrie Chesnutt: *Sax*

Rebecca Hennessy: *Trumpet*



Lindsay Beaver

PHOTO: LUC BELCOURT



Lindsay Beaver, will be returning, for her second year, as drummer for the 2011 Toronto Blues Society Women's Blues Revue taking place on Saturday, November 26th at Massey Hall.

Originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Lindsay moved to Toronto in 2005 to study music at Humber College after only two years of playing drums. She has since graduated with a Bachelors Degree of Contemporary Music with Drumset as her major and is now a professional working musician and instructor. As a classically trained vocalist who grew up listening to and loves the blues, Lindsay combines her passion of singing and drumming in the band, The 24th Street Wailers. (www.the24thstreetwailers.com)

"The band met over a shared love of blues and it is still this way. I wanted to start a band that everyone has an equal share in and gets to write and perform the way they would like. The members are all very talented writers and performers. Our long term goals are to be performing, recording, touring, writing for as long as time will let us" said Lindsay.

Her influences come from a variety of genres because as she states, "I love anything that is truly great. Something that when you put it on you have to sit down because if you stay standing you'll fall over. Artists such as Willie Dixon, Magic Sam, Muddy Waters, Levon Helm, The Meters, John Lee Hooker, Garrett Mason, FATHEAD and The Black Keys. My favourite bands are really what shape the type of player I am; like Damien Rice and Queens of the Stone Age. It's more about a feel and sound aspect of the music. Not so much the genre."

Although best known as a drummer and vocalist, Lindsay is also an accomplished player on the vibraphone, piano and guitar.

Since winning the Toronto Blues Society Talent Search in 2010, and release of their debut CD entitled, "Dirty Little Young 'Uns", the band has seen further notable success. A recent tour which culminated with Festiblues du Montreal last month, had The 24th Street Wailers presented with

two awards. Blues en Releve, awarded recording time and a guaranteed performance at Festiblues in 2012. Air Transat Blues Sur Seine has awarded a performance at the Blues Sur Seine Festival in France for November 2011.

Part of the tour had Lindsay performing in her homeland of Nova Scotia where the band was scheduled as part of the Dutch Mason Blues Festival.

"Like all Maritimers I'm very proud of being from the east coast. Playing at Dutch Mason was the coolest thing ever for me. A festival that honours Dutch and has all the players that I admire from the area performing in it, made the experience a fantastic home coming."

In 2010, Lindsay Beaver was invited to be part of the Women's Blues Revue Band. An experience she said that was exceptional.

"When I was asked to play in this show, I more than happily accepted. There are just so

many women put together in such a professional way. This is about the quality of the music and as it happens, it's all women! With many different backgrounds and perspectives from seasoned musicians and guest vocalists it makes for a very interesting time. And it's a nice break to go with the flow, so to speak, as I'm used to being the front person in my band. For a young musician such as myself to experience and be a part of the WBR band is indeed very special."

The Women's Blues Revue band is Donna Grantis - Musical Director/Guitar, Lily Sazz - Keys, Brandi Disterheft - Upright Bass, Lindsay Beaver - Drums, Colleen Allen - Sax, Carrie Chesnutt - Sax, Rebecca Hennessy - Trumpet. Featured vocalists are Ada Lee, Emma-Lee, Kat Danser, Shakura S'Aida, Treasa Levasseur and Suzie Vinnick.

-- Sharon Grace

TBS member pre-sale Tickets for WBR and MBA

Toronto Blues Society Women's Blues Revue

The 25th annual Toronto Blues Society Women's Blues Revue will take place at the historic Massey Hall on Saturday November 26. This year the band will feature vocalists Ada Lee, Emma-Lee, Kat Danser, Shakura S'Aida, Treasa Levasseur and Suzie Vinnick backed up by the Women's Blues Revue Band led by Donna Grantis (guitar) with Lily Sazz (keyboards), Brandi Disterheft (bass), Lindsay Beaver (drums, pictured), Colleen Allen (sax), Carrie Chesnutt (sax) and Rebecca Hennessy (trumpet).

Maple Blues Awards

For a third consecutive year, the Toronto Blues Society Maple Blues Awards take place in Koerner Hall on Monday, January 16, 2012. The 15th anniversary of the annual gala event celebrating Canadian blues features the finest musicians and special guests from across Canada, all backed by the Maple Blues Band. TBS member pre-sale tickets are on sale now!

If you are a Charter Member in good standing, please call the TBS office to obtain the presale code and instructions.

Make sure TBS has your current information!

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SEPTEMBER 28

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Muchas Gracias

New Members: Al Potvin, Chloe Watkinson, Jordan Safer, Robert Hammond, Sue Bracken, Wendy Knowles.

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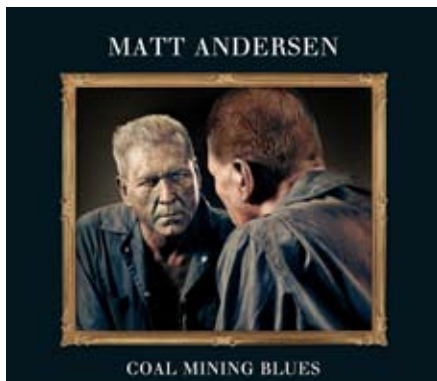
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Matt Andersen *Coal Mining Blues*
Busted Flat/Sonic Unyon

A double Maple Blues Award winner this year, Andersen's new release is only his second studio album. There was also a disc with harmonica virtuoso **Mike Stevens**. The *Live at the Phoenix Theatre* CD earlier this year pretty much summed up his career to date and is a must-have disc. The next phase, perhaps a more commercial one, is off to a stunning start. Produced by **Colin Linden** and recorded at **Levon Helm's** studio in Woodstock, it features both as players, along with **Stuart MacLean** *Vinyl Café* tour mates **John Sheard & Dennis Pendrith**. **Geoff Arsenault** is also on drums & **Garth Hudson** dropped by too. There's a horn section & backup singers where needed but most of all the presence that earned him his Entertainer of the Year award shines through. His new songs lead the way, with "Coal Mining Blues" the subject of that arresting cover. The story of the miner's plight, old before his time, ably fulfills its role as the title song. Just keyboards and brushed drums back this poignant ballad. "Make You Stay" is a delight, a blues plea with magnificent acoustic guitar and Arsenault's understated drums. The full band does rock out, though, on the opener "Don't Wanna Give In", "Fired Up", on "Heartbreaker" and on the **Stones**-ish "Work Hard For Luxury". This last one deals rather succinctly with the importance of keeping your woman happy. Andersen's towering presence shines through on this disc, easily dominating the move to a more mainstream sound. His acoustic guitar is also prominent, leaving the superlative band to do what they do best: highlight the star. Matt Andersen's star has been rising sharply over the past while, this CD should give it a massive boost - it will be

a contender for multiple awards. We might hear some of the new songs very soon - Andersen will be at The Southside Shuffle on September 10th. A new CD with Mike Stevens should be ready for the next column and for Mr. Andersen's show at the Winter Garden Theatre on October 22nd - you should get your tickets now, you won't regret it. His other tour dates are at his web site, www.stubbyfingers.ca.



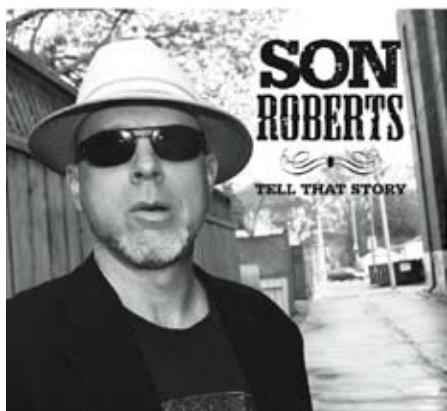
Bradleyboy Mac Arthur *Salt Gun*
Awesome/EMI

Bradleyboy Mac Arthur was the winner of our Talent Search this year. He's a one-man band, with guitar, rack-mounted harmonica and a box for a drum that he plays with his foot. The other foot sometimes bangs a tambourine. He sings through an old mike with quite a bit of distortion, this made him difficult to hear his shouted lyrics at Nathan Philips Square but that's not a problem on his CD. For live shows, he's often paired with **catl**, previous Talent Search winners. They share a 'punk' attitude and a great deal of raw energy. Bradleyboy is a veteran performer with several albums to his credit but has only recently adopted the one-man band format. Sheer energy carries the opening "Backdoor Man", a rapidly strummed, primitive blues that may be the best song on the disc. Lovers of **Hound Dog Taylor** will recognize the style. "Old 59" shows he's listened quite a bit to **Tom Waits**. Overall, Bradleyboy does rather well with these limited resources, he's able to generate considerable variety through the disc. "Callin' Your Name" adds a tenor sax whereas "I Might Be" has a fifties rockabilly feel and "Bird Watcher" adds an organ on a song that channels **Johnny Cash**. "flesh&bullets" is a relentless groove with lyrics shouted over top, lyrics that pay no attention to bar lines. Just to show he can do other styles, the closer, "What Is True" is a quiet ballad with picked instead of strummed guitar. The **24th Street Wailers** have done rather well since their Talent Search victory, let's hope Bradleyboy can do the same. The web site is www.bradleyboymacarthur.com.



B.C. Read *1000 Miles Blue Budda*

Saskatoon's **B.C. Read** is a veteran slide guitarist & singer/songwriter. He is also the founding (past) President of the **Saskatoon Blues Society**. He's sent along his fourth disc and it easily maintains his high standards. All the songs save one are written or co-written by Mr. Read and he's brought along a cast of western stars to help him & his band deliver them - **Suzie Vinnick**, **Big Dave McLean** & **Jack Semple** all lend a hand, or voice, to this carefully crafted package. The band includes a full horn section and back up singers. Read's whiskey-soaked voice carries all before it, be it Chicago Blues, R&B, Tex Mex or country blues. "Number Two" is the first of the Chicago Blues songs, one about a friend who wants two lovers. It features a stripped down band with Read on slide & Big Dave on harp. A second is the title song, a shuffle called "1000 Miles (From Chicago) (But Still I Have The Blues)" - more harp from Big Dave, some fine horns and a great lyric. You might hear some other folks cover this one very soon. "Rosalita" comes under that Tex Mex banner, with Suzie Vinnick on a co-vocal. The opening "Didn't Sleep At All", "The Blue Boy" and "That's The Deal" are excellent R&B originals. "That's The Deal" is suggested as a single and it's a solid funky workout. It's also a duet, this time with **Wilma Groenen**. "Jellyroll Baker" is a Piedmont style country blues with a tuba accompaniment, a lovely change of pace. Guitar ace Jack Semple's feature is a funky blues called "(Why Can't We Just) Walk Away". It's an emotional plea to stop wars, especially our then current one. Big Dave returns for some country blues with the reduced band, "Train Of Life", it features **Kelly Read** on BG vocals. The closer is a treat, a live-off-the floor bluesy version of **Neil Young's** "Are You Ready For The Country?", with Suzie Vinnick. Mr. Read's Neil Young vocal is uncanny. As far as I can recall, B.C. Read has not made it to this half of the country, I hope he does so soon. His web site is www.bcread.com.



Son Roberts & Friends Tell That Story
Gate

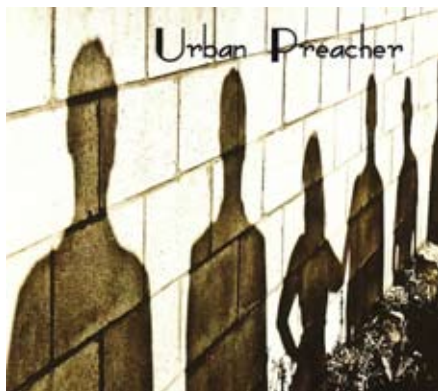
Taking an innovative approach, our own **Wayne 'Son' Roberts** has released four new songs at his web site from the new album over the past few months. The whole CD is now ready and it's going to be officially released on October 13 at the Dominion on Queen. Behind Roberts on vocals & harp, the Friends include **John Crosbie** on guitars, **Sergio Faluotico** on drums & percussion and **Ed Roth** on keys & accordion, from the band that put out *You Don't Know Yet* a couple of years ago. **Gary Kendall** is on bass, **Martin Alex Aucoin** also on keys and **Duncan McBain** on drums on other songs. He calls his music NuBlues, drawn from real life, true myths and dark memories. You may not get traditional, 12 bar blues here but you do get a modern album that is very much about the blues. As he explains in his notes, Roberts writes the words and Crosbie supplies the raunch & rock. Together they create a great groove that carries the material. "The Brakeman" was the first song released and it's a tale of a railroad accident that shows what a good storyteller Roberts is. The twin acoustic slide guitars set up the train rhythm perfectly. The full electric band opens the disc, with a boast that he's going to have to live to "90 Years Old" to fully tell his story. "Wind Blows In" is a delightful acoustic romp, with Roth's accordion carrying the load. The group chorus is a good indication of the camaraderie these musicians had during the sessions. Good songs impressively delivered, get yourself over to the Dominion on Queen. Find out more at www.sonroberts.ca.

Urban Preacher *Shadows of Montreal*
Self

The Distillery *What You Told Me* Self

Shadows of Montreal was officially released at a hugely successful party at the Mod Club on Aug. 13th. It is a dramatic

advance from their EP released last year. This is a rocking blues blast from start to finish: excellent songs, powerfully delivered. Lead vocalist **Myrrhine Faller** is at the top of her game. The band smokes, **Anthony Rinaldi's** sax augmented by a three horns. **Jordan Safer**, whose name also appears



on page two as our Office and Event Coordinator, plays keyboards & harp and plays them very well. The rest of the band is new: **Jeff Sceviour** on bass, **Kyron Newbury** on drums and **Matt Mosioner** on guitar. The band moved here from Montreal a couple of years ago, but as the title suggests, they haven't left it completely.

The title song is a power ballad with an evocative chorus that conjures up images of both cities: "Shadows of Montreal follow me through the Queen Street fall". "Quidi Vidi Village" has my vote for a single release, a gorgeous melody carrying a lyric about a chosen life in the big city. Let's hope it gets some airplay. A couple of the other songs have some very nice R&B horn intros that harken back to 60's soul and "Don't Lose Your Good Thing" is as bluesy as its title suggests but for the most part this is a fine young band giving us some very contemporary sounds.

Guitarist **Neil Hendry** was in the earlier version of Urban Preacher but he hasn't gone far. He joins Faller and Safer in **The Distillery**, a more overtly blues-oriented trio. They were finalists in this year's Talent Search as Urban Preacher was in last year's.

The Distillery on this disc presents almost a chamber blues as opposed to the more in-your-face larger band but their original songs in this context are as good. "Glory" especially is an excellent Hendry composition that in its demo form was called "Glory That Foreshadows The Blues". They have some fun too, as on "Jackie B. Wackie". "Leave My Baby Alone" starts out with some fine boogie piano from Jordan, a highlight for sure. Urban Preacher's web

site is www.urbanpreacher.ca.

The Distillery has its own site, www.thedistilleryblues.com. They promise there that they often expand to a five-piece and can 'bring out the sabre tooth when you least expect it'. They also have a impressive line up of gigs.



Clayton Doley's Organ Donors *Tension!*
Sundazed/FAB

A new Toronto resident, Mr. **Doley** comes to our attention through **Harry Manx**, who discovered the B3 player on his Australian tours and subsequently invited him to play on his *Bread & Buddha* CD and the tour. *Tension!* is his calling card, with his Australian band, and it's a relative rarity these days, a B3 quartet CD, advertised as retro-soul.

It opens with "Booker Table", a romp in the **Booker T & The MGs** style and he knows whereof he speaks: Mr. Doley has filled in for **Booker T** himself, playing with **Steve Cropper** & **Duck Dunn** on tours where the organist was not available. He has also toured with electric violinist **Nigel Kennedy** on a **Jimi Hendrix Tribute** package, the distilled results amply displayed on "Tension". He acknowledges the debt to the famous B3 jazz players **Jimmy Smith** & **Brother Jack McDuff** throughout but particularly on "Up The McDuff". The analogue recording is of demonstration quality. We welcome such an accomplished player to our music scene.

The Toronto release of this CD was at the Orbit Room, with its famous B3 - you should go to his web site, www.claytondoley.com for upcoming gigs.

-John Valenteyn

jvalenteyn8724@rogers.com

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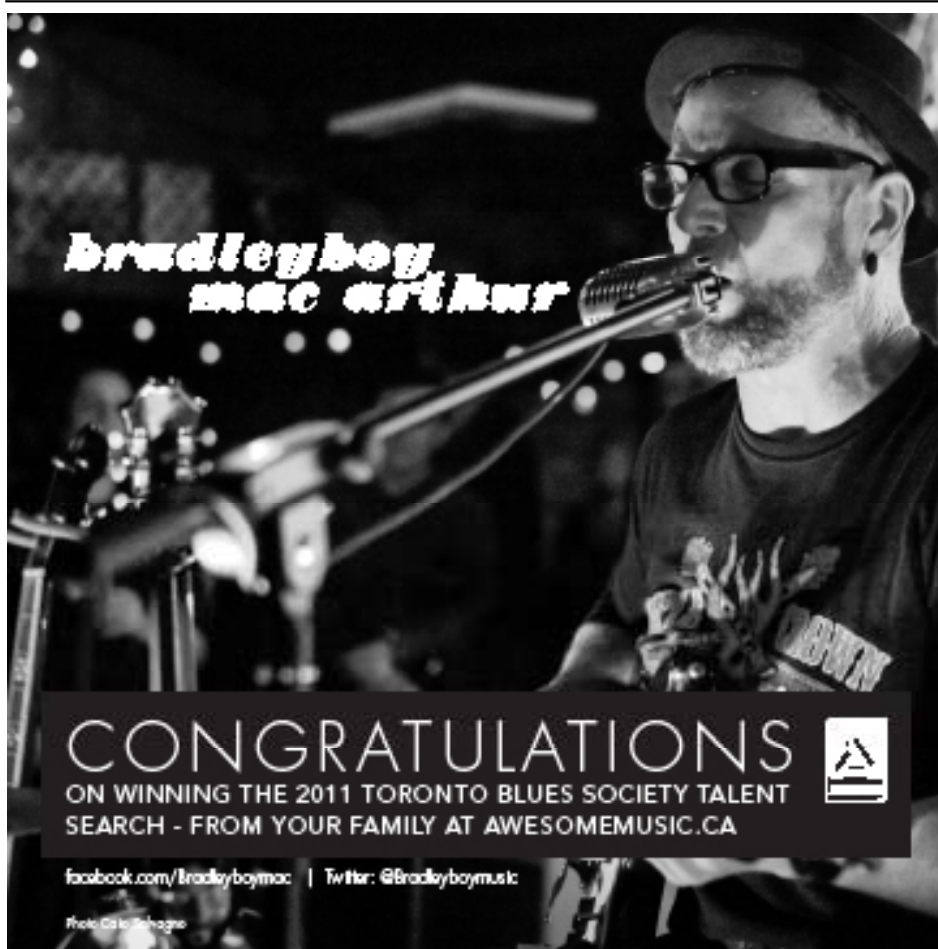


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TOP BLUES

This month's recommended listening by John Valenteyn, host of Let The Good Times Roll on ciut.fm, 89.5 and CD reviewer for Maple Blues. You can drop by and say hello to John at the blues Department of HMV on Yonge Street

- ***Matt Andersen** *Coal Mining Blues* Busted Flat/Sonic Unyon
- ***BC Read** *1000 Miles* Blue Buddha
- ***Clayton Doley's Organ Donors** *Tension* Sundazed
- ***Urban Preacher** *Shadows of Montreal* Self
- ***The Distillery** *What You Told Me* Self
- ***Bradleyboy MacArthur** *Salt Gun* Awesome
- ***David Vest** *Rock-A-While* Criminal
- Kenny Wayne Shepherd** *How I Go* Roadrunner/Warner
- ***The Roper Show** Self
- JJ Grey & Mofro** *Brighter Days* Alligator
- ***Son Roberts** *Tell That Story* Self
- Ana Popovic** *Unconditional* Eclecto Groove
- Candye Kane** *Sister Vagabond* Delta Groove
- Quintus McCormack** *Put It On Me!* Delmark
- Demetria Taylor** *Bad Girl* Delmark
- Watermelon Slim & Super Chikan** *Okiesippi Blues*/NorthernBlues
- ***Saidah Baba Talibah** (S) Cream CK
- Ray Manzerak & Roy Rogers** *Translucent Blues* Blind Pig Stony Plain
- Gary Clark Jr.** *The Bright Lights* EP Warner
- ***Chris Murphy** *Hotwired* Speakeasy

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TORONTO LISTINGS

Cadillac Lounge

Oct-4, 11, 18 Urban Preacher
10pm
Sep-30 Paul Reddick Band
10 p.m.

CNE Casino Beer Garden Patio

Sep-2 Paul James Band
price of admission to CNE
Sep-3, 4, 5 Paul James Band
7p.m. w/price of admission to
CNE

CNE Midway Stage

Sep-1, 2 Johnny Max & His
So-called Friends 3-6PM

Dominion on Queen

Oct-7 The Swingin'
Blackjacks
Oct-13 Son Roberts &
Friends CD release party

Dora Keogh

Oct-1 The Gary Kendall
Band 9:30pm

Drake Hotel

Sep-1 Raoul and The Big
Time Lounge 10pm Start-

Duffy's Tavern

Every Sun Ken Yoshioka
8:30pm

Gate 403

Sep-1 James Carroll and
Liam Ward

Gladstone Hotel Melody Bar

Sep-22 Robin Banks & Teddy
Leonard 8pm / No Cover
Oct-6 Jimmy Bowskill 8pm /
No Cover

Grossman's Tavern

Sep-7, 14, 21, 28, Oct 5, 12
Ernest Lee and Cotton Traffic
Rockin' Blues Jam - 9pm
start

Highway 61 Southern BBQ

Sep-7 The Chris Antonik
Band 7pm
Sep-14 Paul James Solo
7pm
Sep-28 Paul Reddick 7pm
Every Fri Dylan Wickens
8pm

Every Mon Chris Chambers
8pm

Hollywood on the Queensway

Sep-11 Groove Corporation
4:30-9:00pm Brian Blain's
65th B-Day
Every Wed Jay & Viv Latin
Heat 9pm until 1am salsa
and more

Horseshoe Tavern

Sep-7 Urban Preacher
11:30pm / w/Hue and more
/ \$5

Hugh's Room

Sep-2 Saidah Baba Talibah
w/Donna Grantis
Sep-17 Rita Chiarelli
Sep-24 Tracy K & Jamie
Steinhoff Blues Duo
opening for Ramblin' Jack
Elliot
Sep-28 Danny Marks, Paul
James & Jack de Keyzer
Oct-3 Boubacar Traore

Lola Tavern

Every Thurs Brian Cober

Maple Leaf House

Sep-24 Blackboard Blues
Band 9:30 - 1:30

Massey Hall

Oct-18 Jeff Beck

Monarch's Pub, Delta Chelsea Hotel

Sep-1 Jerome Godboo w/
Shawn Kellerman, Shane
Scott, Gary Craig 9p.m.
Sep-15 The 24th Street
Wailers 9pm
Sep-22 Groove Corporation
Sep-29 Layla Zoe

Nathan Phillips Square, City Hall

Sep-1 Roxanne Potvin plus
Brian Blain noon

Not My Dog

Sep-24 Ken Yoshioka 10pm

Rebas Cafe

Sep-11 Ken Yoshioka 1:00
to 4:00pm

Reservoir Lounge

Sep-29 The 24th Street
Wailers 7-9pm

Silver Dollar Room

Sep-24 The 24th Street
Wailers w/ Al Lerman!



Mississippi native **Sherman Lee Dillon** (now based in North Carolina) is part of the Mississippi invasion at the Southside Shuffle and is fast becoming a favourite of Toronto and area blues audiences. He plays the Mississippi Dave de Eyre Square Saturday September 10 at 7pm and Sunday, September 11th at 5:30

Taste Of The Kingsway

Sep-10 The Johnny Max
Bigger Band 3PM

The Danny East Danforth Bar & Grill

Sep-16 The Swingin'
Blackjacks

The Emmet Ray

Sep-29 James Carroll and
Liam Ward 9pm

The Local

Sep-13 Ken Yoshioka 9pm

The Rex Hotel

Sep-4 Doctor Nick & The
Rollercoasters 3:30 to
6:30pm
Sep-6 Doctor Nick & The
Rollercoasters 9:30 -
12:30pm Open Blues Jam,
Everyone Welcome
Sep-24 Jerome Godboo
3:30 to 6:30pm
Sep-24 Jerome Godboo
Band 3:30 p.m. w/Eric
Schenkman, Shane Scott,
Chuck Keeping

Toronto Harbourfront

Sep-10 Susan Wylde
4:00 PM

Upstairs @ Aquila

Sep-17 The Ken
Yoshioka Blues Band
9:30pm
Sep-28 Tracy K & Jamie
Steinhoff Blues Duo 8:00
Every Sun Junction Jam
w/ New Mynah Birds 3:30
to 7:30 pm

Wise Guys Deluxe Bar & Grill

Sep-9 The Swingin'
Blackjacks 9:30pm -
1:30am

Zembra Bar

Sep-2 James Carroll and
Liam Ward 10pm

Sep-8 James Carroll and
Liam Ward 10pm



Paul James, Danny Marks and Jack de Keyzer regroup as the "Three Amigos" on September 28 at Hugh's Room. The trio of James, de Keyzer and Marks was first assembled by maverick Toronto promoter Shaun Alexander as a warm up for Johnny Winter at the Phoenix. Shaun was looking for an opening act to pack the place in advance of the famed Texas guitarist. You might think it was a no-brainer. Marks, de Keyzer and James have been packing them into the clubs separately for decades. Would the three get along? "Like a house on fire" says Enzo of the Phoenix! "I never doubted it!" "We all like to rock" says Paul, with a sparkle of a diamond inlaid smile. "and we all have a healthy history in the blues" adds Jack. "And we all truly enjoy each other!" says Danny emphatically. That sums it up. The Three Amigos were dubbed and vowed to meet onstage again and it will happen September 28 at Hugh's Room. Each man will take a turn solo before joining together with Alec Fraser and Bucky Berger.

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Sep-4 Michael Pickett
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Additional Artists

Acoustic Grill

Sep-15 Michael Pickett
8pm

Amazing Coffee

Sep-14 Michael Pickett
8pm

Auld Kirk Arts

Sep-20 Tracy K & Jamie
Steinhoff Blues Duo 7:30
\$10

Bruce Steakhouse

Sep-24 Bill Durst Rick
and Marilyn Blues;
\$10.00

Fionn MacCool's

Sep-1 Trouble & Strife
7:00 PM

Sep-24 Larry Kurtz &
James Anthony 9:30 PM

Fonthill Bandshell Concert

Sep-8 Andre & the
J-Tones 7-9pm Free

Gordon Best Theatre

Oct-13 Larry Garner Blues
Band 8:00 pm-\$30adv/\$35
door

Grains Bistro

Sep-24 Crossroads Blues
Band 9:30 PM

Hockley Valley Resort Patio

Sep-2 Trouble & Stife Duo
6:30 PM

Lake Affect Patio Bar & Grill

Sep-9 Jerome Godboo
Band w/Shawn Kellerman,
Alec Fraser and Gary Craig
7:30pm

Lavigne Tavern

Sep-10 The Distillery 9pm

Liquid Lounge

Sep-17 20th Season
Celebration Saturday
Matinee 3 to 6pm

Sep-24 Al Lerman, John
Mays and Teddy Leonard
Saturday Matinee 3 to 6pm

Music Hall

Sep-24 Big James & The
Chicago Playboys wsg
Larry McCray

Orleans Restaurant and Jazz Lounge

Sep-2 Eddy Blues Band

Perth Studio Theatre

Oct-15 Larry Garner Blues
Band 8:00 pm-\$30adv/\$35
door

Port Perry Harvest Celebration

Sep-25 The Heart Attacks
2 PM

Regent Theatre

Oct-14 Larry Garner Blues
Band 8:00 pm-\$32adv/\$35
door

River Garden Restaurant

Sep-3 Ernest Lee and
Cotton Traffic 8pm to
closing

Rock Island Lodge

Sep-30 Tracy K & Jamie
Steinhoff Blues Duo 7:30
\$10

Roc'n Docs

Sep-24 Jerome Godboo
Band 10 p.m. w/Shawn
Kellerman, Alec Fraser and
Al Webster

Sharkeys

Sep-10 Cross Eyed Cat
9:30- 1:00

Simcoe Blues & Jazz Club

Sep-16 Jerome Godboo
Band w/Shawn Kellerman,
Alec Fraser and Gary Craig
9:30pm

Stonewalls

Oct-15 Groove Corporation

Strawhouse Gallery

Sep-21 Tracy K & Jamie
Steinhoff Blues Duo
7:30pm

The Blackshire

Oct-1 The Chris Antonik
Band 9pm

The Brogue Inn

Sep-10 Jerome Godboo
Band w/Shawn Kellerman,
Alec Fraser and Gary Craig
10pm

The Burlington Rotary Ribfest

Sep-4 The Johnny Max
Bigger Band 5PM

The Cinco Centavos

Sep-29 Tracy K & Jamie
Steinhoff Blues Duo 8:00

The Duck

Sep-24 Johnny Max
guesting with The Mighty
Duck Blues Band

The Findlay House Concerts

Sep-16 Michael
Pickett 8pm

get yourself listed:

Browse to www.torontobluessociety.com and click on "Live Blues". You will be directed how to enter your event into our database and from there it will be promoted in this newsletter, on our website and in our weekly e-mail blasts. Please keep the gig listings within reasonable driving distance of Toronto.



David Honeyboy Edwards was a favourite of Toronto blues audiences and his last appearance here was the night of a huge snowstorm but his fans were not deterred and Hugh's Room was packed. Prior to his health turning for the worse in late April, Honeyboy was scheduled to play numerous gigs in Chicago, across the USA and in Europe, including today at Millennium Park in Chicago for the noon time concert series. His manager Michael Frank had to cancel all those dates due to Honeyboy's declining health. He maintained a strong spirit until the end, telling stories and showing off his dexterity in his hands

The Harp Pub

Sep-8 Harrison Kennedy & Peter Boyd Storyteller Night

The Huron Club

Sep-23 Chris Antonik & Josh Williams - Acoustic Duo 8pm

the Niagara

Every Sun Every Sun Rich and the Poor Boys 3pm - 6pm

The Old Winery Restaurant

Sep-17 Paul Reddick w/ Niagara Rhythm Section 9:30 p.m.

The Painted Lady

Sep-22 The Distillery 9pm / \$6

The Waterfront

Sep-9 Matt Andersen 9:00 PM

Thyme Restaurant

Sep-9 Susan Wylde 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Tweedsmuir Tavern

Sep-16 Monkey Junk 8:00 pm-\$20 adv/\$25 door

Tweedsmuir Tavern

Sep-22 Tracy K & Jamie Steinhoff Blues Duo 8:00 \$10

West Coast Blues Festival

Sep-3 The Johnny Max Bigger Band 6PM

Wilno Tavern

Sep-23 Monkey Junk 8:00 pm-\$20 adv/\$25 door

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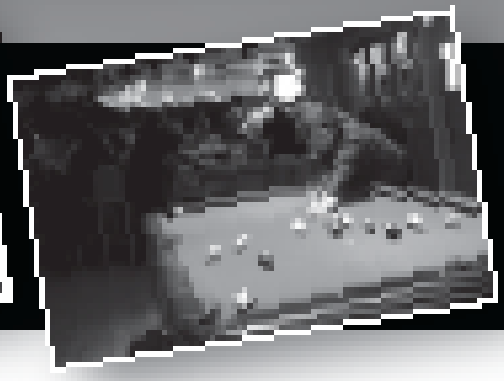
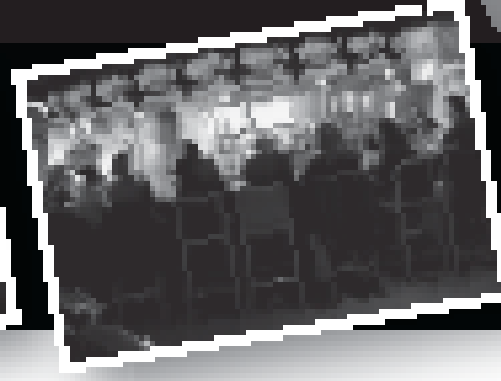
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