

Toronto Blues Society MAPLEBLUES

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

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Little Miss Higgins will
be one of the featured
vocalists at the 24th
Annual Women's Blues
Revue on November 27th
at Massey Hall

Women's Blues Revue
Loose Blues News

John's Blues Picks
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What: Blues in the Garden BBQ (part of Queen West Art Crawl)

Who: The Unknown Bluesmen

Where: TBS Office Garden, 910 Queen St. W.

When: Sunday September 19, 1pm



What: Toronto Blues Society presents Melody Bar Blues (Free!)

Who: Suzie Vinnick (Sept 2), Jack de Keyzer (Oct 7),
Diana Braithwaite & Chris Whiteley (Nov 4)
and Harrison Kennedy (Dec 2)

When: First Thursday of each month beginning in
September, 8pm

Where: The Melody Bar at
The Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen St W)



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Photo Rainer Soegrip

Alana Bridgewater "in her own words"

Alana Bridgewater will be a featured vocalist at this year's Women's Blues Revue. She began her career at very early age as a member of the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus and the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir, where she was quickly promoted to soloist. She has toured with jazz great Joe Sealy and his quartet, was a member of the Nathaniel Dett Chorale and was the voice for Toronto's 2008 Olympic Bid Song. Her recent credits include *In A Jam* (CBC Television), *Little Shop of Horrors* (St. Lawrence Stage Company), the *TBS Women's Blues Revue* in Toronto and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Stage West). Alana is currently playing the role of the Killer Queen in the hugely successful musical "We Will Rock You". In this article which first appeared as part of canoe.ca's series, "In our own Words", she tells of her journey to becoming one of the country's most in-demand singer/factors.

Being a child of the 80's has its benefits. The 80's were a time of great progress in the music industry. The potential to be a mega superstar was vast and music made you feel good, from heavy beats to electronica. As a child, I saw myself as a part of this industry. As far back as I can remember I would listen for hours on end to my brother's arsenal of



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So Long SDR: After 16 years booking blues at The Silver Dollar Room, Gary Kendall has announced his departure at the end of August and with that, the end of any kind of continuous blues booking policy. "I've lived in Toronto long enough to have witnessed a number of the city's great blues clubs: The Colonial, The El Mocambo (in the 70s), Albert's Hall, The Bermuda Onion and The Silver Dollar Room," says Kendall. "I believe that this city needs and deserves a world class blues venue. When a door closes another opens, I'm sure it'll only be a matter of time before Toronto blues fans have a new "Home of The Blues". The Dollar will continue as a live music venue presenting primarily indie rock.

Love harps? Join Massive Harp Attack! Be a part of history and help set the record for Canada's Largest Harmonica Workshop ever, at this year's Tim Hortons Southside Shuffle in Port Credit. Canadian favourites David Rotundo and Jerome Godboo, with the support of Mississippi Tourism, offer instruction, a harmonica, a certificate of participation as well as access to that day's Mainstage performance (itself a \$17 value) all for only \$10. Takes place Sunday September 12th at 11:00am, at the Waterside Inn World Stage. No experience required, family packages \$20. Bring completed registration forms to the Mainstage entrance - forms can be downloaded from www.southsideshuffle.com

Musicians Take Note: Are you interested in showcase opportunities at upcoming music industry events? Please contact the office if you would like to invest time into a showcase at the OCFE Conference in Ottawa, the Blues Summit Five showcase program in Toronto, or the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. More details at info@torontobluesociety.com or call the office at 416-538-3885

Rita behind bars: There have been rumours that Rita Chiarelli was working on a "secret project" and now the word is out. Rita calls it "Music From The Big House". She and director Bruce McDonald traveled to Louisiana State Penitentiary, also known as Angola, to make a documentary of Rita performing with some of the inmates. Rita writes "This is my trip to the prison where Leadbelly, Pete Williams and many others were incarcerated. As a former plantation it has a captivating musical history...but instead of just putting on a concert for the inmates I thought I should perform with the musical inmates. The officials say that this could be the first time ever in a USA prison, that an outsider (that would be me) has performed with inmates. It's a story about music, love and forgiveness. I'm proud to say that the International Documentary Association has selected this film out of hundreds they

receive world wide to show simultaneously in New York at the IFC Center and in LA at the ArcLight Hollywood. A kickass soundtrack will be released early next year...I'm on my way to NY so stay tuned. You can follow me on Twitter and Facebook (links are on my website)." For more on the project visit www.musicfromthebighouse.com

Grit Laskin receives OCFE's 2010 Estelle Klein Award: William "Grit" Laskin, one of the world's most sought-after instrument makers, is the recipient of the 2010 Estelle Klein Award, presented by the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals (OCFF). This honour recognizes significant contribution to Ontario's folk music community in memory of Estelle Klein, long-time advocate for the folk music scene in Canada. "If there were a modern-day example of the Renaissance man, Grit Laskin would most certainly be it," said Paul Mills, Board President of the OCFE and long-time friend of Laskin. A great Canadian luthier, Laskin is best known for his craftsmanship of inlay work on headstocks and fretboards, and for the innovative beveled armrests and ribrests which create a more biomechanically comfortable guitar. Though a musician in his own right, he's also known as a lobbyist, author and leader: Borealis Records was founded in part by Laskin, as were the Canadian Folk Music Awards and the Association of String Instrument Artisans. The award will be presented at the 24th Annual OCFE conference, October 14-17 2010, in Ottawa.

Mako Funasaka st Southside Shuffle: When it comes to the legacy of the blues, 10 years is a drop in the bucket, chronologically. But when it comes to *Talkin' Blues*, Mako Funasaka's immersion into the blues genre, it represents a significant body of work that began with the Port Credit Southside Shuffle back in September 2000. Meeting many of the musicians who became the blues bedrock of his first TV series here, it's important that Funasaka marks this auspicious anniversary in their company. Chuck Jackson, Gary Kendall, Michael Pickett, Jack de Keyser, David Rotundo – many of whom played integral roles in Mako's first 300 interviews and performance shoots – ultimately translated into 39 episodes of "Talkin' Blues – The Series" and 13 episodes of "Rhythm, Roots and Soul". When Funasaka was awarded the Blues Booster Maple Blues Award in 2006 for the added exposure his handiwork had lent to the industry, he dedicated it to these key individuals who had originally given so freely of their time and their talents.

To celebrate the first 10 years, Funasaka will be bringing some highlights of his work to the Shuffle's ArtTrax Gallery, 133 Queen St. East, featuring two special documentaries together with never-before-seen footage that represents special meaning and special memories to him. This is your chance to see *My Harp Space* - a documentary about local harmonica players, showing on Friday evening, September 10th

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The **24th Street Wailers** (l. to r. Emily Burgess, Jon Wong, Mike Archer, Jesse Whiteley and Lindsay Beaver) take a bow on the stage at Nathan Phillips Square after being voted winners of the Toronto Blues Society's Talent Search. Runners up were Jordan John and Shrimp Daddy. Part of their prize package is a showcase appearance at the Southside Shuffle at 3pm on Sunday, September 12. They have recently performed in the Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival, The Orangeville Jazz and Blues Festival and at the Toronto Blues Society 25th Anniversary bash. Lindsay Beaver (Drums and vocals) and Jesse Whiteley (organ/piano and vocals) began jamming and sharing music in mid 2007 while attending Humber College. Jesse was born into the Whiteley family who have established themselves over the decades in the Canadian roots music scene. Lindsay hails from Nova Scotia, which boasts a large blues community. Over time they met fellow students Emily Burgess (guitar) and Mike Archer (bass) and later added Jon Wong on sax. Photo by Dougal Bichan



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records. I would sway and sing to Lou Rawls, Yellowman, Bob Marley and Michael Jackson. My family truly loved and appreciated music. On most weekends, we would have visitors. My mother would cook all kinds of different dishes and dominoes would hit the table from time to time. The boisterous sound of my Uncle telling someone they cheated. Those memories live with me and transcend through my music today. I always equate music as the one thing that can bring people together.

My inspirations run deep. My mother, through her love of cooking, showed me what it meant to be dedicated to a task. There was never a time in my childhood – that I can remember – where my mother was asked to prepare a special dish and she turned the person down. She loved music and when she saw my passion for it, she allowed me to audition for The Canadian Children's Opera Chorus. She never gave up on my dreams to be a singer even though it was tough for her to imagine me making a decent living in such a volatile industry. My sister, a dancer, had a wonderful run but eventually set her sights on academia (Shani is currently a professor at NYU). My mother worried that I would run out of steam at some point. Yet, because of her tireless faith, I stand today an accomplished musician.

Jackie Richardson is one of the most influential Canadian singers in my life. I used to sit with my mother and watch this wonderful woman sway with a choir in a show called "Hallelujah". Her personality, her voice and her presence, all grand. My first professional concert out of university was the Women's Blues Revue (1998). It was the first time I met Jackie in person. Jackie was so gracious. She took my mother and me out for coffee after the concert and spoke to me about the industry. She reassured my mother that my career would come together through hard work and a little luck. I will never forget that meeting.

As a founding member of the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, I was overjoyed to discover that Jackie was a board member and we would perform with her from time to time. Jackie went on to do a brilliant show "Cookin At The Cookery". She was Nana on the Rogers commercial and she brought the house down in "Ain't MisBehavin'". The real gift with Jackie is beyond her voice. Jackie remembers everyone's name from stage managers to crew to box office personnel. She would stop every day to ask you how your day was going and she was sincerely interested. When she sings you hear history and struggle and comfort and love; the emotions ever reaching. I admire her and thank her for all she has said and done and all that she continues to do in my life and the lives of others. To hear a duet that Jackie and I recorded please feel free to download "Go Tell It On The Mountain" from The Gospel Christmas Project available on iTunes.

For those of you who are interested in the Arts, I would like to offer some words of wisdom. As I stated before, I had dreams of superstardom. I thought that being a singer meant that I would be transformed into the next Whitney Houston. The industry has certainly changed. The reality is many of us will not see the superstardom. If you are serious about being a singer, dancer, actor artist and so on here is some sound advice.

1. Expand your abilities We see images on BET of bling and big cars and big houses. They are usually rentals. If you want to rap, learn to play an instrument. Take acting classes or enroll in a creative writing course. This offers up a plethora of options to continue in the entertainment industry in the event that you don't get the huge record deal (virtually non existent in our changing industry).

2. Mind your business Being creative does not mean we can't be business minded. Many of us focus on the creative process because we are artists. As organic as that sounds, we have to take the time to learn about the industry we're in. How do we expand on our product? Who are the players within our industry? How will we advertise? How do

we make money? These are very important questions and you should take the time to answer them. Researching, courses, personal advice are all tools to gain information. You should know as much about the industry as your managers do. If you fail to learn the business, the potential to be taken advantage of is multiplied.

3. Embrace your passions You must enjoy what you do in order for others to enjoy it. The Arts embody a spiritual connection with your audience. Imagine watching a play where the actor on stage couldn't care less about the scene. We, as audience members, would be turned off from the performance and would leave the theatre feeling betrayed. It is important to move away from people who try to discourage you from living your dream. Many will try to derail you including those in the industry. Rejection is extremely high in our business and you must not take it personally when a door closes. Others will open.

If you use these things as guidelines, you can truly have great success in the Arts. My mission is not only to continue to hone my skills as an artist, but to help mold the generations that are coming up. I take my role as a Black woman in the industry seriously. The industry is difficult as a whole but it is particularly challenging as a person of colour. We are now seeing shows that are bringing diversity to the masses but we are still in the primitive stages, especially in Canadian programming. One of the greatest opportunities I have been given is portraying "Killer Queen" in *We Will Rock You*. Imagine being part of a rock musical where race is unimportant. Many shows have roles that are race specific, like Ragtime or Les Miserables. WWRY is a show of the modern times where two leads can be Black. No character is race specific (My character, for example, is played by a White woman in England and an Asian woman in Australia). I am excited about the future of the industry and I look forward to hearing from those of you who are setting their sights on a music career.

- Alana Bridgewater



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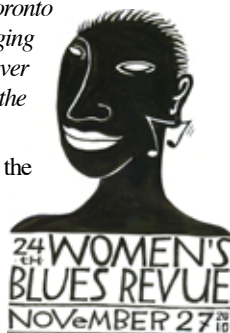
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ROBIN BANK\$ PAYS OFF

Robin Banks is a former winner of the Toronto Blues Society's Talent Search and has been bringing her high-energy blues to all parts of the world ever since. We are pleased to welcome her back to the 2010 Women's Blues Revue

Robin is a courageous soul who abandoned the comforts of Canadian life to follow her artistic path. An accomplished vocalist, band leader, songwriter and record producer, Miss Banks is best known for her powerful, sassy, sultry and spirited style of performance. A real show woman!



In 1999, after a brief flirtation with success in the Canadian, Detroit and Chicago Blues music scenes, Banks took a leap of faith and moved her career to Dallas, Texas where she remained for several years performing and recording around Texas and "The South" with the nation's top Blues musicians. In 2003 Robin took her brand of Texas and Chicago style Blues to Europe where she performed to sold out audiences appreciative of her sound, style, sincerity, authenticity and dedication to this great African American art form.

After the death of her mother in 2005, Robin made another bold move and brought her career to the Caribbean island of Jamaica. She easily blended into the Jamaican music scene and added her seasoned collection of industry skills to the powerful music culture that exists on "the rock" and quickly became known as "thee Blues singer in Jamaica". She expanded her repertoire to include R&B, Soul, Jazz and Reggae music and performed around the island at various resorts, nightclubs, and festivals including the celebrated Air Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival in 2007 and again in 2010.

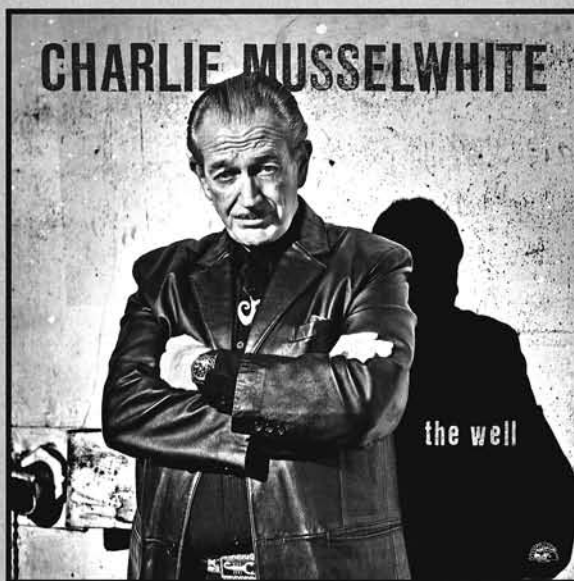
Robin currently lives in Toronto, Canada but remains a prolific, international artist. In November 2009, she released a new CD "Livin' Life" with Texas based pianist Christian Dozzler. The CD has hot reviews and the duo toured throughout Europe in the spring of 2010. www.myspace.com/missrobinbanks



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at 7:30 pm (featuring local heroes Mark "Bird" Stafford, David Rotundo, Jerome Godboo, Steve Marriner, Roly Platt, Carlos del Junco, Raoul Bhaneja, Michael Pickett, Donnie Walsh, Dr. Nick and Chuck Jackson). On the following night, September 11th, Saturday at 7:30 pm, see the award-winning documentary *Talkin' Blues presents Mel Brown* – in tribute to the late, great blues guitarist whose friendship and musical gifts touched Funasaka so deeply. On this same occasion, Electro-Fi Records will be showcasing Mel Brown's final CD release, *Love, Lost and Found* which will be on sale at the ArtTrax Gallery, together with this Mel Brown DVD. There will be additional interview and performance videos show between 2:30 - 3:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday afternoon as well.

Having recently returned from Norway's Notodden Blues Festival, Funasaka enjoys experiencing the global festival circuit for ongoing interview opportunities and to document the blues in its true context around the world. Funasaka conducted interviews with Solomon Burke, Eric Bibb, Carolina Chocolate Drops, Nick Moss and Lazy Lester for Notodden's forthcoming European Blues Senter and was an added attraction, showcasing his work on the Festival's Video Wall. For more information on Mako Funasaka and the Talkin' Blues Project, go to: www.talkinblues.com

Call for Volunteers: The TBS is looking for help! Can you legally pour drinks? TBS needs a Smartservice qualified bartender for the Blues in the Garden event on Sept 19, as well as someone to tend a BBQ! The TBS is often needing volunteers beyond our public events. Have you previously been in touch about volunteering and not heard back from us? We'd still like to stay in touch so please contact the office with your availability. We

currently need contributors for the Loose Blues News, data entry for the events calendar and website, organizing sponsorships and fundraising events. Please email info@torontobluesociety.com for more information. Sign up for the Toronto Blues Society or renew your TBS Membership today! Contact the TBS Office today or visit: www.torontobluesociety.com/join.htm

RIP Phillip Walker: Celebrated blues guitarist and vocalist Phillip Walker passed away as the result of heart failure in Palm Springs, CA (near his hometown of Los Angeles) on July 22, 2010. He was 73. Over the course of his 50-plus year career, Walker recorded many solo albums, toured with zydeco master Clifton Chenier and played behind countless blues stars, including Etta James, Jimmy Reed and Lowell Fulson. He won a 1999 Blues Music Award for his collaboration with Lonnie Brooks and Long John Hunter, Lone Star Shootout (Alligator Records). Guitar Player describes Walker's music as "big Texas blues meets West Coast cool...Walker roughs up B.B. King shouts, T-Bone Walker jumps, Cajun stomps and Lowell Fulson swing with terse, cutting guitar."

Walker was considered to be among the finest Texas/West Coast style blues guitarists and vocalists. As a teenager, Phillip soaked up the sounds of such Texas and Gulf Coast blues stars as T-Bone Walker, Gatmouth Brown, Lonesome Sundown, Ervin Charles, Guitar Junior (aka Lonnie Brooks) and Long John Hunter. In 1954, zydeco master Clifton Chenier invited the 17-year-old Walker to join his band. After a two-year stint with Chenier, Walker moved to El Paso, where he looked up his friend Long John Hunter. He quickly earned a reputation as one of the West Coast's finest guitar players, and in 1969, he even joined Little Richard's band for a brief period. Walker toured Europe extensively, and recorded

for numerous labels including Fantasy, Bruce Bromberg's Joliet Records, Playboy, Hightone, Black Top and Rounder Records. In 1999, he joined his old pals Long John Hunter and Lonnie Brooks for Alligator's award-winning Lone Star Shootout supersession. Throughout the 2000s Walker continued recording and touring, including an October 2009 tour of South Africa. His most recent CD, *Going Back Home* (Delta Groove Records), was released in 2007.

In the April edition of *Maple Blues* we ran an item on Morgan Davis appearing at the Earl of Whitchurch Tavern in Stouffville. After we went to press Morgan informed us that he would not be appearing and in our May notification ran copy about the replacement concert presented by Jim Priebe featuring Hurricane Mike Thompson's depiction of a fictitious blues character, Doc Snake. We chose not to run a letter to the editor we received from Morgan in June over concern that it may offend. At Morgan's request we are now publishing his letter below:

I was quite taken aback when I read the Loose Blues News in the May issue of Maple Blues. I want to make absolutely clear that I have no connection to the History of the Blues that was presented by Mike Thompson at the Earl of Whitchurch in May. I found the description of this event to be offensive in that it paints a stereotypically racist picture of this "created" blues player. It is certainly not indicative of any "spirit of the blues" that I am aware of.

Sincerely, Morgan Davis

Before publishing the above we contacted Jim Priebe for a response which is: "Jim Priebe still hopes Morgan will bring his views of the Blues to Stouffville."

- Derek Andrews, Brian Blain, Janet Alilovic

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Illustration by Nathaniel Mesner



JW-Jones Band *Midnight Memphis Sun*
NorthernBlues/Outside (In Canada, Ruf Records
elsewhere)

JW-Jones continues to receive accolades from around the blues world and his touring schedule should be the envy of every blues act, covering 14 countries & 4 continents so far. He has a rare date in the area at the Burlington Rib Fest on September 4th before heading off on another lengthy European tour. This CD, his 6th, should be a hot item at the side of the stage and a worthy addition to your library as well. He has guests on every one of his CDs and **Hubert Sumlin & Charlie Musselwhite** are on this one but you quickly get the impression that while he may continue to feature guests, he no longer needs to – he exudes that much confidence & talent. There is a collage of live footage linked at www.jw-jones.com that is proof of that. *Midnight Memphis Sun*'s twelve songs include eight originals the first of which, "Off The Market" is a striking analogy of a new relationship to the real estate market. The singer is perhaps too possessive for this relationship to last, especially in the eyes (& ears) of the reviewer for the Globe & Mail, but you can decide for yourself. "Kissin' In Memphis" is another well-written new one, a mid tempo tale of his time in that history-laden town during the recording sessions at the legendary Sun Studio. Musselwhite adds some delicious harmonica & JW-Jones an inventive guitar solo. Among the non-originals, he does a fine job of **Jimmy Reed**, **Lowell Fulson** and **Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee** but perhaps more interestingly, a bluesy take on **Bryan Adams**' "Cuts Like A Knife", with fine organ work from **Jesse Whiteley**. "Born Operator" is a JW-Jones original, written in the style of **Magic Sam** and serves as the first of four appearances for Sumlin. The operator in question is **Bernie**

Madoff, the perpetrator of that massive Ponzi scheme. Another feature, "Howlin' With Hubert" gives both guitar players a solid traditional vehicle for soloing. These are just a few of the highlights. The guitar prowess praised by **Guitar World** magazine shines through on every song. The blues is in safe hands here.



Ken Whiteley *Another Day's Journey*
Borealis/Universal

The artwork with **Ken Whiteley**'s new CD includes a convincing map that compresses the famous music centres in the USA along with some of the centres here that figure on the CD. It looks like you can travel it in a day but it's also intended to reflect Ken's life in music. He certainly draws on a lifetime's worth of memories. "Another Day's Journey" is also the opening song, learned from **Bessie Jones & the Georgia Sea Island Singers** who he saw at Mariposa over 40 years ago. The arrangement is one that evokes **Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee** at their most joyous, even to the whoops. **Guy Davis** guests on guitar & vocals. Almost every song here is a new composition, using a career memory as its starting point and a friend/guest performer to assist. The result is a set of songs that looks forward and backward in equal measure. "Language Of Love" builds on classic blues of the '20's and **Maria Muldaur** is the perfect collaborator, as she is for "Mike And Mary", a new song that draws on their early jug band days and **The Original Sloth Band**. Guy Davis' suggestion to re-work "Motherless Children" is another highlight, using **Blind Willie McTell**'s twelve string slide version as its foundation. "Too Much Trouble" is another new one that features a gorgeous melody for a third Davis joint effort. "I Want To Be Happy" is from the late **Jackie Washington**'s huge repertoire and a delightful tribute. Special mention should be made for **Chuck Campbell**'s contributions on his "Sacred Steel" lap guitar playing and to **Chris Whiteley**'s harmonica work, especially on "Old Wind Blow". **Bucky Berger** on drums and **Ben Whiteley** on bass provide sterling support throughout. With such a rich career to draw on this can serve as a template for innumerable albums. The CD launch is at Hugh's Room on October 1st.



**Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne/Julian Fauth/
Bobby Dean Blackburn/Curley Bridges** *Blues
Piano – Rama Electro-Fi/Outside*

That Electro-Fi does things differently may not be news but to have so many piano players on the roster when most labels concentrate on guitar players is unique. Putting them in one room with the tapes rolling (figuratively speaking) was a masterstroke. The room was in the newly renovated Gladstone Hotel last October and **Bobby Dean Blackburn** just had to make a comment, having played there when it was far less attractive. It was obviously a warm & friendly room filled with an appreciative audience that witnessed a great show, one that engineer **Tom Jardin** and producers **Andrew Galloway & Alec Fraser** captured most beautifully. Blues piano almost automatically brings to mind boogie woogie and **Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne** does not disappoint, opening with his new "Boogie Woogie Showdown". Blackburn seamlessly blends **Jimmy Smith**'s "Back To The Chicken Shack" with **Ruth Brown**'s "24 Hours A Day". He's then joined by **Julian Fauth** at the other piano for a seemingly improvised "All Night Long". Fauth flies solo next and introduces some seriousness into the proceedings with his stunning new "Blues For Mel Brown". In 6:44, he tells us of Mel's history & accomplishments with telling sincerity. It's a masterpiece and a fitting reminder that **Mel Brown**'s last CD will be released very soon. Wayne debuts another fine new one, "I Took The Wrong Road" before relinquishing the piano chair(s) to Fauth & **Curley Bridges**, who begin with Fauth singing "The Blues Ain't Nothing" before Bridges segues into "Hey Little Girl". Bridges carries on alone with a fine version of "Rock Me Baby" before Fauth resumes with a very effective warning about wife abuse, "Sorry Don't Cut No Ice", its jaunty Bluebird beat in stark contrast to its subject matter. Bridges comes back (on the CD) with "You're The One". "Loved And Lost" is a new slow blues by Fauth, telling the story of a woman whose love is a chronic substance abuser. Wayne gets the closer to this generous concert with the rocking "Something's Going On In My Room". The rhythm section of **Chris Whiteley** on guitar, **Victor Bateman** on bass and **Bucky Berger** on drums take everything in stride. Whiteley also plays trumpet & harmonica when needed.



Rockit 88 Band Sweet Sugar Cane 7 Arts

Bill King is justly known for his work in jazz, R&B & blues but he grew up listening to all kinds of music. That history is reflected this time out. The songs cover the whole range of what should simply be described as music of the American South. **The Band** covered a lot of this territory and that reference should give you some idea of what to expect. Guitarist **Neil Chapman**'s own work isn't especially bluesy but in this context, his four vocals fit right in, especially his "I Never Knew The Blues (Till I Lost You)". That being said, not only is this a highly listenable CD, there's a lot here for blues fans to savour. We have to begin with the title song. "Sweet Sugar Cane" by itself would be worth the price of the disc. A soft piano introduction, with some slide guitar and Bill setting a scene that could be from a classic Southern novel. Some cymbal work & **Shakura S'Aida** becomes the woman on the bed. Words here, though, just aren't enough, you'll have to listen for yourself. "Brother, Sister" is a gorgeous new civil rights anthem and much of its gospel fervour carries over into "I Feel Helpless", a song about a dying relationship that has Shakura S'Aida on board again with a co-lead vocal. "I Can't Live Without You" and "Independence Day" are highly personal songs delivered with great intensity. A straight-ahead blast of blues closes out the CD with "Mississippi Grind". **Jim Casson** and **Lionel Williams** round out this superlative basic quartet, on drums & bass respectively. The web site is www.reverbnation.com/rockit88band and you can get the mail order information there. Better yet, go to the CD release party at Hugh's Room on September 21st and get your copy there.

Duke Robillard Passport To The Blues Stony Plain/Warner

The follow-up to **Duke Robillard**'s Grammy-nominated *Stomp! The Blues Tonight* is a much tougher sounding, small group disc. Guitar/keyboards/bass & drums with a honking tenor sax is what we get here and it sure sounds like the band loved doing it. From the opening "Working Hard For My Uncle (Sam)" to the **Howlin' Wolf** tribute

"Rhode Island Red Rooster" to "Make It Rain", a song he picked up from the 2006 **Tom Waits** tour (maybe you didn't know he squeezed that in!), to "Text Me", set to a rocking '50's beat, to the smoky, late night talking "Duke's Evening Blues", to the soulful "High Cost of Lovin'", a song he wrote with the late **Doc Pomus** in the '80's, to another fine slow "Grey Sky Blues", a tip of the hat to **Buddy Guy**, it's a must have. As if that wasn't enough, there's a bonus studio jam, "Bradford Boogie".

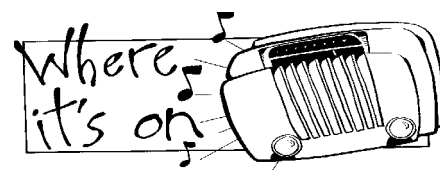


Charlie Musselwhite The Well Alligator/Fontana North/Universal

Now back on Alligator in his forty plus year career, **Charlie Musselwhite** has turned in one of his most personal albums. It's sometimes hard to keep in mind when you see one of the most relaxed performers in blues that he has long been fighting alcoholism. He hasn't had a drink in 22 years but several songs here deal with it for the first time on record. "The Well" concerns a news story of a young girl who fell into a well, breaking her arm. She sang nursery rhymes to herself until she was rescued three days later. Charlie determined that if she could do that, he could stop drinking and he did. The memories continue: his 93-year-old mother was murdered during a break-in in Memphis in 2005 and the powerful "Sad And Beautiful World" here, a duet with **Mavis Staples** shows the healing power of the blues. Among the tales of a bluesman traveling through the south is a song about a short time spent in "Cook County Jail". There is a tribute to **Sonny Payne**, the DJ at KFFA in Helena Arkansas, who has been with **King Biscuit Time** since **Sonny Boy Williamson** began broadcasting in 1941. "Hoodoo Queen" deals with the legend of Marie Laveau. There aren't many things about the blues and the South that he doesn't know. This CD, with his excellent trio behind him, will give you a 48-minute introduction.

-John Valenteyn

jvalenteyn8724@rogers.com



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 (88.1)
"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,

CFMU-FM (93.3)
"Mr. Pointy Shoes" w/ **Dennis Smith**
Tuesday 11:00pm-12:00am
"Blues Experience" w/ **Mike Wallace**
Wednesday 6:00-7:30pm,
"Breakfast of Champions" w/ **Paul Panchezak**
Thursday 10:00am-12:00pm (Hamilton area).



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)



The irrepressible **Watermelon Slim** was a big hit at the Kitchener Blues Festival and will be back in our area on the mainstage at the Southside Shuffle on Saturday, September 11

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

- ***Ken Whiteley** *Another Day's Journey* Borealis
- ***Rockit 88 Band** *Sweet Sugar Cane* 7 Arts
- Stevie Ray Vaughan** *Couldn't Stand The Weather* Epic Legacy
- ***Wes Mackey** *Beyond Words* Bluesline
- Bob Corritore** *Harmonica Blues* Delta Groove
- Mitch Kashmar** *100 Miles To Go* Delta Groove
- Paul Thorn** *Pimps & Peaches* Perpetual Obscurity
- ***Chris Antonik** *Chris Antonik* Indie
- Duke Robillard** *Passport To The Blues* Stony Plain
- Ronnie Earl** *Spread The Love* Stony Plain
- ***Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne/Julian Fauth/Curley Bridges/**
- Bobby Dean Blackburn** *Blues Piano-Rama* Electro-Fi
- ***Wayne Buttery & Roly Platt** *Tangled Roots* Indie
- Eddie Turner** *Miracles & Demons* NorthernBlues
- ***John T. Davis** *Hammond Organ Vibe* Hover Indie
- Paul Butterfield Band** *Live At Rockpalast* SPV
- Derek Trucks Band** *Roadsongs* Sony
- Various Artists** *The End Of An Era* Superbird
- ***James Anthony** *On The Edge* Indie
- ***Les Copeland** *Don't Let The Devil In* Earwig
- ***Mike Clark Band** *Porch Songs* Indie

* Canadian

CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds are free to Charter members, maximum 50 words. Ads run for 3 issues, unless renewed by the 18th of the month.

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"In the pocket" seasoned Sax/Woodwinds/Keys/Vocalist seeks freelance work. Repertoire unlimited. All Styles. Play jazz and corporate circuits. *Also interested in starting award-winning originals band blues/jazz/R&B focus). To inquire, please email thegroovefactor@rogers.com and include your name/bio/anydemos or websites. Only Big Ears and Swingers please. (Oct09)

RECORDS - Collector seeks to purchase Blues LPs 78s and 45s Call Ross (905) 836-5752 (Jun09)

Need Help With Your CD? Everything from inexpensive demos to full album production (in-house art work). Martin Alex Aucoin is a Maple Blues/ECMA/Juno nominated producer/songwriter/keyboard player with years of session work experience in Nashville & Toronto. 416 458 3512 www.martinalexaucoin.com (Oct09)

When all songs on a record are about lost love, boozing and gambling, the blues gets to sound generic. I write satirical, political, novelty and cheating. From Delta to Big Band. Call: 416-447-4368 or Email: mattsguitar@hotmail.com (apr09)

SOUNDSCAPE MUSIC PRODUCTION SERVICES: 1) Recording Studio (\$60 / Hr. - Includes Engineer) 2) CD & DVD Manufacturing 3) Download Cards. Members of Toronto Musicians Association, SOCAN, Toronto Blues Society, Oakville Arts Council www.soundscapemusicproduction.com - since 1985 - \$50 credit with this ad. Call now for a quote 416-410-5252 (Mar 09)

Blues Guitar Lessons. electric, acoustic, rhythm, lead, slide, open tunings. Solos note for note, Clapton, SRV, B.B. King, Stones, Buddy Guy, Duane Allman and more. Richard Kahl, lead guitarist for the Blushing Brides, the Dylan Tree, Classic Albums Live. Featured in the Sun, the Star, MacLeans and Breakfast Television (6x) 416-955-0855 (jun08)

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Guitar Lessons: Blues, R&B, slide. Professional teacher has worked with Danny Brooks, Rita Chiarelli, Kendall Wall, The Johnny Max Band and many blues legends. Lessons catered to your taste & ability. Please call Kevin Higgins 626-6824 email: 43@gmail.com www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1136495763 (May 03)

Acoustic and Electric Blues Guitar lessons: Downtown and in North York. D'Arcy Wickham, veteran Toronto guitar teacher now has openings for students of all levels for private, custom designed blues guitar lessons. Get results with proven methods. Notes and guitar supplied. 25 years experience. www.darcywickham.com 416-781-1613 Apr03

Keeping the blues alive up north



They say it's worth the drive to Acton for leatherware (which quite frankly, looks better on its original owners). But here's reason enough to drive to Gravenhurst – to savour spectacular, highly-personalized concerts by favourite performers in a venue no bigger than an oversized rec-room. Meet Peter Swane and his girlfriend, Michelle Nelson – two of the bubbliest, most enthusiastic music junkies you'll ever meet. And they can't wait to invite you into their home – and home theatre where the only rule is you can't take your drink beyond the confines of the cave-like 30 X 40-foot room and, well....there's another one... you must swap your street shoes for a pair of loaner bedroom slippers. This takes some getting used to for a Toronto person.....first of all, how can he attract the impressive names of his roster up to 'the Gateway to Muskoka' and The answer is, in short, chemistry. The artists are well-paid – ticket prices aren't cheap. But, given the value received at your typical ACC, who wouldn't jump at the chance to sit 4 feet across from the likes of Johnny Winter, Hubert Sumlin or Sonny Landreth? The boomer-based crowd of hard-core music lovers hang off every Peter's Players email notice and come from miles around for this distinctly non-city opportunity to get inside the music of their musical heroes in a setting so intimate, you feel like you could've brought along your PJs and favourite blanket. My inauguration into the 115-member club (most shows are obviously Sold Out) came in form of a chance to see a longtime favourite, singer-guitarist, Les Dudek. Dudek, still sporting a full mane of silver hair, a bit of a paunch and a bass player and drummer who play like four, took no more than two songs from the first of a generous,

double-set of classics and new songs to realize the room wasn't filled with people looking to get loaded on a small-town Friday night-on-the-town. These were hard-core fans who'd paid \$60/head to listen hard to some of their favourite music of all time and get the chance to cheer back like their faltering youth depended on it.

Swane, once a full-time renovator, had always gotten his greatest joys from live music. Between renos, he dedicated a room in his Innisfil house – starting in 2004, to presenting shows to family and friends. The reactions he got and the personal fulfillment he received from the process eventually moved him further north to a bigger house with greater opportunities – just off Highway #11 and only 165 km from Toronto. Opening the room in '06 with a double-bill of Johnny Winter and James Cotton, the potential for offering something special was beyond obvious as a new career choice. The single father of four might just be the biggest kid in the house, based on the smile he wears as he

greet his regulars, takes tickets and makes sure you've got your slippers on. I asked him about the slippers – was it his schtick? Just a way to warm up the party? His answer was matter-of-fact: "Hell, no. I have to vacuum the carpet after the show – it makes one hell of a difference cleaning up."

But Swane has learned a thing or two about promoting music to fans of music. And giving people proximity to the artist – and when you have to duck in front of Dudek's mike stand and try not to kick away his set list, you've got intimate – is the secret of why live music is so magical. No people talking in the back of the room here. It's 100% live music for live music fans. And it's refreshing to know that, in the age of LiveNation and Ticketmaster, there's still a place you can go to get it.

Peter's Players is located at 830 Muskoka Road South in Gravenhurst
www.petersplayers.com
(705) 687-2117

- Eric Thom

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TORONTO LISTINGS

Blue Goose 1 Blue Goose Street
416-255-2442 Etobicoke

3-Sep Trish O'Neill & The Blues
Pirates 9pm - 1am

11, 12-Sep Paul Storm Band 9
pm

Capt. Matthew Flinders Queens
Quay at foot of York Street 416-
200-5389

19-Sep Eric Sardinas & Big
Motor 1:00 - 5:00 / Special guest
David Rotundo / \$70.00 incl HST

**CNE Canadian National Exhibi-
tion** Casino Patio Outdoor Stage
in front of the casino
2,3,4,5,6-Sep Paul James Band
7:00pm - 11:00pm

Delta Chelsea Monarchs Pub
33 Gerrard St W at Yonge 416-
595-1975

2-Sep Jack de Keyzer, Jerome
Godboo 9p.m. no cover
9-Sep Cheryl Lescom, Alec
Fraser, Pat Rush, Jerome Godboo
9p.m. no cover
16-Sep Prakash John, Jordan
John, Al Cross, Jerome Godboo
9p.m. no cover
30-Sep Rick Taylor, Jeff
Laughton, Bucky Berger, Jerome
Godboo 9p.m. no cover

Gate 403 403 Roncesvalles
Avenue 416-588-2930
8-Sep Robin Bank\$ and Christian
Dozzler CD Release 8:30 pm

Gladstone Hotel 1214 Queen
Street West 416-531-4635
2-Sep Suzie Vinnick 8pm, no
cover.
7-Oct Jack de Keyzer 8pm, no
cover.

Grossman's Tavern 416-977-
7000

10-Sep The Damn Neighbours

Highway 61 BBQ 1620 Bayview
Ave. 416-489-7427

7,14,21,28-Sep & 5-Oct Open
Mic Night w/ Brian Blain Every
Tuesday 7pm

8-Sep Sherman Lee Dillon 7:30

25-Sep Rick Taylor 7:30

29-Sep Doc MacLean 8pm

Hollywood on the Queensway
1184 The Queensway 416-251-
0288 Etobicoke

5-Sep Groove Corporation 4:30
- 9:00pm

Hugh's Room 2261 Dundas
Street West 416- 531-6604

1-Sep The Sojourners

13-Sep Charlie A'Court, Chris
Kirby, Treasa Levasseur

18-Sep Rita Chiarelli

22-Sep Terry Gillespie w/the w/
the Rhythm & Roots Band "Big
Money" CD launch

23-Sep Sealey & Baldori

1-Oct Ken Whiteley CD Release

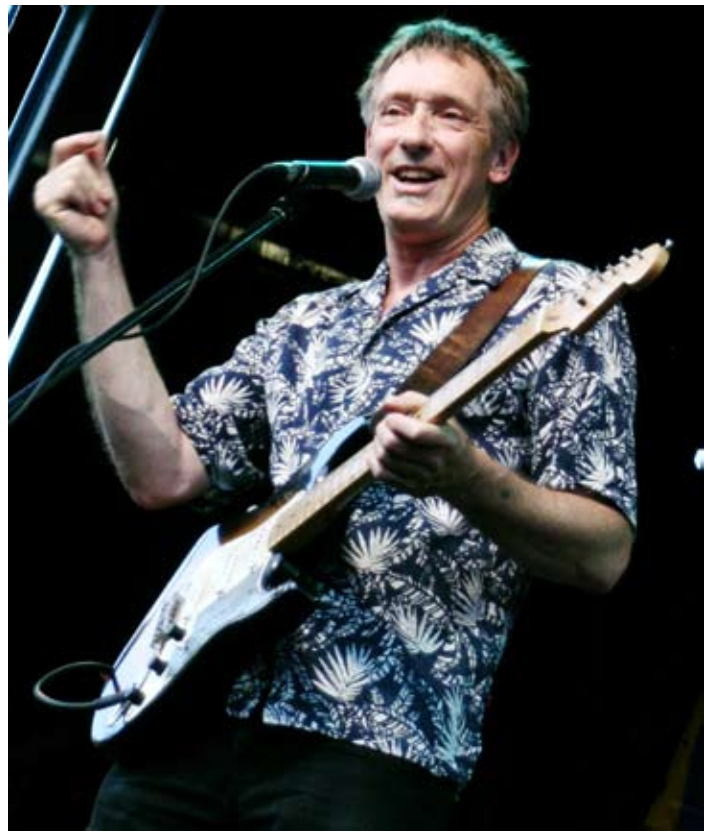
14-Oct Alex Pangman CD
Release

15-Oct McKenna Gibson Band

Lou Dawgs 589 King St West
3-Sep Paige Armstrong

Reba's Cafe 3289 Dundas St W.
416-626-7372

19-Sep Brian Blain 1-4pm



Terry Gillespie and his Rhythm & Roots Band will be appearing at Hugh's Room on September 22 for the Toronto launch of their new CD, "Big Money." On September 23rd, they play the Groove Kitchen in Cambridge.

Simcoe Jazz and Blues Simcoe
St. N. Oshawa

18-Sep Blue Room 9:30 p.m. -
1:30 a.m.

Strikers Bar - CNE CNE

1,2,3,4,5,6-Sep The Heart At-
tacks 7PM

The Dominion on Queen 500
Queen St. East 416-368-6893

11-Sep Paul Reddick

Vic Johnston Arena 335 Church
St 416-902-9801 Streetsville

8-Sep Southside Shuffle Ice Jam
7PM Johnny Max and friends vs
The media & sponsors

905 & BEYOND

Brando's 135 Market Street
519-720-6758 Brantford

25-Sep Groove Corporation
6:30-9:30pm

Brockville Arts Centre 235
King Street West 877-342-7122
Brockville

11-Sep Johnny Winter 8:00 pm
w/Jimmy Bowskill \$47.50

Burlington Ribfest Spencer
Smith Park, Foot of Brant St 905-
332-3513 Burlington
4-Sep Groove Corporation 5:00-
7:00pm

Corks 19 Queen St. 289-868-
9527 Niagara-on-the-Lake
4-Sep Niagara Rhythm Section
w/Bernie Labarge
11-Sep Niagara Rhythm Section
w/Neil Chapman
18-Sep Niagara Rhythm Section
w/John Dickie

25-Sep Niagara Rhythm Section
w/Gayle Acroyd & Ed Kopala

Muchas Gracias

New Members: Jenn Martin, Janet Zopfi, Betty Clarke,

Renewing Members: Rob Bowman, Stephen Hunter, Cindi
Rennie, Michael S. Rowland, Paul and Lynn Otterman, Michael
Kemp Titherington, Margaret Potter, Mary Carmichael, Carlos del
Junco, Denis Keldie, Keith Potter, Karen Rieschi,

Many thanks to Cate Stoker and Pat Power for their help at the
CNE Blues Festival and to "GT", Pat Pitt and Sam Briggs for their
help in preparing the Maple Blues mass mailing. Also a big thanks
to Janet Alilovic for helping with proofreading and Loose Blues
News

get yourself listed:

Browse to www.torontobluesociety.com and click on "Live Blues".
You will be directed how to enter your event into our database and
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New from STONY PLAIN RECORDS



DUKE ROBILLARD

Passport to the Blues

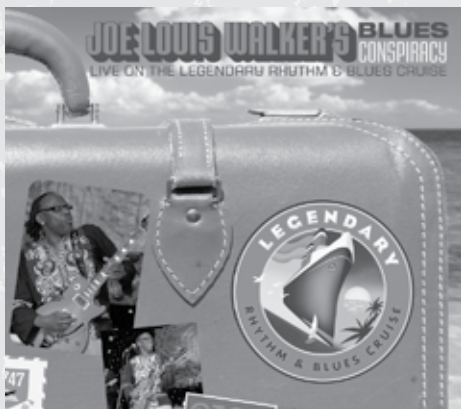
Duke is one of the most acclaimed modern blues artists with four 'Guitarist of The Year' and most recently 'Traditional Blues Artist Of The Year' awards. Following on the heels of Duke's Grammy nominated release, his latest has been described as "a stone return to Duke's grittiest roots — dirty, gutty, house-rockin', shack-shakin', finger-bustin', down-in-the-bottom git-tar blues" by Ted Drozdowski.



RONNIE EARL AND THE BROADCASTERS

Spread The Love

An all instrumental blues guitar release by one of the most acclaimed guitarists of our time. With The Broadcasters, his band of over 20 years, Ronnie's latest release shows him to be one of the most soulful blues and jazz guitarists today. He plays with spellbinding intensity, a master of his instrument, with a growing legion of fans that await each new release.



JOE LOUIS WALKER

Blues Conspiracy: Live On The Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise

Following his last CD, which won 'Album Of The Year' at the Blues Music Awards, Joe Louis Walker returns with a live recording that includes guests Johnny Winter, Tommy Castro, Duke Robillard, Kenny Neal, Tab Benoit and a dozen other blues who's who. He is a multiple Grammy Award and Blues Music Award winner and one of the highest profile blues artists on the scene. He has recorded with the likes of BB King, Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, Huey Lewis and Branford Marsalis. Blues Revue magazine describes JLW as a 'living legend,' he says however, 'the best is yet to come.'

Available Sept 28, 2010

**STONY
PLAIN**

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Donnelly's Pub 186 King St.W.
Dundas 289-238-9366 Dundas
18-Sep Downtime 9-1:30 p.m. /
no cover

Fireside Cafe 86348 London
Road 519-357-4484 Wingham
13-Sep Anthony Gomes Band
8:00pm \$20

Lavigne Tavern 10521 Hwy 64
705-594-2301 Lavigne Ont
24-Sep Tim Bastmeyer & Whis-
key River No Cover Charge

Lionheart British Pub 3221
Derry Road West Mississauga
24-Sep Andre & The J-Tones 9
p.m. till 1 a.m.

Liquid Lounge 159 Sydenham
St. 519- 756- 3939 Brantford
18-Sep Bill Durst with Joel
Guenther and Jesse O'Brien
19th Season Opener 3 to 6pm
25-Sep The Brazilian Sensation
"Big Gilson" Saturday Matinee
3 to 6pm

Music Hall 185 Queens Ave.
519-432-1107 London
25-Sep Lurrie Bell's Chicago
Blues Band wsg Nick Moss &
The Flip Tops. 7:00 p.m. \$30
(\$20 for Great lakes Blues
Society members)

**Orleans Restaurant and Jazz
Club** 17380 Yonge Street
Newmarket On
17-Sep Eddy Blues Band

Park Place 799 Park Road S
905-571-3156 Oshawa
11-Sep The Blazers

Peter's Players 830 Muskoka
Rd. S. 705-687-2117 Graven-
hurst
18-Sep Eric Sardinas

Regent Theatre 224 Main
Street 613- 476-8416 Picton
1-Oct John Primer 8pm/\$28

Southside Shuffle 52 Lake-
shore Road East 905- 891-
8463 Port Credit
11-Sep Rick Taylor Band 2:00
PM - 6:00 PM

Southside Shuffle After Party
Port Credit Legion Port Credit
9,10,11-Sep The Johnny Max
Band and special guests 10pm



Suzie Vinnick plays the Gladstone Melody Bar on September 2 as part of the TBS' new series presenting free blues concerts on the first Thursday of every month. Suzie will also be playing Sep 1, 6:00 PM at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, Sep 5 at the Pickett's Concert for Peace in Crystal Beach, Sep 23, 12:30 PM, at Metro Square in Toronto, Sep 25, 7:30 PM, at Stonecroft Folk in Ingersoll, Sep 26, 7:30 PM, at Showplace Performance Centre in Peterborough, and Oct 8 & 9 as part of the Leonard Cohen Tribute at Hugh's Room

The Groove Kitchen 656 King
Street East 519-650-4452
Cambridge
9-Sep Trouble & Strife with Sam
Turton
23-Sep Terry Gillespie Trio "Big
Money" CD Launch

The Harp Restaurant and Pub
55 Lakeshore Road East 905-
274-3277 Mississauga
10-Sep Paul Reddick

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East 905-274-8223 Port Credit,
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18-Sep Mark bird Stafford -
Chris Antonik - Pete Schmidt
9pm, no cover

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10,11-Sep Rita Chiarelli

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