

Interview with one-man band Broke Fuse and his TD Toronto Jazz Festival showcase

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The [TD Toronto Jazz Festival](#) is ready to celebrate its 30th anniversary. What first started as a three “official” venues event, is now one of the finest jazz festivals in North America. The festival draws over 500,000 attendees each year, and adds to richness of Toronto’s arts scene.



Broke Fuse media (used with permission)

Once again this year, the TD Jazz Festival will bring some of the best know jazz artists to the main stages. [Joe Jackson](#), [Chick Corea](#), [Gregory Porter](#), Jane Bunnett and Molly Johnson are all among the highlighted names. In May it was announced Actor-musician, hometown favourite [Kiefer Sutherland](#) will play the Horseshoe Tavern. Other names to watch for include [Grace Potter](#), [The Hot Sardines](#), and Julian Fauth.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/interview-with-one-man-band-broke-fuse-and-his-td-toronto-jazz-festival-showcase>

Audiences will have a chance to hear more than 400 performances and over 2,000 musicians (expect emerging stars) at close to 50 venues. In addition to ticketed shows, the festival also has many free admission events both indoor and outdoor. The TD Jazz Festival runs from June 24-July 3. A full list of events is available [online](#).

Toronto [one-man band Broke Fuse](#) may be familiar to many TTC transit riders for his song "Subway Blues" which aired on [Global television](#) (February 2015). He may also be familiar to many as Jay Moonah from the bands Uncle Seth, the McFlies or the Scarborough Uke Jam. Moonah has been playing as Broke Fuse since the summer of 2014 with suitcase kick-drum, harmonica, a mini-washboard, and guitar all in hand. He claims to play kazoo as well.

Broke fuse is set to play 876 Studio (876 Dundas West) on Saturday June 25 at 11:45PM as part of the TD Toronto Jazz Festival. Ahead of his showcase, Broke Fuse scheduled an online interview with [Examiner.com](#).

Ryan Ayukawa: Of all the bands and other music projects you've been involved with, what made you decide to go with Broke Fuse and the instruments involved?

Broke Fuse: About 2 years ago I had a little songwriting spurt where I came up with a few blues songs. I've done a lot of 'blues-y' stuff over the years, but I wanted to do something a little more focused on the blues where I could feature these songs and where I could play more harmonica, which I really love doing. At first I was thinking about putting together a full band, and "Broke Fuse" was just a name I came up with. I got interested in the idea of a one-man band thing after hearing some different people online doing similar stuff and thinking "that might be fun." And here we are!

RA: Have you been preparing for the show differently than a non-festival gig?

BF: Well a little, because there are two parts. I'm playing a short set early in the evening as an opener upstairs at [Mây](#) for Ted Peters & Gumbo Ya Ya -- Ted is good friend, he's the one who got me involved with the Jazz Festival. After they are done, we'll move downstairs to 876 Studio, which Ted and a partner actually run. That will be a longer, more intimate set, and will probably involve Ted and some others sitting it. I think both parts are going to be a lot of fun.

RA: Two questions answered with "fun" at the end. Would you say "fun" is primarily factor or outcome of the shows you've been involved in?

BF: Oh yeah, for me it's gotta be about fun first. Actually one of the tunes I wrote in that initial bunch is called "I Don't Give A Damn About the Money (If I Ain't Having Fun)"! That isn't to say it's not important for musicians to get paid for what they do, but it's got be about loving what you are doing first and foremost, at least for me.

RA: The Jazz Festival has a lot of free attendance and open to all ages events. Will you be planning to take "the family" out to see any concerts?

BF: Yeah, I hope to do that. I'll be honest, I haven't really looked much at the schedule of free events and such, but we will definitely check it out. My daughter is 8 now, she loves music and we do take her to outdoor concerts, festivals, etc. whenever we can. Unfortunately since my main set this time starts around midnight, she won't be able to see daddy at Jazz Fest this year anyway.

RA: Will you be setting your sights on any other future [music festivals](#)?

BF: Yes, definitely. Ontario has so many great blues and folks festivals, particularly in the summer. To be honest I've only done a bit of work so far in terms of applying for festivals and things, but my plan is to do a lot more of it looking ahead to the 2017 season. I think being able to put Toronto Jazz Festival on my resume will definitely help, which is another reason I'm so happy to be able to do it.

RA: Not everyone who has listened to or will listen to Broke Fuse may know about your knowledge of beer. How did that begin and what beer can folks buy you if they see you at the festival (or anywhere)?

BF: (laughing), yeah and I do have a song called "Beer Drinker's Blues" which is kind of a tongue-and-cheek one about going into a bar with bad beer. (I always make it clear when I play it's about ANOTHER venue, not where I'm playing!) I've been interested in craft beer and different beer styles for more than 10 years. It probably got started by going to places like C'est What and the old Denison's pub. I've since done a few beer appreciation classes with folks like Roger Mittag, Toronto's "Professor of Beer". I'm not in the beer business, I'm just an enthusiastic fan.

As for the festival, well there are so many great venues who will have their own stuff. Personally my M.O. is to find out if there's anything on tap I haven't tried before that sounds interesting -- I'm always pestering wait staff and bartenders. At May they only have a couple of taps but they do rotate in some interesting things, I've had beers there from some great local brewers like Hogtown and Spearhead so we'll see what they've got. For me it's like music -- don't be afraid to check out different and new things, you'll never know where you'll discover a new favorite.

Broke Fuse
Saturday June 25 at 11:45PM
[876 Studio](#) (876 Dundas West)