

DURHAM COUNTY POETS



Photo : Nasuna Ulin-Stewart

Durham County Poets are a “BAND” in the truest sense of the word! Each member writes and arranges, and brings something unique to the table. You’ll hear a variety of genres and a broad range of styles. Be it Blues, Soul, Folk, R&B or Gospel, it all weaves seamlessly together to create a truly authentic contemporary Canadiana sound. Their fourth album, *Hand Me Down Blues*, would remain on Roots Music Report’s top 50 charts in Canada for more than 12 months. And they were nominated for a JUNO AWARD for (Best Blues album of the year 2020) so now what? (A new album! *OUT OF THE WOODS* is coming out May 20th.) The band is back in the groove, seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. You’ll hear original, uplifting compositions from the Blues, R&B, Soul, and Gospel genres. Every song tells a story and touches the heart!

As Nate Dow from the Fallout Shelter in Massachusetts said “*Lead singer Kevin Harvey and his band are sonic shape shifters of the first order. Whether it’s blues, folk, soul, country, gospel or New Orleans swing, they purvey it with skill, aplomb and pure honesty.*”

The obvious joie-de-vivre they express in performance is reflected in the good time feel the band creates, captivating audiences consistently since their inception in 2011.

RECENT NOMINATIONS:

2020 Juno Awards : Blues Album of the year

2020 Maple Blues Awards : Recording/Producer of the Year (Bill Garrett) &
Songwriter of the year (Kevin Harvey)

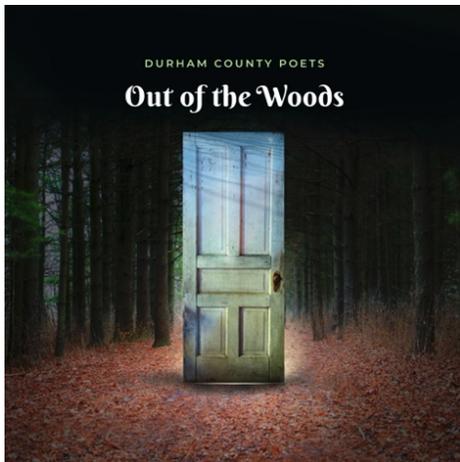
2020 Canadian Folk Music Awards : Traditional Singer of the Year (Kevin Harvey).

2019 Maple Blues Awards : New group of the Year

CONTACT

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Out of the Woods

Released in 2022, *Out of the Woods* comprises original compositions and an arranged cover of *Not Dark Yet* by Bob Dylan. The band's fifth album, *Out of the Woods*, produced by Bill Garrett; *"the smooth, funky, and smile-worthy title track is the lead single that introduces the new collection in both style and substance."* (RM Biz Mumbai)

Kevin Harvey went to his first blues concert in 1981; he had tickets to see Muddy Waters at the Spectrum in Montreal. When they arrived at the venue, Muddy's signature riff was ringing in the air and spilling into the lobby, so they rushed the stage. The 19-year-old Harvey was completely awestruck by this master!

Fastforward to 2012: Harvey—along with David Whyte, Neil Elsmore, Carl Rufh, and Rob Couture—has **Durham County Poets** and in time five releases, including *Hand me Down Blues* (2019) *Grimshaw Road* (2017), *Chikkaboodah Stew* (2014) and *Where the River Flows* (2012) to show for it.

"I didn't know, while at that Muddy Waters concert, that I would have a life-altering spinal cord injury three months later. That experience—and seeing Muddy—made blues come alive to me." -Kevin Harvey

WATCH

[DURHAM COUNTY POETS - "BACK AT THE GROOVE SHACK" \[OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO\]](#)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Deep Roots Festival (Wolfville, Nova-Scotia)
Folk Fest sur le Canal (Montreal, Quebec)
Ottawa Blues Festival (Ottawa, Ontario)
Folk Alliance International closing concert & Penny Lang tribute (Montreal, QC)
Upstairs Jazz Bar and Grill (Montreal, Quebec)
Daryl's House Club (Pawling, New York)
The George Washington Masonic National Memorial (Alexandria, Virginia)
Black Sheep Inn (Wakefield, Québec)
Royal Theatre Thousand Islands (Gananoque, Ontario)
Rochester International Jazz Festival (Rochester, New York)
Wintergrass Festival (Seattle, Washington)
Southside Shuffle (Mississauga, Ontario)
Northeast Regional Folk Alliance (Kerhonkson, New York)

PRESS REVIEWS

"the finest band to come out of [the Chateaugay Valley] scene is the Durham County Poets . . . their brand-new release, Grimshaw Road, is their best yet . . . they've really gelled as a band and their song writing—each of them contributes or collaborates—is stronger than ever . . . lead singer Kevin Harvey (is) a naturally laid-back vocalist who nails the essence of whatever song he's singing, bringing it to life in a way that serves the music and, particularly, the lyrics." -**Folk Roots/Folk Branches with Mike Regenstreif, June 2017**

"inventive in their taking musical roots and reshaping them . . . Soulful folk who make the listener pay attention. In my view, they deserve a wider audience." -**Spike Barkin, co-founder, Roots of American Music Festival**

"If there is a theme to this album, it is Hope. Each cut is an uplifting sonic experience, which is so badly needed as we emerge from the shadow of the pandemic. It is also a necessary shot in the arm, medicinal music that helps prevent post-pandemic blues." -**Toronto Blues Society**

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