



## WALE - REPRESENTING THE DMV

*By Alfredo Flores*

**D**C has been the launching point for some of music's finest artists, including jazz legend Duke Ellington, folk's Mary Chapin Carpenter, soul master Marvin Gaye, electronica duo Thievery Corporation, punk rockers Fugazi, R&B crooner John Legend, and The Godfather of Go-Go, Chuck Brown. But arguably a true hip hop star has yet to emerge.

All that may be changing this year with the debut major label album from Largo, Maryland-raised **Wale**. It's produced by Grammy-winning

and hit making machine Mark Ronson, and has been generating tons of buzz. "Entertainment Weekly" named Wale one of eight people to watch in 2008, and his aptly-titled single, "Breakout," was featured in Madden NFL '09, the video game that has served as a launching pad for many artists.

"In D.C., the dominant urban sound is Go-Go, so hip hop has to compete against Go-Go," said Wale (pronounced Wahl-ay). "Imagine if there was some other genre of urban music trying to come out of