

# TALL CITY BLUES FEST

## JULY 26-29 2012

**Tommy Castro Band**  
**James 'Boogaloo' Bolden Blues Band**  
**Guy Forsyth • Albert Castiglia**  
**Ruben V • Levee Town • JT Coldfire**  
**Peterson Brothers Band • Chris Watson Band • My Buddy Todd**  
**Elly Winger • Aaron Burton • Taxi Dancer Band**  
**Adam/Stilwagen • Jennifer B & The Groove Kings • & more**

**Educational Clinics Featuring**  
**Woody Russell • Jose Ruiz**  
**Big Jim Adam • & others**

**Thursday Night Shrimp & Crawfish Boil w/music by**  
**Nathan & The Zyedco**  
**Cha Cha's**



## new releases

steers clear of the drum machine/electronic southern soul purgatory. A full complement of live horns (four players listed) and drums by Marshall cohort Antoine Stewart, who has played with names like Gregg A. Smith, ensure a vital, non-manufactured sound.

With this decidedly light and uplifting, almost gospel take on the often chicken-gristle genre of Southern soul, Vel Omarr plays to the vocal nuances, hitting all the right notes without becoming overbearing.

—MARK URICHECK

## ENRICO CRIVELLARO

### *Freewheelin'*

Electro-Fi - Electro-Fi 3427

Italian-born guitarist Enrico Crivellaro begins the liner notes to his *Freewheelin'* CD by citing the Allman Brothers as an essential influence "on the way he perceives and plays music." He tells of Duane and Gregg's boundless jams being a green light to freely interpret a piece of music of any genre. Crivellaro's music reveals that same limitless creative expression, as he excels at everything from Duke Robillard-inspired swing blues to hill country trance on this all instrumental album.

A protégé of Robillard and Kenny Burrell, and veteran of hipster swing outfit Royal Crown Revue, Crivellaro has an extensive resume. His stints as sideman include Janiva Magness' 1999 *My Bad Luck Soul* record and Texas soul shouter Finis Tasby's 2005 *What My Blues Are All About*, which Crivellaro co-produced. This journeyman past enables him to breeze through jazz-lite Gerry Beau-doin/Bucky Pizzarelli territory on *Super Cooker* and the hypnotic Junior Kimbrough string-snap of *Chulahoma*. Crivellaro's leads are a veritable library of sophisticated licks touching on Count Basie class, Earl Hooker laid-back twang, and everything in between.



*T-Soul* has a New Age vibe, rendered with California atmosphere not so distant from Larry Carlton. Elsewhere, *Hymn to King Solomon* screams with a chest-thumping cry to Heaven that salutes the late Solomon Burke in fitting raised-hand testifying. Every track is colored with unique guitar tones, Crivellaro seemingly experimenting with different guitar/amp combos and various degrees of pick attack.

*Freewheelin'* is a timeless guitar album that fans of everyone from Ronnie Earl to Albert King will enjoy."

—MARK URICHECK

## STUDEBAKER JOHN

### *Old School Rockin'*

Delmark - DE 818

Chicago native Studebaker John Grimaldi came of age during the heyday of the Maxwell Street blues scene. Inspired by watching such musicians as Hound Dog Taylor and Big John Wrencher perform, Grimaldi was equally influenced by the sounds of the new, blues-influenced rock music emanating from the radio. On *Old School Rockin'*, he turns back the clock to the era of '70s blues-rock; the result is an album with the feel of a rediscovered period session.

Grimaldi's fat, nasty slide riffs, Bob H-laj's nimble bass, and Albert "Joey" DiMarco's relentless drumming set the pace for the proceedings. *Fire Down Below* and *Tumblin' Down the Road* feature frenetic harp solos from Grimaldi, and he matches that intensity with his fretwork on *She Got It Right*. A touch of Santana slips into the sultry *Mesmerized*, and the gritty, urban *Dark Night* exudes a menace worthy of its title.

There is a drawback—many of the songs sound similar and tend to blend together over

