

DURHAM COUNTY POETS



Durham County Poets are a soulful, genre-blending band hailing from Ormstown, Québec. Formed in a small café, their music has since carried them across Canada and the United States, captivating audiences with a sound that fuses blues, soul, folk, R&B, and gospel into a uniquely authentic Canadiana voice.

Fronted by the warm, expressive vocals of Kevin Harvey, the band's core includes Carl Ruffh (bass), Rob Couture (drums), and Rob MacDonald (guitar), alongside Mark Leclerc (tenor saxophone and arranger). They are often joined by guest players such as saxophonist Kaven Jalbert, whose energy adds yet another dimension to their dynamic live performances.

The Poets' reputation has grown steadily with each release. Their album *Hand Me Down Blues* (2019) spent over a year on the *Roots Music Report's* Canadian Top 50 and was nominated for a JUNO Award (2020 Blues Album of the Year). Their latest record, *Out of the Woods* (2022), produced by Bill Garrett, received widespread acclaim, landing on multiple Top 40, Top 20, and Top 10 "Best Album of the Year" lists.

With heartfelt songwriting, exceptional musicianship, and an unwavering spirit, Durham County Poets have become a force to be reckoned with on the Canadian roots and blues scene—a band that continues to evolve while staying true to their communal, storytelling roots.



CRITICS AND AUDIENCES ALIKE PRAISE THEIR VERSATILITY:

"Sonic shape-shifters of the first order... purveying blues, folk, soul, country, gospel, or New Orleans swing with skill, aplomb and honesty." – Nate Dow, *Fallout Shelter (MA)*

"There's something about the Durham County Poets that leaves you feeling everything might be OK in the world after all." – Bill Hurley, *Extended Play Sessions*

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AWARDS

2022 Maple Blues Awards: **Male vocalist of the year (Kevin Harvey)**

2021 Maple Blues Awards: **Recording/producer of the year (Bill Garrett)** -Hand me down Blues

2021 Maple Blues Awards: **Songwriter of the year (Kevin Harvey)**

2020 JUNO Awards: **Blues album of the year-Hand me down Blues**

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)**