

Danny Marks – Full Biography

Danny Marks is a Canadian musician, broadcaster, and songwriter with a career spanning over six decades, deeply rooted in the Toronto music scene. Born and raised in Toronto, Marks first gained prominence in the 1960s as a founding member of the rock band Edward Bear, signed to Capitol Records at age 18. The band opened for major acts like Led Zeppelin and Humble Pie, establishing Marks as a notable figure in Canada's rock and blues landscape. After Edward Bear, he transitioned into a journeyman session musician in the 1970s, playing with legends such as Bo Diddley, Ronnie Hawkins, Tiny Tim, Rita Coolidge, and The Drifters. His versatility as a guitarist and performer earned him a cult following in Toronto's club scene, where he became known for blending blues, rock, and pop with a humorous edge.

Marks is also a celebrated radio broadcaster, hosting BLUZ FM on Toronto's JAZZ FM91 for over 25 years. His show, a Saturday night staple, explores "all the colours of the blues" and includes a segment called "Beyond the Fringe" featuring global music. Discovered by CBC Radio in 1987 for the show Basic Black, Marks honed his broadcasting skills before landing his long-running gig at JAZZ FM91. He compares curating a radio show to performing live, weaving stories through song selections.

As a solo artist, Marks has released several albums, including *Lifeline* (2022) and singles like "Man on the Radio" and "I'm Ready." His music often carries a soulful, country-tinged blues vibe, reflecting his lifelong love for radio and the guitar. "Man on the Radio" is a nostalgic tribute to the medium's enduring influence, while "I'm Ready" is a soul ballad about seizing the moment, blending personal storytelling with universal themes.

Marks' creative drive stems from his early influences—seeing Louis Armstrong on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, learning Jimmy Reed from his brother, and encountering Lonnie Johnson busking in Toronto. He cites these moments as pivotal, alongside the impact of Elvis and The Beatles. His music-making process remains consistent, driven by his passion for the guitar and its ability to span genres. In 2006, he received the "Blues with a Feeling Award" for lifetime achievement in music and broadcasting, cementing his status as a torchbearer of Canadian blues and roots music.

Marks maintains an active presence on social media, with a dedicated following on his Danny Marks Musician Page on Facebook, and continues to perform and release music. His latest work, including the single "I'm Ready" (2025), showcases his ability to evolve while staying true to the soul of blues. For more details, you can visit his website at dannym.com or follow his updates on social media.