

Big Boy Little Band

**“Wolf” Crescenze
RELEASE**

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**BIG BOY LITTLE BAND FINALIST AT THE INT’L BLUES CHALLENGE
Matt Kelley Wins Albert King Award for Top Guitarist**

January 26, 2010. Washington, DC. The Big Boy Little Band made it to the finals of the 26th Annual International Blues Challenge sponsored by the Blues Foundation in the “Capital of the Blues,” Memphis, TN on January 21-23, 2010. After two nights of competition with over one-hundred bands from 39 states and 14 countries, they ultimately reached the top eleven in a blazing finale held Saturday night, January 23rd, in the historic Orpheum Theater on famous Beale Street. Billed as “The World’s Largest Gathering of Blues Bands,” these bands vied for the top honor, industry recognition and prizes including cash, appearances at major blues festivals and coveted spots on the “Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise.” The contest has helped launch the careers of nationally known blues artists such as Susan Tedeschi, Tommy Castro, Watermelon Slim, Zac Harmon and the late Sean Costello.

Big Boy’s young guitarist, 26 year-old Matt Kelley, won the coveted Albert King Guitar award for the top guitarist after a sizzling solo on the band's version of BB King's "How Blue Can You Get". "I was shocked." Kelley said afterwards. "I have never in my life seen so many good bands in one place. That I won the same Albert King Award that guys like Sean Carney won seems unreal."

"To be in the top eleven of blues bands from all over the world is something I never expected," says Big Boy Little. "With young, gifted musicians like Matt out there, it just shows that the blues is still alive and kicking."

The Big Boy Little Band represented the DC Blues Society as the winner of the Society’s annual competition to select the DC area’s top blues band. The DC Blues Challenge, held on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009, included eight bands from Washington, DC and as far away as Richmond and Hagerstown.

In order to raise funds for their Memphis trip, numerous fundraisers were held at local clubs such as Bangkok Blues and JVs Restaurant, both in Falls Church, VA and Old Bowie Town Grill, as well as DC’s Zoo Bar Café where a Harmonic(a) Convergence was held Jan. 10th with DC’s top harmonica players including The Nighthawks’ Mark Wenner, Allen Holmes, Doug Jay, Hugh Feeley, Ward Gaines and surprise guest, world renowned Frederic Yonnet, as well as Allison Radcliffe and Steve Jacobs.

Members of the Big Boy Little Band are front man “Big Boy” Bret Littlehales of Silver Spring, MD on harmonica and vocals, Matt Kelley of Baltimore, MD on guitar, “Wolf” Crescenze of Welcome, MD on bass and Robby Leebrick of Falls Church, VA on drums. With the philosophy, “It’s not rock, it’s not jazz, it’s blues and playing blues is what we do,” the Big Boy’s been playing the blues in the DC area since 1967, opening for such blues greats as B.B. King, Koko Taylor and Junior Wells. The band plays traditional blues – covering blues greats such as Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Little Walter, Jimmy Reed, as well as originals – in the DC-MD-VA area at a wide variety of venues including honkytonks, dance halls, restaurants and blues clubs.

As house band at the Zoo Bar Café in Washington, DC, the band hosts the long-running Thursday open blues jam and plays every first Saturday. Upcoming shows in Virginia include JVs Restaurant, Falls Church, VA where they play every second Monday (Mon., Feb. 8; Sat., Feb. 27), and in Maryland include Baltimore's Lexington Market Lunchtime Concert (Feb. 12) and Bare Bones Grill & Brewery, Ellicott City, MD, where they play every other month (Sat., March. 20).

As winner of the DC Blues Challenge, Big Boy Little performed at the College Park Blues Festival at U. of Maryland’s Ritchie Coliseum this past November, and will be performing at the 22nd Annual DC Blues Festival at the Carter Baron Amphitheatre (Sept. 4, 2010).

For the full schedule and music samples, visit www.myspace.com/bigboylittleband and www.wolfmusicweekly.com or contact “Wolf” Crescenze at wolfweekly.com or (301) 932-2734. For more information about the Int’l Blues Challenge, visit www.blues.org (Blues Foundation). For more information about Blues in the DC area, visit www.dcblues.org (DC Blues Society). For more information about this topic or to schedule an interview with Bret Littlehales or “Wolf” Crescenze, contact Wolf at (301) 932-2734 or email Wolf at wolfweekly@aol.com.

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