

Big Daddy brings blues here



Big Daddy Dupree and the Broke & Hungry Blues [Band](#) perform Saturday at the Midway Tavern in Mishawaka. The band is led by Paul Kornfeind III, center, holding the bass. (Photo provided / March 15, 2012)

JEFF HARRELL South Bend Tribune. 4:45 a.m. EDT, March 18, 2012

Big Daddy Dupree didn't need an excuse to play the [blues](#). Sweet home is Chicago. "Born and raised on the north side," Paul Kornfeind says. He now makes his home in [Leesburg](#) and as Big Daddy Dupree, is the bass player and leader of The Broke & Hungry Blues Band. "They took me out of Chicago, but they're not gonna take the Chicago out of me," he says. "That's why I'm bringing the blues here." Big Daddy and his eight-piece band promise to bring a lot of blues to Mishawaka's Midway Tavern on Saturday.

Along with Big Daddy and his "thundering bass," three guitarists, HD Campbell, Cody Richard and Donn May; a horn section featuring Bernie Wilson on slide trombone and Rob Johnson on trumpet; harmonica man Tom "Hollywood" Hoffarth and drummer Gregg "Thumper" Carpenter will make their first [trip](#) to Mishawaka's legendary blues stage. The Midway gig is a personal notch of affection added to The Broke & Hungry Blues Band's résumé -- a résumé that already includes appearances at blues festivals in Milford, Syracuse and Oswego Bay, and opening for such notables as [Lonnie Brooks](#), Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials, and New Orleans' Bryan Lee.

"We're so excited ..." Big Daddy says of playing at the Midway, "just for the honor of playing the venue." Not bad for a guy who got into the blues a few years ago. Of course, there was a girl involved. "I met a girl," Big Daddy says. "It always goes back to a girl." Not that kind of girl, mind you. This girl wasn't out to break Big Daddy's heart. "She was a [singer](#) and a bass player," he says. "We got to be friends."

But it wasn't until six years ago at the ripe old age of 40 before Kornfeind began playing for real with the intention of breathing life into the blues on stage. The bass guitar just seemed to fit the big man's persona. "I'm a big man, I got big hands, and I just like the sound," Big Daddy says. Besides, he insists, "There's a million and one guitar players out there." A couple of years ago, Kornfeind and guitarist pal Scott "[HD](#)" Campbell were talking when the conversation turned to how much the big man from Chicago loved playing the blues. Campbell mentioned that he had played in a blues band out in San Francisco before heading east to Indiana. One jam session later, the pair put an ad on [Craigslist](#) for local musicians interested in forming a band. Carpenter answered the call for a drummer. "That's how it started," Big Daddy says.

Now, The Broke & Hungry Blues Band is one big happy family operating with a website -- [bigdaddydupree.com](#) -- videos of live performances, a newly released six-song CD being pushed online on Reverb Nation, and all the fun eight guys in a blues band can handle. "Everybody gets along," Big Daddy says. "There are no super egos. These guys wanna have fun, they're not in it for the money. The wives all get along." Contrary to the band's down-and-out blues moniker, the guys aren't really broke. Kornfeind works a day gig as general manager/chief operating officer of Tippecanoe Lake Country Club in Leesburg. Not even hungry. But, as Big Daddy reasons, "You put fat and happy in there, and that doesn't sound like the blues."

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In concert

Big Daddy Dupree and the Broke & Hungry Blues Band perform at 9 p.m. Saturday at the Midway Tavern, 810 W. Fourth St., Mishawaka. Admission is TBD. For more information, call 574-255-0458 or visit the website [themidwaytavern.com](#).

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