



The Toronto Blues Society Announces Blues Booster of the Year: Brian Slack

Toronto, December 8, 2004... The Toronto Blues Society is proud to announce the recipient of the **Blues Booster of the Year** award, a very special **Maple Blues Award** honouring outstanding contribution to the Canadian Blues industry.

This year's **Blues Booster of the Year** is **Brian Slack**. Brian has been managing and representing blues artists across Canada and the US since booking Chicago blues piano player **Blind John Davies** to play at his college in the early 80s. In addition, he produces the celebrated **Les Grandes Dames du Blues** concept show, a showcase of female Canadian talent was developed around International Women's Day and aims to raise funds and awareness for women's shelters in host cities. Brian is founder and vice-president of the Montreal Blues Society and has been co-editing the society's newsletter for several years. He is also involved in blues record production, co-producing Sony Records' Red, White & Blues CD compilation and the Dawn Tyler Blues Project's "Ten Dollar Dress".

The Blues Booster of the Year Award will be given to Brian Slack at the 8th Annual Maple Blues Awards. The gala evening will take place on Monday, January 17 at the Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne Street, Toronto. Tickets are available through the Toronto Blues Society office at 416-538-3885, 1-866-871-9457, or by e-mail at info@torontobluessociety.com and through Ticketmaster.

Brian will also be a featured panelist at **Blues Summit II**, January 15-17 at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in Toronto. This three-day conference is an opportunity for the blues community to personally connect with key leaders in the industry, and attend professional development seminars, working meetings, and showcase concerts. Blues Summit II is the largest meeting of blues artistic directors in Canada with representatives from over 20 blues, roots, and jazz festivals including: Edmonton Blues Festival, Hornby Island Blues Festival, Thunder Bay Blues Festival, South Side Shuffle, Distillery Blues Festival, Harvest Jazz and Blues (Fredricton), and Festi Blues (Montreal).

Blues artists and industry members can register for Blues Summit II online at www.torontobluessociety.com/summit. Delegates attending the Summit or the

Maple Blues Awards are eligible for a special room price at the Delta Chelsea Hotel. To receive this special rate, rooms must be booked before December 31.

The Maple Blues Awards are supported by Justin Time/Fusion 3 Records, Long & McQuade, Stony Plain Records, FACTOR and the Government of Canada through the Canadian Music Fund, GALAXIE - CBC's Continuous Music Network, the SOCAN Foundation, SOCAN, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and the Toronto Arts Council.

The Blues Summit is supported by FACTOR and the Government of Canada through the Canadian Music Fund, the Canada Council, SOCAN, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and the Toronto Arts Council.

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