

Bad Influence's Biography

WASHINGTON D.C.'S BAD INFLUENCE® BAND BREATHES NEW LIFE AND FRESH ENERGY INTO BLUES AND ROOTS MUSIC

Award winning four-piece group has developed a national reputation via five albums, superb ensemble sound

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Staying at the apex of the mid-Atlantic region's competitive blues and roots music scene for a career that spans three decades isn't easy. But that's what the Bad Influence Band has done — even while extending their reputation across the country thanks to wildly entertaining, high-energy performances, extensive airplay and four well-received albums.



Whether performing at a festival, on a stage at Kennedy Center, a showcase at the NAMM Show, or on Memphis' hallowed Beale Street, the four-piece group featuring guitarist Michael Tash, harmonica ace and singer Roger Edsall, bassist-vocalist Bob Mallardi and drummer Joe Wells are unabashed crowd pleasers thanks to their expert ensemble playing, strong melodies, addictive grooves, sly original songwriting and sheer intensity.

Even audiences unfamiliar with blues and the other styles of roots music that inform the group's wide repertoire are smitten with the Bad Influence Band's joyful performances.

"The most important thing is that everybody has fun — the audience and us," explains bandleader Tash. "Whether we're playing an original song or a classic, we're going to put our hearts and souls into it in a way that people can hear, see and practically touch."

The Bad Influence Band's audiences have continued to grow in recent years. Their 2011 album *Under the Influence* introduced the group to a host of new listeners when it made the top five on the "Picks To Click" chart on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio's two-million listener channel "B.B. King's Bluesville." And the same disc — stacked with originals and a few wisely chosen chestnuts that displayed the group's uncanny ability to make vintage tunes sound new — was a finalist in the Blues Foundation's 2012 International Blues Challenge competition for Best Self-Produced CD. *Under the Influence* was also nominated in the Best Blues Recording category for a 2012 WAMMIE (Washington Area Music Association) award.



The new recording, *Got What You Need*, celebrates the band's 30th anniversary with a collection of originals and classics that the band has been playing for years. The albums *Under the Influence* along with 2001's WAMMIE award winning *Tastes Like Chicken* and the 1998 homage to their musical roots *Where We Been* trace this popular outfit's evolution.

The Bad Influence Band's ignition came in the late 1980s, when Tash was taken under wing by legendary DC-area blues guitarist Steve Jacobs, who began schooling him in the genre's roots. In 1988, after some years in the rock 'n' roll trenches, Tash founded the Bad Influence Band and over the next decade their popularity around the Nation's Capital area steamrolled. By the time *Where We Been* was recorded, the group was a six-piece with a reputation for great live shows and a vast repertoire of classic and modern blues.

Various personnel changes and refinements in direction and sound led to the four-piece line-up of Tash, Edsall, Mallardi and Thaler, which cemented in 1993. It quickly became evident they had a strong group chemistry as songwriters, in addition to their formidable musicianship. All four together refine the sketches for tunes that individual members create. The results include rollicking rollercoaster rides like "Don't Forget Your Night Clothes," which pins its midnight romance charm to Edsall's backbone harmonica riff. *Tastes Like Chicken* also boasts the tongue-in-cheek parable for the lovesick "The Clown," which glides over a perfectly chiseled shuffle. Both songs feature Edsall's smooth red-clay singing, while "Man Child" kicks off *Under the Influence* with a lightning strike of pure chug 'n' roar blues, powered by Mallardi's whiskey and dust voice. The latter album's also home to Tash's tour-de-force guitar performance on the Albert King classic "As the Years Go Passing By." His playing is an incendiary blend of stinging vibrato, fat-toned single note melodies, dramatic power-strummed chords and graceful fills and asides that punctuate the song's soul-deep lyrics. Joe Wells joined the band in 2021 filling the drum throne vacated by David Thaler.

Of course, each band member has a distinguished reputation in his own right. Tash is one of the East Coast's most respected blues guitarists and songwriters, and has been inducted into the Northern Virginia Blues Hall of Fame. He endorses Epiphone guitars, GHS strings, Quilter Amps, Peavey Electronics, Gator Cases, Ethos Custom Leathers, Levy's Leathers, Shure Wireless systems, and has been nominated for a WAMMIE for Best Blues Instrumentalist.

Edsall shares a similar reputation as a harmonica player and has performed with Jimmy Thackery, Kenny Neal, Kim Wilson and other greats. He endorses Hohner Harmonicas, Gator Cases, and Peavey Electronics and has been nominated for a WAMMIE for Best Blues Vocalist.

Mallardi began his career as a bass prodigy under the spell of Stax Records, bringing his own original fusion of blues and R&B styles to the band. He endorses GHS strings, Gator Cases, and Quilter Amplifiers.

Joe Wells began playing drums over 35 years ago and has been an active figure in the Washington, DC music scene since 1997. After several years in the Atlanta indie rock scene, drum study in New York, and the Richmond Blues scene he landed the gig with surf guitarist Danny Morris, recording one album and touring extensively throughout the eastern U.S. and Caribbean for 5 years. He then took over the drum chair for guitar legend Tom Principato in 2002 recording 4 WAMA award winning albums and performing numerous tours of the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

The Bad Influence Band has appeared on hundreds of club and festival stages, including the House of Blues in Chicago, IL & Las Vegas, Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago, IL and the Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival. Their winning songs, musical dynamism and strong presence has led to opening slots on bills with a coterie of stars: Heart, Shemekia Copeland, Candy Kane, Roomful of Blues, Albert Cummings and Albert Castiglia, among others.

"We're looking forward to expanding our touring range and having even more fun playing and recording our music," says Tash. "We've made it our mission to take the blues wherever we can – across the U.S. and to the world — and to entertain audiences and educate fans about just how deep, real, varied and exciting this style of music can be."

What the critics are saying about *Got What You Need*:

"Got What You Need is simply good fun, delivered by a band that knows how to choose songs and to play them in ways that guarantee that no one turns off this album without having danced across the floor, held a lover close, or smiled knowingly about just how good the blues can make you feel" - **Henry L. Carrigan Jr.**, *Living Blues Magazine*.

"They deliver with each tune.. a joy to dance and listen to" - **Bill Wax**, *WPFW*

"Their blues will be very good with fans of bands like The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters and Omar & The Howlers. Bad Influence indeed delivers "what I need" with this album and that is great swinging blues !!!" - **Peter Marinus**, *Bluesmagazine.nl*

"This Mid-Atlantic blues band has what it takes to be a great band. They write great new songs. They play well individually and together" - **Steve Jones**, *Blues Blast Magazine*.

"Jr Tash has a blues-rock edge in his tone and attack, but his solos are smartly constructed, imaginative, and focused" - **Ron Weinstock**, *DC Blues Society Blues Messenger*.

"Had I been a "Male Man" like Roger Edsall, instead of being a mailman like I actually was, I may have never left the post office." - **Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro**, *Blewzzman's CD Reviews*.

THE BAD INFLUENCE OFFICIAL WEBSITE

www.badinfluenceband.com

Our Recordings

Got What You Need (2019)

Under The Influence (2011)

Tastes Like Chicken (2003)

Where We Been (1998)

BAD INFLUENCE YOUTUBE CHANNEL

www.youtube.com/badisblues

BAD INFLUENCE ON FACEBOOK

<http://www.facebook.com/badinfluenceband>

BAD INFLUENCE ON INSTAGRAM

[@Badisblues](https://www.instagram.com/badisblues)

BAD INFLUENCE ON TWITTER

[@badisblues](https://twitter.com/badisblues)

CD BABY ARTIST LINK FOR BAD INFLUENCE

<http://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/Badinfluence>

PAST FESTIVAL & SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

Buddy Guy's Legends, Chicago, IL

Hard Rock Cafe, Nashville, TN

House of Blues, Chicago, IL & Las Vegas, NV

Epiphone 140th Anniversary Party, Nashville, TN

Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, Bethesda, MD

IBC/Galaxy Agency Showcase, Memphis, TN

Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival, Annapolis, MD

Western MD Blues Festival, Hagerstown, MD

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC

Colonial Beach Blues Festival, Hagerstown, MD

Alonzo's Memorial Picnic, Baltimore, MD

Great Eastern Blues Festival, Massanutten, VA

Blue Bird Blues Festival, Largo, MD

National BBQ Competition, Washington, DC

The Taste of DC, Washington, DC

West Virginia Wine & Jazz Fest, Morgantown, WV

Celebrate Fairfax, Fairfax, VA

Wine in the Woods, Columbia, MD

The NAMM Show, Anaheim, CA and Nashville, TN

Royal Caribbean Enchantment of the Sea, FL

The Bad Influence Band Resume

Awards: & Accolades

2020 nominated for Washington Area Music Association award for Blues Recording – *Got What You Need*
Multiple years nominated for Washington Area Music Association awards- Best Blues Band, Blues Instrumentalist
#1 Blues Band on Reverbnation.com
2012 International Blues Challenge finalist for Best Blues Recording – *Under The Influence*
2012 nominated for Washington Area Music Association award for Blues Recording – *Under The Influence*
Winner of Washington Area Music Association award for Blues Recording – *Tastes Like Chicken*

Festivals/Concerts:

The Taste of DC
Blue Bird Blues Festival
West Virginia Wine & Arts Festival
National Capital BBQ Battle
Colonial Beach Blues Festival
Montgomery County Fair
Great Eastern Blues Festival

Western Maryland Blues Festival
West Virginia Wine & Jazz Festival
Wine in the Woods Festival
Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival
In The Streets – Frederick, MD
Celebrate Fairfax (VA) Fair
Bethesda Concert Series

Private Clients:

Gibson Guitar Company / The NAMM Show
The Four Seasons
The Willard Hotel
Landsdown Resort
Cornell Hotel Society
Panasonic Industrial Company
Phillip-Morris Company
Tred Avon Yacht Club
City of Gaithersburg, MD
BlueStar / Retail Service Providers Association

The John F. Kennedy Center
Old Post Office Pavillion
Rockville Mansion
Avenel Country Club
The Ritz Carlton Hotel
Fuji Film Corporation
Rand Corporation
Bethesda Urban Partnership
City of Herndon, VA
Royal Caribbean Cruise Line

Selected Clubs:

The Hamilton – Washington, DC
Bentz St Raw Bar - Frederick, MD
Bourbon Street Blues Bar – Nashville, TN
Wolf Den/Mohegan Sun - Uncasville, CT
Rum Boogie - Memphis, TN
Hard Rock Café, Nashville, TN
North River Pub – New York, NY
Ram's Head – Annapolis, MD
Stanhope House – Stanhope, NJ

BB King's – Memphis & Nashville, TN
Blues Alley - Washington, DC
13th Floor – Baltimore, MD
Twisted Tail – Philadelphia, PA
JM Randalls – Williamsburg, VA
The Soundry – Columbia, MD
Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club – Bethesda, MD
Spike & Charlie's - Baltimore, MD
Ramshead On Stage - Annapolis, MD

Other Artists We've Played With:

Buddy Guy
Heart
Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers
Eric Burden & The Animals
Corey Harris
Eddy Clearwater
Bonnie Raitt
Jr. Walker's All-Stars
John Mayall's Blues Breakers
Puddle of Mudd
Maria Muldar
Kenny Neal
Roomful of Blues
Albert Castiglia
Albert Cummings
Vanessa Collier
Coco Montoya

Shemekia Copeland
BB King
Candye Kane
Deanna Bogart
The Blind Boys of Alabama
The Nighthawks
Tinsley Ellis
Rick Estrin & the Night Cats
Charlie Musselwhite
Michael Burkes
Duke Robillard
Derek Trucks Band
Willie "Big Eyes" Smith
Papa Chubby
Eric Gales
Carolyn Wonderland
Gary Hoey