

Dan Collins

Dan has been playing Harp for 25 years now after first being inspired by the classic Chicago Blues musicians of the 1950s, with that unmistakable amplified harmonica tone they produced. He then went on to gain a greater appreciation of the Delta and Country Blues players of the early 1900s, and now combines all these influences into his distinctive and varied playing style today.

Along with his playing style Dan has spent many years developing the equipment setup he uses to get that distinctive amplified tone. Dan has always used Hohner Marine Band & Blues Harps, as he prefers the warm raw tone that their wooden combs help to produce. For amplification Dan uses a modified vintage Turner microphone fitted with a 'hot' vintage Shure element, renowned for their Chicago-esque tone. From then on he keeps it simple; straight through a custom Lone Wolf Harp Delay Pedal to get either that classic Slap-Back effect or a haunting Delay, then it's straight into his pride and joy, a Limited Edition Tweed Fender Blues Junior that he has had specifically modified for harmonica use. All together this packs one heck of a punch, allowing Dan a full range of playing tones, from clean & crisp to a real dirty & gritty edge. Saying that, Dan still practices totally unamplified for the large majority of the time as he firmly believes that real harp tone comes from the player and not the equipment.

Throughout his playing career Dan has performed with countless bands and artists encompassing a wide range of musical styles and genres, but Dan always finds himself coming back to his original love for the blues, in its purest and rawest form. This is why he was keen to get involved when he was approached by Jake who was looking to form the band. What Jake was looking to achieve with this band is exactly what Dan had been looking for in a band for many years, and with the added talents of Dave and the Duchess came an offer he couldn't refuse. This is an exciting band to be part of, Dan says, its real ensemble playing at its best and the band is definitely greater than the sum of its parts, and without a doubt producing my finest work to date both in the studio & out live with better and greater things still to come.