



# NEW TUNES, NEW TONES, OLD SOUL

WITH *DIFFERENT  
SHADES OF BLUE*,

**JOE BONAMASSA**  
MAY HAVE TRACKED HIS FIRST  
BLUES-ROCK MASTERPIECE



**SOMETHING INTERESTING HAPPENED TO JOE BONAMASSA** recently: He had to play a blues gig. Of course, on paper, that makes perfect sense, because the 37-year-old guitar hero is a blues artist, at least according to Billboard, where Bonamassa's releases consistently enter at Number 1 on the Blues Albums chart. But if the phrase "blues gig" makes you think of a low-rent dues-payin' four-set night in a basement bar, well, think again. It's been a long time since Bonamassa played one of those.



**BY JUDE GOLD**

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK GOULD