

Big Walter Smith & The Groove Merchants

The only blues band to perform at every Bayfront Blues Festival, **BIG WALTER SMITH & THE GROOVE MERCHANTS** return for their ninth year. A major player in the Twin Cities blues community for over 27 years, Big Walter delivers his soul flavored R & B vocals with a deep felt passion and love for the blues. Born in Oklahoma and raised in Kansas City, Big Walter's blues career was profoundly influenced in the early 1950's by the singing of Bobby Bland and B.B. King. The Groove Merchants are led by the exceptional guitar playing of Scotty Graves. Scotty plays classic Chicago blues with licks that lead all the way back to the Delta.



The Hi-Steppin' Horn Section with JoMo Tar-V on trumpet, Ruston Reynolds on saxophone, and Matt Franko on trombone serve up some tasty soul, R & B and blues. Keyboards are provided by Paul Wigen and the Prime Rib Rhythm Section keeps it all in the groove with Tom McShane on drums and Nick Pettis on bass. They are putting the finishing touches on a new album to be released later this fall coinciding with a *Living Blues Magazine* article on Big Walter due in the Nov/Dec issue. Finally getting the recognition and respect he deserves, **BIG WALTER SMITH AND THE GROOVE MERCHANTS** always delivers one of the best shows in the Upper Midwest.

Saturday • 12:20 pm
MICHELOB
GOLDEN