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## Our Mission: Preserving Music by Preserving Musicians

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MUSIC MAKER PROGRAMS Musician Sustenance / Grants to meet basic life needs and emergency relief. Musical Development / Grants and services for recipient artist professional development and career

advancement. Cultural Access / Supports the preservation and proliferation of American musical traditions.

New Orleans Musician's Fund / Assistance to musicians affected by Hurricane Katrina.

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#### **NEWSLETTER CREDITS**

Design, Tom & Sue McGhee Editorial, Tim & Denise Duffy, Liz Rhine

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AS THE EXPECTED STRING/JUG BAND COUNTRY MUGIC. THEY EVEN RECORDED THEIR DEBUT CD DONA GOT A RAMBLIN' MIND, TWICE... FIRST ON THEIR OWN AND THEN ON THE MUGIC MAKER RELIEF FOUNDATION LABEL (WHICH AIDS SOUTHERN ROOTS MUGICIANS). THEIR YOUTHEN COTS MUGICIANS). THEIR YOUTHEN BOD SOUTHERN ROOTS MUGICIANS). THEIR YOUTHEUL ENERGY TO THIS THEIR TO TWIST OR DILLITE IT -ALL IN AN EFFORT TO RAN DET THEIR GEATS AND DANCING. SO OPEN YOUR EYES AND EARS AS WELL AS YOUR MIND (AND SHUT YOUR MOUTH UNLESS YOU'RE SINGING ALONG): 'CAUSE THE CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS ARE HERE TO STAY. THEY STANDARD BEARERS OF A PROUD TRADITION THAT NEARLY WITHERED AWA', DISAPPEARING BENERAT THE SANDS OF TIME... BUT DIDN'T, BECAUSE OF THEIR VIBRANT EFFORTS. Story and Art Gary



#### **EXPERIENCE 12 MUSIC MAKER RELIEF** FOUNDATION **MUSICIANS** THROUGH COMICS WRITTEN AND **DRAWN BY GARY DUMM &** HARVEY PEKAR.

Each month highlights the talents and personality of a different artist. Dumm's work has been exhibited internationally; he has worked with Pekar, author of American Splendor, since 1976.

# Music Maker Our Mission: Preserving Music by Preserving Musicians

#### Dear Friends,

Music Maker's mission is alive and kicking after 15 years and Guitar Gabriel is the artist that started it all. His bottomless creativity and unbounded joy in the face of poverty and illness inspired Music Maker's founders to reach beyond the constraints of conventional thought and find new ways to shine light on this forgotten legend of Southern music.

**Dixie Frog Records of France** is celebrating our 15th anniversary with the release of **Guitar Gabriel**, **the Beginning of the Music Maker Story**. This lavish package chronicles the breath and depth of the musical prowess of this Piedmont Blues genius with an 80 minute CD mined from the MM archives, most of which have never been released.

To tell the whole story, this package premieres, on a bonus DVD, the feature length documentary film **TOOT BLUES by Chris Johnstone** and **Anna Ferrarie**. This film, produced with a grant from **Paul Allen** and **Martin Scorcese**, presents the complete story of Music Maker Relief Foundation. The package also includes the wonderful short story by **John Creech**, entitled *"The Last Bluesman."* This dynamic tale describes in delightful detail the struggles and glory of our earliest days.

Great art inspires more great art! MMRF is proud to offer you the joy and wisdom of Music Maker artists every day with a beautiful 2010 calendar. Harvey Pekar, the creator of American Splendor comics, wrote the first two MMRF comics. He introduced us to artist Gary Dumm in 2003 who has since done all the artwork and bios on these jewels. Dumm's art has



Joe Burton, Drew Davis, Albert White, Willie Perryman II, Denise, Lilla, Tim & Lucas Duffy, Drew Pearson, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Tom Ciaburri. Hillsborough, NC 2009 ©D. Pearson

been exhibited nationally and internationally and he has worked since 1976 on Harvey Pekar's American Splendor comic.

The Guitar Gabriel release, the TOOT BLUES film and the calendar are all part of the MMRF gift program. This holiday season, your donation is vital; as musicians grapple with the difficulties of a depressed economy and the decline of the music industry, the need for Music Maker's programs is greater than ever. Poverty rates have been on the rise for more than 10 years and the financial crisis dramatically decreased the availability and pay of gigs. Sales of CDs are down more than 30%. We have been forced to withdraw merchandise from retail stores and can only make albums available on our website, at events and on iTunes. No one knows how people will consume music 10 years from now, but we do know that the blues will never die and that musicians will need MM's support and advocacy as new business models emerge.

#### Please support these artists by making a

charitable donation this year and by sharing your love of this music with friends and family through Music Maker's holiday gifts. You can donate by mail, phone or online 24/7 at musicmaker.org. We'll do all of the wrapping and shipping for you and include your personal message.

What started as a heartfelt effort to assist a handful of blues artists in Winston-Salem, NC has evolved into a revolutionary model of supporting artistic expression and cultural education. Your donations keep this mission alive.

Peace.

Jun + Denise Diff

Tim & Denise Duffy

# New Releases at www.musicmaker.org



Chicago Bob Nelson: Tell Me Mama >>> Chicago Bob Nelson is a new MMRF artist who played with Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker. All of Bob's past records have been electric Chicago blues; however, Tell Me Mama is an album that features

his down-home acoustic blues playing. This album represents Bob's favorite type of blues, the blues that is relaxing and easy to listen to.



Lee Gates: Touring with Lucy >>> Lee Gates, a true

electric-blues guitar master has issued his third release with Music Maker. *Touring with Lucy* is a good-time album that was chosen as the September **Givin' It Back Record Club pick**. This album highlights Lee's prolific and original music that is sure to put a smile on your face.

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins: The Spiritual Expressions of Beverly "Guitar" Watkins >>> The Spiritual Expressions of Beverly "Guitar" Watkins stems from her dedication and commitment to her



faith. Her live shows have always featured gospel music but this is Beverly's first gospel album. When she is not traveling, Beverly can be found at her church every Sunday, singing and playing the guitar. *The Spiritual Expressions...* mixes Beverly's trademark

guitar playing with traditional gospel songs to create an album that is reflective at times and feet stompin' at others.



Dom Flemons: American Songster >>> This is Dom Flemons', member of

the Carolina Chocolate **Drops**, second solo album with Music Maker. American Songster features a mix of songs, forged in Dom's own style, that have inspired him over the years. Dom presents a creative and unique perspective on original songs by artists including Joe Thompson, Leadbelly and Henry Thomas. His mastery of the banjo, harp, fife, bass drum, guills and even bones, is presented in this album that puts an exciting twist on American roots music.

www.musicmaker.org

# Toot Blues The Music Maker Story

# They said traditional blues was dead... Tim Duffy thought he'd double check!

"Some of the best

blues comes from

Maker for seeking

out the real blues

unlikely places.

thanks to Music

artists." Derek Trucks

"I think they're

doing wonderful

them for keeping

not only interest

in the blues alive.

but the musicians

themselves." Bonnie Raitt

work and I support

In the late 1980s, Timothy Duffy, a penniless North Carolina musicology student, set out to document and preserve traditional southern roots and blues music.

On his travels from Winston-Salem's drinkhouse music scene, an off-thegrid hotbed of gritty traditional blues, to deep-south family run churches, he

found purpose and inspiration from a cast of amazingly talented, pure and unique characters (the artists). **TOOT BLUES** 

remarkably captures the true essence and talent of the artists from **Guitar Gabriel**, a *"homeless magic potion selling"* blues genius; to **Willa Mae Buckner**, a snake

charming elderly woman taunting delightfully raunchy blues; to **Beverly** 'Guitar' Watkins, a grandmother who continues to tear up the stage and play a killer electric guitar behind her head; to **Bishop Dready Manning** and family churning out homebrewed rockabillygospel; to **Boo Hanks**, an 80 year-old

bluesman recording an album for the very first time; to blind guitarist **Cootie Stark**, mesmerizing crowds world-wide while never failing to find his way home by himself.

Shortly after befriending and championing for these artists, Tim quickly realized the limitations set upon them by living in poverty, not only in

their struggles to survive and support their families but also their ability to afford time and outlets to continue with their deepest passions – music. By a simple twist of fate, Tim, along with his wife Denise, began the **Music Maker Relief Foundation**.

With rare footage, interviews, and numerous live performances, the film documents these unique musicians, brought together through the *Music Maker* community and their shared and vital musical heritage.

**TOOT BLUES** digs deep into your heart, opening your eyes and ears to seminal musical traditions that have long been overlooked by the mainstream.

Visits to *Music Maker's* studio bring blues raconteur

Drink Small and Durham legend John Dee Holeman, providing an upclose look at their eclectic styles, while a late night jukejoint guitar jam by Cool John Ferguson supports this "hidden guitarist's" worldwide reputation. The joy the artists bring to recording and pus, providing a rare

touring is infectious, providing a rare window into a classic American musical form at its most grass-roots level.

You won't see 20 mics or 200 knobs on a board in a swanky recording studio or a million dollar record deal but what you will see is something honest and truthful; amazing talents, their

passion and courage, no matter what their age or disability!

2009 marks **Tim** and **Denise Duffy's** *Music Maker Relief Foundations' 15 year anniversary* of keeping the blues alive by supporting over 250 roots and blues artists with needs from food and shelter to tour support. The artists *Music Maker* has

supported over the years represent styles as diverse as their personalities, yet together weave a rich tapestry of the roots of American music... **this is their story**.

TOOT BLUES was chosen as an official selection for the Backlot Film Festival, the Memphis International Film Festival & the New Orleans Film Festival.

www.tootblues.com



"Wall to wall blues from unheralded artists. The film gives a glimpse of what is being lost, and Tim Duffy's heroic effort to document the passing. In the most humanitarian way, his foundation is bringing security and aid to these wonderful artists – whose time is gone and whose music still stirs us." John Cohen





#### Dr. G. B. Burt, Birmingham, AL.

Since we met **Dr. G. B. Burt** in 2006, he has performed with MM in Australia, Belgium, and throughout the US and, this fall, he was featured in the *Living Blues magazine*. After this success, **Dr. Burt** began performing and lecturing about the blues and civil rights to students in his hometown of Birmingham, AL. He is an example of how recognition received by MM artists impacts rural and inner city communities all over the South by increasing the value locals place on their cultural heritage and community artists. **©D. Pearson 2009.** 

> Andy Edmonds, Benton Flippen, Hoppin' John Fiddlers Convention, Silk Hope, NC. Andy Edmonds has been under the tutelage of master fiddler Benton Flippen of Mt. Airy, NC for several years. He recently visited *Music Maker* to record his first solo album. With our support, musical traditions will continue to flourish and be passed on to the next generation. ©T. Duffy 2009.

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# MUSIC MAKER Photographs from 15 Years in NC & or the road

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Macavine Hayes, Captain Luke, Winston-Salem, NC.

German photographer **Axel Kustner** took this wonderful photo on one of his many visits to *Music Maker* in the 1990s. This is the front porch of *Ezelle's Drink House*, which was open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **Guitar Gabriel, Captain Luke** and **Macavine Hayes** could be found there on most weekends having fun, playing cards and playing guitar. **©A. Kustner 1995.** 



Dixie Frog Presents Music Maker Relief Foundation, The Last and Lost Blues Survivors on the shelves at FNAC, Paris, France.

**Dixie Frog Records** is France's largest blues label, specializing in rock blues for more than 25 years. In 2006, they released their first country blues album with this terrific MM compilation CD. It was a huge success and sold 17,000 copies, leading to a series of MM releases and performance tours in Europe. **©T. Duffy 2006.** 



**B.B. King, Tim Duffy, London. Tim Duffy** had the good fortune of traveling with **B.B. King** to Los Angeles, New York and London during the recording of King's *Deuces Wild* album. B.B. joined our Advisory Board, listened to our recordings and encouraged MM to grow. **©T. Duffy 1995.** 

*"Everyone loves to help someone out, and especially such wonderful artists you work with."* B.B. King





Special and Soul Train. When he needed a hip replacement, *Music Maker* provided a grant to help with this expensive surgery. Lil' Joe made a great recovery and has since enjoyed many tours with the *MM Blues Revue*. ©D. Pearson 2009.

There are hundreds of artists like Joe that need the help of our programs. Please help MM grow to support more musicians in need.



Lee Gates, Roots 'N Blues 'N BBQ Festival, Columbia, MO.

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As blues guitar legend Hubert Sumlin came off the stage at his recent performance in Columbia, MO, he greeted his old friend Lee Gates. He recollected Lee playing with Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf and the great Sonny Boy Williamson. Born in Pontotoc, MS Lee is a first cousin of the blues guitar master Albert Collins. Lee is a prime example of an artist who is recognized by his musical peers but remains unknown to audiences outside of his home of Milwaukee, WI. Lee is the greatest guitar slinger we have ever worked with, check out his three CD releases on Music Maker's online store. www.musicmakerstore.org ©T. Duffy 2009.







The Carolina Chocolate Drops, Dom Flemons, Rhiannon Giddens Laffan and Justin Robinson, Mt. Airy Fiddlers Convention, Mt. Airy, NC. Music Maker hosted the Carolina Chocolate

**Drops'** first CD release party at the *Mt. Airy Fiddlers Convention in 2006*; they have toured the world ever since. **Bonnie Raitt** and **Taj Mahal** sing the Drops praises for picking up the torch they have carried for decades. In January 2010, the Drops' newest CD will be released on *Nonesuch Records*. As members of our Board of Directors, they spread the word to thousands about our mission. **©T. Duffy 2006.** 



**The Rank Strangers, Dave McGrew, Pablo Menudo and Larry Shores, Terlingua, TX.** Leaving their childhood homes in the 1970's, the **Rank Strangers** found work and each other as "*fruit tramps*" in the orchards of the Northwest where hard days of picking were capped by evening's original song. They reunited for a *Music Maker* recording session in West Texas in 2007. Their depictions of labor and life on the road can be heard on *Larry Shores' Songs from T-Town* and *Dave McGrew's Fruit Tramp Ballads of the Great Northwest.* **©T. Duffy 2004.** 



Dom Flemons and Boo Hanks, Virgilina, VA. After eight hours of driving a tractor in the tobacco fields, Boo Hanks recently recorded over two hours of country blues with Dom Flemons of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, all before supper! At 81, Boo lives on a meager income and the extra money from gigs and CDs that *Music Maker* provides dramatically improve his lifestyle. With the poor economy, gigs are scarce but our *Sustenance Program* will fill the oil tank to keep Boo warm until we can find him more work. ©T. Duffy 2009.





Pat "Mother Blues" Cohen, Ardie Dean, Roots 'N Blues 'N BBQ Festival Columbia, MO.

Pat was performing six nights a week on Bourbon Street until Katrina destroyed her home in the 9th Ward of New Orleans. She relocated to Salisbury, NC and is currently writing songs for her upcoming CD and performing with the Music Maker Blues Revue.

©T. Duffy 2009.



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Guitar Gabriel, Pinnacle, NC.

Guitar Gabriel was a tremendous blues artist whose humor and poetic genius continues to intrigue many. Here, he sits in front of a large painting by folk artist Sam McMillan, who incorporated Guitar's image in many subsequent artworks. The previously unknown talents Music Maker illuminates inspire artists and musicians, young and old. ©T. Duffy 1995.





Whistlin' Britches dancing at All Peoples Grill, Durham, NC.

Cool John Ferguson joined MM in the move from Pinnacle, NC to the Triangle area. He was soon performing for hundreds every Saturday night at this local juke joint. These performances helped him establish the reputation as Durham's favorite "Guitar Wizard." His friends, Whistlin' Britches and Captain Luke, often came from Winston-Salem to join in on the celebration. ©T. Duffy 2001.



**'05** 

Tai Mahal. Ardie Dean. Dan Duffy. Cootie Stark, Cool John Ferguson, Music Maker Studio, Hillsborough, NC. Nearly blind from birth, Cootie Stark of Greenville, SC spent his youth learning from first generation blues artists such as Walter Phelps, Blind Simmie Dooley, Chilly Wind and Baby Tate. He traveled from town to town by Greyhound bus for decades, performing on street corners for tips. Cootie got his big break at age 71, when MM got him a gig opening up for Ruth Brown and Aretha Franklin at the Newport R&B Festival in 1997. The following two years, he toured 42 U.S. cities with his new friend Taj Mahal. Cootie made several performance trips to Europe and Costa Rica before he passed in 2005. ©T. Duffy 1998.



Cora Fluker, Marion, MS, Cora Fluker passed away in 2004; however, you can enjoy her work on Dixie Froq's monumental album, Sisters of the South, released last year. Cora's documentation as well as the documentation of other MM artists matters. The songs of MM artists will not be lost to our culture when they pass; a permanent archive of our work has been established at the Southern Folklife Collection at the Wilson Library at UNC Chapel Hill. ©T. Duffy 1995.

# 15th Anniversary BRING TOFICS HONE TO MANA

MUSIC¦MAKER



On our 15th anniversary, Music Maker Relief Foundation continues to seek out the struggling, often forgotten pioneers of traditional American roots music and offer sustenance grants for basic needs, professional development to revive careers and cultural access to audiences around the world.

Part of every dollar you spend goes directly to these artists in need. Give a gift from Music Maker to someone you care about today.



#### **Guitar Gabriel:**

The Beginning of the Music Maker Story This gorgeously packaged CD and booklet from Dixie Frog Records comes with 80 minutes of mostly unreleased music by Guitar Gabriel. The CD booklet includes John Creech's "The Last Bluesman," a compelling story of the struggles and glory of Music Maker Relief Foundation's earliest days.

#### **Toot Blues**

This CD package includes the full-length documentary DVD *Toot Blues*, by Chris Johnstone and Anna Ferrarie. Produced by a grant from Paul Allen and Martin Scorsese, the film presents the complete story of MMRF and its efforts to bring together and document the talented artists and vital heritage of the traditional American blues scene. Includes rare footage, interviews and joyous live performances. Go to www.tootblues.com for more information about this inspiring film.

#### The Givin' It Back Record Club

You'll receive a new Music Maker Relief Foundation CD every 3 months (December, March, June and September) for I year. The first selection (for December 2009) is Etta Baker, *Banjo*. Etta Baker was the premier Piedmont Blues instrumentalist until her passing in 2006 at the age of 93. She learned the banjo from her father as a child, but became famous for her seminal artistry on finger-style guitar—influencing Bob Dylan and generations of acoustic guitarists.



Music Makers: Portraits and

Songs from the Roots of America The story of Music Maker Relief Foundation comes to life in this affecting collection of photographs and narrative. Seventy blues musicians take you on a soulful ride you'll never forget. 208 pages, II" x 8," I60 b/w photographs. The book includes a 23-track CD and a forward by B.B. King.

# **GIFT OPTIONS:** Each gift arrives festively packaged with your personal note, and includes a tax-deductible donation and a subscription to Music Maker Rag.

### \$20 GIFT

Make a \$20 dollar donation in a friend's name and they will also receive the Music Maker 2010 Calendar. Experience 12 Music Maker Relief Foundation musicians through comics written and drawn by Gary Dumm & Harvey Pekar. Each month highlights the talents and personality of a different artist. Dumm's work has been exhibited internationally; he has worked with Pekar, author of *American Splendor*, since 1976. PLUS, both you and your friend will receive a I-year subscription to Music Maker Rag, our quarterly publication.

## \$45 GIFT

Give *Guitar Gabriel: The Beginning of the Music Maker Story* CD and a bonus DVD of *Toot Blues*, a feature-length documentary about Music Maker Relief Foundation. PLUS the Music Maker 2010 Calendar and a I-year subscription for you and the recipient to Music Maker Rag.

### \$75 GIFT

Give *Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America.* This book includes a 23-track CD and a forward by B.B. King. PLUS *Guitar Gabriel: The Beginning of the Music Maker Story* CD, a bonus DVD of *Toot Blues*, the Music Maker 2010 Calendar and a I-year subscription for you and the recipient to Music Maker Rag.

## \$145 GIFT

Give a I-year membership to the Givin' It Back Record Club, PLUS the *Music Makers: Portraits and* Songs from the Roots of America book, Guitar Gabriel: The Beginning of the Music Maker Story CD, a bonus DVD of Toot Blues, the Music Maker 2010 Calendar and a I-year subscription for you and the recipient to Music Maker Rag.

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QTY	Holiday Gift	
	The Music Maker 2010 Calendar and a 1-year subscription for you and recipient to Music Maker Rag.	\$20
	Guitar Gabriei: The Beginning of the Music Maker Story CD, Toot Blues DVD, Music Maker 2010 Calendar and a 1-year subscription for you and recipient to Music Maker Rag.	\$45
	Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America book including 23-track CD, Guitar Gabriel: The Beginning of the Music Maker Story CD, Toot Blues DVD, Music Maker 2010 Calendar and a I-year subscription to Music Maker Rag.	\$75
	A I-year membership to the Givin' It Back Record Club, Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America book including 23-track CD, Guitar Gabriel: The Beginning of the Music Maker Story CD, Toot Blues DVD, Music Maker 2010 Calendar and a I-year subscription to Music Maker Rag.	\$145
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# Your donation gets directly to the heart of the matter.



Music Maker Relief Foundation is celebrating its 15 year anniversary. It's a milestone in the support to hundreds over the years. Ironically, circumstances have never been tougher and we are enduring a horrible crisis given that donations are way down due to the crash in the economy.

Can you imagine? We are now in the terrible position of choosing who gets groceries and who doesn't, or who gets medicine and who doesn't. Music Maker Relief Foundation and its recipients have never needed the compassion and generosity of our following more. This recession has brought many who were already in need to even more brutally desperate circumstances. We've cut deep but without your continued support we will have to cut the lifeline our donors have afforded so many.

Please write a check today and and offer hope and respect to artists in need.

It is urgent. Thanks so much.

Tim & Denise Duffy



P.O. Box 1358, Hillsborough, NC 27278 Phone: (919) 643-2456 www.musicmaker.org

Sign up to receive weekly news of MM parties & gigs, MM discoveries, MM assistance and MM tunes!

8th Annual Fishin' Blues Tournament

February 15-20, 2010

For seven years running, the *Music Maker Relief Foundation* has brought together two of the best things in life: sportfishin' and blues, for a phenomenal week of fun and music in order to raise funds for our programs that aid Southern musicians. Reserve your spot early, as space is limited and demand is high. Participants will stay at the world renowned Casa Vieja Lodge on Guatemala's Pacific Coast. The entire fee is \$5,275 (\$2,500 tax deductible) per fisherman. For more information call the *Music Maker* office at 919.643.2456 call 919.643.2456, e-mail fishin@musicmaker.org or visit fishinblues.com.



#### ENTER THE RAFFLE!

Enter the exclusive raffle and be one of 120 *Music Maker* supporters to win two slots in this year's fishin' tournament (an \$11,000 value). This is six days of fun in the Guatemalan sun. We will fish for Marlin, Sailfish, Dorado, Tuna and more by day and groove to the world's best live blues by night. All you need to bring is your passport, shorts, sneakers, a hat and some sunscreen. **Tickets are only \$100**, order by mail, online at musicmaker.org or by phone at 919.643.2456.



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