

Capital B (the Blues Machine) – a Biography

When asked how he chose his art form? Brian (McPhillips) responded, that he didn't choose music... music chose him.

Capital B, or as he playfully refers to himself, "The Artist formerly known as Brian", performed at out-of-town and local venues from the age of 17 'til he was 25. He has played clubs and bars as far away as Hamilton, Burlington, Oakville, Peterborough, and Montreal. Locally he played many of the prime venues of the day including the Ottawa House and the Chaudiere Club (Downstairs at the Green Door) as well as many other clubs. He twice performed at the National Arts Centre, once in the Opera, and for a weeklong booking in the Theatre, in August of '73. At the age of 25 he quit music entirely, selling all his guitars, and music gear. Instead, he pursued a career as a television cameraman working as a freelancer for several local broadcasters including, CBOT, CJOH, Global Television, CBC, CTV, and the Parliamentary News Services. These years also held many struggles for this talented Singer/Songwriter.

In 1995, after a 20 year absence from the music scene here in Ottawa, he bought a Fender Stratocaster and began to re-learn his instrument in the Blues style. Brian began writing his own original tunes, wrought from many years of life experience. Now, after years of "being on the outside looking in," Capital B has found that the key to his rediscovery of music and lyrics is inside himself, and is drawn from his journey through life.

Capital B's singular brand of, "drenched-in-sweat-and-emotion Rock and Blues", his instinctive song-writing talents, passionate guitar-playing, intuitive instrumentation, and arrangements of classic styles and tones, create a unique sound. It's a signature sound that's further defined by his powerful lyrics, loaded with real-life experience, delivered in an incredibly strong and expressive baritone voice (and with part of a tenor's range, too), with intense sincerity and emotion. And now, here he is, Capital B, "the Blues Machine".

Whether the groove is bluesy, up-tempo, rockin' or laid-back, "Smooth grooves" and "Strong lyrics" are the most frequently used comments by audiences when they're describing Capital B's music.

"The way this CD [Completely Blue for You] was recorded was 4 or 5 hours per month over the course of 21 Months. That's not because I like to work that way and it's not because the songs weren't written or ready. (I've got another dozen or more tunes still waiting to be recorded.) The reason it took 4 or 5 hours per month for twenty-one months is because I never had more than \$250.00 each month to pay for the studio time...

"Now that's 'The Blues'." - **Capital B.**

25-Sep-04