



J.D. SLIM & THE KOOL CATS

BIO

Jean-Denis Bélanger, aka **J.D. Slim**, is one of the most versatile guitarists in Québec. Though he broke onto the scene with his former band, **Blue Rocket Special**, and in gigs alongside **Nanette Workman**, JD wowed critics with his eponymous double album released in 2012: one record sung in French and the second in English, backed by a stellar crew of fellow musicians. That album is considered a seminal work, containing 31 original songs (including four instrumentals) firmly ensconced in the traditions of blues, rock and pop. A major work.

In July 2015, J.D. released **J.D. Slim & The Kool Cats**, a stimulating project that flirts with the legendary Blue Note sound made famous in the '60s by the label of the same name. The original "cool jazz" instrumental material featuring **Michel St-Pierre** on guitar, **Daniel Labrosse** on double-bass, **J.F. Paradis** or **Bernard Deslauriers** on drums, is the repertoire for the tour dates: COOL BLUES, COOL JAZZ!

As a self-taught guitarist, J.D. listened to (among others) **B.B. King**, **John Lee Hooker** and **Eric Clapton** for the blues. **George Harrison**, **Lowell George**, **Ry Cooder** and **Johnny Winter** for slide guitar. Also (among others!) **Wes Montgomery**, **Joe Pass** and **Kenny Burrell** for jazz. Early on he was lucky to get acquainted with the golden rule: "Less is more".

Since 1984, **J.D. Slim** has performed many times in all the major jazz & blues festivals in Quebec. He is also a singer, songwriter, arranger and record producer. Artists he has work with include **Stephen Barry**, **Jim Zeller**, **Bob Walsh**, **Rick L. Blues**, **Pat Loiselle**, **Michael Jerome Browne**, **Nomad O Swing** and **Barbara Diab**.

Among recording projects with other artists as a record producer and studio musician, he's also working with the **Kool Cats** on the follow-up album to be released in 2017.

Noteworthy Accomplishments:

1984 Labatt Blue Blues contest winner (Montreal).

1985 Montreal Int. Jazz Fest.

1990 St-Étienne Blues Tour (Lyon, France).

1995-1996 Nanette Workman's Rock & Romance Tour (Quebec).

1998 Blues Guitar Summit at the Montreal Int. Jazz Fest.

1999 Album release: "Slide Guitar Man". Radio play: Commercial radio (CBC Radio, CHOM-FM, community radio (CKUT FM, CHAA FM, CIBL FM).

2002 Canadian Forces Station Alert Tour

2006 Festiblues International de Montréal.

2010 Educational DVD - Blues & Rock Guitar Rhythm Patterns and Solo Improvisation.

2010 Summer festivals guitar seminars.

2012 Album release: "J.D. Bélanger A.K.A. J.D. Slim". Radio play: Commercial radio (CBC Radio, CHOM-FM), community radio (CKUT FM, CHAA FM, CFIX FM)

2012 Lys Blues Awards winner (Quebec): Musical Performance, Album Of The Year nominee.

2012 Festiblues International de Montréal.

2015 Album release: "J.D. Slim & The Kool Cats". Radio play: Commercial radio (98,5 FM, CBC Radio, CHOM-FM), community radio (CKUT FM, CHAA FM, CFIX FM).

2015 Tremblant International Blues Festival.

Booking & info:

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Website: <http://www.jdslim.com/>

Samples on SoundCloud : <https://soundcloud.com/j-d-slim>

