

A HISTORY OF THE BLUES

Tuesdays, January 10 to March 14, 2017, 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon
Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 81 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke

Coordinator and Presenter: Dr. Rob Bowman, Grammy-Award Winning professor of Music at York University rbowman@yorku.ca

- January 10** **Precursors to the Blues**—Music from Sub-Saharan Africa, notion of African retentions, field hollers, work songs and blues ballads
- January 17** **The first appearance of what we know as blues in the 1890s**—The first important published blues composer W.C. Handy (often erroneously referred to as the “Father of the Blues”), the first blues recordings by white marching bands and vaudeville and Tin Pan Alley artists—the Victor Military Band (1914), the Peerless Quartet (1915), Nora Bayes (1916)
- January 24** **The first recordings of blues by African American artists in the 1920s**—The Classic Blues Tradition—Mamie Smith, Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith
- January 31** **Country Blues Recordings in the 1920s and 1930s**—solo male singers such as Charley Patton and Robert Johnson; jug bands (Memphis Jug Band) and string bands (Mississippi Sheiks)
- February 7** **The transition of the rural blues tradition into the city**—1930’s blues/piano duets (Leroy Carr & Scrapper Blackwell), the late 1930s/1940s early Chicago sound of artists such as Big Maceo Merriweather, Memphis Minnie, Big Bill Broonzy
- February 14** **Blues and the Folk Revival**—Josh White and Leadbelly; The Great Migration leading to post-war urban manifestations of the blues (the rise of independent record labels, the start of black appeal radio in 1948)
- February 21** **Post-war blues in the North: Chicago (Chess and Vee Jay Records)**—Muddy Waters, Howlin’ Wolf, Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson, Jimmy Reed
- February 28** **The crossover of post-war blues to white rock and roll in London, England in the 1960s (American Folk Blues Festivals touring Europe beginning 1961)**—Alexis Korner/Cyril Davies, The Rolling Stones, the Yardbirds, Cream, Led Zeppelin
- March 7** **The crossover of post-war blues to white rock and roll in North America**—the American rock scene—Butterfield Blues Band, Jimi Hendrix, the Allman Brothers, Stevie Ray Vaughan
- March 14** **Contemporary Blues as a part of Americana music, blues tourism, the creation of white blues societies and the abandonment of blues by the African American populace**—new artists such as Gary Clark Jr., Walter Trout, Sonny Landreth, Joe Bonamassa and Canadians such as Samantha Martin

Researcher/Committee Contact and Chair: Shirley Hartt