

GARY KENDALL

BASSIST, COMPOSER, PRODUCER

BAND LEADER, MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Gary Kendall is one of the best-known bassists in Canadian Blues, having toured and recorded with the legendary Downchild Blues Band, 1979-83 and currently since 1995. He has won the Maple Blues Award for Bassist of the Year eight times with twenty-five nominations. In 1993 he received the prestigious Blues With A Feeling Award from The Toronto Blues Society. The city where he was born presented him with the 'Thunder Blues Award' and The Thunder Bay Blues Society's 'Keeping The Blues Alive' Award in 2002.

As a member of Downchild he's shared a Jazz Report Award (1994), Maple Blues Awards for Electric Act of The Year (2005), Recording of The Year (2005, 2010), Entertainer of The Year (2005, 2006, 2019) and a Juno Award for Can You Hear The Music (2014).

Gary Kendall has performed with Snooky Pryor, Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson, Big Jay McNeely, Bob Margolin, Big Dave MacLean, Duke Robillard, Honkin Joe Houston, Morgan Davis, Zora Young, Phil Guy, Johnny Rawls, Guitar Shorty, Lou Pride, Eden Brent and Joe Louis Walker, to name a few. The discography of forty-eight recordings (fourteen with Downchild) includes sessions with Chris Murphy, Little Bobby & The Jumpstarts, Pete Schmidt & Shane Scott, Brian Blain, Maria Aurigema, Ray Edge, Son Roberts, Tobin Spring, The Maple Blues Revue, Braithwaite & Whiteley, The Mighty Duck Blues Band, Judy Brown and David Vest.

His 47 Records label has released the recordings, Dusty & Pearl and Feels Real Strong along with the almost lost Kendall Wall Band recording, The Way We Was. The year 2021 presented two new EP releases, Dusty & Pearl Revisited Volume One and the compilation, Intramentalz.

Gary Kendall held the prestigious position of musical director/band leader with The Maple Blues Awards from 1999 to 2023. The group he formed to provide the musical landscape for this event became The Maple Blues Band. Under his direction the large group of first call Canadian musicians developed their own catalogue of instrumental compositions and their own sound. In 2023 the released Let's Go on Cordova Bay Records and began a new chapter as a touring and recording entity. For a complete synopsis of The Maple Blues Band go to www.maplebluesband.com

When not busy with Downchild and The Maple Blues Band his insatiable need to play the Blues finds him with The Swingin' Blackjacks, The Gary Kendall Trio, The Hogtown Allstars and The Mighty Duck Blues Band.