



Ottawa BLUES Society

OBScene

Winter 2010

OBS @ IBC



Al Wood & the Woodsmen



**Brandon Agnew
w/Benny Gutman**

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In this issue ...

... an introduction to our *Road to Memphis* local blues challenge winners - Al Wood & the Woodsmen and Brandon Agnew & Benny Gutman, who head off to Memphis in February to represent the OBS at the 27th International Blues Challenge; CD reviews (full length and our new 'snapshot' version) of some Maple Blues Award nominees; an update on Ottawa's best friend and Canada's only 24/7 commercial blues radio station, 101.9 DAWG-FM, now featuring the OBS DAWG'ON BLUES show and a new show, 'Inside the Blues' hosted by James Doran; and a brief list of Blues events & shows in January.

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OBS CONTACTS

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Vice President: Mike Graham

Secretary: Gary Paradis

Directors: Brent Diab, Ken Fraser, Mike Graham, Denis Paquin, Gary Paradis, Roxanne Pilon, Debra Thornington

Treasurer: Gary Paradis

Legal Advisor: Doug Smyth

OBS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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ADVERTISING RATES

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Full page \$ 100.00

10% discount for four issues paid in advance.

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Issue	Copy Deadline	Distribution Date
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Summer	June 15, 2011	Early July 2011

From the Editor ...

Another new year (the **real** start of the next decade, some insist) is underway and the calendar is already filling up with bluesy events to take our minds off the winter weather.

In 2010, our entries in our annual Road to Memphis local blues challenge doubled and we added a Solo/Duo competition.

Our IBC representatives are readying their sets for Memphis in February. Our Band entry, Al Wood & the Woodsmen, will be showcasing at the Blues Summit in Toronto (Saturday, January 15 in Monarch's, Delta Chelsea @ midnight). The following Friday, January 21, our IBC Send-Off Party takes place at Tucson's - all funds raised help to offset the Band and Solo/Duo entries travel & accommodation expenses for the IBC.

OBS DAWG'ON BLUES has aired sixteen shows to date on 101.9 DAWG FM. A few technical glitches have challenged us, but we are pleased with the show and hopeful that our audience (including OBS members) is enjoying our efforts.

As the OBS profile is raised, via the Road to Memphis, OBS DAWG'ON BLUES and other projects, we must endeavour to increase our membership, both individual and corporate, and to recruit more OBS member volunteers to assist with the ongoing work of the Society. Please consider supporting the OBS by volunteering!

Liz Sykes

lizblues@rogers.com

OBS Mission

To foster appreciation, promotion, preservation and enjoyment of the blues in all of its forms

OBS Mandate

To bring together the blues community in Ottawa through participation in blues events and activities.

To work with the blues community in expanding awareness and appreciation of the blues.

To publish a newsletter to inform the blues community of all aspects of the local blues scene and events as well as some highlights of the Canadian and international blues scenes of interest to OBS members.

To provide timely blues information to OBS members by a website & e-mail.

To develop, maintain and increase its membership as a means of fostering and supporting blues.

To stage or assist in staging events that will foster appreciation and awareness of the blues.

To present a "Blues Heart" award to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the blues.

OBS News

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OBS IBC SEND OFF PARTY & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

January 21, 2011 @ Tucson's, 2440 Bank Street, Ottawa

With performances by *Road to Memphis* winners: Al Wood & The Woodsman (Band Category) and Brandon Agnew & Benny Gutman (Solo/Duo Category)

Catch Ottawa's representatives to this year's International Blues Challenge (IBC) in a full evening of entertainment to showcase the winning acts and to help raise funds to cover their expenses to travel to the international competition in Memphis, February 2011. All OBS members who attend will receive a free gift. In conjunction with the "IBC Send off Party", the OBS will host its Annual General Meeting which will include elections for President (two-year term) and two Directors (one two-year term and one one-year term). Information about the upcoming OBS Election was sent to all members December 6, 2010.

For further information (description of duties and Nomination Form): ottawabluessociety@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Please consider how you too might help to: "Foster appreciation, promotion, preservation and enjoyment of the blues in all its forms" through supporting your Ottawa Blues Society as a volunteer in one of the available positions.

Board of Directors

To attend regular Board meetings to address all OBS business needs; each Board member is responsible for one of the OBS Committees.

Volunteer Coordinator

To recruit, schedule, orient and recognize volunteers for the two annual OBS events: the Bluesfest Promotional Tent (July), the *Road to Memphis* Blues Challenge Event (September) and other events as planned.

Recording Secretary

To circulate agendas and attend regular Board meetings recording summary notes, Board motions and other information and distributing to Board in a timely fashion.

Website Administrator/Publicity

To administer regular updates of text to the OBS Website, liaise with OBS Webmaster and circulate publicity to media.

Newsletter Assistant

The OBScene needs assistance for layout & production and for writing & research.

DAWG'ON BLUES RADIO – NEW VOLUNTEER CO-HOSTS APPEAL

DAWG'ON BLUES will be hosting a Volunteer Information Session in early February to recruit new Co-hosts to the Team – must be an OBS member. Further details to come via "Blues News" email to all members. DAWG'ON BLUES, Sundays, 8:00 p.m. 101.9 DAWG FM. (Tune in or listen online!)

For further information on these and other volunteer opportunities contact the Ottawa Blues Society: ottawabluessociety@gmail.com

Where's Blues in Ottawa ...

For the latest news of
who's on at the venues

- ♪ Tune in to 101.9 DAWG FM
- ♪ Tune in to CKCU 93.1 blues & jazz radio shows for listings, Sunday 9 pm with John Tackaberry & Wednesday 9 pm with Ron Sweetman
- ♪ Check for live regular and special events at the OBS web site: <http://www.OttawaBluesSociety.com>
- ♪ Check the going-out guides & venue ads :
Thursdays in the Ottawa Xpress
Saturdays in the Ottawa Citizen
Wednesdays & Fridays in the Ottawa Sun

- ♪ Contact ottawablues@rogers.com to subscribe to Ottawa Blues This Week, an e-mail summary of local blues events or check the blog at <http://ottawablues.blogspot.com/>
- ♪ Subscribe to Jazz Happenings at <http://www.jazzworkscanada.com/html/program.html>
- ♪ Check the Ottawa Blues & Jazz Guide for Jim Roy's on-line calendar of monthly and weekly events at www.ottawabluesjazz.ca

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OTTAWA CLUBS

Rainbow Bistro, 76 Murray St
www.therainbow.ca

Tucson's, 2440 Bank St
www.tucsonblues.com

Irene's, 855 Bank St
www.irenespub.ca

Elmdale Tavern, 1084 Wellington St
www.elmdaletavern.com

Black Sheep Inn, Wakefield QC
www.theblacksheepinn.com

Atomic Rooster, 303 Bank St
www.atomicrooster.ca

Cajun Attic, 349 Dalhousie
www.thecajunattic.com

Bass Line Station, 2557 Baseline Rd
www.basslinestation.com

Heart & Crown, 353B Preston St
www.irishvillage.ca/preston.aspx

D'Arcy McGee's Pub
44 Sparks St
<http://ottawa.darcymcgees.com/>
655 Terry Fox Dr, Kanata
<http://kanata.darcymcgees.com/>
360 Moodie Dr, Bells Corners
<http://nepean.darcymcgees.com/>

Greenfield's Pub, 900 Greenbank Rd
www.greenfieldspub.ca

Louisianne's, 1518 Main St, Stittsville
www.louisianies.com

OBS DAWG'ON BLUES Sundays @ 8 pm

The Ottawa Blues Scene has undergone a significant transformation in the last several months with the launch of DAWG FM. Local blues is featuring large on DAWG playlists and regional and other Canadian blues musicians are finally being heard on commercial radio on a regular basis.

The OBS Board actively supported DAWG's CRTC applications (both of them!) We believe DAWG FM exemplifies our OBS mission of "fostering appreciation, preservation & enjoyment of the blues in all of its forms".

Beginning in September 2010, the OBS has presented a weekly program, OBS DAWG'ON BLUES on 101.9 DAWG FM. Each Sunday at 8 pm, OBS hosts have been playing local and regional blues and informing listeners of upcoming blues events. Our September playlists concentrated on the entries in our Road to Memphis local blues challenge. In October we profiled Shakura S'Aida & David Rotundo (appearing at Blues on the Rideau), Chris Kirby and Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo. Throughout November, we played music from many of those nominated for the upcoming Maple Blues Awards. In early December we profiled local musician John Carroll, and debuted two tunes from Wicked Grin's new recording, to be released in February. Three of our December shows featured a variety of Christmas Blues and our first show of 2011 focused on the anticipated winter cold weather to come.

DAWG'ON BLUES will be hosting a Volunteer Information Session in early February to recruit new OBS members as Co-hosts. Further details to come via email.



INSIDE THE BLUES Sundays, 6-8 pm

Choose The Blues Productions has launched a new weekly 2 hour radio show called INSIDE THE BLUES on Canada's first commercial All Blues station - 101.9 DAWG FM Ottawa www.dawgfm.com. The show airs Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 pm EST, and streamed live on

www.dawgfm.com. INSIDE THE BLUES is produced and hosted by James Doran who has many years experience in the Canadian Blues business including producing the popular Blues On The Rideau Dinner & Show Series at The Cove Inn, Westport ON for the past 5 years.

INSIDE THE BLUES features music and interesting background information on today's top Blues artists with a strong focus on Canadian talent mixed in with some great Blues classics. Hour Two features an in-depth interview and music from a different artist or blues industry VIP every week - again with a strong Canadian focus.

INSIDE THE BLUES will have an initial trial run of 12 weeks on 101.9 DAWG FM. If it is well received, it will continue beyond the initial term. The show will also be offered to stations in other Canadian and international markets in the future if there is interest.

www.choosetheblues.ca

DAWG

SIGHTINGS



↑ With visitors from Japan

← Hugs for Robyn



↑ A drink with Mike

← With Marc & Jesse



From the DAWG house

On behalf of 101.9 DAWG FM ownership, management and staff, I would like to extend our best wishes to the OBS membership and Board for the coming year.

Since we launched DAWG FM on June 7, 2010, we have had great feedback from the DAWG FM listeners and on December 2, we received the results of our first Bureau of Broadcast Measurement ratings period which occurred during September and October. We were very pleased, indeed, with the survey results, as we were able to significantly outperform our competing "co-launchee," 99.7 ez rock (owned by one of the nation's largest broadcast companies, Astral Media) by nearly a 2:1 margin in the adults 18+ demographic.

Ottawa's grass roots blues community played a significant role in this early success, and we are thankful for your support.

We are very proud to showcase the considerable local and regional Blues talent, and are the only station in the market that regularly has on-air features and interviews with local artists. We are also proud of our community involvement with charitable groups, such as the local chapter of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, The Ottawa Food Bank, Shepherds of Good Hope, and the Military Family Resource Centre of the National Capital Region, to name but a few.

Going forward, we will continue to grow the station in the community and strive to make improvements to our programming month over month.

Thanks again to all of our supporters,

Todd Bernard

General Manager, 101.9 DAWG FM



Music Categories & CanCon

Although 101.9 DAWG-FM is Canada's first 24/7 commercial radio station devoted to blues programming, DAWG is not licensed as a Specialty station. It is, rather, a commercial station that emphasizes blues, blues/rock and blues-related music in its playlist, but it also must play music defined as 'Popular'.

DAWG's conditions of license require that the station devote, in each broadcast week, a minimum of 20% of its music to selections drawn from content category 3, which includes Jazz & Blues. A minimum of 70% of the music aired must be from category 2 - Popular music - which includes 'hits'. For instance B.B. King's 'The Thrill is Gone' is considered category 2, as are Downchild's 'Flip, Flop & Fly' and the Powder Blues' 'Doing It Right'. In addition, R&B and blues/rock are also considered category 2.

Within each category, Canadian content requirements apply. Canadian music must make up a minimum of:

- ♪ 20% of the Jazz and Blues music (Category 3)
- ♪ 40% of music from Category 2 (Popular Music)

In its first seven months of bluesifying the Ottawa airwaves (and online worldwide at www.dawgfm.com), DAWG has exceeded the requirements for Canadian content - to date 45% of the category 2 music played has been Canadian (and 23% of the category 3 - Blues music).

Liz Sykes

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BLUES RADIO in OTTAWA

CIDG DAWG-FM 101.9
www.dawgfm.com
Blues 24/7

CKCU-FM 93.1
www.ckcufm.com
Sundays: 9-11 pm
Black and Blues
with John Tackaberry
Wednesdays: 9-11 pm
In A Mellow Tone
with Ron Sweetman

CBC Radio One
91.5 FM
Saturdays: 9 - 11 pm
Saturday Night Blues
with Holger Petersen

CJHR 98.7
Valley Heritage Radio
Thursdays: 8-10 pm
Got the Blues
With Pat Watters

CHEZ106 FM
Sundays: 6-7 pm
House of Blues Hour
hosted by Dan Aykroyd
(AKA Elwood Blues)

CD Reviews

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"It's A Long Road" — Johnny Max Band

Pour Soul Records (2010)
www.johnnymaxband.com
Reviewed by James Doran

Anyone who has ever seen Johnny Max (aka John McAneney) perform LIVE knows what a superb singer and consummate entertainer he is. Some artists just have a special "feel" for a song and Johnny is one of them. And he always has a lot of FUN on stage - playing with the audience, telling jokes, doing killer impersonations (his Sean Connery is classic) and spinning short stories between tunes. It's a highly infectious combo. The audience loves it and the dance floor is always packed. You can't NOT have a good time at a JMB Show!

Over the 10+ years that Johnny has been performing from his base in Mississauga (Toronto), there have been major changes in his band members yet his sound has stayed consistent. A rich and varied repertoire - Motown Soul and R&B, straight up Blues, Blues with a Rock 'n Roll edge, Swing tunes, smoky Jazzy ballads - all good! The man is also a terrific songwriter and this talent often gets overlooked; I love the lyrics in his songs - classic, ironic, unique, thoughtful and funny! Listening to a Johnny Max album always puts a smile on my face.

"It's A Long Road" is Johnny's 5th CD and as I said in my review for his previous CD, "A Lesson I've Learned" (OBScene, Fall/Winter 2007), I think this is his best one yet. He just keeps raising the bar. The band on this album is completely different from his last one and, although he always has talented players with him, this group works especially well together, as smooth as a dyna-glide transmission: Johnny on vocals, Vince Maccarone on drums, Wayne Deadder on bass and background vocals, John Findlay on guitar and background vocals and Jesse O'Brien on keyboards. There's also an outstanding horn section on a number of songs led by Johnny Johnson on sax (who also does all the horn arrangements), Steve



Crowe on trumpet, Kevin Turcotte on trumpet and Gord Myers on trombone.

All 12 songs on "It's A Long Road" are originals and every member of the band has contributed to the songwriting and production - a truly collaborative effort. The album was recorded at one of the best studios in the country, Metal Works in Toronto. I give the finished product an A+: crisp,

clear, clean and very smooth!

There are 12 songs on "It's A Long Road" and I like 'em all so it's hard to pick favourites but I particularly enjoy:

- ♪ "She Don't Love Me Anymore" - humorous lyrics and a nice "swing" groove to it. Very nice background piano by Jesse too.
- ♪ "Too Many Fish" - a hard drivin', rockin' Blues number and more excellent lyrics.
- ♪ "It's A Long Road" - the title song from the album, a beautiful ballad with more great lyrics and a lovely loping gait to it.
- ♪ "Waiting On You" - a powerful R&B tune with a rock solid groove and a BIG sound from the fine background chorus and horn section. Nice guitar work by John Findlay too.

This CD came out just prior to the cut-off date for consideration for the 2011 Maple Blues Awards which is really too bad. If more of the Nominators had heard it I'm sure it would have been one of the top five for Recording Of The Year. Maybe it'll catch the Junos this year. I certainly think it deserves to be there.

I know "it's a long road" Johnny but please stay on it and keep playing those great Blues of yours. One day I believe you will get the proper recognition you deserve - that is that you are one of Canada's best Blues bands, period.

Buy this CD! 5 out of 5 stars.

♪ Maple Blues nomination - Entertainer of the Year

CD Submissions to OBS

We welcome CD submissions but do not guarantee all CDs will be reviewed. We give priority to local CDs, while trying to present a variety of different styles and labels, and independently-produced CDs. We also select music to include in the OBS DAWG'ON BLUES radio show on 101.9 DAWG FM.

We guarantee that, once listened to and considered, each CD we receive is passed along, via raffles, prizes or giveaways to our members and friends, thus sharing your music with a wider audience. For further info, please contact the Editor.

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“Love Lost and Found” – Mel Brown

2010 ElectroFi Records

www.electrofi.com

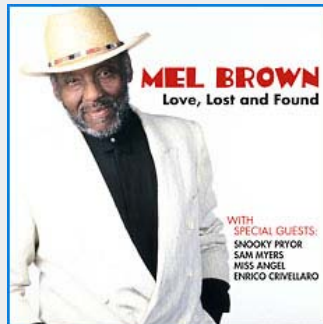
Reviewed by James Doran

Released posthumously – the great Mel Brown passed away in March 2009 – this CD is his last gift to us, consisting of gems from the archives not on any of his previous albums. It truly is his valediction since the cuts cover the full span of his career. It is simply a GREAT album from one of the Blues masters. It's up for the Maple Blues Award for Recording Of The Year for 2011. Although one of the Blues icons of his time, Mel didn't win a Maple Blues Award for any of his previous CDs.

When Mel Brown died we lost one of the great Blues guitarists of all time. He may have slipped beneath many people's radar screens since he was a humble man never seeking the spotlight. He admitted in interviews that he really didn't want the restrictions that came with fame, all he wanted to do was perform, write and play the Blues on that beautiful old Gibson. But when you have Blues legends like BB King bending on one knee in front of him backstage to show his respect to him as a player (a story told at his Celebration Of Life wake) and Buddy Guy stating “Mel Brown...those are shoes that will never be filled. I learned so much from him” – well, the greatest tribute that an artist can receive is the praise that comes from his peer group. Check out the list of Blues legends that he played with over his career on his web site www.melbrownblues.com

Born in Jackson Mississippi into a musical family Mel picked up the guitar early. In the late '60s and early '70s he moved to L.A. where he was part of the Jazz scene there (some may not be aware that Mel could play Jazz as well as Blues and keyboards as well as guitar). He also did soundtracks for many different TV shows of that era and cut 6 albums on the Impulse label. Then he moved to Austin, Texas where he was part of the famous Antone's house band for years and formed The Silent Partners with Russell Jackson and Tony Coleman. They cut only one album “If It's All Night, It's All Right” on Antone's label in 1989. Although hard to find now, I have a copy and, like all Mel Brown records, it's great.

While touring he visited Kitchener, fell in love with the place and decided to move there permanently. What



a wonderful stroke of luck for the Blues scene in this country! He formed a band called The Homewreckers (Randall Coryell, later Jimmy Boudreau on drums, Al Richardson on bass, John Lee/ sometimes Michael Fonfara on keyboards, David Wiffen on sax and his soul mate Miss Angel on vocals) playing in southern Ontario. In 1999 Electro-Fi's Andrew Galloway talked him into recording an album “Double

Shot” with his old friend Smokey Pryor on harmonica and vocals. That was followed by “Neckbones & Caviar” which won the W.C. Handy Award for Comeback Album Of The Year in 2001 and was nominated for a Juno. Next “Homewreckin' Done Live”, which was recorded at Wally's Pub in Guelph, the first album of Mel's that I heard. I still remember chills running up and down my spine listening to his rendition of Jimi Hendrix's “Hey Joe” and I became a dedicated fan from that day forward.

“Love, Lost and Found” starts out with the beautiful instrumental title track featuring Mel on guitar, piano and organ. It flows like a warm summer breeze and as Andrew Galloway says “stands with the very best of Mel's work on record”. There are 2 tracks recorded with Smokey Pryor – “My Baby Wants To Boogie” and “Feel Like Jumping” which makes you want to do just that. “Little Girl From Maine” with Sam Myers on vocals (who knew Mel from childhood days in Mississippi and that familiarity shows) is one of my favourites. “Pattern B” and “Slow Moan” are excellent examples of Mel's instrumental Jazz/Blues/Funk style from the '60s/'70s in L.A. “Blues In The Alley” with Miss Angel is one of those classic sexy, slow movin', hip grindin' songs that they did so well together. “Come Back Baby”, a Ray Charles song, showcases Mel's skill on the piano and, even if his vocals are a bit strained, is still a charmer. “Red Wine and Moonshine” with Mel and Enrico Crivellaro trading licks is lovely.

Check out Andrew Galloway's excellent liner notes on this album at www.electrofi.com (one of Mel's biggest fans, Andrew deserves a huge thank you for having re-discovered Mel and for recording him).

Rest in Peace, Mel. Thank you for the wonderful gift of your music. Your legacy will live on.

♪ Maple Blues nomination - Recording of the Year

Are you a member of the Blues Foundation?

The Ottawa Blues Society is a Blues Foundation Affiliate!

For info on Membership Incentives, Membership Levels and more

<https://www.blues.org/members/index.php>



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International Blues Challenge 2011

The Blues Foundation will present the 27th International Blues Challenge February 1-5, 2011 in Memphis, TN. The world's largest gathering of Blues acts represents an international search by The Blues Foundation and its Affiliated Organizations for the Blues Band and Solo/Duo Blues Act ready to take their act to the international stage. Each Affiliate has the right to send a band and solo/duo act to represent the organization at the IBC on Beale Street. This year 110 bands and 83 solo/duo acts entered, filling the clubs up and down Beale Street for the quarter and semi-finals on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and the finals at the Orpheum Theater on Saturday. There are also 28 entries in the Youth Showcase.

The week of events will kick off Tuesday night, February 1, with a Meet & Greet hosted by the Beale Street Merchants Association at the New Daisy Theater, followed by the FedEx International Showcase. The 27th year of the International Blues Challenge will once again include a youth showcase for those under the age of 21. Smokin' Bluz of Charlotte, NC has signed on again as the Presenting Sponsor. Friday afternoon, February 4, will feature talented young people showcasing their talents for record labels, media, festivals, managers, talent buyers and the fans. The IBC will move to a four day format, which will include 2 days of quarter finals (Feb 2-3), one day of semi-finals (Feb 4) and will conclude with finals in the beautiful Orpheum Theater (Feb 5).

In addition to the evening Blues competition, the days are filled with seminars and workshops and topped off in a moving Saturday morning brunch in which the Blues community honours its own with the prestigious Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) awards that recognize the men and women who have made significant contributions to the Blues music world, and the best clubs and festivals, as well as managers, promoters and producers.



Brandon Agnew w/Benny Gutman

Brandon Agnew was shot straight out of a cannon via Niagara Falls arriving in the Rolling Hills of Gatineau, Quebec around the Fall Harvest '08 where he met guitarist Benny Gutman. Performing a batch of original songs written in & inspired by New Orleans, Louisiana (2010) won the duo a chance to represent Ottawa, Canada in this year's competition. The fine gentlemen with good posture perform their folk-based blues in cafes, pubs, organic restaurants, hoedowns, farmer's markets, coffeehouses, summer festivals and venues throughout Ontario & Quebec and are humbled and very honoured to be visiting Memphis and sharing their songs with ya'll. Much Love from CANADA.



Brandon Agnew, folk-based blues songwriter from Niagara Falls, now living in Hull QC performs a batch of songs written in and inspired by New Orleans with guitarist Benny Gutman. In his day job Brandon works at a shelter for the homeless.

Benny Gutman is an Ottawa based blues guitarist, who has been involved with music from a very young age. He came to Canada from Israel in 2003 to pursue a Bachelors of Arts degree in Political Science. He has been playing with songwriter Brandon Agnew since 2009 at various venues in the Ottawa region. When not playing music, Benny is a program officer with the federal government.



About the Blues Foundation ...

The Blues Foundation is Memphis-based, but world-renowned as THE organization dedicated to preserving blues music history, celebrating recording and performance excellence, supporting blues education and ensuring the future of this uniquely American art form. Founded in 1980, The Blues Foundation has 4,100 individual members and 185 affiliated local blues societies representing another 50,000 fans and professionals around the world.

For more information, visit the Blues Foundation website at <http://www.blues.org>

Al Wood & the Woodsmen

Al Wood and the Woodsmen deliver four on the floor double-barreled blues with a reverence for the tradition of the masters. The Woodsmen avoid clichés while tipping their hats to simpler times and classic grooves. Armed with their successful debut album, "Mood Swingin' Blues", the Woodsmen travel from town to town spreading their signature vibe and far out sound.

www.alwoodmusic.com



Al Wood is a multi-talented performer/songwriter with a deep reverence for the blues & traditionally-based roots music. Born in Sault Ste. Marie (the Soo) ON, Al has been playing & performing for over 20 years & lives in Ottawa; Highway 17 is more than a song – it's a road well-traveled. Al's heart-on-the-sleeve vocals, harp-playing & guitar work create a powerful potion on stage & in the studio & he throws his whole heart & soul into every performance with the same exuberance & showmanship whether for a crowd of 2 or 200. The Woodsmen is the perfect vehicle to drive his unique songwriting approach, backed up by the energetic yet dynamic live show.

Lindsay Pugh, born/raised in Sault Ste. Marie ON, played his first paying guitar gig by 15. After university, he collaborated with Al Wood in the Rhythm Rats, an early blues band that played the Soo & later Montreal. A gig as bass player for Southside Denny Snyder resulted in several years touring the Midwest & the South, playing Buddy Guy's Legends & various Ribs & Blues Festivals. In 2003, Lindsay resumed the music connection with Al Wood & has traveled the long stretch of Highway 17 to Ottawa, playing clubs & festivals with Al & the Woodsmen along the way. A music instructor at Thomas Walls School of Music & Algoma University in the Soo, he also plays bass & guitar in local jazz & blues groups.

Marty Sobb is a high-energy Ottawa guitar player. From the start, his influences were diverse; seeing & meeting artists like B.B. King, Buddy Guy & Otis Rush at a young age secured a strong background of blues & roots music. He first played clubs at 16 & by 17 had shared the stage with Bryan Adams & opened a dozen shows for Colin James. He toured Canada's blues clubs in the '90s with his own band & continues to play with various outfits including Al Wood & the Woodsmen and Autumns Canon (recent winners of \$155,000 in career support in the Big Money Shot, LIVE 88.5 FM). Marty keeps busy as an audio engineer at Raven St. Studios, where he records all types of music including rock, jazz, blues, classical & has worked with Avril Lavigne, Snoop Dogg & Jeff Martin (Tea Party) among others.

Jason Jaknunas, a prominent figure in Ottawa's music scene for over 20 years, has played in bands since he was a teenager & his passion for music frames much of his endeavours. As owner/operator of Metropolitan Studios, his career as a recording engineer & producer has afforded him the luxury of working with a wide variety of talented performers including some of Ottawa's top blues bands – MonkeyJunk, JW-Jones, Wicked Grin & Al Wood & the Woodsmen. In 2004 he recorded legendary piano player Pinetop Perkins on his Grammy nominated "Ladies Man". Jason's solid bass lines serves as a great foundation for the live Woodsmen sound. In his few minutes of weekly free time, Jason enjoys building furniture & studio equipment.

Simon Meilleur has been a highly sought-after studio & live drummer on the Montreal scene for over 20 years. He has toured Europe with a rockabilly group called the Honeymakers & played notable festivals & clubs, such as Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago, in numerous groups. As a Foley artist Simon won both a Genie award & Prix Jutra in the sound editing category for the film Crazy in 2005. Simon lives in Gatineau & Montreal & his amazing groove and keen ears are key to the Woodsmen sound.

More CD Reviews

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“Tangled Roots”– Wayne Buttery & Roly Platt

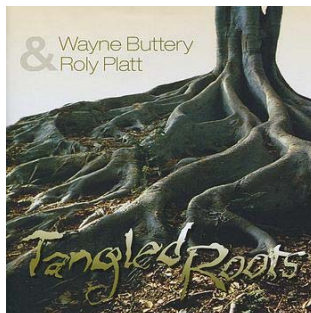
2010 Independent
www.waynebuttery.com
Reviewed by James Doran

“Tangled Roots” hit my CD player a couple of months ago like a warm summer breeze off Georgian Bay (which isn’t surprising since these two veteran Blues artists live nearby), and I’ve been enjoying it immensely ever since.

This is acoustic Blues as good as it gets. Wayne’s baritone vocals and tasty guitar are counter-pointed and complemented beautifully by Roly’s soaring, superb harmonica. I think Roly Platt is one of Canada’s best harp players and frequently gets overlooked - glad to see his well-deserved nomination for a Maple Blues Award for Harmonica Player Of The Year this year. Jon Warren on acoustic bass and Dennis King on drums add some excellent accompaniment on several songs as well.

Until now Wayne has been best known for his “big band” soul/R&B sound from Wayne Buttery & The Groove Project, formed 12 years ago. He plays that style very well (they have 2 CDs that you can find on Wayne’s web site) but I’m sure glad he put down the electric for the acoustic and teamed up with Roly. There’s some great chemistry between these two.

Roly has played with many great Canadian artists over his 30 year career including Ronnie Hawkins, Dutch Mason and Suzie Vinnick, as well as appearing on hundreds of commercials, TV, films and other artists’ albums. Over that time he has developed a unique



melodic style on the diatonic harmonica that just seems to “fit” beautifully with whomever he plays with. It certainly does on this album with Wayne.

There are 11 songs on “Tangled Roots” of which 6 are originals - all studio recorded but most are done live-off-the-floor on a single take to give the album a “Live” feel. My favourites include:

♪ “As Blues As Blues Can Get” - a delicious, slow, swing style tune (written by James Fred Knobloch & Tim Krekel and made popular by Delbert McClinton), classic lyrics, excellent vocals by Wayne and Roly’s train whistle harp soaring in the background that is, well, as Blues as Blues can get.

♪ “Deep Within These Lonesome Blues” - a Buttery original - more of that great toe-tapping swing style that permeates this album, more good lyrics, some nice acoustic runs by Wayne and lovely harmonica counterpoint by Roly. Jon and Dennis on drums and bass add nice background.

♪ “AA Boghee” - a peppy, upbeat instrumental with all 4 artists contributing that really showcases Roly’s virtuosity on the harp

This CD was the only Canadian entry to make the Second Round for Best Self Produced CD of the Year at the 2011 International Blues Challenge and is, in my opinion, a First Class acoustic Blues album that stands with the best in this or any other country! Hope there’s more to come.

♪ Maple Blues nomination - Harmonica Player of the Year

CDs by other Maple Blues nominees have been reviewed in past issues* of the OBScene:

Summer 2010 - JW-Jones “Midnight Memphis Sun” - Recording of the Year
Downchild “I Need A Hat” - 6 nominations including Recording of the Year
Hupman Brothers “Counting Quarters” - New Artist or Group of the Year

Summer 2009 - Blackburn “Brotherhood” - Male Vocalist of the Year
MonkeyJunk “Tiger in Your Tank” - 5 nominations including Entertainer of the Year

Winter 2008 - Treasa Levasseur “Low Fidelity” - 2 nominations including Songwriter of the Year

* back issues of the OBScene available online at <http://www.ottawabluesociety.com/newsletters.php>

CD Snapshots

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“DeltaPhonic” – Diana Braithwaite & Chris Whiteley, Electro-Fi 2010



The gorgeous vocals of Diana Braithwaite combine with the multi-instrumental talents of Chris Whiteley (and he can sing too!) in their latest release. The liner notes tell us that ‘DeltaPhonic’ is a term coined by Andrew Galloway, head honcho at Electro-Fi Records (recipient of this year’s Keeping the Blues Alive Award for record label) and refers to “all the sounds that make this music special”. Mostly originals, the songs on this recording ‘feel’ familiar, yet they’re fresh. Featuring Chris on guitars, slide, harp and trumpet, the duo is ably supported by Mike Archer on bass, Lindsay Beaver on drums, Phil Skladowski (baritone) & Jonathan Wong (tenor) saxophones and Jesse Whiteley on piano & Hammond organ. Love the ‘big band’ sound of ‘Midnight Stroll’ ... anyone know how to fox trot?

♪ Maple Blues nominations - Chris & Diana for Acoustic Act, Chris for Horn Player

“Brown Sugar” – Shakura S’Aida, Ruf 2010

This lady has it goin’ on ... and she’s getting some very well-deserved attention with this release. Produced in Tennessee by Jim Gaines at his Bessie Blue Studios, most of the tracks on “Brown Sugar” were co-written with bandleader/guitarist Donna Grantis. Shakura’s voice is a powerhouse, but she can soften it when necessary. She is ably supported by her rhythm section of Dave Smith on bass and Steve Potts on drums, Rick Steff on keyboards and check out Lance Anderson on organ and Donna Grantis on guitar – and listen to the lyrics – on ‘Missing the Good and the Bad’.

♪ Maple Blues nominations - Female Vocalist and Entertainer of the Year



“One Dog Barkin’” – Harrison Kennedy, Electro-Fi 2009



This acoustic CD is all original and the themes are topical – saving the planet, ‘90s trends, economic woes, homelessness – but Harrison has not neglected the tried and true blues themes – bad whiskey, my woman’s got someone new. He also pays homage to Jimmy Reed, Charlie Patton, Huddie (Leadbelly), Mel Brown, and that ‘crazy’ is for Snooky Pryor! He offers hope, and a world tour of sorts, in ‘The Healing Power of the Blues’. Backed up on some tracks by Keith ‘Nappy’ Lindsay on keyboards and Justin Dunlop on bass, Harrison plays guitar, harp, mandolin, banjo and percussion, some on the spoons! But it’s his powerful vocals that impress the most. On the final track, ‘I Can Feel You Leaving’, the guitar is so sparse the song is virtually a *capella* and the lyrics and his vocals are heart-rending.

♪ Maple Blues nominations – Male Vocalist & Acoustic Act of the year

“Live From the Phoenix Theatre” – Matt Anderson, Busted Flat 2009

Live recordings, by definition, should make you feel like you’re at the event ... there, in the club or theatre. You should hear an audience, stage banter between musicians. This is a good ‘un – but how could it not be, with Matt Andersen’s giant voice and slashing guitar, with guests the Saint John String Quartet, an 8-voice choir and assorted friends. Many of these tracks are available on his studio CDs, but the live versions have a vitality even one-take studio versions can’t match. Matt’s killer vocals are a highlight on ‘So Gone Now’, accented by Ian Sherwood’s perfect saxophone.

♪ Maple Blues nominations – Entertainer & Acoustic Act of the Year



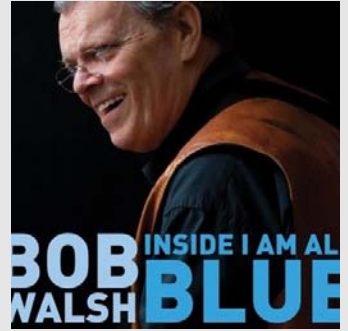
And More

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“Inside I Am All Blue” – Bob Walsh, BROS 2010

Although Bob Walsh has been on the Québec music scene for more than 30 years, he's virtually unknown outside that province. He's a talented vocalist and guitarist with experience in many genres, but his last few releases have concentrated on blues. On this disc, he covers everyone from Canadians Jack Lavin and Michael Jerome Browne to Jimi Hendrix & Eric Bibb, and even Merle Travis' 'Sixteen Tons'. The choices are notable for their social relevance, including the title track, an original co-written with B.A. Markus. The harmonica of Guy Bélanger throughout this recording is stellar!

♪ Maple Blues nominations - Male Vocalist (Bob) & Harmonica Player (Guy) of the Year



“The Corktown Sessions” – Jack de Keyzer, Blue Star 2010

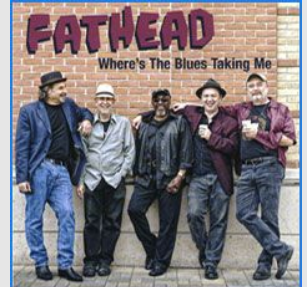
Last year's Juno winner, this CD was recorded at a show at Hamilton's Corktown Pub. Backed by his tight band – David McMorrow (organ, piano), Alan Duffy (bass) and Danny Lockwood (drums) – Jack serves up seven deKeyzer originals, including the familiar 'Blues Thing' and 'Soul Lover', with some Albert King, Robert Johnson, Stevie Wonder, Isaac Hayes and Jimmy Rogers added to the mix. Of note, Jack's 'The Way That I Love You' was a finalist in the Blues Category of the 2010 International Songwriting Competition.

♪ Maple Blues nominations – Electric Act & Guitarist of the Year

“Where's My Blues Taking Me” – Fathead, Electro-Fi 2010

Another all original project (with the exception of the bonus track 'Lonely Teardrops'), this CD is quintessential Fathead. Each member of the group is a master of his craft as evidenced by their multiple past Juno wins and Maple Blues nominations (along with several wins). Vocalist John Mays brings Al Lerman's lyrics to life ... particularly in 'Lay It On the Line' and a wonderful ballad, 'Don't Leave Me Tonight'.

♪ Maple Blues nominations – Male Vocalist, Guitarist, Horn Player & Drummer of the Year



“Chris Antonik” – Chris Antonik, Independent 2010

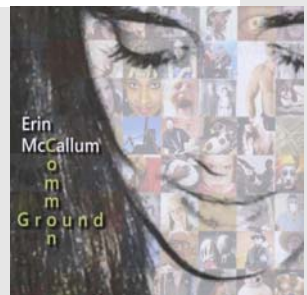
Toronto's Chris Antonik has moved from sideman to fronting his own band; he plays Dobro and guitars (acoustic & electric) and he's the writer or co-writer of the eight originals. The lyrics avoid cliché and the guitar solos support the songs, rather than overwhelming them – a pitfall of so many guitarist debuts. Vocals on most tracks are handled by Josh Williams, who also plays the Hammond and Wurlitzer. Rhythm section Andrew Taylor (bass) and Chris Chiarelli (drums) anchor the band; guests on several tracks include Mark Stafford, Suzie Vinnick, Geoff Daye and more. Chris debuts as vocalist on his cover of Otis Rush's 'Double Trouble' and the guitar on this track is impressive.

♪ Maple Blues nomination - New Artist or Group of the Year

“Common Ground” – Erin McCallum, Independent 2010

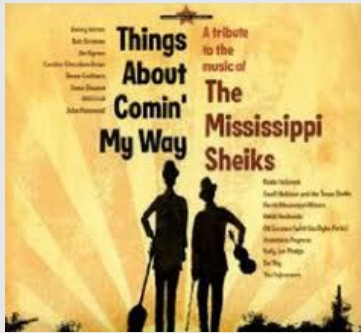
This is Erin McCallum's third release and she writes, produces, plays harmonica and a little guitar and sings on "Common Ground". On this recording, Erin's big voice is backed by Ronald Lombard on bass, Joe Pace on drums, Trevor Mackenzie on guitar and special guest Gregg Dechert on B3, piano, horns and strings. Guitarist Mackenzie offers very tasteful guitar solos on 'Lost My Found' and 'Touched Me In My Soul'.

♪ Maple Blues nominations – Female Vocalist & New Artist or Group of the Year



CD Snapshots

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“Things About Comin’ My Way – A Tribute To The Music Of The Mississippi Sheiks”, Black Hen 2009

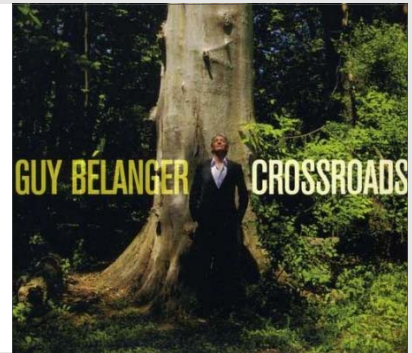
The Mississippi Sheiks Tribute project was the brainchild of Vancouver guitarist/producer Steve Dawson, who wanted to bring exposure to the music of this ‘30s string band. In doing so, he put together a stellar line-up of blues/roots musicians and the Mississippi Sheiks Tribute show toured across Canada. Some of the best tracks are those contributed by Canadian musicians, including the title track by Ndidi Onukwulu and ‘He Calls That Religion’ by the Sojourners.

♪ Maple Blues nomination – Recording of the Year

“Crossroads” – Guy Belanger, BROS 2010

Another musician well-known in Québec whose profile should be raised by his Maple Blues nomination, Guy Bélanger’s blues roots trace back to the ‘70s, with Bob Walsh, nourished by encounters with Muddy Waters, Koko Taylor, Big Mama Thornton, James Cotton and Dutch Mason. A virtuoso on harmonica, Guy also wrote or co-wrote six of the 15 tracks and the covers range from Mississippi John Hurt, Howlin’ Wolf and Brownie McGhee to Anders Osborne and Lucinda Williams. Keb’ Mo’s ‘Don’t Try to Explain’ – poignant harmonica alongside Rob McDonald’s aching guitar and Kim Richardson’s tormented vocals – is the standout!

♪ Maple Blues nomination - Harmonica Player of the Year



“Blues Piano-Rama” – Kenny ‘Blues Boss’ Wayne, Julian Fauth, Curley Bridges & Bobby Dean Blackburn, Electro-Fi 2010

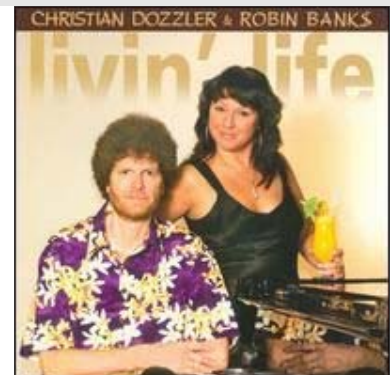
Kicking off with Kenny ‘Blues Boss’ Wayne’s fitting ‘Boogie Woogie Showdown’, things just get better. He’s joined by a couple of elder statesmen of the keyboards, Curley Bridges and Bobby Dean Blackburn, and relative newcomer Juno-winner Julian Fauth. Between them, they have “over 175 years of collective keyboard Mojo” – and it shows! They’re backed up by the multi-talented Chris Whiteley (guitar, harmonica & trumpet) with Bucky Berger (drums) and Victor Bateman (upright bass) making up the rhythm section. Highlights are Bobby Dean Blackburn’s ‘24 Hours A Day’ featuring Chris Whiteley’s trumpet and the Bridges/Fauth duo’s ‘The Blues Ain’t Nothing’.

♪ Maple Blues nominations - Kenny & Julian each nominated for Keyboard Player of the Year

“Livin’ Life” – Robin Bank\$ & Christian Dozzler, BluesWave Records 2009

Canuck ex-pat Robin Bank\$ spent 10 years away – in Dallas Texas, then Jamaica. Now back in Canada, Robin is currently touring (mostly internationally) to promote this latest all-original release, which features Robin’s vocals, as sultry and sassy as ever, and Texas-based Christian Dozzler on keys. Song-writing and vocal duties are shared equally; Robin’s contributions are jazzy blues, which work well with Dozzler’s piano. ‘Cocktail or Beer’ has some interesting wordplay, but the lyrics of the title track have the sound of experience and ring true!

♪ Maple Blues nomination - Female Vocalist of the Year



Upcoming ...

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Toronto Blues Society hosts the bi-annual Blues Summit Five, a not-to-be-missed forum for all blues music industry members, artists, presenters, agents, and the like. It is an opportunity for the blues community to network, as well as for artists to showcase in front of blues industry members. The **Blues Summit Five** will take place **January 15-17, 2011** at **The Delta Chelsea Hotel** in Toronto.

<http://torontobluessociety.com/site/?p=558>



The **2011 Maple Blues Awards** take place at **Koerner Hall** on **January 17**, wrapping up Blues Summit Five.

The Maple Blues Awards is Canada's national blues awards program. Its goal is to promote blues music across Canada, and to recognize outstanding achievement in the field.



OBS IBC SEND OFF PARTY & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

January 21, 2011 @ Tucson's, 2440 Bank Street, Ottawa ON

With performances by *Road to Memphis* winners, Al Wood & The Woodsman and Brandon Agnew & Benny Gutman.

The OBS Annual General Meeting will take place before the show starts, including elections for President (two-year term) and two Directors (one two-year term and one one-year term).

For more info www.ottawabluessociety.com

BLUES ON THE RIDEAU AT THE COVE INN

Friday & Saturday, January 21-22, 2011 - The Cove Inn, Westport ON

Singer/songwriter and the King of Canadian blues guitar Jack de Keyzer returns to BOTR for a 4th time. 2010 Juno Award winner for Best Blues CD (his 2nd Juno – he also won in 2003) & 7X Maple Blues Award winner his reputation speaks for itself.



For more info www.choosetheblues.ca

MUSIC IN MERRICKVILLE

LeE HARVeY OsMOND concert/TOM WILSON Art Show

Saturday, January 21-22, 2011 - The Baldachin Inn, Merrickville ON

Allowing bass, hypnotic rhythms and a lot of groove into their songwriting circle, the artist collective LeE HARVeY OsMOND created a sound that would creep out of the Northern woods and across the Great Lakes into the South, the same way The Band did forty years before them.

For more info <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/event.php?eid=114470568624502>



The Ottawa Blues Society (OBS), formed in 1997, is a non-profit organization which aims to foster appreciation, promotion, preservation and enjoyment of the blues in all of its forms. OBS issues a quarterly newsletter, *OBScene*, featuring interviews, upcoming events, reviews of blues CDs, DVDs and performances, club listings and info about blues society concerns and projects. Spring & Fall issues are available electronically; Summer & Winter issues are printed and mailed to all members.

Enjoy and support the blues in Ottawa.

Let your voice be heard ... become a member of the ***Ottawa Blues Society*** today!

Name 1: _____

Name 2 : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

E-Mail 1: _____ Date: _____

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Please check your preference for membership:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$30.00

(one newsletter, membership card, discounts to OBS events, other discounts & voting rights)

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

\$50.00

(one newsletter, 2 membership cards, discounts, 2 voting rights, for a maximum of 2 adults & 2 children under 19)

RENEWAL or NEW MEMBER

Would you like to volunteer to work at the OBS tent at the Ottawa Bluesfest? Yes No

Would you like to be an OBS volunteer for other activities? Yes No

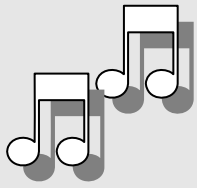
If yes, in what area would you like to volunteer or have expertise? _____
(e.g. administration, newsletter, photography, website, event planning,
member recruitment, corporate liaison, marketing)

Please mail this form with cheque payable to "Ottawa Blues Society" to:
Ottawa Blues Society, P.O. Box 8124, Station T, Ottawa, ON K1G 3H6

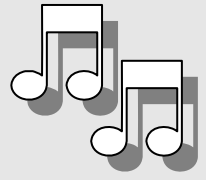
For more information about the Ottawa Blues Society, please visit our website at

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