

# the maple blues revue

**The Maple Blues Revue is a world class blues entertainment presentation featuring the award winning Maple Blues Band performing a collection of instrumental compositions augmented by electrifying vocal performances**

**This high energy show under the musical direction of Gary Kendall includes world class singers Jay Douglas, Samantha Martin and Suzie Vinnick**

**The current theatre tour began in 2026 visiting state of the art Canadian venues with a full schedule moving into 2027 and 2028.**

*The Maple Blues Band*

*Gary Kendall-bassist, band leader, musical director*

*Pat Carey-tenor saxophone, arranger*

*Teddy Leonard-guitar*

*Al Lerman-harmonica*

*Jim Casson-drums*

*Howard Moore-trumpet*

*Alison Young-baritone & tenor saxophone*

*Meirion Kelly-trombone*

*Jesse Whiteley-piano & organ*

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

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## **The Maple Blues Revue-Featured Vocalists**

### **Jay Douglas**

**Jay Douglas is a three-time Juno Award nominee, producer, and bandleader of the Jay Douglas All-Star Band. He has graced stages worldwide, from Toronto's Rastafest Festival to the 4 Seasons Reggae Cruise in Atlanta. Over his career, he's collaborated with reggae legends including Beres Hammond, Marcia Griffiths, Ken Boothe, and Ernest Ranglin. Douglas began as frontman of The Cougars, a Caribbean nightclub favourite in Toronto and Montreal during the 60s and 70s, blending Ska, Rock Steady, Reggae, R&B, Soul, and Funk.**

### **Suzie Vinnick**

**A Saskatoon native transplanted to the Niagara Region of Ontario, Canada, Suzie Vinnick is the proud owner of a gorgeous voice, impressive guitar and bass chops and an engagingly candid performance style. Suzie is a 3X Juno Nominee and has won 12 Maple Blues Awards, 2 Canadian Folk Music Awards and a 2024 ECMA with her project *A'Court, Spiegel and Vinnick*. She has also twice won the International Songwriting Competition – Blues Category. Her latest album is entitled *Fall Back Home*.**

### **Samantha Martin**

**Samantha Martin is a Canadian singer-songwriter whose powerhouse vocals blend roots rock, blues, soul, and gospel. She has released five acclaimed albums—most recently *The Reckless One*—and earned multiple Juno nominations for Blues Album of the Year. Leading her 11-piece band, Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar, she's also received thirteen Maple Blues Award nominations and international recognition, including a UK Blues Award nod for International Artist of the Year.**

# **The Maple Blues Band-Group Bios**

## **Gary Kendall-Band Leader, Bassist, Musical Director**

**Gary Kendall has been a working musician for over 60+ years and one of the best known bassists in Canada's blues community. He is a multiple Maple Blues Award winner, long time member of The Downchild Blues Band and musical director of The Maple Blues Awards for 24 years.**

**The Maple Blues Band is his current musical focus and their recording relationship with Cordova Bay Records. He produced and released, Let's Go, their debut on the label in 2023 to widespread critical acclaim, The recording launched the group into a new career chapter as a festival and theatre attraction.**

## **Pat Carey-Tenor Saxophone-Horn Arrangements**

**Pat Carey best known for his long association with The Downchild Blues Band from 1985 until the farewell tour in 2024 is a multiple Maple Blues Award winner with an extremely active session and live performance career. He has released two solo Jazz recordings.**

## **Al Lerman-Harmonica**

**Al Lerman is a veteran bluesman with a highly personal style and considered among the top harmonica players in Canada with two Juno Awards and multiple Maple Blues Award nominations. A long time member of The Maple Blues Band he also has a parallel career as a solo acoustic blues artist with five independent recordings.**

## **Teddy Leonard-Guitar**

**Teddy Leonard is best known for his own original blues sound with a Maple Blues Award for guitarist of the year and two Juno's with Fathead. In 2010 the city of London, Ontario presented Teddy Leonard with "The Jimmy Lewis Award", a life time achievement award recognizing his long career as a dedicated musician.**

## **Jim Casson-Drums**

**Jim Casson has an association with the Canadian Blues Scene spanning 30 years with two Maple Blues Awards-Drummer of The Year, A Canadian Blues Music Award-Drummer of The Year, Jazz Report and Hammer Blues Awards. He has produced and released three solo recordings from his own Cherry Pit Studio. Included in his resume` are two parallel careers as a music educator and broadcaster with a weekly radio show, Cerebral Cinema on CFBU FM, St. Catharines ON.**

### **Howard Moore-Trumpet**

**Howard Moore is a classically trained musician who studied at York University, University of Toronto and The Royal Conservatory of Music. His in depth and versatile career has been as a trumpet player, keyboard player and vocalist. A highly sought after studio musician he has appeared on over 200 albums and travelled the world playing music**

### **Merion( Mei) Kelly-Trombone**

**Merion's professional experiences have included television broadcasts, work as a studio musician, sideman, jazz performer and arts educator. In addition to this local work, Merion received a Master of Arts degree in Jazz Studies from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, City University of New York. He is also a member in good standing of the Ontario College of Teachers. and Seafarers Trade Union, Nautilus International. Associated studio recordings have earned Merion a Canadian Recording Industry Alliance Gold Record, and he received a tuition scholarship from the Banff School of Fine Arts and a childcare bursary from the University of Toronto.**

### **Alison Young-Baritone Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone**

**Born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario, Juno nominated saxophonist and composer Alison Young gravitated towards jazz at an early age attracted by the exuberance of Sonny Rollins and Cannonball Adderly who continue to influence her to this day. She began playing professionally as a teenager developing an affinity for soul and R&B as well as jazz. Since moving to Toronto in the early 2000's to study at the University of Toronto, Alison has become an active presence on that city's jazz scene.**

### **Jesse Whiteley-Piano, Organ**

**Jesse Whiteley is a passionate and multi-talented pianist/keyboardist, singer composer, arranger and bandleader. He is not only well-versed on piano but also an organist, having written a Master Thesis focusing on the Hammond Organ. From 2014-2017 Jesse toured and recorded as a member of The 24<sup>th</sup> Street Wailers, playing across Canada and The United States. He also recorded and toured throughout Canada, The United States and Europe with JW-Jones.**

**He has shared the stage and appeared on recordings with legendary artists in the jazz and blues world including Clark Terry, Jackie Richardson, Oliver Jones, Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, Curley Bridges, Little Charlie Batty, Hubert Sumlin, Jimmie Vaughn, Raoul & The Big Time, his father Chris Whiteley and uncle Ken Whiteley.**