

# ROB LUTES

**“Lutes is a fine roots/blues writer, one of those gems you find by chance as you're going through a town and he's going through a town and you just want a beer and he gives you the show of the year.”**

**- Bob Mersereau, CBC.ca**

A writer whose work has included ghostwriting for a former U.S. president, speechwriting for a former Canadian Prime Minister and writing books on subjects from DIY to sports to travel, Rob Lutes has always known his true calling and spiritual home was songwriting.

The fluently bilingual, New Brunswick-born, long-time Montreal resident is a former **Kerrville New Folk** and **ISC award winner**, and a **Maple Blues, Canadian Folk Music Awards** and **Lys Blues nominee**. In 2015, he was runner-up in the **Toronto Blues Society's Cobalt Prize**, a national award for Contemporary Blues Composition.

Since the release of his first album Gravity in 2000, Lutes has steadily built a collection of exquisite songs that inhabit the intersection of blues, folk, Americana, and the contemporary singer-songwriter genre. A masterful fingerstyle guitarist with a soulful voice, he is also known for the intensity of his live performances.

Lutes has released six full-length albums, including 2009's acclaimed Truth & Fiction, which earned him a **CFMA nomination for Songwriter of the Year** and 2013's The Bravest Birds which spent seven months in the **Roots Music Report top 10 and hit #1 on the EuroAmericana Chart**.

He performs solo, in duo with Quebec guitar legend Rob MacDonald, and in full-band format. In early of 2016, as part of the new Montreal group Sussex, he will release Parade Day, a love-letter to the jazz and blues of the 20s and 30s featuring some of Montreal's finest musicians.



## VIDEO

**Rob Lutes** Things We Didn't Choose: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ch1ikPIKMv8> (video release)  
If the Blues Don't Shake You: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jLrf3dvMCc> (solo)  
Ain't Nobody's Business: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klzt1EzJuAo> (duo)  
Throw Me from this Train: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGYoNTjOdhU> (band)

**Sussex** Album preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0oUVA2UcUE>

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[www.sussexmusic.ca](http://www.sussexmusic.ca)

# QUOTES

"For me, Rob Lutes was one of the highlights of the 2012 Mariposa Folk Festival. His unique style, superb musicianship and his rapport with the audience came through loud and clear. A thorough professional, Rob deserves wide recognition as one of Canada's best musical assets."

- **Mike Hill, AD, Mariposa Folk Festival**

"If anybody embodied the beauty and honesty of roots music, it's Rob Lutes. His set was a naked flame set to torch the place."

- **Maverick (UK)**

"A world-class songwriter."

- **Mike Regenstreif, Montreal Gazette**

"A great songwriter, a man with a great way with words and also a fantastic guitar picker!"

- **Michael Jerome Browne**

"a brilliantly understated gem distinguished by a warm and raspy voice, honest and eloquent lyrics, and evocative acoustic guitar work...among the best of the year's roots/blues crop."

- **Greg Quill, Toronto Star**

"Widely recognized as a gifted songwriter."

- **Lynn Saxberg, Ottawa Citizen**

"shines with excellent musicianship and finely crafted songs. An artist to watch."

- **Richard Middleton, Sing Out!**

"He will soon be counted amongst the ranks of the best in the industry, a rare talent that keeps getting better with each project"

- **Matt Large, Montreal Folk Fest co-founder**

"Great songs. I really like Rob's style."

- **Chris Smither**

"One of the most impressive new Americana artists of the decade."

- **Kees van Wee, Heaven Magazine**

"Lutes seems like a cross between the electric-acoustic duality of Fred Eaglesmith and the tenderness of Ron Sexsmith. Truly excellent."

- **Claude Cote, Voir Magazine, Montreal**

## Selected festivals, 2001-2015

Songs on Stage Festival, Mariposa Folk Festival, Montreal International Jazz Festival, Toronto International Blues Festival, Toronto City Roots Festival, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Kerrville Folk Festival, Stan Rogers Festival (Canso, NS), Ottawa Blues Festival, Sherblues Festival, Saint John Jazz and Blues Festival, WXPN Singer Songwriter Festival (Philadelphia), Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival (Fredericton, NB), Maximum Blues Festival, Chicoutimi Blues Festival, Festival D'Été (Quebec City), Sunshine Coast Music Festival, Festiblues International (Montreal), Tremblant International Blues Festival, Limestone City Blues Festival (Kingston), Saint John Folk Festival, Deep Roots Festival (Wolfville, NS), Lunenburg Folk Festival, Writers at Woody Point Festival, Riviere-du-Loup en Blues, Festival de Blue de Donnacona