

Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest Posters and Write-Ups

Over the years, the Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest has compiled an impressive array of commemorative posters. Some fans have made their collections complete by purchasing their posters at the ‘fest each year. For those who have not been able to do so, we have now made these posters available on-site. Have a look and begin your own collection, or add to the posters you may already have.

Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest Goes Hollywood was the theme for 2010, and rightly so—there was enough star-power to fill a fleet of Cadillacs. From Iron Maiden to Santana, the spectrum shone with the likes of the B52s, Joan Jett, The Flaming Lips, Rush, Arcade Fire, Great Big Sea, Keith Urban, Weezer, and more than 250 other acts included for good measure!



“SUMMER VACATION”

In 2009, Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest organizers were proud to unveil their commemorative poster. The design, thanks to the creative genius of Dave O’Malley and his team at Aerographics, is as dynamic and cutting edge as the ’09 line-up was. It’s a memorable image for what proved to be a memorable event!





“FUNKALICIOUS”

The musical flavours at the 2008 Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest included funk, and so much more! The ‘08 commemorative poster embraces the fun, the funk, and all the great times that the Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest has become known for.



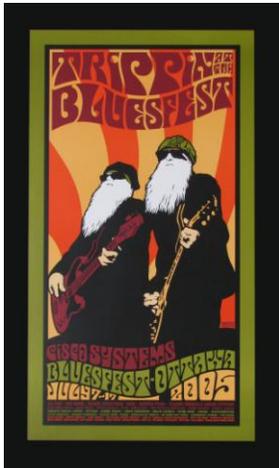
“ATTACK OF THE KILLER BLUESFEST”

It certainly was a *‘marvellous night for a moon dance’* on the evening that **Van Morrison** launched the **2007** edition of the Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest. ‘Van the Man’ has been on the ‘fest’s wish list for many years, so it made perfect sense to choose his image to commemorate a year that was, by all accounts, one of the best Ottawa Bluesfests ever.



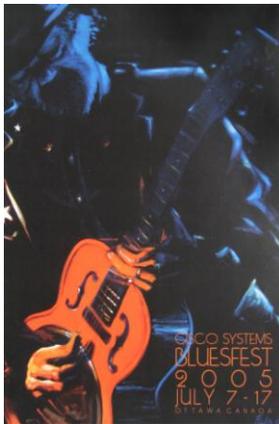
“FULL THROTTLE”

In 2006, Ottawa graphic designer, Dave O’Malley portrayed a likeness of Ottawa Blues hero, **Tony D**. This was one of our most popular renderings yet, and we’re still receiving a substantial number of requests for this image.



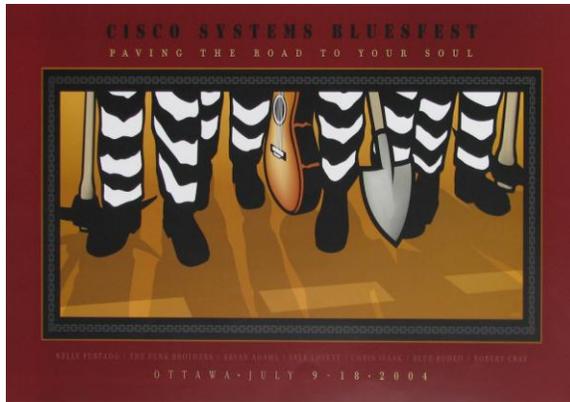
“TRIPPIN’ at BLUESFEST”

There were two posters to choose from in 2005. Bluesfest patrons will remember **ZZ Top**’s appearance at the festival, and considering it took Bluesfest a couple of years to land the power trio, it made perfect sense to depict their image on our ’05 poster.

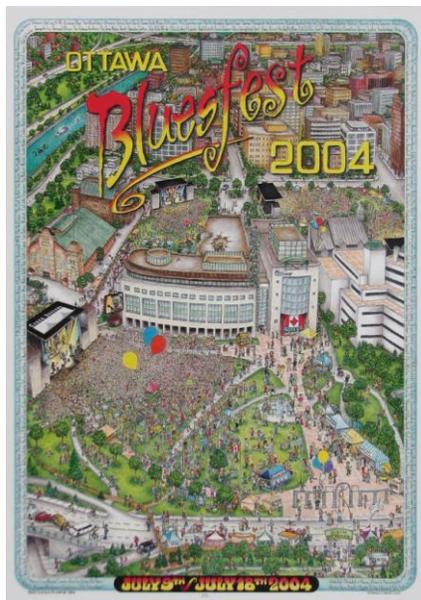


“But Bluesfest didn’t stop there in 2005!”

Organizers dedicated a second poster to Canada’s own **Colin Linden**, as a tribute to his incredible musical output and international influence.



“PAVING THE ROAD TO YOUR SOUL”
The **2004** commemorative poster is a true work of art. This horizontal presentation—depicting the legs of a chain gang manned with picks and a shovel, except for one member subtly wielding a guitar—has a unique flavour to it, truly capturing the rootsy aspect of the Ottawa Bluesfest.



Bluesfest also included a whimsical site map available for sale in ‘04. Bluesfest commissioned this hand-drawn work by Ottawa artist Andy Brown and was delighted by the result. Mr. Brown has been drawing Bluesfest’s site maps ever since.



“CARNIVAL OF THE BLUES”
In **2003**, a special poster was introduced for a special occasion – **Bluesfest’s 10th edition**. With a backdrop of flag waving high-top tents and a blues harp billowing with musical imagery, the poster received rave reviews. It truly sent a message festival organizers were striving to convey that year – namely, to expect the unexpected!

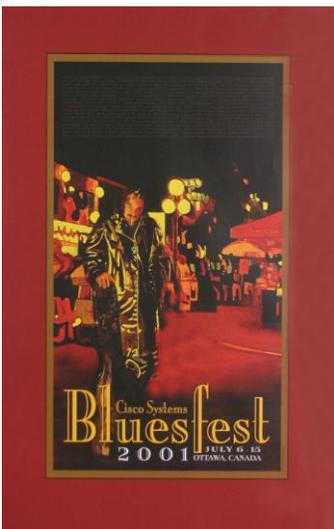


“BACK ON THE STREET”

Colin James has always been a crowd favourite at Bluesfest, and as an acknowledgement of Colin’s prolific career and huge fan base in Ottawa, Bluesfest chose his image for their **2002** commemorative poster.

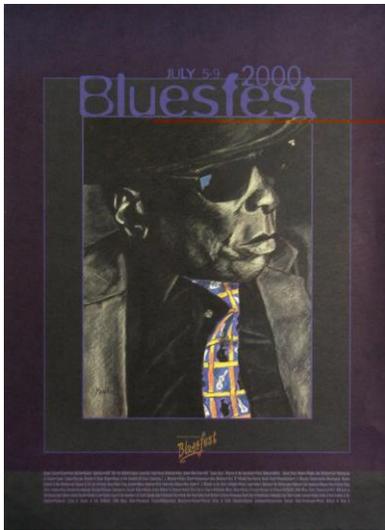


Bluesfest offered a second poster in 2002 to commemorate the festival’s multiple stage approach in general and that year’s Southern Stage in particular. The stylized image, depicting a blues harp player at the fictitious corner of Elgin and Bourbon Streets, extols the New Orleans influence on today’s music.



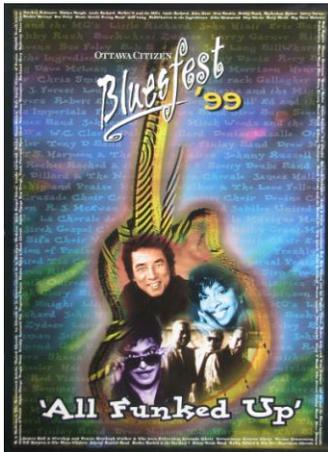
“INTO THE GROOVE”

His name is **Dutch Mason**, and he’s known as the Prime Minister of the Blues. If you’ve heard him perform live, you’ll never forget him. If you haven’t, the chances are you’ve heard his influences while listening to most Canadian blues artists. It is due to Dutch putting Canada on the map of the blues world that he was chosen as the subject for the **2001** poster.



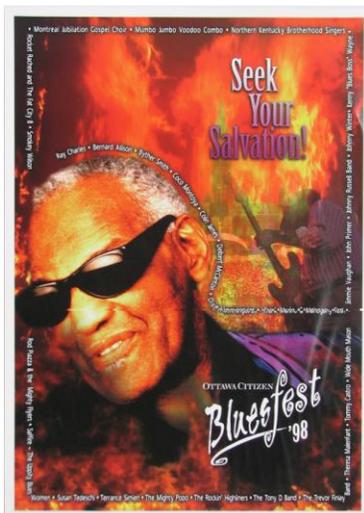
“LEGENDS”

This poster is a rare gem. **John Lee Hooker** was rightfully chosen as the theme for **2000**. Regrettably, Mr. Hooker was too ill to make the trip to Ottawa to perform that year – he passed away in June of 2001 at the age of 83. But rather than look elsewhere, Bluesfest organizers believed it would be fitting to pay tribute to John Lee Hooker’s immense musical contribution during the 20th century by launching the first Ottawa Bluesfest of the 21st century with a poster commemorating this great blues man.



“ALL FUNKED UP”

1999’s poster depicts the inimitable **Smokey Robinson**, the irascible **Little Richard**, and the ever-popular **Gladys Knight**, who was forced to bow out at the 11th hour due to a death in the family. Ottawa’s own **Tony D** filled in for Ms. Knight and wowed the crowd with a world class performance that fans are still talking about.



“SEEK YOUR SALVATION”

Who can forget the performance by **Ray Charles** in **1998**? If you missed it, believe us, it was one of the truly memorable moments in the history of the Ottawa Bluesfest. 1998 saw the beginning of the boost in attendance and the realization that “if Bluesfest booked them, the fans would come.” With a program that included Gospel, Blues, Roots, and so much more, Bluesfest fans had no trouble finding whatever it was fans were seeking.