

# morgan davis

*it's the Blues!*



## biography

For nearly four decades Morgan Davis has been on the road travelling across Canada, the United States and Europe. His performances draw from a rich tradition of country blues, as well as his own contemporary songs infused with wit and a large dose of humour.

Originally from Detroit, Davis grew up listening to a prolific mix of rhythm and blues. The music of Jimmy Reed, Ike and Tina Turner, Chuck Berry and Fats Domino was in the air. He later moved to California with his family, and then in 1968 left for Canada.

While living in Rochdale College, Toronto's mecca for the subculture of the late 1960's, he immersed himself in the study of Delta Blues, especially the music of Robert Johnson. Toronto's music scene in the early 1970's was the perfect place for Davis to cut his teeth as a journeyman, having the opportunity to see and play with many legendary

performers. Bukka White, Johnny Shines, Sunnly and Slim, Snooky Pryor, Hubert Sumlin, and John Hammond were encouraging supporters.

Davis hit the road with the Rhythm Rockets, The Knights of The Mystic Sea, and David Wilcox's first band, eventually forming his own trio.

Over the years he has had the privilege of opening for Willie Dixon, John Lee Hooker, Albert King, John Hammond, Albert Collins, and Eric Bibb. A highlight of his career was backing the phenomenal Dr. John. Morgan has shared the stage with Colin Linden, who also produced his second album, James Harmon, Gene Taylor, Sue Foley, Ray Bonneville, Carlos DelJunco and the late Dutch Mason.

Davis' songwriting talent received international recognition when Colin James covered his searing ballad "Why'd You Lie".

Morgan's first solo recording "Blues Medicine", on Electro-Fi records, garnered critical acclaim as well as awards for songwriting and production. His multi-award winning release "Painkiller" won an impressive four awards at the 2004 Maple Blues Awards and not long after took home Canada's top music prize...the Juno for Blues Album of the Year.

Davis has established a rich career as a solo artist, and also performs with stellar lineups of musicians as a trio or full band.

His most recent recording, "At Home In Nova Scotia", pays homage to Atlantic Canada where he has been a resident since 2001.

Morgan's passion for the Blues has never wavered... and he fully expects to be on the road for the rest of his life.



### SATISFYING DIE-HARD BLUES FANS FOR OVER 30 YEARS

*He is undoubtedly one of the the best blues performers working the clubs.*

*Morgan plays and sings the blues with a soulful touch that is without equal. He's the consummate entertainer who knows and understands his material and his guitar.*

*...actually Colin James and Morgan Davis get along quite well. At his Toronto dates, James tells the audience Davis wrote the hit "Why'd You Lie" and advises them to check out the veteran player. James also covers another of Davis' originals, "A Little Bit Won't Do".*

*~Ottawa Citizen*

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## History of the Blues Workshop

*Informative... entertaining... a special addition to your festival.*

I have presented my personal "History of the Blues" workshop at the Kingston Limestone Blues Festival, the Fredericton Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival, and the Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival. Using music from my collection, interspersed with commentary and anecdotes

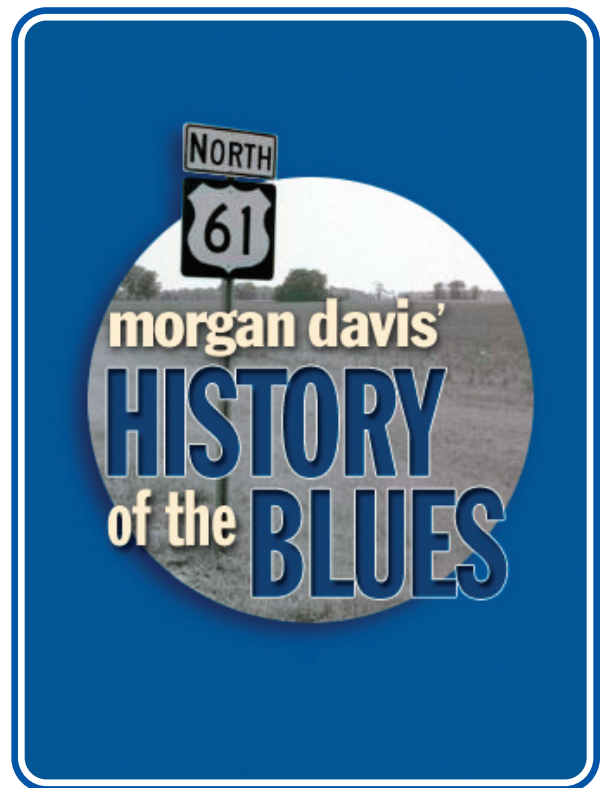
along with audience participation, I take folks on a journey spanning two continents and 80 years of recorded blues. From African music to field hollers of the southern U.S., from Mississippi to Chicago, from Georgia to Texas, I illustrate regional styles as well as influences and interpretations from one

artist to another, often using the recorded snippets as well as my guitar. Lasting about 90 minutes, every presentation has met with great success and enthusiastic interaction with the audience.

*"This workshop is exceptional and our audiences loved it. Morgan brings along his encyclopedic knowledge of blues history and his enchanting story-telling, but I found myself fascinated by his mix of old pieces of music and his own stellar playing. I knew this workshop would have appeal for our audiences but I couldn't have guessed how many times, while sitting listening, that I would find myself lost in the mystique and legends of the blues. Morgan makes the deep history of our music fun and real - this is a workshop we'll be having back here at Harvest again."*

**Brent Staeben**

Blues Fan / Artistic Director  
Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival  
Fredericton, New Brunswick



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## awards

It has been a very well recognized career, with numerous awards for Morgan's lifetime contribution to Blues Music.

Morgan grabs Canada's biggest Blues award... the JUNO for "Blues Album of the Year" and also takes 4 Maple Blues Awards for his CD, Painkiller!



2005

Songwriter of the Year  
"Maple Blues Award"

2004

Blues Album of the Year  
Painkiller  
"JUNO"

2004

Recording of the Year  
Painkiller  
"Maple Blues Award"

2004

Male Vocalist of the Year  
"Maple Blues Award"

2004

SOCAN Songwriter of the Year  
"Maple Blues Award"

2004

Producer of the Year  
Morgan Davis with Alec Fraser  
"Maple Blues Award"

2000

Acoustic Artist of the Year  
"Toronto Blues Society"

1999

Producer of the Year  
Blues Medicine  
"Maple Blues Award"

1999

Song Writer of the Year  
SOCAN  
"Maple Blues Award"

1996

Blues with a Feeling Award  
"Toronto Blues Society"

1995

Blues Band of the Year  
"Jazz Report"

1994

Blues Artist of the Year  
"Jazz Report"

*If Colin James had stayed bluesy and signed with a small roots label, he'd probably sound like Morgan Davis. Davis is in fact the Canadian blues guitarist who wrote the bluesiest cut on Colin's debut album, "Why'd You Lie".*

~Vancouver Sun...

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## recordings

### At Home in Nova Scotia

2006 - Deep Cove Records

1. Hello Nova Scotia
2. World of Wood
3. She's My Radiator
4. The Lights of Chester
5. Black Rum
6. Field Strip Your Cigarettes
7. The Last Best Place
8. Talkin' Tourism
9. Tancook Cabbage
10. The Power's Out/Propane
11. Bluenose On My License Plate

### Painkiller

2003 - ElectroFi Records

1. Driving the Backroads
2. Waffle House Blues
3. Hello, Nova Scotia
4. I'll Find My Way
5. Gettin' Old
6. I Don't Have The Time
7. Painkiller
8. Po' Bob
9. Tomorrow
10. She's My Radiator
11. We Need a Fire
12. We Sure Know How To Live
13. Rainin' Trains

### Hogtown Years (Compilation)

2003 - Independent

1. A Little Bit Won't Do
2. Honky Tonk Blues
3. Why'd You Lie
4. Satisfaction Guaranteed
5. Happy Song
6. Prop Me Up Against The Wall
7. Time To Go
8. Love Song
9. Married Woman Blues
10. Whatchasee
11. Rosalee
12. Buddy Bolden's Blues
13. Easy Money (with Mumbo Jumbo)
14. Reefer Smokin' Man
15. Bonus Track

### Blues Medicine

1999 - ElectroFi Records

1. Reefer Smokin' Man
2. What's The Matter Now
3. Oily Rag
4. Keep It Parted In The Middle
5. That's Why
6. Slidin' Around
7. Somnambulin' Mama

8. Special Boogie
9. Older And Dumber
10. Easy Money
11. If I Get Lucky
12. New Good Mornin' L'il School Girl
13. My Blues
14. Tomorrow
15. Good Time Tonight

### Morgan Davis LIVE

1994 - Independent

1. Done Changed My Way  
Of Living
2. Rosalee
3. Do The Do
4. I'm Leaving Town
5. (I Drank So Much) Wine
6. Travelling Riverside Blues
7. Can't Hold Out Much Longer
8. Ooh Baby Hold Me
9. Somebody Been Talkin
10. Whatchasee

### Morgan Davis

1989 - Stony Plain Records

1. Prop Me Up Against The Wall
2. Ridin' In The Moonlight

3. Bar B Q
4. Time To Go
5. Mean Mistreatin' Mama
6. Love Song
7. I Picked A Winner
8. Every Night And Every Day
9. No Mama No
10. Down In The Bottom
11. Hang It Up
12. Married Woman Blues

### Ready to Play

1982 - Bullhead Records

1. A Little Bit Won't Do
2. Why'd You Lie
3. I Got Me A Manager
4. Barbeque
5. Wake Up!
6. Happy Song
7. Honky Tonk Blues
8. So Little Time  
(Love Song)
9. Satisfaction Guaranteed
10. Somebody Bin  
Smokin' That Stuff
11. Get Out Of Your Rut  
(And Get In The Groove)

### GREAT MUDDY WATER-STYLE BLUES!

*Morgan Davis himself is a very genuine, down-to-earth person and this comes through in his music as it should it all good blues. If you are a blues fan (delta blues) then you will definitely not go wrong by taking a chance on this unknown gem.*

~blues-music.mainseek.com

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