



**A Friends of The  
Duck Exclusive**  
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**5 Minutes  
With...**

**Krista Blondin**

Appearing at The Duck on Saturday,  
November 14, 2009 Blues Matinee



*Friends of the Duck: How you been keepin' Krista?*

Krista Blondin: I'm very well, thank you. And I'm five months pregnant. This will be my first baby.

*FoD: Congratulations. You must be excited.*

KB: I'm very excited. This is a great time for me and I'm looking forward to becoming a mom and the changes in my life that it will bring with it.

*FoD: What was your summer like?*

KB: Being pregnant made it a different experience. It was good. I was quite busy and continued to do as many shows as I normally would. I averaged about two a week but I did as many as four. I did the usual festivals including the Southside Shuffle, the Kingsway Music Festival, the Q107 Summer Bash and I was down your way to do the Canal Bank Shuffle in October, which I always enjoy.

*FoD: Any word on an upcoming CD from you?*

KB: I've been writing a lot in the last couple of years. My hope is to get as much of the material recorded as possible in the next few months before the baby arrives. The goal is to have a full CD out by this time next year. Worst case scenario is to at least get some singles out. I'm also working on a CD of original songs with Maxine Young, which is a little further along and may be released by next summer.

*FoD: You're such a diverse performer. What kind of musical style can we expect on the CD?*

KB: It will be a mix of styles but I wouldn't say that it's going to be from rock to jazz and that kind of stretch. Although live I do covers of songs from different genres, and people know me mostly as a rock/blues singer, my personal writing style is a bit more on the mellow side, kind of rocky/folksy. I really hate to peg myself into a pigeonhole.

Ultimately the music will be what it is and I think it will be a work in progress and may turn out differently from what I envision right now.

*FoD: You do a lot of different styles of music. Any particular kind you like best?*

KB: I'm a rocker at heart. It's hard to say which my favourite is. One of my shows is a duo with Maxine Young, and what we do is very harmony driven. That's a bit different from what I usually do and it's a lot of fun. It's pretty magical. I, of course, like doing my Janis Joplin tribute show because I'm not just a singer anymore, but an actor playing the role of a singing legend. I get to dress up in retro clothes and thoroughly immerse myself in the Janis persona. I spent two months dialling all this in, watching archive footage and videos of Janis and training my voice to sound like her. When I hit the stage at a Janis tribute show I leave Krista Blondin in the dressing room. I completely go into character and become a singer that I've been a fan of since I was a young teenager. When I do jazz it's also more of a theatrical performance, because I'm doing torch songs and the like. Then there's the adrenaline of doing a rock show and the deep feelings you dredge out of yourself when you're doing the blues.

*FoD: Why don't you focus on just one genre?*

KB: I get bored too easily doing the same songs over and over again. As much as I like doing the Joplin show, if I had to do it every week I'd go nuts. I think I'm very fortunate that I'm able to feel totally comfortable in different genres of music and that my voice can accommodate them. I like dressing up in different clothes to suit the different styles I do. I get to play different roles and it keeps me motivated and it keeps me fresh. I like being Janis and I like being Krista Blondin the rock singer, blues singer, jazz singer.

*FoD: Of the different kinds of audiences you perform your various show for, which do you find the most passionate?*

KB: I would say the blues audiences, the hardcore blues fans who live for their blues fix. They really resonate with the music and as a performer you have a rapport with them you rarely get with other audiences. I'm not saying that a rock or jazz or country audience can't get passionate, but blues fans are like no other. It's always a thrill for me to sing the blues because it's passionate music and there's a lot of improvising, which the audience is a key component off. The more that flows from them, the more that flows from you. It's a very strong energy.

*FoD: Who are your blues influences?*

KB: Obviously there's Janis. I also like Etta James, Bonny Raitt and Aretha Franklin. But I don't really spend a lot of time listening to blues singers.

*FoD: Of all the blues artists you've shared the stage with, who is your favourite?*

KB: I'd have to say they're all my favourite. First of all because most of them I'm friends with and secondly because they all bring their own interpretation of the blues to the stage. Whereas they are actual blues musicians, I don't really consider myself a blues singer and I'm not really part of their crew. I'm a rock singer with a bluesy voice. I've only been doing my blues shows for a few years so I'm kind of new to that scene. If I have to name one blues person, I will say that I have a lot of respect and admiration for Chuck Jackson.

Not just as a blues singer and harp player, but as a person who lives for his music and willing to help newcomers to the scene like me. But I'm a little biased here, because we're both from Port Credit and Chuck, more than anyone else, has helped me a lot towards achieving my blues aspirations and opening doors for me.

*FoD: This will be your second gig at The Duck. How did you like your first one?*

KB: It was a great opportunity for those people in Niagara who had previously only seen me as Janis to come and see me as Krista, to see and hear another side of me. I was pleasantly surprised there was a very enthusiastic full house. I'd been told The Duck has a great blues audience. I loved it. The owner was just like the nicest guy and very accommodating. The staff was so friendly and respectful. Everybody made me feel truly welcome. I'm so excited to be coming back.

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