



Ottawa BLUES Society

OBScene

Winter 2012

2012 Blues Heart Award Irene's Pub



Kara-Lee & Alex Golota

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In this issue ...

... an introduction to our Blues Heart 2012 Award winners, Irene's Pub and Kara-Lee & Alex Golota; CD reviews of Maple Blues Award nominees; info on the upcoming International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN, especially the Ottawa Blues Society's band entry, Firebelly; and a New Year's Resolution Challenge to make 2013 'The Year of Live Music' from our friends Chefjimi Patricola and Leslie K. Joseph at Blues411.com !

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From the Editor ...

As we reach the end of 2012, the Ottawa Blues Society celebrates a year during which our recent initiatives - Membership Promotion giveaways and our Corporate Affiliate Program - have been very successful. We have welcomed new and returning members and we appreciate the strong support for our Road To Memphis Band competition.

There have been losses in this year as well ... locally, we saw the closing of one of our stalwart blues venues - Tucson's. At the end of 2012, another live music venue, the Elmdale House Tavern, has closed and will re-open in the spring as a restaurant with occasional live music.

The demise of live music venues isn't a new phenomenon and where the blame is assigned - to the economic downturn, anti-smoking bylaws, tougher drinking & driving enforcement - doesn't really matter.

What does matter is that the venues which persist in offering live music entertainment, despite the challenges, need our support, now more than ever.

Our friends Chefjimi and Leslie at Blues411.com have challenged each and every blues fan to make 2013 'The Year of Live Music' by going out to hear a live performance at least once each month.

Let's do it!

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 Annual General Meeting 2012

The Ottawa Blues Society held our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, November 21 at 7 pm at Irene's Pub. A quorum was in attendance.

The minutes from the last AGM, held Friday, December 2, 2011 at Tucson's, were accepted as read.

Financial Report, Year in Review and Upcoming Events

Vice-President/Treasurer Gary Paradis presented the Financial Report and President Liz Sykes gave the 'Year in Review' report (see page 4 for complete report). She also reported the following upcoming events:

In January, Blues Summit 6, brings together the blues industry – which includes festivals, musicians, blues societies, fans and anyone else interested in blues – at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in Toronto, January 18-21. The keynote speaker for Blues Summit 6 is radio host and label owner Holger Petersen. For more info and updates, torontobluessociety.com/blues-summit-6.

The 29th International Blues Challenge gets underway January 29 with the FedEx International Showcase at the New Daisy Theater, followed by quarter finals Wednesday & Thursday and semi-finals for bands, solos and duos that qualify on Friday – all these in Beale Street clubs. The finals take place at the Orpheum Theater on Saturday, February 2.

The Ottawa Blues Society is once again taking the lead in organizing the 2nd Annual Great Canadian Polar Bear Blues Showcase, which will take place at the Kooky Canuck Restaurant on Thursday, January 31.

More info on the IBC at blues.org

Membership, Merchandise, Radio Show & Website

OBS membership is increasing and our Corporate Affiliate program has been successful in recruiting over 20 businesses and organizations which contribute to the OBS program and membership perks.

No new merchandise has been ordered and OBS continues to sell off our inventory of t-shirts, hats and mini-harmonicas.

Our website was relocated and re-designed and is hosted by Bandzoogle.

Our weekly radio show, OBS DAWG'ON BLUES, continues each Sunday at 8 pm. (A report from the Radio Chair appears on page 18.)

Road To Memphis

Our 'Road to Memphis' competition has raised \$3,800 to date to support the travel and accommodation expenses of our band Firebelly to attend the International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN in 2013.

Elections

Three Director positions were up for election, as well as the President position. The Board decided that one of the Director positions would be for a one-year term, to ensure that only half of the Director terms end each year. Current Directors Dave Brennan and Denis Paquin agreed to stand for re-election – Dave for a 2-year term and Denis for the 1-year term. Director Brent Diab decided not to stand for re-election. Susan Gahrns was nominated for a 2-year Director term. No further nominations were received and Dave, Denis and Susan were declared elected by acclamation. Liz Sykes agreed to stand for re-election to the position of President and was declared elected by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Fall Fundraiser - Firebelly Goes To Memphis

The meeting was followed by the final Road To Memphis Fundraiser. Firebelly played three sets of great blues, raffle ticket sales were brisk (Cigar Box Guitar tickets sold out!) and a further \$1,000 was raised to assist with Firebelly's travel expenses.

OBS 2012 in Review

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January

The MapleBlues Awards were held in Toronto and MonkeyJunk was again victorious, winning awards for Electric Act, Drummer and Recording of the Year for their sophomore release, "To Behold". I was honoured to receive the Blues Booster of the Year Award, which really recognizes the work of all of you in the Ottawa Blues Society as we carry out the Society's mission and mandate.

February

OBS Board members and friends travelled to Memphis for the International Blues Challenge. Our duo, Kelly Prescott & Anders Drerup were well-received and made lots of new friends and fans. Although they didn't advance to the Semi-Finals, they did us proud! The Terry Gillespie Trio put on two great sets at the Blues City Café and advanced to semi-final competition on Friday night, but did not advance to the finals (no Canadian band made it). Canada was represented in the Solo/Duo finals by Dawn Tyler Watson & Paul Deslauriers. The winner was Canadian-born Ray Bonneville, representing the Ozark Blues Society of Northwest Arkansas.

The First Great Canadian Polar Bear Blues Showcase, organized by the Ottawa Blues Society with assistance from the Montreal Blues Society, was the talk of the IBC. The very successful event, held Thursday afternoon, February 2, offered all fourteen Canadian entries (representing 10 blues society affiliates) another opportunity to play and gain additional exposure while in Memphis and to show the world blues community the level of talent from Canada. As well as an afternoon of great Canadian blues, the event offered our musicians an opportunity to meet with their fellow Canadian musicians and see them perform. A raffle in support of the HART (Handy Artists Relief Trust) Fund raised \$500 which Polar Bear Showcase organizer Gary Paradis presented to the Foundation at the IBC keynote luncheon.

A sad end to the month of February – well-respected blues venue for over 20 years, Tucson's closed their doors.

March

OBS undertook a two-week membership campaign on DAWG FM and four lucky OBS members won big – new member Keith Martin won two tickets to see B.B. King at the National Arts Centre in May and Nancy Erhardt, Pierre Brisson and Andrew MacLeod each won a weekend pass to the 2nd Annual Class Axe Calabogie Blues 'n' Ribfest in August.

JUNOweek celebrations were held here in Ottawa and two of our 'Monkeys' – Steve Marriner and Matt Sobb – participated in the JUNO Cup on March 30. This event is a celebrity hockey game in support of MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity associated with CARAS (Canadian Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences). Most awards were announced on Saturday, March 31 and the week culminated with the gala JUNO Awards televised event, held at ScotiaBank Place, April 1. Ottawa's MonkeyJunk were named winners of the Best Blues Recording on Saturday night and joined the televised festivities as presenters the following evening.

April

The OBS Road to Memphis Solo/Duo competition was cancelled, due to low entries.

May

Another OBS membership campaign on DAWG FM gave away two tickets to the George Thorogood show at the CE Centre to winner Linda Waite. Gord White and Sylvie Tessier each won a weekend pass to the 2nd Annual Class Axe Calabogie Blues 'n' Ribfest in August.

June

On June 27, DAWG FM celebrated their 2nd anniversary party at Tail Gators, music by the Jesse Greene Band.

July

For the first year ever, the OBS did not have a presence at Bluesfest. Because of the size and diversity of this festival, the Board felt it was too large an undertaking to staff a booth or tent for eleven days.

August

The OBS was a sponsor of the 2nd Annual Class Axe Calabogie Blues & Ribfest at Calabogie Peaks. The lineup was all Canadian and Ottawa bands were well-represented – our IBC Band, the Terry Gillespie Trio, opened the festival on Friday, Rocket Rached & the Fat City 8 opened on Saturday and Sunday featured opener Jeff Rogers and the All Day Daddies, followed by former Ottawa native now living in Nashville, Trevor Finlay, then Ottawa's own JW-Jones. Attendance increased from 8,500 in year one to over 14, 000 this year, and the OBS looks forward to continuing involvement and support of the Calabogie Fest in future years.

September

Our one hour radio show on DAWG FM, OBS DAWG'ON BLUES celebrated our 2nd anniversary. The show airs each Sunday at 8 pm.

Eight bands entered our Road to Memphis competition; unfortunately one band had to withdraw. Two qualifying rounds were held, September 5 & 19; Big Chill, the Joe Gaspar Band, Firebelly and Three Times Lucky advanced to the final round on September 21. Finals' judges Bruce Boucher, Irene Ippersiel and Lynn Saxberg chose Firebelly to represent Ottawa at the 29th International Blues Challenge in Memphis, January 29 – February 2, 2012. Thanks to all the entrants.

October

The MapleBlues Awards nominations were announced and Ottawa musicians received several nominations including MonkeyJunk – for Entertainer of the Year, Electric Act of the Year, Male Vocalist and Harmonica Player of the Year (Steve Marriner) and Drummer of the Year (Matt Sobb) and JW-Jones for Electric Act of the Year. For a list of nominees and how to vote go to mapleblues.ca. Voting closes midnight, pacific time Saturday, December 8. The Awards will be presented at the MapleBlues Gala at the prestigious Koerner Hall in Toronto, Monday, January 21.

November

OBS member promotions – To date in 2012, the OBS has offered thirteen member promotions, featuring free admission to blues shows and often free CDs. The following OBS members have been lucky winners: Tom Morris, Vickie Paradis, Chris Waite, Sylvie Tessier, Alison Edgar, Kinnexa Cross, Sue Gahrns, Louise Dontigny, Dan Shipley, Debra Thornington and Andre Tammela, with another two winners to be announced.

Firebelly Goes To Memphis Fundraiser

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Al Wood draws the winning ticket
for the Cigar Box Raffle ...
and the winner is ...
Suzy Brickell!



Suzy Brickell
with her Cigar Box Guitar

All photos - Doug Smyth
except Suzy Brickell photo
courtesy of Suzy Brickell



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Blues Heart Award

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Ottawa Blues Society Blues Heart Award 2012 Irene's Pub



The Ottawa Blues Society Blues Heart Award is presented annually to an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to fostering appreciation and awareness of blues music.

Our 2012 Blues Heart honouree has steadfastly helped keep blues and roots music alive in Ottawa for over 25 years. They have shown a commitment to the live music scene in Ottawa that has not wavered through the ups and downs of the economy, high-tech and government downsizing and the effects of Ottawa's anti-smoking bylaw.

Since it was opened by Irene Corey in September 1985, Irene's Pub has hosted live musical events,

art showings and special gatherings for the community. As all of us know, it is always stocked with a variety of single malt whiskies, a wide selection of drafts on tap and a menu of traditional and eclectic pub food.

In February 2007, Glebe locals Frank and Sharon Johnson took over the pub and extended the scope of art shows and musical events. In December 2010, Frank and Sharon passed the baton of stewardship to their daughter and son-in-law, Kara-Lee and Alex Golota. With their passion for music and fun, and their love of the community, Kara and Alex have shown their commitment to support the living legacy of Irene's Pub.

Congratulations to our deserving 2012 Blues Heart Award recipients – Kara-Lee and Alex Golota and Irene's Pub!

[Editor's Note: The beautiful trophy, a replica of the bar at Irene's Pub, was hand-crafted by OBS Vice-President/Treasurer Gary Paradis.]



Photos courtesy of Doug Smyth

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>

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News from



Raise the Roof!

Capital Campaign for the Blues Hall of Fame

Since 1980, The Blues Foundation has been inducting individuals, recordings and literature into the Blues Hall of Fame, but until now there has not been a physical Blues Hall of Fame. Establishing a Blues Hall of Fame enhances one of the founding programs of The Blues Foundation.

The Blues Foundation is currently conducting the Campaign for the Blues Hall of Fame, a \$3.5 million capital campaign to add Hall of Fame exhibits to our offices at 421 South Main. The hall of fame will be the place to: honour inductees year-round; listen to and learn about the music; and enjoy historic mementos of this all-American art form. The new Blues Music Hall of Fame will be the place for serious blues fans, casual visitors, and wide-eyed students. It will facilitate audience development and membership growth. It will expose, enlighten, educate, and entertain.

For more information or to make a pledge to the Raise the Roof campaign, click on the Blues Hall of Fame link: <http://www.blues.org/>

Raise the Roof!

CAMPAIGN
FOR THE
BLUES HALL
OF FAME



Blues
HALL OF FAME

DONATE

International Blues Challenge 2013

The 2013 International Blues Challenge is set to begin Tuesday, January 29 and conclude on Saturday February 2. The competition will be held in Memphis, TN in the Beale Street entertainment district.

This is the 29th year of Blues musicians from around the world will be competing for cash, prizes, and industry recognition. 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. In 2013, 125 bands, 80 solo/duo and 28 youth acts are entered, and will be filling the clubs up and down Beale Street for the quarter-finals on Wednesday and Thursday, the semi-finals on Friday and the finals at the Orpheum Theater on Saturday.



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>





The Ottawa Blues Society and Montreal Blues Society are pleased to announce this year's **Great Canadian Polar Bear Blues Showcase** – featuring IBC 2013 bands, solos and duos sponsored by Canadian affiliates of the Blues Foundation. This event provides another opportunity for Canadian bands and solo/duo acts to demonstrate their talents and a chance for fans to catch all Canadian entries in the same place.

The Polar Bear Showcase starts at 11:30 am (doors open at 11 am) Thursday, January 31 at the Kooky Canuck restaurant located at 97 S. Second Street. The first 200 people will receive gift bags containing CDs from Canadian artists and other Canadian 'swag'.

CANADIAN BANDS & SOLO/DUO ACTS AT THE SHOWCASE

BANDS

Bruce County Blues Society - **The MacKenzie Blues Band**

www.themackenziebluesband.com

Canada South Blues Society - **Stevie T & Kingtone**

www.stevietandkingtone.com

Edmonton Blues Society - **Boogie Patrol**

www.boogiepatrol.com

Grand River Blues Society - **The Joel Johnson Band**

www.reverbNation.com/joeljohnson

Great Lakes Blues Society - **Lit'l CHICAGO**

www.litlchicago.com

Loyal Blues Fellowship - **Irene Torres & The Sugar Devils**

www.thesugardevils.com

Ottawa Blues Society - **Firebelly**

firebellyband.com

Thunder Bay Blues Society - **Tracy K & Blue Thunder**

www.tracyk.ca

Toronto Blues Society - **Shrimp Daddy & The Sharpshooters**

www.shrimpdaddyreid.com

White Rock Blues Society - **Poppa Dawg**

www.poppadawg.com

SOLO/DUO

Edmonton Blues Society - **GRAHAM GUEST**

facebook.com/grahamguestmusic

Grand River Blues Society - **Brendan J Stephens**

brendanjstephens.bandcamp.com

Great Lakes Blues Society - **Rick Taylor**

www.ricktaylormusic.com

Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival - **Thom Swift**

www.thomswift.com

Toronto Blues Society - **Suzie Vinnick**

www.suzievinnick.com

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE WILL BE POSTED ON THE OBS WEBSITE WHEN AVAILABLE

OBS @ IBC 2013

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Introducing Firebelly

Firebelly is a modern Canadian blues band formed in 2012 and driven by a passion to create fresh blues music, while respecting its rich and timeless traditions. In less than a year, they have garnered major festival, television and commercial radio exposure. firebellyband.com



Mathieu Gagnon (CEGEP teacher by day/Firebelly frontman by night) "went from part time guitar and harmonica noodler on the Wakefield Steam Train to frontman of Firebelly ... not sure how, still kind of a mystery." Although he has no formal mentor(s), local harmonica players Steve Marriner (MonkeyJunk), Al Wood (Al Wood & the Woodsmen) and Marc Séguin (Jesse Greene Band) have encouraged him and he's also learned a lot from Adam Gussow and Ronnie Shellist via YOUTUBE. "Basically, I try to leech onto any good harp player I can find." He cites Sonny Boy Williamson, James Cotton, Billy Branch and Sonny Terry as harp favourites and Alligator Records' "Harp Attack" (Billy Branch, James Cotton, Carey Bell & Junior Wells) is one CD he enjoys. Another fave: "I absolutely LOVE Albert Collins, he makes me want to learn guitar and get amazingly great at it!" Why blues? "Something about the raw energy and emotionality of it touches me deeply."

Daniel Grewal is a 27 year old, full time musician. He has been playing music since the age of 12, and has chosen the bass as his instrument. When he is not teaching music during the day, Dan can be seen playing often with a multitude of blues, jazz, R&B, rock, country, and folk bands in the Ottawa area. Blues has been integral to the learning of music for Daniel: "Blues was just such a magnetic force when I was younger, still today of course. It opened up whole other genres and styles that I would have never been exposed to otherwise... I've listened to so many blues recordings, to pick up all the styles and tricks ... each one having something unique and interesting about it. I find it impossible to choose a favourite amongst them..."



A part-time private music teacher/part-time student at Carleton University (Music and Psychology), Fredy Carrière has been playing guitar since he was 15 years old. Starting out on classical guitar – "I hated practicing, so I was a horrible student", a replacement teacher, Jazz musician Harold Faustin taught him the Blues basics and "I didn't choose the Blues as much as they choose me." "A broke young punk, busking on the streets", Fredy met one of his mentors, Ottawa guitarist Tony D (MonkeyJunk). "He stopped by and talked to me and told me I should be on the scene, which was a HUGE compliment.... Until I met him, I wasn't sure I had what it takes, but his endorsement and kindness helped me believe in myself. I will forever be grateful to him." Ottawa lawyer/blues fan Doug Smyth is another mentor – "a close friend and a constant source of support & wisdom. I couldn't think any more highly of him." Guitarist faves are the three kings and Buddy Guy, he suggests that Freddie King's "Just Pickin'" is essential listening, and he names Robert Cray as his

A drummer and holder of a bachelor of music degree from Carleton University, Mike McNeil is continuing on a music career which has seen him tour from Ontario to Jamaica, from the U.S.A. to the Canadian prairies and from the middle of the ocean to Nunavut in the Canadian North as a professional musician. He has played live and/or in the recording studio with a wide variety of artists including choirs, a DJ, musicians, jugglers, comedians, variety acts and dancers and has played many styles of music ranging from rock to cha-cha, from jazz to African Pop, from metal to samba and from blues to avant-garde classical as well as many other styles within the spectrum. He names Juno Award winner Paul Delong and world class drum set instructor Chuck R. Burrows as mentors, and credits them "for a lot of what I've learned about drum set playing and music in general".

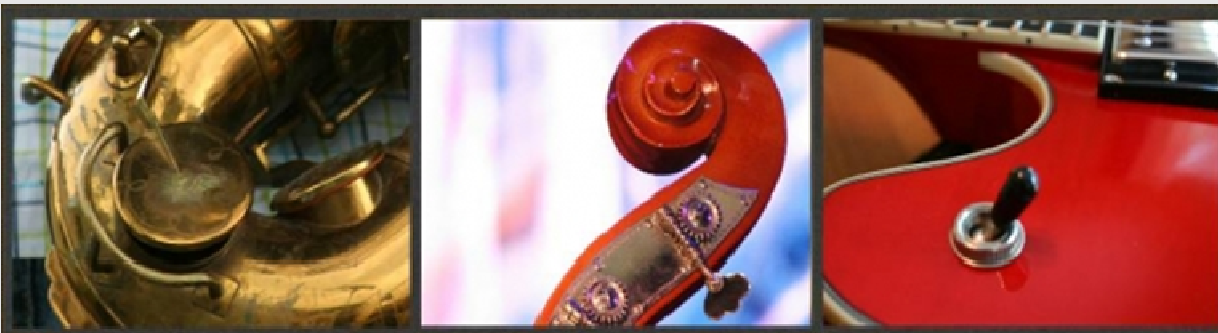


Firebelly Goes To Memphis!

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Representing the Ottawa Blues Society



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Blues411 Declares 2013 The Year of Live Music

Hi ... you might not know us, but we're Blues411.com. Our goal is to help Blues Music Thrive.

It's that time of year again – time to make a New Year's resolution. Wait, no groaning! This is Blues411, so you know we're not going to give you some lame suggestion about losing weight or exercising more, or goodness no, giving up drinking. Instead, we'd like to make a humble suggestion.

We propose that you resolve to get out and listen to live music at least once a month in 2013.

There, that didn't hurt too much did it?

Think about it, it doesn't matter where or what you do, live music will enrich your life and make you a better person. Plus you'll get to see some cool bands and meet other fellow music lovers!

But wait, I just heard a few of you say "*But Chefjimi, I live in a really small town and no one ever comes here*". Well, I admit you have to try harder if you're not lucky enough to live in a town like San Francisco with *Biscuits and Blues*, or Chicago with *B.L.U.E.S. on Halstead*, or Toronto with *Hugh's Room*, or *Darlington R&B Club* in Darlington U.K. We're lucky that in Rochester, NY we have *Dinosaur BBQ*, *Abeline Bar* and the newcomer *Sticky Lips BBQ*.

So I digress. Some of you will really need to make a big effort to find live music. Here are a few good resources for you:

- ♫ [Blues Festival Guide](#) - the premier site for finding festivals around the world extremely searchable and user friendly.
- ♫ [Pollstar](#) - searchable by artist, band, venue (club, festival, concert) or genre
- ♫ [Jambase](#) - searchable by country, state, band, venue

Even if you live in a good music town, I suggest that you pick one or two festivals in your surrounding area and put them on your calendar now, cos some of these need hotels and reservations so it's always good to secure your spot early!

To help track your efforts to keep your New Year's resolution, we're including a handy-dandy form. You can download your own personal PDF 'Support Live Music Calendar' here: [2013 Calendar New Years Resolution](#)

So let's make 2013 **The Year of Live Music**. Share this idea with others, friends, blues fans, random strangers you meet at festivals, be an open and active advocate of LIVE MUSIC when and wherever you can – you know the power of what it can bring, so get out there and spread the word.

Until next time,

Love, Peace & Chicken Grease
chefjimi

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Where Blues Thrives

Blues411.com Where Blues Thrives																																																	
12 Month Live Music Calendar																																																	
JANUARY Start the year off right - plan ahead for the next live music festival!			FEBRUARY 60/1 Blues Challenge (B.C.) - Finals in Memphis. Support your local band!			MARCH Introduce a friend to live blues music.			My 2013 New Year's Resolution: Listen to live music monthly!																																								
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APRIL Order tickets for your favorite festivals.			MAY If you're near Memphis, attend the Blues Music Awards.			JUNE Listen to a new-to-you band.																																											
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JULY Go to a club/venue you've never been to before.			AUGUST Discover a new band from another country.			SEPTEMBER Attend and summer with a festival.																																											
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OCTOBER Attend an event sponsored by your local blues society.			NOVEMBER Go see your favorite local band.			DECEMBER Take someone special out for a night of blues music.																																											
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Blues in Ottawa:

- ♫ Check out 'Ottawa Clubs' on page 17 and 'Where's Blues in Ottawa' on page 18 for information on where to find live blues shows.
- ♫ Subscribe to Ottawa Blues This Week (ottawablues@rogers.com) or read the blog online ottawablues.blogspot.ca for information on upcoming blues & blues-related events.

CD Snapshots

Maple Blues Best New Artist

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“One of a Kind” – Ben Racine Band, 2012

Ben Racine has put together an impressive debut release ... hard to believe this is his first recording. The band benefits from the solid experience of Kevin Mark on bass and Nicky Estor on drums and the two-man horn section – Little Frankie Thiffault and Mat ‘Moose’ Mousseau - is a treat. Ben Racine is responsible for lead guitar, vocals and songwriting - eight of the 12 tracks are originals (and I prefer them to the covers). Song themes are the ‘blues tried-and-true’ but the vocabulary is innovative and bodes well for future efforts from this young songwriter.

www.benracineband.com



“I Try and I Try” – Boogie Patrol, 2011

Boogie Patrol hit its stride this year ... following a win for ‘Blues Album of the Year’ at the Edmonton Music Awards in April and some festival gigs, the band won the Memphis Bound competition in October to represent the Edmonton Blues Society in the International Blues Challenge in 2013. This release is their second and is all original with a diverse mix of tempos and styles. Rotten Dan (Dan Shinnan) is a very impressive vocalist (and co-writer on all but one of the songs) - and he plays a mean harmonica too! With Yuji Ihara’s sweet guitar solos, Sean Grieve’s bluesy Hammond and keys and the solid rhythm section of Nigel Gale (bass) and Jeff Lisk (drums & percussion) - Boogie Patrol is definitely a band to watch and you can do just that at their Blues Summit 6 Showcase!

www.boogiepatrol.com

“The Junction Sessions” – Conor Gains Band, 2012

Guitarist, singer & songwriter Conor Gains came to the notice of the Canadian blues scene following his participation in the 2012 International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN. Despite his relative youth (he’s 19), he’s been playing the blues for several years. On this recording, he and drummer Vic Freitas and bass player Jeremy Patey are joined on a few tracks by Matt Weidinger (piano and organ) and Nilton Santos on sax. Co-producer Cory Blackburn and Toronto vocalist Shakura S’Aida assist with backing vocals. Conor Gains has the voice and the guitar skills, and his songwriting shows promise ... no doubt, we’ll be hearing more from him!

conorgains.com



“Lookin’ at Lucky” – Steve Kozak, 2012

Backed by Canadian West Coasters and with a guest appearance by James Harman, who also co-produced, “Lookin’ at Lucky” swings, with five originals and seven covers. Steve Kozak on guitar and vocals gets solid support from Dave Webb on piano and Hammond, Tim Hearsey, Roger Brant on or Darren Parris on bass and Chris Nordquist on drums ... with James Harmon on harmonica, of course. My favourite tracks are the autobiographical title track with its jazzy guitar, and ‘Blues Dance Party’ featuring great boogie-woogie keys courtesy of Dave Webb.

www.stevekozakmusic.com

“Checkered Past” – The Harpoonist & the Axe Murderer, 2011

The duo of Shawn Hall (Harpoonist) and Matthew Rogers (Axe Murderer) has been flying below the Canadian blues scene’s radar until this recording (their 3rd), which has garnered them an unusual pairing of Maple Blues nominations – one for New Artist or Group and the other for Recording/Producer of the Year. Although the themes are contemporary – they call it ‘blues for a changing world’ - their original songs have an authentic blues feel. Everything you hear on the recording is produced by the duo – no guests, none of the dreaded ‘loops’, no overdubs – and they reproduce this sound in their live gigs, filling dancefloors wherever they go. They’ll be showcasing at Blues Summit 6 & performing at the Awards.



www.harpoonistaxemurderer.com

CD Reviews

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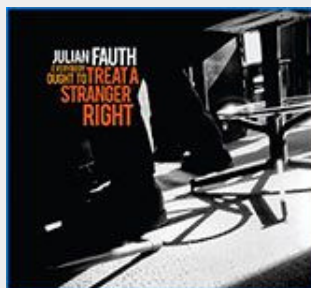
“Everybody Ought To Treat A Stranger Right” Julian Fauth

2012 Electro-Fi Records

www.julianfauth.com

www.electrofi.com

Reviewed by James Doran



“Everybody Ought To Treat A Stranger Right” is Julian Fauth’s 4th album (5th if you count Electro-Fi’s “Blues Pianorama” LIVE CD where he played with Curley Bridges, Kenny ‘Blues Boss’ Wayne & Bobby Dean Blackburn). It’s been 4 years since his last one and it sure is nice to have him back!

I received my copy in September and since I had a 2 hour drive to make that day I took it with me for a good listen – along with a bunch of other new music. At first I thought it was a little too eclectic for my taste. I’ve always really enjoyed Julian’s piano playing. He is unquestionably one of Canada’s best (and has multiple nominations and a win in the Keyboards category of the Maple Blues Award to confirm that – and he’s up for another one this year). But on this album he uses horns and violin on many of the songs and I thought at first it was a kind of weird juxtaposition. However, as I know, Julian can be a bit of an acquired taste and he grows on you. Sure enough - I listened to the album all the way down and all the way back and it just kept sounding better and better. The other discs never got played.

“Everybody Ought To..” has so much variety - I think he covers just about every genre and style on this album. Great lyrics and songwriting. That unusual voice of his. Fabulous piano. He is: creative, eclectic and unique with thought-provoking, tasteful lyrics, toe tapping melodies and delicious riffs throughout his songs. He also brings out the best in his fellow players (and he’s got some great ones on this album) and he has a wonderful sense of humour (I love some of the comments in the liner notes).

I think Julian is one of the most brilliant and distinctive Blues musicians in Canada today and I’m obviously not alone. He’s been nominated for the Juno for Best Blues Recording of the Year for both of his earlier albums “Songs Of Vice And Sorrow” and “Ramblin’ Son” and

won it for the latter, in 2009. I think he’s got a good shot at it again this year with “Everybody Ought To...” The album was released too late for this year’s Maple Blues Recording Of The Year but I’ll be very surprised if it isn’t on the list next year. And he has been nominated for an MBA for Songwriter Of The Year this year – for good reason.

“Everybody Ought To...” comes at the end of a tough year for Julian. He broke his right shoulder in four places in a freak fall in the shower last May. This is not a good thing for a pianist. However he appears to have recovered completely based on the quality of his playing on this album. And the silver lining from the injury was that it took him away from his rigorous performing schedule and gave him time to write new songs. There are 17 on this album – 11 originals, the others are Trads but redone with Julian’s unique arrangements and long time guitar accompanist Jay Danley contributes a couple as well.

My favourites include:

- ♫ The title song – An old gospel classic that Julian puts his special stamp on with some great horns by Shawn Nykwist and Tim Hamel.
- ♫ “Eyesight To The Blind” – A funkified, rolling retake of Sonny Boy Williamson’s classic. I love the funk!
- ♫ “Dimpled Nose” – A lovely slow Honky Tonk piano tribute to his lady.
- ♫ “If Your Mind” – A great swing number with some excellent lyrics and nice violin by Drew Jurecka and guitar by Jay Danley.
- ♫ “Mean Old Train” – Julian’s version of an old Lightnin’ Slim song which I defy you to keep your toe from tapping to.

I guarantee that you’ll find at least a few songs on this album that really grab you – or if you’re like me, they all will! 9 out of 10 for this CD, Julian, and the only reason I don’t give you a 10 is because only God is perfect.

♫ Maple Blues nomination ♫
Julian Fauth - Piano/Keyboard Player 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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“A Natural Fact” - Steve Strongman

2012 Steve Strongman
www.stevestrongman.com
Reviewed by James Doran



It's no wonder that "A Natural Fact" is up for the Maple Blues Award for Recording/Producer Of The Year. Steve Strongman has put together all the components for a winner. The songs are wonderful, rich in variety and all originals - either written by Steve alone or co-written with his long time friend and Producer Rob Szabo. Steve's vocals and instrumentation are superb and there are some great artists accompanying him on the record including Dave King and Adam Warner on drums, Alec Fraser and Rob Szabo on bass, Jesse O'Brien on piano and Suzie Vinnick adds her beautiful voice on one song. The production is excellent. It was mixed and mastered at The Hive in Caistor Centre near 'The Hammer' where Steve lives. More than that - "A Natural Fact" just has that magical "je ne sais quoi" that characterizes all great records. When I listened to it for the first time I knew instantly that it would be a major contender for the MBA and a Juno this year. The first part of my prediction has already come true. Let's see what happens for the second.

I've been a fan of Steve's from the start. He's got a great voice, plays excellent harmonica and he's one of the best guitarists in the country - both electric and acoustic, 6 and 12 string and dobro - and he's got the Maple Blues Award for Guitarist Of The Year last year to prove it. No wonder - he was mentored by the late, great Mel Brown and it shows. On top of that Steve is a nice guy with all the wonderful attributes that most Blues greats share - warmth, friendliness, sincerity, honesty and humility.

As a Blues DJ I get a lot of new albums across my desk.

Some are good, some OK, some bad - and a few are great. I put "A Natural Fact" in the latter category. It's not often that I store every song from an album in my digital library - I did with this one. On his previous albums "Honey" in 2006 (his debut), "Live At The Barn" in 2010 (there's a DVD of that as well), and "Blues In Colour" in 2010 Steve plays both electric and

acoustic guitar. This record is all-acoustic. I've seen him perform in both formats and it's hard to say which one I enjoy more. I love the intimacy of his acoustic shows but the high-energy, rock-it-out electric ones are terrific too - including the table-top playing and long walkabouts through the audience. You can add good showmanship to Steve's list of talents as well.

I've already mentioned that I like all of the songs on this album but if I had to select a few favourites they would be:

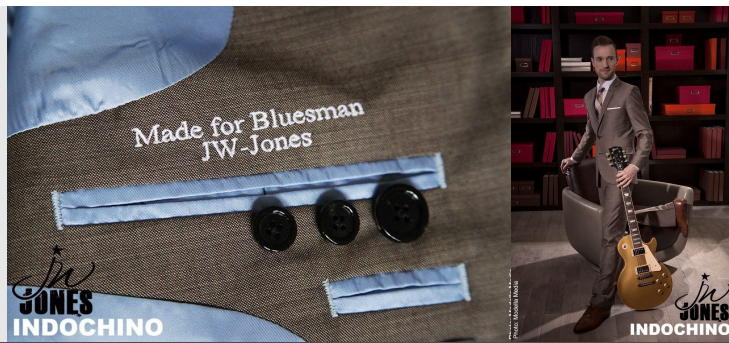
- ♪ The opening cut "Haven't Seen It Yet" - an upbeat, swinging tune that showcases all of his talents - great lyrics, guitar, harp and vocals.
- ♪ "I Forgot" - a sweet, simple love song with a toe-tapping gospel feel
- ♪ "You Do It To Yourself" - another fast picker with some nice slide and lyrics that hit home
- ♪ "Leavin'" - the duet with Suzie Vinnick that has a country-rock, Gram Parsons/Emmylou Harris feel to it

Great stuff Steve. Keep it coming. Good luck at the Awards. Can't wait to have you back up to play The Cove!

♪ Maple Blues nominations ♪

"A Natural Fact" - Recording of the Year

Steve Strongman - Entertainer, Electric Act, Acoustic Act,
Guitarist, Songwriter of the Year



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Postcards From The Road #26: Home

There's lots going on with the JW-Jones Band and with JW-Jones. Longtime drummer Jeff Asselin left the band in the fall to open his Drum Academy. Who's in the current band lineup?

We're so happy for Jeff, and his drum academy is growing quickly! Jansen Richard has been playing drums with us for almost a year now, with the exception of one tour in 2012. I feel like Jansen is the perfect mix between raw natural talent, a great ear, and skill... some of which is thanks to his teacher, Jeff Asselin. Not only that, he's almost a clone of Jeff in terms of being fun and easy to get along with. On bass, we have Laura Greenberg, who is actually Jansen's best friend going all the way back to grade school! Though Laura is a skilled player in various genres, she is a solid blues player, and learning more all the time. It's great to have a young band that is excited to be on stage playing blues, and just as excited to be touring and seeing new places, with excellent positive attitudes!

Some interesting gigs ... you guested with the Bushpilots & Ya Ya's 'Exile on Main Street' food bank fundraiser ... you're showcasing at Blues Summit 6 in January

Sitting in with the Ya Ya's on the Rolling Stones version of Robert Johnson's "Stop Breaking Down" was a great experience. I really enjoyed listening to the band play a full album start to finish. Our showcase comes at the perfect time as we start our month-long USA tour the day after the MBAs. We look forward to re-introducing ourselves to some of the top Canadian blues supporters!



These days a musician has to be adaptable to take advantage of all promotional opportunities. What are some of the products you endorse.

I am happy to support any products that I ACTUALLY use. Layrite is an amazing product for old-school hair styles, and as they say "holds like a wax, washes out like a gel!"



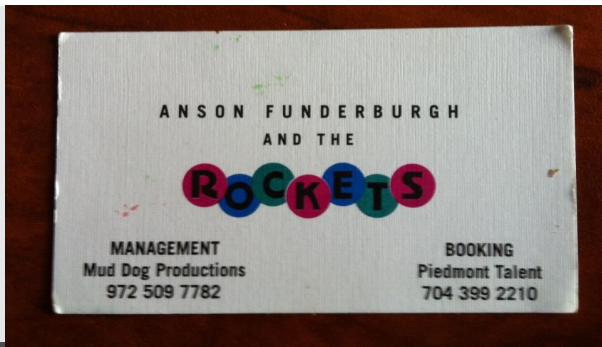
I've also been working with Indochino suits from Vancouver (see photos above). I'll never wear a suit, shirts, or pants that are not tailored to my exact measurements again! It's amazing to feel like your clothing couldn't possibly fit better. Check out my client profile on the Indochino Facebook page!

Michael Silverstone is an amazing local artist who approached me about a project. We shot photos on a very cold day in the market, and I look forward to seeing his interpretation as sketches.

You've been doing some mentoring with League of Rock ... how does that work?

I am a mentor/coach, which means I watch the band perform 3-4 songs live, in front of an audience. Then we sit down and I give them pointers on what they could improve, and provide lots of positive reinforcement. Some reoccurring themes are tighter endings and transitions, confidence, lowering volume when not soloing, singing directly into the mic, and engaging with the audience with eye contact etc. I always leave feeling rejuvenated; it's a great outlet for closet musicians to get out and play with other musicians.

All photos courtesy www.jw-jones.com



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At Christmas

There's a House Concert coming up in January for your duo with Rod Williams ... have you done house concerts in the past?

I have played a couple of house concerts, but it's been a while! Rod and I have a great time playing duo shows, often at D'Arcy McGee's on Sparks St in Ottawa, and it will be fun to take our repertoire to a more intimate venue.

What's the significance of your signing with Piedmont Talent in September?

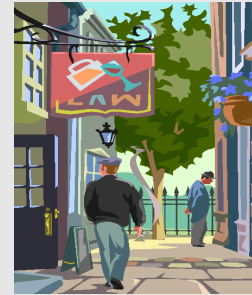
This is a dream come true, and a career goal that I've worked on for many years. When I was just 16 yrs old, Anson Funderburgh gave me his contacts on the back of a Piedmont Talent business card (see photo above) ... and now we're on the same roster. What an honour! Steve Hecht, Tina Terry and the whole gang are great people, and I can't wait to play a lot more US shows!

How's Dallas doing?

He is improving! Back in October he had surgery on his right hip, due to severe hip dysplasia. Because of his really poor genetics, his left knee couldn't handle the extra weight and he tore his ACL which left him unable to walk for more than a few seconds at a time. Emergency surgery got that fixed up, but only 5 weeks later, the repair snapped, which meant another emergency surgery. We are now almost \$6,000 down, though we have received some donations from Dallas' fans that really helped out. We need 12 weeks of rehab to get him back to "normal", so we're doing everything we can with stretches, walks, ice, and massage.



*Readers who would like to see more photos and stories about all of the above should join us at [Facebook.com/jwjonesblues](https://www.facebook.com/jwjonesblues) and [Twitter.com/jwjonesblues](https://twitter.com/jwjonesblues)



OTTAWA CLUBS

Rainbow Bistro, 76 Murray St

www.therainbow.ca

Irene's, 855 Bank St

www.irenespub.ca

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

Obsession Lounge, 1575 St. Laurent Blvd.

myobsession.ca

Louisiannie's, 1518 Main St, Stittsville

www.louisiannies.com

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who's on at the venues

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- ♪ 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: www.OttawaBluesSociety.com
- ♪ Check the going-out guides & venue ads : 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 ottawablues.blogspot.com
- ♪ Subscribe to Jazz Happenings at 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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Got the Blues

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House of Blues Hour

hosted by Dan Aykroyd

(AKA Elwood Blues)

News from the DAWG house

DAWG's Christmas Party

On Friday, December 21, 101.9 DAWG FM hosted a Christmas party at Tail Gators with music provided by Three Times Lucky. Blues fans braved both the snowy Ottawa weather and the 'end of the world' predictions to celebrate with DAWG.



OBS DAWG'ON BLUES, Sundays, 8-9 pm, 101.9 DAWG FM

Listen live online: www.dawgfm.com

DAWG'ON BLUES continues to keep listeners up to date on the Ottawa area blues scene, while playing great blues and showcasing local, regional, Canadian and international talent. Our grassroots, weekly show has been on air since August 2010 and now boasts six fabulous hosts: Liz Sykes, Brent Diab, Dan Shipley, new recruits Brent (Buck) Tingley & Steve Lund and me. We welcome your feedback, suggestions and comments at any time – send to ottawabluesociety@gmail.com Special thanks to our friends at DAWG FM, especially to Jeff Provencal (Production) & Yves Trottier (Operations Manager) for their ongoing support.

Thanks for your support!

Debra Thornington, Director
Chair & Host, DAWG'ON BLUES

Great Sunday Blues on DAWG FM

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OBS-member hosts share their favourite blues, showcase local, regional, national & international blues artists and give listeners heads-ups on upcoming 'don't miss' shows.



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.

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BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP

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Please check: ☐ **RENEWAL** ☐ **NEW MEMBER**

Would you like to be an OBS volunteer? Yes No

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

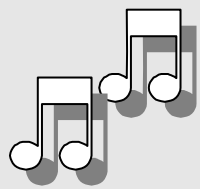
(e.g. Board Support / Radio Committee / Road To Memphis / Promotional Support / Newsletter / Festivals)

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

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