



*Publisher/Editor in Chief—Bruce Hall*

Volume 87 Number 1 — May / June 2022

## Give Me Memphis Tennessee !



*Road To Memphis 2023 Winners “Bywater Call”  
accepting Certificate Dave Barnes and Meghan Parmell*

*Image by Fiona McFarlane*

# The Grand River Blues Society

## Road To Memphis Competition 2023

The Grand River Blues Society is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 and its sole purpose is to feature and sustain blues music in South Central Ontario. Recognizing that music has no boundaries, The Grand River Blues Society is expanding to reach new blues loving regions.



Blues fans came out in droves to witness an epic showdown – The Road To Memphis Competition at Stonewall’s Restaurant in Hamilton on March 27th. A solid afternoon of 7 great professional bands laying it on the line for the chance to compete in The International Blues Challenge in Memphis in 2023. A sold-out crowd witnessed an afternoon of great blues licks, thanks to the involvement of the Grand River Blues Society.

**This Sunday**  
GRAND RIVER BLUES SOCIETY  
**Competition**  
For 2023 IBC.  
EST. 2003

*Join Us*  
Sunday March, 27, 2022  
12:00 to 5:00pm

Advance Tickets \$20  
Available at  
**Eventbrite**  
www.eventbrite.ca

**STONEWALLS**  
Restaurant | Live Music Venue  
339 York Blvd. Hamilton, Ont.

**Long & McQuade**  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS  
Brantford

**Paul Coombs Blues Band** 12:00pm Noon  
**Riley Michaels** 12:40pm  
**Frank Cosentino Band** 1:20pm  
**Bywater Call** 2:00pm  
**Garnetta & Dagroovmasters** 2:40pm  
**Long Black Cadillacs** 3:20pm  
**Jim Dan Dee** 4:00pm

**Investment Planning Counsel**  
IPC SECURITIES CORPORATION  
NEXT STEPS PLANNING.CA  
www.grandriverblues.org

## Road To Memphis Competition 2023 (con't)

First up was the ***Paul Coombs Blues Band*** who kicked off the afternoon with a solid rocking set. Formerly called Blueswinder, this Hamilton-based band had the crowd into the music from their first note. Led by Paul Coombs on guitar, this band showed true professionalism. Paul Coombs has been writing and producing music for over 25 Years and the tunes the bands played are a testament to that talent.



Then ***Riley Michaels*** took to the stage. He's only 21 but he sure knows how to capture an audience. His onstage presence and exuberance thrilled the audience. He sure gave his running shoes a workout as he danced and sang his heart out on stage. He's a perfect example of why the future of music is on solid ground. He's mainly thought of himself as a pop artist, but his performance proves he can navigate in the blues world.



## Road To Memphis Competition 2023 (con't)

### ***Frank Cosentino Band***

Frank Cosentino must've been born clutching a guitar. Few guitar slingers can match his shredding and he's been bending steel ever since he saw Jimi Hendrix live in Toronto in 1968. For over 40 years he's been front and center in the blues scene and his dedication landed him in The Blues Hall of Fame. And not only is he a consummate performer and songwriter, but he's a passionate guitar teacher, passing on information and talent to the next generation of performers.



### ***Bywater Call***

Bywater Call burst upon the blues scene with a debut album in 2019 and garnered a Maple Blues Award for Best New Artist and they're currently working on a new album release coming this spring. Led by vocalist Meghan Parnell and guitarist Dave Barnes the seven-piece band is about to tour Europe in May. From the opening notes, the audience was enraptured with the performance. When the band started up, the audience in Stonewall's started to rock with the music.



## Road To Memphis Competition 2023 (con't)

### *Garnetta & Dagroovmasters*

Garnetta Cromwell is a bilingual, Indigenous Black Canadian vocalist who takes the stage by storm. Backed by a tight band she had the audience eating out of her hand. The dancing shoes broke out and she led the audience in blues-funk grooves. It was high-energy performance that left the audience wishing there was time more.



### *Long Black Cadillacs*

It's an apt name for the band cause they brought some luxury music to the stage. They're a Hamilton based band led by Earl Johnson who comes with a ton of experience. Not only was the guitar slinger for the Moxy and also toured with King Biscuit Boy. Chris Jackson's vocals captured the ears of the audience. The band has begun recording an album and has released a couple of singles that are garnering interest.



## Road To Memphis Competition 2023 (con't)

### *Jim Dan Dee*

The final band that took the stage was Jim Dan Dee. The band, led by Jim Stefanuk is affectionately known as J.D.D. And they sure gathered up some new fans during their performance. Jim's crystal-clear baritone vocals blend marvelously with his razor-sharp guitar playing. The four-piece band closed the day with a rousing performance.



It was a at a great afternoon of rockin' blues tunes. The judging committee had to make some tough decisions but finally the results were announced. The winner? BYWATER CALL!

Bywater Call will be going to Memphis in 2023 and are sure to make the Grand River Blue Society proud!



*Story and Photos by Ken Wallis / Blues Source Entertainment*



339 York Blvd, Hamilton, ON (905) 577-0808

<https://www.stonewallshamilton.com/>

# A Conversation With Angel Forrest



Angel Forrest is Canada's premiere vocalist of the blues. She's been singing the blues for over 30 years and her list of accomplishments and awards is endless. She's garnered ten Maple Blues Awards, highlighted by eight as Female Vocalist of the Year, which is only a sample of her accolades. When she starts to sing you know you're hearing a voice unequalled in the music world.

Ken Wallis interviewed Angel Forest for the radio show Blues Source Canada.

<https://www.thesoundcafe.com/post/a-conversation-with-angel-forrest>

## Discography

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1996 - Secondhand Blues       | 2014 - Live Love at the Palace |
| 1997 - Angel Sings Janis Live | 2016 - Angel's 11              |
| 2005 - Here For You           | 2018 - Electric Love           |
| 2007 - Wonderland             | 2019 - Hell Bent With Grace    |
| 2010 - Come Alive             | 2022 - Angel's 11, Vol. II     |
| 2013 - Mother Tongue Blues    |                                |

<https://www.angelforrest.ca>

## **Juno Awards live from Budweiser Stage in Toronto**

*CBC will broadcast Sunday, May 15th 2022*

<https://junoawards.ca/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juno\\_Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juno_Award)



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**DAVID VEST &  
THE WILLING  
VICTIMS**



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**ELLIOTT  
AND THE  
AUDIO KINGS**

# LAUNCH PARTY

Join us at Bobby's on  
May 21<sup>st</sup> for the KBF  
2022 Lineup Reveal

**6:00pm**   **7:30pm**  
DOORS OPEN   OPENING ACT



May 21, 2022  
EVENT DATE

FREE  
ADMISSION

BOBBY O'BRIEN'S KITCHENER LOCATION  
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[KITCHENERBLUESFESTIVAL.COM](http://KITCHENERBLUESFESTIVAL.COM)



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# **ARE YOU READY ! GRAND RIVER BLUES CAMP ... IT'S BACK !!!**

**August 2 – 5, 2022**

**8:30a.m.-3:30p.m.**

**Cameron Heights Collegiate, 301 Charles St. E. Kitchener, ON (LRT at the door)**

Like everything else around the globe, for the past two years the pandemic prevented the GRBS Blues Camp from taking place. Every year for the previous eleven, the week immediately prior to the TD KBF saw 50+ students and approximately a dozen amazing local musicians, jamming in empty School Board classrooms, learning how to play instruments, sing songs, and become musicians in a band and performance context.

2020 was to have been the 20th anniversary of the TD Kitchener Blues Festival and the 11th for the Camp. Springing forward to 2022, we're re-setting the clock and going for broke! Dennis Cuomo and George White, along with long time Musical Director Don Featherstone, Camp Directors Janet Wendell and Neil Tarswell as well GRBS representative Brenda Thyer, have been busy! On their work roster have been the tasks of inviting musicians, establishing fees, confirming a venue, talking to donors and sponsors, selecting a play list, and looking forward with anticipation to seeing new and returning students!

The Camp traditionally runs Tuesday through Friday of the first week of August. With only four days to become performance ready, there is no room for delay! Tuesday is a rapid-fire assessment day and finds Campers and musicians breaking off into groups based on instrument of choice: brass, guitar, bass, percussion, and keyboards! Vocalists also find a home room ASAP. Practicing professional musicians and their interns, the latter previous campers themselves, quickly determine who should be in which room, who should practice with which musician, who would be best at this or that song, this or that instrument in this or that song, who should solo and who should harmonize! It's fast and furious and by day the end of the day everybody is learning performance pieces. By rehearsal on Friday morning, the 50+ campers are in unison: buzzing like a hive and ready for show-time!

All joy and enthusiasm aside, the pandemic has been hard on the Camp: our instructors/musicians and sponsor/restaurants have suffered significantly over the past two years. In light of this we are extremely grateful to those who have continued to help out the Camp. Without their help we could not have operated the Camp. If you are interested in supporting this volunteer driven not-for-profit Camp, please contact us at [grandriverbluescamp@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverbluescamp@gmail.com)

More information including Registration can be found at  
<https://www.grandriverblues.org/blues-camp.html>

Please Note: There may be some operational changes to camp to meet the required safety protocols due to COVID-19. We are monitoring this on a daily basis. If the camp has to be cancelled there will be a refund of all payments.

# WILLY A'S CD REVIEW

## Trudy Lynn – Golden Girl *(Nola Blue Records)*

Born in Houston Texas, Trudy Lynn is truly a vocalist with incredible staying power in the Blues music business. She found her calling as an RnB/Blues singer, while still in high school, when the late “Telecaster Master” **Albert Collins** got her up on stage with him, to sing **Sam Cooke’s**; “**A Change is Gonna Come**” and **Barrett Strong’s**; “**Money**”.

Her very first single release, “**Long Live the Blues**”, came in 1973 on the small Sinett record label and her first album release, “**Trudy Sings the Blues**”, appeared on Ichiban Records.

As she was forging her multi decade career (57 years and counting), Ms. Lynn accumulated no less than **13 Blues Music Award nominations** and continues to amaze, with her 14<sup>th</sup> nomination this year, for **Best Soul Blues Female Artist**. This is one time when her nickname and album title, “**Golden Girl**”, truly reflects the quality and the class of the entertainer, as she approaches her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Raccoon Records describes Ms. Lynn as a; “powerhouse”, “charismatic diva” and “dynamo”; and the proof is in this recording as she exudes vocal style, confidence and creative sensibility with her material.



Golden Girl kicks off with “**Tell Me**”, a guitar driven, modern funk rocker that finds her confronting her lover’s wandering ways; “you give me more excuses than love.” It’s time to move forward or move on.

<https://trudylynn.com/home>

## Willy A's Blues Music Reviews *(con't)*

Next up is Lynn's self-penned; "**Golden Girl Blues**", as she pokes fun at herself with her reflections on aging. Some effective Vaudeville style horn jabs and understated organ shots drive this along to her humorous rap at the end. To me it's always refreshing to hear an entertainer lighten up a bit and she obviously knows whereof she speaks, or in this case sings.

"**If the Phone Don't Ring**", is in the Chicago Blues style, once again with horn layers and some haunting Steve Krase harp, moving it forward. It finds our love weary, much abused protagonist saying she's had it up to her ears. She's gone and don't expect a phone call.

"**I'm Just Saying**" uses the often iterated modern phrase to lay it on the line, implying no BS intended. We used to call that telling it like it is and the tune utilizes some cool harp licks, some roadhouse piano and a chunky New Orleans drum beat that steals the show.

My fav cut on "**Golden Girl**" is a soulful ballad, drenched in heart felt emotion and sincerity, that other purveyors of Soul ballads could never hope to attain. "**Is it Cold in Here**" is one of the best I've ever heard in my 60 years of listening to heart tugging Blues and RnB, beautifully describing that "too far gone to turn around" moment.

"**Trouble with Love**", finds Ms. Lynn reflecting on the difficulty of sorting through all the bad actors out there, to find a man who's; "A credit to his gender". Stalwart guest guitarist, **Anson Funderburg**, gets to let loose on this one and a constant thumping bass drum draws you right into the frustrating quest.

"**Take Me Back**" is pure early 50's RnB, just before Rock 'n Roll gained its foothold. The RnB groove continues with; "**Live with Yourself**", a contemplative **Hi Records** clone, with an Al Green type groove that would have **Willie Mitchell** smiling down from above. Friend and guest, **Teresa James**, steps up here on keys and vocal support. It's all about living with the choices we make in life.

"**Heartache is a One Way Street**", takes a hard look at lost love and a **Bo Diddley** incessant beat propels us down that street where looking back is often futile. But the closer, "**Life Goes On**", sung here with passion, drama and style, reminds us that we need to keep moving forward. It's a positive and welcome ending after a playlist addressing; love lost and fading, life's difficult choices, self doubt and yes, even aging. It's all about staying the course when necessary. In all, the "Golden Girl" song selection and the production team have brought out the best in Ms. Lynn, both vocally and stylistically.

In summary, Trudy Lynn is one artist who deserves a lot of respect from both her peers and Blues fans alike. She's still at the top of her game at age 75 and this recording just cements her reputation further in the Blues community.

# **Blues Festivals 2022**

Hornby Island Blues Workshop May 4-10 Hornby Island BC  
Paisley Blues Festival May 31-June 2 Paisley ON  
Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival June 3-5 Orangeville ON  
Pender Harbour Blues Festival June 3-4-5 Pender Harbour BC  
Beaumont Blues and Roots June 17-18 Beaumont, AB  
Edmundston Blues Festival June 17-18 Edmundston, NB  
Toronto Jazz Festival June 24-July 3 Toronto ON  
Vancouver Jazz Festival June 24-July 3 Vancouver BC  
Montreal Jazz Festival June 30-July 9 Montreal QC  
Tremblant Intl Blues July Mont Tremblant QC  
Ottawa Blues Festival July 7-17 Ottawa ON  
Beaches Jazz Festival July 7-31 Toronto ON  
Lighthouse Blues Fest July 8-10 Kincardine ON  
Vancouver Island Musicfest July 8-10  
Calgary Blues Festival July 25-31 Calgary AB  
Kitchener Blues Festival August 4-7 Kitchener ON  
Donnacona Blues Festival August 3-7 Donnacona QC  
Nanaimo Blues Festival August 11-14 Nanaimo BC  
Salmon Arm Roots & Blues August 18-21 Salmon Arm BC  
Edmonton Blues Festival August 19-21 Edmonton AB  
Markham Jazz Festival August 20-22 Markham ON  
Trois Rivieres Blues Festival August 25-28 Trois Riviere QC  
Limestone City Blues Festival August Kingston ON  
North Bay Blues Festival September 1-4 North Bay ON  
West Coast Blues Festival September 2-3 Goderich ON  
Southside Shuffle September 9-11 Port Credit ON  
Wasaga Beach Blues Festival September Wasaga Beach ON  
Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival September 13-18 Fredricton NB

## TBS Maple Blues Award "Blues Booster of the Year!"

The Toronto Blues Society's Board of Directors selects and recognizes the outstanding contributions to the Canadian Blues music industry by honouring a worthy candidate with a Maple Blues Award for, "Blues Booster of the Year". A trip to the Maple Blues Awards archives to get a sense of what it takes to be recognized and given the title of Blues Booster. Although contributions have been made through different vehicles within the industry, there is a shared passion and dedication to the Blues that leads the way. This year, the special acknowledgement will be granted to two individuals who have certainly made significant contributions. Like many previous honourees, although the contributions have been made in different ways – and in different parts of the country – the impact of both works is considerable – and ongoing. In discussing what it meant for each of them to receive this year's honour, that commonality of passion emerged from their independent journeys, giving others a sense of what it means to be a "Blues Booster". Thank you to Erin McCallum for writing the article for the Toronto Blues Society's Newsletter.

One of the Recipients this year is none other than one of our founding directors, Claude Cloutier.

Claude found his way to the Blues via a fundraising event in 1999, Blues on The East Side was born, and Claude Cloutier's journey of becoming a Blues Booster had begun. Although, most people know his association with the Kitchener Blues Festival along with the Grand River Blues Society which has been in operation for almost 20 years itself. Serving as the Artistic Director initially for the GRBS and long-standing Vice President he then assumed the additional role of Artistic Director for the Kitchener Blues Festival. Another standout quality to Cloutier's involvement in both the Kitchener Blues Festival and the Grand River Blues Society is the opportunities to involve and showcase youth. This ongoing effort to interest, inspire, and include another generation of Blues lovers and players serves as evidence of Cloutier's passion and commitment to the Blues, and it is seen in programs such as Blues In The Schools (B.I.T.S.), Youth Blues Camp, and the Youth Blues Challenge. When asked what being recognized as a "Blues Booster" means to him, Claude Cloutier is quick to share the credit.



Congratulations Claude Cloutier 2022 TBS Maple Blues Award "Blues Booster of the Year!"

## Meet Our Newest Directors

### Andrea Cassis



Partner at The Diplomat, The French and Aberdeen Tavern Hamilton Restaurants.

Stonewalls Restaurant – Social Media

Board of Director Hamilton (Ancaster Firehall) All Star Jazz

Owner-Operator at Little Wing Media & Consulting Ancaster

Social Media, Marketing, Event Planning, Live Music PR, Restaurant Consulting

Former Owner/General Manager at Coach and Lantern Ancaster

Former Club Manager at Knollwood Golf Club Ancaster

Live Music Presenter



114 King Street North, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 2X7 519-725-2361

<https://ethelslounge.com/>

## Meet Our Newest Directors (con't)

### Linda Fraser



Involvement with the local music scene for over 20 years. Volunteer for Creative Arts Inc., Warehouse Coffee House, Festival of Friends and Earthsong events. Linda produced and assisted on numerous music-related cable television shows including Expose Yourself, Hamilton Life and South 905.

In 2012, Linda created and produced, Ensemble! on Cable 14. Linda won a Cable 14 Hamilton Impact Award for Outstanding Entertainment in 2020 for her work on Ensemble!

She joined forces with her husband Luis Pereira for the Hamilton Blues Lovers in 2010. The HBL blog ([blueshamilton.blogspot.com](http://blueshamilton.blogspot.com)) and its social media pages promote the incredible Hamilton (and beyond) music scene through local news, event listings and much more.

In 2017, Linda and Luis won the very first, George R. Robinson Award from the Hamilton Musicians' Guild (Local 293) for outstanding Support of Live Music.



574 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener, ON N2K 1M3 519-743-4331

<https://lancsmokehouse.com/>

## Meet Our Newest Directors (con't)

### Ken Wallis



B.A. Brock University. Radio and Television Diploma from Niagara College.

Started his career at CJRN RADIO, Niagara Falls as an Audio Operator

Worked at CHCH TV for 13 years

#### Mohawk College

- Professor for 2 years teaching in Television Broadcast program and Journalism
- 1988 Coordinator of Television Program -President's Award of Excellence
- 2005 - Associate Dean of Media and Entertainment including all Media, Graphics, Animation, Photography, Music programs and Music Fundraisers
- 2012 began hosting on-air radio show featuring blues music on the HAWK FM, now INDI1015

Blues Source Entertainment—Saturday Nite Blues concerts at Jet Hall in Hamilton featuring blues bands from Hamilton and beyond.

Vice President of Hamilton Blues Society – launched first ever Hamilton Blues Society Awards

#### Current Activities

- Host of 3 radio shows. Two shows, Blue Source Canada and Blues Source International.
- New show entitled Blues Source Vault airs on Blues and Roots Radio twice a week with guest contributor Erin McCallum
- Weekly podcasts on Blues and Roots Radio
- Regular contributor to The Sound Café, online music magazine.
- Board of Directors - Grand River Blues Society





Visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Grand-River-Blues-Society-408160155868047/>

### Membership Has Its Benefits

We are pleased to announce to our members that our friends at **Encore Records** (*Queen Street, Kitchener*) have offered their support to the Grand River Blues Society by giving active members 10% off on all blues CD's. All members have to do to receive discount is show their membership card. This is a great way to spread the blues around and we thank **Encore Records** for their support.

Membership does have it perks, so be sure to keep your membership active!

### Visit Our Blues Booth

Come on over and say "Hi" to your Board members and volunteers at our GRBS merchandise table.

Remember your purchases help financially support our programs!

**Become a Member or Renew Your Membership**  
**Grand River Blues Society**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: [ \_\_\_\_ ] - [ \_\_\_\_ ] - [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees in Cdn Funds (Select one):**

	1 Year	3 Year
Regular Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00
Family Membership (two adults and two children under 19)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00
Student Membership (student ID or under 19)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	---

Is this a renewal?  Yes  No

Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheques payable to**  
**"Grand River Blues Society"**

**Address:** Grand River Blues Society  
P.O. Box 40109  
Waterloo Town Square Post Office  
Waterloo, ON N2J 4V1

**Allow 6 weeks for processing**

### Grand River Blues Society Seeks a Book Keeper

We couldn't do what we do without great volunteers. There is currently a book keeping need for The Grand River Blues Society. We encourage Society members with experience or interest in this important task. If you are a GRBS member interested in becoming a Director and looking for information about how to get involved, please email [grandriverblues@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverblues@gmail.com)

## **Your Grand River Blues Society**

We continue to maintain strong membership numbers in our Grand River Blues Society with over 150 active members. Welcome to all our new members, and thank you to all who renewed!

Please continue to let people know about the Grand River Blues Society and tell them how to join. Better yet, pass on one of our new membership postcards and sign up some more members. If you need postcards, contact any of the Directors or e-mail the address noted below. You might also consider a membership for a friend or family member as a gift.

Also remember that as a member you are always welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the Board. Contact President Bruce Hall, via e-mail, at [grandriverblues@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverblues@gmail.com) and let him know that you would like to attend. Another reminder: If you change your address, phone number or e-mail address, please let us know and be sure to subscribe to the Blues Buzz!

### **Grand River Blues Society**

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

Bruce Hall — President      Claude Cloutier — Vice President

#### **Board of Directors:**

Ken Wallis	Toby Pemberton	John Jackson	Margot Vanderlann	Lynda Fraser-
Brenda Thyer	Andrea Cassis	Bob O'Shaughnessy	Chris Arsenault	Jeff Martin

#### **Contact Information**

Grand River Blues Society, P.O. Box 40109

Waterloo Town Square Post Office Waterloo, ON N2J 4V1

[grandriverblues@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverblues@gmail.com)

#### **Promote Your Event**

If you are a blues artist, band or blues friendly venue with an event coming up, send your info to [grandriverblues@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverblues@gmail.com) and we will get it into the weekly Blues Buzz. Be sure to provide all of the details and get the info to us early.



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## Monthly Raffle Winner!

We have another winner of our bi-monthly draw. Each month one of our members is picked in a raffle for a blues related prize. Our winner this time around is **Rita Taliana** of Caledonia. Congratulations Rita, you have won two General Admission tickets to the TD Kitchener Blues Festival kick off concert on Thursday Night Aug 4th. *Band to be announced.*

The next draw will be held in July. Keep your membership active to be eligible!

## Central Ontario Musicians Association

Representing Local Musicians and Promoting Live Music

### HIRE A LIVE BAND!

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

# André Bisson Band



**SAT. MAY 7, 2022**

**AN EVENING OF ORIGINAL RHYTHM & BLUES  
ACCOMPANIED BY A 10 PIECE BAND**

**THE GASWORKS  
141 PARK ST N. HAMILTON  
7:30 PM (DOORS 6:30 PM)  
\$25 ADV | \$30 AT THE DOOR  
TICKETSCENE.CA**

[andrebisson.ca](http://andrebisson.ca)