



Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall presents  
**SHARE THE MUSIC**



## TEACHER RESOURCES

# WOMEN'S BLUES REVUE

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2019**

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto, ON  
Workshop: 7 PM | Concert: 8 PM



To apply for tickets for your school or community group to attend this *Share the Music* event, please visit [roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic](http://roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic)

## AN EVENING OF BLUES

Women's Blues Revue is an annual celebration of Blues and Canada's most dynamic female musicians. This event is co-presented with the Toronto Blues Society, which was formed in 1985 to create a climate in which Blues genre could flourish again after the 1970s Disco era. Since then, the Toronto Blues Society ensured this North American art form can continue its presence in Toronto. The night includes performances by:

### MISS EMILY

*Miss Emily was only 12 years old when she was singing at country fairs in Southern Ontario and winning competitions. Her music spans across genres from rhythm and blues to jazz and rock and roll. She started by playing at small bars and since then she has performed everywhere from regional theatres and Broadway-style shows to Ottawa Bluesfest and even opened for The Tragically Hip at a performance in Bobcaygeon! Her listeners span across Canada, the US, and the United Kingdom. Her new record In Between highlights Miss Emily's experiences and influences under the guidance of Gord Sinclair as producer/co-writer/bass player and bandmate Rob Baker as lead guitarist/co-writer.*

### TABORAH JOHNSON

*Taborah Johnson, also known as Tabby Johnson, is a Canadian singer and actress. She was born in Switzerland, moved to Philadelphia and later on, Southern Ontario. Her career began in the Toronto production of Hair when she was a teenager. She was a backing vocalist for Rick James, including the famous hit "Super Freak". She sang as a jazz performer in her sister Molly's band Infidels, acted in film and television and children's shows such as The Big Comfy Couch. She's also a voice actor for numerous animated series, including Star Wars: Ewoks.*

### ELLEN MCILWAIN

*Ellen McIlwaine is an eclectic figure best-known for her career as a solo singer, songwriter, and slide guitarist. Calgary's "goddess of slide" was born in Nashville, USA, but lived in Japan from the age of two and grew up listening to a combination of New Orleans R&B, European classical music, Grand Ole Opry, Japanese shamisen, Indian sitar, and much more. Her amazing slide guitar skills and vocal acrobatics accompanied with Rhythm & Blues; Middle Eastern laments; Indian, Pakistani and West African influences; and a capella Gospel numbers make her shows dynamic. She even played with the electric guitar legend Jimi Hendrix! She recently received the Blues with a Feeling (Lifetime Achievement Award) from the Toronto Blues Society (Maple Blues Awards).*





## DID YOU KNOW?

**THIS YEAR IS THE 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S BLUES REVUE!**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What are some key qualities of Blues music?
- ◆ How does the music of Miss Emily, Taborah Johnson, and Ellen McIlwaine differ from each other?
- ◆ Who are some influential female figures in music in Canada and around the world?
- ◆ Is music an equal platform when it comes to gender?



## FURTHER RESOURCES

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF TORONTO BLUES SOCIETY:** <http://torontobluessociety.com/womens-blues-revue/>

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF ELLEN MCILWAINE:** <http://www.ellenmcilwaine.com>

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF MISS EMILY:** <https://themissemissy.com>

**CBC NEWS – COVERAGE OF WOMEN'S BLUES REVUE (2015):**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/programs/metromorning/almost-30-years-later-the-spotlight-still-shines-on-women-in-toronto-blues-revue-1.3338998>

**FURTHER RESOURCES AND REPORTS ON WOMEN IN MUSIC:**

<https://www.womeninmusic.ca/statistical-research/>

## TO LISTEN

(Spotify) Miss Emily – *In Between*

(Spotify) Taborah Johnson – *Can't Take Your Love*

(Spotify) Ellen McIlwaine – *Mystic Bridge*

## SHARE THE MUSIC:

*Share the Music*, presented by the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall, aims to enhance and broaden students' musical horizons by providing tickets to world-class performances and educational pre-concert workshops. Schools and community groups are invited to apply for complimentary *Share the Music* tickets to Women's Blues Revue and other notable performances in the 2019/20 season. For more information, please visit [roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic](http://roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic)

## CONTACT EDUCATION & OUTREACH TEAM:

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