

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
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High Resolution photo: [Tom Lavin - Live!](#)

Description: Celebrate The Centre's fifth anniversary with a night of swing, soul, and guitar solos with *Tom Lavin & the Legendary Powder Blues*.

Photo Credit: N/A

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Canadian blues icon *Tom Lavin & the Legendary Powder Blues* launches The Centre's 2015-16 season with a high energy first show.

CHILLIWACK, BC— Tom Lavin has been 'Boppin' with the Blues' for almost four decades, and you can be sure that his guitar will be ringing when he and *The Legendary Powder Blues* hit Chilliwack in celebration of The Centre's fifth anniversary on **October 3, 2015**. A true icon of the Vancouver music scene, the Juno award-winning *Powder Blues* have been Canada's leading blues band since the release of their debut album '*Uncut*' in 1979, bringing listeners a love of the blues with hits such as 'What have I Been Drinkin'?', and 'Doin' it Right'. Marking their own 37th anniversary this year, *Tom Lavin & the Legendary Powder Blues*' performance in the HUB International Theatre will be a uniquely unforgettable event, featuring some of British Columbia's most longstanding talent in celebration of one of the province's newest premier destinations for experiencing arts and entertainment.

With its pure emotion, uplifting sound, and instantly danceable groove, there is perhaps no other style as timeless, appealing, and powerful as the blues - an observation that Tom and his years of experience on the road can confirm! “One of the great things about the blues is that it is the foundation for all North American music including rock and roll, rockabilly, swing, bop, jazz, stride and even ragtime” says Tom. “An element of playing in Powder Blues that I’ve always loved is that the age demographic of our audience has always been so wide - from 5 to 95, no kidding! I still enjoy having have teens and people in their early-twenties come up to me and say “I never knew I liked the blues till I heard you guys.” I think because this style of music is a classic art form there will always be a fan base - there are more blues festivals in the world today than at any other time in history.”

The huge appeal and enduring presence of the ***Powder Blues*** has meant that Tom has seen the story of the blues in Canada play out from the very beginning - from when he first arrived in Vancouver from Chicago in the late 60s, to forming the band that helped put Canada on the map for that unmistakable style. “I first heard blues growing up in Chicago on Maxwell Street and later in ‘folk’ concerts around town,” Tom reflects. “In ’65 I saw Buddy Guy and Junior Wells which blew me away and got me started playing the blues. When I arrived in Vancouver in ’69 there were a lot of bands around, but few played the way I was used to, but by ’78 we had ***Powder Blues*** going and several other bands locally were doing that kind of music. I first met and played with Dutch Mason in Calgary around 1980 and really enjoyed his singing and playing and remember hearing Brent Parkin & Hound Dog in Winnipeg, David Wilcox in Toronto and Steven Barry in Montreal doing blues too.” And as he continues reflecting on his time on the road, it looks like Tom’s love-affair with Canada’s blues circuit is just as timeless as the ring of his guitar! “The majority of our touring over the last 37 years on the road has been in Canada” he goes on, “and we’ve played from Victoria to St. John’s Newfoundland and nearly every place in between. Canadian audiences have always stuck by us and for that we are truly grateful, so every night on stage we do our best to give back what we’ve received. When we land back in Vancouver from anywhere else it’s always heartwarming to smell the ocean and know you’re home.”

It is in this live setting that the inspirational, stirring, and infectious essence of Tom Lavin and the Legendary Powder Blues' sound comes to life, as Tom describes "the best moment is always when the band unites in a magic way - there are so many factors involved to make things just light up! The sound has to be just right; the groove has to be hypnotic; the telepathic connection between the players comes together. When this happens the music achieves another order of magnitude; it becomes an 'entity' and can seemingly march around a room on its own. At times like this I have felt that rather than me playing my music, that music was being played through me!" And with their performance celebrating the anniversary of Chilliwack Cultural Centre being just around the corner, the opportunity to experience this incredible rush for yourself with this extra special show is one you do not want to miss! "We always try to play some of our best-known songs so nobody goes away disappointed" concludes Tom. "Playing live allows us the additional freedom of improvising which can be exciting for both the band and the audience. We will likely play some extended jams that allow the band members to experiment and shine individually. The bottom line is that we never wanted to be a band folks could dance to; we wanted to be a band that it was hard NOT to dance to. I expect musical fun and energy every time we play a show and I'm sure the Chilliwack show will be no exception."

So for a fantastic show celebrating the blues and The Chilliwack Cultural Centre's fifth anniversary all at the same time, make sure to come on down for a night of swing, soul, and guitar solos with ***Tom Lavin & the Legendary Powder Blues!*** Tickets are now available now both online and from The Centre Box Office, so either visit www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca or call 604-391-SHOW(7469) to secure your tickets today!

Tom Lavin & the Legendary Powder Blues is generously sponsored by: Platinum Sponsor: O'Connor Auto Group. Silver Sponsor: Bathe Plumbing. Bronze Sponsors: Bozzini's Restaurant, Myriad Information Technology Solutions, John Martin MLA, Fortins, Bob Plowright, Minter Country Gardens. Media Sponsors: The Chilliwack

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the Chilliwack Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 270,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding 3,6400,00. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City, and boasts The Chilliwack Academy of Music, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, The Chilliwack Players Guild, The Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra, and the Chilliwack School of Performing Arts as partners.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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City of Chilliwack

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Chilliwack Visual Artists Association

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian charitable organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (charity number 805742897 RR0001)

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