

Grady Champion is the 2010 International Blues Challenge winner from Northern Mississippi

The finals of The Blues Foundation's 26th Annual International Blues Challenge was held on January 23rd at The Orpheum Theater in Memphis, Tennessee. In front of an enthusiastic, packed house, Grady Champion and his band took top honors in the Blues Band category, beating out some 110 other bands from around the world.



This harmonica player is great and his show demonstrated just how adept he is at working the crowd and pleasing his audience with great tunes in order to win this most coveted blues event. He has been compared to Sonny Boy Williamson, and his Shanachie debut, "Payin' for My Sins," highlight Grady's high-energy singing and harmonica playing and bring a new life to the traditional blues. His revved-up, soulful vocalizing and the charm and insight he brings to his songwriting have brought high praise with reviews internationally.

Money raised for the Rockin' Jake Fundraiser at Bethany Blues... \$2200. We are targeting \$3500 for the July event with the inclusion of a silent bidding auction for a specially signed and framed lithograph of John Coltrane by world class artist Dane Tilghman on display at Bethany Blues and a Copy of the sheet music of the American idol theme signed by Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson, Ryan Seacrest, etc.. also framed and on display along with info about the September event.

The money raised for the Rockin' Jake fundraiser was used to pay for his clinic and concert performance at Rehoboth Elementary and at W.T. Chipman Middle School in the Lake Forest School District in Kent County. The workshop was taught to 250 band students at W.T. Chipman.

The money raised for the Grady Champion event will help support the Fall Into Music event at the Schwartz Center in Dover, DE on Sept 17 and to be able to fund a Kim Waters workshop at the H.O. Brittingham Elementary School in Milton and/or the Cab Calloway School of the Arts in Wilmington.

Kim Waters will headline the Fall event and is one of the top five selling instrumental jazz performers in the world. Final clinic arrangements are pending based on the money raised for these clinics/workshops over the summer.