



The Black & Blues Band

info@blacknblues.ca

www.blacknblues.ca



Combined Band Biography

Formed in 2023, The Black & Blues Band is an Edmonton, Alberta, based group delivering a blues-driven sound with a modern edge. Rooted in tradition yet unbound by it, the band weaves together elements of rock, soul, and R&B to create an expressive sound that feels both timeless and fresh. Known for their ability to reimagine songs, they bring a unique spin to every performance, balancing authenticity with creativity through a mix of reworked classics, crowd favourites, and original material.

At the heart of the band is a tight-knit group of seasoned musicians whose collective experience spans decades and genres. On vocals, Jana Jasper commands the stage with a powerful, soul-infused presence shaped by a lifelong musical journey. Drawing on influences of gospel, jazz, and blues traditions. Her ability to connect with audiences and deliver emotionally rich performances sets the tone for the band's sound.

On guitar, Scott Catral blends tasteful restraint with expressive intensity, drawing from blues traditions while incorporating modern phrasing and tone. As a songwriter and composer, he also plays a key role in shaping the band's musical direction. On bass, Andy Hamilton anchors the group with warm, groove-focused lines, supported by over forty years of experience across blues, funk, rock, and jazz, providing both stability and feel. Behind the kit, Derek Loewen brings precision, musicality, and instinct. With more than thirty years of performance and teaching experience, his playing balances control with spontaneity—locking in the rhythm while elevating the band's dynamic range.

Originally formed as a four-piece ensemble, The Black & Blues Band has recently expanded its sound by incorporating keys for select performances. Simon Gibeau, an accomplished keyboardist with international experience, adds depth and texture through a blend of classical training and jazz sensibility. His contributions introduce new layers of harmony and versatility, further shaping the band's evolving sound.

More than a performance, as one reviewer from Festival Place noted, *“from the moment the band took the stage, they captivated our audience with dynamic energy, musical precision, and a soulful delivery... creating a memorable live experience.”* Others describe the band as an *“excellent, well-rehearsed, entertaining blues band”* and *“very professional and engaging performers with a great mix of traditional blues and contemporary interpretations.”*

The Black & Blues Band delivers a shared musical experience. Their live shows are engaging, immersive, and built on connection—inviting audiences to clap along, sing along, and get lost in the groove. Whether performing a slow-burning blues number, a soulful ballad, or a high-energy blues-rock track, the band brings passion, professionalism, and a sound that resonates with a wide range of audiences.



The Black & Blues Band
info@blacknblues.ca
www.blacknblues.ca



Individual Band Biographies

Jana Jasper – Vocals



As the voice and front presence of the band, Jana delivers each song with authenticity and emotional depth. Rooted in blues storytelling, her vocals blend warmth, power, and expressive range—drawing listeners in with honest phrasing and compelling delivery that brings each lyric to life.

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, California, Jana comes from a family where music runs deep. With parents connected to jazz musicians and grandparents who were singers and performers, she was immersed in music from an early age. Growing up singing in church, surrounded by the soulful traditions of gospel, while developing a strong foundation in jazz. Influenced by a wide range of artists her sound reflects both heritage and versatility.

Now based in Edmonton, Alberta, Jana is known for her commanding yet approachable stage presence and her ability to connect with any audience. As lead vocalist of The Black & Blues Band, she brings passion, experience, and undeniable soul to every performance—and leaving a lasting impression from the first note to the last.

Scott Cattral – Guitar

Scott brings grit, tone, and expression to the band's bluesy sound. Inspired by both classic and modern blues, his playing blends soulful phrasing, tasteful bends, and powerful rhythm work—delivering everything from smoky licks to expressive solos that add depth and character to each performance.

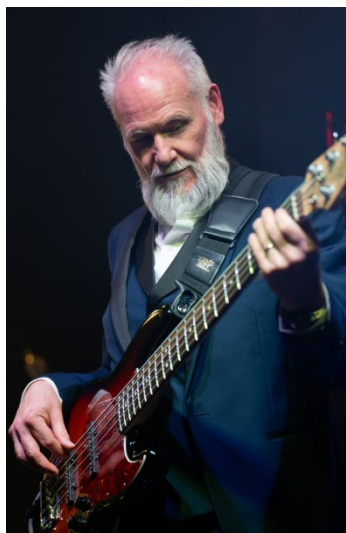
An Edmonton, Alberta based guitarist, singer, songwriter, and composer, Scott is an active member of SOCAN (Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada). He has written and composed music for both his own projects and other recording artists, combining strong song writing with a versatile approach that spans multiple genres. His work reflects both technical skill and a deep understanding of musical storytelling.



Scott generates a creative, expressive edge to the stage—shaping the band's sound through tone, feel, and musical instinct. His ability to balance rhythm and lead work while adapting to the energy of each performance makes him a key contributor to The Black & Blues Band's dynamic and evolving identity.



The Black & Blues Band
info@blacknblues.ca
www.blacknblues.ca



Andy Hamilton – Bass

Andy is a seasoned bassist with over four decades of experience, laying down solid grooves across funk, blues, rock, and jazz genres. Whether driving a hard-hitting blues shuffle, adding funk-soaked syncopation, or supporting a smooth jazz progression, his playing always serves the song with taste and precision.

A familiar face on the Edmonton music scene, Andy is known for his deep pocket, musical versatility, and instinctive ability to lock in with any rhythm section. Andy provides the glue that holds the band together. His warm, steady lines lock tightly with the drums, creating a solid foundation while adding movement and groove.

As a member of The Black & Blues Band, he blends seamlessly with the band's sound while contributing his own creative edge and professional polish. Andy's passion for music and commitment make him a key member of The Black & Blues Band as they continue to build their presence on the Edmonton blues and roots scene.

Derek Loewen – Drums

With over three decades of experience performing and teaching, Derek is an exceptional drummer and the rhythmic backbone of the band. He keeps the music grounded while adding power and momentum to every performance. Drawing on classic shuffle patterns, pocket-driven rhythms, and effective control, he allows the music to breathe while driving it forward with authenticity and soul.

His extensive career has taken him across Canada and beyond, performing at festivals, clubs, and events in a wide range of genres. Career highlights include a cross-Canada tour with Louisiana's *Major Handy* and *The Zydeco Wolf Couchons*, a summer residency in Ketchikan, Alaska with *Roger Filgo* and *the Emerald City All Stars*, and longtime membership with Edmonton indie legends *Feeding Like Butterflies*.



With formal studies in jazz performance and a lifelong passion for music, Derek combines technical skill with instinctive musicality, making him ideally suited to the band's drum chair. He adds an exciting rhythmic edge and creative energy to the group and his ability to listen, react, and push the band to new heights makes him an invaluable part of The Black & Blues Band.



The Black & Blues Band

info@blacknblues.ca

www.blacknblues.ca



Simon Gibeau - Keys

With over two decades of experience, Simon brings depth, texture, and versatility to the band's blues-infused sound. Blending classic organ tones, piano-driven grooves, and soulful accents, his playing adds richness and dimension—supporting the rhythm section while enhancing the band's overall character and composition.

Beginning his musical journey at the age of six, Simon first studied classical music before pursuing jazz studies at Grant MacEwan in Edmonton. He later graduated from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts in England, refining his craft and expanding his musical perspective. His diverse background allows him to move seamlessly across styles while maintaining a strong foundation in groove and musicality.

Over the course of his career, Simon has performed extensively across Southeast Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America, collaborating with artists from a wide range of genres. As a member of The Black & Blues Band, he brings a polished, expressive touch to every performance—adding colour, energy, and a global influence on the band's evolving sound.