

The beginnings of the Latvian Blues Band go back to year 1997, when three young latvians decided to form a blues band. They started out by listening to established blues masters, such as Elmore James, Robert Johnson, Howlin' Wolf and Little Walter. While working hard on their blues skills, the combo received its first local and international recognition by participating in several music festivals in Latvia and Lithuania.

Year 2000 appeared to be a start for the Latvian Blues Band as a blues formation. Johnny V, a well known Canadian blues player, came to Riga to record his CD "Blues Party" together with LBB. Johnny V also helped LBB to find their way to Canada, where they participated in several blues festivals (*Blues Fest International - Windsor and London, South Country Fair, Fort Macleod*) and played in different blues clubs, including *Silver Dollar Room* in Toronto.

Just before their trip to Canada, LBB went to Lithuania to participate in the International Blues Festival "Bliuzo Naktys" ("Blues Nights"). Since then they are an eagerly welcomed headliners every year.

The band was chosen to play the opening shows for Joe Cocker (Riga, 2002), Coco Montoya (Vilnius, 2003), and Victor Bailey Group (Riga, 2003). They have toured Croatia ("Century of Blues" Festival, Zagreb, 2004), Greece (Athens — "Euro Jazz 2004", Thessaloniki, Preveza), Poland (Suwalki, 2003, 2005), Lithuania (with Keith Dunn, 2005), and Spain (Madrid, 2006).

In 2005 they played at the "Chicago Blues Festival" and several Chicago blues clubs — "Buddy Guy's Legends", "Kingstone Mines", "B.L.U.E.S.", "Artist's Lounge", "Puffers" and others. Same year LBB received recognition from the Thropees France Blues, which nominated them in the best European Blues Band category.

In Latvia, LBB performs at the Bites Blues Club almost every weekend — here you can enjoy their own shows, as well as see them hitting the stage with highest rank blues artists from the U.S. So far the band has performed with more than 150 blues stars, including John Primer, Carlos Johnson, Bob Margolin, Carey Bell, Sugar Ray Norcia, Monster Mike Welch, Darell Nulisch, Duke Robillard, Bruce Katz, Bryan Lee, Al Coplay, Phill Guy, Rico McFarland, Zora Young, Tad Robinson, Nora Jean Bruso, Sonny Rhodes, Louisiana Red, Chico Banks, Bill Perry, Joanna Connor, James Solberg, Willie „Big Eyes” Smith, Debbie Davis, Lazy Lester, Jerry Portnoy,...and the the list is still growing!

In 2009 Latvian Blues Band released their first own studio album "Unreal" featuring 10 original songs written by the band during last 5 years. The entire album was produced by Duke Robillard. The year ended up with a powerful performance at the annual Baltic Blues Challenge competition in Eutin, Germany on October 30 and 31 where the Latvian Blues Band convincingly won in the category of blues groups and were promoted to take part in the International Blues Challenge 2010 finals in Memphis, U.S.A. January 2010.

In May, 2010 the band recorded and produced 14 original songs for their second studio CD, featuring guest artist Raphael Wressnig on Hammond B3.

**Latvian Blues Band:**

Jānis 'Bux' Bukovskis – guitar, vocals  
Rolands 'Rolx' Saulietis – drums, vocals  
Reinis Ozoliņš - bass  
Artis Locmelis – sax, organ, piano  
Nauris Strezs - trombone

**Related websites:**

[www.latvianbluesband.com](http://www.latvianbluesband.com)  
[www.myspace.com/latvianbluesband](http://www.myspace.com/latvianbluesband)  
[www.bluesclub.lv](http://www.bluesclub.lv)