
JUNO-WINNING SINGER-SONGWRITER STEVE STRONGMAN

Story by David McPherson | February 17, 2017

Blues (noun): *Melancholic music of black American folk origin, typically in a 12-bar sequence. It developed in the rural southern U.S. toward the end of the 19th century, and gave rise to rhythm & blues and rock 'n' roll.*

Blues is an omnipresent genre, but it's rarely in the spotlight. While it's always acknowledged this "melancholic music" birthed rock 'n' roll, modern mainstay blues (http://www.stevestrongman.com/). As a purveyor and champion of a genre that boasts a legendary line of guitar-slingers – like Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and Stevie Nicks, Strongman's veins and flow from his fingers every time he picks up his Gibson electric guitar. The singer-songwriter believes it's his role to help keep the blues alive.

"We have to continue to push the parameters of what people think blues means, because everything sounds like the blues," says Strongman, a 2013 Juno Award-winning blues-based.

Strongman's earned three Maple Blues Awards, and has toured with the legendary likes of B.B. King, Johnny Winter, and Buddy Guy (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). The Rolling Stones (*Blue & Lonesome*), Strongman has always stayed true to his roots – as with his next (and sixth) album, *No Time Like Now* (https://www.stevestrongman.com/). With us in January 2017 at the Gibson Guitar Showroom in Toronto's Liberty Village the day the album's first single, "No Time Like Now," was released.

"I was a huge Led Zeppelin fan, like many people my age. Then I realized where they were getting everytl

All Strongman needed to feed his muse, inspire him, and seize the day, was a sense of urgency. He recorded the 10 songs of *No Time Like Now* with I... where the singer-songwriter hangs his hat these days.

"We wanted it to be a very exciting, guitar-driven record," he says. "It's still steeped in the blues – because anything I do is steeped in the blues – but th

While James and The Stones each pay homage to the genre's legends with 100-percent-covers albums, Strongman offers nine original songs steeped in Overdrive's "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet" – an intriguing choice for a blues album.

"Rob and I opened for Randy [Bachman] (https://www.socanmagazine.ca/features/randy-bachman/) a long time ago, and later I ended up playing with I... at Randy's house in White Rock. He's always been a huge supporter of my music and often plays me on his CBC Radio show. When Rob and I decide out at me. We didn't want to do that cover the way Randy did it because to me it's a fantastic, massive hit. I tried to put my own spin on it."

When Strongman sent an MP3 demo of the classic-rock anthem to Bachman, asking for his opinion (and his blessing), the Canadian Music Hall of Fam

While musicians like Bachman, James, and The Stones discovered the blues early – listening to, and learning licks from, the likes of Elmore James, J... Strongman's attraction came via a more circuitous route.

"I arrived at the blues via classic-rock bands, because that was what I was into," he explains. "I was a huge Led Zeppelin fan, like many people my age... Pop the Gator [that hosted the likes of Bobby "Blue" Bland, Albert Collins and Mel Brown] right there, you also got to see these amazing, world-class bl

Steve Strongman: There's Something Going On / Lie To You



"I always think of myself as a guitar player first," he adds. "Everything I people have an idea when they say the word. This record is just a cont

When it comes to crafting songs, does Strongman experience chills, lik

"That's exactly the way it works," he says. "I know when I hear somethi and then the next day you get up and in 10 minutes you have two vers

Gear Talk with Strongman

electric guitar timeline



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