



Ottawa BLUES Society

# OBScene

Summer 2010

## MonkeyJunk wins Blues Music Award



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## In this issue ...

... a celebration of our Blues Music Award winners for Best New Artist Debut, MonkeyJunk, a retrospective on the successful past year of the 'Blues On the Rideau' series, a thought-provoking Op-Ed column from JW-Jones, a heads-up on the upcoming Blues Cruise and this year's 'Road to Memphis' local blues competition, an update on DAWG-FM, the latest 'Postcards From The Road' and CD reviews (a couple of DVD reviews too!)

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### OBS CONTACTS

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### CORRESPONDENCE AND ADDRESS CHANGES

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P.O. Box 8124, Station "T"  
Ottawa, ON K1G 3H6

### OBS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND DIRECTORS

**President:** Liz Sykes

**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:** Alan Hirsch

### OBS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Corporate Liaison:** Ken Fraser

**Membership:** Roxanne Pilon

**Merchandise:** Denis Paquin

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OBScene is published quarterly by the Ottawa Blues Society, and is available via OBS membership. Spring & Fall issues are electronic only; Summer & Winter issues are printed and mailed. The opinions expressed in the articles, reviews and critiques contained in this newsletter are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Ottawa Blues Society. If you have a different opinion, please share it with us.

### ADVERTISING RATES

Business card size \$ 25.00  
Quarter page \$ 35.00  
Third page \$ 50.00  
Half page \$ 75.00  
Full page \$ 100.00  
10% discount for four issues paid in advance.

### OBScene Deadlines

Issue	Copy Deadline	Distribution Date
Fall	September 15	Online mid-October
Winter	December 15	Early January 2011

### From the Editor ...

The Ottawa Blues Scene has undergone a significant transformation in the last month 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".

We are happy to announce that the OBS will be venturing onto the airwaves in the fall. DAWG has generously offered us a weekly program (initially a half-hour) on Sunday evenings at 8 pm and we'll be playing local and regional blues and informing listeners of upcoming blues events. Watch for more information on the OBS website and look for OBS Member Email Updates. We'll be looking for OBS members' ideas, support and participation.

Summer is here — 32° today — and the Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest is on our July calendar. Please stop in and say hello to the Board Members and Volunteers at the OBS Tent, renew your membership, and pick up a t-shirt or tank top; we think you'll like our new design!

As always, please get in touch if you have any questions or comments.

Liz Sykes  
[lizblues@rogers.com](mailto: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.

# Op-Ed

Although op-ed refers to location in newspapers (opposite the editorial page), it has also come to mean 'opinion-editorial' and it is this role we want the OBS Op-Ed to play. We hope it will get you thinking about issues relevant to music and blues in particular. We encourage our readers to submit ideas or articles for future Op-Ed columns.

Ottawa blues musician **JW-Jones** responded to a question intended for his 'Postcards from the Road' column, but his thoughts seemed more appropriate here.

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**Music is dynamic ... if it is static it becomes, by definition, the same old same old = boring.  
Do you see blues taking 'new directions' and, if so, where's blues going?**

Blues is changing. Is this good or bad? It's a good thing when it's cool, and it's a bad thing when it's not. I know, everyone's definition of cool is different.

Unfortunately, for me and others who feel the same, there are fewer and fewer artists that excite me, give me chills, make the hair on the back of my neck stand up and say hello. The artists that move me are those that bring something to the table – their own interpretation, delivered from the heart; their own brand of blues. That's all any of us are trying to do.

Pushing the envelope is cool – Aaron Thibeaux Walker, McKinley Morganfield, and Riley King all did it – but if you push it too far, it simply becomes something else. It's not blues if it's not blues. T-Bone started bending guitar strings. Muddy Waters amplified the guitar. B.B. created vibrato with his fingers. What do they all have in common? They were all playing blues, and pushing the envelope.

What are today's blues artists doing to push the envelope? They are mixing it with other genres. The term blues-rock is a shining example of this. If you push blues too far towards rock, it becomes rock. If you push it too far towards another genre, it becomes that genre. Have you ever heard of blues-reggae? How about blues-adult-contemporary or blues-metal? They all use instruments similar to those used in blues, but these sub-genres sure sound silly, don't they?

What happened to pushing the envelope within the same style of music? John Lee Hooker, Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, and Magic Sam were innovative blues musicians. They pushed the envelope, and it's all safely rooted in blues-land.

'Sweet Baby' James Meston (a friend from Australia) said "Blues is what every other type of music wants to be when it grows up". Willie Dixon said "blues is the roots, the rest is the fruits".

If the music an artist plays is not obviously rooted in blues, with some indication that they are blues-schooled, then for that artist it did not start with the roots in the first place. Maybe it started with rock, then they tried to bluesify it. I'd much prefer hearing a schooled blues player "rock-out" than hear a rock player try to play blues. It's not unlike many of today's jazz musicians who can't get around a basic 12-bar form, but can play the most complex harmonies and odd meters. Playing something complicated for the sake of playing something complicated is exactly like pushing the envelope *just* to push it. If there is a purpose, and its blood line goes back to blues, I'm all in!

Blues is primal. It has to come from the pelvis, and it has to appeal to an important audience – women. If you can get the women to dig what you're doing, the men will follow. The majority of today's blues artists seem to be more concerned about how many notes they can deliver (whether that's vocally, or with an instrument) than what those notes mean. Muddy Waters didn't have to sing fifteen-note vocal runs to make women scream. B.B. had to play only a one-note vibrato to get the same kind of reaction. Less is more.

Almost everyone I know who loves blues is passionate about it. Like a mother and her child or a lioness and her cubs, blues is an extension of who we are. We take this very seriously and very personally. Don't mess with our baby!

JW posted the article above on Facebook.

Matt Sobb & Jesse Whiteley comment on JW's cover of 'Cuts Like A Knife'

More comments at <http://tiny.cc/tvexy>

So, to clarify, is it blues if you take a classic rock song and change the beat to swing rather than rock? I love your [JW's] cover version of the Bryan Adams hit from 1983, 'Cuts Like A Knife' – really great groove . . . not a blues song . . . but very enjoyable! So is it blues? How does this impact blues music? Moves it ahead or mocks it? Many purists would argue that you, yourself are pushing it too far by doing this. Personally, I hate labels on genres, love blues and think your version of this song is great and think this is a cool way of pushing the envelope! But is it blues, blues rock, rock-blues? Who cares? It's "bluesy" and it's good. Good is what matters.  
Matt Sobb

Covering 'Cuts Like A Knife' is a perfect example of where Blues is going, and where the music can go when it's done well, because all it's doing is furthering the tradition of performing popular songs of a time, and arranging them with a Blues feeling and sound. This allows the music to progress and evolve, without stretching the boundaries of the core sound to the point where the music becomes indistinguishable as Blues. It's the same as how the early songs that became the standards of the Jazz and Blues repertoire were popular songs of the time – popular Folk songs, Tin Pan Alley, Show Tunes, etc. The pop songs that are now being played in the modern Jazz world range from songs written by The Beatles, Joni Mitchell, and Stevie Wonder. Whether 'Cuts Like A Knife' is meant to push the envelope or not, it can definitely be seen as a new approach to Blues repertoire, while maintaining the roots of the music.  
Jesse Whiteley



## Where's Blues in Ottawa ...

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

Compiled by Jim Roy

- ♪ 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](mailto: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](http://www.ottawabluesjazz.ca)

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### BLUES RADIO in OTTAWA

**CIDG DAWG-FM 101.9**  
[www.dawgfm.com](http://www.dawgfm.com)  
Blues 24/7

**CKCU-FM 93.1**  
[www.ckcufm.com](http://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)

## From the DAWG house

As this is being written, DAWG 101.9, Ottawa's new best friend, has been bluesifying the airwaves for four weeks and is online worldwide at <http://www.dawgfm.com> Their playlist is increasing daily due to the hard work of Operations Manager Yves Trottier. On-air DJs are adding short biographical sketches to introduce the blues musicians whose music they



are playing. The 'Guitar a Day and Ride Away' contest has given away the final guitar, and the Honda cycle draw takes place soon.

DAWG held a pre-launch party on June 1 at Tucson's (launch was postponed until June 7, due to an earlier volcano-caused delay in obtaining hardware) and it was an opportunity to meet the station's on and off air staff. A silent auction was held and OBS Treasurer Gary Paradis scored the first DAWG Carparelli guitar.

Entertainment started with the acoustic blues duo Alain Tambay and Wayne Saumure, followed by JW-Jones, who had returned to Ottawa from Switzerland only 24 hours earlier. MonkeyJunk (Tony D, Steve Marriner & Matt Sobb) was in attendance and played a short set,



with special guest appearances by Jack de Keyzer and Johnny Max, then JW-Jones and his talented band – Jeff Asselin on drums and Martin Regimbald on bass, joined by occasional bandmate Jesse Whiteley on keys – played a final set.



Daily (blues or rock)

Rainbow Bistro, 76 Murray Street

[www.therainbow.ca](http://www.therainbow.ca)

Tuesday, some weekends

Elmdale House, 1084 Wellington Street

[www.myspace.com/elmdalehouse](http://www.myspace.com/elmdalehouse)

Wednesday to Saturday (blues, R&B, rock)

Bass Line Station, Baseline & Greenbank

[www.basslinestation.com](http://www.basslinestation.com)

Thursday, some weekends

Irene's, 855 Bank St.

[www.irenespub.ca](http://www.irenespub.ca)

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Tucson's, 2440 Bank Street

[www.tucsonblues.com](http://www.tucsonblues.com)

Sunday

Atomic Rooster, 303 Bank Street

[www.atomicrooster.ca](http://www.atomicrooster.ca)

Regular Bluesy Venues

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## DAWG FM Pre-Launch Party Monday, June 1 @ Tucson's

DAWG folks



Ed Torres, DAWG & Frank Torres, Yves Trottier, Gary Perrin, Todd Bernard, Robyn Metcalfe & DAWG (photos Liz Sykes)

DAWG DJs



Laura Mainella & Geoff Winter, J-Man & Ali Kat, Dylan Black & Carly D (photos Liz Sykes)

DAWG guests



Top - Brent Diab, Elizabeth & Ken Fraser; party guests; Mike Graham & DAWG (photos Liz Sykes)

Bottom - Denis Paquin, Monika Slack, Pierre Brisson & Helen Pethick (photo Liz Sykes);

Brian Slack, Vickie & Gary Paradis, Liz Sykes, Johnny Max & Todd Bernard (photo Irene Ippersiel)

## Coming soon ... Kat Danser's blues adventures — Mississippi & Ghana

Kat Danser, the Alberta blues musician whose 'Blues Pilgrimage' series was featured in 2008-09, is immersed in a research project which is the foundation of her Master's thesis for her studies in Ethnomusicology at the University of Alberta. Her project focuses on the Rising Star Fife and Drum Band in North Mississippi. She is currently in Ghana where she is learning about West African influences on the Americas via the TransAtlantic Slave Trade.

Kat writes, "I have now travelled to Mississippi in search of 'authentic' blues and to Ghana in search of 'authentic' connections to the blues and what I have found is that there is layer upon layer of influence on everything." Kat has promised the OBS another series of articles based on this incredible experience.

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# Summer Blues Festivals 2010

## July

Cisco Systems Ottawa Bluesfest  
Ottawa ON  
July 6-18  
<http://www.ottawabluesfest.ca>

Porquis Blues Festival  
Porquis Junction ON  
July 9-11  
<http://www.porquis.ca/web-content/>

Thunder Bay Blues Festival  
Marina Park, Thunder Bay ON  
July 9-11  
<http://www.tbayblues.ca>

Festival International du Blues de Tremblant  
Mont Tremblant QC  
July 9-18  
<http://www.tremblantblues.com/home/>

Frankford Island Blues Festival  
Quinte West ON  
July 16-18  
[www.loyalblues.ca/festival](http://www.loyalblues.ca/festival)

Bluesfest International  
Windsor ON  
July 16-18  
<http://www.thebluesfest.com/>

Home County Folk Festival  
Victoria Park, London ON  
July 16-18  
<http://www.homecounty.ca>

Bluesfest International  
London ON  
July 16-18  
<http://www.thebluesfest.com/>

Beaches Jazz Festival  
The Beaches, Toronto ON  
July 16-25  
<http://www.beachesjazz.com>

Beauport en Blues  
Beauport QC  
July 22-24  
<http://www.beauportenblues.com/festival/programmation.html>

Sky High Blues Festival  
Rock Creek BC  
July 31-August 1  
[www.skyhighbluesfestival.com](http://www.skyhighbluesfestival.com)

## August

Festival International Maximum Blues  
Carleton QC  
August 4-8  
<http://www.maximumblues.net/>

La Viree Blues Sorel-Tracy  
Sorel-Tracy QC  
August 5-7  
<http://vireeblues.com/>

Kitchener Blues Festival  
Kitchener ON  
August 5-8  
[www.kitchenerbluesfestival.com](http://www.kitchenerbluesfestival.com)

Calgary International Blues Festival  
Calgary AB  
August 5-8  
<http://www.calgarybluesfest.com/>

Festiblues International de Montreal  
Montreal QC  
August 11-15  
<http://www.festiblues.com/2010/?act=&lang=en>

Donnacona au Rythme du Blues  
Donnacona QC  
August 11-15  
<http://www.donnaconablues.com/blues.asp?no=1>

Salmon Arm Roots & Blues Festival  
Salmon Arm BC  
August 13-15  
<http://www.rootsandblues.ca>

Maple Ridge Jazz & Blues Festival  
Maple Ridge BC  
August 14  
<http://www.jazzblues.ca>

Burnaby Blues & Roots Festival  
Burnaby BC  
August 14  
<http://www.burnabybluesfestival.com>

L'Ile en Blues  
St-Laurent-de-l'Île-d'Orléans QC  
August 20-21  
<http://www.lileenblues.ca/>

Festival de Blues de Victoriaville  
Victoriaville QC  
August 20-22  
<http://www.festivaldebluesvicto.com/>

Edmonton Labatt Blues Festival  
Edmonton AB  
August 20-22  
<http://www.bluesinternationaltd.com>

Wasaga Beach Blues Festival  
Wasaga Beach ON  
August 26-27  
<http://www.wasagabeachfest.com>

Limestone City Blues Festival  
Kingston ON  
August 26-29  
<http://www.kingstonblues.com>

Trois-Rivieres en Blues  
Trois-Rivieres QC  
August 26-29  
<http://www.3renblues.com/>

Lachute en Blues  
Lachute QC  
August 27-29  
<http://www.lachuteenblues.com/>

For the latest info on blues festivals, check the online version of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Blues Festival Guide

<http://www.bluesfestivalguide.com/>







July 6-18, 2010

# 2010 CISCO OTTAWA BLUESFEST GOES HOLLYWOOD

## OBS Board's Picks

Members of the Blues Society's Board of Directors share their 'don't miss' lists for the 2010 Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest.

### Brent Diab – Director

**Tommy Castro** - San Francisco soulful blues. I have been a fan from the first time I saw him at Bluesfest years ago. I have never missed a new CD or performance since.

**Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience** - Like the name suggests it is always an experience to see this electrifying performance. Like a peppery fiery hot sauce it will set your soul afire! **John Hiatt** - This song writer is responsible for many of my favourite songs. If you are unfamiliar with all he has written, you too will be amazed that some of these songs made famous by your favourite artists were penned by this prolific music master. Whether performed by others or himself the catalogue of songs is staggering.

### Mike Graham – Vice-President

**Paul Rishell and Annie Raines** are a fantastic duo, 17 years in the biz with 6 albums, a W. C. Handy award and two nominations at the Blues Music Awards. Country blues at its best! **Ronnie Baker Brooks** - The son of Lonnie Brooks, Ronnie is a Chicago blues favourite. I have seen him many times in Chicago and his shows are tremendous!

### Ken Fraser – Director, Corporate Liaison

**Matt Andersen**: I've liked his recordings I've heard on the radio and he is Canadian. **Derek Trucks & Susan Tedeschi Band**: I like Derek Trucks slide playing. He has a very unique style and sound. I also like Susan's vocal style. **Joe Krown Trio with Walter 'Wolfman' Washington & Russell Batiste**: I don't know the Joe Krown Trio but I did enjoy the Walter 'Wolfman' Washington CD I borrowed from Liz a few years back. I anticipate a pleasant surprise and new discovery with this band.

### Denis Paquin – Director, Merchandise

My Bluesfest "must see" is **'The Voice of the Wetlands' All-Stars**. Bayou bluesman Tab Benoit & friends share their passion for their homeland with a taste of what the Louisiana music scene has to offer. You'll walk away understanding the challenges Louisiana wetlands faces post-Katrina and more recently, the massive oil spill in the gulf.

### Debra Thornington – Director, Community Relations

A performer who's been on my "must see list" far too long, looking forward to the outstanding, Afro-Latin-Blues-Rock, super-natural sounds of **Carlos Sanata**! NY Times wrote, "If one band had to encapsulate the (2009) New Orleans Jazzfest it might well be the **"Voice of the Wetlands All-Stars"**, **Marcia Ball with Tab Benoit, Cyril Neville, Anders Osborne, Johnny Sansone, Wayne Thibodeau and Big Chief Monk Boudreau**. The blues-roots & rock of Canadian, **Matt Andersen** who took first place in the 2010 Memphis, TN International Blues Challenge competition against 80 other solo/duo acts from all over the world! Impressive? You bet!

### Gary Paradis – Treasurer, Director

While there are bigger names on the schedule, I look forward to seeing both **MonkeyJunk** and the **Jesse Greene Band**. After placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2009 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, this year **MonkeyJunk** is a multiple Maple Blues Award winner as well as winner of a prestigious Blues Music Award in the States. These guys are going places. The **Jesse Greene Band** impressed a lot of people with their performances at this year's IBC by making the finals. We had a lot of fun seeing this young band play their hearts out in Memphis and hearing the comments from well-known blues people on the outstanding talent coming out of Canada.

### Roxanne Pilon – Director, Membership

My #1 pick is the **Derek Trucks & Susan Tedeschi Band**.

### Liz Sykes – President, Editor

The **Voice of the Wetlands All-Stars** will be a fantastic show; VOW is a fluid collective, but some big names will be here in Ottawa ... and Bluesfest has added a charity component — way to go, Bluesfest! **Joe Krown with Walter 'Wolfman' Washington and Russell Batiste** is a can't miss ... I can't see the Wolfman often enough (fortunately this trio is at Poconos too!) Toronto's **Blackburn** impressed Rolling Stone KBA-winning author David Fricke at the IBC in Memphis; their set is in the afternoon (final day) and their father, Toronto legend **Bobby Dean Blackburn** plays a set in the evening!

# Blues on the Rideau - Year 5

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## Blues On The Rideau At The Cove Inn, Westport ON



### October 16, 2009 – Mike Goudreau Band

Boppin', swingin', joie de vivre blues from Quebec's Eastern Townships with the Mike Goudreau Band

<http://www.mikegoudreau.com>

\$478 raised for Lucy Drysdale Memorial Scholarship Fund



### November 20, 2009 - Harrison Kennedy Band

From Hamilton, Harrison Kennedy, former lead singer with the '70s Detroit super group Chairman Of The Board, now one of Canada's best blues roots artists.

<http://www.harrisonkennedy.ca>

\$544 raised for the Westport Library



### December 18, 2009 - Johnny Max Band

The always fun and entertaining Johnny Max. Great blues, R&B, funk and soul from the Mississauga delta.

<http://www.johnnymaxband.com>

\$237 was raised for the Westport Food Bank



### January 15 & 16, 2010 – David Rotundo Band

The incomparable David Rotundo Band from Toronto. Flat out high energy down and dirty blues as good as it gets.

<http://www.davidrotundo.com>

\$600 was raised for Westport's Rideau Vista Elementary School, \$600 for St. Edward's Elementary School. Both schools' teachers and students decided to donate it all to Haiti Earthquake Relief



### February 19, 2010 – Jerome Godboo Band

From Toronto, Jerome Godboo Band. Superb harp, vocals and showmanship

<http://www.jeromegodboo.com>

\$225 was raised for Friends Of Foley Mountain, \$225 for the Rideau Waterway Land Trust







The goal from the start for this Series has been to bring in some of Canada's best Blues artists into a friendly, intimate setting – the funky, historic Cove Inn with only 120 seats is perfect (small venues are always where blues is heard best), give everyone a great meal and a great Show at a reasonable price while raising money for worthy local charities and organizations. It's working! Most Shows sell out – not bad for a town with a population of only 700! Many patrons come from out of town and stay over at the Inn or nearby B&Bs making a great little getaway holiday out of it. Over the five years to date, more than **\$28,000** has been raised from this Series. To the artists, all the great staff at The Cove, Tim & Mark from Little Chicago Studios (for the excellent sound), the local and regional media and, most importantly, to all those who buy tickets and come up to support these special nights, we say a big Thank You!

## 2009/10 Season Retrospective

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### March 19, 2010 – John Campbelljohn Band

From Nova Scotia, John Campbelljohn Band. One of the best Blues slide guitarists on the planet, great rockin' Blues served up Maritime style.

<http://www.campbelljohn.ca>

\$278 was raised for the Lions Club Mobility Van,  
\$567 for Compassion Canada Sponsor-A-Child for a year



### April 23 & 24, 2010 – Harmonica Shah & Jack de Keyzer

Harmonica Shah up from Detroit with his box of harps, classic voice and hilarious lyrics matched with the King Of Blues Guitar, 2010 Juno Award winner Jack De Keyzer. Recorded for an upcoming live CD on ElectroFi Records.

<http://www.electrofi.com> & <http://www.jackdekeyzer.com>

\$590 was raised for the Rideau District Museum  
\$560 for Habitat For Humanity



### May 14, 2010 – Blackburn

Blackburn. Soul, funk and blues from Mississippi to Ontario via the Underground Railroad 150 years ago planted in a family of very talented brothers joined by a couple of good friends.

<http://www.myspace.com/blackburnbrothers>

\$300 was raised for the Rideau District Museum  
\$300 for Gilda's Club For Cancer Families



### June 19, 2010 – Danny Marks and the Blues All Stars

Danny Marks & the Blues All Stars. One of Canada's best blues guitarist/singer/entertainers backed by an All Star band

<http://www.dannym.com>

\$572 was raised for David McCarthy Memorial Scholarship Fund



## Thank you, James Doran ...

James is the man responsible for the Blues on the Rideau series at the Cove Inn in Westport ON.

Over the past 5 years, James has produced more than 50 shows in Eastern Ontario featuring great (mostly) Canadian blues musicians. These shows have taken place in restaurants, inns, brewpubs, even at a farm!

We can't begin to count the number of new fans James has brought to Blues.

Thanks, James, for your commitment to the music we all love!

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## Blues On The Rideau At The Cove Inn Look Who's Coming in 2010/11—Our 6<sup>th</sup> Season

*A Dinner & Show Fundraiser Series Featuring Some Of Canada's Best Blues Artists*

October 22, 2010 - SHAKURA S'AIDA BAND

<http://www.myspace.com/shakurasaida>

November 19, 2010 - DAVID ROTUNDO BAND

<http://www.myspace.com/davidrotundo>

January 21 & 22, 2011 - JACK DE KEYZER BAND

<http://www.myspace.com/jackdekeyzer>

February 18, 2011 - CLIO & THE BLUES HIGHWAY

<http://www.myspace.com/cliovalerie>

March 18 & 19, 2011 - MONKEY JUNK

<http://www.myspace.com/monkeyjunkottawa>

April 15, 2011 - PAUL REDDICK

<http://www.myspace.com/paulreddick1>

May 20, 2011 - TREASA LEVASSEUR BAND

<http://www.myspace.com/treasalevasseur>

June 10, 2011 - RAOUL & THE BIG TIME

<http://www.myspace.com/raoulandthebigtime>

**Visit the artists' MySpace websites for audio clips of their music**

*\* If there is enough advance ticket demand a second night may be added to the single Show weekends.*

*\* Dates and artists subject to change.*

Charities for each show will be announced prior to start of season.

**Buffet Dinner & Show \$55 (plus tax)**

Advance Reservations Required

**Call The Cove (613) 273-3636 & Book Early!**

Well priced accommodation available at the Cove & nearby B&Bs

More info at <http://www.choosetheblues.ca>

***Produced by Choose The Blues Productions, Kenmore ON Canada***





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Use the 'Contact Us' form on the OBS website to send us your YouTube links and tell us what makes your favourite YouTube video great!

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**BLUESCRUISE**  
*Artists - Info - Cool Links - Sponsor ...Funky Stuff!*  
**Bluescruise 2010**  
**August 14 (8pm)**  
**10th Anniversary!**      **Tickets - \$60**

Leave your worries at the dock, put on your dancing shoes and come on board!  
Great music, great ambiance and the order for good cruisin' weather has already gone in.

This year's top notch musical line-up ...

Legendary guitarist/vocalist Guitar Shorty is a giant in the blues world. Credited with influencing both Jimi Hendrix and Buddy Guy, Guitar Shorty has been electrifying audiences for five decades with his supercharged live shows and his incendiary recordings. Like a bare knuckled boxer, Shorty strikes with his blistering, physical guitar playing and his fierce vocals, connecting directly with body and soul. What really sets Shorty apart is his absolutely unpredictable, off-the-wall guitar playing. He reaches for sounds, riffs and licks that other blues players wouldn't even think of. (See page 22 for OBS review of Shorty's latest CD, "Bare Knuckle".)

The Ottawa-based rock group, Hangmen, is comprised of five talented musicians. Lead singer Neal Sundet, guitarist Paul Fenton, brother and fellow guitarist John Fenton, bassist Eric Lackey and drummer 'Burger' (Jean-Marc Muenier). The group's debut album is to be released in 2010.

Also fireworks and a special draw for the ladies.

For more info, check out the website at [www.bluescruise.ca](http://www.bluescruise.ca)



Guitar Shorty on the Front Porch Stage at the Chicago Bluesfest, June 13, 2010 (photo Liz Sykes)



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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News  
from

# The Blues Foundation



## Blues Foundation Blues Hall of Fame 2010 Hall of Fame Inductees

The inductees for the Blues Hall of Fame in 2010 included Louisiana-born, Chicago-based bluesman Lonnie Brooks, highly-esteemed blues singer and harpist Charlie Musselwhite and singer, songwriter, guitarist and social activist Bonnie Raitt.

Among the other individuals recognized by the Foundation this year were 'The Father of the Blues' W.C. Handy, jug band pioneer Gus Cannon and Cannon's Jug Stompers, and the writer of many great "drinking songs" including 'One Scotch, One Bourbon, One Beer', Amos Milburn. American roots music writer Peter Guralnick and the legendary host of the King

Biscuit Time program on KFFA radio in Helena, Arkansas' Sonny Payne, were this year's non-performer inductees. Sam Charters' groundbreaking research on the blues in the 1950s and '60s resulted in several books including this year's Classics of Blues Literature inductee - The Bluesmen.

The following singles or album tracks were inducted during the ceremony: 'All Your Love (I Miss Loving)' by Otis Rush, 'Fever' by Little Willie John, 'Key to the Highway' by Big Bill Broonzy, 'Match Box Blues' by Blind Lemon Jefferson and 'Spoonful' by Howlin' Wolf. Albums also honoured: "Strong Persuader" by Robert Cray, "Hung Down Head" by Lowell Fulson and "I Hear Some Blues Downstairs" by Fenton Robinson.

The induction ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 5, at the Memphis Marriott Downtown in Memphis, Tennessee, the night before the 31<sup>st</sup> Blues Music Awards.

## 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 Semi-Finals on Beale Street. In 2010, 110 bands and 80 solo/duo acts entered, filling the clubs up and down Beale Street for the semi-finals on Thursday and Friday and the finals at the Orpheum Theater on Saturday. The Foundation expects to have at least that many in 2011.

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.



## 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 3500 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>

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# Road to Memphis

## Ottawa Blues Society Local Blues Challenge

The Ottawa Blues Society will again participate in the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN. The winner(s) of the OBS Blues Challenge will compete as OBS representative(s) in the IBC to be held in Memphis, February 1-5, 2011.

Proposed dates for the 2010 OBS Road to Memphis local blues competition semi-final rounds are Wednesdays, September 8, 15 and 22 (with Wednesday, September 29 a possibility, should the number of entries warrant four semi-final rounds). Finals are scheduled for Friday, September 24 (Friday, October 1, if a 4<sup>th</sup> round is necessary).

Deadline for entries is midnight Monday, August 9, 2010.

The OBS is exploring the feasibility of adding a Solo/Duo competition to this year's Road to Memphis. We invite anyone interested in competing as a Solo/Duo act to complete an application form. Based on the number of acts entered in this category (at August 9 deadline), we will determine whether the Solo/Duo competition will go ahead. Musicians must enter either the Band or the Solo/Duo category; you cannot enter both categories.

For the purposes of the IBC, a 'band' is any act with three or more musicians; vocalists are counted as musicians for the purpose of this competition; solo/duo is any act with one or two musicians; vocalists are counted as musicians for the purpose of this competition. Both electric and acoustic instruments are allowed. At this local competition, entrants will be judged by the same criteria used for the International competition. Each band or solo/duo entry will have 25 minutes to perform and will be given points based on Blues Content, Vocals, Talent, Originality and Stage Presence. For full details on scoring criteria and official rules, see the Blues Foundation website <http://www.blues.org/ibc/scoring.php>

### Eligibility Requirements:

- ♫ Band members must be 2010 residents of the Ottawa/Gatineau area (approximately 100 km radius of Ottawa).
- ♫ Entrants must be available for all semi-final rounds and the final round and must be able to travel to Memphis in February 2011.
- ♫ Entrants will play one 25-minute set.
- ♫ All songs presented MUST be Blues (electric or acoustic), Rock/ Blues, Jazz/Blues, Country Blues or Rhythm & Blues.
- ♫ Each participating band will provide the OBS with one original recorded song for inclusion in a proposed 'OBS Road to Memphis' compilation. This compilation may be produced in limited quantity and sold to raise funds for OBS expenses incurred in the annual local competition.

Entries should be made using the Contact form on the OBS website and directed to all Board members.

<http://www.ottawabluesociety.com/contact.php> Application information should include names and contact info for all band or solo/duo members, a brief biography, a summary of the entrant's experience and performance history and an audio sample of music (link to myspace, band website, MP3 or CD). You will be contacted for further information following the submission deadline. Please address any questions to [liz@ottawabluesociety.com](mailto:liz@ottawabluesociety.com)

# MonkeyJunk wins

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## 31<sup>st</sup> Blues Music Awards

The Blues Foundation presented the 31<sup>st</sup> Blues Music Awards on May 6, 2010, at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis, TN. Performers, industry representatives and fans from around the globe gathered to celebrate the best in Blues recording and performance from 2009.

The Blues Music Awards are universally recognized as the highest honour given to Blues artists. The presenting sponsor once again was The Gibson Foundation. 2010 BMA sponsors include ArtsMemphis, BMI, Casey Family Programs, Eagle Rock Entertainment, FedEx, I 55 Productions, Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, and the Tennessee Arts Commission.

The categories and winners are below.

**ACOUSTIC ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

David Maxwell & Louisiana Red - *You Got to Move*

**ACOUSTIC ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

Louisiana Red

**ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

Joe Louis Walker - "Between a Rock and the Blues"

**B.B. KING ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR**

Tommy Castro

**BAND OF THE YEAR**

Tommy Castro Band

**BEST NEW ARTIST DEBUT**

MonkeyJunk - "Tiger in Your Tank"

**CONTEMPORARY BLUES ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

Tommy Castro - "Hard Believer"

**CONTEMPORARY BLUES FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

Ruthie Foster

**CONTEMPORARY BLUES MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

Tommy Castro

**DVD**

Delmark Records - "It Ain't Over! Delmark Celebrates 55 Years of Blues, Live at Buddy Guy's Legends"

**HISTORICAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

Chess - "Authorized Bootleg" (Muddy Waters)

**INSTRUMENTALIST-BASS**

Bob Stroger

**INSTRUMENTALIST-DRUMS**

Cedric Burnside

**INSTRUMENTALIST-GUITAR**

Derek Trucks

**INSTRUMENTALIST-HARMONICA**

Jason Ricci

**INSTRUMENTALIST-HORN**

Deanna Bogart

**INSTRUMENTALIST-OTHER**

Buckwheat Zydeco (accordion)

**PINETOP PERKINS PIANO PLAYER**

Eden Brent

**ROCK BLUES ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

Derek Trucks Band - "Already Free"

**SONG OF THE YEAR**

Cyril Neville & Mike Zito - 'Pearl River'  
("Pearl River" -- Mike Zito)

**SOUL BLUES ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

Johnny Rawls - "Ace Of Spades"

**SOUL BLUES FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

Irma Thomas

**SOUL BLUES MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

Curtis Salgado

**TRADITIONAL BLUES ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

Super Chikan - "Chikadelic"

**TRADITIONAL BLUES FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

Debbie Davies

**TRADITIONAL BLUES MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

Duke Robillard



# Blues Music Award!

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## 2010 is the year of the Tiger AND the Monkey!!!

After sweeping the Maple Blues Awards in January and winning the Best Blues Artist at the Canadian Independent Music Awards, MonkeyJunk is truly honoured and incredibly proud as representatives of Ottawa and Canada to announce that WE WON FOR BEST NEW ARTIST DEBUT for "Tiger In Your Tank" at the 2010 Blues Music Awards in Memphis, TN.

MonkeyJunk is the second ever Canadian act in 30 years to win a Blues Music Award (second only to Jeff Healey who won an award last year).

We were in the presence of greatness on this night. Buddy Guy, Bonnie Raitt, Pinetop Perkins and many other blues legends were present and we feel very lucky to be recognized in such highly esteemed company.

Huge thanks to Jay Sieleman, Joe Whitmer all the staff and volunteers at the Blues Foundation for putting on a first class show.

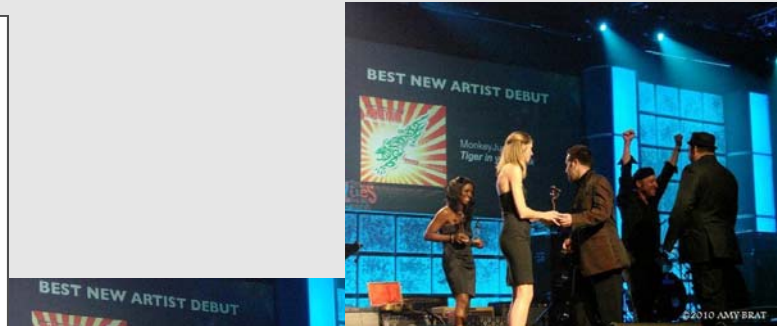
More huge thanks to all of our fans, friends and family that support us in this, our dream, to play our music.

We share this award with Jason Jaknunas & Marty Sobb - the engineers that recorded the record and Scotty Doubt who did the layout and design for "Tiger".

Thanks again . . .

Matt, Tony and Steve

<http://www.monkeyjunkband.com>



Top & left:  
MonkeyJunk accepts their  
Blues Music Awards,  
Memphis, May 6, 2010  
(photos — Amy Brat)



Left & below:  
MonkeyJunk performs  
at the BMAs  
(photos — Scott Doubt)



Right:  
Watching MonkeyJunk perform  
(photos — Amy Brat)



# CD Reviews

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## “Countin’ Quarters” — Hupman Brothers



Independent (2009)

[www.hupmanbrothers.com](http://www.hupmanbrothers.com)

[www.myspace.com/thehupmanbrothers](http://www.myspace.com/thehupmanbrothers)

Reviewed by Liz Sykes

I had not heard of the Hupman Brothers until they won this year’s East Coast Music Award for Blues. However, monster East-coast bluesman Matt Andersen (he of the IBC Solo/Duo win in January of this year) put me in touch with Ryan and Scott, and their 2009 release, “Countin’ Quarters” was soon in the OBS mailbox.

Featuring acoustic and electric songs, this is an eclectic recording ... a distinct country vibe accented by pedal steel on ‘Run & Hide’, and a jazzy feel on ‘Bone of Contention’, for example ... but the songs are bluesy and they are good! All 12 are originals; lyrics are intelligent ... sometimes witty, sometimes poignant, always first-rate. Contemporary themes are highlighted: tough times – ‘Countin’ Quarters’; working too hard - ‘Free Time’; and relationships – ‘Be with Somebody’ and ‘Miss Business’.



The Hupman Brothers band is a trio – brothers Ryan on electric/acoustic guitars, pedal steel & vocals and Scott on electric and upright bass, electric guitar & backing vocals – with Mike Carroll on drums. On this CD, Caleb Miles supports on electric guitar and Bob Federer on keyboards on ‘Be With Somebody’ and ‘Extra Huppies’,

the instrumental that closes out the CD. Ian Sherwood adds tenor, alto and baritone saxes to several songs, of particular note the title tune, ‘Countin’ Quarters’ and ‘Bone of Contention’, which feature fine sax solos. A rootsier song, ‘Up on the Ridge’, with Ariana Nasr’s violin and the brothers’ vocal harmonies would be right at home at the Ottawa Folk Festival. And the guitar on ‘Brought Me Down’ made me think of Mississippi John Hurt.

Each year I find a new (to me) band that becomes my personal ‘discovery of the year’ ... for 2010 it’s the Hupman Brothers. Now we have to get them to Ottawa, so we can hear them live!

## “Mood Swingin’ Blues”– Al Wood & the Woodsmen



Independent (2008)

[www.myspace.com/alwoodmusic](http://www.myspace.com/alwoodmusic)

Reviewed by Mike Graham

Al Wood is a multi-talented performer and song writer who has been performing for over twenty years. Originally from Sault Ste. Marie, he now lives in Ottawa and is a ‘regular’ on the Ottawa blues scene.

When you listen to this CD, it is evident that Al appreciates Chicago Blues and this is demonstrated on many of the tracks. “Mood Swingin’ Blues” was recorded at Ottawa’s Metropolitan Studios (engineered, co-produced and mastered by the talented Jason Jaknunas) and features, from MonkeyJunk, the excellent drum delivery of Matt Sobb and the organ and piano style of Steve Marriner. The CD contains 13 original tracks (all written by Al Wood) that cover a variety of musical genres – rockabilly, traditional blues, country and jazz. You cannot help but be impressed by his



delivery of many forms of blues along with his originality.

Feature tracks such as ‘Blame Shiftin’ Blues’ and ‘Late Night Stroll’ are slow-bluesy traditional numbers that exemplify a Chicago Blues style that is evident in Al’s musical offerings. Yet, Al can easily switch to up-tempo tracks such as ‘Firefly’ and ‘Highway 17’ featuring Lindsay Pugh’s guitar work and Al’s excellent harmonica

playing.

One track that I really enjoy is ‘Treena Ballerina’ with its shuffle-beat – a real toe-tapper! Jazz enthusiasts will appreciate a track appropriately entitled ‘Enter Jazz Thief (Exit) You’.

The CD takes you on a trip down the blues highway ... filled with highs and lows of life’s experiences that make up the music we call the blues! When you get a chance to see Al perform, don’t forget to pick up a copy of this CD.....you won’t regret it!!

## OBS CD Reviews

We welcome CD submissions for review but cannot guarantee to review all CDs received. We give priority to local CDs, but also try to present a variety of different styles and labels, as well as independently-produced CDs, in each issue of the OBScene.

We do 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 on CD reviews, please contact the Editor.



### "Midnight Memphis Sun" – JW-Jones

NorthernBlues Music (2010)

[www.jw-jones.com](http://www.jw-jones.com)

Reviewed by Patrick Hertel

This time out finds JW at Sun Studios in Memphis for some of the tracks and ensconced in his basement chez 'Dub' for the rest.

'Off The Market' is an original in the double entendre vein and while love as a real estate transaction is not as daring as, say, 'Play With Your Poodle' it comes off rather nicely with horns, backing vocals and punchy drum work. Nice guitar solo ...of course.

'Love Grows Cold' (Lowell Fulson) is a bopping little number with an old-timey feeling to it. Lowell would have liked it.

'Kissin' In Memphis' is another original. Kissin' seems to be a JW sub-theme (see "Kissing In 29 Days"). Here he has gone from the temporal to the geographical, although this one was not actually done in Memphis. Check out the Jimmie Vaughn style guitar riffs. There are background "party" sounds on this track but you need to listen really closely to pick them up. JW says there is a clinking glass but I think only JW and maybe a dog can hear it ☺ It came down to a balance. They didn't want the "party" to get in the way, but I think it could have been played up a tad more if they wanted the effect.

'Cuts Like A Knife' (Bryan Adams) As JW will tell you if you forget about Bryan Adams this song is in fact a blues song. He has "bluesed" up the guitar. Now asking me to forget it's Bryan Adams is like saying 'Don't think about pink elephants'. I still think it is an odd choice, given other cuts (Lowell Fulson, Jimmy Reed, Hubert Sumlin, Sonny Terry & Brownie McGee) on the CD.

'Born Operator' (Hubert Sumlin) has a "Westside" Magic Sam style rhythm guitar behind it and Hubert makes an appearance on guitar.

'Burnt Child' (Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee) is a wistful tune about love lost, about how he was "burned" by a woman in 1994 ... when he was 14? A bit precocious. ☺ In my defense it IS sung in the first person. Reminds me of the aforementioned Bryan



Adams playing til' his "fingers bled" in the "summer of '69" ... when he was 9! ☺ All that aside it is a beautiful little tune.

'Right On Time' is an original with an instrumental setup and understated backing vocals that is mindful of the first tune ('Off The Market'). It's more or less a ballad and is "pretty" ... and that's "pretty" in a good sense.

In 'I Don't Go For That' Musselwhite's harmonica and JW's guitar share the spotlight. Shared vocals would have been nice but it may not have been technically practical, as Charlie laid down his tracks in California.

'Mean Streak' is an original. Sparser than the other cuts, we find JW channelling Muddy on this one.

'Make A Move' is an original with an effective use of a backup singer to punch the vocals. I found some of the guitar work and the beat to be very reminiscent of Robert Cray.

'Howlin' With Hubert' (Hubert Sumlin) finds JW trading licks with Hubert Sumlin. At 78 years of age Sumlin has lost a step or two but gives a good accounting of himself nonetheless.

'Games' - If this was a live show this is the one that would get 'em up and dancing. R&B-tinged.

All in all a satisfying listen. The judicious use of organ, horn, backing vocals and harmonica fills gives it a strong "full band" sound.

A CD usually doesn't feature the kind of extended guitar solo that you can get from a live show but I would have liked it if the CD were more biased to the instrumental side. While JW has a fair to middling voice, it is not his bread and butter. His inner Pavoratti lies within the six strings on his guitar. Granted, I am personally guitar-centric and can never get enough.

I have a title for an instrumental he could do on the next one - 'Osculatin' Boogie' ....no charge! ☺

**@ Bluesfest Pop Stage on  
York Street — July 12**



## “Blind for Love” Ana Popovic

*Electrogroove (2009)*

[www.anapopovic.com](http://www.anapopovic.com)

*Reviewed by Denis Paquin*

Serbian-born Ana Popovic shows that Eastern Europeans have a love of blues rock that is just as hearty as what North America feels for it.

Released in 2009, “Blind For Love” demonstrates that blues, jazz, rock, gospel, and funk make excellent dance partners. The album spent a total of 19 weeks on the Billboard blues chart and hit a peak position of #3!

The CD kicks off with ‘Nothing Personal’ and has Ana’s vocals come busting out right in your face. On the song ‘Putting Out The APB’ Ana is looking for humanity,

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## “I Need A Hat” – Downchild



*Linus Entertainment Inc., 2009*

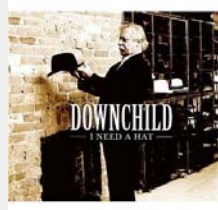
[www.downchild.com](http://www.downchild.com)

*Reviewed by Ken Fraser*

Forty years, 87 musicians and 140 wives! Impressive statistics for sure. The Downchild Blues Band is an award-winning Canadian Blues institution and was the inspiration for The Blues Brothers. Downchild celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009 with a tour (did you catch their NAC show in November?) and this jumpin’ new CD.

My first exposure to Downchild was during the early seventies. I “sort of” remember going to see them play at Grossman’s Tavern and at the El Mocambo while I was an Engineering student at University of Toronto (hence the “sort of” – but my friends told me that I had a good time!!)

The current lineup consists of band founder Donnie ‘Mr. Downchild’ Walsh (guitar, harmonica and vocals), Chuck Jackson (harmonica and vocals), Gary Kendall (bass), Pat Carey (saxophones), Michael Fonfara (keyboards) and Mike Fitzpatrick (drums). This new



release is sprinkled with some stellar guests including: Dan Aykroyd (aka Elwood Blues) on harmonica, Colin James on guitar, Peter Jeffrey on trumpet, Colin Linden on guitar and Wayne Jackson of The Memphis Horns on trumpet.

Chuck Jackson contributes strong lead vocals to nine tracks and the overall

musicianship is superb throughout the CD. It sounds like everyone had a great time recording the CD and I enjoyed listening to all eleven original tracks on it. I especially enjoyed Don Walsh’s slide guitar on ‘Rendezvous’ and Colin Linden’s guitar work on ‘You Don’t Love Me’, which also features Dan Aykroyd on harmonica. Some other highlights from the CD for me are Colin James’ guitar solo on ‘Somebody Lied’ and ‘These thoughts Keep Marching On’, which features Wayne Jackson on trumpet. The final track, ‘El Stew’, is an instrumental with Donnie Walsh’s guitar out front and some nice keyboard playing by Michael Fonfara.

Forty years and this band still rocks!! Please keep it going, guys.



## Tim Woodcock & the Thunder Kings

*Independent (2006)*

[www.myspace.com/rocknbluesman](http://www.myspace.com/rocknbluesman)

*Reviewed by Mike Graham*

Tim Woodcock hails from the London, Ontario area. His musical journey began in the 1970s with a band called the “Little Boy Blues Band”. Tim has had a successful career that has taken him from the famed Firehall Tavern of the old Talbot Inn (London ON) in the 1980s to representing The Great Lakes Blues Society at the 2009 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee.

Tim has played with such notable blues legends as Hubert Sumlin and John Hammond and is acknowledged as an excellent singer and great guitar and harmonica player.



Tim and the band cover 11 songs of the likes of Jimmie Vaughan, John Lee Hooker, and Jimmie Hendrix. We often hear blues bands play covers of songs made famous by the “originals”; sometimes we’re impressed, sometimes we aren’t. In this case, I was extremely impressed by Tim and the band throughout this CD.

Tim performs very tight and exciting versions of such tracks as ‘I’m Cryin’ (Jimmie Vaughan), ‘Boom Boom’ (John Lee Hooker), and the ‘Wind Cries Mary’ (Jimi Hendrix). A feature track is Tim’s performance of the classic Sam Phillip’s rockabilly number ‘Mystery Train’!

This CD is a great party CD guaranteed to fill the dance floor!

**@ Bluesfest — July 6**

she questions our ability to love one another. She plays some mean slide here and with the hand claps we get a little Gospel flavour. The title track 'Blind for Love' has a 70s vibe reminiscent Roberta Flack and Maria Muldaur.

There's not a lot of straight ahead Blues here; it is a pretty mixed bag.

This is the appeal of Ana – she can dabble in other genres of music and still appease her Blues fans, while possibly finding new audiences.



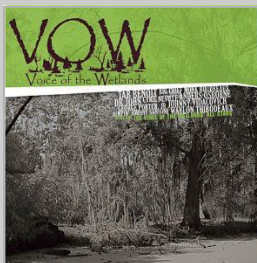
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## **“Voice of the Wetlands” — Tab Benoit**

Rykodisc, 2005  
[www.tabbenoit.com](http://www.tabbenoit.com)  
[www.voiceofthewetlands.org](http://www.voiceofthewetlands.org)  
Reviewed by Denis Paquin

Bayou bluesman Tab Benoit set up VOW (Voice of the Wetlands), a non-profit organization dedicated to helping preserve Louisiana's wetlands and culture, in 2003, and this album was originally intended as a benefit release to raise funds for the cause.

2005 in New Orleans with an all-star cast of Louisiana musicians, including Benoit, Big Chief Monk Boudreaux, Dr. John, Cyril Neville, bluesman Anders Osborne, Jumpin' Johnny Sansone, and ace Cajun fiddler Wayne Thibodeaux. It was released eight



months later, weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana, demonstrating the importance of the wetlands.

Several songs became more relevant after the hurricane, especially the opener, 'Bayou Breeze', with its chorus of "don't let the water/wash us away," and Dr. John's angry 'We Ain't Gonna Lose No More (Without a Fight)', which could be

interpreted, in hindsight, as a retort to FEMA and the Bush administration response to the disaster.

The overall tone of the set is more joyous than despondent, though, as befits the ebullient spirit of New Orleans, and the album itself is a decent introduction to contemporary bayou music.

**@ Bluesfest — July 16**

## **Marcia Ball & the Voice of the Wetlands All Stars**

**@ Bluesfest — July 16**

### **Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest Fundraiser**

Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest, with the support of volunteers from United Way Ottawa, has formulated a plan to raise funds for the St. Bernard project.

St. Bernard Project (SBP) is a community-based non-profit organization headquartered in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. Founded in 2006, SBP's mission is to support families who wish to return to their homes in St. Bernard. To date—utilizing volunteer labour and donations for building supplies—SBP has rebuilt more than 280 families' homes and is currently working on more than 50 additional homes. Homes are completely rebuilt in about 12 weeks and building supplies cost an average of \$15,000 per house. The Ottawa Bluesfest organization hopes to potentially raise in excess of \$15,000—enough to build a new home for a family in need.

On July 16, Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest will be presenting 'Marcia Ball & the Voice of the Wetlands All Stars' featuring Tab Benoit, Cyril Neville, Anders Osborne, Johnny Sansone, Waylon Thibodeaux, and Big Chief Monk Boudreaux. All these musicians either live in the New Orleans area or have a strong affinity for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina—a tragedy that is still having an impact on far too many people to this day. The show takes place at 9 pm in the Black Sheep Music and Comedy Tent.

Beginning when the gates open on July 6, festival patrons who have a ticket for July 16 can come to the Black Sheep Music and Comedy Tent and make a \$20 donation. The donation will be recognized with a special ticket for July 16 to augment the donor's existing ticket. This special ticket will provide front-of-line, early admission seating for what promises to be a stunning performance by some of the best musicians Louisiana has to offer. Donors will be permitted access to the tent at 8:30 pm and will be able to pick the best seat available on a first come first served basis. The tent will be open at 8:45 pm for the remaining festival patrons, if space allows.

## “Back 2 Square 1” Alain Tambay



*Independent*  
[www.alaintambay.com](http://www.alaintambay.com)  
Reviewed by Liz Sykes

Al Tambay is a local musician who's been involved in the Ottawa Blues scene for 30 years, in several different musical conformations, including as a solo guitarist/singer. L'il Al's Combo, usually a trio with Al on guitar accompanied by various talented locals on bass and drums, has released three CDs. Al Tambay and friends play 'Candle Light Acoustic Music' each Thursday evening at Tucson's. One of his friends is Wayne Jeffrey Saumure – in the duo format, Al takes care of guitar & vocals and Wayne is in charge of percussion (on various 'instruments') and backup vocals.

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## “Come Out Swingin’ ”– The Twisters



*NorthernBlues Music (2009)*  
[www.twisters.ca](http://www.twisters.ca)  
Reviewed by Mike Graham

The Twisters are Canada's premier jump/swing blues band. The band is based out of Vancouver and Whitehorse, and is fronted by two singers - harmonica player Dave Hoerl and guitarist Brandon Isaak. The Twisters have an outstanding rhythm section in stand up bass player, Keith Picot & drummer, Lonnie Powell.

"Come Out Swingin'" was nominated for "Blues Album of the Year" by the Western Canadian Music Awards in 2009 and the band was also nominated for 5 Maple Blues Awards that same year.

This CD reflects the band's up-tempo jump blues tradition that blends blues rock and the swing music style of the 40s. Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne appears as a special guest on keyboards on a few tracks.

Some call the Twister's style "Modern Blues" with tight arrangements, superb vocals and excellent instrumental performances. Dave Hoerl, originally from California, is a polished performer with a fine



voice combined with his adept harp playing.

The CD contains 12 original songs, opening with an up-tempo swing number 'I'll Make It Up To You' which sets the tone for an extremely enjoyable combination of swing blues, rock blues, traditional blues and touch of reggae and a bit of country on a

track entitled 'Dog House'. This production has it all. It's a great party CD that will get everyone dancing.

Dave and the band members combine their talents to produce a "feel good" CD that you want to keep on playing again and again! The Twisters have received rave reviews wherever they perform and this CD has won them acclaim across North America!

Mick Rainsford of Blues in Britain writes:

"What an apt title for this set...The Twisters deliver a jumping, swinging "Mess of Blues" that can't fail to make you smile appreciatively. Great music - great band - what more can I say! Rating 9."

I disagree....."Come Out Swingin'" is a **10!!**



## “Humdinger” — Jerome Godboo

*Independent (2007)*  
[www.jeromegodboo.com](http://www.jeromegodboo.com)  
Reviewed by Mike Graham

Jerome Godboo is a singer, songwriter and a fabulous harp player. Originally from Victoria BC, Jerome has made his home in Toronto for the last 20 years. He has recorded and toured with such artists as Dutch Mason, Ronnie Hawkins, Jack de Keyzer and Jeff Healey.

"Humdinger" contains 12 excellent tracks of blues music ranging from traditional, slow, gut-wrenching lyrics to up-tempo blues rock and zydeco/Cajun style tunes.

'Beans' is a fun number performed in a swinging Louisiana/Cajun style, featuring bass and the harp. "Xmas Stone" is a hard driving, mean tune that shows off the guitar work of Shawn Kellerman and



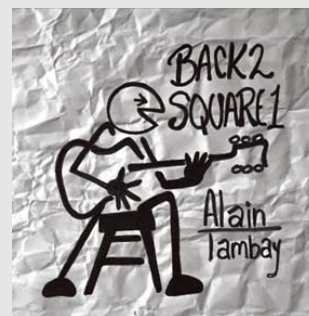
Jerome's harp. 'Humdinger', the title track, with its shuffle beat, makes you want to get up and dance! Again the harp and guitar on this track are great! My favourite track is 'Janey Jane', a real Louisiana zydeco rocker that is performed by Jerome, reminiscent of the vocal style of Jerry Lee Lewis. The pairing of Shawn Kellerman and Jerome Godboo is profound on this track and throughout many of the other tracks. One by one the remaining

tracks reveal Jerome's talent and illustrate his ease and flexibility moving between sub-genres of blues. Just listen to Jerome's sultry tone and intensity on 'Wounded Healer'.

This CD has been touted as one of the best blues CDs to come out of Canada. Give it a listen ... I am sure you will agree!



This CD features thirteen songs produced by Al & Wayne, written by Al, and played by Al & Wayne in the duo format. The songs are acoustic – mellow and laid-back – with Al's guitar showing the expertise he's gained in his years playing blues. He also plays some very nice slide guitar on 'Ain't Gonne Worry'. A variety of 'instruments' provide percussion accents. Vocals are primarily Al's; Wayne shares vocals in some songs, singing backup. Lyrically these songs contain the traditional themes of blues, themes with which we're all familiar, and the song structure also adheres pretty consistently to the traditional acoustic or country blues style.



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## “Vampire Hotel” — Chris Kirby



*Independent (2009)*

[www.chriskirbyonline.com](http://www.chriskirbyonline.com)

*Reviewed by Liz Sykes*

After too long a wait for this follow-up to Chris Kirby's debut, “On Rum and Religion”, “Vampire Hotel” is a real treat - no sophomore slump here!

Chris gets the customary first-rate support from the Marquee - Craig Follett on bass & backing vocals and Mark Marshall on drums; check them out particularly on ‘Don't Forget About Me’! Some very talented friends help out – Ottawa's own Steve Marriner on harmonica, Geoff Panting on accordion, Tom Power on banjo and Leanne Kean on backup vocals – and the CD features a four-piece horn section: Susan Evoy on alto & baritone saxes, Chris Harnett on tenor sax (Terry Stone on tenor sax on one track), Rick Blenkinsopp on trumpet and John Duff on trombone.

Producer Gordie Johnson adds guitar and apparently contributed spells & incantations to the production. Well, if that's how it's done, I'm all in favour!

Chris is a multi-instrumentalist; as well as guitars, dobro and mandolin, on this CD he plays rhodes &



acoustic pianos and synth/keys, and this no doubt imparts the funky NOLA R&B flavour to so many of the songs. And it's no surprise that these songs are getting radio play on pop stations in Newfoundland ... they're catchy, have memorable hooks and, with such intelligent lyrics, a quantum leap ahead

of contemporary ‘pop music’.

In these dozen new originals, Chris' songs/themes are contemporary, he obviously cares about words and takes care with how he crafts them into lyrics and he has a wonderfully quirky sense of humour. These songs tell stories, paint pictures with words, and the stories ring true: follow the thread from ‘Day Job’ to ‘Entertainer of the Year’ to ‘Vampire Hotel’ – we're hearing about the musician's life. Perhaps the Newfoundland story-telling tradition enables him to paint such a vivid picture with his lyrics in ‘Golden Year’; this certainly sounds like a true story ... some family history here perhaps?

This CD won't appeal to those who want their blues “straight up with no mix”.

Too bad for them – they're missing a rising star!

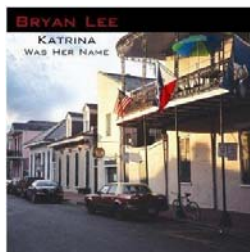
## “Katrina Was Her Name” — Bryan Lee

*Justin Time (2007)*

[www.braillebluesdaddy.com](http://www.braillebluesdaddy.com)

*Reviewed by Denis Paquin*

The man known as ‘The Braille Blues Daddy’ started out playing for Midwest crowds at an early age (he opened for Bill Haley & The Comets at fifteen), but fell in love with New Orleans and moved there in the early eighties. He's been a fixture in the French Quarter ever since. While Lee can't see, he can sing the blues soulfully and earnestly. His guitar brings the Chicago-styled blues of Luther Allison, as well as Albert King and Albert Collins, down to the Crescent City.



Lee also wrote four of the 13 songs here, and they stand up nicely alongside covers of everyone from Willie Dixon & Doc Pomus to Kim Wilson & Jimmy Witherspoon. The title track is a demonstration of the despair that the storm left behind in the Crescent City. In this song, he sings of the devastation in plain terms; no one listening many years from now will forget what happened and when it happened. ‘My Baby Done Quit Me’

is a nice, early R&B-flavoured number. On the Lee-penned ‘Blues Singer’, Bryan sings about the first time he heard Freddie King, then proceeds to whip out a solo that's a dead ringer for Freddie.

## Pop Artists Singing the Blues

Several well-known pop musicians have recently released blues recordings.

Cyndi Lauper, who says she's wanted to make a blues album "for years", released "Memphis Blues" in June. She's helped out by guests with solid blues cred – Allen Toussaint, B.B. King and Charlie Musselwhite and veteran Stax Records session players including Lester Snell and Skip Pitts – on covers of twelve blues classics. DAWG FM has 'Early in the Morning' (Cyndi with B.B. King & Allen Toussaint) in heavy rotation.

It's been a while since Steve Miller has put out a studio recording (his last studio album, "Wide River" was released in 1993!) and he, too, has gone the 'cover' route with his latest CD, "Bingo!", a collection of classic R&B and Blues

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@ Bluesfest — July 17-18

### "Hot 'N Heavy" — Sauce Boss

Burning Disk Inc. (2010)

[www.sauceboss.com](http://www.sauceboss.com)

Reviewed by Ken Fraser



The 'Sauce Boss' (aka Bill Wharton) is a Blues musician who cooks.....I mean really cooks!! He cooks up a large pot of gumbo during his shows and serves it to his audience. He has also played and cooked in many homeless shelters during the last twenty years....Good on him. I'm only sorry I missed his show at Bluesfest in 2008, but he is scheduled for this year's Bluesfest on July 17 and 18.

On this CD the 'Sauce Boss' also "cooks" on his swampy slide guitar. "Hot 'N Heavy" is his eleventh CD. The fifteen tracks on the CD cover a range of styles. The opening track 'Marquis de Swamp' starts with a slow, hypnotic slide guitar and bass groove over a background of frogs and crickets. With the warm weather now here, 'Get Naked and Surf' suggests a

way to keep cool and have fun (he tips his hat to the Surfaris' 'Wipeout' on this one). He rocks with a resonator guitar on 'Lonesome Rider', and 'That's How It Feels' has a cool, funky bass line. 'Old Dog Eared Copy' has a '50s rockabilly feel. There are four very short songs "peppered" throughout CD which add

some spice to the gumbo: 'Okra', 'Andouille', 'Hot Sauce' and 'Chicken In The Pot'.

My personal favourite cut is the title track 'Hot 'N Heavy'. This well described in the CD release notes as "a salacious double entendre with a raucous back beat suitable for lap dancing."

Overall I found this CD quite enjoyable and the Sauce Boss' style of music is definitely a good fit for a Blues festival. Now I'm looking forward to some of that gumbo at Bluesfest.

Appearing August 14  
on the Blues Cruise

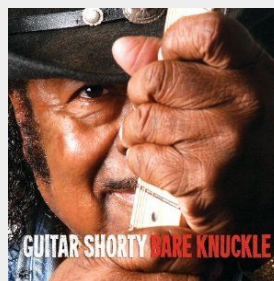
### "Bare Knuckle" — Guitar Shorty

Alligator Records

(2010)

[www.guitarshorty.org](http://www.guitarshorty.org)

Reviewed by Ken Fraser



"Please Mister President, lay some stimulus on me", are Guitar Shorty's opening lines on this CD, and couldn't we all use some of that!! For all you Blues music fans, this CD should give you a good dose of stimulus.

Born David Kearny in Houston, TX, Guitar Shorty is a Blues veteran whose career spans over 50 years. He has played with Ray Charles, Guitar Slim and Sam Cooke to name just a few; recorded for Willie Dixon, and was an influence on Jimi Hendrix (Shorty's friend, Marsha Hendrix, was Jimi's stepsister).

This is Guitar Shorty's third release with Alligator Records (following "Watch Your Back" in 2004 and "We The People" in 2006). His very expressive vocals and blistering yet tasteful guitar work throughout the twelve

tracks on the CD make it very listenable. I certainly enjoyed it many times while preparing to write this review.

The poignant lyrics in the opener, 'Please Mr. President' (one of my favourite tracks) address the effects of the recent economic meltdown, and those in 'Slow Burn' describe the plight of returning Iraq war veterans. In 'Texas Women', Guitar Shorty celebrates the fine attributes of the women of his birth

state. He also does a nice cover of Kenny Wayne Shepherd's 'True Lies'. 'Get Off' is a 50s-style rocker that should get everyone up onto the dance floor. In 'Temporary Man', the last cut on the CD, Shorty makes an interesting proposition to the ladies.

If you are a fan of great electric Blues I recommend this CD for your collection. I also recommend that you see Guitar Shorty perform live if you get the chance. Although he doesn't do somersaults and back flips on stage anymore, he still puts on a great show.

covers. It's not a solo album; Sonny Charles, who joined the Steve Miller Band in 2008, adds 'soul to the bowl' (as our own Steve Marriner would put it!)

Though not quite as long a hiatus from the studio as Steve Miller, it's been eight years since Tom Petty put out a studio recording. The new Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers' CD, "Mojo" is ostensibly a blues album. In an interview, Petty said he's been "immersed in blues" for the last 10 years. The first track, 'Jefferson Jericho Blues', has been getting some attention but some critics caution that the band is still a rock band and the album, despite protestations to the contrary, is still a rock album. Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers are now touring in support of the album, and fans are loving the show and the CD; 'I Should Have Known' is a particular fan favourite on the tour.

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## "You My People" – Raoul and the Big Time

*Big Time Records (2009)*  
[www.raoulandthebigtime.com](http://www.raoulandthebigtime.com)  
*Reviewed by Liz Sykes*

I've been a fan of this band since their first release and they just keep getting better. For this recording, Raoul has assembled a bunch of friends to sit in ... and he has some pretty impressive friends, including Junior Watson, Mark Hummel, Tyler Yarema, Treasa Levasseur, the Sojourners (Marcus Mosley, Will Sanders & Ron Small), Jake Chisholm, Mark Mariash and horn players Richard Underhill, Pat Carey, Gene Hardy and Howard Moore.

Also here are Big Time regulars Darren Gallen on guitar, Tom Bona on drums, Terry Wilkins on string bass and, of course, Raoul himself on vocals, harmonica and occasional guitar – slide this time on 'Killing My World', a stripped-down song with a 'Hoochie Coochie Man' riff.

Tyler Yarema appears on several tracks and his playing is superb, whether on piano or organ. Darren Gallen's guitar throughout this recording is really fine – tasty, spare and just what blues guitar should be (in this reviewer's opinion).



Nine of the 13 songs are written or co-written by Raoul; several feature pointed social commentary – 'Killing My World', 'Sad State of Affairs', the anti-smoking lament 'Menthol Mama' and the upbeat album closer, 'We Can Change'.

The horns and keys beef up the sound on the raucous opener, 'You My

People' and the backing vocals of the Sojourners, Treasa Levasseur, Tyler Yarema, Gene Hardy, Birgitte Solem and the band members make you wish you'd been at **that** party!

'All To Myself', an evocative Ray Charles ballad, features a perfect combination of Junior Watson's understated guitar and Tyler Yarema's piano.

Raoul's harmonica on 'Where the Wind Blows on Shore' is a perfect fit with Tyler Yarema's piano and Junior Watson's guitar.

Fellow harp player Mark Hummel sits in on two songs and is particularly impressive on the instrumental 'Breathin' In'.

Hey, Raoul and the Big Time – you my people ... and I hope I'm yours!



## "I'm Still Here" – Whiteboy Slim

*Independent (2010)*  
[www.whiteboy-slim.com](http://www.whiteboy-slim.com)  
*Reviewed by Liz Sykes*

Originally from the Prairies, Maurice Richard Libby relocated east and formed his band, Automatic Slim, which played all the Toronto blues venues, including the Black Swan, the Silver Dollar and the El Mocambo. When the band broke up, he returned to play the blues in Saskatchewan.

This CD includes his first acoustic recordings.



He covers Son House ('Death Letter') and Louis Armstrong ('Hear Me Talkin' to Ya') and his originals draw heavily on traditional blues. He plays guitars and harmonica and provides raw, gritty vocals. He's joined by Jim Mitchell on bass and Michael Libby on drums.

This is his 2<sup>nd</sup> release and has entered the Top 10 on the Folk/Roots/Blues Chart of National Campus & Community Radio Stations.



# CD/DVD Reviews

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## “Songs From The Road” — Luther Allison

Ruf Records (2009)

[www.rufrecords.de/video/626](http://www.rufrecords.de/video/626)

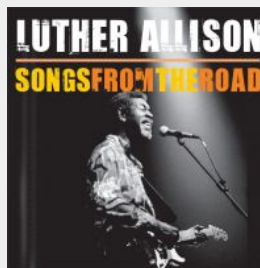
Reviewed by Ken Fraser

This two disc, CD plus DVD, set was originally recorded live at the Montreal Jazz Festival on July 4, 1997, part of Luther Allison's 'Soul Fixin' Tour'. Very sadly, a few days after that concert he was diagnosed with cancer and he died on August 12, 1997, just days before his 58<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mr. Allison's vocals are drenched with soul and his guitar playing is ... well, he makes every note count in a big way. He is ably backed up by a Wisconsin-based, crackerjack band consisting of James Solberg on guitar, Ken Faltinson on bass, Mike Vlahakis on keys and Rob Stupka on drums.

I really enjoyed listening to the CD a number of times before I watched the DVD. But it wasn't until I watched the DVD that I saw the true power of his singing and of his guitar work.

The second track on the CD, 'Living in the House of the Blues' (also on the DVD) is one of my favourite tracks because of his guitar acrobatics and dynamite showmanship. His original tune, '(Watching You)



Cherry Red Wine', at 12 minutes long (on both the DVD and CD), is another example of his commitment to give 100% to his audience. (His live shows would often extend to 3 – 4 hours.) Both 'Low Down and Dirty' and his cover of 'It Hurts Me Too' (both on the DVD) show Luther's powerful slide playing on a rare Gibson semi-hollow Les Paul CS

prototype. The last song on the DVD (not on the CD) is his 'Move From The Hood' is one of his passionate calls to social activism.

Extras on the DVD include an interview with Luther while in Montreal, where he talks about his life in France and his fondness for Montreal, and his experience playing at Expo '67 (Man and His World) in 1967. Also in the extras is a Tribute section with comments by Koko Taylor and clips of Luther playing guitar with his son, Bernard, in various settings. In one segment Luther and Bernard have an on-stage jam with some fun and interesting guitar interplay. (Today, Bernard is doing a fabulous job of carrying the torch passed by his father.)

I'm sorry that Luther Allison left us so soon and I only wish I had seen this performance live.

## “Goin' Home — Live in London” — Ten Years After

Ten Years After at their best! If you're a TYA fan from the days of Alvin Lee with his traditional back-up band Ric Lee, Chick Churchill and Leo Lyons, this DVD is a must for you. If you love hard driving rock/BLUES/jazz and want to experience the power of human emotion and energy, this DVD is for you as well.

TYA split-up in the mid-'70s but reformed for a one-off reunion show to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of London's famous Marquee in 1983, features on this DVD. Alvin and his band members are in top form, the band is as tight as ever and the performance is as good as it gets. Fans will get just as excited as I did I'm sure at the very first notes of 'Love Like A Man'. They follow this with the jazzy & jumpin' blues 'I May Be Wrong (But I Won't Be Wrong Always)', then Alvin delivers a terrific version of 'Good



Morning Little Schoolgirl'; Leo Lyons is particularly superb on these last two numbers. Next comes Alvin Lee's exquisite and soulful version of 'Help Me', one of those performances that just 'sends' you. He picks up the pace with the fast rockin' 'Woodshoppers Ball' and slows down again for a sensational performance of 'Slow Blues'. After this the band really gets rockin' with 'Goin' Home'

which includes a smokin' hot medley with songs like 'Baby Please Don't Go', 'Blue Suede Shoes', and, in my opinion, an un-equalled rendition of 'Hound Dog'. Alvin Lee really gets in the 'zone'; his high energy, phenomenal talent and spellbinding performances are amazing. At the end of the show, all I could say was WOW! Total length: 54 eargasmic minutes. Available at a reasonable cost at Amazon.ca.

Reviewed by Louise Dontigny

# TV with a Blues Connection

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Two new television series have appeared on the small screen recently – Treme and Memphis Beat. Both have blues connections and both have received mixed reviews from TV-watchers and blues fans.



HBO's Treme kicks off with a rhumba-bass line introducing John Boutte's searing vocal, "Hangin' in the Treme, watching people sashay. . ." Boutte co-wrote the hit show's theme song with his oft-times collaborator Paul Sanchez (ex-Cowboy Mouth) and the song first appeared on Boutte's 2003 release, "Jambalaya".

Created by David Simon, Treme "takes place during the rebuilding of post-Katrina New Orleans, and focuses on how a group of residents rebuild their lives through the enduring music and cultural traditions that make them, and the city, so

unique. The title of the series (pronounced "Truh-may") refers to one of New Orleans' oldest neighborhoods, an important center of African-American and Creole culture, especially music. Season 1 of Treme begins three months after Katrina, and culminates around the Carnival season. In addition to capturing the flavor and rich heritage of New Orleans, the series highlights the role of the city in the interconnected personal stories of the musicians, teachers, restaurateurs, radio deejays, and community leaders."

The series stars John Goodman, Steve Zahn, and Melissa Leo; musical luminaries Dr. John, Allen Toussaint, Kermit Ruffins, Elvis Costello, and Steve Earle appear in cameos, as does Boutte. In the series' fourth episode, Boutte is called by name up to the bandstand and sings 'At the Foot of Canal Street', (also co-written by Boutte and Sanchez) which is the title of the episode (each episode is titled after a song).

For more info [http://www.hbocanada.com/treme/index.php/?ext\\_id=Google\\_Treme](http://www.hbocanada.com/treme/index.php/?ext_id=Google_Treme)



Memphis Beat debuted in June; George Clooney is one of the executive producers. The lead character is Dwight Hendricks (played by Jason Lee), a police detective who's also an Elvis tribute singer in his time off – he's got the sideburns down! The episode titles are Elvis songs ... the premiere was 'That's All Right, Mama' and an upcoming episode (#6), in which blues musician John Nemeth has a role, is 'Suspicious Minds'.

Dwight has "an intimate connection to the city, a passion for blues music and a close relationship with his mother. He is "the keeper of Memphis," a Southern gentleman who is protective of his fellow citizens, reverential of the city's history and deeply rooted in its blues music scene. Despite his impeccable instincts as a detective, Dwight's loose, relaxed style of police work rubs his demanding new boss, Lt. Tanya Rice (Alfre Woodard), the wrong way."

Although the exteriors are filmed in Memphis, the interiors are shot in New Orleans. There's some STAX blues in the background and the band in the final scene of the premiere (shot at Tipitina's in New Orleans) was Joe Crown, John Fohl, Jimmy Carpenter, Mark Brooks, and Eric Bolivar. The only shot that included any of them, though, was one from behind Eric on drums.

You can watch the premiere episode on line here <http://www.tnt.tv/series/memphisbeat/>

New York Times reviewer Alessandra Stanley summed up (June 21, 2010) : "... timeless indigenous music is set against the exoticism of temporal subcultures. Atmosphere is the real hero of all these shows and music is the sidekick."



Geneva Blues Summit  
(photos Claudio Egli)

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## Postcards From The Road #22: European Audiences

**Your 6th CD is out – “Midnight Memphis Sun” was released here in May. The CD release in Ottawa was a sold-out, packed show. Just over 10 years and now 6 CDs ... not to mention all the touring. That’s a pretty impressive resume ... and sounds like a hectic pace. How do you manage to do it all?**

I have cloned myself .. the only way to get it all done.

**You tour in Europe frequently – in fact, you returned from your latest tour – 3½ weeks in five countries – just the day before you played the DAWG FM launch party. Are blues fans/clubs/festivals in Europe different from those in North America?**

Europe has treated us very well, and we're so fortunate to be able to tour there as often as we have. It seems like things are really picking up for us over there. Our performances at Piazza Blues Fest in Bellinzona led us to a booking 3 months later in Lucerne, and the shows in Lucerne led to the anchors for this past tour. It seems like the only place you can move up the food chain based just on putting on great shows. The European audience is not easy to win over, but if you can do it, you can make a career out of it. One part hard work, one part luck, and another dash of hard work.

I think there are great audiences all over the world, but they are rarely as educated about blues as they are in Europe. I've said it many times – they know more about American music than most Americans. The European market comes with better venue attendance, more budget to work with (because people pay for real entertainment there, rather than sit at home online), and better treatment and hospitality than North America. They treat us like kings, and I'm not braggin' about myself, I am bragging about THEM!

**You're very active in Ottawa community events.**

Giving back to the community is win-win-win. Everyone's happy to be part of it, giving or receiving. It's definitely more meaningful than the average gig because everything is on a deeper level. The story about Anthony and Paul jamming with the band at the Cystic Fibrosis event is a great example. The moment several hundred people gave the boys a standing ovation was a feeling I

will never forget. One hundred standing ovations for the band doesn't compare to what we all felt for the kids to experience that moment. We are digging deeper into this now and will be working with Kids Come 1st, an organization dedicated to kids dealing with autism.

**What one guitarist do you wish you'd seen live? Or top three, if that's easier.**

Albert King, Albert Collins, Freddy King

**Which musicians are on your 'want to see them perform live' bucket list?**

AC/DC, Stevie Wonder

**What's coming up for JW-Jones in Summer/Fall 2010 and on into 2011?**

We're continuing the plan to take over the world, but I can't tell you any more than that. See website for tour dates in Canada, USA, and Europe. Pick up “Midnight Memphis Sun” off-stage anytime, or in stores and on iTunes on August 10, 2010!



Left - Germany  
(photo Horst-Dieter Fischer)



Below - Belgium  
(photo Michel Hofkens)



**See & hear JW-Jones live on YouTube**

**[www.youtube.com/user/jwjones1](http://www.youtube.com/user/jwjones1)**





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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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)

**BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP**

**\$100.00**

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

**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

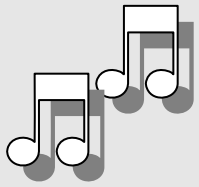
If yes, in what area would you like to volunteer or have expertise? \_\_\_\_\_

(e.g. administration, newsletter, photography, website, event planning,  
member recruitment, corporate liaison, marketing)

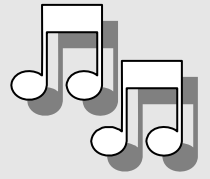
Please mail this form with cheque payable to "Ottawa Blues Society" to:  
**Ottawa Blues Society, P.O. Box 8124, Station T, Ottawa, ON K1G 3H6**

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

[www.ottawabluesociety.com](http://www.ottawabluesociety.com)



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