

THE MAPLE BLUES BAND BIO

Summer 2022, The Maple Blues Band enters Loud Mouse Studios in the Etobicoke neighborhood of Toronto to open a new chapter of their two decade plus collaboration. The goal, record ten instrumental compositions they'd compiled during their tenure with The Maple Blues Awards. The result, a full length recording and a contract with Cordova Bay Records

The release of Let's Go was part of a master plan that would launch the group into the performance market of festivals and concerts. The ten tracks on the first release with Cordova Bay Records was a group effort. The song writing credits were spread over 24 years and included past and present band members.

In 2024 the composition process began to produce a follow up to Let's Go, a second album that will energize and support the bands new direction as a touring recording act. This release is slated for release 2027 to accompany their on going Maple Blues Revue tour with vocalists Jay Douglas, Samantha Martin and Suzie Vinnick.

Twenty-seven years ago the ball was in my hands, I had to make it good, really good. I wanted an instrumental big band that could play all the blues styles, Delta Blues, Southside Chicago Blues, New Orleans Funk, Uptown Blues, Zydeco, Blues Rock and most of all Canadian Blues. Over the years the musicians that have contributed to making this dream possible rose to the occasion lending their talent and support.

Every province in Canada has a wealth of well known, well schooled and dedicated blues musicians, the best in the world. The men and women I chose to surround myself with in The Maple Blues Band are part of the enormous Canadian pool of blues and jazz talent. Each of them is a star and when I'm in their presence I'm taken to a very comfortable and extremely high level of musicianship.

Gary Kendall
B/BL/MD

The Maple Blues Band:

Gary Kendall bassist, band leader, musical director

Pat Carey tenor saxophone, horn arrangements

Teddy Leonard guitar

Al Lerman harmonica

Jim Casson drums

Howard Moore trumpet

Jesse Whiteley hammond organ, piano

Alison Young baritone saxophone, tenor saxophone

Meirion Kelly trombone.

The Maple Blues Band, Quotes & Interesting Facts

"The Maple Blues Band lays down a groove that's smooth and makes you want to move. Congratulations to all involved in a great record" **Paul Shaffer-Late Night with David Letterman, Saturday Night Live**

"This well oiled big band blues machine grabs your attention from the opening track and never stops" **Mike Sadava-Maple Blues Newsletter**

"A magnificent album with faultless production" **Vincente Zumel-La Hora Del Blues**

"Gary & Co hit a home run with this one" **Brant Zwicker-ATC
(At The Crossroads) Blues Radio Network**

"The Maple Blues Band's Let's Go, 6 weeks at #1 in Canada Roots Music Report charts"

"The Maple Blues Band provided the musical landscape for the Maple Blues Awards for 24 years"

"Members of the Maple Blues Band have accumulated numerous Maple Blues Awards & Juno Awards"

"Let's Go, #1 on the Roots Music Report's Top Canada Album Chart For The Year 2023"

"Bakers Groove from Let's Go featured on At The Crossroads Radio Show Year In Review 2023"

*"Maple Blues Awards 2023, Maple Blues Band Members Honoured: Gary Kendall Bassist of The Year
Alison Young Horn Player of The Year, Jim Casson Drummer of The Year"*

"Canadian Blues Music Awards 2026 honoured Jim Casson. Drummer of The Year"

"In 2026 The Maple Blues Band launched The Maple Blues Revue. A touring theatre show featuring the world class vocals of Jay Douglas, Samantha Martin, Suzie Vinnick"