

Toronto Blues Society MAPLEBLUES

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



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

Rita Chiarelli
Blues in Niagara
Loose Blues News

John's Blues Picks
Event Listings & more

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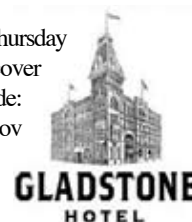


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The Toronto Blues Society will be presenting the best in local blues talent the first Thursday of each month at The Melody Bar in The Gladstone Hotel. There will be no cover charge and each performance will begin at 8pm. Upcoming performances include: **Jack de Keyzer** solo (Oct 7, pictured), **Diana Braithwaite & Chris Whiteley** (Nov 4), and **Harrison Kennedy** (Dec 2). <http://www.gladstonehotel.com>



More Upcoming TBS Events

Women's Blues Revue: The 24th annual Women's Blues Revue member discount details are available by contacting the office. Confirmed singers this year include **Kellylee Evans**, **Alana Bridgewater**, **Little Miss Higgins**, **Robin Banks**, **Rita Chiarelli** and **Alejandra Ribera**! Tickets are available by calling 416-872-4255 and visiting <http://www.masseyhall.com>

Blues Summit Five – January 15-17 – Delta Chelsea Hotel

Maple Blues Awards – January 17 – Koerner Hall

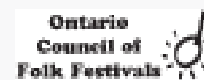
Call for Artist Submissions to Blues Summit Five - To submit to The Blues Summit Five happening at The Delta Chelsea Hotel Jan 15-17, please go to www.sonicbids.com/bluessummitfive

Call for Artist Submissions to IBC - Please contact the office if you would like to invest time and money into a showcase at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis.



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Rita Returns

Rita Chiarelli, who was "officially" crowned Goddess of the Blues by **Shelagh Rogers** on stage at a previous *Women's Blues Revue* has launched her most adventurous musical project to date. *Hamilton Spectator Music Editor Graham Rockingham* allowed us to re-publish his article, first published in the *Hamilton Spectator*.



Legend has it that back in the 1930s the great blues singer Lead Belly convinced the warden of the notorious Angola prison farm to set him free in exchange for a song. He was serving time for attempted murder. The song was *Goodnight Irene* and Lead Belly sang it very well. The warden let him go after four years.

That iconic story was on Rita Chiarelli's mind while she was driving through Louisiana along historic Highway 61. A road sign suddenly came into view. It read: "Louisiana State Penitentiary. Angola". The arrow pointed southwest. 20 miles.

It was about 10 years ago. Chiarelli -- a Hamilton native known to fans as "the Goddess of Canadian blues" -- was on a working vacation, getting in touch with the birthplace of her music, visiting the spot where Bessie Smith died and standing at the crossroads of Robert Johnson.

"So I see this 'Angola' sign and I think. Geez, why don't I just call them up," Chiarelli says.

She turned into the nearest convenience store and asked the woman at the counter if she could find the phone number.

"The woman didn't even have to look it up which was kind of funny," she laughs. "Her boyfriend was in jail there so she knew it by heart ..."

Chiarelli got the warden on the phone, explained that she was a Canadian blues singer interested in the institution's history and asked if she could drop by for a visit.

Chiarelli spent the rest of the day touring the prison. Bordered on three sides by the Mississippi River, it's a place the size of Manhattan, home to some 5,000 inmates, 80 percent serving life terms. Murderers, drug dealers and rapists.

It was during that trip that Chiarelli got the idea of staging a performance for the inmates, a blues' twist on Johnny Cash's show at San Quentin. Over

the years and after several more trips to Angola, Chiarelli's plan began to evolve into something more ambitious.

Three weeks ago, Chiarelli's new film, *Music From the Big House*, debuted simultaneously in Los Angeles and New York at the 14th Annual DocuWeeks showcase of the International Documentary Assn. Later this month it will be screened at the Edmonton and Calgary International Film Festivals. It is currently being marketed for theatrical and television release.

The 86-minute film, directed by award-winning filmmaker Bruce McDonald (Hard Core Logo, Roadkill, Highway 61), documents a concert in the prison chapel featuring Rita Chiarelli fronting four different bands made up solely of Angola inmates. The audience was made up of about 800 others. Murderers, drug dealers and rapists.

It's also filled with interviews and rehearsal sessions giving a rare glimpse of daily life at the maximum security institution.

During her visits to Angola -- there were many over the last 10 years -- she discovered a vibrant music scene within the prison walls. Bands played rock, gospel, country and blues.

She learned that Angola even had its own inmate-run radio station -- KLSP, the "Incarceration Station". As a matter of fact, it's the only U.S. penitentiary with an FCC broadcasting license.

Why not put on a concert with the inmates playing behind her? Nobody had done that before. It would be something worth putting on film. Over the years, Chiarelli worked on gaining the trust of both the administration and the inmates.

"You think these guys are going to jump at the opportunity, but you had to convince them," Chiarelli says about the inmates. "They weren't jumping up and down. They were hip to exploitation. It was a matter of winning them over, saying 'I'm a musician too. This is what music is to me and my life.'"

During this period, Chiarelli kept the idea to herself. Whenever anyone asked she said she was working on a "secret project".

"It was really difficult to talk about because it took so long to get done," she explains, "and you don't want to talk about something that potentially might not happen. That would be embarrassing. So I worked on it and just bit my tongue."

Chiarelli had her music career to worry about as well. The Cathedral High School graduate had been through a lot of bands, including a stints with Ronnie Hawkins and a nine-piece R&B outfit called Battleaxe. More recently, Chiarelli has found a successful solo career in Canada, the United States and Europe. She has eight albums to her credit, two of which earned Juno nominations. Her most recent, *Sweet Paradise*, was released this year.

About four years ago, she finally got the OK from the warden.

The next step was to find a director. She had worked with Bruce McDonald 20 years ago on the soundtracks of two of his early films, *Roadkill* and *Highway 61*.

"So I called him up and, gratefully, he called me back," says Chiarelli from her home in Toronto. "I don't think I had spoken with him after all those years."

"I said 'Bruce listen, I got this idea and I think you're the guy for this. I want to do music with maximum security inmates at Angola prison.'"

"He loved it. He was really gracious and gave me a letter of intent. His name added to the project didn't hurt. From there I got producers who found money."

Chiarelli and McDonald took a film crew to Angola in March. The goal was to rehearse for a week with four of the prison bands, and then stage the concert.

"When you're working like that you don't know what's going to happen," Chiarelli says. "It's hard to script. One of the inmates I wanted to have in the movie, an old guy who had been there since 1963, he died the weekend before we got there. That was really too bad. He played saxophone and we had done some jamming together. But shit happens, frankly. You're in a penitentiary, it's not a casting call."

The two-hour concert came off well. Chiarelli had written some songs specifically for the show. One, "Rest My Bones", is on her new CD. The concert finale is all the different musicians performing "Midnight Special".

For Chiarelli, the music wasn't necessarily the highlight of her time at Angola.

"The story is much more," she says. "It is about

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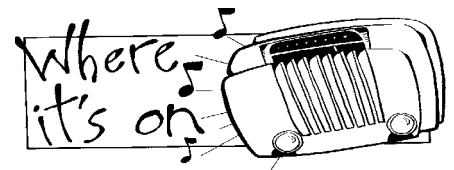
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TOP BLUES

*This month's recommended listening by Blues Doctor Julie Hill,
Producer & Host of Blue Remedy, Wednesdays 8 to 10 pm et,
on cklm 88.1 fm Toronto, or live at cklm.fm*

JJ Grey & Mofro / Georgia Warhorse / Alligator
Son of Dave / Shake a Bone / kartel / Canadian
Charlie Musselwhite / the well / Alligator
Johnny Max Band / It's A Long Road / Pour Soul / Canadian
Terry Gillespie / Big Money / Teka / Canadian
Treasa Levasseur / Memphis Sessions EP / Slim Chicken / Canadian
James Cotton / Giant / Alligator
Ken Whiteley / Another Day's Journey / Borealis / Canadian
Wayne Buttery & Roly Platt / Tangled Roots / independent / Canadian
Gary U.S. Bonds / Let Them Talk / gla
Duke Robillard / Passport To The Blues / Stony Plain
Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters / Spread The Love / Stony Plain
Various Artists: Blues Piano-Rama / Electro-fi / Canadian
Joe Louis Walker / Blues Conspiracy / Stony Plain
Rockitt 88 Band / Sweet Sugar Cane / 7 Arts / Canadian
Dylan Wickens and the Grand Naturals / Tattoo Black / Little Big / Canadian
Jerome Godboo / Rooting Out My Devils / JG / Canadian
Alberto Colombo / Never Look Back / albertocolombo.net
Tommy Keys / The Man In The Moon / LPF
Jay Gaunt / Harmonicopia / JBG
JW-Jones / Midnight Memphis Sun / NorthernBlues / Canadian
Chris Antonik / Chris Antonik / chrisantonik.com / Canadian
Vincent Yannucci / Second Wind / Starsound



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)

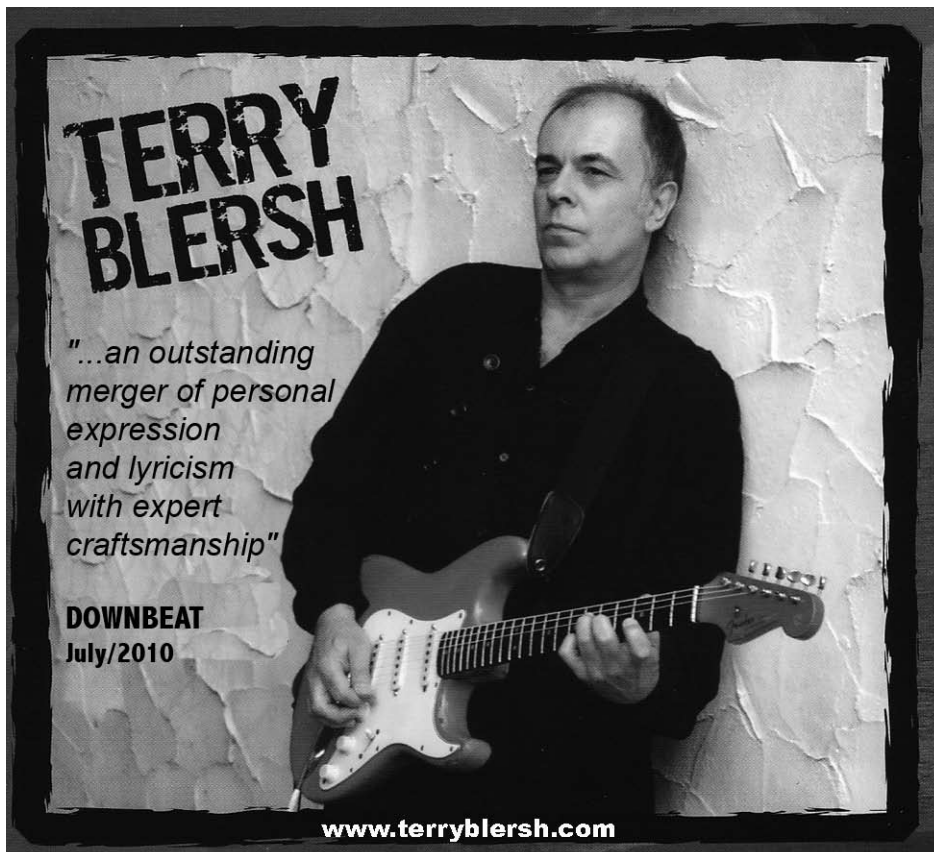
"Patchwork Blues" w/ **Diane Wells** (aka Misty Blue)
 Every Monday 6-9 am (Hamilton)

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)



Mississippi River Salon: The Global Cabaret Festival is happening at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts in the Distillery District from September 30th to October 3rd. It features dynamic Canadian talent with performances all weekend long, two of which are bursting with blues talent: Mississippi River Salon and Nursery Nightclub. Mississippi River Salon is a musical trip down the Mississippi from Memphis to New Orleans with Diana Braithwaite, Chris Whiteley, Laura Hubert, Miranda Mulholland, Peter Tiefenbach and John Millard. Songs by Memphis Minnie, Louis Armstrong, Lil Green, John Hartford, Jerome Kern, Nina Simone and many more. Nursery Nightclub is an exploration between Waleed Abdulhamid and John Millard of their personal childhood songs. Southern Ontario meets central Sudan in the Nursery Nightclub with special surprise guests and Andrew Downing on bass and Miranda Mulholland on violin. Shows are \$20 at www.globalcabaret.ca or by calling 416-866-8666

Doc MacLean Tours Coast To Coast: For the 5th consecutive year, veteran blues songster Doc MacLean kicks off a massive coast to coast tour of nearly 100 shows in 9 provinces and territories. Hailed as "the Prince of Darkness" by Blues Revue magazine, his "Darker Ways" tour spans September to December 2010 and proves no venue too small, no place too forsaken. Says Doc, "I get to play all the little places — places that sometimes get lost in the folds of the map."

Described as a blues hobo and captivating storyteller, Doc MacLean brings his gravelly wanderer tales and vintage National guitars to concert halls, bars, cafés, gas stations and kitchen parties in the extremities of the country. In his early teens, Doc started playing harmonica and washboard in coffeehouses and festivals, then in 1972 formed a duo with the young Colin Linden. The son of a civil rights lawyer, Doc was instilled with concern for social justice which has lead him to perform everywhere from prisons to picket lines. Today, Doc graciously plays wherever he's invited. Want to bring the blues to Your Town? Visit www.docmaclean.com for all information, including a complete Canadian tour schedule.

Paul Sanderson, Photographer: Most readers will know Paul Sanderson as the driving force of the blues band Blue Room, or perhaps as board member at the Toronto Blues Society, not to mention the fact that he's one of the country's pre-eminent entertainment lawyers. Well he has shown another aspect of his creativity: He has just presented his first



Guitarist **Donna Grantis** has been raising eyebrows with her incendiary performances with Shakura S'Aida and Saida Baba Talibah and brings her own Electric Band to the Cameron on Oct 28 and to the Rex on November 3 & 10. You'll see a lot of her at the Women's Blues Revue where the baton has been passed to her from former Musical Director Suzie Vinnick

solo photographic exhibition featuring only medium format photography. Paul writes, "in many ways, this show is a completion of a cycle. I've been visiting Cannes, France for many years and France is one of my main photographic portfolios. For many years I've traveled to Cannes to attend Midem, an international music industry conference which is held in the third week of January of each year: the equivalent of the Cannes film festival, but for music. I've had the privilege at the end of each conference to do some photographing in France. The photos from this show were taken during my last visit in 2008, although I had been returning to France every year from 1988 to the year 2000 and I've gotten to know the area well. This show is a personal travelogue of some of my key visual reference points of Cannes." All prints are fibre-based, archival quality black and white photographs. It doesn't get any more classic than this in photography. The show runs until October 21 at the Dylan Ellis Gallery.

Willie P. Bennett Honoured: Roly Thompson reports that the family of Willie P. Bennett attended the CCMA Awards ceremonies at the Winspear Centre in Edmonton. Willie P. was inducted into the Canadian Country Music Association's Hall of Honour for his lifetime contribution to the industry. After a brief recorded pictorial biography, Russell deCarle sang a heart-rendered version of Willie's "Diamond Joe" in his memory, and Wil's mother Margaret read a tearful acceptance. After missing his benefit,

memorial service and memorial concert held over 2 years ago, Roly finally had the chance to say a proper goodbye to his old friend. Other inductees of the 2010 awards include Donna and Leroy Anderson, Marie Bottrell, Eddie Eastman, Ray St.Germain, Don Harron, Fred McKenna, Wayne Rostad, Joyce Smith, and Hal and Ginger Willis. The program was hosted by Jason McCoy and Michelle Wright, and other performers were Jaydee Bixby, Dean Brody, Tracey Brown and Randall Prescott, Hey Romeo, Carolyn Dawn Johnson, and Crystal Shawanda. Following that, there was a meeting to review the progress made toward the launch of the CD that he had recorded before his passing. The new website is scheduled to open in mid-October. It has been decided that the CD will be launched after Christmas, in late winter or early spring.

Whiteboy Slim wins honourable mention: "Hey Little Girl" the single from Whiteboy Slim's new CD *I'm Still Here* has won an honourable mention in Billboard Magazine's 17th annual Billboard Starmaker WorldWide Song Contest. Maurice Richard Libby (aka Whiteboy Slim) was just notified of the decision. Judges are picked from a select group of music industry insiders knowledgeable about songwriting, current music trends and the music business in general, according to Billboard Magazine. Since its release, the album has received considerable radio air play across Canada, ranking in

cont'd on page 6

the top 10 of folk/roots/blues category of Canadian Campus/Community Radio Stations. Whiteboy Slim begins an extensive tour of Ontario in October.

Duck Season: The Mighty Duck Blues Band (Dave Curry, "Canada Dave" Torosian, Jim Casson and Gary Kendall) resume their Saturday afternoon perch at the Golden Pheasant in St. Catharines (aka The Duck) for another season of Saturday Matinees with special guests Jack de Keyzer (Oct 2), Harpdog Brown and Graham Guest (Oct 9), Paul James (Oct 16), Mike Branton (Oct 23) and Miss Robin Banks (Oct 30).

Congratulations to James Doran who just received The Ottawa Blues Society's Blues Heart Award, presented at the Road To Memphis Blues Band Finals at Tuscon's last week. The award is presented annually to an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to fostering appreciation and awareness of blues music.

Jamie's "Blues on The Rideau" series returns for its 6th season starting October 22nd. Each monthly show has proceeds supporting a different charity. Over the past 5 years, \$27,000 has been raised with a goal of \$5,000 more this season.

Line-up for 2010-2011 season kicks off with Shakura S'Aida (October 22), a vocal powerhouse performing jazz, blues and R&B, with proceeds to the Lucy Drysdale Memorial Scholarship Fund. Back by popular demand is David Rotundo (November 19) with down and dirty high energy blues harmonica, proceeds going to the Westport Library. For 2 evenings Jack de Keyzer (January 21st and 22nd) returns, the 2 time Juno Award winner's reputation speaking for itself, with proceeds

to Rideau Vista & St. Edwards' Elementary Schools. Rising star from Quebec, Clio & The Blues Highway (February 18), winner of 2 Lys Blues Awards for Clio's sensual and soulful sound, performs with proceeds to the Rideau Waterway Land Trust. For 2 nights Ottawa's own MonkeyJunk (March 18th and 19th), American Blues Award winners, play swamp R&B, soul boogie & bedroom funk, with proceeds to the Friends of Foley Mountain. Canada's poet of the blues Paul Reddick (April 15) returns with his rich harmonica and vocals, with proceeds going to Westport In Bloom. The big voice of Treasa Levasseur returns (May 20) delivering delicious blues, soul, funk & RnB, with proceeds to the Rideau District Museum. Finishing up the season is Toronto actor and blues man Raoul & The Big Time (June 10) offering up some swing blues with proceeds going to Habitat For Humanity.

The Cove Inn is located in the beautiful town of Westport, Ontario on Upper Rideau Lake (www.coveinn.com). Tickets are \$55 (+HST) for buffet dinner, show & dancing, all shows are 7pm-11pm, with advanced tickets required. Call The Cove Inn at (613) 273-3636 or 1-888-COVE-INN. www.choosetheblues.ca

Hamilton Music Awards: Every year the Hamilton Music Awards honour all types of musical talents as well as those behind the scenes. Director of the Hamilton Music Awards, Jean-Paul Gauthier, stated "Hamilton is arriving on the international stage as a music mecca." Gauthier added, "The Hamilton Music Awards, Festival and Conference continue to play a major role in this process by bringing together artists and industry in a constant effort to expand and promote this area's music scene to the world." There are 39 categories being offered for this year's Hamilton Music Awards. The Industry

Awards, which recognize the achievements of those behind the scenes, offer 38 categories including Music Teacher of the Year, Producer of the Year, Engineer of the Year, Instrument Retailer of the Year and Poster Artist of the Year, to name a few. The 2010 Hamilton Music Awards, Festival and Conference take place November 18-21, at Mohawk College, Fennell Campus, in Hamilton, as well as venues in the downtown core. Information regarding volunteer opportunities can be found at www.hamiltonmusicawards.com. Other important details regarding the Hamilton Music Awards, including ticket information, will be announced in the coming weeks.

- Brian Blain, Janet Alilovic



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 Julian Fauth Oct. 13th & 27th

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 Oct 8th - Rita's Parlour

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 TBA Oct. 9th
 The Ken Yoshioka Blues Band Oct. 16th
 Bill Beaumont's BLUES DeLUXE Oct. 23rd
 The Paul Gellman Band Oct. 30th

Sundays - THE SUNDAY JUNCTION
 JAM 3:30 - 6:30

Aquila - BBQ Central on Dundas!

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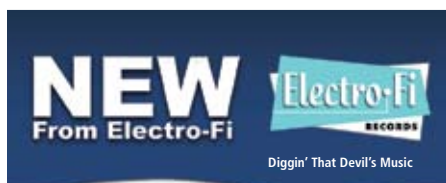
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RITA *cont'd from p 3*

forgiveness and redemption. It really goes into some of the stories of these inmates. It turned out to be much more than a concert film.

"Through music they've learned to have some hope, release some anger; it's their personal escape."

Later she adds: "Life is life in Angola. They say most of the inmates will die there. And then you find out what they've done. It confuses you. Have some people earned the right to be forgiven?"

Chiarelli attended the premiere of *Music From the Big House* at the IFC Center, an independent movie theatre in New York. There was a question and answer period. She was pleased with the audience reaction.

"The response was fantastic. People are moved," she says. "People there raved about it. It's an emotional story."

Meanwhile, she's still touring with her band. Chiarelli just played concerts at Hugh's Room in Toronto and the Pearl Company in Hamilton.

To view a trailer from *Music From the Big House*, visit musicfromthebighouse.com.

- *Graham Rockingham*

grockingham@thespec.com



Guitar-slinger **David Gogo** is featured at this year's *Canal Bank Shuffle*

BLUES THRIVING IN NIAGARA

From its inception, the Canal Bank Shuffle Blues Festival has been a success — outstanding talent combined with solid fan support creating a first-rate festival providing funding to local charities and non-profit groups. While other festivals have tried to broaden their appeal through the inclusion of other genres, the Shuffle has stayed true to the blues.

The focus of the festival hasn't strayed from the blues but has grown largely through fostering partnerships. Like other festivals, the Canal Bank Shuffle, taking place each year in Thorold, Ontario, is limited by time and venues. That reality led the small group of dedicated volunteers who run it to seek out creative ways of making it bigger and better in each of its eight years. The first Shuffle was in 2002, making this year's edition, running from October 21-23, the ninth annual event.

A few years ago, led by Artistic Director Tim Sinnett, the Canal Bank committee teamed up with five other festivals to form the Crossborder group of festivals which dot both sides of the Niagara frontier. This partnership drew some of the very best American blues performers to Thorold. Two years ago, Debbie Slade, Director of Centre for the Arts Brock University, ventured a mile down the road to take in the festival. She recognized an opportunity for a new partnership showcasing a string of blues shows at her venue in conjunction with the Canal Bank.

This year, on October 20, Shakura S'Aida and the Keith Hallett trio will headline at the outstanding theatre, which offers the very best in acoustics, intimacy and comfort. Brock will also present Matt "Guitar" Murphy, Colin Linden and James Cotton later this season. Brock joined the Crossborder group which now also includes the Artpark Blues Series, the Lewiston Council on the Arts Monday night summer series, the Western New York Blues Society Super Jam and the Niagara Falls Blues Festival — all on the U.S. side of the border. And on the Canadian side, the Southside Shuffle has joined Brock and the Canal Bank Shuffle.

cont'd on page 10

Saturday October 9:
Campaign Fundraiser for
Mike Yen feat.
Groove-opoli
Doors at 6pm,
Donations accepted at the door

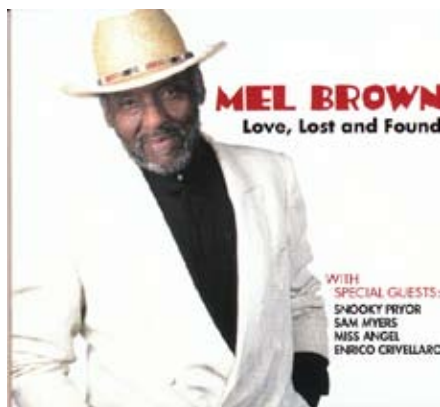
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Illustration by Nathaniel Mesner



Mel Brown *Love, Lost And Found* Electro-Fi/Outside

His emphysema was making the recording of a full new CD impossible, so **Mel Brown** & Electro-Fi planned to include a retrospective overview. Assistance came from an unexpected quarter: Mel had recorded five LPs for Impulse Records in the late '60's and they have been major collector's items ever since. What was not commonly known was that he had begun recording a sixth, in 1972. Producer **Ed Michel** recently discovered the tapes and kindly sent them along. These four songs bring what would have been a late career overview full circle. There is no need to expound on his career since moving here, his own CDs and his work backing such blues stars as **Snooky Pryor**, **Finis Tasby** & **Sam Myers** are among the centrepieces of any blues collection. That there are songs of this quality not used on those discs is surely an indication of how creative these sessions were. These three sources then provide the material for this beautifully sequenced & fitting last chapter. That eye-catching title is also the title of the opening song, the kind of unassumingly virtuosic guitar instrumental that Mel excelled at. This one is a new recording. "My Baby Wants To Boogie" rocks things up with Snooky in fine form on vocals & harmonica. "You Were Wrong, Pretty Woman" is the first of two featuring Mel singing from the piano. He is in fine voice indeed. "Red Wine and Moonshine" is from the **Finis Tasby** sessions, a most enjoyable two-guitar workout with **Enrico Crivellaro**. "Little Girl From Maine" is a **Robert Lockwood** tune from the **Sam Myers** sessions, another opportunity to

share those deep Delta roots. "Pattern B" is the first of the Impulse recordings. Mel decided these needed more work and he added some guitar and, indeed, a vocal from **Miss Angel**, whose "Blues In The Alley" is a delight. Snooky's back on harmonica & vocals next for "Feel Like Jumping". "Come Back Baby" is the other Mel Brown at the piano song, at a slower tempo than the other one and equally effective. These were studio warm up recordings and many thanks go to **Alec Fraser** for having the presence of mind to hit the record button! Two more Impulse instrumentals from *The Great Lost Mel Brown Album* are up next, "Slow Moan" & "Under The Counter Blues". The album closer is a slow grinding take on "Hoochie Coochie Man". Check out the full story on this CD at www.electrofi.com and then put in your order.



Kellylee Evans *Nina* Plus Loin Music/ Harmonia Mundi/SRI

By her own admission, she came to **Nina Simone**'s music late. That was her parents' music. Perhaps this element of distance made it easier to put her own stamp on the songs. The French record label Plus Loin Music heard her sing on her MySpace site and were so impressed they wanted her to do an album of standards for them. The Ottawa native had already recorded *Fight Or Flight*, a successful blend of jazz & soul, including an excellent original blues, "I Don't Think I Want To Know". The next CD, *The Good Girl*, was for me a less successful attempt at contemporary R&B. She was rewarded with a JUNO nomination. Evans agreed and decided on this tribute disc. While Simone's CDs are always filed in jazz, her repertoire has been impossible to pigeonhole and Evans' decision seems perfectly natural. She chose a mix of songs, including the biggest pop hit, "I Loves You Porgy" from **Gershwin**'s opera *Porgy & Bess*, "Ain't Got No/I Got Life" from the musical *Hair*, and "Ne Me Quitte Pas" by **Jacques Brel** but my favourites are "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood", which

just might make you forget the **Animals**' version, and "Sinnerman" which gets a riveting electric treatment. As the trailblazer for Evans' eclectic career path, Simone's influence would always be there. This CD allows her to show what her talent, creativity and that distinctive voice could do. It'll be interesting to see which songs she performs at The Women's Blues revue on November 27th. Her backing musicians deserve to be credited for their stellar work. **Marvin Sewell** is perhaps the bluesiest of the new jazz guitarists, as you can hear on discs by **Cassandra Wilson**, **Jason Moran** and on *Fight Or Flight*. **Francois Moutin** & **Andre Ceccarelli**, on bass & drums respectively are veteran French players.



Johnny Max Band *It's A Long Road* Pour Soul

The progression of the **Johnny Max Band**'s albums has been quite remarkable. The lineup behind him changes while the trajectory continues upward. The band here gets full co-credits on production and songwriting, so, behind the bandleader are: **Vince Maccarone** on drums, **Wayne Deadder** on bass, **John Findlay** on guitar and **Jesse O'Brien** on keyboards. There's a fine horn section, background singers and a percussionist to round out this ambitious effort. This ensemble has taken Johnny Max's trademark rocking soul blues to another level altogether. The opening "Daddy's Little Girl" has my vote for the A side of the first single. It's a powerful rocker with a New Orleans flavour about the high cost of love. Johnny's vocal is spot on, with sterling piano, slide guitar and wonderful horns. Johnny's comments during the trumpet & trombone solos are a treat. He could do more of that, unleashing his wicked sense of humour. Many other songs here are almost as good: "One Day", especially. "She Don't Love Me Anymore" adds a bluesy change of pace as does the faster "Too Many Fish". A couple of them have a little more to say, with "Song Of New York", credited to Wayne Deadder alone,

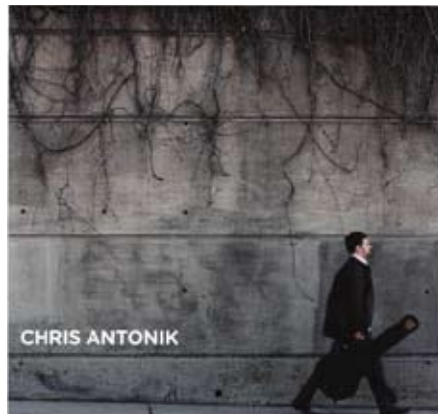
being a biting commentary about a visit to that city. "It's A Long Road" may not fill the dance floor either but it is a highly listenable piece of advice. The concluding, somewhat longer "You Tell Me" continues in the same vein of social commentary, providing the band members with ample opportunity for imaginative contributions. These aren't the kind of songs that one associates with Johnny and he handles the new vocal demands very well indeed. Full marks throughout to the arrangements, and to tenorman **Johnny Johnson** for the horn charts. This CD should have been available already but manufacturing delays have held things up. Go to www.johnnymaxband.com to find out the latest news and to get your copy if you can't get to the live shows.



Brian Cober *Real Far Gone* Self

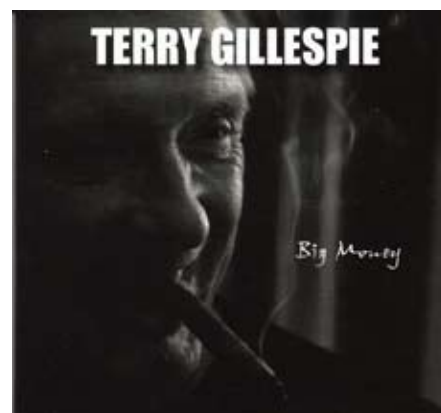
Double slide meister **Brian Cober** has been absent from the recording scene since *Double Slide*, **The Nationals'** 1998 release. The reason for this was the illness and passing of **Paul McNamara**, the founding bassist of the trio. When not touring, Cober hasn't strayed far from his beloved Kensington Market, however, and he still hosts the Sunday Night Jam at the venerable Grossman's Tavern. It's one of the longest running gigs around town. For the first album under his own name he went to producer **Alec Fraser** and it features a singularly good set of original songs. He still keeps the trio format, with **Bill Hedefine** continuing on drums and **Justin Snikkar** the new bassist. **Lance Anderson** guests on keys. Like all good songwriters, he knows how to capture a moment. He has played, and busked, in New Orleans, "Goin' To New Orleans" urges you to go & have fun. "Sweet As Honey" is a tender love song with Anderson on organ and **Laura Hubert & Sheryl Lindsay** on background vocals. "Don't Tell Me About The Blues" reflects with some bitterness on a hard life of playing the blues in Toronto. It features his double slide playing and is apparently a hit on YouTube. "No Pain No Limit" is a delight, a cleverly written call to

get up & do something, anything. "I-52" is a slide-driven road song, with a somewhat unusual melody. "Believin' in the Power of the Lord" quite stands out here as it is a full bore gospel song. He calls it **Sister Rosetta Tharpe** meets **Elmore James**. "Don't Wake" is for Paul McNamara and the album is dedicated to him. Find out more at www.briancober.com.



Chris Antonik *Chris Antonik Self*

Chris Antonik is a young man in a hurry - no multi-year stints as a sideman working in the trenches wanted. He has worked with **Mark "Bird" Stafford** and here he is with an excellent & attractive self-titled, self-produced first CD. He's a fine guitarist whose major influences are **Freddie King** & **Eric Clapton** but he's not happy with his vocals yet, so Stafford and **Josh Williams** of the **Fat Cats** handle those, although he does make his vocal debut here. He's written most of the songs here and shows he has a knack for contemporary blues styles. "Roll With It" features Antonik on dobro and is a welcome indication that not everything has to be turned up to 11. "The King Of Infidelity" is a major effort, a song that Mr. Clapton would welcome on one his albums. **Suzie Vinnick** is featured on background vocals. A more traditional blues form is used for "If We Start from Here". Mark Stafford does a fine job on vocals & harp. Producer Antonik does his own fine job on the horn arrangement. His nod to Freddy King is his version of "She's A Burglar", a **Jerry Ragovoy** tune featured on one of King's last albums. And an excellent version it is, with Williams on vocals and the horns in full flight. Antonik's vocal debut comes on **Otis Rush's** "Double Trouble" and he was probably right to delegate the other vocals. There is promise there, though, and I would not be surprised if he did much more of the singing on the next album. All in all a most welcome debut CD. You can find out more at his MySpace page - www.myspace.com/chrisantonik.



Terry Gillespie *Big Money* TEKA

Ottawa's **Terry Gillespie** has been called 'Canada's King of Roots Music' and a Canadian blues legend. He has led a fairly low-key life in the nation's capitol but is credited with launching **Sue Foley's** career and many others during his forty years as the linchpin of Ottawa's music scene. "Big Money" is his eighth album in that time and it's based heavily on grooves. Gillespie plays the guitars with **Terry Owens** on saxes along with, mostly, **Vitas Paukstaitis** on bass & **Wayne Stoute** on drums. Live, this incredibly tight band does quite a lot of reggae and it shows all the way through.

The grooves are very infectious and sound like they could go on for much longer than their three minutes allowed on the disc. The opener, "Soul On Fire", is an original that concerns a returning soldier. "Big Money" is 'a light hearted spoof at the music industry'. **Peter Measroch**, his fellow member of the **Granary Blues Band**, joins in on keyboards on "Legendary Life". The groove for "Jones" is a **John Lee Hooker**-derived one and the vocal comes back to the returned soldier theme, only this time it's under a flag. Gillespie was a major helping hand during the preparation of the *He Said She Said* project by **Peter Karp** & Sue Foley and they returned the favour by helping out on singing on "Scared", one of their songs.

The disc concludes with a bonus track, a live version of **Willie Cobb's** "You Don't Love Me". It features Ottawa guitarist **Vince Halfhide** on the other guitar. The very informative web site is www.terrygillespie.ca.

-John Valenteyn
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NIAGARA *cont'd from p 7*

Another partnership, this year with the Trillium Foundation, gave the Canal Bank Shuffle an enormous boost in its quest for growth. A \$17,900 grant will be used to purchase the latest in sound equipment for the main stage at the Shuffle.

The lineup this year includes Texas legend Guitar Shorty, who has been credited with influencing both Jimi Hendrix and Buddy Guy. He's appeared with luminaries like Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, B.B. King, and T-Bone Walker. Also appearing at the Canal Bank will be Scott Holt, who spent ten years with Buddy Guy's band. Holt has also shared the stage with Eric Clapton, Santana and other greats.

Coming from Florida, J.P. Soars, winner of the 2009 International Blues Challenge, will be in Thorold as will Karen Lovely of Seattle, who placed second at the IBC this year. Australian bluesman Harper will be making his second appearance this fall. Juno winners David Gogo, Fathead and Jack de Keyzer will proudly represent Canada along with Juno nominee Treasa Levasseur, Blackburn and several other outstanding acts. The complete lineup can be seen at www.canalbankshuffle.com

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- Bob Liddycoat

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Annex Live 296 Brunswick 416-929-3999
2-Oct Left 4 Dead Blues Band 9:00 / Feat. Wayne Cass / \$5 at the door

Cam's Place 2655 Yonge 416-488-3876
22-Oct Emily and the Blue Callers 9pm

Delta Chelsea Monarchs Pub 33 Gerrard St W at Yonge 416-595-1975
7-Oct Virgil Scott, Jerome Godboo band 9p.m.-1a.m.

14-Oct Harpdog Brown, Graham Guest, Jerome Godboo band 9p.m.-1a.m.
21-Oct Tony Springer, Eric Schenkman, Jerome Godboo band 9p.m.-1a.m.
28-Oct Jake Thomas, Denis Keldie, Alec Fraser, Jerome Godboo band 9p.m.-1a.m.

Dominion on Queen 500 Queen Street East 416-368-6893
2-Oct Paul Reddick
5-Nov The Swingin' Blackjacks 9:30 pm/\$5.00 cover

El Mocambo 464 Spadina 416-777-1777
2-Dec Smokin' Joe Kubek w/ B'nois King

Gate 403 403 Roncesvalles Ave. 416-588-2930

14-Oct Emily and the Blue Callers 5pm
17-Oct Roger Dorey Original acoustic

blues 5-8pm no cover
30-Oct Mr. Rick and The Biscuits 9 Pm.

Gladstone Hotel 1214 Queen Street West 416-531-4635
7-Oct Jack de Keyzer 8pm, no cover.
19-Oct Brian's Blues Campfire 8pm, no cover. Acoustic Blues Jam
4-Nov Chris Whiteley & Diana Braithwaite 8pm, no cover.

Grossman 379 Spadina Avenue 416-977-7000
1-Oct The Swingin' Blackjacks
2-Oct The Fullertons with Neil Chapman/ Bob Adams Every Sat Noon to 3:30 pm Arden's Roots Brunch with Hap Roderman

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

2-Oct Mr Rick and The Biscuits 8pm.
20-Oct The Swingin' Blackjacks 7pm-

Hollywood On The Queensway 1184 The Queensway 416-251-0288 Etobicoke
3-Oct Joe Passion and Daddy Long Legs 430-9pm no cover "Salute to Jerry Lee"
7-Oct Risque R&B Band 8pm no cover
15-Oct Anthony Gomes Blues Review \$10 cover Showtime 10 pm
31-Oct Jordan John and The Blue Angels Feat Prakash John No Cover 430pm

Hugh's Room 2261 Dundas Street West 416-531-6604
1-Oct Ken Whiteley CD Release
14-Oct Alex Pangman CD Release
15-Oct McKenna Gibson Band
31-Oct Ken Whiteley's Gospel Matinee



Mr. Rick and the Biscuits celebrate 15 years old-time finger-lickin blues and country on October 21 at the Dakota Tavern. Helping them celebrate are Hotcha, Danny Marks, Big Rude Jake, Tom Parker, Alex Pangman, Raoul Behnaja, Wendell Ferguson, Whoa Nellie, Steve Briggs, The Rizdales, Duncan Fremlin, Shelly Coopersmith and Howard Willett

w/Linda McRae, Rhonelle Patrick, Pat Patrick & Ben Whiteley
4-Nov Watermelon Slim & The Workers
6-Nov Betty Richardson
16-Nov Pork Belly Futures
19-Nov Shakura S'Aida

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

5-Oct Brian Blain w/George Koller 7pm Live Recoding

Rivoli 334 Queen St W. 416-596-1908
7-Oct Son of Dave w/Carlos Del Junco, Sheesham and Lotus

Sony Centre 1 Front St. E 416-393-7469
28-Oct Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Susan Tedeschi, Robert Randolph, Jonny Lang and more Experience Hendrix tribute

The Cadillac Lounge 1296 Queen Street West 416-536-7717
8-Oct Paul Reddick

The Dakota Tavern 249 Ossington ave. 416-850-4579

21-Oct Mr. Rick and The Biscuits 15th anniversary w/Hotcha, Danny Marks, Big Rude Jake and many more. 9:30 start

The Silver Dollar Room 486 Spadina Ave 416-763-9139

23-Oct Carlos Del Junco 8pm

Upstairs@Aquila 347 Keele St. 416-761-7474

2-Oct Jim Kennedy & Roadhouse Boys 6 & 20-Oct Martin Aucoin
8-Oct Rita's Parlour

13 & 27-Oct Julian Fauth
16-Oct Ken Yoshioka Blues Band with Drew Austin/George Baumann/Les Hoffman/Dave McManus

23-Oct Bill Beaumont's Blues Deluxe
30-Oct The Paul Gellman Band
Every Sunday - The Sunday Junction Jam 3:30 - 6:30

Muchas Gracias

New Members: Melissa Bel, Randy Shook, David & Susan Reid, Mel Tsuji, John Goudy, Betty Clarke, Tracy Hudson, Scott Stuart, Crisco Brown, Kafaye Rose.

Renewing Members: Peter N.Ward, Valerie Lamb, Dave Sampson, Peter Swanek, Anne Thome, Shirley Crawford, Elden Fulton/ Royal St.George College, Doug Burn, Tom Rowe, Martha Ireland, Frank McNulty, Ron Dempsey, Paolo Chiochio, Tim Sennett/Canal Bank Shuffle, Tom Guitard, Jeff Childs, Dale Hunter, Michael Vere, Darlene Sheppard, Roger Zuraw, Dana Clarence, Pierre Hoffman, Peter Phillips, Holger Peterson, Paul Buffet, Pat World, Roger Crysler, David & Denise Curry, Heather Cadsby, Gord Tomlin, Dean Middleton, Bruce Krafchek, Mike Parise, Doctor Terry Kavanaugh, James Henderson, Paul Copeland, Wayne Cassidy, Les Copeland, Terry Wallace, Olga Graovac, Gaby Novo, John Srigley, John de Vries, Ross Pinkerton, Janet Lockett, Doctor Scott Peaker, Gerald Bailie, Janet M. Lockett, Diane Creighton, Jack H. Kobayashi, Wayne "Shakey" Dagenais, Bob Fitzgerald, Patrick G.Quinn, Dean Middleton.

Many Thanks to the volunteers who helped out at recent events:

CNE Blues Festival: Cate Stoker, Pat Power, Ed Parsons

Southside Shuffle: Geoff Virag, Ken Wilson, Carol Flett, Shirley Gibson, Tom Hanes, Diane Creighton, Susan Simpson, Valerie Porter, Ken Porter, Lucie Dufault, Zoe Chilco, Gord Moir, Dawk McCarthy, Tracy Hudson, Carter Hudson, Fatima Mechtat, Matt Mosionier, Ed Parsons

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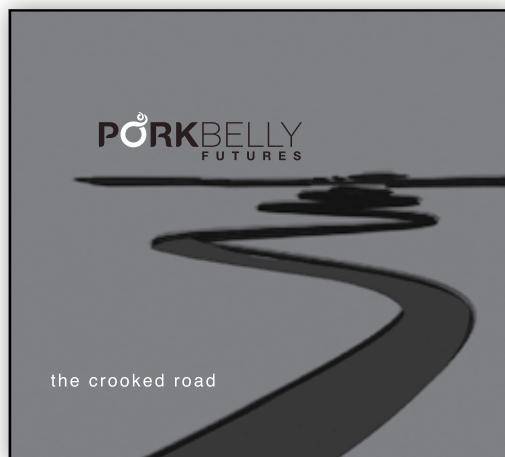
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19513 Yonge St. 905-806-0283 Holland Landing
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2-Oct Chris Cotton and the Bluesers
6-Nov The Blazers 9:30 PM

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9-Oct Al Lerman with John Mays and Darran Poole Saturday Matinee 3 to 6pm
16-Oct Harpdog Brown with Graham Guest Saturday Matinee 3 to 6pm
23-Oct Terry Blerish with Wayne "Shakey" Daignais Saturday Matinee 3 to 6pm
30-Oct David Rotundo with Alberto Columbo Saturday Matinee 3 to 6pm

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9-Oct Son of Dave 8pm
23-Oct John Primer 8pm
6-Nov Watermelon Slim 8pm
19-Nov Renegade Creation featuring Robben Ford and Michael Landau 8pm
Regent Theatre 224 Main Street 613-476-8416 Picton
1-Oct John Primer 8pm/\$28

Ricos Bar & Bistro 5694 HWY 7, 905-554-5238 Markham
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Roc n Doc's 105 Lakeshore Rd. West 905-891-1754 Mississauga
23-Oct Paul Storm Band 9 pm

Sgt Peppers Pub & Grill 1076 Hoover Park Drive 905-471-9876 Stouffville
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Simcoe Blues & Jazz 926 Simcoe St North 905-435-1111 Oshawa
22-Oct The Blazers 9:30 PM

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16-Oct The Mighty Duck Blues Band special guest Paul James 2:30-6:30pm
23-Oct The Mighty Duck Blues Band special guest Mike Branton 2:30-6:30
30-Oct The Mighty Duck Blues Band special guest Robin Banks 2:30-6:30pm

The Earl of Whitchurch 6204 Main St 905-642-3275 Stouffville
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The Edge Lounge 252 Bayly Street West 905 426 9692 Ajax
2-Oct The Blazers 9:30 PM

The Grey Goat 74 Main Street, Newmarket 905-895-7902 Newmarket
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The Groove Kitchen 656 King Street East 519-650-4452 Cambridge
23-Oct The Blazers 9:30 PM

The Lake Affect 1 Port Street East 905-274-8223 Port Credit, ON
6-Oct Mark Stafford - Chris Antonik - Pete Schmidt 8pm
20-Oct Mark Stafford - Chris Antonik - Pete Schmidt 8pm

Uxbridge Arms Pub & Restaurant 44 Brock St. E, Uxbridge 905-852-1003 or 905-985-4998 Uxbridge
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Victoria Hall Concert Hall 55 King West 905-372-2210 Cobourg
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Waterfront Bistro 590 Liverpool Road South 905-831-8661 Pickering
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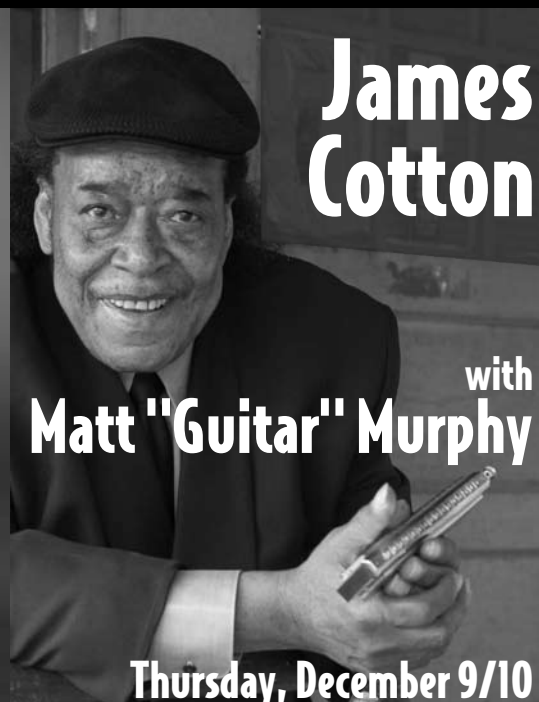
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